

Air Currents

FALL 2013

New York Aviation Management Association



2013 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show



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The New York Aviation Management Association celebrated another successful year of training and advocacy at 2013's Fall Conference and Exhibit Show. This year, airport managers, corporate representatives, public officials, educators, and students gathered in Albany to share knowledge and ideas about current and emerging developments surrounding aviation.

Over 130 aviation professionals and dignitaries joined us for one of NYAMA's most successful conferences ever.

"The enthusiasm and energy of both the participants and the presenters was terrific," said Joel Russell, Manager at Albany International Airport. "Hopefully all left the Conference with new ideas, goals, and friends."

Guests participated in general information sessions and topical panels intended to educate participants and explore matters of critical importance to the aviation industry. This year's program included a first time ever "State of State Associations Panel" where leaders and representatives from aviation associations in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania discussed their respective successes, challenges, and best practices for aviation advocacy. The conference also featured an Airport Disaster Planning informational session that detailed first response and safety management best practices as well as the lessons learned by several member airports in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

"The enthusiasm and energy of both the participants and the presenters was terrific," said Joel Russell, Manager at Albany International Airport.

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ADVANCING AVIATION. ADVANCING NEW YORK!



Word on the Wing

Message from the President



Ann B. Crook, AAE
NYAMA President

Dear Friend of Aviation:

2013 has been one of the most successful years in the history of NYAMA! It has been a privilege to serve as President of this organization and I look forward to working with you once again toward further success for the aviation industry of New York.

We are anticipating another excellent upcoming year with valuable contributions from our five new Board members: Sam Arcadipane, Manager of Airports and Parks, Chautauqua County Airport; John Delbalso, Assistant Airport Manager, Albany International Airport; Ross Dubarry, Airport Manager, Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport; Peter Stearn, Vice President, Fortbrand Services; and Lee Weitz, Assistant Director of Aviation, Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Their fresh insight and new ideas will contribute greatly to NYAMA's success and vitality in the coming years. I would also like to thank my fellow Officers and Board of Directors for their hard work and continued support. Our successes this year are due in no small part to their efforts. Here are some of the highlights:

- › May was declared Aviation Appreciation Month by Governor Andrew Cuomo.
- › In March, NYAMA met with nearly 80 legislators for our state Advocacy Day to discuss the importance of the aviation industry to the state's economic health. Past President Chad Nixon and I also travelled to Washington, D.C. in February to meet with members of New York's Congressional Delegation to discuss policy, funding, and the effects of the Sequester.
- › We were successful in obtaining direct funding for New York State airports grants and aviation-related projects for the first time since 2010. \$10 million was made available through the NYSDOT Aviation Capital Grant Program, as well as through the state match of federal funding with Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants. We've also made great strides toward passing the Aviation Jobs Act, which would exempt New York-based general aviation aircraft from sales and use tax, and make New York State more competitive.
- › Our 2013 Fall Conference was a great success with over 130 attendees—one of the highest turnouts ever—representing all aspects of our state's aviation industry in attendance. We were thrilled to host local, state, and federal dignitaries as well as representatives from other state associations. We were also pleased to welcome three students from the Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, as well as their academic advisor, Philip Meade to this year's conference.
- › This year's Peer Review workshops covered a wide range of topics, including airport/aviation legal matters, wildlife management, and airport fire and emergency management. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Peer Reviews for 2013.

NYAMA stands proud of everything it has accomplished this year, and I hope you share in that pride as we look to 2014 and even greater accomplishments for our association. As always, please do not hesitate to contact our Albany office at 518-432-9973 or info@nyama.com with any questions or suggestions. I also welcome *all* members to consider participating on any of our committees, so you can better share your insights and ideas with us, and directly contribute to our state's growing aviation industry.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support!

Sincerely,

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

Association News



Conference and Exhibit Show *continued from front cover...*

Attendees were treated to a spectacular sunset and dusk view of the Hudson Valley during Thursday's dinner atop Albany's tallest building, the Corning Tower, in addition to tours of Albany International Airport, the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering at the University of Albany, and nearby Saratoga Battlefield.

