

DMA Meeting Notes of September 17, 2014

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of long-time member Robert Miller and Bill Flanagan's wife Anne.

Members attending- 98

New Members – 2

Community Service: Jack Fitzgibbons made his pitch for volunteers; he needs help so if you have some time and feel community-minded, please contact Jack. This is a good way to raise awareness of the DMA and to help our fellow Darien citizens.

Speakers: Dan Libertino and John Bulakowski, arranged by Andre Guilbert.

These knowledgeable speakers traced the life and history of Igor Sikorsky, a Russian immigrant born in 1889 whose wealthy sister funded his study of aviation in France. In 1913 he created the first 4-engine aircraft in the world and in 1919 Igor immigrated to the U.S. because of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Mr. Libertino traced the history of Sikorsky from its infancy with 15 employees to nearly 16,000 today! In 1938 Igor believed there was no more significant expansion to be made in fixed wing aircraft so he turned his talents to developing helicopters; 1939 was the first flight. His helicopters played a huge role in WWII providing air rescue and troop transport for the Army, Marines and Coast Guard. All presidents have employed helicopters, but General Eisenhower was the first.

Igor developed the first crane helicopter which can lift close to 42,000 lbs. Sikorsky today has landed the contract to restyle the Blackhawk helicopter as well as the new presidential helicopter. They are currently working on a "pilotless" Blackhawk which flies in conjunction with a manned Blackhawk. A sign of the times is that despite the creativity and leadership of Igor, his company is still on the cutting edge of aviation. Trademarked by his ever-present brown fedora, Igor once said, 'It would be right to say that the helicopter's role in saving lives represents one of the most glorious pages in the history of human flight.' Igor Sikorsky is a prime example of what the combination of entrepreneurship and patriotism can forge! Fedoras off to him!

For anyone interested the Igor Sikorsky Historical Archives are located and can be visited in Stratford, CT.

This date in history:

1919 – Babe Ruth sets season home run mark with 28. (Guess he hadn't heard of peds.)

1957 – Gen. Eisenhower ordered U.S. troops to desegregate Little Rock schools.

Birthdays: F. Scott Fitzgerald, born in 1896 and died in 1940.