

Air Currents

SPRING 2012

New York Aviation Management Association



NY Aviation Leaders Promote Airports, Aviation, Economic Development, Jobs



NYAMA leaders and advocates met with Senator Charles Fuschillo, Jr. during Aviation Advocacy Day.

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NEW YORK
Aviation Management Association
NYAMA

On Tuesday, March 20 NYAMA members traveled to Albany to meet with state lawmakers to discuss the aviation sector's leading role in the economy of New York State.

"The significance of aviation's contribution to the State's economy and workforce needs to be recognized by policymakers," said Chad Nixon, President of the New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA). "Our industry is responsible for over \$50 billion in annual economic activity and employs nearly 400,000 state residents, generating over \$4.5 billion in state and local tax revenue annually," Nixon explained.

NYAMA's primary message to Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York State Legislators was despite this outstanding contribution, further job growth and economic development is hindered by the lack of state investment in aviation infrastructure. Also, stifling tax policies make it extremely difficult for NY's aviation sector to effectively compete with neighboring states for aircraft and the jobs that go with them.

Our industry is responsible for over \$50 billion in annual economic activity and employs nearly 400,000 state residents, generating over \$4.5 billion in state and local tax revenue annually

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ADVANCING AVIATION. ADVANCING NEW YORK!



Word on the Wing

Message from the President



Chad G. Nixon
NYAMA President

Dear Friend of Aviation:

The NYAMA Board has been very active in representing the needs of aviation at both the Federal and State level this year.

On February 14, we gathered as a full Board and scheduled key appointments with legislative leaders in Albany. We wanted to make sure that our issues were discussed and understood well in advance of Advocacy Day.

NYAMA Vice President Ann Crook and I also represented NYAMA by travelling to Washington, DC to meet with FAA staff, members of Congress, and staff from national aviation groups during the week of February 27, 2012.



NYAMA President Chad Nixon (center) and Vice President Ann Crook in Washington, DC meeting with Congressman Hanna (24th Congressional District.)

Of course, we held our Advocacy Day in Albany on March 20 which saw our best participation ever with about 45 in attendance. Together, we were able to meet with more than 75 legislators and staff to discuss the needs of aviation. Some of the many highlights included:

- › Meeting with the Governor's Deputy Secretary for Economic Development Leecia Eve about the Aviation Jobs Bill and specifically the tax exemption on the purchase of GA aircraft.
- › The participation and the recognition by both the Senate and Assembly of 3 Dowling College students who were in attendance: Danielle Cirimello, Jonathan Curley, and Andrew Bush.
- › An evening legislative meeting where we recognized members of the NY Legislative Aviation Caucus, which is over 100 members strong.

Mark Your Calendar for the Fall Conference!

On September 19-21, 2012, NYAMA will hold its Annual Fall Conference and Exhibit Show at Sheraton at the Falls in Niagara Falls, NY. The conference is hosted by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, sponsor of the Niagara Falls International Airport and Buffalo Niagara 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!

Sincerely,

Chad G. Nixon
NYAMA President
McFarland Johnson, Inc.

Association News



NYAMA Goes to Washington

NYAMA President Chad Nixon and Vice President Ann Crook met with FAA Headquarters Staff and members of Congress in Washington, DC during the week of February 27th, 2012. At one point, they were told that New York is only one of about four states actively involved in discussions at the Federal level.

At every stop, Chad and Ann were able to discuss some of NYAMA's efforts at the State level and share the Economic Impact of Aviation Study completed by NYSDOT. The meetings included members and staff from the offices of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressman Tom Reed, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Congressman Peter King, Congressman Richard Hanna, Congressman Bill Owens, and Congressman Brian Higgins.

Much of the discussion surrounded the impact of the new FAA Reauthorization Bill and other funding issues. One specific item mentioned was developing guidance to provide some EAS airports with a 5% local match instead of 10%. This guidance was sent out recently. New York airports identified for 95% funding vs 90% funding are Jamestown, Massena, Ogdensburg and Saranac Lake/Lake Placid.

There was discussion with FAA staff about policy and guidance surrounding mineral extraction and the ASSET Study for small airports. Chad and Ann were also able to meet with executives from ACI—North America, AAAE, and NASAO.

Across the board, everyone welcomed the growing partnership with NYAMA. The NYAMA Board has established the Washington trip as a priority for future years.

