

Chicago DODO Chapter,
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.®



The Flight Plan

Vol. XV no. 2 February 2008 Chicago DODO Chapter, P. O. Box 19063, Chicago, IL 60619
Beverly L. Dunjill, President

Carrying on the legend and teaching young people about the opportunities in aviation.

Pioneering pilot talks about Tuskegee Airmen



CRAIG T. KOJIMA / CKOJIMA@STARBULLETIN.COM
Retired Lt. Col. William Holloman flew P-51s with the famous all-black 99th Fighter Squadron/332nd Fighter Group, in WWII. He is holding a model of the P-51 he flew with the distinctive "Red Tail" of his fighter group.

Black Aviators fought on two fronts

Lt. Col. Bill Holloman flew "Red Tail" P-51s with the 332nd Fighter Group in World War II -- the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He continued flying during the Korean War and Vietnam, was the first black helicopter pilot in the Air Force and later became a professor of history at the University of Washington.

"I'm proud to be associated with that group of men who not only fought racism among the Nazis, but also here in America," Holloman says.

He'll speak on the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen in a Black History Month presentation at the Pacific Aviation Museum at Pearl Harbor tomorrow and Sunday.

It's one of the great stories rising from the so-called Greatest Generation, the tale of the "Tuskegee Airmen," the all-black squadrons that not only scored victories over Nazis in the air, they scored strikes against racism on the homefront. As an inspirational paen, it's a story that can't be told often enough.

Particularly now, during Black History Month. Which is why the Pacific Aviation Museum at Pearl Harbor is bringing in Tuskegee Airman Bill Holloman and others to give a couple of talks on the subject this week. Except that ...

..."During the war, nobody ever heard of Tuskegee Airmen," explains Holloman.

Say what?

"We were 'those colored pilots,' " said Holloman. "Then we were 'Negros' until 1963, when we became 'black.' Then somebody dreamed up 'African-American,' which I sort of resent. I'm an American who happens to be of African descent. And I'm proud to be associated with that group of men who not only fought racism among the Nazis, but also here in America. Some of our pilots who were captured by the Germans were asked, why would you fly for a country that treats you as second-class citizens? Compared to what the Nazis were doing, America is the greatest nation on Earth."

Source: *Honolulu Star Bulletin*

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Chicago DODO Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. ®

Mission Statement

"The Chicago "DODO" Chapter of TAI is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization whose mission is to perpetuate the historic legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and to encourage and assist minority youth in pursuing post-secondary education and careers in the aerospace industry."

Publisher

Emmit Q. Hoosman
20832 W. Barrington Court
Plainfield, IL 60544
ehoosman@sbcglobal.net

Questions, comments or feedback on the Flight Plan please direct to:

Emmit Q. Hoosman
(312) 656-5940
ehoosman@sbcglobal.net

Please submit all articles or pictures **no later than the 25th** of each month. Articles will be accepted via fax, as well as via email or in other electronic form. Pictures and other items can be mailed by the above deadline; also preferred to receive in any digital format for better quality printing. Typed or printed submissions are strongly preferred to handwritten ones. Submissions received after the 25th of the month will be included in the following month's issue unless otherwise indicated.

Editorial Staff

PUBLISHER:

Mr. Emmit Q. Hoosman



EDITOR:

Mrs. Carol MacCabe



CONTRIBUTOR

Mr. Vincent Saunders



FEATURE WRITER & REPORTER

Dr. Bobbie Anthony-Perez



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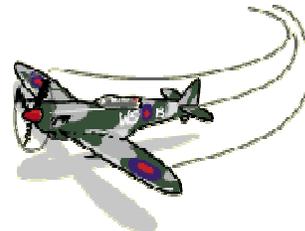
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CALENDAR OF



