

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

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Congratulations to Council, Committee Chairs, Constituent organizations, Affiliate organizations, Corporate and Sustaining members, and most importantly, our AsMA front office and Executive Director for accomplishing so much on behalf of AsMA! We are an organization on the move! We received excellent news that our last AsMA conference in Orlando was a tremendous financial success, and the net income has gone a long way in bringing AsMA into a more stable financial position.

COMMITTEES

Our committees, particularly the Aerospace Human Factors, Air Transport Medicine, Resolutions, Bylaws, and Aerospace Safety Committees, are working diligently on AsMA positions to better address Pilot Mental Health, Pilots' Bill of Rights, and updating our AsMA Bylaws /Policy and Procedures manual. The AsMA Ad Hoc Committee on Pilot Mental Health, chaired by Past President Dr. Phil Scarpa, recently produced an AsMA position paper that has been heavily utilized in the Germanwings mishap report and, more recently, in a joint statement by the European Society of Aerospace Medicine (ESAM), the European Association for Aviation Psychology (EAAP), and the European Cockpit Association (ECA). All three organizations have endorsed the AsMA Pilot Mental Health: Expert Working Group Recommendations (Revised 2015). Strong work! Congratulations goes to all those who participate in this very important AsMA Ad Hoc committee!

SPACECOM

For the first time in recent history, the AsMA Council and the Scientific and Program Committee met in Houston, TX. This location was selected in order to participate in the first-ever Space Commerce Conference and Expo (SpaceCom) which occurred in the days prior to our Council meeting. The event served as a catalyst for developing a sustainable, commercial space market that is not reliant on NASA as the sole customer. More than 1,700 professionals involved in multiple industries registered for the three-day event. AsMA's Executive Director Jeff Sventek set up a booth in the SpaceCom exhibit hall. We were approached by many interested parties who were just hearing about AsMA for the first time. We had several individuals request information about AsMA, about our journal, *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance*, and about how they can become members. Our AsMA Executive Director was approached by several aerospace businesses that are interested in joining AsMA's Corporate and Sustaining Membership. SpaceCom is definitely a forum in which AsMA should continue to actively participate.

AsMA COUNCIL MEETING

Our AsMA Council meeting immediately followed SpaceCom Thursday afternoon. The meeting went smoothly and much

work was done in preparation for our upcoming meeting in Atlantic City, NJ.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

The AsMA Scientific and Program Committee meeting, chaired by Dr. Barry Shender, immediately followed the AsMA Council meeting. We had an outstanding number of abstracts submitted this year. The number of reviewers present was on par with our busiest years. The review bar was raised this year, resulting in approximately 10% of submissions being returned. Each returned letter highlighted recommendations to improve their submission for next year's AsMA conference. Through the outstanding work of our Scientific and Program Committee, AsMA is raising the bar on academic presentations. Our organization will be better off for these dedicated efforts.

PASSOVER

The 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting will coincide with the celebration of Passover. Harrah's Resort will provide accommodations for the dietary needs of those attendees who are observing the holiday if they are notified in advance. To make this easier, when you register for the meeting, there will be a block for you to indicate that such accommodations are requested. AsMA will compile a list and provide the information to Harrah's. According to Rabbi Rappaport at Chabad, there are always Community Seders at their local Chabad in Atlantic City. For those persons interested in attending on either Friday or Saturday, or both, please contact the AsMA Operations Manager, Ms. Giselle Vargas, who will gather the information and forward to our AsMA Arrangements co-chair, Dr. Harriet Lester.

ANNUAL MEETING

On behalf of AsMA, I encourage you to continue your engagement and involvement. Remember this year's AsMA meeting theme is *Human Performance and Year of the Aerospace Medicine Professional*. Please consider inviting students, friends, and others interested in aerospace medicine to attend our conference. Remember Monday is free for all students. The weeklong admission for students is only \$100.00, and it is only \$50.00 for students to join AsMA. AsMA members continue to make a positive difference in advancing the art and science of our aerospace medical profession. Thank you again for all you do, and keep up the great work!



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