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# AIRMAIL'20



December 4, 2020

Issue 20-18

## AROUND THE STATE

### [Senate President Wilton Simpson announces committee leadership assignments](#)

In a December 2, 2020 memorandum to the Florida Senate, Sen. President Simpson has named key legislators to committees important to Florida Airports.

- ◆ **Appropriations** - Kelli Stargel, Chair (R-22/Lakeland); Aaron Bean, Vice Chair (R-4/Jacksonville)
  - ⇒ **Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government** - Ben Albritton, Chair (R-26/Bartow); Ray Rodrigues, Vice Chair (R-27/Lee County)
  - ⇒ **Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development** - George Gainer, Chair (R-2/Panama City); Ed Hooper, Vice Chair (R-16/Palm Harbor)
- ◆ **Commerce and Tourism** - Ed Hooper, Chair (R-16/Palm Harbor); Tom Wright, Vice Chair (R-14/Port Orange)
- ◆ **Environment and Natural Resources** - Jason Brodeur, Chair (R-28/Sanford); Linda Stewart, Vice Chair (D-13/Orlando)
- ◆ **Finance and Tax** - Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair (R-39/Miami); Janet Cruz, Vice Chair (D-18/ Tampa)
- ◆ **Transportation** - Gayle Harrell, Chair (R-25/Stuart); Keith Perry, Vice Chair (R-8/Gainesville)

The 2020-2022 Senate President Pro-Tempore - Senator Aaron Bean, Republican Leader - Debbie Mayfield (R-17/Melbourne), and Democratic Leader - Gary Farmer (D-34/Fort Lauderdale).

[Click here for Senator Simpson's Memo and Committee Assignments.](#)

For a complete list of all Senate committee assignments, [click here.](#)

### [FAC prepares for virtual meetings with key elected officials amid COVID-19 conditions](#)

Under normal circumstances, FAC hosts a State Affairs Fly-in with airport leaders, the Board of Directors, and corporate members at the beginning of each legislative session. Due to the pandemic, all that changes this year. FAC is focused on nailing down our messaging on key legislative issues and developing a plan to elevate communications with our legislators, their staff and key committees using multiple platforms, including social media. The session begins March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and Senate and House leaders are working out the details regarding how meetings, including public testimony will be conducted during the committee meetings.

The FAC State Affairs Committee will begin reoccurring committee calls in January. Be sure to check the committee web page on the FAC website for call in information. We are conducting these calls via Zoom. Airport and corporate members - please stay in touch with your representatives, and plan to participate with the committee as we work to support Florida Airports and our business community.

[Click here for a copy of FAC's current primary legislative priorities.](#)

***Private jet provider XO expands on-demand fleet*** (Source: South Florida Business Journal)

**A**mid an increased demand for private flights, Fort Lauderdale-based XO will expand the fleet available to its users by 30%. The on-demand private aviation provider announced it will add 15 light jets to bring its dedicated fleet up to 58 jets. Its mobile app allows users to instantly book private charter flights.

portfolio company of Vista Global, which acquired Fort Lauderdale-based JetSmarter last year. Prior to the deal, JetSmarter had amassed notable backers including rapper Jay-Z, the Saudi royal family and multiple Middle East-based equity funds.

XO's announcement comes as more leisure travelers tap private plane companies due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The company says its membership has doubled since April. XO is a

XOJet Aviation, the Vista Global-owned company that operates the flights, relocated to Fort Lauderdale from California last year, creating hundreds of jobs near FXE. XO says it will make another 50 jets available to its users in the coming years.

***Lynx FBO Network announces plans for new development*** (Source: PRNewswire)

**L**ynx FBO Network (Lynx) recently announced facilities expansion and new development at the FXE. Since the January 2019 acquisition of World Jet, Lynx has operated out of the original World Jet facilities on the Northeast side of the airport and has made significant investments in updating equipment and facilities, including a \$1.5 million renovation of the hangar complex. Lynx is moving the FBO to a premier location with easy access to the primary runway and major city thoroughfares.



