

2018 Chairman's Letter to the WAA Membership



Moving into 2019, the WAA Board of Directors would like to thank you for a magnificent year in 2018!

Our board works hard to demonstrate our unwavering support and commitment to business and general aviation at the 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 2018. Adding new activities and growing our customary events, the WAA could not be more proud of our yearly highlights.

The 2018 Bill Weaver Westchester Aviation Scholarship Award



The WAA partnered with Academy of Aviation to Award 2 Scholarships. One of the Highlights that the Board is extremely proud of, is the fact that the WAA awarded two Scholarships for Flight Training in 2018. The first scholarship in the amount of \$7,000.00 went to Luc Piderman an Operations Supervisor @ HPN with Avports. The second scholarship in the amount of \$3,000.00 went to Adam Delitta a Civil Air Patrol Cadet and local High School Student in Westchester County.

Huge Victory - ATC IS NOT FOR SALE

The 21st Century AIRR Act, sought to privatize the air traffic control system and reduce general aviation access to airports and airspace. The U.S. has the largest, most diverse, most complex and safest airspace system in the world. Everyone has equal access to airports and airspace, but that could have been in jeopardy if this legislation became law. This is such a large issue that several of the aviation organizations collaborated on a



new website, www.atcnoforsale.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 and we defeated this BILL – Thank you!!! As our previous chairman of the board – Milt Hobbs stated this was the largest threat to business and general aviation he has ever seen throughout his 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 and we are grateful for an Industry that came together to prevent ATC from becoming privatized...

Airport Privatization-KHPN

Continuing with the privatization theme, we continued to follow the proposal of airport privatization at KHPN. In the words of WAA Board member the Honorable Sal Lagonia, here is our latest account of the matter. The current status of the airport privatization issue is; on hold.

The County Executive has re-titled the privatization proposal as "Airport Governance". He has held several town hall style meetings in an attempt to gather comments from constituents. These meetings have provided little in the way of insight into governance and have instead been used by some anti-airport groups to air their grievances about the airport in general.

South Salem has become a focal point of some of the issues, because noise data from the South Salem monitoring site was not released before last years election. Proponents would say that the site should not be part of HPN monitoring because it is located at a major airway waypoint (Carmel VOR) and therefore serves a large area of air traffic, other than HPN. However, others have pointed to intentional data tampering. This has led to distrust in the noise data, although it alone is insignificant.

From the Executive branch, it would appear that the County Executive is quite willing to push the governance or privatization issue down the road and put it in the lap of the County Legislature. Ultimately, they are the branch that will decide the issue but, in my inquiries, recently with two top ranking members of the legislature, both confirm that they have no scheduled date for further discussion. Interestingly, Ben Boykin who is the chairman of the Legislature, issued his yearend report in late December 2018 and went into detail, pointing out the work of the legislative branch. However, the airport and specifically, privatization, were not mentioned throughout the lengthy address.

A recent check with the FAA compliance branch, which runs the "Pilot Program" of privatization shows that there was no activity from the FAA since they approved the initial application from Westchester County. The proposal was open for public comment with few comments received.

A committee of the WAA recently met with the County Executive and his cabinet as it pertains to transportation and offered assistance in helping carry out the important goals of a vibrant airport. We have become part of the advocacy for responsible governance of the airport.

In short, the issue was not made part of this year's budget and appears to be placed on the "to do" list of government with no hard date for decisions or even further action at this point.

Increase in Anti-Airport Sentiment

As we move into 2019 we face a new threat from a small but extremely vocal minority of anti-airport protestors. Currently this group is trying to influence the decision on the planned re-paving of Runway 16/34 and would like to see it delayed until after the Federal Funds that are available to help the County pay for this work expire, which will result in the additional costs being born by both the County and Taxpayers. By their public statements it is very clear that the goal of this group is to reduce GA operations at our airport and ultimately to campaign for the main runway to be shortened which would also result in the curtailing of commercial operations.

