

# FLYPAPER

**NO.653**

134 days until Oshkosh

MARCH 2025  
ISSUE NO.653  
\$100.00



**THE RAY FOUNDATION  
AND THE RAY AVIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
POWERING THE FUTURE OF AVIATION

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**RAY SCHOLARS**  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

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**CHAPTER MEETING**  
WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?



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# PRESIDENT'S NOTE



As I type this, I can hear the wind howling outside my window, making me all the more grateful for my warm basement where my dive gear and my Bearhawk project wait patiently for me to tinker. There's something uniquely satisfying about retreating to our hangars and workshops during these chilly days, isn't there? The soft hum of the heater, the smell of metal and fiberglass, and the quiet satisfaction of making progress one small piece at a time.

For those of you currently in "building hibernation mode," I salute you! Keep those shop lights burning and those coffee pots full. Remember, every rivet set during winter brings you that much closer to summer flying. And for those experiencing the dreaded "builder's block"—we've all been there—don't forget that our Project Patrol would love to stop by, offer encouragement, and perhaps bring donuts. (Hint: donuts have been scientifically proven to improve build times by at least 15%... or so I tell myself.)

I have some fantastic news to share that has me absolutely stoked: EAA Chapter 18 has been approved to administer a full EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship this year! Yes, friends, that's a \$12,000 scholarship we'll be awarding to a deserving young person! The email from EAA headquarters specifically mentioned our "dedication to EAA, youth engagement, overall activities and chapter health," which is really just a fancy way of saying "you folks are awesome!" (But we knew that already, didn't we?)

This achievement belongs to all of us. Every Young Eagles flight, every monthly gathering, every project shared, every brat grilled at our fly-ins—it all contributes to the vibrant community that caught the attention of the Ray Aviation Scholarship Chapter Review Committee.

In celebration of our selection, this month's newsletter is dedicated to this incredible program. Inside, you'll find information about the Ray Foundation, the scholarship's history, and how our chapter will be supporting our future scholar. We'll need volunteers to help mentor and guide our recipient, so please read through and consider how you might contribute to this exciting opportunity.

As we navigate the final weeks of winter (spring IS coming, I promise), let's stay connected and engaged. The Young Eagles events are scheduled, and they offer us great opportunities to get together. Our monthly gatherings continue to be a highlight for me, not just for the aviation talk but for the friendship and camaraderie. Whether you're a builder, flyer, dreamer, or some wonderful combination of all three, you're an essential part of what makes Chapter 18 special and I really appreciate you.

*As always, if you have any news, updates, or stories you'd like to share with your fellow members, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your contributions are what make our Chapter a vibrant and welcoming community for aviation enthusiasts.*

# THE RAY FOUNDATION AND THE RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP: POWERING THE FUTURE OF AVIATION

As we focus on the EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship in this month's newsletter, here is some information about this important program that has helped numerous young people achieve their dreams of flight. While many of us are aware that the scholarship provides financial support for flight training, there's a rich history and thoughtful structure behind this initiative that deserves recognition.

## The Ray Foundation: A Legacy of Aviation Support

The Ray Aviation Scholarship program is funded by the Ray Foundation, established by James C. and Joan L. Ray. James "Jim" Ray was a passionate aviator and businessman who believed deeply in the transformative power of aviation and education. A successful entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ray served as an EAA board member for many years and was known for his commitment to developing leadership skills in young people.

The Ray Foundation was established in 1963 and has focused on supporting aviation, education, and programs that develop character, discipline, and self-reliance in America's youth. Jim Ray, who passed away in April 2017, created a legacy that continues to influence aviation education significantly through the foundation's work.

## Genesis of the Ray Aviation Scholarship

Following Jim Ray's passing, the Ray Foundation made a remarkable \$1 million commitment to EAA to fund the Ray Aviation Scholarship program, which officially launched in 2019. The program was designed specifically to address one of aviation's most pressing challenges: the shortage of pilots and aviation professionals.

The scholarship program was created with the core philosophy that learning to fly builds character and instills valuable life skills in young people. By removing financial barriers to flight training, the Ray Aviation Scholarship aims to increase the pilot population and ensure a strong future for aviation.



