



Chairman's Letter

WESTCHESTER AVIATION ASSOC.

Happy New Year!

Moving into 2018, the WAA Board of Directors would like to thank you for a magnificent year in 2017!

Our board works hard to demonstrate our unwavering support and commitment to business and general aviation at Westchester County airport and our NE region. With over 175 members including business, corporate, and individual membership levels, we continue to grow and deliver more benefits each year. We genuinely appreciate your feedback, attendance, and support during our emerging growth.

Ensuring that we encompassed advocacy for all of our members both in business and general aviation, we assembled a substantial schedule in 2017. Adding new activities and growing our customary events, the WAA could not be more proud of our yearly highlights.

First Year on the NBAA Board



As we announced last year, I was elected to the Board of Directors for the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and now have just completed my first official year. I am not only honored to be a part of this, but in doing so hope to bring even more value to the WAA Board and keep us well-informed about industry matters.

Throughout the year, I have been thoroughly amazed at NBAA's influence and the amount of work their team accomplishes. Given that the count of employees is under 90, the true value lies in the amount of political influence from senior management particularly with ATC Privatization and most recently the new tax law. Their work was imperative in removing some onerous provisions that would have had a major impact on the country and preowned aircraft sales. More industry hot topics are mentioned in depth below, but we want you to know that we are working hard to deliver you the issues quickly and with comprehensive detail straight from the NBAA.

ATC & Airport Privatization



Opening the Year with a Threat

If there was one word to describe 2017, it may just be privatization. We started the year off with

a fresh reminder of the very real threat to the industry with H.R. 2997. This 21st Century AIRR Act, seeks to privatize the air traffic control system and reduce general aviation access to airports and airspace. The U.S. has

Airport Privatization Bid Granted

Continuing with the

privatization theme, we continued to follow the proposal of airport privatization at KHPN. In the words of WAA Board member Sal Lagonia, here is our latest account of the matter. With the election over and a new administration about to enter the Westchester county offices, the fate of privatization of the



the largest, most diverse, most complex and safest airspace system in the world. Everyone has equal access to airports and airspace, but that could be in jeopardy if this legislation becomes law.

This is such a large issue that several of the aviation organizations collaborated on a new website, www.atcnotforsale.com. By utilizing this and originally NBAA's Contact Congress initiative, the WAA advocated against ATC privatization closely following updates throughout the year and providing our membership with real time changes, revisions, and avenues to voice your opinion.

As the chairman of the board, this is the largest threat to business and general aviation I have seen throughout my career. With record WAA blog entries, continuous alerts, and even further newsletter articles, this was clearly a significant topic for the association and our industry in general. Congressman Shuster is still pushing very hard trying to convert votes across the board at any lengths.

We don't expect the issue to go away. Therefore, anticipate further updates and call to actions in the coming year. We know that contacting congress may not seem to move mountains, but remember that we all have a voice in this. We urge you to act together with us to protect our industry.

county airport remains an unsettled issue. Shortly after election day, the selection committee accepted a bid from Macquarie Infrastructure Corporation, for a \$1.1 billion, forty-year contract to run the airport. The committee is made up of Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, Economic Development Director George Oros, and budget director Larry Soule as well as three county legislators.

Before this agreement can be ratified, the County Legislature would have to approve the arrangement with at least 12 members voting in the affirmative, out of the 17 legislators. The former County Executive, Rob Astorino has stated that the deal would provide a guaranteed revenue stream of more than \$6 million a year to pay for county services. Michael Kaplowitz is the chairman of the legislature and feels that the new administration should have the opportunity to give their input before a final decision is made.

The incoming County Executive, George Latimer has been critical of the original proposal calling an attempt to commit the county to the multi-year deal in the last months of their term as "unconscionable". The lease arrangement is made possible under a program by the FAA which has been rarely used. The FAA would also have to approve the arrangement under this program which brings with it, many rules of compliance. FAA approval cannot come until the county issues its final plan and submits the necessary items to the agency.

2nd Annual Safety Standdown



(CAM) credit for attending.

On June 19th, the WAA hosted the Second Annual Safety Standdown for business and general aviation professionals. This year's theme was "The Future of Aviation Safety" and nationally renowned speakers addressed over 225 attendees at the Doral Arrowwood. A corporate operator focused day session garnered employees from various companies throughout the Northeast region who were able to interact with real time survey questions throughout the presentations utilizing the program Poll Everywhere. All attendees also qualified for one NBAA Certified Aviation Manager

Morning speakers included John Beatty, CEO of the Flight Safety Foundation; John Goglia, former NTSB board member; and Aaron Greenwald and Josh Olds, Unmanned Safety Institute. Also, two panel discussions took place focusing on the future of aviation safety training and fatigue.

