

N.A.P.P.



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No. 4

**President's column:**

# Dubuque is looking good for July convention

**By Fr. Joe McCaffrey**  
*NAPP President*

On January 21, your “illustrious officers” had a Zoom meeting with Fr. Phil Gibbs to discuss our national convention scheduled for July 12-15, in Dubuque, Iowa. After some discussion, we unanimously decided to do two things:

First, we encouraged Phil to plan an in-person gathering since he has everything already arranged.



Second, we decided since there may be a number of you unwilling or unable to travel, a Zoom opportunity will be made available so that you can participate in at least one of the socials and also tune in for the annual meeting.

Having hosted a convention in Pittsburgh a few years ago, I know the importance of having accurate numbers when planning such an event. Please indicate to Phil as soon as possible whether you plan to attend in person. Because of the uncertainty of COVID-19 and various other unknowns, we understand your hesitation. But please consider whether you will most likely attend in person or not this year – then let Phil know. This simple courtesy will go a long way to ensure the convention this year will be a huge success. Thank you.

**(Please see the RSVP form on Page 3.)**

## Warm-weather break

Now I know we have members all over the globe. So some of you may be in the warmth of Florida, California or some other winter paradise. But for the rest of us living in the Great White North, a little reprieve to a warmer climate is like visiting paradise.

Some dear friends of mine offered to take me with them to Marco Island in Florida for four nights in January. It was more life-sustaining than any COVID vaccine (which, by the way, I have not received yet). What a merciful reprieve and true blessing! It was sunny with temps in the 70s and even 80s! I walked the beach and, of course, each day we went out for some magnificent dinners. I have to admit I did not want to leave.



On our return to Pennsylvania, we arrived to a dusting of snow and the temperature plunging to 7 degrees!

But God’s goodness is unlimited. The very next day, a frigid Saturday morning, with only a few hours left of

*Continued on Page 8*

# 2021 NAPP Convention is set for Dubuque, Iowa

*Editor's note: The 2021 NAPP Convention will be held in Dubuque, Iowa. The Executive Committee met in January and decided to go ahead with an in-person convention if COVID-19 is under control by then. For those who are not comfortable coming to Dubuque, there will be a virtual connection for a social hour and the annual meeting. See Page 3 for an Early RSVP Form.*

**By Fr. Phil Gibbs  
Convention Chairman**

Our convention hotel will be the [Grand Harbor Resort](#), which is connected to [Grand River Center](#). It is located on the mighty Mississippi next to a beautiful river walk. The [Diamond Jo Casino](#) and the [River Museum](#) are within a short walking distance.

**Arrive on Monday, July 12, and check out on Thursday, July 15.**

A block of 30 rooms is reserved. **To make your hotel reservation, call 563-690-4000 and ask for the group rate of NAPP (National Association of Priest Pilots) – \$109.00 per night. Reservation deadline is June 12.** Rates include waterpark tickets (I wonder who will take advantage of that? Bring your trunks!) and a Deluxe Continental Breakfast on the second floor from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.



## **Monday, July 12**

Arrivals to [KDBQ](#) will be picked up at the FBO – [Dubuque Jet Center](#) – and transported to the hotel.

Monday evening: A dinner cruise on the Mississippi is a possibility if members choose to register online before they arrive in Dubuque (link to this is forthcoming) or pizza and drinks in the conference room.

## **Tuesday, July 13**

Potential activities:

Continental Breakfast

Departure by coach for the airport to check out the new flight school for the [University of Dubu-](#)



[que](#) – brand-new, state-of-the-art [facility](#) with presenter Mike Phillips.

Departure to the [Trappist Monastery Casket Factory](#). Guided tour as a group. Individual fittings are on your own!

Departure to the [Dyersville Airport](#) for a simple lunch, then a potential visit to either the [Basilica of St. Francis Xavier](#) or the [Field of Dreams](#).

Return to hotel for naps (not NAPP) but actual siestas.

Welcome to the “Resurrectory” (Rectory of Resurrection Parish) for social and supper.

