FAC’s new communications effort keeps Airport priorities up front

In 2018, the Board of Directors initiated a plan to improve our messaging and strategic communications to position the Florida Airports Council as the authoritative voice on Florida airports/aviation. Since last fall, the Board and core members of the State Affairs Committee have been working with the Sachs Media Group and our lobby team Johnson & Blanton, to elevate our message utilizing traditional media and alternative methods including social media and other tools. FAC has elevated our position on several 2019 legislative initiatives - Here’s an update:

⇒ Taxes on Aircraft Sales and Leases: In addition to communicating this priority to our legislative delegation during the State Fly-in in February, FAC penned an OP-ED that appeared the opening week of the session. Click here for the piece that appeared in the Orlando Sentinel on March 7, 2019.

⇒ Turo car rental alternative: FAC is working closely with the rental car association and other key groups to include language protecting airports from language under consideration in the House and Senate. FAC issued the following statement regarding SB 1148 and HB 1111: “The Florida Airports Council supports legislation that prioritizes safety, provides robust consumer protections, and allows each of Florida's airports to properly monitor and manage car rental/sharing transactions at airport facilities. Our state's airports welcome innovative services that provide passengers with a range of transportation options that preserve critical airport operating revenues, while ensuring that all service providers are treated fairly and are able to compete on a level playing field.”

⇒ Visit Florida: One of the biggest points of contention regarding the budget so far has to do with funding for the state’s tourism industry, particularly Visit Florida, the tourism marketing agency whose life is on the line. FAC strongly supported a robust budget for VF last year and we’re letting our voice be heard again this year in support. Click here to read letters submitted by FAC to FL House Speaker Jose Oliva and Senate President Bill Galvano. Also, see the Florida Politics article, “Airports offer VISIT FLORIDA lift in support”.

⇒ Emotional Support Animals: Working with State Affairs Committee members, the following language has been crafted for consideration for HB 721, and SB 1128. “Only a ticketed, flying passenger may enter into a public use airport with an emotional support animal, and shall contain the animal in a pet carrier or, if no pet carrier is present, the animal must be carried, or restrained by a leash and must be within five feet of the handler. The handler of the emotional support animal shall have the appropriate certified documentation from their healthcare practitioner outlining the need for the emotional support animal and provide such documentation upon request by an airline or airport representative while at the airport.”

For updates on current legislative efforts:

@flairportscouncil

@FLairports
Negotiations underway for hotel, restaurant and brewery on Venice airport land

A Michigan-based developer is currently negotiating with the city of Venice and the FAA for the right to build a hotel, restaurant and medical offices on the 12.4-acre former circus arena site that sits on property owned by VNC.

Kent Jacoby, a Michigan-based commercial real estate agent, has been expressing interest in leasing the property for more than three years.

In December, Jacoby and JCRE Development was one of two developers who responded to the most recent call by the city of Venice for letters of interest to develop the land. The other respondent, Mike Miller of Cassata Miller Development, never followed up with a formal proposal by the mid-March deadline. Among other things, Miller cited a fairly full slate of projects on the horizon for Cassata Miller as a main reason for not submitting a proposal. “Hopefully, the city gets a proposal that will work for both parties,” he said via email. “If not, we can take another look.”

Jacoby and JCRE Development are seeking to build a three-story hotel with 120 to 140 rooms, an 8,500-square-foot village restaurant and brewery, and two medical office buildings on the site. One of those office buildings would be a single story and house about 32,000 square feet of space. The second, smaller building would be two stories and house about 25,000 square feet of space.

“We want to make the site into the new gateway to the island,” Jacoby said in an email. “It has been a three-year journey that we hope is nearing a partnership with the city of Venice and the FAA. “Our timetable is 24 to 36 months to complete the project.”

When queried by Venice City Council Member Jeanette Gates for an update on the status of securing a tenant for the long-vacant airport land, City Manager Ed Lavallee said they hope to hear a ruling from the FAA within 30 days. “We are in, I would like to say, refining stages of negotiations,” Lavallee told the council. “The outlier right here is the FAA — before we bring anything to your review, we want to make sure that they approve.”

The FAA must approve the lease because the property is owned by the airport. Venice Municipal Airport Director Mark Cervasio stressed that the city is still negotiating with JCRE. Once that’s finalized, it will be submitted to the FAA for approval. “We’re not bringing it to the council unless the FAA blesses it,” he added.