# RAY SCHOLARSHIP..... continued



## How the Scholarship is Governed

The Ray Aviation Scholarship program is administered through local EAA chapters, creating a unique structure that combines national resources with local mentorship. This design is intentional, as it ensures that scholarship recipients receive not just financial support but also guidance and community throughout their training.

Here's how the program works:

- Chapter Selection: EAA chapters must apply and be selected to participate based on their ability to provide quality mentorship and support to scholarship recipients.
- Scholar Selection: Chapters nominate candidates between the ages of 16 and 19 who demonstrate strong character, a commitment to aviation, and academic achievement.
- Funding Structure: Selected scholars can receive up to \$12,000 to fund their flight training toward a primary pilot certificate (typically a private pilot certificate).
- Milestone-Based Disbursement: The funding is released in stages as scholars achieve specific training milestones, encouraging consistent progress.
- Mentorship Component: Each scholar is paired with a chapter mentor who provides guidance, encouragement, and accountability throughout the training process.



# RAY SCHOLARSHIP..... continued



## Impact and Success

Since its inception, the Ray Aviation Scholarship has helped hundreds of young people earn their pilot certificates. The program boasts an impressive completion rate that far exceeds the national average for flight training students, which is testament to the effectiveness of the chapter-based mentorship model.

Many scholarship recipients have gone on to pursue careers in aviation as commercial pilots, flight instructors, and aviation professionals, addressing the industry's critical need for qualified personnel.



## How Chapter 18 Participates

Our chapter is proud to be part of this remarkable program. We've been selected as a participating chapter due to our strong community of aviators and our commitment to mentorship. Members can choose to contribute to our program in numerous ways: experienced CFIs can provide supplementary ground school lessons, pre-flight briefings, or serve as personal mentors to our scholars. Non-instructor members can organize or participate in study groups, share real-world flying experiences during our VFR/IFR workshops, or simply engage in informal aviation discussions that inspire our scholars. Consider joining our Project Patrol to introduce scholars to aircraft construction, or help coordinate their involvement in chapter events like our Spring and Fall BBQs, Young Eagles rallies, or AirVenture's volunteer opportunities. Every member can play a vital role in creating the supportive community that has helped our past scholars succeed—even through challenges—and remain connected to Chapter 18 long after completing their training. Whatever your aviation background or interests, your participation helps fulfill our chapter's commitment to developing the next generation of aviators who embody the Ray Foundation's values of discipline, perseverance, and integrity.

# RAY SCHOLARSHIP..... continued



## Looking Ahead

The Ray Foundation continues to support the scholarship program, recognizing its effectiveness in building the pilot population while developing character in young people. Their ongoing commitment ensures that future generations will have opportunities to discover the joys and challenges of flight.

For chapter members interested in getting involved with our scholarship program, whether as mentors or by helping identify potential candidates, please drop a note to [mentor@eaa18.org](mailto:mentor@eaa18.org).

The Ray Aviation Scholarship stands as a powerful example of how private philanthropy, aligned with grassroots aviation organizations like EAA chapters, can make a significant difference in addressing challenges facing aviation while changing young lives for the better.

# RAY SCHOLARS



## Noah Schwab

At the November 2018 Chapter gathering, a gaggle of EAA HQ people presented a number of new EAA programs. One of which was the Ray Scholarship, to which the Ray Aviation Foundation would donate to EAA

and AOPA \$1,000,000 each year in the form of 100 \$10,000 grants for a teenager (16 to 19 years old) to earn their PPL certificate. The Home Office encouraged Chapter 18 to apply to be one of the Chapters to administer a Ray Scholarship. One of the Chapter 18 members present at that meeting was Noah Schwab.

Chapter 18 submitted and the application was not selected. After Chapter 18 was not selected, Noah applied thru AOPA and on June 5, 2019 was awarded the scholarship. On June 10, 2019, working with Ken Reese at Capital Drive Airport (02C), Noah started an in-tense flight training program (remember Georgia Tech Aug 12). Taking as many as three lessons a day, Noah soloed on July 10, 2019.