Return to hotel

After-event social

## **Wednesday, July 14**

Potential activities:

Continental Breakfast

On your own: Riverboat Museum is walking distance; Casino is walking distance; shuttles for a tour of Dubuque are a possibility. Other attractions include Chaplain Schmitt Island and Dubuque Greyhound Park. There are also a few public golf courses in the area.

Lunch on your own

Afternoon business meeting at the hotel

Annual Mass either at the Cathedral of St. Raphael or at St. Joseph the Worker (the year of St. Joseph)

Social and banquet at the hotel (still considering main presenter)

After-event social

## **Thursday, July 15**

Continental Breakfast and departures

**Early RSVP Form—2021 NAPP Convention in Dubuque**



To assist with arrangements, Fr. Phil Gibbs would appreciate an indication of how many are planning to attend. **Arrive on Monday, July 12, and check out on Thursday, July 15.**

- YES, I plan to be there!**
- I won't be able to attend but would like to join the virtual social and annual meeting (via computer or phone)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ARRIVING BY:**

Private plane; N-number \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated time of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline (We will check back with you on flight number/arrival time closer to the convention.)

Private car

**Please email or mail your RSVP form to:**

Fr. Phil Gibbs  
[Church of the Resurrection](#)  
4300 Asbury Rd  
Dubuque, IA 52002  
[dbq058@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq058@dbqarch.org)

**A note from the NAPP Treasurer**

The NAPP fiscal year, 2022, will begin on July 1, 2021. You are invited and encouraged to **renew your NAPP membership** by sending your annual dues to the office of the treasurer. To renew, please use the membership form or use PayPal on the NAPP website, [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org). You send your 2022 dues and your 2022 NAPP membership card will be mailed to you. THANK YOU.

Your \$25 dues enable the NAPP to help support the Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks in Alaska and the Flying Medical Service in Arusha, Tanzania, Africa. The annual NAPP checks were sent last month to both organizations designated as “charitable grants,” which were recommended and approved at the annual 2020 NAPP meeting.

A reminder to all members that the NAPP, at the July 2020 annual meeting, established the **Missionary Gift Fund** for the purpose of encouraging NAPP members to provide funds beyond the annual dues to enable a larger contribution of support for our charitable grants.

You can send those funds, along with your dues, to the treasurer, or you can use PayPal.

THANK YOU to those who responded to our **Missionary Gift Fund** this past year. Donations totaling \$1,425 were received and those were included in the checks distributed last month.

*Msgr. John W. Hemann, NAPP Treasurer*

**NAPP Dues – U.S. \$25.00  
2022 fiscal year begins July 1, 2021**

*Use this form to send your dues or use PayPal (go to [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org) and click on **Pay Now**).*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

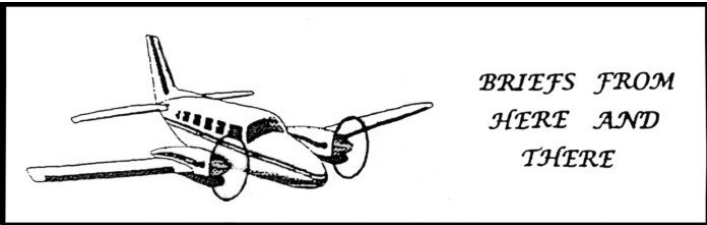
Member: \_\_\_Charter \_\_\_Regular \_\_\_Associate

**Mail to: Msgr. John Hemann, NAPP Treasurer,  
481 N. Shore Dr., Apt. 301, Clear Lake, IA 50428-1368**

In addition to the \$25 annual dues, we encourage members to make a separate donation to the **NAPP Missionary Gift Fund**, which will be used to support the organization’s charitable grants.



Donations can be sent to the same address or you can use PayPal. Go to [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org) and click on the **Donate** button.



## Welcome to new member Tim Dugan

*Editor's note: Tim Dugan of Siler City, North Carolina, is NAPP's newest associate member. His contact information is in the online membership directory.*



Nothing compares, or ever could, with a love of God and seeing the beauty of his world from the skies above. Some of the sunrises and sunsets I have seen flying will be forever etched in my mind as a rare glimpse of how God sees the beauty of His world ... everyday.

Many great men in history dreamed of flight, but it evaded them. Let us remember that the joy of flight was a gift in time for us.

I was a Naval Flight Officer, Flight and Simulator Instructor, have five jet-type ratings and would like to use my skills as a pilot in God's service. I had hoped for the priesthood, but it has evaded me so far. Someone once told me "no one comes to the priesthood alone."

I am happy to be a new member of the NAPP community.

*Tim Dugan*

## Fr. Jim Falsey moves to Anchorage

Fr. Jim Falsey, who previously served in the Diocese of Fairbanks, has moved to Anchorage, Alaska. See the online membership directory for details. He's also the first to pay his 2022 dues for NAPP!

## Obituary: Great-uncle of Fr. Allen Corrigan

Fr. Joseph Piskura died November 26, 2020, at the age of 90. He was a senior priest in the Diocese of Cleveland and great-uncle of Fr. Allen Corrigan, pastor at St. Victor in Richfield and NAPP secretary.

Fr. Piskura served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. His service included two tours in Vietnam. He retired from the Army twice; having returned to service as a contractor after age-required formal retirement. In February 2015, Fr. Piskura was named the Veteran of the Year by the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County. He accepted the award under the condition

that it would be shared with all of the more than 4,000 chaplains then serving in the U.S. military.

Obituary: [dejohnfuneral.com/rev-fr-joseph-piskura](http://dejohnfuneral.com/rev-fr-joseph-piskura)

## News from Catholic Aviation Association

*Editor's note: Tom Beckenbauer, president of the Catholic Aviation Association (CAA), made the following announcement in December 2020:*

"As most of you may know, St. Joseph of Cupertino is the Patron Saint of Pilots and Air Travelers. But did you know he is also the Patron Saint of Astronauts? As such, it is only fitting that his patronage of astronauts, hence space, should be included in this organization. Therefore, in the early spring of 2022, CAA will expand its purview to include a Space Division."

## Nostalgic view from the tower

The [December 2020](#) newsletter had a story about Nancy Johnson, who designed the NAPP masthead while she was a student at Iowa State University in Ames and Fr. Mel Hemann was associate pastor at the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center.

Mel taught Nancy how to fly and encouraged her to become an air traffic controller.

Nancy and Barry Brown, a corporate pilot for Collins, both lived in Cedar Rapids, and they were married in 1977. "I give Mel credit for helping me find my husband," she says.

This photo of Nancy in the Cedar Rapids tower was discovered after the December edition was completed.



## Save the date: April 26 for virtual social

There are tentative plans to host a virtual social on Zoom on the evening of Monday, April 26. Watch for details in the April newsletter.

# Compression check

By Patrick J. McDonald, ATP, CFI-I

The folks at Air and Space Magazine have issued a call for articles. The magazine wants to publish the “most comprehensive collection of flying stories ever.” The editors issued a call to flyers of all types for submissions (Air and Space, February/March 2021, page 7). It appears the editors are looking for a recounting of experiences, rather than a technical focus.

I bit on the bait and have sent in two submissions, now included in this missive to NAPP.

The NAPP archives are loaded with stories about flying, of course, and someone might follow through with a similar effort. That’s the good news.

The hard challenge is that the magazine limits submissions to 250 words. I first thought it would be an easy task, but stories of flying naturally invite wordy embellishments. Ask anyone who shares flying stories over a beer.

The most apt phrase I could find for my efforts to capture a fleeting adventure is *compression check*. I worked like mad to compress a great story into a compact and focused package and kept checking the word count. The result is passable by the magazine’s editorial standards, but the jury is out about my adventures’ viability.

Nevertheless, I include my efforts for your enjoyment:

## *Night Flight*

It is obscenely dark over the Florida everglades. I’m alone in a Cessna 206, cruising toward Vero Beach at 5,000 feet. There are no stars to guide my way or lights to mark civilization. I’ve never, in 2,500 hours of piloting, encountered darkness like undiluted black latex paint.

Miles of swamp, twisted vegetation and mangrove trees hide the night monsters, ready to feast on whatever is left of me if my engine quits. I remind myself to totally trust the instrument cluster in front of me because I don’t want my life to end at midnight on May 20, 1984.

Night monsters also dwell in the depths of my anxiety-driven imagination and I fight not to turn them loose. If I feed my internal monsters, they’ll devour me as well, so I make a choice: overreact to an alien environment or go with the energy of the moment.

