



October 2019



## A Message From the President



*Randy Rowles*

Fellow Twirly Birds,

This will be my first installment of the Twirly Birds Newsletter. I hope you enjoy it!

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to all my fellow Twirly Birds. My name is Randy Rowles and with my wife of 25-years, we reside in Fort Worth, Texas. We have two children, Charlie and Austin, both of which are active within the aviation industry. Our company, Helicopter Institute Inc., provides advanced helicopter training solutions as an alternative to OEM training programs in many Bell, Airbus, MD, and Sikorsky products. We operate a Bell 407, 206B, and AS350 at the Fort Worth Meacham Airport.

My career began in aerial application at the ripe old age of 18. My first turbine helicopter flown was the Sikorsky S-55B/T with the Garret TSE331-3 engine; a leftover from the S-55 Winnebago days. We still had the bed in the tail boom! Over the course of my career, I've been able to fly all around the globe representing several helicopter manufacturers. I've have served in management roles within the helicopter industry for the past 25-years flying various airframes to include the Sikorsky S-62 and Bell 47 with a little more than 14,000 hours flown.

I've been a Twirly Bird since 2008. Being a part of such a historical group is both exciting and humbling. Membership in the Twirly Bird organization provides a rare opportunity to live and breathe helicopter history with the pioneers that made it all happen; for my generation and for those to come. A gathering of history makers, the Twirly Bird Annual Meeting is a hidden gem for helicopter historians...if only they knew what they were missing.

Prior to last years annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, I was asked if I would be willing to lead this history-making group of misfits as the Twirly Bird President. My initial thought was simply "what do I have to offer? I haven't pioneered anything". I took a hard look at the Twirly Bird organization and asked myself..." where will this organization be in 10, 20, 30 years from now?"

Our industry is changing. The people that make up our industry are changing. Thus, the Twirly Bird organization and our members need to look internally and determine how we will fit in as the helicopter industry changes around us. Do we stay a small group of history makers holding the secrets to the past, or do we alter our path?

I would ask each of my fellow Twirly Bird members to look at our organization. Are you satisfied with our group as we are currently, or do you desire change! I feel the Twirly Birds have an opportunity to mentor our young pilots, mechanics, managers, and all those that wish to participate in this wonderful Twirly Bird family.

The Twirly Birds are seasoned helicopter industry professionals that have experienced the good, bad, and ugly of a dynamic industry that is known for eating its young. The helicopter industry knowledge that is available and untapped in the room during the Twirly Bird Annual Meeting is without measure. We, the Twirly Birds, have an opportunity to change who we are.

I appreciate this opportunity to lead the Twirly Birds during this time of change. The feedback we receive from our Twirly Bird family will help us navigate the changing tides of our industry and solidify our desired role into the future. It is only with your help and support that we will accomplish this task.

If you have ideas or concerns and wish to contact me directly, you can reach me at 561-386-6078 or via email at [randyrowlesdpe@gmail.com](mailto:randyrowlesdpe@gmail.com).

See you in Anaheim 2020...

Randy

## *Twirly Birds Annual Meeting Pictures - Heliexpo 2019 Atlanta, GA*



*Welcome Twirly Birds*



*Silent Auction*



*Harold Summers and Ross Fay*



*Randy Rowles, Sergei Sikorsky, Gary Young, Matt Zuccaro*

To see all the Twirly Bird Annual Meeting Pictures,  
visit [www.TWIRLYBIRDS.org](http://www.TWIRLYBIRDS.org)



## Industry Happenings



### **Sikorsky dedicates Stratford hangar to Sergei Sikorsky**

Sikorsky renamed its military hangar the Sergei I. Sikorsky Flight Center, on May 16, to honor Sergei Sikorsky's many achievements. Several Sikorsky employees, community members and 40 Coast Guardsmen gathered with Sergei and his family to celebrate the dedication.

"Every helicopter that comes off our final assembly line will now leave this hangar under the name, Sergei I. Sikorsky," said Dan Schultz, Sikorsky President. "Sergei's commitment to our company continues to this day and has been an amazing example of passion for our products, customers and rotorcraft innovation."

From your Twirly Bird family...Congratulations Sergei!

### **HAI Matt Zuccaro Announces Retirement**

The board of directors for Helicopter Association International (HAI) has announced the impending retirement of Matthew Zuccaro, president and CEO, effective June 30, 2020. This date coincides with HAI's fiscal year and the installation of a new board of directors on July 1, 2020.



*Matt Zuccaro*

Matt has led the association as president and CEO since Nov. 1, 2005. The executive committee of the board of directors will use an executive search firm to aid in finding Matt's successor and will consider candidates both internal and external.

Matt is looking forward to the opportunity to spend more time with his family as he considers new opportunities to assist the international helicopter community.

Matt is a Twirly Bird and long-time supporter of the Twirly Bird organization. On behalf of the Twirly Bird family..."Thank You Matt"!



## Annual Meeting Update



The Twirly Birds Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> during Heliexpo 2020 at the following location:

Anaheim Marriott  
Orange County Ballroom 3&4  
5:30 – 8:30PM

**Hor' dourves and lite appetizers will be served.**

We look forward to seeing you all there!

 *Twirly Birds Gone West*



## Keep Your TB Family Informed

Over the years, we've lost Twirly Bird members only to find out months after their passing they've gone West. Each Twirly Bird member is cherished among our group and as with any family, we want to share their stories and experiences.

At the Twirly Bird Annual Meeting, we celebrate the life and industry contribution of each Twirly Bird Gone West.

We need your help to stay informed of our Twirly Bird family. To facilitate this request, we ask that each member send us any information known on the status of a Twirly Bird member that would be appropriate to share among our membership.

To share information related to a Twirly Bird Gone West, please send an email to [TwirlyBirdsGoneWest@gmail.com](mailto:TwirlyBirdsGoneWest@gmail.com) or call Randy Rowles at 1-561-386-6078.

 *TB Newsletter Articles, Submissions, and Ideas!*



If you have an idea, suggestion, or wish to share an experience with the Twirly Bird membership, please let us know [TwirlyBirdNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:TwirlyBirdNewsletter@gmail.com) or call Randy Rowles at 1-561-386-6078.

 *Update Your Twirly Bird Membership Information*

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Phone:	E-mail:	
Date Soloed:	Instructor (Optional)	
Make and Model Helicopter you soloed:		
Where did you solo?		
Additional Qualifications or Information (Optional, but feel free to attach photos, clippings, biographical info., etc.)		
<p><i>Print this page, fill out and mail Please include an initiation fee of \$20 plus 1 year annual dues of \$10 Make check for \$30 payable to: Twirly Birds</i></p>		<p>Mail application to: <b>Dennis MacBain, Secretary/Treasurer</b> 4525 Leon Street San Diego, CA 92107</p>