

*Advancing Aviation – Advancing New York!*

# Air Currents

NEW YORK AVIATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION • S P R I N G 2 0 1 0

## The New York Legislative Aviation Caucus

Legislators have become increasingly familiar with the benefits of aviation. Many have stepped up and showed their leadership in supporting aviation through the formation of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus (NYLAC). Launched as a joint effort by Assemblyman Robin Schimminger and Senator William Stachowski, the Aviation Caucus now has 55 members from both the Senate and Assembly dedicated to supporting New York's aviation industry.

Thank you to the following members who have already joined NYLAC!

**Assembly:** Marc Alessi, James Bacalles, Philip Boyle, Daniel Burling, Kevin Cahill, Nancy Calhoun, Nelson Castro, Joan Christensen, James Conte, Clifford Crouch, Francine DelMonte, Michael DenDekker, RoAnn Destito, Janet Duprey, Ginny Fields, Dennis Gabryszak, Joseph Giglio, Tim Gordon, Brian Kolb, Donna Lupardo, William Magnarelli, Margaret Markey, Michael Miller, Joel Miller, Michael Montesano, Dean Murray, Thomas O'Mara, Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Audrey Pheffer, Gary Pretlow, Jack Quinn, Andrew Raia, Bob Reilly, Joseph Saladino, William Scarborough, Robin Schimminger, Dede Scozzafava, Michele, Titus

**Senate:** James Alesi, Darrel Aubertine, Neil Breslin, Brian Foley, Joseph Griffo, Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Owen Johnson, William Larkin, Elizabeth Little, George Maziarz, George Onorato, Kevin Parker, Michael Ranzenhofer, William Stachowski, Toby Ann Stavisky, David Valesky, Dale Volker

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For more information, contact our office at (518)432-9973 or [info@nyama.com](mailto:info@nyama.com).

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**Joel F. Russell**  
NYAMA President

## Word on the Wing

*From the  
President*

### Get Involved!

The Board of Directors would like to extend an invitation to all NYAMA members to attend a future board meeting. Please contact NYAMA Headquarters at (518) 432-9973 or [info@nyama.com](mailto:info@nyama.com) to see how you can get involved in leadership in the only organization in New York State dedicated solely to the needs of the aviation industry.

Please let us know if you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors.

### *Dear Friend of Aviation:*

The news is filled each day with updates about how New York State is facing an incredible budget deficit further compounded by a major crisis of leadership. The result for aviation is that our needs are easily ignored, at best. At worst, politicians are trying to bring in new revenue and trim expenses without considering the full impact aviation has on the overall economy.

Over the past few months, the Governor's Budget and other legislative bills being considered suggest the following:

- A reduction of the state match in AIP funding from \$8 million down to \$4 million
- The end of the bond act which supplied \$15 million each year for aviation-related projects
- Increased taxes on aviation through the continuation of the charter plane tax
- An uphill battle to enact job-creating tax relief for purchase of GA aircraft
- Possible changes in the budget process which might institute a new sunset on the tax exemption for maintenance of GA aircraft (Yes, the same one that had the sunset removed just last year!)

Despite the established fact that aviation is a job-creating, revenue-generating industry; New York State is reducing the economy-stimulating power of aviation businesses. As you would expect, actions like this send strong signals to the aviation industry in the region that New York is unfriendly to business.

#### **The Voice of Aviation in Albany**

Your Board has been actively at work to get our message in front of legislators and turn the tide of short-sighted policies. Over the past few months, we have done the following on your behalf:

- Met with NYS DOT staff about the capital needs of aviation
- Testified at legislative hearings on the 5-Year Transportation Capital Plan
- Held a conference call with Lt. Governor Richard Ravitch
- Updated the Aviation Jobs Bill to focus on a new sales tax exemption for GA aircraft
- Submitted testimony at joint budget hearings for both the tax and transportation legislative committees with arguments focused on the restoration of AIP funding to \$8 million and the transfer of unused AIP to AIR 99
- Sent correspondence and position papers to all legislators
- Met with over 70 legislative offices as part of Advocacy Day (see story)
- Helped establish the NY Legislative Aviation Caucus with 55 members (see story)
- Created a new email update especially for New York policy makers

Every step of the way, NYAMA is communicating the need for legislators to reject new aviation taxes; to raise the state AIP federal match appropriation to \$8 million; to restore the legislatively-sponsored language that permits transfer of unused AIP to AIR 99 airport grant program; and to allocate transportation capital funding for aviation to replace the expiring bond act funding at \$15 million per year. We will also continue to pursue the new Aviation Jobs Bill which highlights the need for a sales tax exemption on the purchase of GA aircraft.