*"I am confident that Lynx's new FBO development will become a notable contributor to increased operations at the Executive Airport," commented Rufus James, FXE Airport Manager.*

Lynx will break ground on the multimillion-dollar project in the first half of 2021, beginning with a state of the art 6,700 square foot terminal and four acres of new ramp capable of handling large cabin aircraft. "We have made significant investments at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, including the addition of a highly-qualified and experienced management team as well as the training and development of our associates," said Tyson Goetz, President of Lynx. "We strongly believe that the Lynx culture and our highly trained team members are strategic differentiators that set us apart from other FBO operators. We are excited to be developing a world class FBO campus that is representative of our service culture for the customers of Fort Lauderdale."

"I am confident that Lynx's new FBO development will become a notable contributor to increased operations at the Executive Airport," commented Rufus James, FXE Airport Manager. "Although they are fairly new to FXE, we have enjoyed a positive relationship with Lynx and their presence at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport has been a valuable addition to our overall operations."



***Florida Transportation Plan Steering Committee to consider final FTP Policy Element***

***On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the FTP steering committee will meet to finalize the policy element 2045 transportation plan. The Policy Element describes objectives and strategies to guide transportation partners statewide in accomplishing defined vision and goals.***

***Michael Stewart, Director, External Affairs, JAA is the Florida Airports Council representative on the Steering committee.***

***[Click here to learn more...](#)***

## [Hillsborough property appraiser wins tax lawsuit against Aviation Authority](#)

(Source: [tampabay.com](http://tampabay.com))

A judge ruled public land leased to private tenants can be taxed, a position long held by the appraiser.

For the second time in four months, Hillsborough County Property Appraiser Bob Henriquez has won a tax lawsuit involving private businesses operating in public spaces.

A circuit court judge ruled Thursday that the property appraiser can levy taxes on space leased to private tenants by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, the public entity that runs Tampa International Airport.

The ruling affects nearly 15 parcels at Tampa International Airport, Tampa Executive Airport, Peter O. Knight Airport and other facilities. Tenants on those properties include American Airlines, UPS and Advantage Rent A Car.

According to the order, the Aviation Authority had filed for and received tax exemptions on those properties; the property appraiser's office argued those exemptions were improper. The ruling allows the properties to be taxed at different percentages, depending on how much of each parcel is used for private business.

"We feel as though this upholds our position that we've held for many, many years, and has been consistently upheld in the courts," Henriquez said. "We have a couple of decades of precedent saying that our interpretation that folks that lease

land from the Aviation Authority or Port Authority for profit are subject to ad valorem taxation."

Michael Stephens, general counsel for the Aviation Authority, said the agency plans to appeal. "The Property Appraiser's actions will have a negative economic impact on Hillsborough County and set a harmful precedent in our state," Stephens said in a statement. "We intend to appeal, as we strongly believe Florida law supports our position."

Thursday's ruling is similar to one from this summer, in which a judge ruled that the property appraiser can collect taxes from a private shipyard operating on publicly owned land at Port Tampa Bay. Henriquez and his predecessor, Rob Turner, have long held that tenants of public agencies like the port, Aviation Authority and Tampa Sports Authority should pay taxes. **Keep reading...**

*The Board of Directors and State Affairs Committee will discuss adding this as a high-priority issue on our 2021 legislative priorities.*

*The next State Affairs Committee call will be December 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. See the State Affairs Committee webpage for meeting access information.*

## FAC MEMBER NEWS

### [Congratulations RVA controllers/teams receiving awards at the Air Traffic Control Association \(ATCA\) virtual annual meeting](#) (Source: RVA)

RVA has announced that four RVA employees/teams will be receiving awards at the ATCA annual virtual annual meeting next week.

