

WISCONSIN AIRPORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
October 2023 NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER

Sponsored in part by Advance Aviation, Jviation, Mead & Hunt, SEH, and Westwood



67th

WISCONSIN AVIATION C O N F E R E N C E

September 20-22, 2023 · Appleton, WI

Thanks for making the 67th Wisconsin Aviation Conference a success!

More than 200 attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers gathered at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley in Appleton to reconnect and get updated on the latest in aviation.

WAC started with an offsite reception, dinner, and a NEW Dueling Pianos concert at the 513. A conference highlight was Jim Schell, airport director at Wittman Regional Airport and incoming WAMA president, taking the microphone and belting Metallica's "Enter Sandman."

The conference topics covered in the general and concurrent sessions ranged from AIP funding criteria for multiple runways to an update on WAMA legislative initiatives.

New this year, WAMA offered a Basics of Airport Management Seminar. More than 20 airport professionals and public officials gathered the Wednesday leading into the conference to enhance their understanding of the aviation story, airport management issues, current industry challenges, and strategies for implementing sensible strategic plans and goals.

Conference Materials:

- [Program](#)
- [Presentations](#)
- [Photos of all the fun](#)

Thank you to all the participants who helped make this a fantastic event!

2023 WAC ATTENDEE SURVEY

If you attended WAC 67 and haven't completed the survey, we want to hear from you! Please complete this quick survey to help us as we start planning for next year's event. Access the survey [HERE](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Corporate Excellence



Platinum



Gold

Avfuel Corporation
Cooper Engineering
Crawford, Murphy
& Tilly, Inc.
Pro-Tec Fire Services
SP Plus Airport Services
Veregy

Silver

Appleton Flight Center
Applied Pavement
Technologies, Inc.
The Aviation Planning Group
Benesch
Burns & McDonnell
CBS Squared, Inc.
Endpoint Solutions
Halliday Technologies
HUB Parking/TIBA Parking
Leibowitz & Horton Airport
Management Consultants, Inc.
Nielsen Madsen + Barber
Sherwin Industries, Inc.
UW Oshkosh Online and
Continuing Education

WELCOMING SCHELL AS WAMA PRESIDENT

At the conference, Jim Schell, airport director at Wittman Regional Airport, ascended to the position of WAMA president and will serve until WAC 68.

We thank outgoing president Rachel Engeler, assistant airport director at Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport, for her leadership.



2023-2024 Officers

President

Jim Schell, C.M., Airport Director, Wittman Regional Airport

Vice-President

Matt Grenoble, C.M., Airport Superintendent, Sheboygan County Memorial Airport

Treasurer

Ian Turner, A.A.E., Airport Director, La Crosse Regional Airport

Secretary

Harold Mester, C.M., Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee Timmerman Airport

Board

Abe Weber, A.A.E., Airport Director, Appleton International Airport

Mark Cihlar, A.A.E., Assistant Airport Director, Central Wisconsin Airport

Charity Zich, C.M., Airport Director, Chippewa Valley Regional Airport

Michael Riechers, Director of Marketing and Communications, Dane County Regional Airport

Rachel Engeler, MS, Assistant Airport Director, Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport

Aimee Scrima, Operations Supervisor, Waukesha County Airport

Todd Berry, Airport Manager, Prairie Du Chien Municipal Airport

Mike Shaw, Manager, West Bend Municipal Airport

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 AWARD WINNERS

Each year, the Wisconsin Airport Management Association recognizes individuals who have impacted aviation in the state. At the Association Awards and Sponsor Recognition Luncheon, the following people were recognized:

Airport Engineer Award: Terry Donovan, Mead & Hunt

Distinguished Service Award: Charity Zich, Chippewa Valley Regional Airport

Lifetime Service Award: Bob O'Brien

Blue Light Award: Dick Knapinski, EAA

Person of the Year Award: Abe Weber, Appleton International Airport

View the award winners' bios and presentation photos [HERE](#).

LAST CALL TO REGISTER FOR THE ADVANCED AIRPORT SAFETY AND OPERATIONS SPECIALIST SCHOOL

The Wisconsin Airport Management Association is pleased to partner with the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) to offer an Advanced Airport Safety and Operations Specialist (ASOS) class, to be held on **Oct. 25-26 at the Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.**

Register today! Class size is limited to 40, with 20 reserved for WAMA at a discounted rate of \$595 versus the standard \$695 rate.

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

Course Details

- Dates: Wednesday, Oct. 25 - Thursday, Oct. 26
- Time: 8 am to 4:30 pm each day
- Location: Wittman Regional Airport, 525 W 20th Ave, Oshkosh, WI
- WAMA Rate: \$595/person

Please email Jim Schell, director at Wittman Regional Airport, with any questions: JSchell@winnebagoountywi.gov.

FEDERAL UPDATES

FAA Administrator Hearing

On Oct. 4, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, convened a nomination hearing to consider Michael Whitaker, President Biden's nominee as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator.

