



## President's Letter February 2025.

Dear Members, Is Spring coming yet? I have returned from across the pond and exchanged soggy, wet and windy weather conditions to frigid icy ones! I am not sure which ones I prefer although I take hope in that the days are getting longer and before we know it, we will be turning our air conditioners on! The daffodils were just coming up when I left the Isle of Wight which has snow about every 7 years and 2 inches will shut the island down for a week! I believe there is only one snow plough but unknown the number of shovels or able bodies to use them! My little plane is enjoying a long winter hibernation.

I hope you will be able to join me at the next dinner meeting Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February when Jared Cummings the Aero Club Vice President, will relate the heroic story of World War 11 B-17 engineer and Top Turret gunner Master Sergeant Bruno Gallerani. For further details visit [www.aeroclubofbuffalo.org](http://www.aeroclubofbuffalo.org).

I am sure several of you have stories of your own or of relative's war time activities and I would like to encourage you to write them down before they are lost. I will make a collection of your stories, not necessarily aviation related, and if you send them to me, with your permission I will put them on the Aero Club website. If you find any aviation topics of interest, please send to me and I will put them on the website also.

I should like to remind you that your yearly membership dues should be paid by the end of February which will greatly help to keep the Aero Club viable and for us to continue to bring you speakers to our dinner meetings. We are again offering 2 scholarships for young people in the Western NY area, The Aero Club of Buffalo Aeronautical/Aviation Educational Scholarship and The Fran Bainbridge Flight Scholarship. We are proposing they each be for \$2500. Information will be available on the website in the coming days. I should like you all to disseminate this information to your children, grandchildren, children's children, in fact to all your relatives and friends and any others who may have an interest in aviation. Donations to the scholarship fund are gratefully accepted and it is my passion that we continue to support young people in the realization of their dreams. It will be lovely to see you again and please bring a friend with you to the dinner meetings. Hopefully the weather is conducive to travel and this letter finds you keeping well.

Best wishes, Willy (Mary E. Mattocks) President Aero Club of Buffalo.

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