NYAMA also welcomed state and local dignitaries to participate in our Welcome and Opening Session and Awards Luncheon. Special thanks to our honored guests:

Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo,
New York State Assemblywoman, 123rd Assembly District
Daniel McCoy, Albany County Executive

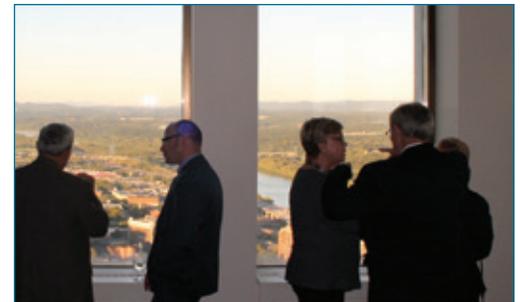
Bill Shea, NYAMA's First President and aerospace educator
and lecturer

Phillip Eng, Executive Deputy Commissioner/Chief Engineer,
New York State Department of Transportation

Thank you also to Gerardo Mendoza, Acting Director of NYSDOT's Aviation Bureau, and Steve Ulass, Manager of New York Airports District Office, Federal Aviation Administration, for providing our attendees with DOT and FAA updates, respectively. ✈️



NYAMA President Ann Crook speaks at the Welcome and Opening Session



NYAMA members mingle before dinner at the Corning Tower in Downtown Albany



Bill Shea, NYAMA's first president

At Left: Fall Conference attendees gather for the Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Reception on opening night



Association News



From left to right: Robert Rockmaker, Aviation Council of Pennsylvania; Jack McNamara, New Jersey Aviation Association; Diane Terrill, Granite State Airport Management Association; NYAMA President Ann Crook; and David Dinneen, Massachusetts Airport Management Association at the State of State Associations Panel.

THANK YOU TO OUR GUEST PANELISTS AND SPEAKERS WHO MADE THIS YEAR'S FALL CONFERENCE POSSIBLE!

Chief David Cook, Fire Chief, Albany International Airport— *“Airport Disaster Planning” Moderator*

Ann Crook, A.A.E., NYAMA President and Director of Aviation, Elmira Corning Regional Airport— *“State of State Associations” Panelist*

David Dinneen, Executive Director, Massachusetts Airport Management Association, Executive Director and Manager, Marshfield Municipal Airport, MA— *“State of State Associations” Panelist*

Carmine Gallo, Eastern Regional Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration— *“FAA Briefing”, Opening Ceremony*

Bruce Geiger, Bruce W. Geiger & Associates— *“State of State Associations” Moderator*

Michael Geiger, NYSDOT Republic Airport, Director— *“Airport Disaster Planning”*

Jacqueline Marcello, Manager, Executive Operations Staff, Federal Aviation Administration— *“FAA Briefing”, Opening Ceremony*

Jack McNamara, Past Chairman, New Jersey Aviation Association— *“State of State Associations” Panelist*

John Panarello, A.A.E., Manager of Airport Services, Teterboro Airport, NJ— *“Airport Disaster Planning”*

Robert Rockmaker, A.A.E., Executive Director, Aviation Council of Pennsylvania— *“State of State Associations” Panelist*

John Selden, General Manager of Airport Certification and Security, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey— *“Airport Disaster Planning”*

Maria Stanco, Special Process Integrator, Federal Aviation Administration— *“FAA Briefing”, Opening Ceremony*

Kevin S. King, Director, New York Department of Agriculture and Markets— *“Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Reception”*

Diane Terrill, PMP, President, Granite State Airport Management Association— *“State of State Associations” Panelist*

Tom Wutz, Chief (Ret.) Fire Services Bureau for the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control— *“Airport Disaster Planning”*

Association News



Phil Brito Project of the Year Award

NYAMA would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Phil Brito Project of the Year Award, which recognizes 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. Entries were reviewed by the New York State Department of Transportation's Aviation Bureau, the award's administrator. Special thanks to NYSDOT for its assistance, and to Phillip Eng, NYSDOT Executive Deputy Commissioner/Chief Engineer for presenting this prestigious award at our Fall Conference Thursday Luncheon. Entry fees collected from the Phil Brito Award are used, in their entirety, to fund student scholarships for annual Fall Conference registration or aviation-related courses of study on behalf of NYAMA.

