

Air Currents

FALL/WINTER 2016

New York Aviation Management Association

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ROC Hosts NYAMA Fall Conference



A record number of aviation professionals and dignitaries gathered in Rochester for NYAMA's 2015 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show held September 16-18, 2015, at the Rochester Hyatt. The conference, hosted by Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC), provided airport managers, corporate representatives, public officials and aviation students a forum for education and networking.



"The Fall Conference was an extremely productive and enjoyable gathering for aviation professionals," said Michael Giardino, NYAMA Fall Conference Planning Committee Chair and ROC Director of Aviation. "The conference program included key sessions covering issues that every airport encounters. In addition, we offered some great social outings so our members could network, catch up with colleagues and enjoy themselves, too."

Conference attendees enjoyed golf at the impressive Irondequoit County Club, a Lake Ontario fishing charter, and a visit to the Strong Museum of Play and the

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40 years
NEW YORK
Aviation Management Association
NYAMA

ADVANCING AVIATION. ADVANCING NEW YORK!



Word on the Wing

Message From the President



Jeremy P. Martelle, ACE
NYAMA President

Dear Friend of Aviation:

I am honored to serve as President of the New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) as we enter our 40th year. Established in 1976, NYAMA has accomplished so much for the aviation industry under the leadership of our past presidents. I look forward to continuing this important work in 2016 and reaffirming our status as the voice of aviation in New York state.

This past year in particular was a standout year for NYAMA with the passage and enactment of the Aviation Jobs Act (AJA). It was a proud day in April when the governor signed this monumental piece of legislation into law, culminating many years of hard work and leadership by NYAMA. We are closely monitoring and already seeing the positive effects for aviation in New York since the law took effect in September.

In addition to the passage of the AJA, here are some additional highlights of our accomplishments in 2015:

- ➔ NYAMA members turned out in force to take part in Advocacy Day and met with approximately 100 legislators and their staff during the reception and appointment meetings to promote pro-aviation legislation and budget initiatives.
- ➔ May was declared Aviation Appreciation Month by Governor Andrew Cuomo for the fourth consecutive year.
- ➔ The New York Legislative Action Caucus grew to more than 100 members this past year. We know it is vital to develop a caucus of legislators who are strong aviation advocates and will engage in our issues. We will continue to work with state leaders to adequately fund the Aviation Capital Grants Program and the federal Airport Improvement Program.
- ➔ NYAMA participated in both federal and state legislative hearings on aviation-related issues. Whether it is regarding airport safety or transportation funding, NYAMA's voice is present at the table, making our case heard.
- ➔ The 2015 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show hosted by ROC was a well-attended event with a record-breaking number of exhibitors and sponsors. It featured a highly informative program covering a wide array of aviation topics presented by industry leaders. Members took in the sights and sounds of Monroe County including golf, a fishing charter, museums and an evening of fun at the Genesee Brew House.
- ➔ This year's Peer Review training offerings were topical and well received. Members were provided valuable information at the UAV and Wildlife Management sessions.

NYAMA accomplished a great deal in 2015. Thank you to the Board of Directors, members and volunteers for your involvement and support. With your continued active participation, we will carry this momentum into 2016 as we celebrate 40 years of NYAMA!

NYAMA wishes you happy new year and hopes your 2016 soars. We look forward to seeing you in Albany for **Aviation Advocacy Day March 15 and 16** and next fall in Long Island for NYAMA's **2016 Fall Conference and Exhibit Show September 14-16!** As always, please do not hesitate to contact our Albany office at 518-432-9973 or info@nyama.com with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Conference Wrap-Up



ROC Hosts NYAMA Fall Conference, continued



George Eastman House. The celebration continued with “ROctoberfest” at the Genesee Brew House, one of the largest and oldest breweries in America.

The conference featured briefings by Elliot Black, Evelyn Martinez and Gerardo Mendoza from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New York Airports District Office (NYADO) and New York State Department of Transportation, respectively. TJ Roskelley from Anderson & Kreiger LLP offered an informative program on legal issues facing airports around the country, and concurrent sessions included discussions on social media, UAVs, active shooter scenarios and disaster planning.