I secure the autopilot to continue my easterly heading, then turn down the panel lights to a dim glow. The darkness, the lack of any sensation of motion, the ab-



***PJ is shown in front of DOC, a Boeing B-29 Superfortress. PJ wrote about his encounters with DOC and FIFI in [August 2017](#).***

sence of a time flow, an absolution from preoccupation about direction, open up a deeper reality: images of total solitude. I become a disjointed consciousness, suspended somewhere in space a mile above my home planet, grateful for only the moment.

The spell is broken by Vero Beach Approach

Control welcoming me home. I return to flying chores. The darkness becomes a sea of Florida coastal lights. I am solidly home.

## *Caught*

I’m bathed in warm January sunshine with a cloud deck below. Waterloo Approach confirms my earlier briefing: “There’s no report of icing within 200 miles,” my controller affirms as he clears me for a routine 20-mile approach into Oelwein, Iowa. “Oelwein reports five miles visibility under an 800-foot overcast.”

I enter the clouds with maximum pleasure but pleasure turns to panic in three minutes. My windshield is iced over and the wings are loading up with ice. It’s gotta be freezing rain. I can’t climb because of the ice load. I can’t go down because of a city beneath. I have to follow the chart instructions and continue.

The icing intensifies and I need full power to stabilize my descent.

As the bases thin out, I see the Oelwein airport slide by 500 feet below through my side window. Ice does unpredictable things to any aircraft and a quick turn to make the airport will create a stall and I’ll crash.

I fight panic and begin to fly a long goose-egg pattern back to the airport, with no more than a three-degree bank, keeping the airport in view through my left window. The landing gear comes down and locks. Full power now flattens out my descent and I land while looking out the side window. The aircraft stalls at 90 knots.

In a warm hangar, I peel off chunks of ice while listening to new weather: freezing fog and low visibility.

## CFI Corner: Whatever floats your floats

By Fr. Ed Moran, CFI, CFII, AGI, AGII

It's great to start out my articles with a perennial flight truth: If a good pilot should always be learning, a good CFI should always be learning and then figuring out how to share and teach it. Part of learning is being exposed to new experiences. For those of you for which flying has lost some of its original pizzazz, let me recommend a seaplane add-on. Boy, do I have place for you to consider: [Jack Brown's Seaplane School](#) in



Winter Haven, Florida!

Ten years ago to the month, a group of us Air Force officers jumped in an old T-42 (twin Beech) and motored down VFR to



Florida to escape the 21-degree weather. As members of the Aero Club, we wanted to get a seaplane add-on for the fun of doing "Cubs-on-floats."

With those memories in mind, I revisited Jack Brown's this January with the intent of doing my BFR with them in the Cub I fondly remember flying 800 AGL, chasing javelinas from an open cockpit and learning how to do confined lake landings and departures. Unfortunately, the only day I had in my time in Florida turned out to be 800 to 1,100 overcast with rain and 13 knots of wind. The best I could expect was renting the AirCam multi-engine and scud-running in an open cockpit with an instructor to do some touch-and-goes on Lake Jessie, which was a cold, rain-in-your-face experience bucking waves that were almost becoming whitecaps.

If you want to

give this place a try, contact Pat Owens. She will set you up with one of the instructors and forward you the Single-Engine Sea Course Guide. It

reviews all the basics from taxiing and water handling to normal, rough water, glassy water, confined, and crosswind takeoffs and landings. Knowing emergency procedures for a float plane are not too different except for where to land and how to deal with a no-lake-in-sight landing. Of course, you must know the rules of the sea, how to sail the seaplane as well as the components of floats in checking them on pre-flight.

In addition to the Cubs (\$195/hour), Jack Brown also has a Super Cub (\$265/hour), a Maule (\$375/hour) and the AirCam (\$545/hour) multi. These rates do not include the CFI fee/hour. I have added a few photos of the visit.

There are some great articles in this month's AOPA Pilot. If you want to get more familiar with the AirCam, look at the article about the two brothers who took one cross-country (in a closed cockpit) from North Las Vegas Airport (KVGTT) to Frederick, Maryland (KFDK).