Design/ Construction Category

Winner: McFarland Johnson

McFarland Johnson's winning design/ construction entry was a runway extension project for Elmira Corning Regional Airport. The staff of McFarland Johnson provided a comprehensive, innovative, and original solution to mitigating significant impacts related to a 400 foot extension of the primary runway. Utilizing an Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS), McFarland Johnson was able to accomplish all construction without any relocation or impact to nearby Sing Sing Creek or Chambers Road. Their innovative application of EMAS technology was critical to the successful and timely completion of the project.

McFarland Johnson also received second place for a project completed at Greater Binghamton Airport. The primary runway was not in compliance with current Runway Safety Area (RSA) standards and was identified as a High Priority Project by the FAA. McFarland Johnson staff evaluated retrofit alternatives to providing the required RSA clear space for the existing runway elevation. EMAS was again employed to shorten the length of the required extension, which was the critical factor for the project's viability for cost, schedule, and minimal environmental-related impacts.



Representatives from 2013 Phil Brito Project of the Year Award winner McFarland Johnson accept their award from Philip Eng, NYSDOT.

Association News

Bill Shea Award

NYAMA was honored, as always, to welcome Bill Shea, a former airport director, FAA Administrator, educator, lecturer, and founding President of NYAMA as a distinguished guest at this year's Fall Conference.

The Bill Shea Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and effected positive change in the aviation industry in New York State. Those eligible for the Award must have gone beyond the call of duty and given their time, energy, and resources to significantly impact the aviation industry in New York State for the better. This year's recipient has certainly done that and more throughout his long career of service.



2013 Bill Shea Award winner Otto Suriani and Bill Shea

The New York Aviation Management Association is pleased to present this year's Bill Shea Award to Otto Suriani. Mr. Suriani's career in aviation has included over 50 years of service to the FAA, the last 40 of which were spent in the FAA's New York Airports District Office with positions ranging from planner to engineer, specialist to supervisor, and three-time acting manager.

"There is not a single airport in New York that Otto Suriani has not helped," said NYAMA President Ann Crook. "Honoring him with the Bill Shea Award is only small thanks for the years of improvement that he has brought to our industry."

There is no one who better exemplifies the dedication of the NYADO to its customers than Otto Suriani. Over the course of his long career, he has put so much of his time, effort, experience and a huge amount of his heart into fighting for fair and equitable treatment of NYAMA's airports. Otto is well-deserving of this year's Bill Shea Award.

President's Award

In recognition of her outstanding dedication to strengthening the aviation industry in New York State through persistent advocacy, NYAMA proudly honored New York State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo (Assembly District 123) with the 2013 NYAMA President's Award. Assemblywoman Lupardo was on hand at the conference to accept her award during the Thursday Luncheon.

Assemblywoman Lupardo has been a tenacious leader and a devoted supporter for NYAMA's airport and aviation advocacy in the State Assembly. She is Co-Chair of the 100+ member bi-partisan Legislative Aviation Caucus, along with fellow Co-Chair Senator William Larkin. Much of the progress NYAMA has realized in the Legislature over the past year is due in no small part to Assemblywoman Lupardo's hard work and her belief in the integral role aviation holds in the future of our state.

"Assemblywoman Lupardo has been a tireless advocate for New York's aviation industry within the Legislature," said NYAMA President Ann Crook. "She truly understands the safety, security, and economic rewards that airports bring to the people of New York."

"I was honored to be presented with the New York Aviation Management Association's President's Award," said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo (D-Endwell). "As Co-Chair



2013 NYAMA President's Award winner Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo with NYAMA President Ann Crook and NYAMA Board member Carl Beardsley of Greater Binghamton Airport.

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of Legislative Aviation Caucus, and member of the Assembly Transportation Committee, strengthening the aviation industry in New York State is one of my top priorities. I would like to thank Ann Crook, President of NYAMA, for recognizing me in this way. My father, a WWII Army Air Corps Flight Mechanic, would be very proud.”