March 8th @ 9:00am
Young Eagles
Gary-Chicago Airport

March 11th @ 6:30pm
TAI Directors Meeting
8134 S. Stony Island

March 18th
6:30-8:30pm
Chapter Meeting
8134 S. Stony Island

April 8th @ 6:30pm
TAI Directors Meeting
8134 S. Stony Island



February is Black History Month

All General Meetings will be
held at the New Chicago Public
Library
8134 S. Stony Island



HOTLINES

CHAPTER HOTLINE:
(312) 409-3624

CHICAGO YOUNG EAGLES HOTLINE:
(312) 409-5621

GARY YOUNG EAGLES
HOTLINE: (888) 235-9824
(888) 2FLY-TAI

Note: Call the Young Eagles Hotline after
7:30 a.m. on the morning of a flight for
any cancellations.

CHAPTER WEBSITE:
www.taichicago.org

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. National Office
1501 Lee Highway, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 522-8589

Note:

Officers Installed:

Bev Dunjill - President
Kenneth Rapier - 1st Vice
President
Maj. Duane Hayden - 2nd Vice
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Camile Chappell - Recording
Secretary
TBA - Corresponding Secretary
Alcus Cromartie -
Treasurer
Moses Jones - Assistant
Treasurer
Judge Earl Strayhorn -
Parliamentarian
Dr. Bobbie Anthony-Perez -
Historian

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



John S. Rock
First African American To
Practice Before The U.S.
Supreme Court
February 1st, 1865

Free American Blacks
Settle Liberia, West Africa
February 4th, 1822

NAACP Founded
February 12th, 1909

Frederick Douglas
Appointed President of
Freedman's Bank
& Trust Co.
February 16th, 1874

Quakers were First to For-
mally Protest Slavery
February 18th, 1688

W.E.B. Dubois
Scholar, Writer and Foun-
der of NAACP Born
February 23rd, 1868

Hiram Revels Represent-
ing Mississippi
Was Elected First African
American in U.S. Senate
February 25th, 1870

The Musical, Porgy and
Bess Opens on Broadway
February 28th, 1943





E-Mail Column



Flight Plan Publisher EMAIL is ehoosman@sbcglobal.net

For those of you who wish to start receiving the Flight Plan via email vs. US mail please forward your email address to ehoosman@sbcglobal.net. for consideration.

This is INCREDIBLE! The picture was taken in 1918. It is 18,000 men preparing for war in a training camp at Camp Dodge in Iowa. A gift from our grandfathers.



Submitted by:
Van Gardner

STANDING TALL Titled "Human Statue of Liberty," this image was taken at Camp Dodge in Iowa and used eighteen thousand men.

Hi,

Can you help my friend and classmate, Jerry Hodges, DOTA L.A. Chapter TAI, find the OTA below? If you can provide any info, please let me know as soon as possible. As you can see, their event is only weeks away.

Thanks,

Original Message -----

From: [ED DAVIS](#)

To: [Jerry Hodges, T](#)

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 8:27 AM

Subject: Dr. Richard C. Caesar?

Dear Mr. Hodges,

Can you please provide me with the number or email to Lt Col (Ret.) Richard Caesar OTA from Arkansas. He should be around 89yrs young and in the state of Illinois currently. We are planning an event for all of the living OTA's from Arkansas. Please help us and Thanks.

P.S. We are looking forward to having you this February at the Pine Bluff Arsenal on 2/21 and at the Tuskegee Airmen anniversary gala on 2/22.

Edmond Prodigy Davis

Historian, Author, &

Motivational Speaker

Pulaski Technical College

edmond.davis@pulaskitech.edu

<http://www.authorsden.com/edmonddavis>

National Vice Chairman of History, Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship Incorporated

"Wild"

Chicago Winter Poem ('ode to my broken shovel)

It's winter in Chicago
And our gentle breezes blow
at fifty miles an hour
when it's twenty-five below.
Oh, how I love Chicago
Although the snow has me in a rutt
I dare not breathe while shoveling
Cause my nose might get frozen shut.
Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave Chicago
'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!

Submitted by: *Vince Saunders*



Dear Fans of Meigs

It is hard to believe that this month will mark the fifth anniversary of Daley's destruction of Meigs Field.

