



AzAA Matter of Fact

News from the Arizona Airports Association

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ARIZONA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017



2017 SPRING CONFERENCE RECAP

Well, another Spring Conference has concluded, and there always seems to be a sigh of relief but also a sense of sadness when it's over. On one hand, all of the work and late nights put in by the Board of Directors, Conference Committee and venue staff pays off in a well-executed gathering; on the other, we all, for the most part, depart our separate ways at the conclusion with some not seeing each other again until the next Conference.

The 2017 Spring Conference was held at the beautifully-situated Prescott Resort and Conference Center, hosted, of course, by our wonderful colleagues at the City of Prescott and Prescott Municipal Airport. The weather was warm and welcoming, as were our hosts.

Our Conference kicked-off with some friendly golf competition at the Antelope Hills Country Club, just adjacent to the Airport. Who knows how it happens, but every year the scores get lower and the drives get longer! We'll be having 30 under par scores and 500-yard drives in no time if this keeps up! While there were rumors of full moons and stolen (borrowed) golf clubs, it appeared that, on the whole, everyone had a great time. Golf day was bookended by a well-attended Opening Reception that had people laughing, hugging and playing pool.

The Conference sessions were some of the most thought-provoking and engaging that AzAA has ever seen. Mark McClardy and Mike Williams of the FAA shared good news about Arizona's grant performance and a desire to see more AIP funding come to our state. Greg Byres of ADOT shared mixed news including delayed grant programs, and better procedures for grant accounting and processing when APMS and State-Local grants return in FY2020. There were several interactive sessions, including Deal/No Deal – A Legal Perspective on Construction Projects, Runway Incursion Mitigation – What, Where, Why, How?, and the State Aviation System Plan Update.

Perhaps one of the most involved sessions was Dave Ulane's (Colorado Division of Aeronautics Director) presentation on the Remote Air Traffic Control system located at Northern Colorado Regional Airport. Perhaps one day this technology can come to Arizona and positively impact our airports which could benefit from an Air Traffic Control Tower, but don't have the means to construct one.

Our conference ended with an emotional and laughter-filled President's Banquet, where the President's gavel was passed on from Brad Hagen to Ed Faron, and we congratulated our incoming Board of Directors and thanked our outgoing Board members. In addition to recognizing the achievements of our colleagues through the Airport of the Year and Executive of the Year Awards, we gave special recognition to Mike Klein and Joe Husband for their dedicated contribution to Arizona aviation and celebrating their retirements from ADOT and the City of Phoenix, respectively, with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

See you at Wrigleyville in Mesa in October for our next Conference!

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EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

Ms. Gladys Wiggins



One of the most influential leaders in the Arizona aviation industry, and a past Board of Directors member of AzAA, was recently recognized for her efforts and contributions to advancing aviation. **Gladys Wiggins was awarded both the 2017 Airport Executive of the Year by AzAA and the 2017 Airport Executive of the Year by the Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives.** What an amazing achievement! Among the criteria for these recognitions is dedication and support of the individual organizations, broad knowledge and understanding of aviation issues, demonstrated mentorship of individuals interested in aviation, and demonstrated high personal integrity and professionalism. (This award does not, however, recognize her achievements in the sport of arm-wrestling.) Gladys was recognized with these awards at the 2017 Spring AzAA Conference and the 2017 Summer SWAAAE Conference, where there was an overwhelming amount of cheering and applauding.

There are few that demonstrate as much enthusiasm and energy for aviation, and take the time to help those that want to make positive impacts in this industry, as Gladys does. She is the icon of what it means to have a good balance between business professionalism and having fun. Give her a fist-pump, high-five, “atta-girl”, or just simply a “thank you” next time you see her.

CORPORATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Jim Harris



AzAA’s Corporate and Associate Members make up a significant portion of the membership, and it is because of their time donated and sponsorships that our events and conferences are such a success. In 2016, the AzAA Board of Directors received a suggestion from one of our fine members to find a way to truly recognize the positive impacts of our Corporate and Associate members, and that came through in the way of the creation of the Corporate Member of the Year Award in 2017. The following criteria were established for Award nominees:

- Demonstrated dedication and support of AzAA.
- A broad depth of knowledge and understanding of aviation issues.
- Proven contributions to aviation facilities and airport improvement projects.
- A high level of respect in the local, state and federal aviation community.
- Demonstrated mentorship of individuals with an interest in Aviation including staff and/or others in their community.
- Be a Corporate or Associate member in good standing.

At the 2017 Spring Conference, this prestigious award was bestowed upon Jim Harris, President of Coffman Associates, Inc. for his long-standing commitment and positive influence in AzAA. Jim is a well-recognized and sought after professional that has spent many years involved in AzAA to make this a better organization and improve aviation throughout our state. Congratulations, Jim!

AIRPORT OF THE YEAR

Coolidge Municipal Airport



Take a moment to congratulate the 2017 Airport of the Year, presented by the **Aeronautics Group of the Arizona Department of Transportation Multimodal Planning Division – Coolidge Municipal Airport!** ADOT selects one airport annually to receive this award. This prestigious honor is based on accomplishments and positive impacts in the following areas: aviation advocacy and community relations, airport management, special events and recognition, and innovative activities and programs undertaken at the airport. One such activity is the annual breakfast fly-in, which is well-attended by pilots, and adds awareness to and appreciation of the role that Coolidge Municipal Airport plays in Arizona.

