

SEC JOURNAL

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METRO NASHVILLE AIRPORT AUTHORITY RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD

The Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority has been named a 2007 Commitment Award winner in the annual Excellence in Tennessee recognition program administered by the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE). The award will be presented at the 15th Annual Excellence in Tennessee Awards Banquet on Feb. 21, 2008, at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs.

The Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority is responsible for planning, construction, operation and management of Nashville International and John C. Tune Airports.

"The Airport Authority is dedicated to delivering exemplary customer service by providing premier airport services and facilities," MNAA President and CEO and Southeast Chapter member Raul Regalado said. "As an organization, we are improving our processes and customer focus through Six Sigma, which is a tool for enhancing customer satisfaction, defining processes, and involving people."

Through an annual evaluation and assessment process, the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence recognizes organizations that have achieved the highest standards of excellence in their operations and results. The program uses the *Criteria for Performance Excellence* established by the Baldrige National Quality Program as the evaluation tool.

Awards are presented in four categories: Interest Recognition (the beginning level), Commitment, Achievement, and the highest level – the Excellence Award.

"We're not just honoring businesses, schools, hospitals and non-profits that are good at what they do now," said TNCPE President Katie Rawls. "These winners have taken on the challenge of attaining a high level of excellence for the long term. They realize that this is a continuing process and that tools like the Baldrige criteria are available to help them on their journey. It's this ongoing commitment to excellence that I find truly in-

spirational."

Since TNCPE's creation in 1993, more than 1,000 organizations have progressed through one or more levels of achievement. A board of examiners made up of 170 experts in business, education, health care and government assessed this year's applicants in seven categories: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; human resource focus; process management; and results.

The Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority (MNAA) was established in 1970, and owns and operates the Nashville International Airport (BNA) and John C. Tune Airport (JWN).

Tommy Bibb, MNAA Director of Properties, serves in the chairs of the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives and will be the Association's president beginning July 1, 2008.

Our congratulations to the whole MNAA team.

GULFPORT-BILOXI OPENS NEW TERMINAL

On February 19, 2008, the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport will celebrate the Grand Opening of its Terminal Expansion. The event is open to the public.

The celebration will feature Senator Thad Cochran as the Keynote Speaker. Also participating in the program will be Senator Roger Wicker and Congressman Gene Taylor.

The project was designed by Gresham Smith & Partners in 2003. Construction began in 2005 with W.G. Yates Construction as the general contractor. Hurricane Katrina delayed completion of the project by nearly eighteen months because of the damages sustained to the existing structure and the new construction by the hurricane.

According to SEC-AAAE member and Airport Authority Chair-

man Frank Genzer, "This project has been a significant challenge since Hurricane Katrina. But accomplishing good things in difficult times is something all of us on the Mississippi Gulf Coast can identify with. It's finished and it's fantastic."

Although the terminal is a focal point for the public, airport officials are quick to point out \$144 million in other projects that are underway. Those projects include a 800-car parking garage, two hotels, a new rental car service facility, expanded office park and a new general aviation and air cargo area, all of which are due for completion this year.

The airlines have responded to the improvements with new service. "Before Hurricane Katrina we had four

airlines and 6 nonstop cities," said SEC-AAAE member and Airport Director Bruce Frallic. "Today we have 9 airlines and 12 nonstop cities and there's potential for more based on new hotel resorts and condos under construction."

And to make travel easier for their passengers, the airport contracted with Vigilant Solutions who implemented its Preferred Traveler (PT) program on January 30. Preferred Traveler allows vetted travelers access to an expedited security lane at participating airports. Gold and Platinum level members receive additional benefits including automated airport parking entry and exit, VIP lounges and baggage tracking. The PT program is certified as an anti-terrorism technology by the TSA.

Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport Lands Jet Center

Bill Thayer, a businessman from New Jersey, has signed a 50-year, \$10,000-a-month lease for hangar #5 and the Civil Air Patrol building, says SEC-AAAE member and airport manager Terry Moore. "There is huge potential with this agreement."