- ◆ **Safety Award** - Accident specialist, Jimmy Mills
- ◆ **Air Traffic Manager of the Year** - Kissimmee Tower manager, Glenn Huckeba
- ◆ **Chairman's Award** - Key West Tower team, for their efforts following Hurricane Irma
- ◆ **Aircraft Save Award** - Michael Woods and Greg Davis, Mesquite Tower, for relaying communications through the Fixed Base Operator to an aircraft with total electrical failure, and preventing a wheels-up landing.
- ◆ **NATCA Archie League Safety Award** - Brad Burtner of Pompano Beach, FL Tower. Brad prevented a wheels-up landing



*Way to go RVA Team!*

**Welcome Back  
To FAC!!**

**Walbridge**  
Ashley Policastri, Business Development Manager  
100 South Ashley Drive, Suite 350  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 635-1071  
[apolicastri@walbridge.com](mailto:apolicastri@walbridge.com)

***Airport director receives Colonel Gary E. Kay Veteran of the Year Award***

Airport Director Roy Sieger received the Colonel Gary E. Kay Veteran of the Year Award Wednesday during Flagler County Veterans Day ceremony held this year at the Flagler Auditorium. "Thank you everybody. I appreciate this recognition this morning," Sieger said.

Sieger, a 20-year United States Marine Corps Veteran, was nominated by Roseanne Stocker, who spoke about his efforts through the Rotary Club of Flagler Beach.

"He can always be counted on to actually do the work, side by side with volunteers," Stocker wrote in her nomination. "A true servant leader, Mr. Sieger walks the walk of the Rotary ideal of 'service before self,' whether he is distributing food to families in need, installing American flags at homes across the county or staging airport events to inspire our next generation of aviators, patriots, and citizens." Sieger achieved the rank of Gunnery Sergeant during his service between 1984 and 2004. He received the following military honors:

- ◆ Meritorious Service Medal
- ◆ Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal w/ 4 Gold Stars
- ◆ Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with Silver Star
- ◆ National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star
- ◆ Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star
- ◆ Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- ◆ Kuwait Liberation of Kuwait Medal
- ◆ Navy Unit Commendation
- ◆ Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation w/ 3 Bronze Stars
- ◆ Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
- ◆ Marine Corps Recruiter Ribbon
- ◆ Naval Aircrew Badge (Wings)
- ◆ Parachutist Badge (Jump Wings)

The goal of the Colonel Gary E. Kay Flagler County Veteran of the Year Award is to recognize a living county veteran who has served in the United States Armed Forces with honor, and also used the leadership skills and abilities learned in service to the nation to better the community through selfless volunteer service to Flagler County.



**Congratulations to Our New Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.)**



Nina MacPherson, A.A.E., IACE  
Airport Manager  
North Perry Airport



***Congratulations Nina!!***

*The entire Veterans Day Ceremony can be viewed here:  
[http://flaglercounty.org/departments/veterans\\_services/index.php](http://flaglercounty.org/departments/veterans_services/index.php)*

***Congratulations Roy!!***

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

( New ← )

	Location	Date
FAA 2020 Southern Regional Airports Conference	Atlanta, GA Click <a href="#">here</a> for additional information	April 5-8, 2021 (New Dates)
2021 FAC Education & Training Summit	SAVE THE DATE	April 13-15, 2021
2021 FAC Annual Conference & Exposition	SAVE THE DATE	July 18-21, 2021 ←

Please email [lisa@floridaairports.org](mailto:lisa@floridaairports.org) with calendar updates.

## AROUND THE NATION

### *New interim strategy will address PFAS through certain EPA-issued wastewater permits* (Source: [press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov))

**A**ggressively addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment continues to be an active and ongoing priority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On November 30th, the agency announced two important steps to address PFAS. First, EPA issued a memorandum detailing an interim National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting strategy for addressing PFAS in EPA-issued wastewater permits. Second, EPA released information on progress in developing new analytical methods to test for PFAS compounds in wastewater and other environmental media. Together, these actions help ensure that federally enforceable wastewater monitoring for PFAS can begin as soon as validated analytical methods are finalized.