NYAMA Lifetime Achievement Award



Henry Ogrodzinski

This Year, the Welcome and Opening Session of the Fall Conference had extra significance thanks to the special presentation of the NYAMA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The NYAMA Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes significant contributions by an individual or company on behalf of the aviation industry in the state and

nation, and is bestowed only on occasion to recognize such significant accomplishments and contributions.

The 2013 NYAMA lifetime Achievement Award went to Henry Ogrodzinski, who accepted remotely via video conference in the presence of all conference attendees.

Ogrodzinski has been the President and CEO of the National Association of State Aviation Officials and its non-profit foundation since 1996. His impressive service to the aviation industry extends nearly forty years.

Ogrodzinski is a veteran of the US Army and an honors graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, with a BA in Journalism - Mass Communication. He is a member of many aviation organizations and the recipient of numerous military and civilian awards. Ogrodzinski is often quoted by the news media as a perceptive observer of the aviation industry. He serves on a number of government and industry panels, such as the US Aviation Security Advisory Committee Working Group on General Aviation (Co-Chairman), the Board of Nominations of the National Aviation Hall of Fame, a member of the Collier and Brewer trophy Selection Committees, a member of the National Aeronautic Association's Board of Directors, and he was the 2004 President of the Aero Club of Washington.



2013 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Henry Ogrodzinski received his award via video conference.

“Henry Ogrodzinski has been a tireless advocate for general aviation for 40 years,” said NYAMA President Ann Crook. “NYAMA reserves our Lifetime Achievement Award for only those who have truly changed our industry for the better. We are grateful for Henry’s contributions to aviation in New York and beyond.”

Ogrodzinski has demonstrated his passion for and excellence in promoting the positive aspects of general aviation throughout his career. He is broadly recognized nationwide and beyond our borders as a political leader in the aviation industry. Ogrodzinski’s decades of service, advocacy, and devotion have immeasurably benefitted the aviation industry in New York State and the rest of the country. ✈️

Association News



Wrapping Up...

The New York Aviation Management Association acknowledges the dedication and hard work of this year's Fall Conference Planning Committee members. Thank you to Joel Russell, William Vanecek, Theresa DiGiuseppe, Jennifer McIntyre, and Michael Churchill for making this year's conference such a resounding success. NYAMA would also like to recognize the staff at the Desmond Albany Hotel and Conference Center and the Empire State Plaza's Corning Tower, as well as the City of Albany for its generous support. Thank you to all of the attendees, sponsors, vendors, and everyone else who made this year's Fall Conference possible. Next year's conference in Syracuse is just around the corner!

This Year's Phil Brito Scholarship Recipients

This year's Phil Brito Scholarships went to three students from Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. Thank you to Patrick Batey, Corey Clark, and Lacy Dickinson for making NYAMA a part of your education. Special thanks to Phillip Meade, Executive Director of Career Services at Vaughn College, for working with our Academic Outreach Committee to make these students a part of Fall Conference.



Thank You Fall Conference Exhibitors!

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Fortbrand Services	Syracuse CVB
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Stantec Consulting Services

Bronze

Buffalo Niagara International Airport
Fritz Kass
Greater Rochester International Airport
Republic Parking System
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Shumaker Consulting Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C.
Syracuse Hancock International Airport
Zodiac Aerospace-ESCO

Additional Sponsors:

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Association News

NYAMA Welcomes Five New Members to its Board of Directors



Sam Arcadipane
*Manager of Airports and Parks
Chautauqua County Airport*

Sam Arcadipane was appointed Manager of Airports and Parks in November 2012, overseeing the Chautauqua County Airport. Prior to this appointment, Sam served for four years as a volunteer member of the Chautauqua County Airport Commission.

During the past year as Airports Manager, Sam has engaged the airport's promotional needs in order to attract and grow airline services for the Chautauqua County region.

Sam attended Jamestown Community College, majoring in Police Science. In 1972, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and became a USAF Fire Protection Specialist in the Fire Prevention Division. He also served on Local Base Rescue as part of Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service.