Development of the former circus arena site into an income-generating business is key to the financial well-being of the Venice Municipal Airport. The airport lost a major revenue stream in 2013 when the city purchased the beachfront property under Sharky’s on the Pier for $2.2 million.

The city spent roughly a year negotiating a potential lease with Venice Realty Group, which sought to build a four-story, 116-room hotel on the property near Venice Municipal Airport. But negotiations with the group, which was backed by Frank J. Dupuis — the principal owner of the airport’s fixed-base operator, Suncoast Air Center — broke down in late July 2018. The group had been seeking a 75-year lease with another 25-year option but also had concerns with several city oversight provisions that mirrored those currently in place on other airport leases. Cervasio noted that FAA leases typically extend for more than 30 years.

During negotiations with Venice Realty, Cervasio said they had a positive indication that the FAA would consider a 75-year lease, depending on the investment that was proposed. “We had nothing in writing but they said they would consider 75 years, if it was justified,” Cervasio said. “We left that meeting very encouraged that we would be able to get over that hurdle.”
Honorary Mark Winkelmann Blue Light Award

The Florida Airports Council Facilities Committee is now accepting nominations for the annual Honorary Mark Winkelmann Blue Light Award.

This award recognizes an airport employee who has demonstrated exemplary service, skill, and aptitude specifically in the field of airport facilities and maintenance. This award is for an individual actively working in the field of maintenance and repairs. (Please do not nominate managers and executive staff for this award.)

The award, a taxiway light mounted on a handsome wooden plaque, will be presented at the Inaugural FAC Education and Training Summit on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate.

The award selection panel is accepting nominations now through April 30, 2019, for any non-executive person who is actively employed by an airport (general aviation or commercial) and has proven themselves extraordinary in their field. Nomination submittals must include the following:

⇒ Full name, title, and phone number of the nominee, the name and address of the airport that employs them, along with the name of the individual submitting the recommendation.

⇒ A brief one-page narrative describing why the nominee is deserving of the recognition. Please include supporting facts.

⇒ If selected, please indicate whether the nominee will be attending the FAC Education and Training Summit on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 to receive the award.

Selection criteria is based upon the tangible benefits received by an airport, the traveling public, or the aviation community in general as a direct result of the person’s efforts; their dedication and professionalism, and their innovative or pioneering spirit.

Click here to submit a nomination. If you have any questions, please contact Ethan Croop at etcroop@flylcpa.com.

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<td>Honorary Mark Winkelmann Blue Light Award</td>
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Please email lisa@floridaairports.org with calendar updates.
Still soaring high: passenger traffic at Daytona airport continues to climb
(Source: DaytonaBeachNewsJournal.com)

After steady growth at DAB since 2010, including a current streak of 12 consecutive months of passenger traffic increases, airport officials had recently cautioned that 2019 would be a rebuilding year, marked by a potential dip in traffic. That hasn’t happened yet, based on the airport’s latest statistics that show a 1.4 percent increase in passenger traffic in January, compared with the same month a year ago. During the month, 55,127 passengers flew into or out of the county-run airport compared with 54,345 passengers in January 2018.

For the 12 months ending Jan. 31, total passenger traffic increased 6 percent to 764,320 passengers, improving on the 720,485 passengers the previous year. The year’s upbeat opening month was more of a surprise considering that JetBlue Airways discontinued its daily non-stop flights to New York on Jan. 7, said Jay Cassens, the airport’s director of business development. JetBlue’s service generated more than 90,000 passengers a year, he said.

“I had anticipated January would break our streak of 12 consecutive months (of passenger traffic growth), but with growth on American (Airlines), we offset that loss of JetBlue, which was great to see,” Cassens said. “American has been doing phenomenal over the last couple of years and we’ve seen tremendous growth over the past year. American was up 5,000 (passengers) for the month of January.”

An upcoming expansion of American’s service to Daytona Beach is among the promising developments expected at the airport in the coming year, including a multi-million dollar renovation of the terminal that could make the path easier for additional carriers to join the airport’s lineup.

Click here to read more...

“There’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.”
- Air Force General James Doolittle

Members...Help us identify any Florida Airport Manager, staff, or FAC member actively serving in any branch of the US Military.

Send information to gina@floridaairports.org

Help FAC recognize those actively fighting for America.