"Better understanding and addressing PFAS is a top priority for EPA, and the agency is continuing to develop needed research and policies," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "For the first time in EPA's history, we are utilizing all of our program offices to address a singular, cross-cutting contaminant and the agency's efforts are critical to supporting our state and local partners."

"Managing and mitigating PFAS in water is a priority for the Office of Water as we continue our focus on meeting 21st century challenges," said EPA Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross. "These actions mark important steps in developing the underlying science and permitting techniques to address PFAS in wastewater where the discharge of these chemicals may be of concern."

EPA's interim NPDES permitting strategy for PFAS provides recommendations from a cross-agency workgroup on an interim approach to include PFAS-related conditions in EPA-issued NPDES permits. EPA is the permitting authority for three states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico), the District of Columbia, most U.S. territories including Puerto Rico, Indian Country, and certain federal facilities. The strategy advises EPA permit writers to consider including PFAS monitoring at facilities where these chemicals are expected to be present in wastewater discharges, including from municipal separate storm sewer systems and industrial stormwater permits. The PFAS that could be considered for monitoring are those that will have validated EPA analytical methods for wastewater testing, which the agency anticipates being available on a phased-in schedule

as multi-lab validated wastewater analytical methods are finalized. The agency's interim strategy also encourages the use of best management practices where appropriate to control or abate the discharge of PFAS and includes recommendations to facilitate information sharing to foster adoption of best practices across states and localities.

In coordination with the interim NPDES permitting strategy, EPA is also providing information on the status of analytical methods needed to test for PFAS in wastewater. EPA is developing analytical methods in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense to test for PFAS in wastewater and other environmental media, such as soils. The agency is releasing a list of 40 PFAS chemicals that are the subject of analytical method development. This method would be in addition to Method 533 and Method 537.1 that are already approved and can measure 29 PFAS chemicals in drinking water. EPA anticipates that multi-lab validated testing for PFAS will be finalized in 2021. For more information on testing method validation, see <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods>.

[Click here to keep reading...](#)

### *New DOT rule paves the way for airlines to ban emotional support animals on flights* (Source: [USAToday.com](https://www.usatoday.com))

**T**he Department of Transportation announced December 2nd it will revise rules around flying with emotional support animals and will no longer consider them to be service animals, which are required by law to be allowed to fly with passengers on commercial airlines.

The revised Air Carrier Access Act rules define a service animal as "a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability," according to a release from the U.S. DOT. The DOT notes it no longer considers an

emotional support animal to be a service animal, paving the way for airlines to ban them if they don't fit established rules about pets.

Policies will be set by individual airlines but must conform to the DOT rules, which will go into effect 30 days after the final ruling is published in the Federal Register, though that date has not yet been announced. The changes are a departure from the previous DOT guidance issued last year, which said that airlines could not restrict passengers from traveling with emotional support animals, nor could they ban a specific breed or species of support animal.

Airlines are currently prohibited from refusing service dogs based on their breed, and that prohibition will continue under the new rules. Airlines have also questioned whether some passengers may be trying to pass off their pets as support animals – be they cats, rabbits or birds, among others – in order to avoid paying the associated fees. The new DOT rule will allow airlines to require people flying with a service animal to fill out a form up to 48 hours in advance of travel. They'll also be allowed to require a service animal to fit within its handler's foot space on the plane, which could be problematic for larger service animals.

"Airlines are committed to promoting accessibility for passengers with disabilities and ensuring their safe travel. The Department of Transportation's final rule will protect the traveling public and airline crew members from untrained animals in the cabin, as well as improve air travel accessibility for passengers with disabilities that travel with trained service dogs," Airlines for America president and CEO Nicholas E. Calio said in a statement in support of the new rules. [Keep reading...](#)

**Business & Employment Opportunities**

**SARASOTA BRADENTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**SARASOTA MANATEE AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**RFQ-01-2020-GTC**

**RFQ FOR**

**PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION CENTER PROJECT**



The Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority (SMAA), henceforth referred to as "Authority", is seeking professional services to provide design, permitting, bidding, and construction phase services for the Ground Transportation Center project. The project scope will reconfigure the ground transportation area at the west end of the terminal to provide staging and pickup for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), taxis, airport shuttles, limousines, and public transportation vehicles. The Center should include covered pickup lanes, protected pedestrian walkways, lighting, driver's lounge with restrooms, security, and technology for access and control (possibly plate reading technology). Preliminary concept has been prepared and is included with this solicitation.

