



AirWaves

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Spring Greetings Fellow IPAA Members

By Greg Gobble
Keokuk Municipal Airport
Airport Manager
President of Iowa Public
Airports Association

Since this is my first article for the IPAA "Airwaves" as President of the association I felt I should give some background information about myself.

I am President of Lindner Aviation in Keokuk and Manager of the Keokuk Municipal Airport. My wife, Janice and I purchased Lindner Aviation in the summer of 2000 and I became manager of the airport at that time also. I have had the privilege of serving on the IPAA Board of Directors as IPAA Vice President and as a member of the Iowa DOT Office of Aviation Advisory Council.

My aviation career started in the USMC in 1978 with training as a CH 46 helicopter aviation electrician. After tour of duty concluded in 1982 I trained to receive my Airframe & Power plant ratings at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa. For the majority of my 30 + years I have been employed as an aircraft mechanic and inspector. I've worked at airports in Ottumwa, Burlington, and Keokuk and floating ones in the Mediterranean. I think the Navy calls them ships; we Marines use a different term.

For the past 10 years, however, things have changed dramatically. A friend once told me, "The only thing constant about aviation is change." How right he was.

I have been fortunate in my career to get to meet and interact with some great people including many who are still very active in developing and promoting aviation in Iowa. With the constant

change in the world of commercial and general aviation, the relationships and associations we make in our careers become even more important. IPAA has been very successful as an organization because of the relationships formed among the membership and our partnerships with the Iowa DOT Office of Aviation and the FAA.

The success we have had as an organization in shaping public policy both at the state and federal level comes from the personal contact our members have with our elected officials. I can't over emphasize the value of these associations. Within our group we have representatives of all size airports from large commercial service to basic general aviation along with members with staff to assist them with their duties and members who are the staff. With the challenges we face, in the next 2 years I will seek and need your input in shaping IPAA. I will depend upon advice from the association's most trusted and reliable sources, including our membership and board of directors.

I hope that by the end of my term, there is a multi-year FAA reauthorization with a stable AIP program. I would also like to see state funding levels, at a minimum, maintained at current levels. At the same time we need all facets of aviation activity to have regained the levels prior to the economic meltdown. We also need a viable solution to the concerns raised about the lead in 100LL aviation fuel. I would also like to strengthen our links with all of our aviation system users.

To ensure the positive results, we all need to stay engaged and involved.

I would strongly encourage you to attend the conferences, IPAA Day on the Hill, go to DC with your city or chamber group, or simply, but no less importantly, send letters and e-mails to the legislators. Keep in contact with our Lobbyist Jim Obradovich and respond when he sends e-mail requests for action. Check the web site www.iowaairports.org updates on legislative priorities and other association activities.

Please check the listing of our board members, the range of experience is incredible. I seriously doubt that there is a more qualified group of individuals serving on any board anywhere, and rest assured I will be calling on some of these members in the future to contribute to future Airwaves issues. (Otherwise I would have to drone on and on....)

I want to thank Bob Grierson for his leadership these past two years and pray for this safe return as he leaves to serve in Afghanistan. I also want to thank our association officers, Rhonda Chambers of Fort Dodge (Vice President), Mike Roe of Washington (Treasurer) and Gayle Brandt of Spencer (Secretary) for the dedication they have shown to the association.

Finally thanks to the Iowa DOT's Office of Aviation without Michelle McEnany and the Office of Aviation staff, Iowa would not have the strong aviation program we currently enjoy. Thanks Kay, Tim, Mike and Michele for your tireless efforts and since you all have worked with me in the past I have a real appreciation for how tireless you all really are.

Semper Fi. ✈

For more information, call 515-727-0667 or visit iowaairports.org

Iowa's Airports Play an Important Role in President's Visit to Iowa

On April 27th 2010 President Obama arrived at the Keokuk Municipal Airport aboard Marine One. The President was in southeast Iowa to visit the Siemens wind turbine plant in Fort Madison. The President also made stops in Mt. Pleasant, Ottumwa, and Des Moines before leaving the state. Air Force One arrived in Quincy, IL earlier on the 27th. The President then boarded Marine One for the flight to Keokuk.