Thayer told The Parkersburg News early in January that he plans to establish a service facility and park as many as six B-737 aircraft on the apron. The Civil Air

Patrol building will be used as a pilot's lounge when the aircraft are parked.

Keith Burdette, president of the Wood County Economic Development Authority, said Thayer's plan for the facility is "very smart." Burdette added, "It makes great sense to take an under-utilized airport, which is pretty much between three or four large airports and make it a center for jets and pilots."

Moore says the 4,500-square-foot Civil Air Patrol building may include such things as games, workout machinery and computers for use by pilots and executives while awaiting their flights.

Thayer said the new Parkersburg Jet Center will be a copy of the Multiflight facility at the Leeds Bradford International Airport in Leeds, England.

BOMBS IN BARTOW?

Following the AAAE/SEC-AAAE Finance and Administration Conference in Melbourne, Florida. I had the opportunity to visit with SEC-AAAE member Cynthia Burrow, Airport Manager at Bartow Municipal Airport in Bartow, Florida.

Cynthia was an absolutely lovely and gracious host with a most interesting history at the airport. She began her career as the secretary to the former airport manager, she was later promoted to assistant airport manager and she became airport manager following the untimely death of her friend and predecessor.

Cynthia runs a very busy general aviation facility and industrial park that has its own interesting history. Formerly known as Bartow Army Air Field, it was used for military bomber training from 1942 to 1945 and pilot training from 1950 to 1960. Cynthia spearheaded plans for a beauti-

ful new terminal building at Bartow that includes a Bartow Army Air Field memorabilia room that is free to the public. It alone is worth the trip.

But the one thing that Cynthia failed to tell me was that federal officials think they know where bombs were buried decades ago at Bartow Municipal Airport and they are looking for anyone who may know something they don't. A public meeting will be held March 4 to hear from anyone who may have relevant information about the military operations at Bartow.

Defense officials began examining the site in 2006 as part of a general investigation of former military munitions sites all over the country. The focus of the search is to locate old military munitions or related materials that could pose a possible health, safety or environmental hazard.

The most heavily publicized recent search in Florida involved the discovery of bombs and other munitions on the site of a middle school in southeast Orange County last summer.

What officials have learned so far about the Bartow Municipal Airport is that there is no immediate threat to the public. There are no plans to take any further action until at least 2012, said Charles Fales, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville. "There's nothing that has a need for a time-critical removal," says Fales. It's all underground and not accessible."

In the meantime, you be real careful down there, Cynthia!

Ed.

New Airport Director Takes Over

A new era for Okaloosa County's airports is taking off. County Commissioners recently hired SEC-AAAE member Greg Donovan, former assistant director at Pensacola Regional Airport, to assume the role of airports director following the retirement of SEC-AAAE member Jerry Sealy. Greg stepped into the position January 28.

Sealy has been with the airport for the past 14 years. His last

day was January 31.

The diversity of the county's airports—Okaloosa Regional Airport, Destin Airport and Bob Sikes Airport in Crestview—attracted Donovan to the position.

"The industrial-corporate environment of Crestview is completely different than the general aviation business environment of Destin," Donovan said.

"And then you've got a commercial service airport, too. So it's the best of all worlds and you don't always get that with a very large, commercial services type of facility."

Okaloosa Regional grew and added new services under Sealy's leadership and Donovan says the airport is well-positioned to continue that trend.

Southeast Chapter—AAAE

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Airport Worker Leads Double Life as TV Wrestler

His day job is operations manager at the Lafayette Regional Airport, but Byron Wilcott has an alter ego—the “Angel of Sin,” who recently showed off his wrestling prowess on a national cable television network.

Wilcott says he has wanted to be a wrestler since he was a child. “When I was four or five years old, I remember watching wrestling at my grandmother’s house and playing it in the backyard, even though they told us not to.”

On weekends, Wilcott travels from El Paso to Atlanta working as a professional wrestler.

The 6-foot-5, 260-pound Wilcott earns roughly \$250 a match, pay that is quickly eaten up by travel expenses.

Stu Mast

Deceased at 82

Southeast Chapter member and former manager of the Tampa International Airport, Steward D. Mast, passed away April 10, 2007, at his home.

Born in Kalamazoo, Mich., and raised in Sturgis, Mich., Stu attended the University of Michigan where he played French horn in the marching band.

Stu was drafted into the Army Air Corps in April 1943 where he flew B-17 bombers.

Starting in 1943, Stu took the helm as the manager of several airports including Kellogg Field in Battle Creek, Mich., and Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, Wis. From 1966 to 1989, Stu was instrumental in guiding one of America’s premier airports—Tampa International Airport. Stu was actively involved in the full spectrum of aviation having served on the Sun N’ Fun Foundation, as a director of the American Association of Airport Executives, an active member of the Southeastern Airport Manager’s Association and the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives and as a integral member of the Tampa International Airport terminal planning team.

Stu is survived by his lovely wife Judy Jo, a son, daughter and five grandchildren and he is sadly missed by all SEC-AAAE members who knew him, most especially his fellow aviator and friend, Ed Cooley, Senior Director of Operations and Maintenance at Tampa International Airport.

HEATHER CHANEY JOINS POND & CO.

Heather Chaney, Madam Co-Chairman fo the SEC-AAAE Corporate Committee, recently joined Pond & Company as a Senior Project Manager in the company’s Aviation and Fueling Group. Heather has spent close to 20 years in the aviation industry working with airports of varying sizes throughout the southeastern United States and South America. Her broad range of project management experience includes master planning, land acquisition, airfield development and grant administration.

Heather will be working to further expand Pond’s commercial aviation portfolio. She will continue to take an active role with the SEC-AAAE Corporate Committee.

Pond and Company is a full-service architecture, engineering, planning and construction management firm headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. Pond’s industry-leading Aviation and Fueling Group specializes in aviation facilities and infrastructure, fueling design and engineering, construction management and integrity and compliance

management services.

Pond and Company carries expertise in design/build, LEED® sustainable design, BIM 3-D modeling, project management, construction management, architecture, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, structural engineering, electrical engineering, environmental compliance, cost estimating, fire protection, planning, permitting, utility design, site development, and integrity/compliance management.

Pond was founded in 1965 and serves aviation and fueling clients worldwide.



Louisville - For 10 days each spring Louisville is an arena of glamour and festivity as the city anticipates and witnesses the Kentucky Derby on the first Saturday in May. The oldest continuously held horse race in the country, the Derby pits the world's best 3-year-old Thoroughbreds in a 1.25-mile race for a purse of more than \$600,000 and a chance to become the winner of the coveted Triple Crown of racing.

Louisville is much more than a horse-racing town, however: It also is a center for the performing arts, industry, transportation, healthcare, sports and convention activity. The city is one of the few that offers performing arts for every taste while hosting major sporting exhibitions including the Kentucky Derby, the Breeders Cup, the X Games, the Ryder Cup, the Senior PGA and the Ironman Triathlon to name a few. Famous for college basketball, the city also boasts top ranked college football, minor league baseball, arena football teams.

Home to world famous brands including Louisville Slugger, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, Papa Johns, GE Appliances, UPS Airlines and the Ford Explorer, Louisville is a town on the move. Located on the Ohio River with access to major interstate roadways, rail lines, an extensive router network, the third largest cargo airport in the nation and UPS' Worldport global distribution facility, Louisville has become one of the most influential logistics hubs in the nation. With over \$1 Billion in development planned for downtown Louisville including a new arena, the 62 story Museum Plaza, new shopping, entertainment and housing Louisville is also quickly becoming a leader in urban development. Ranked as one of the nation's top 20 cities, Louisville offers big city opportunities and small town hospitality.

Conference Information – Mark your calendars for April 13 – 15, 2008, and join us in Louisville, Kentucky, for an informative conference and enjoy the host event at the Derby Museum. To register for the conference, complete the enclosed registration material and return it to the address provided. Sponsorship/Exhibitor opportunities are available; for information on sponsorship/exhibitor registration please call Lori DeVore at 502-363-8543. Dress for the conference is business casual. Louisville's average temperature in mid April ranges in the high 50's and low 60's.

Spouse/Guest Program – Monday April 14 – 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Horse Farm Tour & Lunch in Central Kentucky, home to more than 450 horse farms. You will see miles and miles of the most beautiful farms in the world with a personal tour of historic Claiborne Farm where Secretariat was bred, stood stallion and is buried. Then on to Normandy Farm, a nursery for mares and foals and one of the sites of the movie Seabiscuit. Lunch will be at a quaint local eatery, then on to tour Keeneland Race Course, a National Historic Landmark. If time permits, the last stop will be historic Midway, the first railroad town in Kentucky.

Hotel and Travel Information – The conference will be held at the Louisville Marriott Downtown. To assist in keeping your travel expenses low, room rates are \$145 per night for single occupancy, or \$155 for double occupancy. For hotel reservations, call 1-800-228-9290 and refer to the AAEE Group. Hotel reservations should be made no later than March 14, 2008, to ensure these rates. Taxicab service between the airport and hotel is available for \$17 - \$20, for up to four passengers.

UPS WorldportTours – UPS is offering tours of their main airhub sort facility. The tour begins at the Worldport Welcome Center for a short video and then you will be transported around for a journey through this 4 million square foot automated express sorting facility that processes 304,000 packages and documents per hour. Tours will be held Monday and Tuesday from 11:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Unfortunately, due to the logistics, these tours are limited to 35 people each night.



2008 SEC-AAAE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**April 13-15, 2008
Louisville Downtown Marriott Hotel
Louisville, Kentucky
Conference Registration Form**

Name: _____ Nickname (for badge): _____

Title: _____

Are you an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.)? Yes _____ No _____

Affiliation/Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____ E-Mail Address: _____

	Number Attending	Fee Before March 1, 2008	Fee After March 1, 2008	TOTAL
Sponsor Registration (see attached)				
SEC-AAAE Member		\$295	\$345	
Associate/Student		\$150	\$150	
Spouse/Guest		\$125	\$150	
Non-Member		\$350	\$395	
Emeritus		\$150	\$150	

Make check payable to: 2008 SEC-AAAE Conference

Mail to: _____

Lew Bleiweis, AAE
 Louisville Regional Airport Authority
 PO Box 9129
 Louisville, KY 40209-0129

EVENT ATTENDANCE

PLEASE MARK HOW MANY WILL BE ATTENDING EACH EVENT

Sunday, April 13

Golf Tournament _____
 (Max: 80; First Come, First Served)

Welcome Reception _____

.....11:00pm – 2:00am

Monday, April 14

Spouse Tour _____

Luncheon _____

Dinner and President's
 Reception _____

UPS Worldport Tour _____
 (Max: 35; First Come, First Served)

Tuesday, April 15

Awards Luncheon _____

Event Dinner and Racing at KY Derby
 Museum at Churchill Downs _____

UPS Worldport Tour _____
 (Max: 35; First Come, First Served)

Refund Policy: Cancellations must be received in writing and will be fully refunded if the notice is received no later than March 14, 2008. A processing fee of \$75 will be assessed after that date. Refunds will not be issued for cancellations after March 28, 2008. Substitutions will be accepted without penalties and no-shows will be billed.

Hotel Reservations: For hotel reservations, please call the Louisville Downtown Marriott at 1-800-228-9290 and refer to Group Code: AAAE to receive the special rate of \$145 single/ \$155 double occupancy. *The deadline for this rate is March 14, 2008.*