I have put a hold on two rooms at Maggiano's for a lunch reunion on Monday March 31, 2008 at noon. One room will accommodate 20 people, the other accommodates 40.

There would be a brief program and I am working on some ideas to make the fifth anniversary worthy of media attention. Stay tuned for more on this.

This won't be a fundraiser so the price will be just the cost of the meal and a cash bar. The cost would be \$25 per person.

Let me know if you would like to attend so I can determine which room to book. It would be great if you could let me know yes or no by next Monday, March 10.

And pass the invitation on to anyone I may not have included in my distribution

Thanks.

Rachel

Continue from Cover Page:

The phrase "Tuskegee Airmen," Holloman explained, came about in the 1970s when veterans of the fighter group organized an educational trust under that name. It comes from the all-black Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, a university that served as a conduit for young black men to join the Army Air Forces.

In 1941, Congress pressured the military into creating a black flying unit, but the plan was nearly scuttled by overt racism within the War Department, which commissioned "scientific" studies from the University of Texas proving that blacks couldn't handle anything as complex as a flying machine. This notion was scuttled by, of all people, Eleanor Roosevelt, who showed up at the flying field one day and insisted that she be taken up in the air in a Piper Cub flown by a black pilot.

Eventually, the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd all-black squadron were formed, collectively under the 332nd Fighter Group. And if you're wondering why there are four squadrons instead of the usual three, "we were the only four-squadron group in the armed forces," said Holloman. "And it was because we were segregated."

Not just pilots. The Tuskegee Airmen also consisted of hundreds of black support personnel. "And one of the beautiful things about being in a segregated unit," said Holloman, "is that you couldn't be transferred out away from your friends. We became a family."

Holloman hails from St. Louis, and like many aviators of the era, tried flying by jumping off the garage roof with a sheet tied across his shoulders. "That is, until my mother got wind of it, and my father had us try jumping off a box instead. 'If you can fly off the box,' he said, 'I'll let you jump off the garage.' "

The airplane-crazy kid went to Tuskegee for training, graduating in class 44H, and Holloman says that nearby Tuskegee Airfield was unique in the sheer variety of training aircraft. "Usually, cadets would move from one field to another, learning different types of aircraft. But since we were segregated, instead, all the types of aircraft came to Tuskegee."

Holloman became rated in the famous P-40, P-39 and P-47 fighters, and like many aviators, his heart was stolen by the sleek P-51 Mustang. The 332nd painted their aircraft with distinctively crimson control surfaces, and throughout the campaign in Europe, the "Red Tails" were noted as a fierce bunch of fighter pilots who went the extra air mile to protect bombers -- and often the crews who praised them didn't know the Red Tails were black.



HISTORIC PHOTOS COURTESY AIR FORCE HISTORY OFFICE, MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE
The Army Air Forces' first black pilots trained at Tuskegee Airfield in Alabama.

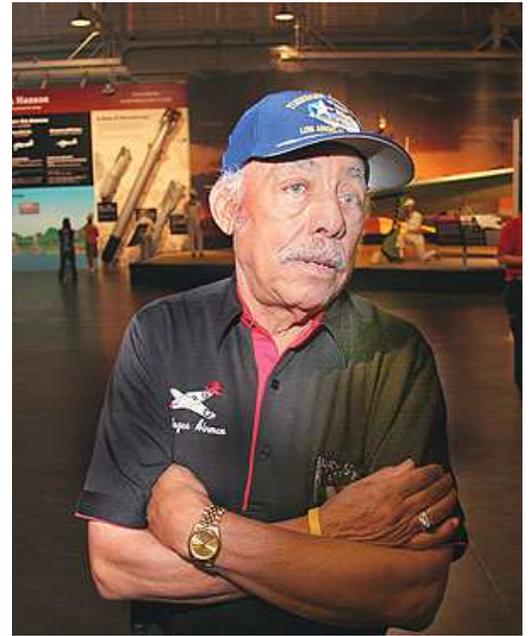
"Star Wars" creator George Lucas' dream project is a movie about the 332nd, called, naturally, "Red Tails." Holloman was called to Los Angeles last week to consult on the script.