Keynote speaker James W. Sarvis, Vice President of Airport Customer Service for Delta Air Lines, discussed the carrier’s complex operations and provided valuable insights on future developments expected from Delta.

NYAMA also hosted State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, the New York Aviation Legislative Caucus Co-Chair, who was honored for her efforts and leadership in gaining passage for the Aviation Jobs Act.

Between sessions and during breaks, attendees visited the sold-out Exhibit Show, conveniently located directly outside the conference ballrooms, which featured the industry’s latest products and services.

The conference concluded with a farewell breakfast, followed by ROC’s invitation to observe its Triennial Emergency Drill Exercise. The full-scale exercise included more than 100 volunteers who participated in a mass-scale emergency response drill. Observers noted that the drill was impressive in its scope and scale.

“Rochester was honored to host the NYAMA conference this year and we’re thrilled with the results,” Giardino said. “From takeoff to landing, the 2015 Fall Conference was a complete success.”



Conference Wrap-Up

Thank you to the outstanding presenters who made this year's Fall Conference possible:

Maggie Brooks | Monroe County Executive

Elliot Black | FAA Director of Airport Planning and Programming

Evelyn Martinez | Manager, NYADO

Gerardo Mendoza | Acting Director, NYSDOT Aviation Bureau

TJ Roskelley | Associate, Anderson & Kreiger

James R. Sarvis | Vice President of Airport Customer Service, Delta Air Lines - Keynote Speaker

Amy Burritt | Vice President of Communications, The Quotient Group

Todd Brinkerhoff | Monroe County Sheriff's Department

Frank Cost | Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology

David Bissonette | Emergency Coordinator, Town of Clarence

Special thanks to our honored guest, **Bill Shea**, NYAMA's first president, for joining us again this year!

Phil Brito Project of the Year Award

Congratulations to Passero Associates and Watertown International Airport for being chosen as this year's Phil Brito winner!

The judges were impressed with all entries but cited several elements of the Watertown project for being most innovative. The project promoted growth of business at the airport, including offering meeting space for traveling executives. It also included several components as opposed to a single improvement. The project's balanced approach aims to increase airport revenue and stimulate aviation-related business, as well as create several new jobs. The green aspects of natural and LED lighting, as well as the increased insulation and radiant in-floor heating were also notable.

NYAMA thanks all who submitted entries for this year's Phil Brito Project of the Year Award. The Phil Brito Award recognizes engineering and planning consulting firms and their airport sponsors 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 Gerardo Mendoza, Acting Director of the Aviation Bureau of the NYSDOT, for presenting this award during the Thursday Awards Luncheon at Fall Conference.

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.



Conference Wrap-Up



Bill Shea Award

NYAMA welcomed Bill Shea, former Airport Director, FAA Administrator, educator, lecturer and Founding President of NYAMA, as our honored guest and presenter of this year's Bill Shea Award.

This year's award winner is Joel Russell. Joel has 38 years of senior airport management experience. He served as Airport Manager at both Albany International Airport and Westchester County Airport and was a Senior Manager at Teterboro Airport. Joel was involved in all aspects of airport management, including new terminal construction, oversight of significant and sensitive environmental issues, management of security requirements, and ensuring compliance with all Part 139 standards and requirements. Joel works for Steve Baldwin Associates.

Joel holds a master's degree in aviation management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a B.A. in economics from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania. He is a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). As a Past President of the New York Aviation Management Association and current PAC chair, Joel continues to be an active member of the organization.

"Joel Russell was an outstanding choice for the 2015 Bill Shea Award," NYAMA President Jeremy Martelle said. "He has a rich history with the organization and continues to be actively involved. He clearly defines all that this award stands for."

This prestigious award is presented 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, giving their time, energy and resources to significantly impact the aviation industry in New York state for the better.



Phil Brito Scholarship Recipients

This year, NYAMA hosted four Phil Brito Scholarship recipients from Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology at this year's Fall Conference. Thank you to Patrick Batey, Slavic Huley, Joshua Labiner and Juan Chicas from Vaughn for making NYAMA a part of your education.

B.O.B. Golf Trophy

NYAMA began a new tradition in 2014 with the inauguration of the B.O.B. Golf Trophy! The B.O.B. Trophy, named after **Bob** Mastropaolo, **Otto** Suriani, and **Bob** Nicholas, was created to commemorate 2012 - the year the trio won the NYAMA Golf Tournament after more than two decades without success.

