

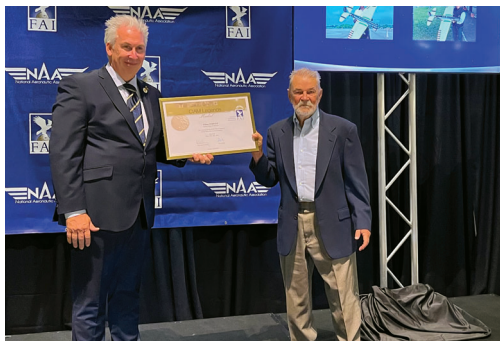
District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

As District III vice president, I am presented with unique opportunities that are an honor to be a part of. One such event was the 117th FAI General Conference held in Dayton, Ohio. The FAI is the governing body for competition in air sports worldwide, which includes full-scale aerobatics, parachuting, hot air balloons, aeromodeling, and more.

There is not enough room in this column to report on the meetings I attended; however, I learned a lot about how the FAI operates and its involvement in our model aviation competition activities. One highlight was an awards banquet honoring FAI Legends. To win this award, an individual must be a world champion a minimum of three times.

I am happy to say that District III has such a person. Bill Werwage, from Cleveland, was a three-time world champion in Control Line Aerobatics. Bill attended the awards ceremony, and it was an honor to talk with him about his aeromodeling accomplishments.



Three-time CL Aerobatics World Champion Bill Werwage (R) receives an FAI Legends Award from FAI President David Monks (L).

The meetings concluded Saturday morning with the FAI delegates from around the world touring the National Museum of the United States Air Force, with an added feature of having air sports demonstrations at the museum. NAA President Amy Spowart asked me to organize a group to fly demonstrations on Saturday morning. Associate Vice Presidents Jim Martin and Randy Adams organized a team of modelers to demonstrate CL, RC Aerobatics, Scale, helicopters, and more.

The weather was marginal, so the parachutes, air balloons, etc., could not fly. The modelers flew for several hours, however, and demonstrated

our sport to the hundreds of spectators in attendance. Thank you to the District III aeromodelers who participated and showed the world that Dayton is not only the birthplace of aviation but also a hub for model aviation activities.



This column is bittersweet for me because it is the last I will write as the District III vice president (VP). I began this journey in 2012 and after four terms (12 years), I felt it was time to retire and turn the controls over to a new pilot. Words cannot express what an honor it has been to serve the AMA members of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

I have made many new friends and learned so much about aeromodeling, not only in District III but throughout the country. I welcomed discussing AMA business with all of you and thoroughly enjoyed flying at your club fields. Most of all, I did my best to represent your needs to AMA. Because of magazine deadlines and election results timing, I don't know who my successor is; however, I know that both candidates, Randy Adams and Jeff Black, are qualified to be the next VP.

Thank you to everyone who made this one of the greatest experiences of my life, and I look forward to flying with you in the years to come. Stay safe and fly safely.



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