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**VOLUME LII**

**FEBRUARY 2015**

**NO 4**

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**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

I feel a little bit sad realizing that this is one of the last such letters that I will be writing. Like President Obama I am officially in the “lame tuck” period of tenure as President of the National Association of Priest Pilots. It certainly has been a great honor, and a lot of fun! When we gather in Des Moines in July the mantle will be passed.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter Mel has some thoughts to share about the future direction of NAPP leadership. Please read his letter carefully and take some time to reflect on his comments. We'll have some important decisions to make in Des Moines, and it would be helpful for everyone to give this some thought in preparation for our meeting.

Because the 2015 National Convention will include an in depth discussion pertaining to future directions, as your President, I am making a special appeal to make the attendance at this convention as large as possible. If you have not been able to attend for a while, please make a special effort to make this the year that you will participate.

Additionally, if you know a younger priest pilot who has not yet joined the group, this would be a good time to spread the word about NAPP. Our mean age has been creeping upward in recent years. Let's get the word out about NAPP

We'll be gathering in Des Moines on Tuesday, July 7 and Wednesday, July 8. Travel days are Monday, July 6 and Thursday, July 9. As you know we'll be gathering for pizza and beverages on Monday.

Last year in observance of our significant anniversary we modified the Monday evening program. Instead of a casual social we went around the room in an organized way and gave everyone an opportunity to say something about his experience of the interplay of priesthood and flying. I heard that some people really liked this sharing, while some people thought it went too long and too late.

Could you please let Mel or I know what you thought about this, and if you would want to continue the process? Maybe it would be best to go back to the old style social. We have an early wake up on Tuesday, so maybe guys just want to go to bed early on Monday. Please let your opinions be heard!

I'm still kicking around the decision between flying or driving to Des Moines. It would not be a long flight from Medina Muni (1G5) but I

really do like road trips, and it's nice to have a car during the convention. That decision will probably be made by the time of the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

Allen Corrigan / N6172D / 1G5 (Medina Muni, Ohio)

[acorrigan@email.com](mailto:acorrigan@email.com)  
<http://www.saintvictorparish.org>

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*From the Editor*

Fr. Hugh Connaghan, OSA, was a faithful attendee at the NAPP convention for quite a number of years. He was with us in 2012 at Elmira, NY. Hugh never had a computer so he was one of the members who got his newsletter via snail mail. I wondered why he didn't show up at the Rapid City or Covington gatherings. His last newsletter was returned unopened so I googled him and discovered Hugh died on March 15, 2012 in Carthage, NY at the age of 88. I have added his name to the necrology list. Hugh was very active in many ministries throughout his life, NAPP being one of them. I am sure his confreres gave him a well-deserved send off for his final flight. It is sad when one of our members passes away and we don't know about it till almost two years later.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**

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This newsletter has thank you acknowledgements from the two NAPP recipients of this year's donations.

- 1). Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska
- 2). Flying Medical Service

Pat Patten's Flying Medical Service  
Arusha, Tanzania. East Africa

An update on this year's two scheduled NAPP gatherings.

**MIDWEST**

Al Werth will host the Spring Midwest gathering in Hays, Kansas on Monday, April 27th.

For those planning on attending there is an informational/signup sheet with this newsletter. Please use it for registering.

**NATIONAL**

Gene Murray is hosting the National NAPP convention in Des Moines, Iowa. The convention dates are Tuesday and Wednesday, July 7 and 8.

Gene and his crew have a very interesting program of events planned for us. A few details are currently in the process of being finalized so registration form is not quite ready to be published in this issue. It will be in the March issue. Meanwhile put those dates on your calendar.

The Good News. Motel accommodations are intact as manager says in this letter.

I recently made a change and am now General Manager at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott hotel just off the 86th Street exit in Johnston. We are happy to extend the same \$89 rate to NAPP for either a King Suite or a Double Queen Suite. All rooms feature a full kitchen as well as a complimentary light breakfast.

Take care,

Tom



**Tom Murray | General Manager**  
**TownePlace Suites by Marriott – Des Moines/Urbandale**

8800 Northpark Drive, Johnston, IA 50131  
515.727.4066 ph | 515.331.0302 fax  
[tmurray@fhginc.com](mailto:tmurray@fhginc.com)

**ROOM REGISTRATION** is your responsibility. Contact above number to register in block under NAPP CONVENTION.



The following is a personal sharing on my part with NAPP personnel.

After a lot of reflection leading to the New Year I have made the decision it is time for me to step down from some of my NAPP duties. I was impressed and inspired by Pope Benedict's decision to retire from the papacy. My role is, to say the least, a bit different than the papacy but the reasoning is very similar. It is time to step aside so that someone else might continue the work. No one is indispensable.

I took over editor ship of the NAPP newsletter following the 1969 convention in San Diego. At that convention there was a serious discussion on the need for a newsletter on a regular basis. I volunteered to take it over with a commitment to publish bi-monthly, every other month. In the 46 years I have done this I have missed 3 deadlines. Once when I took some college students to Taize, France for a Taize Retreat experience, 2<sup>nd</sup> when my mother died and 3<sup>rd</sup> when on a sabbatical in Rome. I have been treasurer for about 20 years.

