

# Wing Tips

THE AEROSPACE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER OF NEW YORK WING

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## THE FIRST ANNUAL AEROSPACE EDUCATION EDITION OF *WING TIPS*

This issue of *Wing Tips* is dedicated to being a strictly, Aerospace Education issue. You will not find any articles about aircraft, famous people from the aerospace world, the space program, aerospace museums, or upcoming aerospace events (except for the Wing Conference only because part of it involves the CAP Aerospace Education Program).

We have been told that we must expend more effort to communicate with all units so that all units are informed about all aspects of the AE program. The only way we get in touch with all units (and possibly all members) is through this newsletter, especially if the units post it on their bulletin board as we gently hint in each issue.

### WHAT IS AEROSPACE EDUCATION?

The Brewer Trophy Aviation Education Association defines it as: “That branch of general education concerned with communicating knowledge, skills, and attitudes about aviation and aerospace activities and the total impact of air and space vehicles upon society.” At one time, people embarking on the AE Specialty Track of the Senior Member Training Program had to more-or-less memorize that statement. Currently, a slightly shorter version appears in CAPR 280-2. On page 2 of CAPP 15, Aerospace Education is defined almost exactly as quoted above.

Let's analyze this statement a bit. First it calls Aerospace Education a branch of general education. That means that it is not vocational education. It is not teaching people to become airframe or powerplant mechanics, or pilots, or aeronautical engineers, or air traffic controllers, or any of the myriad other careers associated with the aerospace industry.

However, the definition does mention “attitudes,” so aerospace education can inspire people to seek further education and training in order to qualify for a career in the aerospace industry. The definition also mentions skills and knowledge. It is not forbidden to teach some of the skills necessary for a pilot or an airplane mechanic. The skills and knowledge, thus acquired, can benefit a person in life and certainly give the person an advantage over others in career-related studies.

The last part of the definition talks about the impact of aerospace vehicles upon society. This means to create an awareness of what is often taken for granted—fresh tropical fruit in the middle of winter; sending the

kids to Florida, or Puerto Rico, or Trinidad to visit Grandma during school holidays; a quick business trip to California; a vacation in Europe; and the many, many spin-offs from the Space Program.

## **WHY DOES CAP MAKE SUCH A BIG ISSUE OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION?**

The short answer is that, it is required by law. Does a law require us to be involved in aerospace education? Yes, indeed. Do you remember, when you first joined CAP, someone told you about Public Law 476 of the 79<sup>th</sup> Congress signed by President Truman on July 1, 1946? If you had joined as a cadet, you may have had to memorize that, “Public Law 476 of 1946 made CAP a non-profit benevolent corporation.”

There is more to PL 476. It states that one of the purposes of the corporation is: “...to provide aviation education and training especially to its senior and cadet members...” Remember, this law was written in 1946 before “aerospace” became part of the vocabulary. To provide aerospace education to our own members and to the general public is certainly a valid way to interpret PL 476 today.

## **HOW DOES CAP LOOK AT AEROSPACE EDUCATION TODAY?**

The current CAPP 15 neatly divides Aerospace Education into the Internal Aerospace Education Program (which it is attempting to re-name, “Member Programs”) and the External Aerospace Education Program (which it is trying to re-name, “Outreach Programs”). Fortunately, they never got around to requesting that the National Board re-name the associated duty assignments. Therefore, both Wings and Regions still have three slots for Aerospace Education, which include an Internal Aerospace Education Officer and an External Aerospace Education Officer. See CAPR 20-1 as well as CAPP 15 itself and CAPR 280-2. More on the CAP internal and External Aerospace Education Program will appear in future Aerospace Education issues of *Wing Tips*.

## **THE WING CONFERENCE**

The New York Wing Conference will be held at Lake George on the first weekend in May. The Aerospace Education Seminar will feature Capt Richard Lauricella giving a presentation on the topic of, “Mars.”

The theme for this year’s Aerospace Education Display Contest is taken from Module 5 of the Cadet Program, specifically, “Planets of Our Solar System.” Each Group is entitled to submit one display for the contest. If you wish to participate in this activity, please see your Group AEO or Group Commander.