

Dear NFFS Member,

AMA Presidential Elections are upon us and you should have already received your ballot. I would like to encourage ALL NFFS members to submit your ballot and let your voices be heard.

To help you make your decisions, NFFS Board submitted 3 questions to each candidate that impact Free Flight directly. You will find their responses below. While NFFS is not making an official endorsement, you are certainly welcome to contact me or your NFFS VP directly if you would like to discuss the options.

Buoyant Air,

Dave Lindley
NFFS President
312-804-5798
nffspresident@freeflight.org

Rich Hanson

1) What plans do you have to ensure the Muncie flying site continues to improve and grow as one of the premier free flight contest and sport flying sites in America?

The International Aeromodeling Center (IAC) is and should continue to be and grow as a world class venue for both national and international aeromodeling activities. On first glance one would think that with over 1,000 acres the IAC would have more than enough space to accommodate all possible aeromodeling events. However, with our relatively short flying season we continue to be challenged in scheduling, allocating and accommodating all the event requests during the summer season. In the short term I would look to other suitable venues in the Muncie area to serve as auxiliary sites to be used during peak use periods.

More importantly, I would continue to look to the NFFS and our other AMA partners/SIGs for input and suggestions as to how we can best structure the site, allocate the space available and accommodate the specific needs of a very diverse and vibrant aeromodeling community.

2) What are your plans to develop a long term multi-use indoor site that can be used for RC in addition to free flight and other modeling disciplines?

I very much support the addition of an indoor facility to the IAC campus to support indoor free flight, indoor RC and control line, and other educational and social activities. The challenge of course is finding the finances and resources necessary to achieve this endeavor. I would advocate for the creation of a property development plan that includes an indoor facility, an education/youth center, and the expansion and renovation of the Model Aviation Museum.

I would structure the plan in phases and couple the plan to a resource development plan to pragmatically provide the necessary financial backing.

To address the specific need for an indoor site I would begin by laying down a foundation on which a permanent structure could be built over time. However, to address the immediate need for such a facility I would begin by erecting a prefabricate structure that can be achieved at a more modest cost and over a much quicker time period.

3) What education initiatives do you support that would bring aircraft modeling back to America's youth and other age groups?

I very much support our continued emphasis on STEM education and would like to see AMA expand its programming and partnership with other stakeholders in the aerospace and aeronautical industry such as manufacturers, aviation operators, educational institutions, and youth associations such as the Boys & Girls Club, BSA & the Girl Scouts, CAP & JROTC and similar organizations, I would also like to tighten our relationship and partnerships in youth education and involvement with organizations such as EAA, AOPA, A4A and other aeronautical associations.

I would like to expand camp AMA to include additional camps across the nation in partnership with SIGs such as NFFS, and other youth organizations such as BSA, CAP, etc. I would also like to revamp the Camp AMA program by adding activities that further emphasize craftsmanship and STEM connotations.

A much tougher nut to crack is the fact that though females comprise over 50% of the population, women represent less than 5% of the nation's commercial pilots. With the current pilot shortage facing the industry, this has become a national dilemma. I would like to pursue is developing a means of drawing young women and girls to model aviation and more importantly to aerospace science as a career choice, As a starting point I would suggest forming a task force comprised of AMA members, educators, representatives from other aviation associations, industry reps and government officials to review existing data, to brainstorm the issue and to make recommendations as to innovative approaches and solutions to the problem.

I also think we need to look to and step up our emphasis on the other end of the spectrum as well. Model aviation is a very important social and quite honestly therapeutic activity for empty nesters and those experiencing their golden years. The hobby affords stimulating physical, social, and mental activity, and I firmly believe model aviation can add many meaningful years to your life.

I would like to applaud the work the NFFS has done in reaching out to our youth and germinating their interest in aviation. I believe free flight and control line to be perfect entry points for youth involvement, and I feel we should continue to encourage our clubs and special interest groups to be proactive in youth involvement, education and in helping to secure the future for both full-scale and model aviation.

Randy Cameron

1) What plans do you have to ensure the Muncie flying site continues to improve and grow as one of the premier free flight contest and sport flying sites in America?

As the Property Acquisition and Development Committee, I would like to see several improvements in the IAC that will benefit many.

I have a vision and funding to build a pavilion over the concrete poured on site 4, and I believe NFFS will get as much used from the pavilion in that area as any other group would. Site 4 has also been graded and seeded to be able to move the runway further away from the road allowing a larger safety setback from park of cars and sometimes airplane trailers on the north edge of the road. By spring it should be a very nicely manicured place to fly from for us all.

Tiles on our property that effect drainage have been replaced, but we still have drainage problems, we have recently discovered that broken tiles causing a lot of our drainage issue are on the county property. We are currently having discussions on how to resolve this issue. The county has inspected once and will investigate further in the fall. We are working to get the tiles for drainage completed in 2023.

Additionally, I've asked our maintenance manager to come up with a plan to replace the current maintenance buildings. I'd like the new maintenance buildings to be built on the South side of the parking area near the headquarters building. This would be much better for security purposes as a lot of equipment has been stolen from the current location. Once we have specs and pricing on the new building, I will ask for a Foundation fund-raising campaign to build them and once completed and moved into we will remove the old maintenance building freeing up that space for flying.

2) What are your plans to develop a long-term multi-use indoor site that can be used for RC in addition to free flight and other modeling disciplines?

I have always advocated for an Indoor flying facility that can be used by free flight, electric radio control and control line. I still believe it is doable, but without spending 30 million dollars to achieve it. I feel the indoor flying facility is necessary to make our IAC the premier modeling facility of the world. Again, the foundation will be needed to manage a fund raising campaign.

3) What education initiatives do you support that would bring aircraft modeling back to America's youth and other age groups?

We recently found out that we will receive just over \$500K in grant money from the FAA in 2023. These funds must be used to put model aviation in classrooms. The FAA mandated that it be drones, so it will be mini whoops that primarily fly indoors. About 20% of the funds will go to developing skill learning curriculum to learn to fly them.

I see the National Free Flight Society as having a huge role in bringing model aircraft to America's youth. I've been very impressed with the amount of youth you have brought into events such as the NATs and others. This is one of the reasons I asked free flight to be involved in the National Fun Fly as well and hope we can continue and grow that program and include more youth.

Planning is being started to celebrate the 100th NATS and a discussion in our recent marketing meeting included trying to find more ways to bring youth to that event. I don't see how we can do that without the support of NFFS and other Special Interest Groups

One area I'd like to brag about is our AMA's Education department during COVID developing a virtual Camp AMA that was attended by 600 youth up to thirteen years of age, nationwide.

I have been pushing for a special family membership program. I believe for youth to be involved; the parents must be involved as well. Offering a discounted family membership may help with this.

I am also very open to your thoughts and any programming developed for youth.