



III

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## District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

**This month**, I want to discuss the role of AMA associate vice presidents (AVPs). These people are:

- Not an elected office
- Appointed by the respective district vice president (VP) to represent a specific geographic area or specific group of clubs
- Must be an AMA Leader Member
- Is the liaison between the district VP and members in your assigned area
- Provides periodic reports to the district VP about activities in your assigned area
- Might be selected to represent the district at an AMA Executive Council meeting in the event the district VP is unable to attend.
- Requires travel as directed by the district VP.

Allow me to introduce a new AVP for the state of West Virginia. His name is James (Jim) Butler from St. Albans, West Virginia. I asked Jim to provide some background on himself.



“I am a lifelong model railroader, but always had a desire to try my hand at flying RC. In 2011, the year after I retired from law enforcement, my wife got me a HobbyZone Super Cub for Father’s Day. That simple foamie made me realize just how much fun flying RC can be. Of course, now when my wife comes down to our basement, looks around at the many airplanes hanging from the ceiling, she just rolls her eyes and mutters, ‘I have no idea what I was thinking.’

“I enjoy taking foam airplanes and vinyl wrapping them to look like a specific aircraft. Many of my models are decorated to represent airplanes with a local tie, such as West Virginia Air Guard airplanes or those flown by West Virginians. I tend to gravitate to scale or scalelike warbirds and general aviation models; however, I appreciate a good-looking aerobatic aircraft and I enjoy watching talented pilots fly helicopters.

“I am the current president of the Mountaineer RC Flying Club in Tornado, West Virginia. I have a strong appreciation for the AMA and the job it does in representing members during what seems to be uncertain times. Like most members, I consider it a part of the hobby, and a fun part, to help present the best possible face of model aviation to the public.”

Thank you, Jim, for stepping up to help advance model aviation in West Virginia. I have seen many of Jim’s vinyl-wrapped aircraft and I can tell he does a superb job of making a plain foamie look like a scale replica.

I urge District III members to contact the AVP for your area with any issues that might need AMA assistance. The AVP contact information is always found on the outside of this column. We will all do our best to help you.



**Temporary Flight Restrictions**, or TFRs, are becoming the norm, particularly in a presidential election year. Several Pennsylvania clubs have TFRs throughout the year because of their proximity to President Trump’s residence in New Jersey.

I received an email from Eric Fagan concerning his club’s many TFRs. The club made a sign that is displayed whenever there is a TFR affecting its flying field. Great idea! I would encourage any club affected by a TFR to post a similar sign at the field.

**Until next month**, fly safely and have fun.