**SCHEDULE FOR SELECTION**

- |     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 1.  | RFP Distribution                              | Oct. 23, 2020  |
| 2.  | Advertise the Notice (#1)                     | Oct. 28, 2020  |
| 3.  | Advertise the Notice (#2)                     | Nov. 4, 2020   |
| 4.  | <b>Non-Mandatory</b> Pre-Submittal Conference | Nov. 19, 2020  |
| 5.  | Deadline for Written Questions/Clarifications | Dec. 14, 2020  |
| 6.  | Deadline for Receipt of Proposal              | Jan. 4, 2021   |
| 7.  | Meeting of Short-list Committee               | Jan. 4-8, 2021 |
| 8.  | Notification of Short-listed Firms            | Jan. 11, 2021  |
| 9.  | Presentation to Board & Selection             | Jan. 25, 2021  |
| 10. | Scope Preparations & Negotiations             | TBD            |

For more information, visit <https://srq-airport.com/bid-announcements>



**BROWARD COUNTY AVIATION DEPARTMENT**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**Airport Manager – Terminals**  
**\$79,161 - \$126,342, DOQ plus benefits**

The Aviation Department, which operates the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and the North Perry Airport, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Airport Manager in the Aviation Operations Division. The Airport Manager for Terminals Operations is responsible for managing and coordinating all functions of the Terminals Operations at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). This role is responsible for analyzing and solving a variety of issues as well as coordinating and ensuring the safety of commercial, and charter activities in the FLL terminals. The Airport Manager for Terminals should possess a thorough understanding of terminals management and passenger flow at a large hub commercial service international airport as it relates to FAA, TSA, CBP, tenants, airlines, contractors and the general public.

Duties involve managing, planning and coordinating all aspects of airport terminal operations; budget and procurement preparation and oversight; coordination of tenant improvement projects; inspections of county-owned facilities; training, coaching and mentoring staff; implementation of company policy and procedures to staff; develop and implement programs; oversight of emergency response of assigned staff; and ensure compliance of rules and regulations by stakeholders. This position requires significant interaction with airport stakeholders and will supervise assigned Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) staff.

This class works under administrative supervision, developing and implementing programs within organizational policies and reports major activities to executive level administrators through conferences and reports.

**Minimum Education and Experience Requirements**

Requires a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in,

Business Administration, Public Administration, Management, Aviation Management or closely related field.

Requires four (4) years in airport management appropriate to the area of assignment including one (1) year of supervisory experience.

**Special Certifications and Licenses**

Must possess a valid Florida driver's license during employment and maintain authority to drive on County business.

Ability to obtain and maintain a Security Identification Display Area (SIDA) Badge with a Customs Seal.

Interested applicants must apply online at [www.broward.org/careers](http://www.broward.org/careers). The Announcement is open until a sufficient number of applications are received.

**CONTACT US**

**Business Office**

5802 Hoffner Ave.,  
 Suite 708  
 Orlando, FL 32822  
 Phone: (407) 745-4161

**Governmental Affairs  
 Office**

325 John Knox Rd,  
 Suite L103  
 Tallahassee, FL 32303  
 Phone: (850) 205-5632  
 Fax: (850) 222-3019

[www.floridaairports.org](http://www.floridaairports.org)

[info@floridaairports.org](mailto:info@floridaairports.org)

**Attention FAC Members:**

If you have business and/or employment opportunities that you would like to see advertised in the Airmail Newsletter, simply send the posting to [gina@floridaairports.org](mailto:gina@floridaairports.org)