After taking Sporty's Ground School, more training flights, cross country flights, and then solo flights, Noah passed his written test on August 6, 2019. On August 8, 2019 Noah did a solo cross-country to Waupaca Airport (KPCZ), then flew his Private Pilot Checkride, and returned to Capital a private pilot. Two days later he left for Georgia.

As a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Noah is now a revenue management inventory analyst at Alaska Airlines. His responsibilities include inventory market ownership for diverse market sets of flights producing +\$300 million in annual passenger coupon revenue. He also participates as a member of the revenue management automation subteam.



# RAY SCHOLARS



## Matthew Romuald

Matthew Romuald successfully earned his Private Pilot license on February 2nd, 2021 after navigating multiple weather-related reschedulings of his checkride. His oral exam went well, though the practical flight portion was postponed due to gusty winds. Despite the frustrations of multiple delays and the pressure of the examination, Matthew's thorough preparation and perseverance ultimately led to his achievement of becoming a Private Pilot. Matthew offers his thanks to the Chapter for our support of his efforts:

*Dear Members of EAA Chapter 18,*

*I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the Ray Aviation Scholarship I was awarded by EAA Chapter 18 in 2020, which enabled me to obtain my private pilot license. The chapter's support played a crucial role in jumpstarting my aviation journey, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities that followed.*

*After earning my private pilot certificate, I continued my training by attending Fox Valley Technical College's Professional Pilot program. This experience allowed me to further develop my skills and ultimately achieve my goal of becoming a flight instructor and commercial pilot.*



# RAY SCHOLARS

## Matthew Romuald



*I currently hold ratings as CFI, CFI-I, MEI. It has been an incredible journey, and I am excited to now be in a position where I can help others pursue their own aviation dreams—just as you all have helped me.*

*Chapter 18 has continued to support aspiring pilots by awarding multiple Ray Aviation Scholarships after I was selected as I was chosen as your inaugural recipient. This ongoing commitment to fostering the next generation of aviators is truly inspiring, and I am honored to be part of a community that believes in paying it forward.*

*As a token of my appreciation, I would like to give back to the chapter by offering complimentary flight reviews and instrument proficiency checks to EAA Chapter 18 members (in your airplane). This is a small way for me to say thank you and contribute to the community that supported my early aviation endeavors.*

*I look forward to staying connected with the chapter and giving back in any way I can. I hope to see you at the next Young Eagles event. Please reach out to coordinate any details regarding the flight reviews and IPCs.*

*Blue skies and tailwinds,*

Matthew Romuald  
Matt.Romuald@gmail.com  
(262) 278-1422



# RAY SCHOLARS

## Arian Rice

Sometimes things don't go the way you wish they would.

Arian Rice, successfully passed his FAA checkride in July 2023, completing his journey to become a private pilot.

Arian's path to certification highlighted several challenges that are common in flight training. He faced significant weather delays that repeatedly postponed training flights and checkride attempts.

Scheduling conflicts created additional hurdles, and instructor turnover further complicated his training timeline, requiring adjustments and relationship-building with new CFIs.

In the interest of transparency, I should note that Arian's participation with our chapter didn't match our initial expectations. His attendance at chapter gatherings was infrequent, and he struggled to fulfill many of the commitments he had made to the chapter as part of his scholarship agreement. This created challenges for our mentorship team and required additional follow-up efforts from our volunteers.

This experience has been educational for our chapter leadership, particularly those involved in scholar selection and mentoring. We've gained valuable insights about the importance of clear expectations, consistent communication, and accountability measures that we applied to subsequent scholarship programs.

Despite these difficulties, we recognize Arian's accomplishment in completing his training and earning his certificate. We're not certain what he is doing now, however his journey has provided our chapter with important lessons that helped strengthen our scholarship program.