For the wealthy and bold who want a real backwoods experience, there is the article on getting a mul-

ti-engine seaplane rating in Sky Harbor, Minnesota's grande dame of the lake: a 1954 Beech 18 on floats for those willing to pay \$8,775 for five hours of inimitable flying. This flight school, however, picks its candidates carefully. You need to have a floatplane rating prior to checking out and a desire to master a fairly complicated (NONDIGITAL) panel and controls.

Don't forget to send me your questions or ideas for future topics.

Email [moranec13@gmail.com](mailto:moranec13@gmail.com)



# Christmas message from the Solomon Islands

*Editor's note: Fr. Mel Hemann received this three-photo Christmas card from Bishop Luciano Capelli, SDB, of the Diocese of Gizo in the Solomon Islands: "GREETINGS FROM A LAND UNTOUCHED BY COVID (YET)." By the way, Mel wrote about Bishop Capelli in the [April 2019 NAPP newsletter](#).*

*Interesting reading: Bishop Capelli published this Christmas message in the [December edition](#) of the diocesan newsletter:*

## The birth of Christ makes us 'all brothers and sisters'

It is difficult [to] wish a "holy" Christmas while people, immersed in the pandemic, live in uncertainty and for many lacking what is necessary.

Pope Francis, in the encyclical [FRATELLI TUTTI](#), invites us not to look to the other side of the way, but to stop, like the Good Samaritan, and to take charge of the suffering brothers or sisters:

*"The response of Christians in the storms of life and history can only be mercy, compassionate love between us and towards everyone, especially towards those who suffer, those who struggle most, those who are abandoned ... Not pietism, not welfare, but compassion, which comes from the heart."*

It also invites us to an examination of conscience:

*"Believing in and worshiping God does not guarantee that you will live as God pleases. A person of faith may not be faithful to all that faith itself requires, and yet he may feel close to God and consider himself more worthy than others."*

And it immediately suggests a criterion of authenticity:



*"On the other hand, there are ways of living the faith that favor the opening of the heart to the brothers, and that will be the guarantee of an authentic openness to God."*

Pope Francis further says: *"Every day we are offered a new opportunity, a new stage. We don't have to expect everything from those who govern us, it would be childish. We are co-responsible and capable of initiating and generating new processes and transformations. We must be an active part in the rehabilitation and support of wounded societies. Today we are faced with the great opportunity to express our being brothers, to be good Samaritans who take upon themselves the pain of failures, instead of fomenting hatred and resentment."*

**Let us make our own the prayer that concludes the encyclical:**

Lord and Father of humanity, you created all human beings with the same dignity, instill a fraternal spirit in our hearts.

Inspire us with the dream of a new encounter, of dialogue, of justice and peace.

Encourage us to create healthier societies and a worthier world,

without hunger, without poverty, without violence, without wars.

May our heart open to all peoples and nations of the earth, to recognize the good and beauty that you sowed in each of them, to forge bonds of unity, of common projects, of shared hopes.

***With you a brother, for you a Bishop who loves you with a Solo Heart made in Italy.***

***Bishop Luciano Capelli, SDB, Gizo Diocese***

***More about Bishop Capelli: [Solomon Islands' "flying Bishop" on climate change and Care for Creation](#)***

## NAPP member in UK plans summer tour to France and Andorra

Fr. Peter Geldard, our NAPP member in the United Kingdom, shared details about a summer tour he is organizing for general aviation pilots. He has organized a tour for the past 20 years for the Pilots and Friends of Rochester Airport (PAFRA). Rochester is southeast of London.



The 2021 trip will be the third week of July, with two stops in southern France – Carcassonne and Pau – plus Andorra, which is an independent principality between France and Spain in the Pyrenees mountains.

According to his promotional flyer, “The trip is arranged in easy stages, so pilots/planes can join us for whatever period they like. There is no obligation to do the whole trip. Likewise, although an outline programme is proposed, everyone is entirely free to use their time as they wish. The trip, as always, is not restricted to pilots/planes from Rochester/Lydd but is open to all.”

In a January note for the NAPP newsletter, he writes about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK.