### Voice of New York Aviation Political Action Committee

Additionally, we have formed the Voice of Aviation in New York Political Action Committee (VANYPAC) to better support our legislative efforts. This tool better allows us as aviation professionals to combine and leverage our monetary efforts to support aviation-friendly legislation.

I am urging those who are able to contribute a voluntary contribution toward VANYPAC as they are able. Government entities and charitable organizations cannot make contributions to a state PAC. A corporation may make aggregate state political contributions up to a maximum of \$5000 per year. Personal contributions are also accepted. At this time, we are suggesting an initial voluntary contribution of \$250, but any amount you choose will aid our efforts.

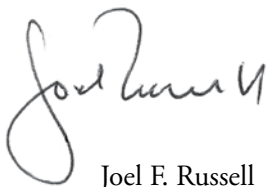
NYAMA is making a difference! Our opportunities to make a positive impact for the aviation industry and economic development in our state are growing.

### Mark Your Calendar for the Fall Conference!

I also invite you to join us September 29-October 1, 2010 at The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Rochester, NY for the Association's annual fall conference hosted by Greater Rochester International Airport. As always, we will host a great line up of speakers benefitting every facet of aviation and feature an exhibit show providing opportunities for airport managers to network with vendors, consultants and suppliers. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your commitment to aviation and the future economy of New York State! Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 518-242-2352 or contact our Albany Headquarters at 518-432-9973.

Sincerely,



Joel F. Russell  
NYAMA President

## LaHood Pledges to Partner with SWF

(New Windsor, NY) U. S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood paid his first visit to Stewart International Airport to meet with local government and business leaders. "We will be full partners with you," LaHood stated during the hour-long stakeholders meeting that followed a tour of the Stewart Terminal and outside facilities.

LaHood foresees expanded air service at Stewart International Airport, an underused 2,400-acre facility in Newburgh, NY, 55 miles north of New York City. Flights at Stewart will be added as the Big Apple's three big airports reduce congestion.

Federal funds appropriated or pending in Congress will support airport growth projects, said LaHood, a former Republican House member from Illinois. His department will also talk with airlines and work with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey which operates Stewart as well as Newark, LaGuardia and Kennedy airports.

LaHood came at the invitation of U.S. Rep John Hall. "I want to be with people who want to get things done," LaHood said. However, he did urge patience, noting that the economic downturn has not yet ended. LaHood, Hall, and Port Authority Director of Aviation Susan Baer all foresee a much bigger role for Stewart in the near future.



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## Solar Farm to Provide Power for Air National Guard Base

(Newburgh, NY) Congressman Maurice Hinchey announced at Stewart Air National Guard Base that \$4 million in new federal investments will pay for the construction of a solar farm within the base's perimeter that will provide a substantial amount of power to alleviate the facility's energy needs.

"The military operation here is going to be engaged in the production of the largest solar energy operation here in the Hudson Valley," said Hinchey. "The amount of energy that is going to be produced here would be the equivalent of generating energy for somewhere between 100-150 four-bedroom homes."

"We are really excited about this renewable energy solar power project," said 105th Military Airlift Wing Stewart Base Commander Brigadier General Verle Johnston. "It's a research and development project that is going to provide some 'real power' to suit the needs of the operation rather than just experimental purposes."

Johnston noted that on a sunny summer day, when the air conditioners are on full blast, the solar farm will provide for approximately 50 percent of the facility's energy requirements.

When construction is complete in about a year's time, said the Congressman, the manner in which the facility will be harvesting solar energy will be an example to not only military installations but other facilities such as schools and hospitals that require large amounts of energy and wish to become more efficient and cost effective.

## As Elmira Airport Traffic Rises, Officials Plan Improvements

*By Ray Finger, February 28, 2010. Copyright 2010, Star-Gazette. Reprinted with permission.*

(Big Flats, NY) Total departures and arrivals at the Elmira Corning Regional Airport were both up 17 percent in January compared with January 2009, according to the airport's monthly activity report.

Meanwhile, construction projects are planned this summer to keep up with increasing demand at the Big Flats airport.