In 1976, Sam became a career firefighter with the City of Jamestown, NY. During his career, he again attended JCC and received an A.A.S. Degree in Fire Science in 1989. In 1988, he was selected to be a team member of the city's Fire Investigation/Arson Unit, and attended many state and federal sponsored certification programs. Sam was promoted to Lieutenant in 1993 after receiving a certification for First Line Supervisor from the FDNY Officer Training Academy. Returning to duty with the Jamestown Fire Department, he was assigned full-time to the Office of Fire Prevention and Investigations. Following his retirement, City of Jamestown Officials asked Sam to return as Fire Chief, and he returned to lead the fire department for three years.

Sam is an avid downhill skier, pilots his own powered paraglider, and enjoys camping, hunting and fishing. He lives in Gerry, NY with his wife, Sharon.



John DelBalso
*Assistant Airport Manager
Albany International Airport*

John DelBalso currently serves as the Assistant Airport Manager of Albany International Airport. He has held several positions at the Albany International Airport over the past 13 years. John

has experience in a wide range of aviation-related services.

In November of 1999, Staff Sergeant DelBalso left a nine-year career in the United States Marine Corps as an air crewman, mechanic, and quality assurance inspector. His most notable assignment was with the Presidential Helicopter Squadron, known as HMX-1. This brought John to points all across the globe supporting the President's travel. John was also deployed to Somalia, as part of Operation Restore Hope, where he was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

A native of Latham, NY, John is a proud graduate of Shaker High School. He attended the State University of New York, Empire State College, and graduated with a BS in Business Management and Economics. He has also successfully obtained his AAAE Certified Member designation and continues to work towards his A.A.E.

Aside from his work with NYAMA, John is also active with the Boy Scouts of America, serving on the committee for his local troop, and is also a member of the American Legion. He is an avid golfer and enjoys camping and hiking with his family and friends. John resides in Mechanicville, NY with his wife Danielle, and three sons: John, Anthony, and Adam.



Ross Dubarry
*Airport Manager
Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport*

Ross Dubarry's interest in aviation began at an early age, stemming from his father's Air Force career as a DC-3 pilot. Ross graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1999 with a B.S in Aerospace Studies, including a pilot license and minors in Aviation Weather, Aviation Safety, and Air Traffic Control.

Ross began his professional career at the Westchester County Airport (HPN) in early 2000 in Airport Operations.

In September of 2004, Ross became the Airport Operations Manager for the Hayward Executive Airport (HWD) in California, and in 2007 was promoted to Airport Manager. During his tenure at HWD he worked on a runway extension, a helicopter parking apron with wash rack, three new private

Association News



NYAMA Welcomes Five New Members to its Board of Directors

corporate jet hangars, a new airport-wide video surveillance system, an upgrade to the aircraft noise monitoring system, and several non-aviation business development projects, including a new shopping center with a Target anchor store.

In March of 2008, Ross accepted the position of Airport Manager at the Adirondack Regional Airport (SLK) in Saranac Lake, NY. This position afforded him the opportunity to manage an airport-owned and operated FBO.

In December of 2011 Ross accepted the position of Airport Manager at the Floyd D. Bennett Memorial Airport (GFL) for Warren County, NY. Ross is responsible for hosting the annual Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival, which is now in its 42nd year and brings 150,000 to 200,000 spectators to the airport every year.



Peter Stearn
Vice President
Fortbrand Services, Inc.

Peter Stearn is the Vice President of Fortbrand Services, which has been in the business of selling, buying, leasing, financing, renting, and maintaining new and used aircraft ground support equipment for over 30 years. Fortbrand Services is also the exclusive North American distributor for a wide range of unique airport airfield maintenance equipment.

Prior to joining Fortbrand Services, Peter spent 10 years in the financial services industry. His most recent position was Senior Vice President of The Navigator Group, an independent leasing company, where he specialized in originating, structuring and funding leases of aviation ground support equipment.

He has also worked at the The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, where he served as Vice President in the Structured Finance Group, developing new business and managing a portfolio of loans to highly leveraged companies in a wide variety of industries. Peter has also worked for JPMorgan Chase Bank.



