

WISCONSIN AIRPORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER

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REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 67th WISCONSIN AVIATION CONFERENCE

The 2023 event will be held September 20-22 at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley in downtown Appleton.

Early registration rates are available through Friday, Aug. 4. But don't wait. Register [HERE](#) today. And make sure to book your hotel room, as the hotel will likely sell out during the conference week.

The room block expires Wednesday, Aug. 30. See conference hotel information, including links to reserve a room [HERE](#).

Make sure to plan on arriving on Wednesday and staying through Friday. Here is a list of things on Wednesday you don't want to miss:

1. *Wednesday social events* – golf, trap shooting, and a Gulfstream tour. See the registration information below.
2. A first for WAMA, a *Basics of Airport Management* class. Details will be coming soon, but this class is ideal for people new to the industry, airport board members, or anyone who wears too many hats and could use a refresher course.
3. And you don't want to miss the *New Dueling Pianos concert* after the Wednesday dinner at a venue within walking distance of the hotel.

The WAC planning committee is putting together a spectacular conference lineup. Keep an eye on the [conference agenda page](#) for updates as we get closer to the event.

Thanks to the host airport, Appleton International Airport, WAC 2023 will be an exceptional conference for all attendees and an excellent opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues.

Note: If you haven't paid your 2022 WAMA membership dues yet, it is not too late to do so and receive discounted registration for this year's conference. Your support is greatly appreciated.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR WAC GOLF, TRAP SHOOTING, & GULFSTREAM TOUR

The WAC 2023 social events will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 20, with all locations near the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley.

- The golf outing will be held at the Reid Golf Course. **The golf event is a shotgun start at 11:00 am.**
- Trap shooting will be at the Outagamie Conservation Club. **Trap shooting begins at 1:00 pm.**
- VIP Gulfstream tour with **two tours of 10 participants kicks off at 1:00 pm.**

Participants are responsible for their transportation to and from the events.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register for the social events.

CALL FOR WAC SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

The Wisconsin Aviation Conference is only possible because of the support of our sponsors and exhibitors. Please consider joining us as a sponsor and/or exhibitor in 2023.

- **EXHIBITORS** – Please register [HERE](#) by **Friday, Aug. 4**, to receive the early bird rate.
- **SPONSORS** – You will find sponsorship options [HERE](#).

WAMA AWARDS

The Wisconsin Airport Management Association is seeking nominations for the following 2023 WAMA Aviation Award categories:

- **Person of the Year Award** - Awarded to persons who have distinguished themselves in Wisconsin Aviation during the past calendar year.
- **Distinguished Service Award** - Awarded to the persons who have made an outstanding contribution to aviation.
- **Lifetime Service Award** - Awarded to persons who have devoted themselves to promoting and serving Wisconsin aviation for at least ten years.
- **Airport Engineering Award** - Awarded to persons who have made significant professional contributions in the airport engineering or architecture fields in Wisconsin.
- **Blue Light Award** - Awarded to persons in the media who have distinguished themselves by their excellent reporting on Wisconsin Aviation.

WAMA will recognize award winners at the 2023 Wisconsin Aviation Conference.

To nominate a person, submit your recommendation through our easy online award nomination form [HERE](#). **Nominations must be submitted by Friday, Aug. 4.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – 2023 ASOS TRAINING

An advanced [airport safety and operations specialist](#) (ASOS) course will be held October 25-26 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh. Registration details will be published this summer.

WAMA LEGISLATIVE DAY AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE BOA, LEGISLATORS

On May 11, about 20 WAMA members converged on the Wisconsin State Capitol for WAMA's legislative day. The event's highlight was an hour discussion with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Secretary Craig Thompson, Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) Director David Greene, and BOA staff about how we can work together to more efficiently deliver a program enlarged by the infusion of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act dollars.

The need for process improvement is driven by the program's increased size and staffing challenges at the BOA. According to Secretary Thompson, the BOA's staffing issues are not unique. These challenges exist throughout the department and reflect what is happening across industries, the state, and the nation, especially with engineering positions.

In the afternoon, participants met with their legislators and briefed them on WAMA priorities. See the WAMA 2023 issue paper [HERE](#).



FEDERAL BILL INTRODUCED TO PROTECT AIRPORT FROM POTENTIAL PFAS LAWSUITS

Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) [introduced five bills](#) to ensure industries and municipalities are not subject to liability claims if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designates per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds

as hazardous substances. One of the bills is the [Airports PFAS Liability Protection Act](#).

According to the Lumis press release:

“Lummis introduced this legislation in response to an August 2022 proposed EPA rule to designate two PFAS compounds as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. This would subject any entity with PFAS contamination to potential CERCLA liability from the EPA and third parties.

Should this rule be finalized, entities such as water treatment plants, landfills, farms and ranches would be held liable for PFAS contamination they are not responsible for and entities such as airports, fuel depots and refineries that are required to test use fire suppression foam that contain PFAS would be at risk for litigation.”

The legislation was cosponsored by Sens. Roger Wicker (R-MS), John Boozman (R-AR), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Pete Ricketts (R-NE), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC).

“Providing airports with CERCLA liability protection for complying with long-standing federal regulations and requirements is critical in speeding the transition to fluorine-free firefighting foams,” said AAAE President and CEO Todd Hauptli. “We are grateful to Sen. Lummis and other bill sponsors for their leadership and urge Congress to adopt this important legislation as soon as possible.”