"We weathered 2009 so well that I really thought that 2010 will be just rocketing from here. It's starting to look like that," Airport Manager Ann Crook said. While it is a little early to be certain, the year is getting off to a good start, she said.

"When you look at the national economy and what's going on at the state level, our numbers are remarkable," Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli said. "I think 2010 will be the best year that we've had in the history of this airport, and these last two years have been tough to beat."

Northwest-Delta's departures totaled 3,968 in January, representing a 36 percent increase compared with January 2009, according to the activity report. US Airways had 4,007 departures in January, a 4 percent increase compared with last year.

Arrivals in January for Northwest-Delta totaled 3,819, a 33 percent increase compared with January 2009. US Airways had 3,862 arrivals in January, representing a 5 percent increase compared with last year, the report shows.

*More on Page 5*






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# 2010 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show

On September 29-October 1, 2010, NYAMA will hold its 2010 Annual Fall Conference and Exhibit Show at The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Rochester, NY. The conference is hosted by The Greater Rochester International Airport (GRIA). The program is packed with valuable sessions for anyone in the aviation industry today and includes an outstanding trade show program. Below are just a few highlights:

- Keynote speaker Scott P. Lewis, Esq. is a Partner of Anderson & Kreiger, LLP who leads Anderson & Kreiger's national airport practice, representing governmental airport owners in federal regulatory compliance matters, civil litigation, and airport-airline negotiations. He has spoken at many conferences about the complex issues of today. Scott is truly one of the worldwide leaders in aviation law and all areas pertaining to FAA regulatory matters.
- The "break-out" sessions will cover a wide array of topics ranging from operational to environmental issues which will be of interest to airports of all types and sizes.
- The Thursday night reception will be held in the Greater Rochester International Airport Observatory. The Observatory features the Midtown "Clock of Nations" which represents 12 nations. The Monroe County Airport Authority Board paid to have it restored and will be donating it to the Golisano Children's Hospital in 2012 when their renovations are complete.
- Golf will take place at Brook-lea Country Club; a Donald Ross designed course and one of Rochester's most beautiful and challenging private courses! For more information, see their website at <http://www.brookleacc.com/>.
- For those who do not plan to golf, we will host a cruise on the Colonial Belle down the Erie Canal. For more information, see their website at: <http://www.colonialbelle.com/>.

## Sponsorship

Your sponsorship sustains these excellent events and the ongoing activities of the Association as we advance aviation in New York State. This is your opportunity to publicly demonstrate your commitment to New York aviation and NYAMA. Your sponsorship will be recognized in all promotional materials and member emails. We encourage you to become a sponsor by downloading the sponsorship form on our website at [www.nyama.com](http://www.nyama.com).

For additional information, please contact Michael Thompson at Association Headquarters: (518) 432-9973, [info@nyama.com](mailto:info@nyama.com) or Jennifer Hanrahan at GRIA: (585) 753-7013, [jhanrahan@monroecounty.gov](mailto:jhanrahan@monroecounty.gov).

## Thank You Fall Conference Sponsors!

- Clough Harbor & Associates - Golf at Brook-lea
- MAPCO Auto Parts - Wine, Cheese and Chocolate reception
- Passero & Associates - Keynote speaker luncheon

## As Elmira Airport Traffic Rises, Officials Plan Improvements

*(Continued from p. 4)*

Allegiant Air had 1,272 departures in January, a 2 percent increase compared with January 2009. Allegiant's arrivals -- at 1,168 -- were flat in January with two passengers fewer than last year, according to the report.

The natural gas exploration business has been a significant part of the increase in airport usage, and the merger between Delta and Northwest is driving more people to fly on Delta, Crook said.

Several projects will be under way this summer at the airport, including widening the queuing area to the screening checkpoint to create more room. "At times, the line to get through screening has been out the front door," she said. As part of that project, additional restrooms will be built in the departure lounge area.

"Renovations like that cost money, so we don't want to make the investment unless we really need it, but we're to the point now where we have to have it," Crook said.

Also, a canopy will be built over the front drive so that the loading and unloading area will be protected from the weather, she said.

## NYAMA is on Facebook



Facebook is an internet tool that connects people socially with friends and others who work, study and live around them. Recently, NYAMA launched its own fan page and already has over 100 fans!

Our intent is to use the tool to network members and others interested in furthering aviation interests in New York. We will announce NYAMA events and request support for legislative efforts from time to time. Resources to further discussion are also being posted. However, we hope that everyone will feel free to chat about any aviation topic of interest.

