



Friday, August 20, 2004

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The NTSB forum on personal floatation devices is an event worth noting. Recreational boating is growing significantly as one of the most popular family outings, and with family outings, children are usually present. The PFD forum will bring forth important information concerning the proposed requirement for the use of PFDs for and by children, and, I expect, there will be open and vocal discussion.

The NTSB has always taken a leadership position in support of safety issues for children: children in back in automobiles; the use of child safety and booster seats; and the recent vote to continue our recommendation to require the use of child safety seats on airplanes for children under age two.

Accidents happen in seconds not minutes. Accidents happen at all times of day. Accidents happen when parents are within inches or feet of their children. All too often, children are injured or killed, even with a family member close by. Family outings and recreational events should be filled with fun and not fear. Everyone should return home safely. Children are under our protection for, all too often, they cannot protect themselves. This is why we are hosting the forum, so that we can objectively look at the facts and data surrounding the issues of children and PFDs.

*Ellen Engleman Conners*

### Personal Floatation Device Forum at Academy



The National Transportation Safety Board will hold a public forum to discuss mandatory wear of personal flotation devices (PFDs) on recreational boats at 9:00 am on August 25, 2004 at the NTSB Academy in Ashburn, VA. The purpose of the forum is to gather all available data, and to promote an open and informative discussion of policy issues related to mandatory PFD use. Enhancing recreational boating safety has been on the Board's Most Wanted list of transportation safety improvements since 1990. Some of the issues discussed at the forum will be:

- The impact of federal and/or state legislation mandating PFD use on recreational boats.
- Various vessels and type of operation that should be included in or exempted from mandatory wear rules.
- Alternatives to mandatory wear rules.
- New PFD technology.

Coast Guard statistics show that 750 boaters died in 2002. Approximately 525 of those drowned and 85% of those who drowned were not wearing PFDs. It is estimated that 450 lives could be saved each year if the victims wore PFDs. The Safety Board wants to build on this information and other data available to evaluate the safety benefits of mandatory use of PFDs on recreational boats.

The forum will be webcast on the NTSB website at [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



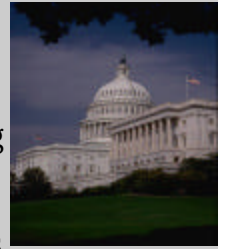
### FEGLI Open Season

The Human Resources Division is preparing for the upcoming Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) open season, scheduled to begin on September 1st. If you would like to find out more about

FEGLI before the enrolment period, visit the official website at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/life>.

### On the Hill...

This week the office of Government and Industry Affairs (GIA) sent responses to 21 congressional inquiries. Additionally, GIA is working on the Fiscal Year 2006 budget, which is due concurrently to the Office of Management and Budget and Congress on September 7th.



## Chairman Opens 50th ALPA Air Safety Forum



Chairman Engleman Connors during her opening remarks at ALPA's 50th Annual Air Safety Forum

and flight and duty hours for commercial pilots. She gave updates to the aviation issues on the NTSB Most Wanted list, and reiterated her concerns about maintenance and training issues, as well as air cargo safety issues. ALPA was also noted for their successful partnership with industry and the NTSB in the March 2004 Air Cargo Safety Forum at the NTSB Academy.

Chairman Engleman Connors participated in the opening of the Air Line Pilots Association's (ALPA) 50th annual Air Safety Forum at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill on August 18th. The Chairman joined ALPA President Captain Duane Woerth, Transportation Safety Board of Canada Chairman Charles Simpson, ALPA Executive Air Safety Chairman Captain John Cox and ALPA Executive Air Safety Vice-Chairman Captain Terry McVenes in welcoming the estimated 300 participants who attended the opening.

The Chairman thanked ALPA for their support in addressing key safety issues, including fuel inerting initiatives, redesign of the Boeing 737 rudder system

The Chairman noted that, in the last year, the NTSB has closed 351 recommendations in all modes, of which 80 were in aviation. 177 recommendations were issued during this period, with 85 of those in aviation. Of the 821 recommendations open today, 331 are aviation related.



### Vice Chairman Visits Tech Center

Vice Chairman **Mark Rosenker** and Special Assistant **Tom Doyle** visited the Transportation Technology Center (TTC) in Pueblo, CO, this week. The TTC is a U.S. Government facility built to conduct railroad and transit research for the Federal Railroad Administration.

*In the photo (l-r) are: Tom Doyle, Ruben Pena of TTC, Inc., Nancy Wilson of the American Association of Railroads and Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker*