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For Immediate Release: September 21, 2017

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NEW YORK AVIATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES AVIATION HISTORY AND PRESENT-DAY SUCCESSES AT ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

From a boat trip on the historic Buffalo River and a round of golf on a dazzling, sunny morning, through the following day of engaging panels and discussions, to an evening reception and dinner in the glow of a spectacular sunset over Lake Erie, more than 125 attendees enjoyed a whirlwind few days at the New York Aviation Management Association's Annual Fall Conference hosted by Buffalo Niagara International Airport and based at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo from September 12-14, 2017.

"We couldn't have asked for a better program, through every event and from start to finish," said newly elected NYAMA President Lee Weitz, who is also Deputy Director of Aviation for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. "We showcased everything that's great about aviation in New York: our history, all the amazing things we're doing today, and all that's promising on the horizon. One of Buffalo's own, Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, did a fantastic job at her keynote reception address highlighting how important aviation is to the state's economic health, and I think everyone came away from this year's conference energized and excited for the work that's ahead. Best of all, we made memories that'll last a lifetime, and have the pictures to prove it!"

The annual conference is the premier aviation industry event for New York's aviation professionals, bringing together representatives from airports throughout the state, and the businesses and communities that rely on them. In addition to Lt. Governor Hochul, this year's featured guests and speakers included:

- New York State Senator Timothy Kennedy
- Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Executive Director Kimberly A. Minkel
- Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Director of Aviation William R. Vanecek
- Airports Council International-North America President and CEO Kevin Burke
- FAA New York Airports District Office Manager Evelyn Martinez
- FAA Eastern Region Maria Stanco
- TSA Federal Security Director (FSD) Bart Johnson
- Explore Buffalo Docent Larry Mruk

The conference's opening ceremony was highlighted by the singing of the U.S. and Canadian national anthems by Doug Allen, voice of the Buffalo Sabres. The 2017 Phil Brito Memorial Scholarship Fund recipient was McFarland Johnson for its "Roadmap for Airport Transformation" that took place at the Ogdensburg International Airport (OGS).

A new slate of officers and board directors was elected at NYAMA's annual Business Meeting. In addition to President Weitz, the new NYAMA Executive Committee includes Vice President Christina Callahan, Treasurer Grant Sussey, Secretary Andy Moore, and Immediate Past President John DelBalso. The remaining new or re-elected board members are Pasquale DiFulco, Ross Dubarry, William Hopper, Michael Hall, William McShane, and Tom Hoth.

The conference's Platinum sponsor was Mapco Parking. Gold sponsors were CHA Companies and Passero Associates. Silver sponsors were AECOM; Albany International Airport; C&S Companies; Delaware North; Delta Air Lines; Hi-Lite Airfield Services; Lamar Airport Advertising; McFarland Johnson; National Business Aviation Association; and Syracuse Hancock International Airport. Bronze sponsors were AOPA; DiDonato Associates; Intervistas Consulting; Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport; Long Island Business Aviation Association; Greater Rochester International Airport; Sheltair; SP+ Parking; Stantec; and Watertown International Airport. Additional sponsors and exhibitors were Vaughn College; Ennis-Flint; Erect-A-Tube Inc.; Explorer Solutions; M-B Companies; Proctor Productions; Tracy Road Equipment; and Watertown/1,000 Islands – site of the 2018 NYAMA Fall Conference which will be held September 10 – 12, 2018.