

January's volunteer of the month is Steve Slaughter. Steve was born in Eden, North Carolina which is located between Greensboro and Danville, Virginia. Upon high school graduation, Steve went to work in the textile industry.

For the first ten years, he learned everything he could about the apparel industry. He was then promoted to the plant manager working for such companies as Bassett-Walker, Pluma, Fun Tees, and Delta apparel for the next twenty five years. During the early years, he married his wife Teresa and had two children here in the United States. As domestic plants moved out of country, Steve managed plants in Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. During his final working years, Steve was sought after for opening plants and getting them running smoothly in these countries.

Upon retirement, Steve and Teresa moved to Catawba County. He enjoys spending time with his family and his three grandchildren, doing home improvements around the house and watching sports on television. One day, his wife pointed out an ad in the Hickory Daily Record looking for volunteers. Steve knew he had to check out the museum, and he got involved on his very first visit. Steve had always had an interest in aviation and military aviation history, especially since both his brothers love flying. Brother number one is a retired USAF Colonel who flew F-16's during his career. His other brother enjoys building and flying his own experimental aircraft.

Steve has thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Hickory Aviation Museum meeting visitors and teaching them about our displays and aircraft. He enjoys the learning opportunities and interesting topics at the monthly meetings as well as the social functions that come with being a member. Steve especially enjoys the friendships he has made with his fellow Wednesday crew members. Wednesday is meatloaf day at the Crosswind Café, so come meet Steve and have some lunch!