Welcome New Member

Ms. Cristina Pulley
Manager
Areas USA
5301 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 690
Miami, FL 33174
(305) 267-8510
cristina.pulley@areas.com
Airport leaders make case for PFC increase at House hearing
(Source: ACI-NA.com)

During a key hearing before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee yesterday, airport leaders and other witnesses urged lawmakers to adjust the outdated cap on Passenger Facility Charges as a way to help airports finance their infrastructure projects.

Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) pointed out the enormous infrastructure needs that airports are facing. He cited FAA’s estimate that airports are facing more than $7 billion in AIP-eligible projects every year - or twice as much as they are receiving in the annual appropriations process.

"I’m surely not opposed to increasing the FAA’s AIP grant levels," DeFazio said. "But we also need to look on the other side of the airport, and we need to increase the cap on PFCs."

Larry Krauter, A.A.E., CEO of Spokane International Airport and AAAE Secretary/Treasurer, described how a modest PFC increase would help his airport move forward with a $190 million terminal renovation and expansion project. He told lawmakers that raising the PFC cap to $8.50 would allow his airport to reduce its interest payments from $151 million to as low as $18.7 million.

"Unfortunately, the status quo is not working when it comes to funding the infrastructure investments that our airports desperately need," Krauter said. "Doing nothing is simply not an option for Spokane."

Candace McGraw, CEO of Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and ACI-NA Chair, indicated that raising the PFC cap to $8.50 and indexing it for inflation would allow the airport to invest $340 million in new infrastructure projects while meeting its debt service requirements.

"Airports are running out of time for Congress to remove the outdated cap on the PFC," McGraw said. "Our airports are aging; our terminals are woefully inadequate relative to keeping pace with the growth in passenger demand and processing. Airports have investments to make now; we have jobs to support and create today."

Joe Lopano, CEO of Tampa Bay International Airport, described how his airport has used PFC revenue to expand capacity and increase competition, resulting in lower fares for passengers. He also pointed out that a lot has changed since Congress raised the PFC cap in 2000: Airports are dealing with unmanned aircraft systems and a different security environment since 9/11. He told lawmakers that a PFC increase would help airports finance a long list of security needs.

FAC seeks all photos and memories!

Do you have any photos of FAC events or member recognition that we can include in the FAC Archives? If so, please send them to gina@floridaairports.org with the subject “FAC Photos.”
Proposed Rule - Comment Period ends April 15, 2019

Safe and secure operations of small unmanned aircraft systems

The FAA is considering additional rulemaking in response to public safety and national security concerns associated with the ongoing integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System (NAS). The FAA is seeking information from the public in response to the questions contained in this ANPRM. Specifically, the FAA seeks comment on whether and in what circumstances the FAA should promulgate new rulemaking to require stand-off distances, additional operating and performance restrictions, the use of UAS Traffic Management (UTM), and additional payload restrictions. The FAA also seeks comment on whether it should prescribe design requirements and require that unmanned aircraft be equipped with critical safety systems.

Send comments identified by docket number FAA-2018-1086 using any of the following methods:

⇒ Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

⇒ Mail: Send comments to Docket Operations, M-30; U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

⇒ Hand Delivery or Courier: Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

⇒ Fax: Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202-493-2251.

Proposed Rule - Comment Period ends May 10, 2019

Agency information collection activities: requests for comments; clearance of a renewed approval of information collection: Airport Grants Program

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. The collection involves data from airport sponsors and planning agencies to determine eligibility, and to ensure proper use of Federal funds and project accomplishments for the Airport Improvement Program.

Background: Codification of certain US Transportation laws at 49 U.S.C., repealed the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, as amended, and the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979, as amended, and re-codified them without substantive change at Title 49 U.S.C., which is referred to as the “Act.” The Act provides funding for airport planning and development projects at airports included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems. The Act also authorizes funds for noise compatibility planning and to carry out noise compatibility programs. The information required by this program is necessary to protect the Federal interest in safety, efficiency, and utility of the Airport. Data is collected to meet report requirements of 2 CFR part 200 for certifications and representations, financial management and performance measurement.

Send comments identified by docket number FAA-2018-1086 using any of the following methods:

⇒ By Electronic Docket: www.regulations.gov (Enter docket number into search field).