Our County Executive has specifically requested the help of the WAA to help promote the positive value of our Airport and as a result our most important job in 2019 for the WAA will be to combat the inaccurate and misleading information that is being disseminated by the anti-airport lobby. I know I can count on your support to help in this extremely important effort. As an example, showing up to Westchester Airport Advisory Board meetings to let the AAB see the amount of positive support for the Airport is vital.

The next AAB Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 23, 2019 at 7:00PM in the 2nd floor conference room of the main terminal building.

3rd Annual Safety Day

The WAA's Third Annual Safety Day was held on June 19th and 20th, 2018 at The Doral Arrowwood. This year's theme was "Technology & Big Data: Impact on Aviation Safety".

The events kicked off with an evening session focused on "Enhancing Safety in a Digital Age." The group of 60 attendees was made up of members of the Westchester Flying Club, Civil Air Patrol as well as other Aviators from the KHPN community. I welcomed the group and the first order of business was to announce the recipients of the Bill Weaver Aviation Scholarships.



We had close to four hours of presentations followed by various speakers including Ben Struck-FAAS Team program Manager, FAA. Tyson Weihs-Founder and CEO, ForeFlight, Doug Ritter-Equipped to Survive Foundation, Jonathan Sackier, Pilot and Physician, and lastly Adrian Eichorn who is famous for Flying around the world in his Bonanza.

Wednesday's sessions were focused on corporate operators and included over 240 attendees from a wide variety of companies throughout the Northeast. Morning speakers included Dr. Alex Huang of the The Weather Company, Kurt Edwards, Director General of IBAC, and Tyson Weihs, CEO and founder of ForeFlight. Attendees participated in breakout sessions throughout the afternoon that were geared toward their specific job category.

The afternoon general session featured The Bill Weaver Scholarship presentation as well as presentations from Dann Runik, FlightSafety International, James Albright, Author of Code 7700, and Dr. Jonathan Sackier, a pilot and physician. This year's Safety Day was held two days prior to the NBAA Regional Forum and was attended by over 240 aviation enthusiasts and professionals. Additional information, pictures and attendee comments are available on the WAA website. On behalf of the WAA I would like to thank all of our volunteers and attendees who contributed to the success of the Our 3rd Annual Safety day.

We will continue the tradition of having the WAA Annual Safety Standdown adjacent to the NBAA Regional Forum at HPN in June 2019. Stay tuned as the WAA will roll out more details soon.

ATC Quarterly Meetings

The Quarterly ATC meetings orchestrated by our very own Board Member - Scott Dyer. The ATC meetings have become very popular and are always well attended. The 3 meetings took place in March, June and in August. We also had a Winter Presentation that was held in December at Purchase College. Meteorologist, Nick Gregory was a presenter at this full capacity event!



Autos & Airplanes

WAA Board member Dan Shamir created this fun and exciting event last year. We held Autos and Airplanes on Saturday, September 22nd and it was well attended again. We had about 40 vehicles and several aircraft on display – Attended by almost 100 people!

Partnership Program

We launched a new Annual Partnership Program last year in order to expand opportunities to our HPN community. We look forward to its success in 2019 as well. The Partnership program enables the board to accomplish many tasks and add new ventures that we were not able to do 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 support 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



2018 brought some very positive changes to our Board. We added three new Board Members. Brittany Davies, Stephen Malkinson and Greg Keshishian. Brittany was the former Executive Director for the WAA and is now currently the North East Regional Rep for NBAA. Stephen is a pilot and started flying on his 14th Birthday and currently is part owners of 2003 Grumman Tiger. Stephen works for IBM as a Chief Technology Officer. Greg is the Managing Partner of GK Partners, Inc. In 2018 we added a new Executive Director to the

Board. Kerri Gianazza - Customer Service Manager for Ross Aviation. Kerri is the backbone of the WAA. Kerri's dedication and commitment to our Association is immeasurable. We are truly fortunate to have her in this role.

Cheers to the New Year!



Eric Faulkner
WAA Chairman of the Board

