

GWBA News

Greater Washington Business Aviation Association, Inc.

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Business Aviation User Fees; GWBA Passes Milestone

If You Care About The Way You "Pay," You Need to Act Now:

GWBA is very concerned about the potential impact of user fees on general aviation, and encourages its members to make use of the tools provided by NBAA to remind their Members of Congress of the value of general aviation.

The following message has been sent by NBAA to GWBA and other interested parties in general aviation:

NBAA is requesting your help to ensure that our federal representatives hear the voice of business aviation, as legislative proposals are being considered that could be very detrimental to our industry.

As you probably know, some in Washington are proposing that new "user fees" be imposed on general aviation, which, if enacted, would place a tremendous cost and administrative burden on our industry.

Messages to Members of Congress about proposals like these are most effective if they are sent by us, the people in the industry, who live and work in the states represented by the legislators who rely on our support and votes at election time.

NBAA has developed an online resource to assist in communicating with our elected officials. This user-friendly tool is called "Contact Congress," and the process for using it is quick and easy. To access the resource, click on the blue and red "Contact Congress" banner advertisement at the top-right corner of NBAA's web site, nbaa.org.

You will be given a choice of letters to send to your federal representatives about the most important issues facing business aviation; although the letters are pre-drafted, you can preview each letter and edit it if you wish. The process allows you to identify your company, but you do not have to do so to send a letter.

Most importantly, your message will NOT be sent without your review and approval. Additionally, NBAA will never send messages on your behalf, or share the information you provide with other parties.

After you send your message, NBAA President and CEO Ed Bolen will send you an e-mail confirming delivery and thanking you for your support.

Please forward this request to your associates and colleagues and help support our industry.

To access the "Contact Congress" resource from this e-mail, simply click on this link:

<http://web.nbaa.org/public/govt/action/>

Please do so now. THANKS!

Dulles ATC Open Forum:

On March 22, the FAA at Dulles in coordination with the NBAA plans to hold an ATC Open Forum. This is an opportunity to meet face to face with representatives of Dulles Tower, Potomac TRACON, and Washington Center to discuss ATC matters in the Washington area. GWBAA will provide more details in its next newsletter, but for more information now, please contact hhouckes@nbaa.org. In addition, questions for the ATC participants may be submitted in advance to Jim Bedow at Potomac TRACON at james.c.bedow@faa.gov; please identify your email by placing "IAD ATC & Customer Forum" in the subject line.

GWBAA Finishes First Year With A Look To The Future:

Last month's board of directors meeting marked the end of the first full year of GWBAA. The board has agreed to plan four events in 2006, starting with an annual meeting with lunch and guest speaker at Manassas Airport in early April. We will be sending invitations as the date, time and place are finalized. The board also set into motion a plan to have a presence at the June 8th NBAA Regional Forum at Dulles; a golf outing in September (a warm-up to NBAA's own tournament in October); and a holiday event at Reagan National in early December. So watch your in-box for more information!

New Director For Leesburg Executive Airport:



According to media reports, Tim Deike - currently the Director of Hickory Regional Airport in Hickory, North Carolina - has been named the new Director of Leesburg Executive Airport. The previous Director, Cindi Martin, left Leesburg in August to become Airport Manager at Natrona County International Airport in Wyoming. Deike has been the Director of Hickory Regional Airport for nearly three years, and has overseen upgrades including a runway safety extension area and runway lighting rehabilitation.

Lockheed Martin Experiences Glitch at Leesburg FSS:

According to the Professional Airways Systems Specialists ("PASS"), a union representing FAA employees, on January 16 a contractor for Lockheed Martin - which now operates the Leesburg Flight Service Station - accidentally knocked out the station's National Airspace System equipment for a four hour period. According to PASS, the contractor silenced an alarm by hitting an emergency stop button - which was successful, but had the incidental effect of killing all of the power at the station. "Luckily, an FAA systems specialist was able to correct this rookie mistake," according to Tom Brantley, national president of PASS. "The FAA really needs to make sure that the contractors it is using to replace highly trained federal workers are at the very least competent in these vital systems." Lockheed began operating the Leesburg FSS in October 2005.

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Upcoming Aviation Events

- March 22: Dulles ATC Open Forum – see above for additional details.
- Early April (*exact date TBD*): GWBAA Annual Meeting, Manassas Airport.
- June 8: NBAA will hold its annual business aviation regional forum – a day-long learning and networking event designed to meet the needs of the regional business aviation community – at Landmark Aviation at Dulles Airport. For more information, visit <http://web.nbaa.org/public/cs/forums/20060608>. GWBAA will be represented at the opening session of the event and we will have a booth that will allow us to distribute information about our group.
- June 9-25: The Studio Theatre will present “Charlie Victor Romeo,” a play which re-enacts actual Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) recordings. For more information, visit http://www.studiotheatre.org/plays/plays_details.php?plays_id=94.
- July 6-8: The World Airline Historical Society will hold its 30th Anniversary Collectibles Show in Tysons Corner, Virginia – an opportunity to socialize and add to one’s stock of memorabilia. For more information, visit <http://www.ai2006.com>.
- September (*exact date TBD*): Watch this space for information regarding GWBAA’s fall golf outing.

GWBAA Offers Online Benefits:

We are continuing to add member information for the GWBAA electronic membership directory – <http://www.gwbaa.com/directory.html>. This service is available to GWBAA members at no cost. If you would like to post your company information please contact Bob Blouin via email at info@gwbaa.com.

GWBAA Contacts:

GWBAA President Bob Blouin and Jol Silversmith of Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger, LLP edit GWBAA News. GWBAA’s success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and your participation - send any ideas or comments for future newsletters or for GWBAA in general to info@gwbaa.com or any of the following people:

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