

# SEC JOURNAL

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## CHARGE AGAINST NEWPORT-NEWS/ WILLIAMSBURG AIRPORT DISMISSED

A FAA official has dismissed a complaint by a company at Newport News / Williamsburg International Airport that accused the airport's board of showing illegal favoritism to a competitor.

Rick Aviation, who has sold aviation fuel, made aircraft repairs, booked charters and

provided other general aviation services at the airport for 30 years, filed the complaint against the airport in November 2005. The company argued that the Peninsula Airport Commission and its staff wrongly favored Mercury Air Group when it selected the company to move into a separate, prime location to

sell fuel and provide services.

But the FAA in its order stated "Complainant has not presented any evidence or argument that (the Peninsula Airport Commission) has unjustly discriminated against Rick"

Rick plans to appeal.

## Publisher Arrested for Refusing to Leave Meeting

A North Carolina newspaper publisher disagreed so strongly with the local airport authority's reason to meet behind closed doors that he refused to leave the meeting and was subsequently arrested and charged with trespassing.

Tom Boney, publisher of *The Alamance News*, a weekly newspaper in Graham, N. C., was

earlier tipped that the Burlington-Alamance Airport Authority planned to meet behind closed doors. When the airport authority called for the executive session to discuss economic development, Boney objected to leaving the meeting because the board members refused to promise him they would not talk about or vote on approving an \$11 million loan for a

land purchase or a corresponding budget increase.

When Boney refused to leave, the board called the local Sheriff's Department who responded and arrested Boney on a misdemeanor count of trespassing. But the Sheriff agreed that Boney had a good point—the public has a right to access public meetings.

## FT. LAUDERDALE CONTINUES SEARCH FOR NEW AIRPORT DIRECTOR

Broward County is back to square one in its search for a new airport director after the chosen finalist doomed himself with vulgar emails recently made public.

Just days before commissioners were to vote on Richard Stephen Walsh, County Administrator Pam Brangaccio pulled his nomination after the Miami Herald published a series of crude emails Mr. Walsh sent from a work account—including one that insulted Ms. Brangaccio personally.

Mr. Walsh bashed Broward County officials and his former bosses in electronic memos to industry friends that were sent while he was the airport director in Palm Springs, Calif.

For instance, on April 23 he wrote that Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport is “big time f’d up” and the county administrator seems “totally clueless” and “is not long for this world.”

In a questionnaire for Broward

County, Mr. Walsh described himself as “mature, diplomatic and tactful,” as well as “respectful”. Unfortunately for Mr. Walsh, those traits did not come through on the emails he sent.

Mr. Walsh was in the county administration building interviewing with the commissioners when a story about the emails was posted at MiamiHerald.com.

County administrator Brangaccio handed Mr. Walsh a copy of the story and asked for a response.

According to Brangaccio, “There was no reaction, no comment. He left the building...He understood that the nomination process [for him] was over.”

The Miami Herald could not reach Mr. Walsh for comment following the breaking story.

The newspaper obtained the

email through a public records request to the city of Palm Springs. Under Florida and California law, most job-related emails sent by government officials are public records.

Brangaccio recently selected Walsh as her top choice to run the airport, which is facing a massive and controversial expansion project during the next few years. The recent meltdown by the top candidate ended a search process that already had been determined unsatisfactory.

Broward County Mayor Josephus Eggelton, Jr., and other commissioners said they were unhappy with the performance of Waters-Oldani Executive Recruitment, whose fee was \$29,500. The firm brought Walsh to Broward County along with two other candidates. Both were ranked higher than Walsh, but they withdrew their applications prior to the interview process.

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## CLAUDIA BOWER RAISES MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Much thanks go to Claudia Bower, 2007-2008 Madam Chairman of the Corporate Liaison Committee for the Southeast Chapter of the American

Association of Airport Executives.

During the course of the 2007 SEC-AAAE Annual Meeting,

Claudia raised over \$600 for the SAMA Educational Foundation, Inc.

Claudia, we thank you.

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## Cindy Barrow—FAA Southern Region Airport Manager of the Year

Cindy Barrow had more to celebrate recently than the grand opening of the new terminal building at Bartow Municipal Airport (BMA). She was named Airport Manager of the Year in the Southern Region Airports Division of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Juan Brown, Southern Region Program Manager, presented the award to Bartow's executive director during the terminal building grand opening on April 26. The honor is bestowed to an airport director who has demonstrated outstanding leadership over the course of the past year.

The FAA's Southern Region includes 517 general aviation airports in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Barrow will have been at the airport 31 years in July. She has

managed the airport since 1994 through periods of significant growth.

