

NEW YORK AVIATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR INCREASED STATE FUNDING AT ITS ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAY

The New York Aviation Management Association sounded the call for increasing state budget appropriations for airports in New York at its annual Aviation Advocacy Day in Albany on March 19-20, 2019. The annual gathering of airport managers, corporate representatives, educators and other aviation officials dedicated to airport development provided an opportunity to meet with state legislators and educate lawmakers about the many ways the state gains benefits from its airports, and the importance of supporting the industry through the state budget.

This year's event included the annual Legislative Aviation Caucus reception where attendees met with their state legislators in a social setting prior to holding individual appointments. NYAMA was welcomed to Albany by the New York Legislative Aviation Caucus co-chairs, Assemblymember Donna Lupardo and Senator Monica Martinez. Warren Kroeppel was awarded the Bill Shea Award, and Senator Phil Boyle was honored for his years of service as prior co-chair of the caucus.

More than 50 NYAMA members attended this year's event to discuss important topics impacting airports in New York state, including the expected update of NYSDOT's 2010 New York's Economic Impacts of Aviation Study; increasing the annual appropriation for the Airport Capital Grant Funding Program (S.1504/A.2004); building upon the success of the Upstate Airport Economic Development Competition (S.1504/A.2004); and wildlife hazard management efforts.

"The competition for legislators' attention is fierce and NYAMA's Advocacy Day is the time to actively engage our elected representatives to ensure the needs of airports and the aviation industry are addressed in the state budget," said NYAMA President Christina Callahan, who is also the Deputy General Manager of LaGuardia Airport.

"Many of our members believe Advocacy Day is the most important activity that we participate in as an organization, and our work at Advocacy Day has helped establish NYAMA as the singular authority on aviation issues throughout the state. Advocacy efforts have resulted in significant legislative wins and increased funding for airports. While this coordinated effort ensures we're not overlooked at budget time, it also serves to inform officials that our business is a critical component of our economy."

NYAMA works with the legislature and governor to realize the full potential of New York's airports and aviation industries as the drivers of new, high quality and sustainable jobs, and to attract greater private sector investment. Advocacy Day attendees receive timely information on state budget issues and state-funded airport development programs, and provides a forum for constructive dialogue between colleagues and state lawmakers.

The event's platinum sponsors were Syracuse Hancock International Airport, Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport, CHA Consulting, C&S Companies; smooth landing sponsors were AOPA, Passero Associates, Sheltair Aviation Services and beacon sponsors were Albany International Airport, AVPorts, Buffalo Niagara International Airport, Long Island Business Aviation Association, and Greater Rochester International Airport.