# RAY SCHOLARS



## Owen Robinson

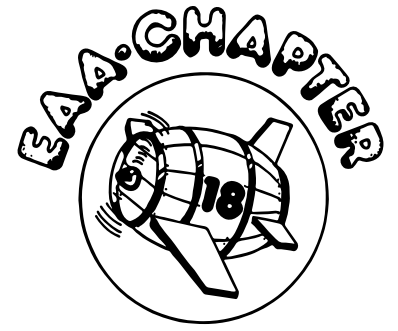
Owen was the Chapter's scholarship recipient for 2021 and successfully passed his check ride in May of 2022. Here is what he's been up to:

*My license to fly was the first step in my journey of pursuing a Marine Corps military aviation career. I wanted to earn a degree in Professional Flight and specifically wanted to attend the University of Purdue. Purdue has three elements I wanted for my college experience: it is a big 10 school, with an aviation program, and a Navy ROTC program. I worked hard with the Marine Corps recruiters prepping for the physical and mental challenge of passing the NROTC/Marine Corps option scholarship requirements. In March of 2023 I learned I had won the scholarship – and, to top it off, to my #1 school of choice, Purdue.*

*I am two months away in completing my sophomore year. Freshman year I became IFR rated and began commercial flight. I expect to get that rating in May 2025. I was excited to summit the 200-hour milestone in February.*



# RAY SCHOLARS



**Owen Robinson**

*At the start of Junior year, I will move on to multi-engine and then turbine aircraft. I am currently studying for the Aviation Selection Test Battery exam (ASTB). The score combined with additional medical tests, and an in-person interview will determine if I get my Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) as a Marine Corps aviator. I will know if I get accepted into my MOS during my junior year of college.*

*I think this picture should make me a shoe-in:*



# RAY SCHOLARS

## Jonah Feyen



In October, 2023, the Chapter selected its most recent Ray Aviation Scholarship recipient. Jonah has been training regularly since November, 2023, and has encountered some of the typical setbacks to an aggressive training schedule, weather and maintenance. Jonah has also had some challenges that have really tested his determination to be an aviator. One of the goals of the Ray program is to encourage the development of life skills like self-discipline, self-confidence, and responsibility and it has been motivating to watch Jonah enhance his confidence with the airplane and aviation.

Here's his latest update:

*Flying has been slower than I would have liked. The winter weather has still kept me from my solo cross country. But in the time I have spent looking out the window wishing I could fly, I have continued moving forward by hitting the books hard and studying for my oral exam. I have also been working on checking all the boxes on the acs by practicing air work and getting everything up to standards. As the weather improves, things will start to pick up a lot. I am so very grateful for the continued support from the chapter and from the ray foundation.*

*Thank you!*



# YOUNG EAGLES



## EAA Chapter 18 Young Eagles – 2025



### Free Airplane Rides for Kids Ages 8 to 17

*Parent/guardian permission required.*

**June 28 – 9 am to 12 pm**

Capital Drive Airport  
21500 Gumina Rd, Brookfield

**August 23 – 9 am to 12 pm**

Timmerman Airport  
9302 W Appleton Avenue, Milwaukee

**September 13 – 9 am to 12 pm**

128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, National Guard  
1919 E. Grange Ave, Milwaukee

**October 4 – 9 am to 12 pm**

Waukesha County Airport  
2525 Aviation Drive, Waukesha



For more information:

Email: [youngeagles@eaa18.org](mailto:youngeagles@eaa18.org)

Facebook: EAA Chapter 18 Young Eagles  
[www.youngeagles.org](http://www.youngeagles.org)

EAA CHAPTER 18



# MARCH CHAPTER GATHERING

*Waukesha County Airport -- Terminal Building*  
*2525 Aviation Road, Waukesha*  
Zoom Meeting Info on Request

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25**

**Scheduled Program:**

**To Be Announced**



**7:30 PM**

**PRESIDENT'S TABLE**

**SobelmanS Waukesha**  
**332 Williams St.**  
**5:15 to 7:00 p.m.**



# HISTORY

65 YEARS STRONG



One of the highlights of the March meeting, 65 years ago, was the donation of \$15 to fill the first tank of gas for the US tour of the Pober Sport plane.