⇒ By mail: Robin Hunt, Acting Director, Office of Airport Planning and Programming, APP-1 Federal Aviation Administration.
AIRMAIL ‘19


Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA’s performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB’s clearance of this information collection.

For more information contact Patricia Dickerson by email at: patricia.a.dickerson@faa.gov; phone: 202-267-9297.

FAC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Sheltair Aviation reaches construction milestone on new hangar complex at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

Sheltair Aviation, one of the nation’s leading aviation services companies, has hosted a beam signing ceremony to mark a milestone in the construction of its new 20-acre $30-million Northside Hangar Complex at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, Florida, which will offer “white glove” fixed-base operator services provided by Banyan Air Service.

Participants in the event included Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean J. Trantalis, Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Sheltair Aviation chairman, CEO, owner and founder Gerald M. Holland, and Banyan President Don Campion.

Construction is proceeding on a state-of-the-art 207,000 square foot hangar and office complex that will include eight hangars that can welcome large cabin-class sized aircraft, and an additional 31,000 square feet of office and shop space. The complex will also be the home of Banyan’s Northside FBO terminal, allowing them to meet the needs of an expanding, exclusive clientele that insists on professionalism and privacy for their travel arrangements.

Mr. Holland stated, “Our company’s sustained growth is predicated on several key factors: the commitment of our staff to excellence; service driven private sector partners such as Banyan Air Services; and the advocacy of outstanding public servants such as Mayor Trantalis and Commissioner Moraitis who recognize the ability of General Aviation to strengthen a region’s economy. Today’s beam signing ceremony reflects the power and synergies of these relationships, and I am proud to be standing here with men and women equally committed to the success of this airport.”

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis said, “Today’s ceremony reminds us that general aviation provides a metropolitan community like ours with access to global markets. This investment by Sheltair promotes Fort Lauderdale’s reputation as a friendly destination for business, tourism and recreation. Our community will benefit through a further expansion of jobs and economic activity.”

AIRPORTS: Internship Grants are still available

To apply, you can access the Internship Grant Application here and send it by email to lisa@floridaairports.org, with a copy to gina@floridaairports.org.

Applications are also accepted by mail at:
Florida Airports Council
5802 Hoffner Avenue, Suite 708
Orlando, FL 32822

Don’t miss out! There are only 2 grants still available!
AIRMAIL ‘19  Issue 19-06

Business and Employment Opportunities

Position: Airports Operations Officer
Salary: $22.44 per hour
Closing: Friday, April 12, 2019

Interprets and enforces Federal, State, Local rules and regulations applicable to airport operations; responds to emergencies; compiles/monitors flight schedules and coordinates them with air carriers; monitors aircraft operations. Performs airfield, terminal and landside inspections as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); ensures Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and lease agreement compliance; responds to tenants/public inquiries and complaints; prepares related reports; works under the general direction of the Manager of Airport Operations, and is reviewed via personal consultation, written reports and conferences.

Click here for job description and to apply online. May submit scannable application/resume with any Veteran’s Preference documentation to Palm Beach County Human Resources, 100 Australian Avenue #300, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406. Info 561/616-6888 Fax 561/616-6893 (No e-mail applications/resumes accepted). Applications/resumes must include Job ID number, and will be accepted no later than 5:00 p.m. on the closing date.

Position: Environmental Specialist
Salary: $22.55 to $26.11 per hour
Closing: Friday, May 3, 2019

POSITION SUMMARY:

Coordinate and monitor the compliance and enforcement of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority’s (GOAA) environmental programs. Conduct environmental inspections, monitor and record results in environmental database. Assist with the monitoring and compliance of environmental permits issued by EPA, FDEP, Orange County Environmental Department, City of Orlando, Federal and State Environmental Laws, Legislative Acts, and Regulations, utilizing specialized software for tracking permit compliance. Review environmental project plans, specifications used for scheduling, permitting or acquiring permits and approvals on behalf of GOAA. Prepare memos and documents for construction committees meetings. Construction Quality Assurance Program are coordinated to meet the GOAA’s Program.

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority offers a comprehensive benefits package.
• Paid Vacation, Holiday, Sick and Personal Leave Days • Retirement Plan with Company Match • Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance • Wellness Programs • Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability and Life Insurance • Employee Assistance program • Education Reimbursement • Employee Discounts • Employee Recognition Program • Management Leave

To apply, please click here or visit us at: www.orlandoairports.net