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## **Start Planning for Golf and Other 2021 Events**

It was great to see so many GWBAA Members at the Golf Tournament last month. It had been far too long, and we look forward to hopefully returning to our full slate of events in 2021. As everyone fully understands, we are dependent on numerous factors to have successful events next year. As of now we are targeting March 2021 (date TBD) for a virtual Safety Standdown and April/May 2021 for the Open House and Aircraft Display. Information and dates on both these events will be forthcoming.

We can announce a confirmed date of September 16, 2021 for the 2021 Golf Tournament, so please mark your calendars.

Regrettably, we are unable to have the Holiday Party this year, but we look forward to welcoming everyone at one in December 2021.

## **NBAA Virtual Convention**

NBAA will be holding a virtual convention and exhibition ("VBACE") on December 2-3. Information for sponsors and exhibitors is now available, as well as for attendees. For more information, please visit <https://nbaa.org/professional-development/on-demand-education/nbaa-go/2020-vbace/>.



## **Safety Planning for Large GA Events (a/k/a, “Inauguration is Coming!”)**

*Patrick Moylan, FBO Partners, LLC*

The general aviation industry is known for its flexibility and resilience; in fact, it is what defines us. Without it, we would all just fly commercial, drive a car, or take the train or bus. But this flexibility and resilience is of value only because our industry has learned to be able to conduct such operations in a manner at least as safe as those other alternatives, regardless of the changing external environment. This, in turn, requires plenty of the planning.

As the Presidential inauguration approaches, there are a few precious weeks left to consider the potential impact of this event on our operations, both for FBOs and flight departments. Like many large events, the inauguration provides a few “knowns” but many “unknowns”. The “knowns” include the date, will include a rough estimate of the expected traffic as the date approaches, and the capacity and constraints of your home airport. The “unknowns” include weather, last-minute flight changes, security events, and the capacity and constraints in other areas of the airspace and other area airports. For example, a large winter weather event could strike all area airports just before the next-day departure of hundreds of business jets, as it did quite memorably on January 20-21, 2001.

So what are some steps you can take now to prepare for January 20, regardless of who wins the election?

For FBOs, these steps can include staff planning, including notifying your workforce of their expected work schedule, which could include a “freeze” on time off and/or planned overtime for the days before and after the event; obtaining additional ground support equipment (perhaps by borrowing or renting), PPE, chocks & cones, wands, carpets, deicing fluid & fuel (and most importantly, coffee!); partnering with other FBOs in the area or your network in the form of “mutual aid” agreements (e.g., shuttling staff and/or equipment between the FBOs, depending on need, when feasible); pre-ordering catering for staff; pre-booking hotel rooms for staff in case of a winter storm; arranging FBO cleaning several times during inauguration week (possibly using third-party cleaners, to allow your FBO employees to focus on aircraft and passenger handling); and, coordinating with base customers on your contingency plans to ensure they are taken care of in the event of a large transient customer influx. On top of all this, we have COVID to consider, and your “day to day” COVID plan needs to be expanded to include the potential of dozens of pilots and departing passengers all in your lobby at the same time on January 21, for example.

For flight departments, thorough communication with the FBO management can ensure that there are several avenues for accomplishing your organization’s flight missions in a safe manner, depending on the variables at your home FBO. For example, consider establishing a daily update call each day in the week (or so) leading to inauguration in order to review expected flight activity (both transient and base

customers), expected weather conditions, and, to the extent available, the expected flight activity and weather forecasts at other area airports. As the main event date approaches, and your expected flight activity is better known, your FBO may be able to arrange the hangar parking layout to maximize the efficiency of tow movements during the inauguration timeframe. Nevertheless, it may still be prudent to have a “relocation option” to a non-area airport so that you are staged outside the congested areas (assuming, of course, you aren’t needing to fly back \*into\* the DC area!). Like the FBOs, having near-airport hotel rooms might be warranted if pilots have a long commute and may need to report for duty; this would make it much more likely that they will be able to report to the airport despite ground traffic and/or snow that could be present. This approach may look similar to a pre-flight planning activity that would include fact gathering, risk assessment, and designation of alternative landing sites.

Although there is no way to predict all the possible variables that could impact your operations during the next “big event”, by taking a proactive approach to the upcoming inauguration and working with partners in the Greater Washington area, we can all help ensure that our general aviation community does its part to ensure the safe, orderly, and expeditious flow of people coming to witness a uniquely American event, the inauguration of a US President.

*Patrick Moylan, CSP is a Senior Associate at FBO Partners, an aviation consultancy providing business management advisory services to FBOs, airports, and other aviation service providers. Patrick can be contacted at [patrick.moylan@fbopartners.com](mailto:patrick.moylan@fbopartners.com) and at +1 (443) 336-3391.*

## Regional News Round-Up

The **Winchester Regional Airport** is currently conducting a survey in regard to the airport’s role in the local business community and the region. Anyone who uses the airport (or has in the past) is encouraged to take the survey - which is anonymous and only takes about 10 minutes. For more information, please visit <https://okvsabo.typeform.com/to/VvoHSxYs>.

Kuhn Aviation expects to open its new FBO facility on the east side of **Leesburg Executive Airport** by early 2021. Plans for a second phase of construction include additional hangars.

**Frederick Municipal Airport** officially opened its extended runway, now with a length of 5,819 feet. The extension is expected to allow corporate jets to carry more fuel and passengers. Rick Weldon, President and CEO of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, said that: “It’s literally essential for some of our partners to have this airport here.”

**Carroll County Regional Airport** has received approval from the county commissioners to proceed with the first phase of its \$80 million runway extension project. Before the 400-foot extension can be built, neighboring Meadow Branch Road will need to be relocated; \$450,000, primarily from federal and state grants, will be used for engineering studies.

The **National Aeronautic Association** is accepting nominations for its Stinson Trophy, which recognizes a living person for contributions to the role of women in the field of aviation, aeronautics, space, or related sciences. For more information, please visit <https://naa.aero/awards/awards-and-trophies/stinson-trophy>.

## Regional Events

The Committee for Dulles will be hosting an in-person awards ceremony at Signature Flight Support on November 19. Please visit <https://www.committeefordulles.org/2020-tower-reception> for more information.

## About GWBAA

GWBAA Interim President Jamie Wilson ([jamie.wilson@fbopartners.com](mailto:jamie.wilson@fbopartners.com)) and GWBAA Secretary Jol Silversmith of KMA Zuckert LLC ([jsilversmith@kmazuckert.com](mailto:jsilversmith@kmazuckert.com)) write and edit GWBAA News.

GWBAAs success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and your participation – so please send any ideas or comments for future newsletters, or for GWBAA, in general, to Jamie or Jol.

## **NBAA Membership Discount**

As a new GWBAA member benefit, if you are not currently a member of NBAA, you can now join at a discounted rate using promo code GWBAA100. When you join NBAA not only will you receive \$100 off your first-year NBAA membership dues, NBAA will return 50% of your dues to GWBAA, allowing us to keep working on regional issues on your behalf.

NBAA members enjoy a direct line to industry experts, career development opportunities, discounts to all NBAA events, and much more. Learn more - <https://nbaa.org/membership/>.

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