

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by WILLIAM S. IVANS

The January Board of Directors' meeting in Chicago is now a matter of record. Seventeen of the twenty-six Soaring Society Directors were present; at least two others were forced to cancel their appearance due to exceedingly bad weather.

SSA finances were the subject of considerable discussion. Membership income—dues—is our largest source of income, with secondary revenues from sale of merchandise, advertising in and subscriptions to *Soaring*, sales of *American Soaring Handbook*, and increasingly important donations from members and friends of the Society.

Services to members are the sole objective in disbursing these monies. These services take many forms, from the publication of *Soaring* to the answering of a tentative inquiry from someone who is mildly curious about motorless flight. The major outlays involve publications and membership correspondence. Postage fees alone account for eight percent of present expenses.

Your Directors voted to keep present membership and subscription rates fixed for the immediate future. Income for 1963 may, therefore, be predicted as slightly higher than in 1962, due mostly to expected membership growth. More services from

the Executive Secretary's office were called for by strong consensus of the Board, especially in those areas involving membership correspondence and answering of other inquiries. To meet this need, an increase in office salary budget was voted. As an economy measure, plans to publish a 1963 Directory were cancelled. A narrowly balanced budget has thus been established, with some change in the pattern of expenditures. No provision has been made for contingencies or rising costs. We will thus continue to operate on a minimum expenditure basis, relying heavily on volunteer committees to perform a large part of the Society's work.

A number of members and a minority of the Board in Chicago favored an immediate increase of several dollars per year in the charges for the various grades of membership and subscription to *Soaring*, rates which have remained fixed for the past nine years. Others felt that if income lags expenses, cuts in services should be made instead, such as less frequent publication of *Soaring*, fewer answers to inquiries, etc. How do you feel about this? It is not too early to communicate your views on this matter to your Regional Director. We will review our financial status once again in July, at the Elmira Board Meeting.

It is pertinent to state here that no Officer or Director of SSA receives payment for his services or reimbursement of his travel expenses in behalf of the Society. Nor are any of the Society's funds employed to defray expenses of teams which represent our country, although we may act as custodial agents for monies donated. In this latter particular, Team Captain Paul Schweizer reports that donations for the Argentine expedition are still far short of expected minimum expenditures. The World Championships are imminent, and a donation to help finance the U.S. team would be most heartening evidence of your support.

SSA Election Results

The results of SSA's fall, 1962, election of seven Regional Directors, terms to expire December 31, 1965, are as follows:

- Region 1 — Stephen duPont
- Region 2 — Miles Coverdale
- Region 6 — William Coverdale
- Region 11 — Leslie R. Arnold
Bernald S. Smith
- Region 12 — William S. Ivans
Sterling V. Starr

Since William S. Ivans had been elected as a Director-at-Large for 1963, a vacancy for this position was created. Another such vacancy occurred when Joseph M. Robertson resigned as a Director-at-Large and Secretary of the Society for 1963. These two vacancies were filled on January 13th at a meeting of the Directors. The two new Directors-at-Large are H. Marshall Claybourn of Wichita, Kansas, and Bertha M. Ryan of Lancaster, Calif. At the same time, Miles Coverdale was elected as Secretary of the Society for 1963.

Questionnaires Still Needed For Statistical Study

About 56% of the questionnaires mailed last fall to some 600 SSA members and all U.S. soaring clubs for a special survey have been completed and returned. More are needed in order to make the statistical sampling have significant meaning. All those who have not returned their questionnaires are urged to do so as soon as possible even though it is past the original deadline. Results of this study will aid SSA in making plans and recommendations about the future development of American soaring.

The SSA Directors as they took a portrait break from their meeting in Chicago on January 13th. Seated are, from L. to R., Ted Sharp, Treasurer; Nelson MacLeod, V-P; William Ivans, President; John Ryan, V-P; and Paul Bikle (someone has to be out of pose). Standing are, from L. to R., Dale May; Bernald Smith; Otto Zauner; Tom Page; Dick Schreder; Lloyd Licher, Executive Secretary, not a Director; Sterling Starr; Bill Coverdale; Harner Selvidge; Miles Coverdale, Secretary; E. J. Reeves; and Bob Brown. Paul Schweizer also attended.

Photo by S. A. Aldott