If you are already on Facebook, simply find us at New York Aviation Management Association and become a fan today. Otherwise, you may go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to create your own profile. Feel free to send any comments or contributions for posting online to us at [info@nyama.com](mailto:info@nyama.com).

# NYAMA Albany Update

*By Bruce W. Geiger*

## State Budget News

The Legislature continues to approve weekly emergency spending bills to pay some of the State's liabilities as a final budget agreement appears allusive. While these emergency spending bills provide for the payment of the state share of federal transportation projects under ARRA (federal stimulus), all other state supported federally-aided aviation funding (AIP) monies have been suspended. Also, the \$16.4 million bond act funds available for airport projects is being held up by the Division of the Budget at least until the State budget is adopted.

The Legislature appears no closer to finalizing an agreement on a new state budget now than they were weeks ago. The Legislators point out that the Governor controls the content of the bills that enact emergency spending authority, so they have little influence on the process. However, a timely budget would preclude the need for emergency bills and provide certainty with regard to capital projects.

## NYAMA's Budget Agenda

NYAMA is seeking five main budget amendments designed to strengthen the aviation industry:

- Rejection of the new asset transfer tax on general aviation
- Passage of the Aviation Jobs Act (S.4551-A/A.5960-A) tax exemption for purchase of GA aircraft
- Increase the appropriation for the State's Airport Improvement Program (AIP) from \$4 million to \$8 million
- Restoration of the legislatively-sponsored language--a budget neutral action--that permits transfer of unused AIP funds to the AIR 99 airport grant program
- Insure that funding is allocated to make up for the loss of \$15 million per year for aviation capital programs as a result of the expiration of Transportation Bond Act funding.

## NYAMA Action to Date

To this end, NYAMA's Advocacy Day efforts and materials focused on these budget needs. Additionally, Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo spearheaded a letter writing campaign among several Assembly members and sent a joint letter to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver advocating for the complete NYAMA agenda be adopted as part of the final budget. On the Senate side, Senator William Stachowski has been aggressively promoting the NYAMA pro-job agenda be adopted as part of the final budget agreement.

## The New York Legislative Aviation Caucus Takes Off

A joint effort by Senator Stachowski and Assemblyman Robin Schimminger and backed by NYAMA resulted in the creation of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus, a group whose initial membership is 55 Senators and Assembly members from both political parties. This bi-partisan Caucus will be an important tool for NYAMA and our legislative supporters to advance our interests in Albany. NYAMA President Joel Russell recently sent a letter to Caucus members to recognize their leadership on behalf of the aviation industry and to urge that they use this unity of purpose to continue to advance NYAMA's budget goals.

# Advocacy Efforts Give Rise to State Aviation Caucus

NYAMA hosted a strong Advocacy Day event on March 23, 2010. About 35 participants met with 70 key legislative offices over the course of the day. Most of the meetings were with members of the legislature, although some legislative and executive staff attended the meetings as well.

Facing a severe budget deficit, New York State lawmakers are eager to find new sources of revenue. However, NYAMA members urged caution and argued that exempting aviation from taxes will allow the industry to create jobs and State revenues in the form of income tax, gas tax and additional investments in local economies. Legislators are considering a proposed exemption from sales and compensation tax for aircraft purchased in the state and increased funding for New York's airports.

NYAMA was well supported by both national and regional aviation organizations. The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Long Island Business Aviation Association (LIBAA), and Westchester Aviation Association (WAA) all sent representatives to assist the effort.

Overall, legislators were more familiar with NYAMA and its message than in years past. Throughout the event, many members of the legislature were highly receptive to strengthening and protecting aviation needs across the state.

One of the key goals for the day was to gather more members for the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus (NYLAC) initiated by Assemblyman Robin Schimminger and Senator William Stachowski. To date, there are 55 members of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus eager to support the needs of aviation. NYLAC is made up of both Senators and Assemblymen from both parties. The newly formed NYLAC can better support new aviation legislation in the future.

## Thank You to Our 2010 Advocacy Day Sponsors!

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# The Three Most Important Leadership Rules

*By Todd Dewett, Ph.D.*

Leadership is about supporting and building employee morale and productivity. Ultimately, these explain organizational success. Each year we see hundreds of new leadership-related books and thousands of leadership-related articles. But how much of what is new is really new? After reading most of it, I have concluded that there are a small number of things going on that explain the essence of leadership. In fact, all of the thousands of leadership ideas, tricks and tactics that have been discussed really boil down to three simple rules. To maintain and build high performance organizations you must focus on three core ideas: reduce ambiguity, be fair and stay positive.

