



October 2010



John Happ, Airport Director
TAMU/Easterwood Airport

President's Corner

I want to offer a hardy “HOWDY” to Texas Airport Council (TAC) members and fellow aviation enthusiasts. After much discussion and I might add, confusion; the Executive Board finally put the issue of what we are to be called to bed. Hence forth, we will officially be the “Texas Airport Council.”

The Board met in August and the excitement and energy brought to this meeting was refreshing. We developed a pretty ambitious agenda that will be our road map for the next year. I am confident we can accomplish this agenda because of the commitment made by each Board Member toward these goals.

The Board selected committee chairs for the : Legislative Committee, Nomination Committee, Membership Committee, Texas Aviation Conference Committee, By-laws Committee, Scholarship Committee, and formed a new Educational Committee. I will not go into the goals set for each of these committees; instead I will let each committee chair address them in this and future TAC newsletters.

The committee chairs will be looking for volunteers to serve on their committee. If you are so inclined or if you have an interest in a particular area and are willing to be actively involved, please volunteer.

The Board is also committed to continue its involvement with TEX-21, a State wide transportation organization. Because of TAC's involvement, TEX-21 now has an aviation taskforce. This taskforce will address federal and state issues and help develop viable resolutions. An example: TEX-21 now supports, in their federal agenda, the need for a new Aviation Bill. TEX-21 is also supportive of the State Senate Bill initiated

in the last session to have the sales tax generated from state aviation sales to be solely dedicated to Texas aviation needs.

As I said earlier, the Board is dedicated to an ambitious agenda that looks at and supports the needs of its membership. I think two of the goals for this year are noteworthy. The first is to increase the interest and involvement of students in applying for the TAC Scholarship. Please see Past President, Darci Neuzil's article in this news letter about these changes (it is impressive.) The second goal is the commitment to create a formal “Airport 101” training course. TAC has conducted such a course at the time and expense of individual TAC members and their airports. Our goal is to have this course formalized and be taught professionally each quarter at different locations around the state. Look for more to come on the progress of this initiative in future newsletters.

I think you can see I am very excited about the direction the TAC Board is taking. We look forward to gaining new members to help us accomplish our goals and we look forward to hearing from you. You can go to our website or contact us personally and let us know your ideas or concerns.

I will close by saying TAC is financially strong and the Board is committed to supporting the needs of our membership.

John Happ, President
Texas Airports Council

Aviation Education Committee

- Jeff Borowiec

At the August TAC Board meeting, the Board voted to establish an education committee to address various educational issues pertaining to the TAC membership. I have been asked to chair this new committee and I have been joined by committee members Sarah Herring from Cleburne Airport and Quentin Hix from Denton Municipal Airport. The committee is open to adding additional members so if you are looking for a way to participate, please contact me. We would like to have diverse representation on the committee in terms of geography, airport type, and background.

As John noted in his message, the TAC Board has established a clear set of goals for the upcoming year. One of those is to establish a formal Airport 101 training program for our members. It is the goal of this committee to plan and implement this program and we will be looking at the issues involved to do just that. It is the intention of the Board to have two to four programs a year at locations across the state. This will provide an increased opportunity for the membership to attend while also cutting back on travel costs. TAC has had several of these programs in the past in different locations across the state and we are looking to re-establish a program that will prove beneficial to our members.

Those willing to assist in this endeavor, with hosting, planning, or sponsoring a workshop in any way, can contact me at (979) 845-5200 or by email at jborowiec@tamu.edu.

Texas Aviation Conference

- Jeff Borowiec

As you may be aware, the 2011 Texas Aviation Conference is scheduled for May 25-27, 2011. The 29th annual conference will take place at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin. Session and workshop planning is in the early stages so now is the time to offer suggestions on topics and speakers. The morning sessions are typically general sessions attended by all conference attendees. The afternoon sessions during the conference are typically reserved for workshop sessions. The workshops are geared towards current interest areas and smaller groups with presentations and discussions focused on solutions that you can take back to your airport and begin implementing. It is the goal of the conference planners that the workshops offer

choices among a range of subjects including those in planning, design, and maintenance among others to ensure something of interest and usefulness to everyone.