PFAS airport liability protection was a primary issue WAMA board members discussed with Wisconsin’s federal delegation in DC this spring. WAMA continues to monitor this issue and advocate for airport liability protection and the speedy transition to fluorine-free firefighting foams.

BOA EMBARKS ON NEW ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) is undertaking a new economic impact study for public commercial and general aviation airports. Jviation, a Woolpert Company, has been selected to conduct the study. The staff working on the study has completed more than 30 similar studies for other states.

Jviation will collect information and report annual estimated economic impacts for airport management, airport business tenants, average annual capital investment,

and general aviation visitor spending. They will report all impacts in terms of employment, payroll, spending, and total annual economic activity.

This project will take approximately 12 months to complete. The data will provide the BOA, airports, aviation stakeholders, elected officials, communities, and others with important information on the economic contributions of each airport and statewide impacts.

The BOA encourages airports to cooperate with the effort and respond to aviation inquiries. Airports' timely and complete response will ensure a more robust economic impact study outcome for Wisconsin's airports.

The department released its last report on the economic significance of Wisconsin's aviation industry in 2010. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed the department's standard procedure of updating the economic impacts about every decade.

COLLEGE FLYING COMPETITION LANDED in OSHKOSH

The [National Intercollegiate Flight Association](#) SAFECON flight competition was held at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh for the first time on May 8-13.

SAFECON is a collegiate flight competition with more than 500 competitors from more than 30 schools typically competing.

Young pilots from across the country competed for awards in various aviation skills, including landing, navigation, preflight, flight planning, crew-based simulations, safety, sportsmanship, and more.

EAA AEROEDUCATE EMPOWERS YOUTH TO EXPLORE AVIATION

EAA launched the AeroEducate program in July 2022 to engage, inspire, and empower youth to explore opportunities in aviation and aerospace career industries expanding critical talent resources and changing lives. This 100% free program is for all students K-12 PLUS educators, chapter and youth group leaders, and parents. AeroEducate contains age-based activities and clear pathways to aviation and aerospace industry careers where K-12 students can discover and ignite their curiosity in aviation.

AeroEducate is a way for students, teachers, parents, and EAA chapters to interact with aviation in a whole new way. By signing up for a FREE AeroEducate account, you can find awesome web-based projects, experiments, and experiences that

earn points toward progressive AeroEducate Badges. Career exploration activities focus on five primary areas: Pilot, Aviation Mech/Tech, ATC, Aeronautical Engineering, and Aviation Business, with more career areas to come. The activities are grade-banded for optimum comprehension.

Visit aeroeducate.org for more information.

AIRPORTS IN THE NEWS

If your airport has been in the news and you would like us to share the story, email a link to: director@wiama.org.

[PFAS contamination has been a problem near Air Force bases. Why Madison's Truax Field became the first to eliminate them](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 15

[Central Wisconsin Airport eligible for internal makeover of air traffic control tower](#), WJFW NBC-12, May 8

[County employees must travel via Milwaukee airport while on business under new policy](#), WTMJ NBC-4, May 8

[Milwaukee General Mitchell International Airport's newest private Jet IN terminal offers unparalleled experience](#), The Daily Reporter, May 5

[College flying competition takes off in Oshkosh](#), General Aviation News, May 4

[New Madison College pilot training program takes off](#), The Cap Times, Apr 26, 2023

[First F-35 fighter jets arrive in Madison after years of planning and some local opposition](#), WPR, April 26

[Chippewa Valley Regional Airport announces addition of new seasonal destination](#), WEAU, April 21

[Milwaukee Airport now offers three FBOs](#), AIN Online, April 12

[Reaction to Delta's decision to suspend flights in La Crosse](#), WXOW New-19, April 10

[In the 608: 4th Annual Flight of Lights at Dane Co. Regional Airport](#), Channel 3000, April 7

[Central Wisconsin Airport receives safety improvement grant](#), Wausau Pilot & Review, April 6

[Wittman Regional Airport will use FAA grant to improve safety](#), Fox 11 News, April 6

[Delta and United are halting service to more cities as the trend of leaving regional airports behind continues](#), Business Insider, April 5

[Chippewa County set to sign new agreement with airport](#), Leader Telegram, March 29

[Passenger traffic, cargo numbers are taking off at Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport](#), WFRV We Are Green Bay, March 27

[Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport named one of the best in the world](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 15

[Southwest Adds Flights at Mitchell Airport](#), Urban Milwaukee, March 14

[Yellow Ribbon honor flight honors veterans as part of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2023 activities](#), Vintage Aviation News, March 2

[Upgrades coming to Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport](#), WCLO, March 1

[Three K9s to patrol Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport](#), WISN ABC-12, March 1

[Airport will rip out two runways](#), Urban Milwaukee, Feb. 27 (MKE)

[Black pilot in Wisconsin changing stigma of what a pilot often looks like](#), WTMJ-TV Milwaukee, Feb. 23

[Allegiant announces new route from Appleton to Portland](#), WBAY, Feb. 20

[Central Wisconsin Joint Airport Board meets to discuss ways to improve air service](#), WSAW-TV, Feb.

Wisconsin Airport Management Association

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