"By 1945, we pretty much controlled the air," said Holloman. "We'd do five escort missions, then get to do one search-and-destroy or strafing mission, which we preferred because it was more exciting! As a whole, fighter pilots are crazy young men, and we liked it that way."

The armed forces were desegregated in 1948 by executive order, creating by law -- supposedly -- the only fully integrated communities in the United States. "I discovered quickly that you can have friends in the military, and be treated as an equal, as long as our kids didn't date," said Holloman. "If there was any good that came out of World War II, it was the notion that we ignore the color of our skin when we're in the trenches together. America is not perfect -- 'America' is a goal, a dream to work toward."

And now, here in the midst of 2008's Black History Month, America has a black contender for the highest office in the land.

"I'm proud to have served my country, and for someone like Barack Obama to have happened in my lifetime is just so great."



CRAIG T. KOJIMA /CKOJIMA@STARBULLUTIN.COM
Bill Holloman, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, will speak at the Pacific Aviation Museum

Tuskegee Airmen Honored February 13, 2008

By Contributing Writer Jude Harder

In honor of Black History Month the FastBreak Foundation, American Family Insurance and KSTC Channel 45 honored two very special heroes at Target Center Sunday night as the Timberwolves battled the Toronto Raptors.

In 1941 the Tuskegee Airmen became the first African American airmen to be allowed into the United States military, and between 1942 and 1946 over half of the 994 trained and graduated pilots from the Tuskegee Institute (Alabama) were sent overseas to aid the United States' effort during World War II.

These educated and strong willed men battled discrimination and prejudicial stereotypes to serve their country despite the racial inequalities of the times.

Target Center had the privilege of having two of them under its roof on Sunday night: Vernon Hopson and Joseph Gomer.



Gomer was 22 when he enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Italy where he was a fighter pilot until he retired at the end of the war. He later went on to work for the US Forestry Service, where he earned merit for his work in providing equal opportunity.

"I think it's wonderful that people are finally remembering and learning a little bit about history," Gomer said at halftime. "I like to see our young people be all that they can be."

Hopson joined the Air Force at the age of 18 and was an escort for bombers deploying to the Pacific Ocean. Upon the end of the war Vernon remained in the Air Force where he became an Air Traffic Controller.

Last week, Hopson was also present at the FastBreak Foundation's Black History celebration at Brooklyn Center's Northport Elementary. At the school, Hopson stressed the importance of staying focused on your dreams and placing heavy importance on education.

Timberwolves President Chris Wright presented the heroes with team signed basketballs and personalized jerseys at halftime of the game.

"We take great pride in recognizing inspirational leaders in our community and in our nation's history, and Black History Month provides us with a terrific platform to celebrate these individuals and their accomplishments," Wright said earlier this month. "It's especially important that our young fans are educated about black history and able to incorporate the lessons they can learn from these great pioneers into their daily lives."

The examples set by men like Gomer and Hopson are what make our country and the world a better place and give others the will to fight back when they are held down.

"There are no barriers, no ceilings," Gomer said. "We opened doors and broke down their barriers, and really encourage everybody to be all that they can be."

Source: Timberwolves News



EAA 'TIMELESS VOICE OF THE WEEK': ROBERT MARTIN

In celebration of Black History Month, this week's story comes from Tuskegee Airman Robert Martin. Robert was a junior learning to fly in the Civilian Pilot Training Program at Iowa State University when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941. After graduating in June 1943, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was eventually sent to Tuskegee, Alabama, where he learned to fly the Army way. Facing discrimination and racial prejudice, Robert persevered and made his way into the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group, the famed "Red Tails." On his 64th combat mission, Robert was shot down over Yugoslavia, where he was picked up by partisans who helped him evade capture.

Source: EAA News



Young Eagles Column



The long range forecast for Saturday calls for partly sunny skies and temps around 30. You are cordially invited to join the Young Eagles Team for our next team meeting...the regular Young Eagles rally to be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Gary-Chicago International Airport (GYG). The pilot briefing will be at 8:30 A.M. with flights beginning at 9:00 A.M. We will operate out of the Young Eagles Team Headquarters located next to Gate 4. All aircraft parking will be West of Gate 4. Refreshments will be provided for all pilots and volunteers. Call the hotline after 7:00 A.M. on the morning of the team meeting to check flight status. In Illinois call 312-409-5621; In Indiana call toll free: 888-235-9824. Press 3 to access the flight status mailbox. We're looking

forward to seeing you at the Young Eagles Team Meeting at the Gary Airport. Happy Flyin'!

Ken Rapier, Chief Pilot
Tuskegee Airmen Young Eagles Program



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN GROUP LOOKING FOR SUPPORT

The Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American fighter pilots, recently received the group's second congressional recognition. With the conclusion of Black History Month, the group knows full well that its veterans are dwindling in numbers. Hoping that the legacy will not die with them, the nonprofit [Tuskegee Airmen Inc.](#) is looking for dedicated people to join the organization and carry out its mission of inspiring young people to achieve goals and take on leadership roles in society.

FAA mandates plastic pilot certificates

By AOPA ePublishing staff

Still hanging onto your paper pilot certificate? You'll need to upgrade to a plastic pilot certificate by March 31, 2010. The FAA released its [final rule](#) on Feb. 28, announcing the required switch to the certificate it deems is more counterfeit resistant. When the FAA proposed this mandate in 2005, AOPA members overwhelmingly supported the move to a more secure certificate.

If you are attached to your paper certificate and original issuance date (the plastic certificate will have a new one), don't worry. You can keep your paper certificate for nostalgia; you just can't use it to fly. If you do miss the 2010 deadline, you won't have to take a checkride or any exams to get back in the air as pilot in command. Simply request the plastic certificate.

Temporary, student, and flight instructor certificates are not impacted by this rule. Those with nonpilot certificates, such as ground instructors, flight engineers, and mechanics, will have until March 31, 2013 to change to a plastic certificate.

Pilots can request the plastic certificate through the [FAA's Web site](#). The cost is \$2. However, if you change your pilot certificate number from your Social Security number, the switch is free.

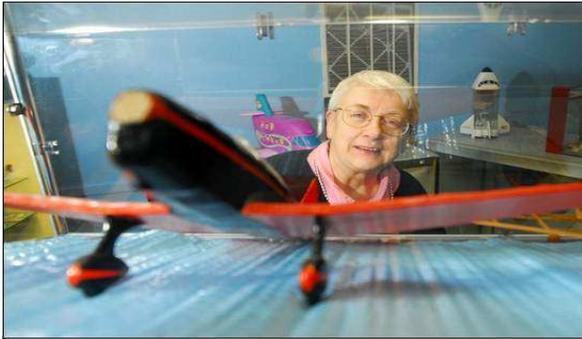
Because the FAA is currently processing replacement certificate for pilots who fly internationally to meet the ["English proficient" endorsement](#) required by the International Civil Aviation Organization, pilots might want to wait a few weeks before requesting a plastic certificate to prevent a backlog.

February 28, 2008

TOP GUNS

Toy museum pays homage to Tuskegee Airmen

Friday, February 15, 2008



Top Fun Aviation Toy Museum curator Rosalie E. Dunbar, with a model of the "Red Tail" fighter planes the Tuskegee Airmen used.

The elderly man arrived at the Top Fun Aviation Toy Museum without fanfare. Museum curator Rosalie E. Dunbar was in awe.

Dunbar's visitor introduced himself as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the fighter group made up of African-Americans who overcame deep-seated prejudice and segregation to serve with distinction during World War II. Their pursuit squadrons racked up a near-perfect record protecting bombers on missions over Sicily, the Mediterranean and North Africa. Their achievements paved the way for the integration of the military.