Lee Weitz
Deputy Director, Aviation
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

In addition to his new position on NYAMA's Board of Directors, Peter also serves on the Board of the International Airport Equipment Manufacturers' Association (IAEMA), and is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). Peter is a graduate of Duke University.

Lee Weitz joined the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority in 2005 as the Assistant Director of Aviation responsible for the oversight of all maintenance and airport operations.

He has 28 years of aviation experience working in various management capacities for the major air carrier US Airways.

As the Director at the US Airways hub location in Pittsburgh, Lee was responsible for all aspects of flight operations and customer service, directing a flight operation of 400 departures a day with numerous International and cross-border destinations including Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Europe.

Prior to overseeing the Pittsburgh hub operation, Lee spent time as a director or general manager in numerous east-coast cities including Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and Newark, N.J.

A native of Buffalo, Lee attended Alfred State University and graduated from Wilmington University with an MS degree in Human Resource Management.

Aside from his work with NYAMA, Lee also serves on the board of the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce, and is a past Executive Committee member, serving as Chairman in 2010. He is an avid cyclist and is currently training for a 100 mile century ride to benefit the Lymphoma and Leukemia organization of Western New York.

Lee resides with his wife Judy in Clarence. His daughter Karli lives in Watertown, and his son Brad is currently studying Biomedical Services at the University at Buffalo.



Association News

Another Successful Year for NYAMA's Peer Review Workshops

With October's two Peer Review workshops completed, another successful year of NYAMA-sponsored training programs came to a close. The Wildlife Management Peer Review and the second Fire Chief Peer Review were the last of five sessions NYAMA held this year, each well-attended and well-received.

"We appreciate the hospitality of all the host airports and organizations," said Joel Russell, Chair of NYAMA's Training Committee, who helped to organize the events.

The Wildlife Management Peer Review was held at Westchester County Airport and featured great presentations from Westchester and Stewart International Airport on their best practices in observing FAA and USDA recommendations and requirements. 17 participants from three airports, three consulting firms, and USDA were in attendance, as well as FAA representatives Teresa Rizzuto, Manager, Safety and Standards Branch, and Evelyn Martinez, Lead Airport Certification Safety Inspector. Attendees also participated in a tour of Westchester Airport's wildlife management practices and facilities.

"Good wildlife management plans are vital to airport safety," said Steve Ferguson, Assistant Airport Manager of Westchester County Airport. This year's Wildlife Management Peer Review was important in that we had great representation and participation from several airports, as well as USDA and FAA officials. We hope to continue to host this event on an annual basis."

Syracuse Hancock International Airport hosted the second Fire Chief Peer Review of the year, which discussed the establishment of a state wide mutual aid program. The review was attended by 16 participants including representatives from eight airports, a consulting firm, New York State, and the Air National Guard who discussed community relations best practices and shared the ways that airports can help each other to overcome challenges and crises.



Save the Date!

NYAMA's 2014 Advocacy Day will be held on March 11th and 12th in Albany! More details to come...



Legislative Update

Legislative Update

by Bruce Geiger, Bruce W. Geiger & Associates

With the State Legislature in recess until January, NYAMA has been focused on advancing the NY Aviation Jobs Act. This legislation is designed to reform the state's tax treatment of general aviation aircraft so as to allow New York to compete effectively with neighboring states for based aircraft.

AJA Getting Long Look at DOB, Governor's Office

On September 20th, NYAMA leaders met with State Budget Director Robert Megna, a top fiscal advisor to the Governor, and Mary Louise Mallick, another of the Governor's budget counselors. This was a great opportunity for NYAMA to re-engage the Governor's Office at the highest levels of fiscal policy making on the AJA. Budget Director Megna said that the AJA will be part of the discussion as they move forward on developing the executive budget.

A few weeks later on October 4th, NYAMA representatives met with Robert Plattner, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Tax Policy Analysis for the Department of Finance and Revenue. Plattner, who is also the director of the Governor's Tax Reform and Fairness Commission, had some helpful perspectives on tax policy and how an aircraft tax exemption is viewed by tax planners. Also, tax staff offered to make a technical review of our bill language, suggesting that there are some language changes they may prefer—a clear sign that they have taken a closer interest in the AJA.