The Pober Sport was completed and ready to fly by the 1959 EAA fly-in convention. By spring of 1960, after some testing and tweaking, the Sport was ready to take on a challenge. Paul had an adventure planned for his Pober Sport that would better acquaint the general public of the capabilities of the homemade airplane and EAA. During the entire month of May 1960, Anders "Andy" Ljungberg, a Swedish engineer, toured the United States, dropping in on every EAA chapter across the country. The total trip turned out to be 13,100 miles covered in 121 hours and 25 minutes of flying time (30 days' total duration) in which Andy visited 72 cities and each of the 48 continental United States.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHAPTER 18  
March 28, 1960

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Kummer at 8:30 P.M.  
The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved as read.

President Kummer read off cards to check attendance and to introduce the members to each other.

Need for a Chapter Constitution was cited and progress on same mentioned.  
The signing of the Chapter Charter was postponed indefinitely.

National E.A.A. President P. Poberezny spoke on the coming tour of Chapters in his Pober sport home built by Anders Ljungberg.

A more specific policy towards the operation of an E.A.A. National Fly-in was advocated by the E.A.A. National Board of Directors.

In the event of not being able to use OZARK'S hanger the membership showed a preference to the substitute use of a tent on the premises to the use of a High School three miles away.

E.A.A. National President Poberezny showed the progress on the E.A.A. handbook and gave a short talk on its contents.

Borst made a motion that this Chapter 18 start off the U.S. tour of the Pober sport plane by filling the gas tank. Bob Nolinske seconded the Motion. An amendment to the motion that we donate \$15.00 outright by Vice-president Bushee was made and seconded by Greenberger. The amendment and the motion was carried unanimously.

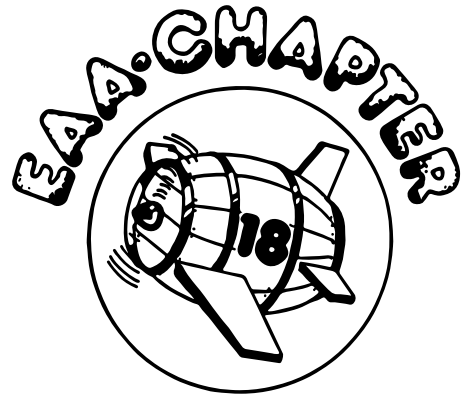
F.A.A. Agent Williams expressed his satisfaction (of his sneak preview) of the E.A.A. hand book to date.

Borst made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Vice Pres. Bushee.

Guest Mr Genske gave a talk and showed slides and movies of his trip to "The world Congress of Flight.

Respectfully submitted  
*Donald R. Genzmer*  
Donald R. Genzmer  
Secretary-Treasurer

# OFFICER'S REPORTS



## SECRETARY'S REPORT KEN CERANSKI

### EAA Chapter 18 Minutes from February 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 Meeting

The February meeting was called to order by Vice President Tim Meyer at 7:30pm at Crites Field in Waukesha.

**Program:** Robert Block presented the program via ZOOM. The focus of the program was the history of the 39 POW camps that were spread across Wisconsin. It turns out our state held most of the Japanese POW's captured by the allies. A large German POW camp was located at Milwaukee's Mitchel Field airport. Those POW's assembled batteries for Ray-O-Vac Corporation. Only the German prisoners were held in camps outside of Camp McCoy. Most of the prisoners were involved in agriculture like dairy farms and orchards. The prisoners were paid 80 cents a day for their labor which they could spend in the camp store. After World War 2 the prisoners were sent back to their home countries. Some immigrated back to the US.

**Building Reports:** John Nate was still working on the aileron hinge installation on the Defiant. Now that he has one side done the next will go easier. Fred Keip completed the major overhaul on the engine for his Wag Aero Cubby. He is waiting for warmer weather before attempting to break in the engine. Mark Matelski has been working on building a fuel tank and then fitting it in the center section of the top wing of his Hatz Biplane. Inaccuracies in the plans had him doing additional engineering work. Jeff Wisneski has spent about 100 hours building a large stainless oven so he can cure powder coated parts. Andrew Mischook who is restoring a Cessna C-140 was working on the gas tanks and wings. He dealing with some corrosion. Joe Swietlik was completing the wing construction on his Van's RV-8.

**Flying Reports:** Matt Romuald who completed his CFI in single, dual, instrument and commercial ratings is willing to do bi-annual flight reviews for Chapter 18 members.