The other day, Dunbar recalled that the man told her he had been a member of the Tuskegee Airmen when they flew missions during the Korean War. She had thought that the group had been disbanded after World War II.

"I had a lovely conversation with him," Dunbar said. "It was a very special thing for me. I felt deeply in my heart about these men. My father was in the Army and in-

involved in the invasion of Italy. I couldn't help but wonder if they might have been among the forces that helped to protect the soldiers."

Dunbar hoped that the gentleman, whose name she could not immediately recall, would be willing to deliver a talk. But at the time, the museum was housed in a former school building in Winchendon, and he felt it was too far for a return visit. That was disappointing. Nonetheless, Dunbar is not inclined to let Black History Month go by without telling the story of the heroic African-American pilots, navigators, mechanics and others who assisted in making the missions possible.

"I think the thing about the Tuskegee Airmen is people forget what African-Americans had to accomplish," Dunbar said. "Young people now have no recollection of what that was all about."

The museum, which moved last spring to 21 Pritchard St. in Fitchburg, is an accomplishment in itself.

Dunbar and her friend Deborah L. Scheetz, the treasurer, opened Top Fun in 2000 at the Winchendon location with their own collection of aviation toys. Scheetz pilots private planes, and the two would attend aviation conferences.

"When you're thinking about aviation, you enjoy anything with wings. We'd buy toy airplanes and play with them in the motel room," Dunbar said, laughing.

At one point, the two women made a trip to Dayton, Ohio, the home of the Wright brothers; it was a pivotal experience. On the way back, they stopped at an antiques mall and bought several tin toy airplanes. Dunbar's thoughts turned to the conference they had attended at which there had been much talk about how difficult it was to introduce young people to the variety of careers in aviation — pilot, mechanic and cargo loader, to name a few — all vital to the industry.

Dunbar remembered thinking that a toy museum, with opportunities to learn about aviation's past, present and future, might be just the answer. "Who doesn't like toys?" Dunbar thought.

The collection assembled by the two women made for a good start. Then Ray Begnoche of Leominster, who had constructed model airplanes since his youth, showed up carrying several cartons. He and his wife were moving to smaller quarters, and he had planned to throw his collection away. Friends had told him about Top Fun.

"Well, talk about Christmas squared," Dunbar said, sounding thrilled all over again. "It was fabulous — 85 airplanes — awesome, beautiful, different types. They're all different. Some are more elaborate than others. They represent his life's work."

Another man donated a relatively rare rubber airplane with a Mickey Mouse figure aboard. Its original owner's small hands had worn off most of the red paint. "It was a much-loved toy," Dunbar remarked.

Today, the museum boasts more than 2,000 toys and games, including fine tin toys from Japan, Hungary, Germany and the United States. An early cast iron plane transports Bugs Bunny; Olive Oyl waves from another model. On display are planes made of paper, plastic, wood and metal.

A helicopter and an airplane made by children in the West African country of Burkina Faso were fashioned from Dutch milk tins with the help of a Peace Corps volunteer. Visitors can see a model of Amelia Earhart's last plane and other examples of aircraft from aviation's early days. The Star Trek generation and Star Wars represent what could lie ahead.

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A Tuskegee Airmen collectible G.I. Joe figure.

Tidbits
Bobbie M. Anthony-Perez

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. 2008 "DODO: RETREAT



Twenty-seven "DODO"s attended the retreat at Gary/Chicago Airport on January 28. Mr. Chris Curry, Airport Director stated that if the "DODO"s needed anything to just let him know, and said the "DODO"s could help him by "pushing" the airport. The continental breakfast and, also, lunch were served by the group that usually serves the "DODO"s at quarterly meetings. A memorial chair for Dan Williamson was arranged against the wall in front of the room.