## **Reduce Ambiguity**

People hate the unknown, the unclear and the unnecessarily complex. Thus, an overriding goal is to be clear and specific, cogent and understood. Think through the many forms of communication you have with your team on a regular basis. Each is an opportunity to send ambiguous and misunderstood signals. When someone receives a 2.3% raise instead of the 5% they expected, do they really understand why? What about when they do not receive the promotion or that spot they really wanted on the new project team? To the extent that they do not fully understand the cause of these outcomes, they will do the one thing you do not want them doing: they will make assumptions. These assumptions are rarely correct. Typically, they are negative and self-serving. All of this is time not spent working productively because you failed to go the extra few steps required to really reduce ambiguity.

With a solid focus on two things, you can greatly reduce ambiguity. The first is clear interpersonal communication. This refers to communication that is very specific (e.g., liberal use of facts, dates, examples), genuine (honest, otherwise the vast majority of people sense the truth), confirmed (never assume they understood what you said, verify it) and timely (e.g., delivered as quickly as possible). The second part is effective goal setting. This involves establishing performance goals for individuals and the team, milestones and metrics that will be used to evaluate progress, hold people accountable and reward performance. With great communication and clear performance goals you will go a long way towards reducing unnecessary employee ambiguity.

## **Be Fair**

This does not mean treating people the same. You only want to treat people identically in terms of creating an environment where expectations are clear and opportunities are open to everyone. Beyond that, your goal must be to use rewards and recognition depending on performance. To be fair also means to be transparent. Operate above board, avoid playing politics, avoid playing favorites and be sure that people are always clear as to how you made your decisions. Your employees should never be surprised by something you do at work.

One vital key to not only being fair, but being perceived as fair, is to allow people a voice in shaping decisions that affect them. Sometimes this is not possible and you must make decisions very quickly or you must make decisions that are not appropriate to discuss with subordinates. In these cases, you still need to be absolutely transparent.

*More on Page 9*



# Silent Rotor Blade

Helicopter noise has quickly become the number one complaint of citizens and community activists. As it has been since the invention of jet engines, technology continues to make aircraft quieter and more fuel efficient. When faced with questions and comments about noise, it is always good to identify the progress that continues to be made towards making aircraft quieter.

Eurocopter recently unveiled its newest effort to reduce helicopter noise with the futuristic-looking Blue Edge rotor blade. According to the company, the new blade has been tested on one of the company's EC155 helicopters and was shown to reduce noise 3 to 4 decibels.

The company has also created something called Blue Pulse technology. The Blue Pulse system uses three flap modules in the trailing edge of each rotor blade. Piezoelectric motors move actuate the flaps 15 to 40 times per second to reduce the "slap noise" often heard when a helicopter is descending.

These technologies reduce noise by minimizing the blade-vortex interaction of the main rotor on a helicopter. Blade-vortex interaction is the source of the pulsating sound most of us are familiar with when helicopters fly overhead. The noise is created when a rotor blade hits the wake vortex left behind from the blade in front of it.

Normally, the entire length of the rotor blade interacts with the vortex of the preceding blade. With the Blue Edge rotors, the double-swept tips of the rotor blade reduce the length of the blade-vortex interaction, and it does it at the tip where the blades are moving the fastest relative to the air. The result is a decrease in the sound produced due of the wake interaction at the tip.

The company states the goal is to create more environmentally friendly helicopters from both a noise and emissions standpoint. This is just another example of how the aviation industry is adapting to the challenge of creating balance between, mobility, community, environment, and business.

# New York City to Host Red Bull Air Race in 2010

The fifth race of the 2010 Red Bull Air Race World Championship season will be held, in partnership with NYC & Company, Jersey City, NJ and Liberty State Park, over the Hudson River on June 19 and 20. This year marks the sixth year of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship which will also land in nine cities including Abu Dhabi, UAE; Perth, Australia, and Lisbon, Portugal.

"New York City is known for its ability to draw some of the world's greatest, large-scale events each year, and we're always happy to welcome new and exciting sporting events that amplify its reputation as one of the most electrifying cities in the world," said NYC & Company CEO George Fertitta. "The Red Bull Air Race World Championship will, without a doubt, bring a new element of adventure to this city, and add to the incredible roster of events taking place here in 2010."

*More on Page 10*

## The Three Most Important Leadership Rules

*(Continued from p. 8)*

Explain yourself or they will draw their own conclusions (and they will not be accurate). The ideal, however, is participation – giving people real ownership. When there is time, seek input and take it seriously. Why? When people feel they have actually had a voice in the process they are willing to accept unfavorable outcomes far more than when they do not believe they have had a voice. That is a massively powerful incentive to strive for participation.

### Stay Positive

Positive emotions (just like negative emotions) are infectious. Leaders have an opportunity with each and every issue they face to frame it as positive or negative, as an opportunity or threat. Research tells us that how an issue is framed dramatically affects how people react. The implication for leadership? The glass is half full! I do not mean to imply that you are to avoid conflict or avoid providing needed critical feedback. Simply make sure that you are positive when doing it and that you balance all critical and developmental feedback with a good dose of honest praise. This does not make people enjoy difficult feedback, but it puts them in a better mental position to actually accept and consider what you have to say.

Next, realize that to be a leader is to be a cheerleader. Sports metaphors have their limits, but this one really fits. Leaders must find specific instances of individual and group performance to single out and applaud. The leader sets the ceiling for positive emotion so take this role seriously. Do cheerleaders only cheer when their team does something great? No. They console the guy who missed the winning shot too. So should leaders. If your goal is to help them learn and continue striving, you have to praise the positive and help put the negative in perspective. The next time you want to blame, yell or otherwise explode and point your finger at work, remember, leaders have a choice. Great leaders choose to find the positive in every situation.

Dr. Dewett is a nationally recognized leadership expert, author, professor, professional speaker and consultant specializing in all aspects of leadership and organizational life. As quoted in the New York Times, BusinessWeek, CNN, the Chicago Tribune, MSNBC and elsewhere. He is the author of Leadership Redefined. Podcasts, blog, free newsletter and more at:

<http://www.drdewett.com>.

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## New York City to Host Red Bull Air Race

(Continued from p. 9)

In 2009, the Red Bull Air Race was broadcast in over 180 countries reaching over 300 million viewers. The two-day spectator experience, coupled with the global television broadcast, will showcase New York as a premier sporting destination. The race in New York and Jersey City also represents an exciting opportunity to stimulate the local economy.

"Jersey City is fast becoming a premier destination to host major events, such as the All Points West concerts and the 2009 Barclays golf tournament," said Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy. "The Red Bull Air Race is a high-caliber event that provides international exposure and will bring millions of tourism dollars into our city. We are aggressively marketing Jersey City as a global brand and we are thrilled to have the world's most talented pilots compete above our Hudson River waterfront."

The Red Bull Air Race is different from all other motorsports in that it takes its race track with it wherever it goes around the world bringing the action to the spectator. To do this, it takes a logistics operation unparalleled in the sports business to transport 380 tons of infrastructure and race equipment including 15 lightweight, 24-foot wingspan race planes and the sport's own traveling air traffic control tower.

"Staging a Red Bull Air Race in New York City and Jersey City marks an important milestone in the history of the global motorsports championship and we feel privileged to be given this opportunity," said Bernd Loidl, CEO of the Red Bull Air Race. "We look forward to our partnership with both cities and providing spectators with an incredible experience as well as enabling millions of television viewers around the globe to watch the best race pilots compete against the spectacular skyline of some of the world's great cities."

Over the past five years, the Red Bull Air Race has held races in major metropolises such as London, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, and in the U.S. in San Diego, Detroit, San Francisco, and Monument Valley, Utah. Of the fifteen race pilots from around the world, two are Americans, Kirby Chambliss from Arizona and Michael Goulian from Massachusetts. Each pilot operates a year-round race team including a technician and team coordinator. The end goal for each race team is to accumulate as many points throughout the season in a quest to achieve the prestigious honor of 2010 Red Bull Air Race World Champion.

# Orange County Chamber of Commerce Resolution

NYAMA has been active in prompting support from the business community as we seek to generate economic activity around the State. The Orange County Chamber of Commerce recently demonstrated their support by passing a resolution in support of our objectives. It is our hope that similar resolutions might be passed in various regions to emphasize the need for aviation to create jobs. The original resolution is provided below:

### Board of Directors

Resolution #2010-01

March 26, 2010

**Whereas**, the aviation industry contributes more than \$35 billion in annual economic activity in New York State and almost 350,000 state residents work in aviation or aviation-related industries;

**Whereas**, more than \$2.8 billion in state and local taxes are generated from aviation activities;

**Whereas**, economic benefits from aviation in New York State are seven percent of the nation's total aviation economic impact;

**Whereas**, airports are revenue-generators for the state and proposals that add unnecessary financial burdens on the industry will only chase business to neighboring states that are aggressively attracting permanently based aircraft, jobs and businesses away from New York;

**Whereas**, New York Governor David Paterson's Executive Budget for 2010-11 will increase taxes on aviation-related activity and slash funding for AIR 99 and the Airport Improvement Program, all of which will contribute to further loss of aviation jobs;

**Whereas**, current NYS legislative proposals are unlikely to raise additional revenues for the state, but rather will severely weaken the aviation industry;

**Whereas**, airports and aviation businesses must be allowed to continue their excellent record of revenue generation and long-term sustainable job creation;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce hereby express its unanimous support for: the New York Aviation Jobs Bill (S.4551-A (Stachowski)/A.5960-A (Schimminger)); restoration of cuts in state funding for airport infrastructure projects; and rejection of new taxes on business aircraft.

Passed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors: 3/26/10

# Senate Majority Proposes Budget Reforms

## Aviation Tax Exemptions Possibly Affected

The State Senate's Democratic Majority proposed comprehensive reforms to fix the state's broken budget process recently. Senate Democrats have created a 7-point legislative package, sponsored by Senator Liz Krueger (D-Manhattan) which provides for long-term financial planning, the enactment of stricter accounting principles, and mandates stringent standards of accountability for State-financed programs and services.

Senator Krueger, Chair of the Select Committee on Budget & Tax Reform and Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee said, "If any year demonstrates how fundamentally broken New York State's budget process is, this is the year. We have a budget process that allows shady accounting practices and encourages a model of non-accountability for spending, revenues and borrowing. With this legislation I'm saying the buck stops here, because the State is getting too close to coming down to its last buck."

The Majority's plan will do the following:

- Establish a two-year budget and require the Executive to submit two-year financial plans in order to ensure proper long-term fiscal planning (S7160 [1]).
- Remove fiscal manipulations by requiring both the Executive Budget proposal and Enacted Budget to be balanced according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which will "fundamentally realign recurring spending with recurring revenue to restore the State's fiscal health" as recommended in a recent report by the state Comptroller (S7284 [2]).
- Task a 15-member Empire State Performance Commission with designing a performance based management and budgeting blueprint to streamline government and end waste and fraud within programs and services (S7259 [3]).
- Create a non-partisan Legislative Budget Office modeled after the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, which will remove the politics from revenue forecasting while simultaneously ensuring funds are not being used to create hidden slush funds by being stuffed away in "off-budget" public authorities. (S4526 [4]).
- End New York's status as the only state with a budget date prior to the federal tax collection date, and shift the start of the fiscal year to June 1 to allow for proper fiscal planning (S5221C [5]).
- The Senate Select Committee on Budget and Tax Reform has issued a new report, *A New Fiscal Year — A Better Budget*, highlighting how many of the state's budget woes stem from the 1943 decision to move the start of the State's fiscal year to April 1. The full report can be found online at: <http://www.nysenate.gov/report/select-committee-releases-report-changing-new-yorks-fiscal-year>[6]
- Require the Executive, in their Annual Tax Expenditure Report, to list a cost-benefit analysis of all New York's 380-plus tax break programs, to allow for the strengthening of programs which work, and ending of programs which waste revenue (S7347 [7]).
- Develop legislation to force the Legislature to regularly review and amend the state's tax breaks systems by enacting automatic sunsets phased in over five years (excluding programs with pre-existing sunsets).

## Senate Majority Proposes Budget Reforms

*(Continued from p. 11)*

NYAMA welcomes the effort to analyze the costs and benefits of taxes on aviation knowing that these taxes are demonstrably chasing aviation business away to other states. However, there is some concern that sunsets placed on tax exemptions proven to be helpful time and again may be threatened if the analysis is not done responsibly. Moreover, NYAMA believes that legislators should examine the cost and benefits of all taxes, rather than just the tax exemptions. Whatever the outcome of these reforms, NYAMA will be sure to track any progress on behalf of aviation in New York.

## AirCurrents

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