New York State Tax Relief Commission

Earlier in October, Governor Cuomo established an additional commission, the New York State Tax Relief Commission, to identify ways to reduce tax burdens on New York's families and businesses. The new commission will be led by former Governor George Pataki and former Comptroller H. Carl McCall. The Commission's recommendations will be due by December 6, 2013 for inclusion in the Governor's 2014 State of the State message. The new Tax Relief Commission will collaborate with the Tax Reform and Fairness Commission, launched last December, to conduct a comprehensive review of the State's taxation policy, including corporate, sales and personal income taxation, and make recommendations to improve and simplify the current tax system.

According to the Governor, the Tax Relief Commission's recommendations may include business tax relief proposals

to encourage job creation and economic growth, as well as other ideas to reduce the tax burden on families and businesses that will make New York State more competitive with other states.

Because of the obvious connection between the mission of the Tax Relief Commission and the goal behind the AJA, NYAMA is seeking a meeting with the commission leadership as soon as possible to urge that aviation tax relief be among the Commission's recommendations.

Port Authority Noise Study Bill A.7697 (Titus)/S.3841 (Hannon)

The bill to require the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to conduct a noise and land use compatibility study, which passed both houses of the legislature, was vetoed by Governor Cuomo. NYAMA opposed this bill on the grounds that the federal government is appropriately vested with the regulatory jurisdiction for aviation operations, including mitigating noise associated with airport operations. While the Governor in his veto message directs the Port Authority to conduct a noise study in cooperation with the FAA for the Port's New York airports, the veto supports the policy that such noise studies be initiated at the discretion of the airport sponsor, as opposed to legislative mandate, and conducted in accordance with FAA rules and oversight.

Taste NY Initiative

"Taste NY" brands New York products at special events, tourism destinations and stores throughout the state, making these products more readily available and recognizable to New York residents and tourists. "Taste NY" tents, stores and events, some located at airports, will soon be seen promoting agricultural products grown, and food and beverages processed, within New York State to everyone. The Department of Agriculture and Markets has reached out to some of our airport members to discuss establishing Taste NY opportunities. ✈️

Industry News



Airport Improvement Projects

2013 was a phenomenal year for airport improvement grants in New York State. State and federal funding programs poured over \$100 million into the upkeep, expansion, and enrichment of New York's airports.

Over 100 projects at 55 airports throughout New York received grants from the FAA's Airport Improvement Program. Grants totaled more than \$105 million in entitlement and discretionary awards, with 25 airports receiving \$1 million or more. The funds will be used for equipment acquisitions, runway, taxiway, and apron construction and rehabilitation, and terminal improvements. Recipients of the largest awards were JFK International Airport with grants totaling over \$13 million for two taxiway rehabilitation projects; Greater Rochester International Airport received grants for apron and taxiway rehabilitation and runway safety improvement projects totaling \$8.6 million; Syracuse Hancock International Airport was awarded \$7.7 million for apron and taxiway construction and the installation of a VALE system; Plattsburgh International Airport received \$6.9 million for terminal expansion and fuel farm and utilities improvements; and Griffiss International Airport received grants totaling \$6.7 million for terminal and taxiway rehabilitation.

In addition to federal funding, \$7 million of the \$10 million made available through the New York State Department of Transportation Aviation Capital Grant Program was awarded to airports across the state, with further awards to come next year. The largest grants, \$1 million each, were awarded to Genesee County and Plattsburgh International Airports for terminal construction and expansion projects. Hamilton Municipal and Adirondack Regional Airports also received sizable awards (\$748,000 and \$598,500) for the construction of new hangars. State funding was also provided through the state match of AIP funding—one of NYAMA's legislative victories this year.

By ensuring New York's airports remain vibrant, functional and safe, AIP and Aviation Capital Grant Program-funded projects provide regional economic benefits through construction-related employment and increased airport passenger service capability. These awards suggest that legislators have heard the message that airports are vital capital assets and that they support their constituents when they support the aviation industry. ✈️

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

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