- Kathy Chappell distributed a folder proposed to give visitors, guest, and Young Eagles parents and requested feedback from "DODO"s. Kathy and Grady Davis comprised the Membership Committee. For 2008, they proposed buttons for all chapter members, a condensed handbook for new members, caps for Young Eagles, and free flights for new members, in addition to finalizing the folders mentioned above. Eleven different types of material would be in the folders. The Committee also plans to formalize the orientation for new members, to encourage sponsor to support active involvement with the "DODO"s to connect with New Generation and Heritage members of other chapters, to encourage involvement of members unable to attend meetings to participate in other ways and to have membership committee news monthly in the Flight Plan and/or the hotline. The proposed budget for 2008 is \$700.
- Melvin Knazze spoke of appearances he has scheduled. Vince Saunders has volunteered to be on the Appearance Committee.
- Bobbie M. Anthony-Perez stated that Yola Moore, Auxiliary President, was to speak at Lonnie Cheers funeral today and would not be at the retreat, and that the women usually give the "DODO"s \$100 when a member dies. Bobbie stated that the Auxiliary handled the installation and supported the "DODO"s.
- Ken Rapiere distributed a proposed brochure describing the program of the Young Eagles, the Aviation Career Education and the Gary Flight Academy, the Educational Assistance, and appearances and presentations, as well as a brief history of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Ken reported that merchandise would be available for sale at the next Young Eagles meet and proposed to take snapshots of the youth with Tuskegee Airmen and also , a summer bowling-alley fundraiser. The total budget request for the youth-in-aviation program is \$3000. Steve Whitney and Rufus Hunt each have one youngster for the Experimental Aircraft Aviation Academy, one of which will be sent. The Young Eagles pilots get points for flying Young Eagles and pool their points to offset the cost of sending a youth to Oshkosh for the summer camp.
- Duane Hayden spoke of the opportunities for internship with the National Guard. He also spoke on efforts for youth programs in conjunction with Lewis University and the Chicago Public Schools, and also, the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy to promote positive motivation for community service and courses to enable the high-school level to be a bridge to employment. A meeting with the Mayor and the FAA was regarding traffic control jobs. A briefing with the school superintendent and the Mayor in February will promote youth getting an introduction to aviation so that in college the youth will be interested and corporations will want to employ them. Gary schools will also be involved. Minority parents and children are to be at Lewis University in April. The President of Lewis will acknowledge the work of the "DODO"s. It is hoped to get corporate support and to promote the Young Eagles and the "DODO"s.
- Velda Wright-Chamberlain stated that a \$6000 profit was realized from Spring Fling 2007. For Spring Fling 2008 to break even, 300 tickets need to sold. If 400 tickets are sold, a \$10,600 profit will be realized. To date, \$1,800 has been paid. An additional cost of \$3,400.40 will be added to the budget. An auction is planned, and a jacket is to be raffled off. Velda showed slides to demonstrate her remarks. Karen Thompson, using the slides, stated that Nikos would be the site of Spring Fling, that commitment letters regarding ticket sales had been sent to members, that invitation packages have been distributed and are available, entertainment will be available, and the scholarship awards will be announced. The committee request that each member sells at least 5 tickets, that merchandise for the auction will be donated in March or no later than April 1, and that students be indentified. Alcus Cromartie and Charlie Richardson presented on the Education Assistance Fund. February 9 is the deadline for the local. \$15,000 is proposed for the 2008 scholarships. Kraft-Whitey is giving a \$20,000 (5000 a year) college scholarship at the national level.
- Michael Hill presented a 7-page budget request of a "BallPark" total of \$12,350 to cover the Oshkosh EAA Airventure, 3 parades, the Chicago Air and Water show, the Gary Air and water Show, the Merchandise Budget, the Inventory budget, and the handbook budget. There was discussion on the amount of inventory currently on hand. Michael introduced Cathy Bell, the new Merchandising Chairperson, who gave her ideas on 2008 merchandising and said she would work with Michael on what he has done and will come back with her decisions.