“We have gone through chaotic times these last six months but there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon: The government has actually got its act together and

half the population should be vaccinated within the next month. Here, we are ‘locked down’ – yet again. This means that as far as flying is concerned, only ‘necessary’ or ‘maintenance’ flights are allowed; and they must be under 1 hour and close to home base. It is for perhaps that reason, that the possibility of tours in the summer are more attrac-

tive this year than in the past.

“For us, and myself in particular, ‘going foreign’ was a regular part of my flying experience: France is only 25 minutes away – a nice lunch and different ambience there, always makes it attractive.

“Great Britain is currently a little like it was just before the First World War when there was a headline in The London Times: ‘Fog in the English Channel – Rest of the World Cut Off’!

“This year – perhaps because of ‘lock down’ – it has already created much interest. Already, some 15 planes and 36 people have expressed a desire to come. If things improve, I suspect that it will be greater than that.”

If you would like to learn more about the trip, email him at [fatherpetergeldard@gmail.com](mailto:fatherpetergeldard@gmail.com).

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### *Continued from Page 1*

freedom, having plugged in my engine warmer the night before, I flew for about two hours! It was an amazingly calm morning with clear skies and bright sunshine. Although the temperature was hovering around 9 degrees, I was beaming with delight flying the Cardinal RG!

It was the perfect re-entry experience for my soul. After landing, I was back to work hearing confessions and praying the evening Mass and looking forward to the other Masses I would have on Sunday morning. I was refreshed and renewed and thanking God for His countless blessings!

Please know that whatever climate you may be experiencing at this time, you are all held dearly in my thoughts and prayers. Please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you whether in person

or on the computer screen this July!

God love ya.

*Mac*





# Tanzania escapes the worst of COVID-19 crisis

Hello, NAPP members!

In the midst of all the amazing happenings last year and the beginning of this, I thought you might be interested in the following good news:

Tanzania is a COVID-19 free country according to our Catholic president, John Magufuli. He asked for three days of prayer and fasting and declared that we were protected.

The reality, of course, is that we do have COVID here, with a peak in January of last year in the urban areas, and February in the rural areas. But the fatalities are few and far between. One reason is that the mean average age here is 17. Another is that most Tanzanians spend much more time out of doors than in, compared with Americans and

Europeans. And probably most important is that a new study has shown that the biggest number of COVID-19 deaths occur in people who still have Neanderthal genes! About 15% of people with European ancestry have them, about 50% of South Asians have them, very few East Asians carry them (which is why China and Japan are only mildly affected), and the genes are totally absent in the native African gene pool. South Africans and Liberians are the exception because of the many generations of mixing with Dutch, British and Americans.

That said, if you come to visit us, you will find the country and its people warm, wide open and welcoming. No COVID test is required. We don't do social



distancing. We shake hands, and hug and kiss. We don't wear masks. We go shopping, and to restaurants, and to the movies. There are no curfews. The hospitals are not filled to overflowing. And people are not dying in the streets.

Welcome! And happy new year to you all!

**Pat Patten and crew**  
*Flying Medical Service*  
P.O. Box 508, Arusha, Tanzania  
[flyingmedicalservice.org](http://flyingmedicalservice.org)



*"It is with paternal satisfaction that the Holy Father views the efforts of the members of the National Association of Priest Pilots to encourage the use of air transportation to obtain ever more abundant spiritual fruits from their sacerdotal ministry and missionary apostolate."*

*The Vatican, September 29, 1964*

## **Purpose:**

1. To promote the use of private aircraft as a practical, safe, and efficient tool of the apostolic work of a priest.
2. To cooperate with other aviation and ecclesiastical groups wherever possible in order to promote aviation in the cause of the Church.
3. To insist on the safe and proficient use of the airplane by its members.
4. To encourage the use of private aircraft as worthy of the talents and dignity of priests.

## **NAPP Leadership Team**

President: Joe McCaffrey

1st VP: Nick Radloff    2nd VP: Bill Menzel

Secretary: Allen Corrigan    Treasurer: John Hemann

## **Regional Directors**

East: Al Ruschman    Midwest: John Hemann

*Please send newsletter articles, notes and photos to:*  
**Tom Enwright, [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com);**  
**419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583**

**Deadline for the April edition: March 31.**