Like the Stanley Cup, the B.O.B. Trophy will be shared among the members of the winning team for one year and returned in time for presentation to the following year's winners during NYAMA's Awards Luncheon.

Congratulations to this year's winning team: Lee Weitz, Greg Topping, Peter Stearn and Robert Schaeffer.

Thank You Fall Conference Committee

The New York Aviation Management Association acknowledges the dedication and hard work of the 2015 Fall Conference Planning Committee members. Thank you to Michael Giardino, Jennifer Hanrahan, Andy Moore, Christina Callahan, Jennifer Sweetland, Lee Weitz and Ross Dubarry for your outstanding efforts in planning and executing this year's conference.

NYAMA would also like to recognize the staff at the Hyatt Regency Rochester as well as the city of Rochester for its generous support. Thank you to all of the attendees, sponsors, vendors and everyone else who made this year's Fall Conference possible. We hope to see you next year on Long Island!

THANK YOU 2015 FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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Association News



Welcome New NYAMA Board Members

NYAMA is proud to welcome four new Board of Director members to our Association.



David Hickling

David earned a bachelor's degree in aviation management while serving in the United States Air Force in the 1980s. Following his military service, David worked for several years as a flight instructor and charter pilot. He transitioned to an airport management

career in 1996 and was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Aviation at the Greater Binghamton Airport in 2006 and to the position of Commissioner of Aviation in January 2015.

David is a lifelong resident of Vestal, N.Y., where he raised two daughters and now resides with his wife of 33 years.



John McNeely

John serves as Chief Executive Officer of Hi-Lite LLC at its Watertown office. John has led the company to success with his extensive background in airport/airfield contract management, contracting operations and specialization pavement

maintenance at many general aviation airports and military bases throughout the country and some outside the United States. John is known as a leading industry go-to person on pavement maintenance. John has been with Hi-Lite since 1996 and has served as controller and in sales and operations.



Grant Sussey

Grant Sussey was appointed in November 2013 as the Airport Manager for the Watertown International Airport. Grant's aviation career spans many years in various positions which include Airport Manager for the Orange County Airport

(Montgomery, NY) and Operations/Security Supervisor at the Albany International Airport. Grant is a Licensed Commercial Pilot and Certified Instrument Flight Instructor. He completed a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2005 from SUNY Oswego.



Robert Schaefer

Robert Schaefer has served as Commissioner of Long Island MacArthur Airport since 2012. Prior to this, he spent 23 years with the Port Authority of NY/NJ, holding multiple positions.

He currently serves on the Executive Board of (LICVB) Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Board of Directors for Suffolk Federal and is a member of (AAAE) American Association of Airport Executives.

Robert is the recipient of the WTC Medal from the Port Authority for actions taken on September 11th at Ground Zero. He has also received awards from the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. State Department, and the Community of Mayors of New York.



Congratulations New Executive Board

NYAMA proudly elected the new slate of officers at the Fall Conference. *Shown here: John DelBalso, Vice President, Jeremy Martelle, President, Lee Weitz, Treasurer, Christina Callahan, Secretary, and Michael Giardino, Past President.*



Association News

NYAMA Participates in Assembly Transportation Hearing

NYAMA President Jeremy Martelle recently testified at a New York State Assembly Hearing on Transportation in Albany. Martelle stressed the importance of airports in the New York state economy and advocated for increased funding of the State Aviation Capital Grant program and the Airport Improvement Program's matching fund.

Martelle cited statistics from the New York State Department of Transportation's Aviation Bureau, which indicate that the aviation industry contributes more than \$50 billion in annual economic activity in New York state with almost 400,000 state residents working in aviation or aviation-related industries.

"Airports are economic engines fueling growth in the communities they serve," Martelle said. "We can't stand by and let this critical engine be restrained by a lack of state infrastructure investment or competition from other states. Instead, we need to continue to attract and retain aviation-related businesses here in New York."