Continue on page 11

Continue from page 10

- Ken Rapiere stated that on February 9, if the “DODO”s have items in a box with prices and a receipt book at the Young Eagles Rally, then he and Bob Mullins will take care of selling the merchandise.
- Grady Davis spoke of his personal television promotion on television, “Grady’s Notebook”, which is not a “DODO” program, but he will be able to highlight “DODO” programs. He wants to highlight offspring of the “DODO”s under “Grady’s Notebook”, not under the “DODO”s. His revised budget request is \$200.
- Victor Crosswell displayed a jacket made up for the “DODO”s.
- Hilton Joseph stated that the number of robes needed for sick-and shut-ins depends on the number of ill people. His budget request is \$200.
- Vince Saunders has on the we-site complete information on what has been going on with the “DODO”. There is a corporate section on corporate development, and Vince wants you to send in your ideas. Debra Rice has done lots of work on student programs. There is a photo gallery. We can take snapshots that people take and put them on CDs for the web-site. So send in the snapshots. There is also a members biography page, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. art, a Lonely Eagles section, and the Chapter history. The 2008 budget is \$750, less than the 2007 budget of \$850. Vince had 7 pages containing comments from 31 persons who had made contact with the web-site, including teachers requesting “DODO” appearances, relatives looking for “original” Tuskegee Airmen or friends or pictures and anything else about the sought airmen or friends, requests for information about Young Eagles rides on planes, and people expressing pride in the Tuskegee Airmen.
- Karen Junior read the request for \$5000 for the south side YMCA basketball team and after-school programs, which, in turn, would result in several types of publicity for the “DODO”s
- There was no report on the handbook.
- Melvin Knazze gives all pictures he takes to the chapter. He stated that a number of other members take pictures.
- Rufus Hunt requested \$1300 for the Colorful Women event to be held May 3, 2008 at 1:00 pm and \$900 to the experimental group.
- Rod Strickland reported that there was \$400 left from last year’s allocation for repair to the plane donated to the “DODO”s.
- Sections of the retreat were chaired by Beverly Dunjill (two), Ken Rapiere, and Duane Hayden.

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The oldest item in the collection is a card game, “Lindy the New Flying Game,” created after Charles Lindbergh’s historic solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927. Dunbar and Scheetz picked it up on one of their antiquing excursions.

Not surprisingly, the Tuskegee Airmen are represented. The museum has a puzzle and a doll clad in airmen’s gear. Bomber crews named the Tuskegee Airmen “Red Tail Angels” after the markings on their aircraft. “We put together an aircraft with the Tuskegee Airmen’s colors,” Dunbar said.

The museum, which is open on Saturdays and Sundays, offers workshops in kite making and toy making; special arrangements can be made for visits by school and youth groups.

Dunbar, who works as an editor in Boston, takes special pride in the knowing that the museum is a relatively unthreatening place for people who are afraid to fly. They can talk to a professional about their fears and learn why a plane stays airborne. “The toy environment is less overpowering than going to an airport,” she noted.

After 9-11, Dunbar said, several people showed up at a historical program deeply distressed about the use of planes to attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

“We had a good conversation on the differences between normal flying and destructive aviation,” Dunbar said. “Hopefully, we provided comfort.”



Aviation Toy Museum curator Rosalie Dunbar, left, and treasurer Deborah Scheetz, with a puzzle image of a "Red Tail" fighter.

Source: eWorcester.com

Tuskegee Airmen visit Shamrock Middle School

Flight Officer Hiram Little, a former Tuskegee Airman, is surrounded by students asking questions (from left) Stephanie Brown, Erin Alderson, Torrey Prescod, Zoe Maddox and Danatolo Dunn, all 8th graders at Shamrock Middle School. The airmen were the first African-Americans to be trained to fly in U.S. armed forces -- and they shattered racial stereotypes. RENEE' HANNANS HENRY / AJC



*Submitted by:
Wilk Olawton*

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
P.O. Box 19063
Chicago, IL 60619-0063