**Ray Scholarship:** Jonah Fayen is still waiting for better weather so he can do his solo cross country.

**Young Eagles:** Cindy Robinson announced the next Young Eagle event will be at Milwaukee's 128<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>. 48 kids are signed up. Cindy is still looking for pilots and ground volunteers. Please contact Cindy to help out. She is still working on the details for the May Burlington YE event. Capitol Drive Airport will host a YE event on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Timmerman Airport YE event on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The September YE event for East Troy is still in the planning stages. Events will run from 9am to 1pm.

**VMC:** Next VMC meeting on Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at Timmerman. 7pm start time.

**Announcements:** Glen Botsford is accepting dues for the 2025 calendar year. The dues are still only \$10. Glen reported that 85 members have paid their dues.

## TREASURER'S REPORT GLENN BOTSFORD

December-24	Checking	PayPal	Ray Scholarship	Ckt Acct Bal	Savings	Paid Membership
Beginning Balance	\$938.17	\$0.00	\$849.21	\$1,787.38	\$1,063.96	101
Income						
Interest					\$0.02	
Dues	\$10.00					
Donation						
EAA Reimbursement	\$879.90					
Nametags	\$10.00					
EAA Ray Scholarship Funding						
Total Income	\$899.90	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.02	
Expenses						
WI Annual Report	\$25.00					
EAA Chapter Renewal	\$452.00					
Nametags	\$45.73					
Young Eagles Supplies	\$879.90					
Ray Scholarship Expense			\$1,082.14			
Total expenses	\$1,402.63	\$0.00	\$1,082.14		\$0.00	
Transfer -Savings to Checking	\$900.00					
Ending Balance	\$1,335.44	\$0.00	-\$232.93	\$1,787.38	\$163.98	

# SPECIAL NOTICE

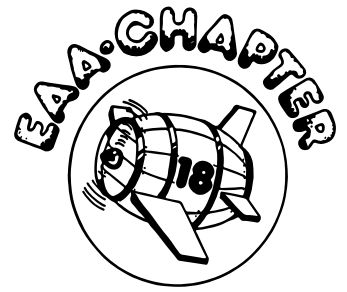
Otherwise Known As: *Who is Still Reading This?*



Just a reminder that the Sergeant-at-Arms will continue to be checking for members wearing their name badges at our Chapter Meetings. At their discretion, the SaA may ask for \$1 penalty for not having a badge visible.

Individual \$1 contributions will be made to the Ray Scholar Milkshake Fund to help keep our Scholar energized for flight training.



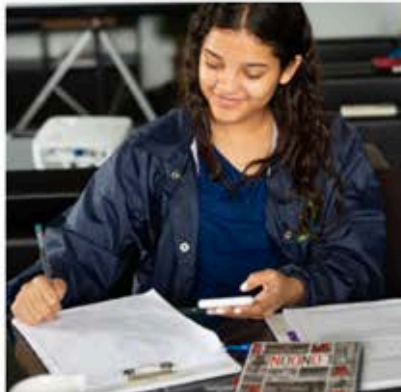


# DO YOU WANT TO LEARN TO FLY AN AIRPLANE?

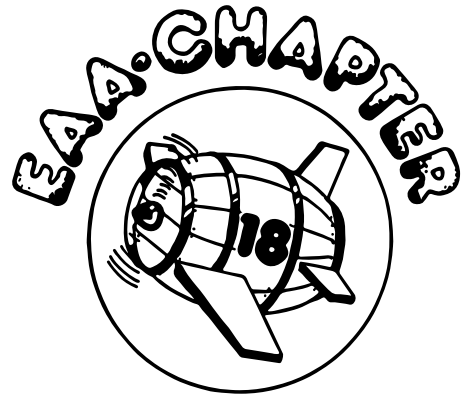
The Experimental Aircraft Association is providing up to  
\$12,000 for individual flight training.

Local EAA Chapter 18 is distributing a Ray Aviation  
Scholarship prior to the 2025 Summer flying months.

If you are interested and would like additional information, please send a note to:  
[president@eaa18.org](mailto:president@eaa18.org)



# CHAPTER CONTACTS



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# EAAD CHAPTER