Under Barrow's leadership, BMA and the industrial park at the airport have been completely self-supporting from several revenue sources, primarily aircraft fueling, T-hangar rentals and industrial park leases.

After graduating from Bartow High School in 1976, Cynthia Terio went to work for the airport as the administrative assistant to airport manager Benjamin Durrance and his assistant Bill Renfroe. When Renfroe retired, Cynthia Terio Barrow was promoted by Durrance to assistant manager.

Durrance's sudden and unexpected death at the age of 59 in 1994 created an extended search for a new airport manager. Fortunately, the City of

Bartow had the foresight to realize the answer to their quest was already onsite and Cindy was promoted to airport manager, a job she has held ever since.

"Cindy Barrow sets a strong leadership example for airport directors around the country," said Rusty Chapman, manager of the Southern Region Airports Division. "During her long career at the airport, she has made a positive impact on general aviation. She is well deserving of this honor."

Along with the \$7.1 million terminal, Ms. Barrow has managed the resurfacing of the airport's primary runway, a master drainage plan for the entire airport and a new access road into the industrial and aviation development area.

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## Retirements

Lowell Pratte, A.A.E., deputy executive director for operations for the Louisville Regional Airport Authority, retired May 1.

Pratte has spent 17 years with the authority.

Prior to coming to Louisville, Pratte spent 10 years as director of aviation at the Albuquerque International Airport.

Pratte, who served as the chief operating officer for Louisville International Airport and Bowman Field, also held leadership positions in AAAE. He was chairman of the board in 2005 and served many years on the organization's Board of Examiners. He also served as the South Central Chapter's President.

John Lehrter, A.A.E., director of the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport in Muscle Shoals, Ala., is retiring after 20 years in that post. He will continue to run the airport until the end of the year. He was hired in May of 1987 and the airport had one employee—him. He put the airport "in the black" in his first year in the job.

## Southeast Chapter—AAAE

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### SEC-AAAE Corporate Committee

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives congratulate Claudia Bower for her election to the Corporate Committee Chairmanship and Heather Chaney who was elected Corporate Committee Vice Chairman at the recent annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. Both are eager to get started. "We have some tasks to accomplish this year and we all look forward to continually serving the Corporate Members," said Bill Hogan, Corporate Representative on the SEC-AAAE Board of Directors. "Watch for additional information. The Committee will contact you soon about some upcoming items that they will be implementing to improve the value of Corporate Membership in the Chapter."

## In Memorial

Cathy Smith, 51, Director of Finance for the Tri-Cities Airport Commission passed away Monday, May 14, 2007 from complications associated with cancer. Ms. Smith came to the airport in 1988 as manager of the accounting functions for the Commission. In 1993, she was promoted to Director of Finance. Over the past 19 years, she was responsible for developing the airport's accounting and finance functions into a modern system to meet the complex needs of the aviation industry. Her work with federal and state grants made possible many of the significant facility improvements that have occurred at the airport in recent years. Cathy was an active participant in the aviation and airport industry, she was a member of AAAE, SEC-AAAE and a regular participant in the Chapter's annual Finance and Administration Conference. Her smiling face will be missed at these events.

Eldon Earle Davidson, A.A.E., 87, former executive director for the Savannah International Airport, passed away Monday, May 14, 2007. Following a distinguished military career, Mr. Davidson served as executive director at the Savannah International Airport from 1964 until 1991. He proudly served as president of the Southeastern Airport Managers' Association from 1973-1974. Prior to serving the City of Savannah, he was the assistant manager at the Raleigh-Durham Airport from 1963-1964. He also received his A.A.E. from AAAE in 1964. Until the time of his death he monitored the progress of the airport he helped to create. His input, opinions, bright smile and continuing encouragement will be missed by all who knew him.

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT EDWARDS

To All SEC Members:

As I wrap up my year as President of the SEC-AAAE, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and participation in what has been an exciting year of change and accomplishment. With the establishment of a new Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives for the Chapter, I truly believe the SEC-AAAE will be well served for the future. I have been humbled by the

confidence all of you placed in me to act as your president. It has been an honor to represent you. While I will continue to serve on the Board as the Immediate Past President, I want to express my excitement for what lies ahead for the Chapter with the Board you elected at our recent annual conference. There is a lot of energy and enthusiasm among this group and I know they will accomplish great things. As the

Immediate Past President, I will also serve as the Nominating Committee Chairman. Please contact me in the upcoming year if you are interested in serving on the Board or in an Officer position. Again, thank you for a wonderful year and I look forward to supporting the Chapter in other ways in the future.

All the best,

Dave Edwards, A.A.E.  
President.