A number of key City leaders and political figures were present at the President’s Banquet at the 2017 Spring Conference to proudly accept the award. **Congratulations to the City of Coolidge and Coolidge Municipal Airport on this outstanding accomplishment.**

AIRPORT SPOTLIGHT

Tucson International Airport's Terminal Optimization Program



If you have not had the opportunity to fly into or out of Tucson International Airport (TUS), a great experience awaits you. Congestion is low, cleanliness is high, and there is a definite sense of pride in TUS. The professionals that make up the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) are top-notch and are always looking to improve the customer experience. And the experience is about to get even better...

A redesigned security checkpoint at Tucson International Airport (TUS) opened April 18, the first project completed as part of the airport's Terminal Optimization Program to improve passengers' travel experience.

The new Transportation Security Administration checkpoint serves the airport's B Concourse, which is used by Alaska, American and Delta airlines.

The Terminal Optimization Program is the largest of several construction projects encompassed under the airport's 'A Brighter TUS' improvements. To achieve their goal, the design and construction team opened up a once dark portion of the terminal with glass facades that allow for optimal daylight and grand views to the airfield as passengers advance through the security checkpoint. By opening up the terminal, the design embraces the unique location in Tucson, connecting

passengers to the outdoors with views to distant vistas and integrating an Arizona color palette.

Focused on recapturing under-used space and modernizing terminal finishes, the checkpoint for the B Concourse has been relocated to the far west end of the terminal with an expanded configuration for the TSA's security equipment. A "recomposure" area gives passengers space to gather their belongings after passing through security. Other improvements include a business center, colored terrazzo flooring for intuitive wayfinding and major infrastructure upgrades. Supporting the mission to provide a new face for TUS and the community of Tucson, these infrastructure and aesthetic upgrades position the airport for success for years to come.

The Terminal Optimization Project is being completed in phases through a partnership comprised of TAA, DWL Architects + Planners, Hill International, and Sundt Construction. This team has kept the airport operational through construction, with the final phase coming in November 2017. Travelers can look forward to an elevated passenger experience with the opening of Security Checkpoint A, upgraded terrazzo throughout the entire concourse and baggage claim, a children's play area, additional infrastructure upgrades and modernized finishes and amenities.

JOHN MCMAHON - A Father, Friend and Colleague



The hearts of the aviation community are still heavy with the loss of John McMahon, who was the Buckeye Municipal Airport Coordinator. John, along with another person, lost their lives in a tragic accident when their plane went down in the Gila Bend Mountains south of Buckeye on June 27th.

John was a friend to many people, and a true professional with the work that he did both at Buckeye and through his church. He was becoming more and more involved in the

aviation industry, and recently obtained his Certified Member (CM) designation through the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and was considering pursuing his AAE certification. Most importantly, John was a loving, passionate family man, and is survived by his wife and three children.

There is a Memorial Fund through Desert Schools Federal Credit Union for John for those that want to help in this challenging time for his family.

Account Name: Memorial Account for John McMahon
Routing: 122187238
Account Type: Savings
Account #: 00005068290001

If you need to do wire transfer:
Routing: 122187238
Account Type: Savings
Account #: 0000506829-0001
Address: PO Box 2954, Phoenix, AZ 85062-2945
Number: 602-433-7000

President's Message



Greetings. As you likely know, the 2017 AzAA Spring Conference took place May 20-23, 2017 in beautiful Prescott and the consensus appears to be that it was a huge success. I want to thank our hosts in Prescott Airport, as well as our conference committee chair, Steve Johnston, and all of our volunteers for their great work! A survey was sent out to the AzAA membership and was resoundingly positive, although some responses did identify several potential opportunities for improvement. I'd like to thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. Also, Board elections were held during the conference and I would like to welcome the new folks to the Board, including Jessie Baker, Tim Bannon, and Zenia Cornejo. I would also like to thank those Board members who transitioned off the Board, Past President Gladys Wiggins, Executive Director Carmen Williams, and Executive Director Arlando Teller. Each of you made great contributions and I thank you for your years of service and dedication to the association!

The AzAA Board of Directors, our committee members, and membership have a lot of important work to do this year. The State Aviation Fund has suffered from more than \$100M in sweeps over the last twenty years. Your Board of Directors is going to direct much attention to this and will endeavor to get in front of legislators to remind them of the significance of aviation, and the State Aviation Fund to Arizona. With a little luck and a lot of effort, I hope that we can make a difference.

The 2017 AzAA Fall Conference is approaching and the process of planning has begun. We're still in the early stages of planning, so if you have an idea about an interesting topic for a conference session, please let me or Amanda Shankland know. Our contact information is on the AzAA website. In addition to the timely, pertinent session topics, these conferences also provide a unique venue at which to build relationships with staff from the FAA, ADOT, airport sponsors, consultants, students, etc. from across the state. I hope you'll be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Please consider saving the important dates as noted in the "Mark Your Calendars" section below.

Ed Faron, AAE

Arizona Airports Association President 2017-2018

Mark Your Calendars!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these important events:

- ➔ ASU CIVIL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CAREER FAIR
 - **Environmental:** September 26, 2017
 - **Civil:** September 27-28, 2017
 - **Specialty Contracting:** October 3, 2017
 - **General:** October 4-5, 2017
- Register through www.handshake.com
- ➔ 2017 AZAA FALL CONFERENCE
October 15-16, 2017
Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West, Mesa, AZ
- ➔ 2018 ARIZONA AVIATION DAY AT THE CAPITOL
Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Contact Us

For more information, contributions or ideas for future newsletters, please contact:

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