



February 2022



## A Message From the President



*Randy Rowles*

Greetings Fellow Twirly Birds!

### MEETING REMINDER:

Our first meeting, post-COVID 19, will be March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Omni Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

As in the past, our meeting takes place during the, lately not-so-annual, Heli-Expo. The Helicopter Association International (HAI) has kindly supported us by providing a meeting space each year and this year they've done so again.

The Expo runs March 7<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with the exhibit hall opening on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

We hope this newsletter finds you in continued good physical health and state of mind. It has been very strange, and at times, frustrating period since Anaheim 2020. And who knows how soon the whole of the USA will return its normal, active routine. Currently in Texas, it is your personal decision regarding wearing a mask during the conference however, we will follow CDC requirements as may arise.

You have not been forgotten and hope you will be able to join the rest of us and rejuvenate old friendships. You even might consider this an opportunity to introduce some of the old stories as new ones! Heck, most of us can't remember where we put our shoes so who will know?

See you in Dallas 2022...

Randy

### *Annual Meeting Update*

### **Twirly Birds Annual Meeting**

Heliexpo 2022 will prove to be a great year to visit with friends and fellow TB Members during our Twirly Bird Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Here are the meeting room specifics:

- Date: Tuesday March 8th
- Time: 1730 – 2030 Hours
- Location: Omni Hotel Dallas
- Room: Arts District 7
- Food/Drink: Lite hors d'oeuvre /Bar





## Hotel Information - Heliexpo 2022



### Hotel Information – Heliexpo 2022 – Dallas, Texas

In partnership with onPeak, HAI has secured discounted rates at a selection of Dallas hotels. We know plans change, so to help ease your travel planning, onPeak, the only official hotel provider for HAI HELI-EXPO 2022, offers convenient hotel options with flexible change and cancellation policies.

We encourage you to book through them early for the best selection and price.



## Les Morris Award



### Twirly Birds 2022 Recipient Of The Charles Lester Morris Award

Nick Lappos is Lockheed Martin Senior Fellow for Rotary and Mission Systems, where he is responsible for the Sikorsky Technical Fellow community and the introduction of advanced technologies into new and existing products.

An Aerospace Engineering graduate of Georgia Tech, he joined at Sikorsky Aircraft in 1973. Through 2005 and then again from 2011 to present, he has served in a variety of roles at Sikorsky, including as program director for the S-92® helicopter during its development and certification. Under his leadership, the program earned the Robert J. Collier Trophy.



Lappos also served as director of Test Engineering and as assistant chief pilot and chief Research and Development test pilot, logging more than 7,500 hours of flight time in over 70 different types of helicopters.



During his Sikorsky career, Lappos has participated in the development of aircraft such as the S76, UH-60, RAH-66, ABC, Fantail, Shadow, Fly-by-wire demonstrator, CH-53E, S92.

A former Designated Engineering Representative (DER) flight test pilot, he has been a member of several National Academy of Sciences, NASA, AHS International, FAA and Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) committees and holds over 20 patents and three helicopter world speed records.



*Les Morris Award (continued)*



*Steve Sullivan - 2020 Les Morris Award*

## **Twirly Birds 2022 Recipient Of The Charles Lester Morris Award (continued)**

He is currently a member of the National Academy of Engineering's Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board Council and is a former member of the NASA Aeronautics Research and Technology Roundtable. He is Chairman of the NAE Committee on Enhancing Air Mobility, which authored the report, "Advancing Aerial Mobility, A National Blueprint."

In addition to his achievements at Sikorsky, Nick has been a vice president for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., and a senior vice president and chief technology officer for Bell Helicopter, Textron. He has also served as Chairman of the Vertical Lift Consortium, from 2009 - 2010 and again from 2012 to the present. In that role, he's responsible for the leadership and administration of the self-formed (Department of Defense) DOD consortium for the vertical lift industry.

Nick graduated as a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1973. Honors include Dean's List, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Tau Beta Pi, and Sigma Gamma Tau. He was elected to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni of Georgia Tech in 2004.

Nick is also a recipient of the Sir Barnes Wallis Medal for significant contributions to innovation from the UK Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators, 2013 and an Honorary Fellow (2013) and Technical Fellow (1995) of the AHS (now Vertical Flight Society) as well as a three-time recipient of the Frederick Feinberg Award as most outstanding pilot. In 2019, he was awarded the VFS Nikolsky Honorary Lectureship.

In 1988, he received the Society of Experimental Test Pilots Tenhoff Award. In 2021, he was appointed as an Associate Fellow in the AIAA.

He is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam war, where he flew Cobra helicopters.

 *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

 *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</i>  <i>Please include an initiation fee of \$20</i>  <i>plus 1 year annual dues of \$10</i>  <u>Make check for \$30 payable to:</u>  <i>Twirly Birds</i></p>		<p>Mail application to:  <b>Dennis MacBain, Secretary/Treasurer</b>  <b>4525 Leon Street</b>  <b>San Diego, CA 92107</b></p>

SEE YOU  
*Real Soon!*