Program ideas can be sent to me by email at jborowiec@tamu.edu.



TAC Board Awards Juan Martinez Scholarship
Stephen M. Swartz, PhD, (UNT), Gary Hawkins, Ken Wiegand, Recipient Laura Rusnok, Darci Neuzil, John Happ, Hud Hopkins

Juan Martinez Scholarship

- Darci Neuzil

The Juan Martinez Scholarship Program was created to promote the professional development of a student engaged in the study of aviation. The scholarship awards \$1500 to a student pursuing a baccalaureate degree in an aviation related degree program. The applicant must be enrolled in a baccalaureate level aviation program, a resident of Texas, have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and have a recommendation from a member of the aviation department faculty.

Juan Martinez Jr. was the Midway Airport Manager in Midlothian, TX. Juan was an aviation enthusiast and on the board of TAC. This scholarship was formed in Juan's memory by donations from friends and family.

The TAC Board was pleased to award the first Juan Martinez Aviation Education Scholarship to Laura Rusnok. Laura is a senior, studying at the University of North Texas in Denton. She is a member of the student aviation association and a private pilot. The funds from the TAC scholarship will help Laura pursue her professional and educational aviation endeavors.

Vision Statement, Mission Statement and By-Laws

- Ken Wiegand

Every organization needs direction and a plan to achieve its goals and objectives. I have been tasked to chair an ad hoc committee to review and make suggestions to revise the organizational By-Laws, assuming a revision is deemed necessary of course. The committee should have a draft revision of this important document prepared for members' comments during the next general meeting.

Before the By-Laws can be revised, the Board of Directors under the leadership of John Happ, recognized that the organization needs to set a course guided by a mission statement and a vision statement. These guiding documents will also lead to creating a strategic plan.

The board is presently reviewing draft statements, which are specific enough to provide direction and general enough to allow operational flexibility. We are not soliciting feedback from the general membership yet, but members should prepare themselves to offer comments and suggestions prior to and during the next general meeting.

So, before the next general membership meeting, our members will receive a copy of all three documents in final draft form and with them a sectional chart that will guide them well into the next decade.

TAC BOARD MEETINGS

December 3, 2010 (Friday), Austin, TX
March 4, 2011 (Friday), Austin, TX

The Board meetings are open to the general membership and we encourage you to join us at the meetings. We would also appreciate your support and participation in helping us achieve our goals for the membership by contacting the appropriate board member and volunteering to serve on one of our committees.

Don't have the time, but have some ideas... We'd love to hear from you!

Pay It Forward

-Sarah Herring

Where do I begin? A couple of years ago I embarked on a new career path and have not been disappointed one second. I absolutely love my job and have met great people from day one.

At first I almost didn't take the position because I was afraid there wouldn't be enough to do and if there was something to do I probably wouldn't know how to do it never having been an airport manager.

However, one thing made a huge impact on me. Association. From day one at my first meeting, either Arb Rylant was just a very nice person or I looked very lost. He introduced himself after that first meeting and has always been there for any question or problem that I have encountered. Same thing goes for so many people. Cynthia Godfrey has held my hand on many occasions. Joel Jenkinson has answered many a question late at night while working on his budget. Darci Neuzil introduced herself at my first "engineer dinner" in Austin as I looked lost there also. Ken Wiegand has been gracious with his help as well as delivering packages from out of town. Quentin Hix helped me find my way around last year's NBAA in Florida and also with pipeline easement questions---too many to mention all of them.

Recently a request was made through TAC to help out a new airport manager. Several TAC members responded and reached out to help by phone and email. I do believe those responses have helped guide the new manager in the right direction. I am going to make a personal visit as soon as my travels take me south. And this is all done with great spirit and camaraderie leaving out any competitiveness, with just a sincere desire to help others.

Being a member of TAC has led to many great relationships of airport managers, airport directors, deputy directors, and others willing to lend a helping hand.

This organization of great leaders has the ability to move forward and make a positive impact at our Texas airports as we all work together through our TAC network. Thanks to all of you for your continued help and dedication. I will continue to "Pay it Forward".

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