Whitaker is Biden's second FAA nominee. Last year, the president nominated Denver International Airport's CEO Phillip Washington, who withdrew as a candidate for the top FAA job after facing opposition. One of the concerns was his lack of aviation background.

On the other hand, Whitaker has had a long career in aviation in the U.S. and abroad, including three years as the FAA's deputy administrator during the Obama Administration.

Link to that hearing: <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2023/10/faa-nomination-hearing>. Senator Baldwin's remarks are at 1:55:40.

FAA Reauthorization Extended Through Year End

The hearing came after Congress narrowly missed a government shutdown and the expiration of the current legislation authorizing the FAA. A last-minute agreement passed the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and signed by the president funds the government through Nov. 17 and extends the statutory authorities of the FAA through Dec.31.

This stop-gap measure gives Congress more time to complete FY 2024 appropriation bills and the reauthorization of the FAA.

In July, the House of Representatives approved a five-year FAA bill with a 351-69 bipartisan vote, providing \$20 billion over five years for Airport Improvement Program grants, a 19% increase from the previous multi-year FAA measure.

The Senate proposal stalled in committee in June, with an area of contention concerning pilot training. While it is still to be determined if the Senate has made progress, Cantwell said at Whitaker's hearing she hopes to finalize aviation legislation and see it enacted by the end of the year.

[FAA Approves PFAS-Free Foam for Airports](#)

The FAA has [authorized](#) airports to use firefighting foam that does not contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), known as forever chemicals. This announcement is a crucial step to protect drinking water and public health.

Civilian airports will no longer be compelled to use PFAS-laden foam. This milestone will help to ensure that the Pentagon meets the 2024 deadline Congress set for ending PFAS foam at military bases.

AIRPORTS IN THE NEWS

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

[Another option: nonstop flights to Orlando available from Central Wisconsin Airport](#), WBAY, Oct. 5

[Dane County airport announces more non-stop flight destinations](#), NBC15, Oct. 3

[The 5 busiest airports in Wisconsin, ranked](#), A-Z Animals, Oct. 2

[Fall foliage flights take to the sky at Wausau Downtown Airport](#), WAOW News 9, Oct. 2

[Take Flight: SE Wisconsin chapter of Women in Aviation empowers young girls to reach for their dreams](#), WTMJ, Sept. 28

[@TheTable: Post-pandemic rebound at Milwaukee's airport: 'It's important to our region's economy.'](#) WTMJ, Sept. 27

[Girls in Aviation Day](#), Fox 6 News, Sept. 23

[Milwaukee Airport ranked among best in North America by JD Power](#), The Patch, Sept. 20

[Pulling for Honor event at Appleton Airport](#), WBAY, Sept. 16

[Appleton International Airport gets an \\$8M federal boost for its expansion project](#), Appleton Post Crescent, Sept. 13

[Emergency training at Dane County Regional Airport](#), WKOW ABC-27, Sep. 12

[Oshkosh resident Fred Stadler first to fly 10,000 kids in EAA Young Eagles program](#), Oshkosh Northwestern, Sept. 11

[Milwaukee Airport sees highest year-over-year growth](#), Milwaukee Business Journal, Sept. 8

[Steve Krog of Hartford, WI to be inducted into Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame](#), Washington County Insider, Sept. 7

[Wisconsin airports, including Dane County Regional, get federal money for upgrades](#), WISC Channel 3000, Sept. 7

[Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport prepares for disaster](#), WFRV-TV 5 Green Bay, Aug. 24

['We're very concerned': community surprised by proposal to permanently shut down Portage Municipal Airport](#), WMTV NBC-15, Aug. 20

[Is it really cheaper to fly out of Chicago compared to Milwaukee? Officials aim to change travel habits](#), WTMJ-4, Aug. 18

[Appleton International Airport preps for emergencies with drill](#), Spectrum News 1, Aug. 17

[Big improvements could be on the horizon for Central Wisconsin Airport](#), WSAW, Aug. 7

[Airport traffic still rising since Pandemic](#), Urban Milwaukee, Aug. 7

[Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport eyes hangar expansion](#), Gazette Extra, Aug. 3

[Video review of the Jet Room at Wisconsin Aviation](#), Wisconsin State Journal, Aug. 2

[Oshkosh 2023 in pictures](#), Royal Aeronautical Society, Aug. 2023

[EAA attendees reflect on the 70th anniversary](#), NBC 26, July 30

[Settling the debate: which airport is the third largest in the state?](#) NBC 26, July 28

[RNC planning, preps underway at Milwaukee Mitchell International](#), Spectrum News 1, July 25

[Janesville airport could be getting modern radar equipment thanks to local Congressman](#), WCLO 92.7FM, July 20

[Early planning underway for 2025 NFL Draft transportation](#), Spectrum 1 News, July 20

Wisconsin Airport Management Association
3800 Starr Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54703

[Email WAMA](#)

www.wiama.org

[Follow Us on Facebook!](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)