NYAMA is seeking State Aviation Capital Grant Program

funding of \$200 million (\$40 million per year) over the next five years. NYAMA also called for fully funding the state Airport Improvement Program (AIP) by a minimum of \$6 million in the next fiscal year budget to ensure the state maximizes the amount of federal funds that could be available for vital New York airport projects. These issues will be further detailed in our NYAMA Advocacy Day.

Martelle cited the positive investments made by New York state to modernize and revitalize several downstate airports including LaGuardia, Kennedy International, Republic and Stewart International airports. He encouraged the state to consider targeted investments in other airports across the state, including both smaller commercial and general aviation airports.

"NYAMA looks forward to continuing to work with our state elected officials to enhance our airports and aviation assets in ways that create new jobs, increase economic development and improve airport services," Martelle said.

AJA Takes Effect

September 1, 2015, marked an historic day for NYAMA as the organization celebrated the official enactment of the New York Aviation Jobs Act (AJA), an issue that NYAMA advocated for over many years.

New York lost more than 700 planes since 2002 as a result of more favorable tax treatment, aggressive marketing and airport development strategies undertaken by neighboring states. The previous tax was a financial barrier for aircraft seeking to locate in New York because surrounding states did not charge sales taxes or offered incentives for aircraft sales and basings.

The AJA tax exemption now offered in New York is an economic tool that will increase aviation-related business to new heights. The positive impact is already being felt, and additional plans are being put into place that will greatly advance economic growth for the state.

Sheltair announced plans to invest nearly \$1 million to modernize a FBO hangar complex at Republic Airport in East Farmingdale. The investment was made with the anticipation of increased

general aviation activity from the enacted sales tax exemption.

Another company, REVA, Inc., the largest operator of aero-medical flights in North America, recently announced its decision to establish its new flight center at the Schenectady County Airport. The company will create more than 60 full- and part-time positions in the region.

"The benefits of the AJA are definitely being felt in New York," NYAMA President Jeremy Martelle said. "By making our state more attractive to business, the economic impact will be increasingly apparent and showcase the positive growth of aviation and the benefits it brings."

NYAMA will monitor this kind of growth in the state to make the case for the newly enacted law and its many benefits. If you or a business contact use the AJA tax exemption as a positive tool for growth, please contact NYAMA HQ at info@nyama.com so we can share the story with our members and elected officials.

Association News



NYAMA Hosts Wildlife Peer Review



NYAMA sponsored a Wildlife Peer Review in October at Westchester County Airport. Airport representatives from New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island attended this valuable and informative program. U.S. Department of Agriculture officials gave an overview of wildlife programs, best practices were shared, and a tour of the Westchester County Airport was provided. Thank you to AvPorts and Westchester County Airport for hosting this successful event.



(From left): New Jersey USDA Director Aaron Guikema, New York USDA Director Allen Gosser and Westchester County Airport Manager John Starace at the NYAMA Wildlife Peer Review in Westchester.

NYAMA President Testifies on Airport Security



NYAMA President Jeremy Martelle at the House Committee on Homeland Security in Syracuse.

NYAMA President Jeremy Martelle testified at a Syracuse field hearing of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, part of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security. Chair Rep. John Katko (R-Camillus) called the hearing to discuss the state of airport security and the implementation of the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act.

“Increasing airport security is crucial but costs money that most airports do not currently have,” Martelle told the U.S. House subcommittee. Martelle acknowledged the need for these new security measures, but noted that they will pose a financial hardship for many airports. “The TSA has begun to ask if airports are willing to do more, much more. This increase has overloaded airports.”

NYAMA Celebrates 40th Anniversary

NYAMA turns 40 in 2016! We will highlight this milestone anniversary at events throughout the year, including Advocacy Day and the Fall Conference. If you have historical photos, news articles, stories to share or other NYAMA memorabilia, please contact Headquarters at info@nyama.com and help us highlight our impressive past!



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INTERNATIONAL AVIATION ADVOCACY NEW YORK

ADVOCACY DAY

MARCH 15-16, 2016
HILTON ALBANY | NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

REGISTER TODAY

Please plan to join your aviation industry colleagues for NYAMA's Advocacy Day March 15-16 in Albany! Be at the Legislative Office Building to voice a unified message on the importance of investing in aviation. We need to show aviation's strength and we need YOU to make it happen. Register today (www.nyama.com) for this important NYAMA event!

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