Please feel free to contact the NYAMA office at 518-432-9973 with questions or comments about how we may continue to support you in these important meetings. ✈

New York is only one of about four states actively involved in discussions at the Federal Level.



Nixon and Crook meet with Christa Fornarotto, FAA Associate Administrator for Airports.

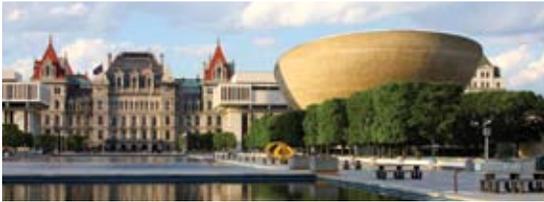
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Like Us on Facebook! Join New York State's powerful aviation industry social network and connect with your colleagues.



Join the Group! Targeted specifically towards members and industry professionals, there is no better place to network, build & maintain professional relationships and share best practices. Expand your professional network today on LinkedIn!



Association News



Advocacy Day *continued from front cover...*

According to the New York State Department of Transportation, New York’s airports need between \$20 million-\$30 million annually in order to maintain current facilities and levels of service. The state budget proposals so far have no state funding for this purpose.

“New York airports must have a portion of the revenues they generate for the state returned to aviation in the form of state assisted economic and business capital development projects through a dedicated annual funding source,” Nixon urged.

New state funding for airports is especially critical this year as the recently enacted federal FAA Reauthorization reduced the federal share of funding for airports from 95% to 90%. NYAMA is concerned that the amount of funding set aside by the state in the proposed budget will not be enough to meet the local share and maximize federal aviation dollars to New York.

“The \$4 million currently budgeted by New York State to cover half of the “local share” of federal airport projects is expected to be well short of what will be necessary to ensure that all available federal funding for airport projects will be utilized going forward,” Mr. Nixon warned.

In addition to restoring critical aviation funding in the state budget, NYAMA sought the enactment of the “New York Aviation Jobs Act,” as a way to stimulate the location of more revenue-producing business jets in the state according to FAA records. Since 2002, New York has lost nearly 700 based aircraft due in part to more favorable tax treatment and aggressive marketing and airport-development strategies undertaken by other states in the Northeast.

A State transportation department study on the impacts of aviation finds that direct revenue impacts per business jet are up to five direct jobs and approximately \$1 million in spending in the communities where the planes are located. Attracting more business and corporate aviation to airports is a key to increasing airport revenues and generating jobs, according to the department.

“The absence of meaningful state funding, uncompetitive state aviation tax policies and the low profile given New York airports and aviation industries by state economic development officials and policymakers, leads to a perception



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Association News



Advocacy Day Highlights



among investors that New York is unfriendly to aviation,” said Nixon. “This perception has contributed to the loss of hundreds of general aviation based aircraft in New York,” Mr. Nixon charged. “It’s demonstrably easier for an owner or business to locate their planes and flight departments in other states and just fly in and out of New York to do business. We want the planes, jobs, economic activity and state and local revenues here!”



NYAMA Recognizes Aviation Caucus Members

During our annual Legislative Reception a number of Legislators joined NYAMA members, and we took the opportunity to thank and recognize those members of the Aviation Caucus. President Chad Nixon also gave special recognition to Co-Chairs Assemblymember Donna Lupardo and Senator William Larkin for their support of aviation in New York. Their support and leadership is essential in order to sustain New York’s competitiveness with other states.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NYAMA FALL CONFERENCE

The 2012 New York Aviation Management Association Fall Conference and Exhibit Show represents NYAMA’s 36th year of successful training and advocacy for New York’s airport industry. This year’s event is hosted by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, sponsor of the Niagara Falls International Airport and Buffalo Niagara International Airport September 19-21.

The conference is designed to provide airport managers, corporate representatives, and public officials a forum for education, networking and a professional exchange of knowledge and innovation. The conference offers both general and concurrent sessions of specific interest to small and large airport managers, fixed base operators, and the corporate community supporting the aviation industry. Sessions address topics as diverse as economic growth, sustainable airport operations, airport security, advocacy efforts, and much more. Watch nyama.com for more information.



Association News

2012 Phil Brito Project of the Year Award

This award has been created in order to recognize 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 completed within the previous calendar year 2011.
- 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.

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 award 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%**

Submit your complete and final entry to the NYAMA office by July 1, 2012. Entry materials must include the completed Official NYAMA Project of the Year Entry Form, a project write-up, and a project board. 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.

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. Winning entries will be notified no later than September 1st.

The Official NYAMA Project of the Year Entry Form is available on our website. For further information, please contact NYAMA by phone at (518) 432-9973 or email info@nyama.com.

Association News



NYAMA

2012 Peer Review Training Sessions

We're starting a new year of strategic learning opportunities through our upcoming Peer Review sessions. Please feel free to contact us by phone at 518-432-9973 or email at info@nyama.com with any questions about the following sessions:

Snow Removal: Wednesday, June 13 // 10:00am-2:00pm // HPN

This discussion will focus on the individual elements of successful Airport Snow Removal. Elements will include: Airfield Snow Equipment Options, Effective Snow Removal Practices, Push/Pile/Melt, Chemicals - When to Use, and Friction Measurement.

The Peer Group discussion will be hosted by Peter Stearn of Fortbrand Services. Westchester County Airport will also make equipment available for review.

Incorporating Sustainability: Wednesday, June 13

// 10:00am-2:00pm // SYR

This discussion will focus on incorporating sustainability into airport design and operations. Topics will include: storm water management, land and natural resource management, solid waste and recycling, and other associated topics.

Tim Hughes from C&S Engineers will be the moderator. The session will be hosted by Syracuse Hancock International Airport at the Syracuse Center of Excellence.

General Aviation Airports and FBO Operators Roundtable:

Wednesday, July 11 // 10:00am-2:00pm // HPN

This session is designed as an opportunity for GA Airports and FBO operators to learn together about the latest trends in the industry and to share information, ideas, and concerns. Learn about building community support. Get updates on General Aviation and FBO issues and programs that affect your airport. Share ideas for preventative maintenance and security initiatives. And find out more about what NYAMA has done to support you and your airport!

The Peer Group discussion will be hosted by URS at Westchester County Airport.

Fall Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

Support NYAMA's 2012 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show! Your sponsorship helps us provide airport managers, corporate representatives, and public officials a forum for education, networking and a professional exchange of knowledge and innovation. Visit our website, www.nyama.com, to download an Early Sponsorship Form.

Sponsorship Levels

Platinum	\$7,500+
Gold	\$5,000+
Silver	\$2,500+
Bronze	\$1,000+

Event Sponsorships: All Platinum and Gold Sponsors may receive additional recognition for the conference event of their choice. Preferred events include: golf outing, keynote speaker, first timers dinner, or one of the evening receptions. Contact Michael Thompson at Association Headquarters with questions or for more details: (518) 432-9973, info@nyama.com.



Association News

New York State Poised to Celebrate Aviation Appreciation Month

NYAMA-Initiated Resolution Passes Both Houses

In late April, a resolution initiated by NYAMA -- **Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2012, as Aviation Appreciation Month in the State of New York** -- passed both the New York State Senate and the Assembly. The resolution was sponsored by Senator William Larkin and Assemblymember Donna Lupardo, Co-Chairs of the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus.

"The significance of aviation's contribution to the State's economy and workforce should be celebrated," said Chad Nixon, President of the New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA). "Our industry is responsible for over \$50 billion in annual economic activity and employs nearly 400,000 state residents. This

resolution appropriately recognizes the positive impacts of aviation on the lives of all New Yorkers."

A host of governors from across the country have issued proclamations recognizing the value of aviation in their states. Nearly 40 states in all have adopted similar measures, including Vermont, Massachusetts, Texas, and Florida.

"On behalf of NYAMA members and aviation industry professionals doing business in New York State, I thank the State legislature, and particularly Senator Larkin and Assemblymember Lupardo. They have been tremendous advocates for aviation along with the entire New York Legislative Aviation Caucus," exclaimed Nixon.

Visit www.nyama.com for the full resolution. ✈

NYS Implementing New Statewide Financial System

As you are aware, New York State is implementing a new Statewide Financial System (SFS) as of April 2012. This new system will enable you to access, on-line at any time, a significant amount of information about your business with New York. This will include the status of purchase orders and invoices and pending payments, as well as a history of all your payments made on or after April 1, 2012 (including electronic payments or ACH). Accordingly, you will no longer be receiving separate email notification of payments. In addition, you will be able to easily update your business address and contact information at one time for every agency. All of this is available to you when you login to the NYS Vendor Self-Service Portal at <https://vendor.sfs.ny.gov>.

The history of payments made prior to April 2012 is still available as it is currently by using the Office of the State Comptroller's Payment Information Inquiry link: <http://wwe1.osc.state.ny.us/ach1/achPAF.cfm>.

The Primary Contact for your business (this may be you or someone else) should already have received an email from us with a User ID and Password that allows this individual to register in the Self-Service Portal and access the available information. If your Primary Contact did not receive the email or you have encountered other problems when logging into the Self-Service Portal, contact the SFS Help Desk by phone: (855) 233-8363 or email: helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov.

Please visit our website, under "Resources For Vendors Doing Business with NYS" for more information on the Self-Service Portal and additional guidance about the NYS Vendor file http://www.osc.state.ny.us/vendor_management/index.htm.

Thank you for doing business with New York State. ✈

Industry News



Airport Details Terminal and Airfield Improvements

The Albany County Airport Authority has outlined over \$15 million in construction projects and improvements it plans to make to the Albany International Airport's terminal and infrastructure during the next year.

"We are constantly looking at innovative systems and procedures to improve our passengers' experience and to introduce operational efficiencies at the Airport," said David E. Langdon, Chairman of the Albany County Airport Authority.

The projects include a phased program to "re-light" the terminal with cost efficient LED lighting and the expansion of a major aircraft maintenance hangar.

The Albany International Airport's annual power bill is \$2.7 million, equivalent to that of more than 1,300 homes. The LED and high efficiency lighting projects will begin on the third level of the terminal and then proceed to the remaining two floors. Studies have shown that LED lighting can reduce lighting costs by 75-80 percent through both energy savings and avoided maintenance costs. The total savings are estimated to be \$300,000 annually upon completion of the project.

The largest project to be undertaken will be the \$4.2 million expansion of the current aircraft maintenance hangar located in the northwest quadrant of the Airport. The expansion will provide necessary enclosed maintenance space for additional large aircraft.

One project already underway is the total replacement of the terminal's terrazzo floor. The \$800,000 project began in early February and will take up to three months to complete. The project which requires the current floor to be removed, has been designed to be completed in stages to enable airline ticket counters to remain operational during the construction.

Other projects include:

- Replacing 625,300 square feet of terminal aircraft ramp with new asphalt
- Upgrading airfield electrical supply and emergency generator
- Purchase of additional snow fighting equipment
- Installation of an electronic baggage system to support TSA baggage screening
- Construction of 3.5 million gallon holding tank for glycol collection and disposal
- Construction of 80' by 120' airfield storage building
- Improvements to E-Lot Parking Toll Plaza
- Replace terminal chairs and carpeting
- Pave terminal access road
- Improve airfield access for emergency equipment
- Replace aged roof on Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting headquarters
- Replace windows, heating system, entrance and facade in 45-year-old Administration Building

The total cost of the projects is estimated at \$15.8 million. Much of the cost will be covered by FAA Airport Improvement Program funds dedicated to Albany International Airport. ✈️

Governor Cuomo Announces Howard Zemsky Confirmed as Chair of Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

(May 15, 2012)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the State Senate has confirmed Howard Zemsky as Chairman of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA).

"As Chair of NFTA, Howard Zemsky will bring a lifetime of experience managing major private sector and not-for-profit organizations in Western New York to the helm of this important public transit authority," Governor Cuomo said. "Mr. Zemsky's business acumen and deep roots in the local economies of Niagara and Erie counties will be an asset to the NFTA leadership team as they seek to provide quality and reliable service to the residents of Buffalo and Western New York. I thank Acting Chairman Henry Sloma for his hard work and leadership, and commend the Senate for Mr. Zemsky's swift confirmation."

Howard Zemsky said, "I thank the Senate for the confirmation, and thank Governor Cuomo for this appointment. The Governor has made rebuilding Buffalo and Western New York a top priority, and I look forward to doing all I can in this new role to reinvigorate our region. Many New Yorkers rely on the services provided by NFTA and by working together with the NFTA Commissioners we will work to ensure top quality public transportation is available here in Erie and Niagara Counties."

Mr. Zemsky is managing partner of Larkin Development Group as well as a principal of Niagara's Finest Inns and managing partner of Taurus

[continued on page 11...](#)



Industry News

New Study: America's Airports are Vital Economic Hubs

Airports, Inc. Account for 10.5 Million Jobs, Up 56% Since 2001

WASHINGTON, D.C. – America's commercial airports are a powerful economic engine, generating 10.5 million jobs and \$1.2 trillion in total economic impact, according to a new study released today by the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA).

The Economic Impact of Commercial Airports in 2010 quantifies the contributions of 490 commercial airports in the United States, dubbed "Airports, Inc." The analysis, prepared by CDM Smith, concludes that in addition to the broader impacts, airports also are powerful economic multipliers in communities and states nationwide.

U.S. airports have generated 56 percent more jobs in America's communities since ACI-NA last studied airports' total economic impact in 2001. More information about the contributions of

airports at the national and state levels can be found at www.airportsforthefuture.org.

In 2010, airports were responsible for about 8 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), and an estimated 7 percent of jobs. And with domestic passenger travel projected to grow from 713 million to 1 billion enplanements in the next decade, the industry is poised to expand rapidly.

"This analysis confirms that America's airports are economic hubs that drive our local, state and national economies, both inside and outside the airport fence line," said Greg Principato, president of ACI-NA. "Airports are bright spots in a time of economic uncertainty, especially for the 10.5 million American workers who depend on airports for good jobs across the USA."

Using data from 2010, the report shows:

- When you consider direct employment, "Airports, Inc." is the nation's second largest employer, after Wal-Mart.
- The effect of airports on U.S. GDP \$1.2 trillion is greater than the total value of all goods and services produced in countries like Mexico, Switzerland or South Korea, according to 2010 World Bank data.
- The annual payroll associated with airports \$365 billion is comparable to the economy of Michigan.

"Airports will be as vital to job creation over the next 10 years as they have been over the last decade," Principato said. "In fact, our biggest challenges are improving local empowerment so our airports can make the infrastructure investments needed to sustain this level of economic contribution well into the 2020s."

ACI-NA has identified over \$80 billion in documented infrastructure projects, including runways, terminals and other facilities, needed to meet a surge in domestic passenger travel over the next decade, not counting federal projections for growth in cargo and other aviation-related services.

At the state level, the study shows that workers in five states benefit the most from commercial airports:

California:	1.4 million jobs
Florida:	1.2 million jobs
New York:	974,000 jobs
Texas:	970,000 jobs
Georgia:	637,000 jobs

Commercial airports are funded with user fees and receive almost no taxpayer funds from state or local governments. The federal grants that help pay for airport construction projects come from a portion of taxes paid on airline tickets, air cargo shipments, and aviation fuel purchases.

The study examined the direct on-airport economy, including visitor spending, operations, and the impact of the airports' capital improvement projects. The FAA-approved methodology used also measured the commercial airports' multiplier economic impacts, including employment and payroll, both on- and off-airport property. ✈️

From Airports Council International

Industry News



Business Aircraft Sales, Prices Continue Upswing

By Kerry Lynch

The business aviation market is showing early signs that the momentum at the end of last year is carrying into 2012 with key indicators improving in January, according to initial analyst reports. Used aircraft sales continued to strengthen, and prices jumped dramatically in January for the first time in months, according to Jetnet's latest report.

Business aircraft flights, meanwhile, reached their highest levels of activity in nearly a year, according to FAA and Morgan Stanley data.

This dovetails with anecdotes from some of the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) reporting increases in interest and activity in January, which traditionally is a slower month for aircraft sales.

The percentage of the fleet for sale is down across all categories and fell below 10% for turboprops in particular, "clearly moving it into a seller's market," Jetnet says. Business jets for sale were down almost a full percentage point to 13.7% in January, and turboprops were down by more than a percentage point to 9.3%. Both turbine and piston helicopters for sale also declined to 6.4% and 6%, respectively.

Average asking prices, meanwhile, were up dramatically in all categories except piston helicopters in January. Prices jumped 51.6% for turboprops and 58% for turbine helicopters, Jetnet says. They also improved for business jets, while piston helicopter prices slid modestly.

The overall increase in prices is welcome news for the OEMs, some of which had to offer deep discounts to move unsold inventory. It's not the first increase in prices since the downturn. There were temporary upticks early last year, and analysts caution that one month does not make a trend.

But industry expert Brian Foley, owner of consultancy Brian Foley Associations, notes that prices in January 2011 "will have been near the low-water mark for turboprop pricing and that 2012 could potentially see pricing approaching levels not seen in three years."

