



**NADA/F Board Members with
NTSB Board Member John Goglia**

Mark Your Calendar! Save the Date!
The Annual Meeting will be Saturday-Sunday, September 29-30th at the DoubleTree Hotel, Pentagon City, VA, very close to the Washington/National Airport. We are excited about the 'upscale' hotel for only \$99 per night. We are also planning a special Saturday dinner in the rooftop Jefferson Room with a great view of the Capital. Keynote Speakers and Special Guests will be announced as soon as we have confirmations. We have a special offer of Free Registration at the Annual Meeting for those who have Letters to the Editor published! We're looking forward to the best meeting yet!

NADA/F had a very busy February, including a long working weekend in Washington DC for a Board Meeting. We spent considerable time defining the *Family Support Team*, and our discussion centered on providing the highest standards possible. We have wonderful volunteers, and this is something we have wanted to do for a long time. We welcome your participation! During the four days we attended congressional meetings to educate our legislators about NADA/F's Goals for 2001, plus meetings with the FAA, NTSB, U.S. Department of State, and others. NADA/F's invitation to meet with the FAA MAC (Management Advisory Council), while in Washington DC, was an important first! FAA MAC is a Council of airline/industry executives, and the topic was FAA Rule Making, and the legally required Cost Benefit Analysis. We stated that they may travel 600 miles an hour, but often aviation safety seems to move at a snail's pace. They were receptive, and said they could not disagree with what we are saying. We proposed some changes, such as eliminating the requirement of cost benefit analysis so that safety recommendations could be evaluated on the merits not the money!

The most important part of our discussion was our recommendation of independent oversight of the Aviation Trust Fund, the \$5 to \$7 billion a year collected from transportation taxes. We shared information about the diversion of transportation funds, while safety is shortchanged. NADA/F has long advocated a "SAFETY FIX TRUST FUND" with public interest oversight to prioritize the funds strictly for safety, not political projects. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss these issues with people who are able to make a difference. February also included another FAA meeting on Feb. 7th for ARAC membership, with a NADA/F presentation--a week of NOVA training with a terrific group of international participants, and more. To learn more about what's new at NADA/F simply turn the page!

Yours truly,

Gail A. Dunham, President

Introducing a few of our NADA/F Family Support Team – FST Leaders...

Barb Skudlarick – Director, Family Support Team
 Email: Mazamajoe@cs.com (360) 371-4108

Barb is a retired R.N., retired Flight Attendant, and Director for Family Support Team. Barb also survived an air crash landing while a teen-ager traveling alone to attend school in Colorado. All survived, however, the aircraft was destroyed, and the passengers knew their lives had changed that day. After retiring from the airlines, Barb became a Disaster Service Volunteer. Emergency response experience includes: Government Liaison for the local Red Cross, working



in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) the night of the Olympic Oil Bellingham pipe line explosion, and the DAT (Disaster Action Team) for local disasters when the community was impacted by the loss of 12 former students/alumni who were on Alaska 261 on Jan. 31, 2000.

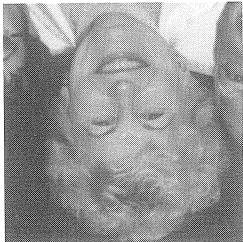
"This is an opportunity for us to make a difference where and when help is most needed. We will do everything possible to help family members, and give follow-up support to our FST Members. I found NADA/F on the internet and NADA/F was most helpful in sharing information to help prepare the aviation disaster plan for our local area. I attended the Annual Meeting and was impressed to meet family members who have sustained such pain and loss, yet have come together, and are working with aviation professionals, government, and the industry, to promote safety and support for victims' families. Each crash is unique, and the dynamics of each person's loss is very different, yet all are able to be patient and supportive with each other. I welcome the opportunity to work with such special people. If you want to learn more about FST please let us know and we will mail a packet of information to you. Feel free to send an email or give me a call."

Jim Hurd – from Maryland
 Email: CYN29HU@yahoo.com (410) 802-6059

Jim lost his son on TWA 800 and it changed his life. Jim organized the first NOVA training for NADA/F members, and has helped develop the FST concept and our role. "I will go anywhere at any time if I can help someone after an air disaster. I remember the three weeks at the Ramada while we waited for information about our loved ones. No one told us that we might have to wait ten months or more for a proper funeral. I feel that I can reassure others to try and be patient, and that an air crash is different from other disasters." *Jim Hurd*

Joan Pontante - from Oswego NY
 Email: Japontante@juno.com (315) 593-3279

Joan's family lost 5 family members on NW255, including three small children, almost 14 years ago. Joan has been an active member since the first air crash family group meeting in 1992.



"Family members have networked with each other for many years, and I have developed terrific friends all over the world through NADA/F. Support was a goal of our NW255 group, and we gave support to other air crash families. NADA/F Family Support Team, on a well-organized level, is something that we have wanted for many years, and I am proud of our program and our volunteers. We did not have support available in years past, and we know how important those first few days can be to a family." *Joan Pontante*

Murielle Provost from Nova Scotia, Canada
 Email: MProvost@istar.ca (902) 435-4851

Murielle earned her Master's Degree in Human Ecology, and specialized in Family Life Education with an interest in working with families in crises. Experience includes the Disaster Response Team Leader for the Canadian Red Cross, Halifax Regional Municipality. Within 2 hours of the crash of Swissair 111 on September 2, 1998, Murielle responded to the call and went directly to Peggy's Cove. She was appointed Coordinator for family services at Peggy's Cove, and was responsible for the welfare of the emergency response personnel in her area. Murielle also assisted with preparation of the first memorial for SR 111.

"I want to contribute to the healing process. I learned so much from the family members after Swissair 111, and I was humbled by their strength. After the sudden loss of a loved one, or loved ones, their first journey was to Peggy's Cove. We needed to meet their needs at the airport, the hotel, and the crash site. Every person has special needs, and each need must be met." *Murielle Provost*

Helen & Larry Siebert – from Missouri
 Email: HlnSiebert@aol.com (573) 635-1488

Helen and Larry Siebert lost their daughters Chrisha and Brenna, plus their niece and her husband, Stephanie & Dan Gaetke on TWA 800. Helen is retiring from a career with an insurance company, as Supervisor in Risk Management. Larry continues to work in commercial real estate.

"Put me to work! I look forward to working with NADA/F members and I know that we will make a difference. We came out of a dark hole, and I want to show others that they can continue to live after a terrible situation. I could not have "come back" after losing our girls without friendship and peer support. I look forward to returning the favor and helping others." *Helen Siebert*

"I decided that the best way to honor our daughters would be to put aside any bitterness and to help others." *Larry Siebert*