While the Good Lord continues to bless me with good health and all mental marbles intact, although some might question that, I feel it is time to step aside so that a transfer can be made while I might still be capable of assisting in the transfer.

Rather than present this at the July meeting I thought it best to announce this now so members will have sufficient time to consider filling the two positions I now hold.

In July the following positions will be up for election. President Allen Corrigan has served two terms and is not eligible to run again. The positions of 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Schmitz and Secretary Phil Gibbs will be on the voting bloc. Although out of regular sequence, the treasurer position will also have to be filled. The newsletter position is appointed, or open to someone willing to take it. For me, the key was to take advantage of qualified people willing to pitch in and be humble enough to use their gifts.

I am a charter member and I have been to 49 of the 51 national conventions. I plan on making it 50 in July. The NAPP position I've been blessed to hold these years has been truly unique and very gratifying. Through the contacts in my position I have come to know in one way or another a tremendous group of dedicated priests and equally competent and blessed associates. As a CFI I have flown with many of you. We've eaten, drank and partied together and through it all one special bond unites us...We are all **PRIEST PILOTS** or the **FRIENDS OF PREIST PILOTS**.

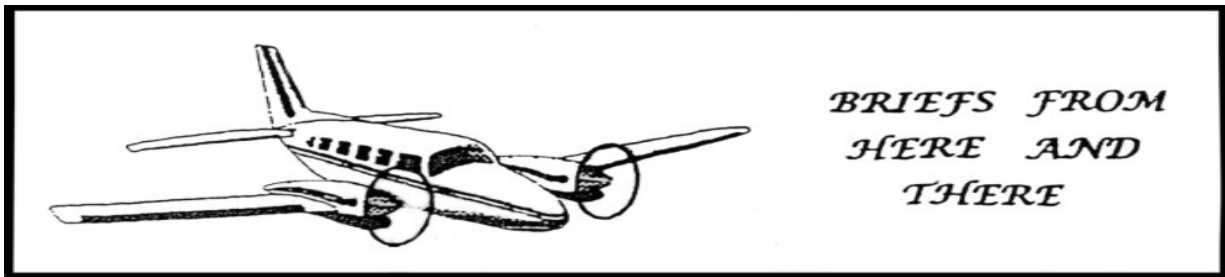
**What more can one say!!!**

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

REV. MEL HEMANN  
127 Kaspand Place  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683  
319-230-4957

email: [N298MH@cfu.net](mailto:N298MH@cfu.net)





*Jim Falsey sent the following information with his 2015 NAPP dues*

Jim Falsey  
1237 Broadway Rd  
North Pole, AK 99705

Phone: 907-799-6638 (cell phone: I have coverage in half of the villages I visit.)  
Email: [jfalsey@outlook.com](mailto:jfalsey@outlook.com)

Since "retiring" to Alaska, I have been doing quite a bit of flying – 207 hours in 2014. I am serving six villages in the interior of Alaska: Tanana, Galena, Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato and McGrath. The typical pattern is to fly out to one of the villages on Friday, visit, celebrate Sunday Mass, then return to Fairbanks on Sunday afternoon or Monday.

When I returned to Alaska I was using the Cessna 172 that I had sold to the Diocese in 1998. Then this past summer, a generous donor from Nebraska donated a 1969 Cessna 182. I flew to North Platte, Nebraska and picked up the airplane. It has been hangared since new and is in excellent condition. It also had a new factory remanufactured engine and new prop, and long range tanks. The radios were a bit old and tired, and it had a Loran. So I talked the Diocese into upgrading to a Garmin GTN 650: Nav, Com, GPS. We also added a Reiff engine pre-heater, new engine, prop and spinner covers. N70901 is one sweet-flying airplane!

To read more about the plane, go to: <http://dioceseoffairbanks.org/joomla/index.php/newsletters/alaskan-shepherd-newsletter> and click on September-October issue, A "Yellow Bird" Out of the Blue.

We have a hangar for the plane in Fairbanks. In the villages, however, it sits out on the ramp. Winter flying is a bit of a challenge. In addition to carrying the wing, tail, engine, prop, and spinner covers, I also carry electrical cords, and a small Yamaha generator in case there is no access to power at the village airport. Prepping, pre-flying the plane, then covering her back up on arrival at the village takes almost as much time as the actual flying. Living out of a suitcase half the week gets a bit old. But I am still having fun.

Jim

*The following is preliminary information for the 2015 NAPP Convention in Des Moines*

Hey Fr. Mel,

I recently made a change and am now General Manager at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott hotel just off the 86<sup>th</sup> Street exit in Johnston. We are happy to extend the same \$89 rate to NAPP for either a King Suite or a Double Queen Suite. All rooms feature a full kitchen as well as a complimentary light breakfast.

We will set up a block of 20 rooms that will consist of 10 King Suites and 10 Double Queen Suites.

Take care,

Tom



**Tom Murray | General Manager**  
**TownePlace Suites by Marriott – Des Moines/Urbandale**  
8800 Northpark Drive, Johnston, IA 50131  
515.727.4066 ph | 515.331.0302 fax  
[tmurray@fhginc.com](mailto:tmurray@fhginc.com)

*More details will follow later*





## Archdiocese of Anchorage

225 Cordova Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2409  
www.archdioceseofanchorage.org  
907-297-7700 • fax: 907-279-3885

Office of the Archbishop

January 14, 2015

Reverend Mel Hemann  
National Association of Priest Pilots  
29 Lincoln Lane  
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Dear Father Hemann:

I am writing to thank you for the generous \$1,000.00 check supporting the upkeep of our archdiocese's plane. We are always looking for ways to increase our outreach and maintaining the plane is an essential part of that effort.

Fairbanks does have a new bishop, Chad Zielinski. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Bishop Zielinski since word came of his appointment. He will be a real blessing for that diocese and the Church in Alaska.

May the Lord bless you and your ministry in Florida. May you continue to fly safely and serve the people of God for many years to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ and Mary,

†Roger L. Schwietz, OMI  
Archbishop of Anchorage

**NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING**

Monday, April 27, 2015

Hays, Kansas

**Hays Regional Airport – KHYS**

**Host: Al Werth**

*Please call, email or mail reservation by Wednesday, April 22*

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**CELLPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARRIVAL DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

By: *Pvt Plane N#* \_\_\_\_\_ *ETA* \_\_\_\_\_

By: *Car* \_\_\_\_\_ *ETA* \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVAIONS TO:** Al Werth  
501 W 37<sup>th</sup> St #11  
Hays, KS 67601

Email – [ajwerth@eaglecom.net](mailto:ajwerth@eaglecom.net)  
Cell Phone – 785-259-1965

**SCHEDULE**

- 10:30           Arrival at Hays airport (KHYS)
- 11:00           Visit Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History
- 12:30           Lunch
- 1:30            Visit Rans—maker of light sports aircraft kits (<http://www.RANS.COM>)
- 3:00            Meeting
- 3:30            Departure



**Flying Medical Service**

P. O. Box 508  
Arusha, Tanzania  
East Africa

Email: fms@fms.or.tz  
Facebook: Flying Medical Service  
Website: www.flyingmedicalservice.org



*February 2, 2015*

Dear National Association of Priest Pilots  
c/o Mel Hemann

Thank you for your generosity and support. Your donation helps us meet medical needs in parts of Tanzania that are distant from ordinary health care facilities. Flying Medical Service is a nonprofit 501c(3) tax exempt charitable organization. Our tax ID Number is 25-1501364. We have been in continuous operation since 1983. We provide medical assistance to anyone in need, regardless of religious affiliation, ethnic origin or ability to pay. Sponsored by the Spiritan Missionaries and the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Arusha, Tanzania, we strive to help people living in remote areas where sufficient health care and normal communication links simply do not exist.

Flying Medical Service now serves the health care needs in a large part of north-central Tanzania. We provide regular medical care to dozens of remote areas by means of two single-engine aircraft (*see photos above*). Flying Medical Service also supplies rural hospitals with medicines and staff and makes emergency air ambulance service available throughout Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

We see an average of more than 75 patients each day through our regularly scheduled visits to remote communities, mostly among the Maasai people. Patients can come to one of 25 grass-strip locations every two weeks. These vital services continue to operate thanks to donations such as yours which we acknowledge today with our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Gratefully,

*Pat Patten*

Fr. Pat Patten, C.S.Sp.

We acknowledge your donation of \$ 2,000<sup>00</sup> made on January 1, 2015

We have not returned to you, as a donor, any goods or services in exchange for this donation.

Donations: Due to foreign banking issues and occasional difficulties in the delivery of overseas mail, please send U.S.

correspondence and donations to:

Fr. Pat Patten, C.S.Sp.

1758 Manchester Blvd.

Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1920

Michael Patten (Fr. Pat's brother)

1758 Manchester Blvd.

Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1920

313-881-8787

thisismichael@att.net

Other U.S. contacts:

Nancy and Don Danko (Fr. Pat's cousins)

2689 Wareing Dr.

Lake Orion, MI 48360

248-391-1330

ddanko@comcast.net

*Thank you on behalf of all the Patten family.*

*Your 2015 NAPP Dues are now due.  
Use this form to send your dues to me  
Or  
Use Pay Pal electronically.*

(Go to: [www.priestpilots.org](http://www.priestpilots.org) and click on **Pay Now**)

**REV. MEL HEMANN  
127 KASPEND PL  
CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613-1683**

*Any questions contact me at  
319-230-4957*

*Or*

*[n298mh@cfu.net](mailto:n298mh@cfu.net)*

**N.A.P.P. DUES -- U.S. \$25.00**

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**Please fill out this form! Make check payable in U.S. Dollars to N.A.P.P., Inc.**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ Charter \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Associate

**YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 2015 DUES  
KINDLY DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

**THANKS**