



CIVIL AVIATION MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Annual Report to AsMA Council Civil Aviation Medical Association November 18, 2020

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CAMA MISSION

CAMA is an organization dedicated to preserving aviation safety through innovative programs, education, and training.

COMMUNICATION

CAMA continues to dedicate resources and efforts into maintaining its web and social media presence in order to communicate with its membership and the general public. All newsletters are converted to electronic media and are distributed electronically to more than 800 individuals, including Aviation Medical Examiners (AMEs), aviation industry representatives, and non-AME medical professionals with an interest in aerospace medicine. Recent issues are posted on the "Home" page of the CAMA website at www.civilavmed.org. Current information and activities are also posted to the Civil Aviation Medical Association Facebook page on a regular basis. The organization has digitally archived its records dating from the 1940s through the current time via collaboration with Wright State University.

EDUCATION

The 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting was held September 26-28, 2019, at the Metropolitan at the 9 Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. Total attendance was 118, with 88 medical professionals, 20 guests, 9 one-day lecturers, and one staff. Two registered professionals also exhibited. The theme for the meeting was "New and Emerging Treatments Relevant to Aviation Medicine." The program was rated by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) for 23.00 prescribed credits of CME and by the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) for 18.00 LLSA credits towards ABPM MOC Part II requirements. There were 45 AMEs in attendance who completed the requirements for FAA recertification training.

The 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting, originally scheduled to be held at Hotel Albuquerque in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was canceled in May, due to Covid19 pandemic considerations, world-wide travel restrictions, and New Mexico state meeting and travel restrictions. The hotel and other vendors and caterers in Albuquerque permitted CAMA to reschedule the meeting for September, 2022, without penalty.

The 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting has been scheduled for September 23-25, 2021, at the Embassy Suites Brooks in San Antonio, Texas. The Thursday evening field trip and catered dinner will include a visit to the Brooks City Base facilities, a tour of the Alamo, and dinner at the Alamo Pavilion.

CAMA had planned to conduct its annual business meeting and honors/awards during the CAMA Luncheon during the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) annual meeting in October 2020. However, in light of the cancellation of that meeting, CAMA presented its annual Honor Awards and Fellowship presentations via personal telephone contact with the awardees and new Fellows by CAMA President Gerald W. Saboe, DO, MPH. The award plaques were mailed directly to each individual. Honor Award and Fellowship recognition and congratulations were conferred via our September 2020 newsletter, "The Flight Physician." Recognition will also be provided in person during the September 2021 CAMA Annual Scientific Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

ADVOCACY

During March 2020, we who live in the USA recognized the very sudden surge in mid-month clinical COVID-19 cases. Substantial efforts were being undertaken to minimize unnecessary inter-personal contact and to adhere to recommended social distancing practices. The periodic FAA medical certification examinations for any person serving as a required pilot flight crewmember or air traffic controller as set forth in 14 CFR Part 67, are regularly performed by approximately 2,600 FAA designated AMEs. These required exams are rarely of an urgent nature. However, by mid-March performing these exams posed avoidable COVID-19 infection risks to the pilot flight crewmembers, air traffic controllers, and the AMEs who examined them. In addition, availability of AMEs was affected as physicians were more urgently needed to address more significant health care needs during this epidemic. As well, the average age of an FAA AME is over age 60, and advice by some local governments instructed the population over age 60 to shelter in place.

In light of the Federal Emergency Declaration, CAMA sent a letter to the Federal Air Surgeon on March 19, 2020, and urged the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FAA to grant relief to those airmen and air traffic controllers whose medical certificates would expire over the next 30 days, with that relief to be reviewed and extended as necessary. The goals of our recommendation were to enhance efforts to reduce spread of the virus SARS-CoV-2, to alleviate demands on the health care system, and to protect health care workers and their patients from avoidable infections. We believed that such short-term relief would not adversely impact current FAA medical efforts to enhance aviation safety. On March 26, 2020, the FAA issued 14 CFR Part 61 Enforcement Policy for Expired Airman Medical Certificates, that stated in summary, "Due to extraordinary circumstances related to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, until June 30, 2020, the FAA will not take legal enforcement action against any person serving as a required pilot flight crewmember or flight engineer based on noncompliance with medical certificate duration standards when expiration of the required medical certificate occurs from March 31, 2020, through June 30, 2020."

CAMA is proud of its part, along with AsMA and other agencies and organizations, in

securing this action to protect both members of the medical community and aviation professionals during the Covid19 pandemic.

MEMBERSHIP

CAMA currently has an active membership of 168 members, comprised of 53 Life Members, three Complimentary Members, two Honorary Members, 5 Sustaining Members, 13 Retired Members, 3 Corporate Members, and 89 Regular Members. Given the restrictions of CAMA activities and meetings in 2020, our membership has temporarily declined. Regular, retired, sustaining, and corporate memberships are counted anew at the beginning of each calendar year, so membership varies slightly from year to year, depending upon participation in any given year. Our membership is down somewhat from 2019, as many members renew during the AsMA annual meeting and/or during the process of registering for our own annual scientific meeting. With both meetings canceled for 2020, renewal opportunities were restricted, and many members also had reduced income due to work restrictions. We anticipate an enthusiastic resurgence of membership and CAMA activities participation during 2021.

ADMINISTRATION

We suffered the loss of Dr. Charles A. Berry in March 2020. He was a past President of CAMA, a leader and mentor to many who serve in the aerospace medical community, and an enthusiastic supporter of and advocate for CAMA, AsMA, and many other organizations. He will be sorely missed.

Although CAMA held its winter Executive Board Meeting in person in February, 2020, the subsequent restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic made holding an in person fall Executive Board Meeting less desirable. The CAMA Executive Board held a very successful fall Executive Board Meeting on September 25, 2020, via Zoom Teleconferencing technology.

The CAMA home office has been relocated from Peachtree City, GA, to Dallas, TX. The only change is a new Post Office Box in Dallas. All telephone and fax numbers remain unchanged, as do the email and web site addresses. The majority of CAMA business and communication is accomplished digitally, so the change of physical address has had a very minimal effect.

We look forward to working with the Aerospace Medical Association in 2021, including the CAMA Sunday and CAMA Luncheon Programs during the annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, in May. CAMA will continue to support the Tamisiea Award each year.

Sincerely,



Gerald W. Saboe, DO, MPH
President, Civil Aviation Medical Association