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Dear ASN Volunteer,

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and bring you up to speed on some exciting things that are happening with the AOPA advocacy team.

My name is Jim Coon, and I am AOPA's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs—the AOPA department responsible for our advocacy efforts, including the Airport Support Network program.

I want you to know how important you are to AOPA's efforts to protect our freedom to fly. Your efforts at your home airport and with pilots in your area help build strong community relationships, prevent small problems from becoming big ones, and keep us informed about the issues that affect your flying. I consider ASN volunteers to be the lynchpin in our efforts to protect our nation's general aviation airports, and I want you to know that all of us at AOPA are committed to supporting you and to the ASN program.

In recent months, we've been making a number of changes in our government affairs department, and some of these have affected the ASN program. Change takes time and often comes with bumps in the road, but I want you to know that we are working to improve communications and ensure you get the support you need in a timely manner.

We are in the process of bringing on new staff and we will soon have a team in place that's dedicated to assisting you in the important work you're doing to protect and promote GA. As a leader in your community, your voice is important—not only at your own airport, but also as we educate federal officials on issues like the importance of third-class medical reform and our opposition to user fees.

As we bring our headquarters team together, we'll be sure to introduce you and create opportunities for you to get to know one another. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me at asn@aopa.org with any questions or ideas you may have. As we're bringing on new team members and considering how to create the best possible ASN program, we'd love to hear your ideas about how we can serve you better.

In addition, I hope you can join us at AirVenture on Tuesday evening, July 21 from 5:30 – 7:00pm for an ASN happy hour at AOPA's tent. Mark Baker and I will both be there and we look forward to providing an update on AOPA's biggest issues and answering your questions.

For support with specific issues at your home airport or in your community, please contact the ASN inbox at asn@aopa.org. We appreciate your patience during this transition period and we look forward to working with you to create a program that's stronger and more effective than ever.

Again, thank you for all you do on behalf of AOPA and the entire general aviation community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Coon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Coon
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs