

Air Currents

SPRING 2013

New York Aviation Management Association



NYAMA, State Aviation Leaders Promote Airport Funding and Jobs at 2013 Aviation Advocacy Day



From left: NYAMA Treasurer Bill McShane, Past President Chad Nixon, President Ann Crook, and Member Ken Paskar of Friends of LaGuardia Airport meet with Speaker of the Assembly, Sheldon Silver.

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On March 12th, airport managers, project engineers, consultants, educators, and business leaders representing NYAMA came to Albany to discuss the important role airports play in economic development, and

ways to improve state aviation funding with state lawmakers. New York State has abandoned the aviation industry in recent years, with dedicated, direct funding to airports cut off after the 2009-2010 State Budget. But this year was a major victory for NYAMA. Thanks to our members' strong advocacy efforts, persistence, and dedication to increasing aviation's profile in our state, New York aviation is on the rise once again!

For the first time since 2010, direct funding for aviation-related projects and grants will be available for New York State airports.

Aviation contributes tens of billions of dollars in economic activity to New York State each year. As the 2013-2014 State Budget was passed and came into effect on April 1st, we have met many of our goals. For the first time since 2010, direct funding for aviation-related projects and grants will be available for New York State airports. \$10 million will be made available through the Airport Improvement and Revitalization Program (AIR '99), as well as through the state match of federal funding with the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants.

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Word on the Wing

Message from the President



Ann B. Crook, AAE
NYAMA President

Dear Friend of Aviation:

We are off to an excellent year! Our Advocacy Day was a success, and NYAMA has been successfully reaching out to federal and state legislators and agencies to reiterate the importance of funding and support for aviation in New York.

On March 12th, we came to Albany to meet with nearly 80 legislators representing all regions of the state. We discussed the need for funding of critical projects and programs for airports, including the Airport Improvement and Revitalization Program (AIR '99), as well as funding for matching federal grants through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

We were heard. The 2013-2014 New York State Budget now includes \$10 million for these programs. Our Advocacy Day also helped NYAMA establish relationships with the newest members of the New York State Senate and Assembly. Many of them are now members of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus.

We have also opened up and strengthened dialogues with members of New York's Congressional delegation and the Federal Aviation Administration. In February, NYAMA Past President Chad Nixon and I traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress and the FAA to urge continued funding for aviation and other policy issues that impact airports in New York State. Our timing in Washington was especially important because of the pending Sequester that was about to come into effect.

Save the Date: NYAMA's Fall Conference is this September in Albany!

I am thrilled to invite you to our 2013 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show in Albany. We are planning a diverse and exciting program this year that includes panels on disaster and emergency management at airports, a round table discussion with representatives from neighboring state aviation associations, and outings to the beautiful Saratoga region just north of Albany. I look forward to seeing you there September 18-20!

Again, thank you for all of your support and hard work so far this year. Our legislative successes would not have been possible without your continued dedication to NYAMA and New York's aviation industry!

Sincerely,

Ann B. Crook, AAE
NYAMA President
Director of Aviation
Elmira Corning Regional Airport



Meeting with Congressman Tim Bishop (1st Congressional District, NY)

Association News



Aviation Leaders *continued from front cover...*

This is a big win not only for NYAMA, but for our state's future", said NYAMA President Ann Crook, referring to the valuable role aviation has in improving New York's economy and transportation infrastructure. Crook, who is Director of Aviation at Elmira Corning Regional Airport, explained that fresh funding in this year's State Budget will significantly improve airports of all sizes, especially the small and medium-sized airports like Elmira. "The lack of dedicated funding for capital aviation projects has, unfortunately, left the industry stagnant in certain areas of the state where net income for airports is already thin. The new AIR '99 funding will help build new hangars, parking lots, security upgrades, and runways and taxiways at airports throughout New York."

The AIR '99 program is also enhanced by an increase in the maximum grant from \$300,000 to \$1 million. AIR '99 grants will be administered by NYSDOT, not through the Consolidated Funding Application process.

Funding for Airport Improvement Program matching grants is equally important. The State Budget ensures adequate funding to provide the state match needed for FAA grants – usually 5% of the project total.

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From Right: Joel Russell and John DelBalso of Albany International Airport, and Jeremy Martelle of The Louis Berger Group, discuss funding with staff of Assemblymember Steve McLaughlin.



Assemblymember Andrew Raia stops by to visit with NYAMA



Assemblymember Steve McLaughlin receives his New York Legislative Aviation Caucus (NYLAC) certificate



Association News

NYAMA Leaders Head to D.C. to Talk Funding, Policy

In February, NYAMA President Ann Crook and Past President Chad Nixon traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration. Crook and Nixon met with members of the New York Congressional delegation and other Congressional leaders. They discussed airport funding needs and policy issues concerning FAA, TSA, and Customs and Border Protection.

As the Sequester seemed likely to come into full effect this past February, NYAMA stressed to members of Congress the importance of maintaining the continuity of FAA operations, as well as keeping control towers and all other important components of airports open during uncertain budgetary times.

NYAMA's advocacy in Washington also served to reinforce the Association's continuing support of NextGen. The negative impacts of congested airspace are especially heavy in New York City, where Upstate communities find it difficult to compete with the rest of the country for airspace access to our own state hub, which is crucial for business and visiting travellers alike. NextGen technology can easily alleviate the congestion and make New York City more accessible from Upstate airports, the country, and the rest of the world.

Much of the discussion in Washington also centered on shortages of Customs and Boarder Protection officers at state airports, which continue to cause delays at customs checkpoints. Federal restrictions and limitations have caused understaffing at some airports, so much so that inbound travelers have been delayed for hours or, in the case of some general aviation pilots, they have



Crook and Nixon meet with Congressman Bill Owens (D-NY-21), who represents much of New York's North Country and its airports.

THANK YOU 2013 NYS ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE AVIATION CAUCUS MEMBERS

Assemblymember Jeffrion Aubrey | Assemblymember Will Barclay | Assemblymember Kenneth Blankenbush
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Association News



been told to divert to another state to clear customs.

NYAMA also urged that TSA fully reimburse airports for local law enforcement officers (LEO). Many of New York's airports have been unable to obtain adequate reimbursement from TSA, and have had to fund LEOs locally. This unfunded mandate has created huge strains on airports' budgets. NYAMA urged Congress to direct TSA to evaluate the risk-based need for local LEOs, and to provide adequate reimbursement for these resources where necessary.

Crook and Nixon also met with FAA Associate Administrator for Airports, Christa Fornarotto, and other high-ranking FAA officials to express concern over budget restrictions and policy changes that could limit the number of visits FAA officials make to airports and industry conferences. Regional, district, and field office personnel must have the opportunity to meet with our state's airport managers to maintain clear channels of communication to fully understand current issues and policies. Additionally, FAA attendance at industry conferences, including NYAMA's annual Fall Conference and Exhibit Show, provide excellent opportunities for the FAA to update conference attendees on new or emerging developments that can critically affect their airports' operations. ✈

Key people NYAMA met with in Washington this year

- › **Christa Fornarotto**, Associate Administrator for Airports, FAA
- › **Ben BeLeon**, Director of Airport Planning and Programming, FAA
- › **Michael O'Donnell**, Director of Airport Safety and Standards, FAA
- › **Kate Lane**, Deputy Associate Administrator for Airports, FAA
- › **Rep. Frank LoBiondo** (R-NJ-2), Chair, House Aviation Subcommittee
- › **Rep. Richard Larsen** (D-WA-2), Top Democrat on House Aviation Subcommittee

Ann Crook speaks with FAA representatives in Washington this February.



THANK YOU 2013 NYS SENATE LEGISLATIVE AVIATION CAUCUS MEMBERS

Senator Greg Ball
Senator John Bonacic
Senator Philip Boyle
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Senator John DeFrancisco
Senator Martin Golden
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Senator Kenneth LaValle
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Senator Kathleen Marchione
Senator George Maziarz
Senator Thomas O'Mara
Senator Kevin Parker
Senator Michael Ranzenhofer
Senator Patty Ritchie
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
Senator David Valesky
Senator Lee Zeldin



Association News

NYAMA's Peer Review Season Off to Great Start

NYAMA launched its 2013 Peer Review program in April with its first two workshops of the year centered on aviation legal matters and fire fighting/first response at airports.

Law Peer Review

Airport directors and accompanying legal counsel, contract managers, and airport planners from Albany, Rochester, Syracuse and Plattsburgh airports, as well as representatives from McFarland Johnson and Friends of LaGuardia Airport, came to Albany on April 23rd for NYAMA's Law Peer Review. Hosted by Albany International Airport, the workshop covered a wide range of legal topics for airports, which included understanding the different legal structures that New York State airports employ, management of contracts and leases for vendors, mitigating liability, handling on-site accidents, and other topics that attendees sought input on from their counterparts.

The Peer Review was structured with core topics, but it also allowed plenty of room for open dialogue for participants to freely contribute their insight and experience from their own airport legal dealings. "We wanted to let the discussion take its own course, especially since this area of airport management is so vast," said Joel Russell, Manager of Albany International Airport and a key organizer of this workshop. "The way the discussion moved—and it was very productive—will help us determine agenda items for future Peer Reviews similar to this one."

This type of Peer Review is a first for NYAMA. There are many attorneys and contract managers who work directly for airports, their authorities, or the local governments that operate them. April's event provided the opportunity to gather these professionals in one room to discuss the current legal environment at their airports, address their own challenges, and think of creative solutions.

"We discussed issues pertinent to the everyday legal problems



Moderators Peter Stuto (left), Albany Airport's General Counsel, and Manager Joel Russell take questions.

that attorneys for airports face," said Peter Stuto, General Counsel to Albany County Airport Authority, who moderated the workshop with Joel Russell. "It was great to hear the opinions and different perspectives from the lawyers representing the other airports."



Fire Chief Peer Review

NYAMA's second Peer Review of the year was hosted at Greater Rochester International Airport. With a turnout of fire fighters and officials from Rochester, Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Dutchess County, Chautauqua County, and Ithaca airports, the Fire Chief Peer Review covered a wide range of significant Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) topics. The discussion, moderated by Rochester Airport Fire Chief Todd Bane, focused on:

- › ARFF training across the state
- › ARFF mutual aid – rescuers helping rescuers during storm events
- › Funding sources
- › FAA Certification Inspections
- › ATC ARFF protocols
- › ARFF full scale drills
- › Battery Fire Suppression

"This was another great training session with so many ideas discussed and questions asked. Everyone was deeply committed to the discussion," Joel Russell commented. Special thanks to Rochester Airport Fire Chief Todd Bane for moderating this session. Participants unanimously requested a second Peer Review for the fire chiefs later this year. ✈️

Association News



Aviation Leaders *continued from page 3...*

The third leg of NYAMA's advocacy campaign this year is the enactment of the Aviation Jobs Act, which would exempt general aviation aircraft from sales and use tax in New York. New York's high tax rates have driven away hundreds of aircraft over the last decade, and they continue to discourage companies and new investors from basing their aircraft in the state. Business aircraft are increasingly based in neighboring states with much more favorable tax rates. Elimination of the sales and use tax would undoubtedly bring back aircraft—and entice new ones—to be based in New York, creating hundreds of new jobs. A recent study by the New York State Department of Transportation indicated that one single aircraft can generate up to five direct jobs and \$1 million in spending. ✈



Assemblymember Joseph Saladino shows his support for New York Aviation



David DiPietro proudly displays his NYLAC membership certificate.

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Additional Sponsor:

- › Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Thank You New York Legislative Aviation Caucus Members!

NYAMA would like to thank the nearly 100 members of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus (NYLAC). Your support was essential to our legislative successes this year. Special thanks to **NYLAC co-chairs Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo** and **Senator William Larkin** for their dedication and working with NYAMA through the development of this year's State Budget.

Airport CEO Peer Review Coming Up!

Are you in one of the following positions?

- › Airport Chief Operating Officer
- › Commissioner of Aviation
- › Aviation Director
- › Airport Manager

Then you are invited to a round table discussion. The goal of this meeting is to gather the state's airport decision makers in one room to discuss mutual concerns and share solutions.

PLEASE NOTE: The attendance would be limited to the decision makers and their designated staff.

This Round Table will be held June 18 at Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Time: June 18, 2013, 10am-2:00pm

Registration: \$60/person; \$45/person if attending in a group of 3+

Contact NYAMA at info@nyama.com or **518-432-9973** if you want to attend, or keep a lookout for the registration flier in e-currents.



Association News

Save the Date!

2013 NYAMA Fall Conference & Exhibit Show

September 18-20, 2013

The Desmond Albany Hotel and Conference Center | Albany, NY

Sponsored By: New York Aviation Management Association

Hosted By: Albany International Airport

Visit www.nyama.com for more details



Wednesday, September 18, 2013

- › Golf Tournament
- › Tour of Saratoga Battlefield - Explore Downtown Saratoga!
- › Welcome Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate Reception
- › First Time Attendee Briefing at Desmond Hotel

Thursday, September 19, 2013

- › Breakfast
- › Roundtable with State Aviation Associations from the Northeast
- › Lunch and Keynote Speaker
- › NYSDOT and FAA Annual Updates
- › Disaster Planning for Airports
- › Airport Jeopardy!
- › Dinner at Corning Tower Observation Deck, Empire State Plaza, Albany

Friday, September 20, 2013

- › Breakfast
- › Tour of Albany International Airport
- › Tour of SUNY Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering

Sponsorship Opportunities

If you are interested in supporting NYAMA's 2013 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show through sponsorships, please contact Association Headquarters, **518-432-9973** or info@nyama.com.

Platinum Sponsors

- › Albany International Airport

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- › C&S Companies, *Golf Tournament*
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Association News



2013 Phil Brito Project of the Year Award

NYAMA's 2013 Project of the Year Award is on the horizon to give recognition to engineering and planning consulting firms for outstanding achievement in the execution of an aviation-related planning, design, or design-build project for an airport or airports located within New York State. This award is named after the FAA New York Airport District Office long-time manager, Mr. Phil Brito, whose tireless efforts greatly contributed to the success of aviation in New York State.

ELIGIBILITY:

- › Entries must be a planning, design, or design-build project substantially completed within the previous calendar year.
- › The project must substantially benefit an airport or airports located within New York State.
- › The submitting consulting firm must have completed the work with staff located primarily within New York State.
- › The submitting consulting firms must be a current member of NYAMA, or join NYAMA at the time they submit their entry.
- › Consultants may submit up to two projects per category per airport each year.

ENTRY CATEGORIES:

- › Non-Design Project
- › Design/Construction Project

JUDGING CRITERIA:

A panel of judges from the New York State Department of Transportation, Aviation Bureau or their designees will judge the entries, and will select the NYAMA Grand Award and Honorable Mention for the Non-Design and the Design/Construction categories. The entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

- › Originality/Innovative Application of New or Existing Technologies: 30%
- › Social/Economic and Sustainable Design Considerations: 20%
- › Complexity: 10%
- › Exceeding Owner's Expectations: 10%
- › Future Value to the Aviation Planning or Engineering Profession: 30%

AWARDS:

The Phil Brito Project of the Year will be awarded annually to both the airport sponsor and the aviation consultant at the NYAMA Fall Conference and Exhibit Show. Winning entries will be notified no later than September 1st.

ENTRY FEE:

Each entry must be accompanied by an entry fee of \$250. All entry fees will be used for a student scholarship on behalf of NYAMA.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

Contact NYAMA at **518-432-9973** or **info@nyama.com** for the official Project of the Year Award Flier and for technical information. **Submit your complete and final entry to NYAMA's Albany office by July 31, 2013.** ➔

NYAMA Wants to Connect Aviation Students With Your Available Internships!

NYAMA is looking to bring our state's best and brightest aspiring young aviation professionals to internships that will help them break into the aviation industry. We would like to hear from you, our member airports and companies, about your available internships, especially as summer approaches. This will allow students to see what opportunities are available throughout New York, whether they are local or far from home.

If you are interested in promoting your aviation internship through NYAMA, please visit:

www.nyama.com/index.php/internship-submission, call **518-432-9973**, or email **info@nyama.com** for more details.

We will post your organization's internship information to NYAMA's website, and continuously promote all internships through *e-currents*.



Legislative Update

Governor Declares May 2013 “Aviation Appreciation Month”

Governor Andrew Cuomo issued a proclamation declaring May 2013 Aviation Appreciation Month to celebrate the state’s airports and aviation industries, and their contributions to New York State.

The NYAMA-backed legislative resolutions requesting the Governor’s action—passed by the Senate and Assembly — were sponsored by Senator William Larkin and Member of the Assembly Donna Lupardo, Co-Chairs of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus.

The proclamation says in part:

“The state’s aviation industry contributes a significant amount of economic benefit to the state; creating over \$50 billion in annual economic activity, employing more than

394,500 New York State residents, and generating \$18 billion in payroll tax revenue and \$4.5 billion in state and local tax revenue annually.”

“Business aviation is a critical tool for companies in New York to improve efficiency, save money, and open up opportunities for rural areas not served by commercial aviation, thereby bringing new business, investment, and jobs to all areas of the state.”

Celebrations of aviation will take place during the month of May, including the 2013 annual Bethpage Air Show at Jones Beach State Park, hosted by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, May 25-26. ✈

Aviation Jobs Act GA Tax Exemption Bill Amended; Five-Year Pilot

NYAMA initiated an amendment to the New York Aviation Jobs Act to make the measure a five-year pilot program, similar to the approach used in 2004 to enact a sales tax exemption for the maintenance and repair of GA aircraft in New York. That exemption required a study by the state to determine the effectiveness of the tax exemption. The study found a measurable increase in repairs, industry jobs, and tax revenues for the state and local governments after the enactment of the pilot. On the strength of the study, the maintenance and repair tax exemption was made permanent in 2009.

NYAMA and the legislation’s sponsors, Senator Bill Larkin and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, are confident that, given the opportunity to enact a sales and use tax exemption in New York for five years, and requiring an analysis of the impacts, this amendment will help advance the bill further in the legislative process and attract more support among state legislators. The bill, which has passed the Senate in previous sessions, currently has 16 sponsors in the Senate and 51 Assembly sponsors.

Discussion with the Governor’s Office on the Aviation Jobs Act is ongoing. ✈

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Follow us on Twitter! Follow our Twitter page for the latest NYAMA and aviation industry updates.

Industry News



Aviation's Carbon Emissions Set to Decline

Biofuels, Together with NextGen, Will Make Flying Cheaper and Reduce Emissions in the Long Run.

The aviation industry has made it clear that it needs to significantly reduce its carbon footprint. NextGen, with its ability to shorten flight times, is a good start. But biofuel development, in conjunction with NextGen and lighter planes, may hold the key to achieving this goal in the decades to come.

Biofuel is commonly associated with ethanol, lipids, and other plants and organic matter that we typically don't see on a regular basis. Corn comes to mind for many of us, given the "ethanol craze" of recent years. Aviation biofuel, still in its infancy, is far from being ready to roll out on the tarmac before your average commercial airliner takes off, but it is showing promise. Numerous startups and long-established companies have begun to experiment with biofuel production on a large-scale, and even produce it for a limited commercial market. Biofuel comes from plants other than corn, too.

Manufacturers of biofuels are likely to see the benefit of Congressional endorsements of this emerging technology. Legislative red tape and other road blocks are disappearing from the books, opening up the market for biofuels in both civilian and defense industries. The Obama Administration recently announced its renewed support for biofuel development specifically for aviation. The president's support comes in the form of working with farms, biofuel developers, and other industries to continue research into this hopeful fuel of the future. It may be an open market for aviation biofuels before we know it.

Biofuel development for aviation is also paralleling the growing presence of NextGen, which is likely to be standard in hundreds of airports in the foreseeable future. Aside from transporting passengers at a faster rate, NextGen provides the added benefit of reducing carbon emissions from each aircraft that uses the satellite guidance technology by making flight paths more

direct. Aircraft can fly closer together—they won't have to deviate as much from a straight root to avoid the risk of mid-air collisions with other planes. Aircraft will arrive at their destinations sooner, and use less fuel to get there. The unused fuel not only translates to a smaller carbon footprint, but also cheaper operating costs and lower ticket prices. The financial incentives from NextGen alone have long been the main driver behind the aviation industry's advocacy efforts to transition to it from the current antiquated radar systems, which haven't changed much in 50 years, that are still the norm at most airports.

Aviation's carbon footprint is further reduced by the rolling out of newer, lighter planes. Added to NextGen and biofuel, aircraft carbon emissions may be a fraction of what they are now by mid-century.

The relatively new biofuel industry seems poised to bring about economical ways to develop them for commercial use, and we could one day see drastically reduced ticket prices and increased sales as a result.

Some commercial airlines have already started to test the biofuel waters. Spearheading this effort is Royal Dutch Airlines, which has made pioneering flights using biokerosene produced from cooking oil. Other airlines and companies are following suit, and are feverishly working to establish their own research/development and production plants. Don't be surprised if they spring up in the coming years—there's no reason they shouldn't.

Sources: *Biofuels Digest*, *Royal Dutch Airlines*, *Flying Magazine* (Flyingmag.com) ✈

E-Currents *E-currents* is NYAMA's weekly, informative email filled with the latest aviation news and product information. Check your inbox every Thursday morning for the latest edition, and be sure to access the *e-currents* archive at www.nyama.com



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136 Everett Road | Albany, NY 12205
(518) 432-9973 ph | (518) 432-1712 fax
info@nyama.com | www.nyama.com

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Advertise at Fall Conference!

Time is running out! Interested in giving your company or airport a little more promotion? Then send us a video advertisement that does exactly that, which will be featured at September's Fall Conference and Exhibit Show in Albany. The networking opportunities at our annual Fall Conferences are endless!

ADVERTISING OPTIONS

30 second video clip: \$250 per showing

60 second video clip: \$500 per showing

If you are interested, contact NYAMA for technical specifications and more details at 518-432-9973 or info@nyama.com. All videos and related payment must be submitted to NYAMA **no later than August 15, 2013**. All videos must be on CD-ROM in QuickTime MPEG format.

Contribute to Our Fall Conference Video Slideshow!

NYAMA is asking its member organizations to send us two or three photos that best show what you are about, projects you have been working on, or something else that makes your organization stand out as unique and contributing to New York aviation. We will put these photos in a video slideshow that will be shown periodically during the conference to remind us why we are there, and why NYAMA and its members are so important to New York's future. **Contact NYAMA for details and technical specifications. All submissions must be received by July 31, 2013.**