Along with networking opportunities between various disciplines in an aviation department, attendees also joined in breakout sessions throughout the afternoon specifically tailored to their specialty. Sal Lagonia, WAA board member and owner of Lagonia Law, instructed pilots on how to navigate any situation when the FAA is calling. Food expert, John Detloff trained flight attendants on global food safety. Constant Aviation's Kent Stauffer delivered a thought provoking discussion on human factors playing into the maintenance role. Finally, Dean Snell and John Kosak of NBAA addressed dispatchers and schedulers on working with the NY ATC and presented helpful weather resources.

Furthermore, the evening session focused on the general aviation constituency of KHPN. With 60 attendees, members of the Westchester Flying Club, Civil Air Patrol, and other groups listened to the

aforementioned Greenwald, Olds, and Kosak. Additionally joining in the presentations was WAA board member, Scott Dyer; Mike Wold, HPN Tower Chief; and Vladimir Vallejo, Front Line Manager of the HPN Tower. As one of the top GA events the WAA has hosted, WINGS - Pilot Proficiency credit was offered for all attendees.

We are excited to announce that this year the WAA will be moving the Annual Safety Standdown adjacent to the NBAA Regional Forum at HPN. The event will be held June 20th and the regional forum will follow the next day. Stay tuned as the WAA will roll out more details soon.

ATC Quarterly Meetings

The WAA also had a successful year of joint WAA and ATC meetings capturing many insights regarding HPN activities. The quarterly meetings took place in February, May, September, and the most recent in December. By popular demand, WAA Board Member Scott Dyer even created videos recapping what was discussed throughout the year and presented in his Safety Day lecture. The first video is on runway and LAHSO markings and the next discusses VFR traffic conflict avoidance. Be sure to check out the new page on our website dedicated to these details.



[Click Here for details of each meeting and more!](#)



Autos & Airplanes

This past Fall, the WAA introduced a new free community event, Autos & Airplanes. This car cruise and airplane event garnered over 100 attendees and 25 show cars throughout the 3 hour Saturday morning show. With 5 aircraft on display as well, kids were allowed to sit in the cockpits of a few airplanes and learned about becoming a pilot.

Board member Dan Shamir stated, "As the WAA hosts a variety of summer BBQ's, we often don't get to connect with the general aviation crowd. This gave us a chance to have a platform for them and teach others in the public about the airport and our industry."

New Program Launched

We launched a new Annual Partnership Program this year in order to expand opportunities to our HPN community. This program will enable the board to accomplish many tasks and new ventures that we were not able to in the past like a scholarship program and additional networking events. The WAA Board of Directors would like to thank all of our current sponsors for their continued to the association. If you or your company is interested in more information on the program, check out the Partnership Program page on our website.

[Click Here for More Information](#)



Board Highlights

This year brought many changes to the WAA



Board of Directors. First, we wish a farewell to board members who resigned after many years of service. The board would like to thank former treasurer Len Levin, former Chairman John Johnston, Marietta French, and Hank Grudberg. Their dedication throughout the years has molded the WAA into what it is today and we are eternally grateful to each of them.

With that, we have welcomed a new treasurer as board member John Wellington steps into the role. Furthermore, after 3 years of chairing this amazing board, it is my time to hand the reins over to another esteemed leader. As of our January board meeting, Eric Faulkner will be

directing the organization and I will remain on the board as past chairman. We are all very confident that Eric is going to do an incredible job and you will certainly see bigger and better ideas come to life.

Finally, we honored long time NBAA Northeast representative Dean Saucier and congratulated him on his retirement! Now we are pleased to announce that our very own longstanding Executive Director, Brittany Davies, will be taking over his role at NBAA. While this is bittersweet news to us, we are very excited to have someone as knowledgeable and passionate as Brittany to represent business aviation in our region.

Now in true changing of the guard fashion, I welcome Eric Faulkner in as your new board chairman as I know he has a few words for the coming year.

New Chairman Address

Thank you to the board and to all of our Members! I am very excited to become Chairman of the board and thank Milt for such an unbelievable 3 years of leadership. Additionally, I also want to include a special announcement in our list of 2017 board accomplishments. I am proud to announce that our very own past Chairman himself, Milt Hobbs received NBAA's Silk Scarf Award at the end of the year! The silk scarf award honors outstanding business aviation community members and was given to Milt for his long-standing contributions to the industry during his 40 year career. Congratulations!



Furthermore, with board members resigning this year and Brittany moving on to her NBAA position, there are a few open positions and we are actively looking for candidates. If you are interested in a board position or can recommend an employee or colleague for any role, please contact me directly. Finally, we are very excited for the new partnership program and hope to elevate all of our events and deliver even more in 2018. Thank you once again on behalf of myself and the entire board. Your membership and support mean so much to us!

Cheers to the New Year!



Milt Hobbs
WAA Past Chairman of the Board

Eric Faulkner
WAA Chairman of the Board