A number of factors could play into the price increases, particularly for the turboprop changes—including the mix of turboprops sold. Fuel prices might be sparking some interest, but Foley cautions that fuel prices can be a double-edged sword for turboprops. "On one hand, since turboprops are more fuel-efficient than jets, it helps to drive their value proposition," he says. "However, within the category, buyers at the low end of the turboprop product spectrum are more sensitive to overall operating costs than buyers at the high end, which could end up bifurcating the market much as we've seen with business jets."

Beyond used aircraft inventory, other market indicators showed positive signs in January. Business aircraft flights improved 1.27% in January, reaching the highest level since June, analyst Morgan Stanley says. Traffic was up for Gulfstream and Bombardier models, although down 0.4% for Cessna aircraft.

The OEM chiefs also have been encouraged by the beginning of 2012. Scott Donnelly, chairman and CEO of Cessna Aircraft parent Textron, says sales have gotten off to a better start this year than they have in past years. ✈

From Aviation Week

Zemsky, *continued*

Partners LLC, a private equity firm in Buffalo. Mr. Zemsky serves as co-Chair of the Western New York Regional Economic Council, and is President of the Richardson Center Corporation and Chair of the Buffalo State College Council. Since 2008 he has served as a Commissioner of the NFTA. Mr. Zemsky also serves on the board of the Michigan Street Preservation Commission and Buffalo Place. Mr. Zemsky is a Director of Medical Recovery Management LLC and MOD-PAC Inc. and serves on the Advisory Board of First Niagara Financial Group. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University and a MBA from the University of Rochester.

Senator George Maziarz said, "Howard Zemsky is the right choice to lead NFTA. For years, Mr. Zemsky has managed major companies in Buffalo and across the region, and he has decades of experience working in communities here in Western New York. I applaud Governor Cuomo for appointing Mr. Zemsky and I congratulate him on this new position. His leadership will help ensure that NFTA continues to give Western New Yorkers quality service."

Assembly Member Robin Schimminger said, "As the old saying goes, 'good things are worth waiting for,' I am elated at the news that the State Senate has confirmed Howard's appointment. His commitment to Western New York is widely known, and I am sure that he will serve with distinction."

NFTA is a public authority responsible for oversight of public transportation in Erie and Niagara counties. ✈

Official publication of The New York
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Association Development Group *AirCurrents* is published by the New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA). NYAMA is a not-for-profit trade association of airport managers, service providers, private sector manufacturers and consultants, and state government representatives. The Association is committed to the promotion of airport development and representing the needs of New York State's aviation industry. *AirCurrents* reserves the right to edit all submitted articles for content and format. Please address any comments or questions in care of the Editor to: *AirCurrents*, 136 Everett Road, Albany, NY 12205, (518) 432-9973, email: info@nyama.com.

Women are Key to Aviation's Future

By Scott Spangler

Did you know that March was Women's History Month, and that Women of Aviation Worldwide Week started March 5? I didn't, until a friend shared an e-mail from Penny Hamilton, a pilot with a Ph.D. who's invested a lot of time studying just about every aspect of Teaching Women to Fly.

If you don't remember her work, take another look at my post from January 2, 2011, Women & Aviation: Still No Real Change. Things, as most will agree, have not gotten any better since then. (And beyond aviation, of late they have taken another turn for the worse.)

But she and others haven't quit. In Denver on March 1 Dr. Penny and her research partner, Dr. Marie-Line Germain of Western Carolina University, presented their full research and theory paper at the 2012 Academy of Human Resource Development International Research Conference in the Americas.

Their paper, "Women Employed in Male-Dominated Industries: Lessons Learned from Female Aircraft Pilots, Pilots-in-training and Mixed-gender Flight Instructors," focuses on problems of exclusion, male-dominated industries, and rethinking human resources development.

During this week, Women of Aviation offers a plethora of activities and contests designed to get females of all ages involved. More important to me is that it welcomes the participation of anyone who believes that aviation would be better off with more women involved, and each one of us can make a difference.

I'll take that one step further. For the most part, we men haven't done a very good job of nurturing the pilot population (or the nation). Maybe now is the time to step aside and give women a chance. They certainly can't do any worse than we have. ✈

From *Jetwhine*, an aviation blog



Women of Aviation welcomes the participation on anyone who believed that aviation would be better off with more women involved.