Secret Service and Marine Helicopter Squadron HMX-1 advance teams began visiting airports and other locations about a week prior to his arrival.

In total 3 Marine VH-53's and 3 VH-60 helicopters, and an Army OH-58 were involved in the operation.



Ground support personnel counted in the hundreds including Iowa DOT, Iowa Highway Patrol, city and county law enforcement and road crews from the affected counties along the motorcade route.

Airports participating in some form were EOK, MPZ, OTM and DSM. ➔



Despite State Budget Trouble, Airports Keep Funding

By **Jim Obradovich**
Lobbyist

Thanks to the efforts of IPAA members and key lawmakers, Iowa's public airports were able to achieve something very few groups were able to during the 2010 session of the Iowa Legislature – avoid funding cuts.

The 2010 Legislative session will long be remembered for many difficult budget decisions, including deep cuts in most programs.

In fact, the fiscal year 2011 budget proposed by Governor Culver eliminated all funding for the General Aviation Airport Vertical Infrastructure program.

Despite the difficult budget situation facing lawmakers, the IPAA Board of Directors moved to actively push for funding of both the airport vertical infrastructure programs.

Several times during the session IPAA members took time out of their busy schedules to contact their area lawmakers and explain why the airport vertical infrastructure programs are needed. As a result the following appropriations were approved for the 2011 fiscal year:

- \$1.5 million – Commercial Service Airport Vertical Infrastructure Program
- \$750,000 – General Aviation Airport Vertical Infrastructure Program ➔

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Jim Connell Becomes Part of Aviation History



At the recent 2010 Midwest Regional Professional Aviation Maintenance Association Aircraft Maintenance Symposium & Trade Show in Des Moines, Robbie Watkins, FAA Airworthiness Unit Supervisor for the Des Moines FSDO, presented the Charles E. Taylor "Master Mechanic Award" to Jim Connell, owner of Connell Aviation II in Independence.

The award is the most prestigious award the FAA issues to persons certificated under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 65. This award is named after Charles E. Taylor, the first aviation mechanic, in powered flight. It recognizes the lifetime accomplishments of senior mechanics. Mr. Taylor served as the



Wright Brother's mechanic, and is credited with designing and building the engine for their first successful aircraft in 1903.

The candidate must have worked for at least 50 years in an aviation maintenance career, be a US citizen, and have a valid FAA mechanic certificate, FAA repairman certificate, FAA Designated Mechanic Examiner, or FAA Inspection Authorization certificate with no violations on any of these certificates.

Jim also received a letter congratulating him on 50 years of aviation. "This award acknowledges your exemplary service, professionalism, devotion to aviation safety, recognition by your peers, and the appreciation of countless pilots to

whom you have made powered flight possible," read the letter.

Jim's name will also be added to the Roll of Honor, with the other 1394 recipients, in a leather bound book on display at the entrance to the FAA Headquarters, Aircraft Maintenance Division located in the Orville Wright Federal Building in Washington, D.C. and will remain there forever as a part of aviation history.

Karen also received a letter from the FAA Flight Standards Division located in Kansas City, Missouri acknowledging Jim's "Master Mechanic Award." The letter stated, "As a token of appreciation for your sacrifice and commitment in support of your husband's fifty years of dedicated service in aviation, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Central Region FAASTeam would like to present you with the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic spouse recognition pin."

Congratulations to both Karen and Jim! ✈

Iowa Aviation Conference Celebrates 100 Years of Airplane Flight in Iowa



The Iowa Aviation Conference was held April 21 & 22 in West Des Moines with more

than 250 attendees including airport representatives, pilots, government officials, aviation consultants and vendors.

The conference was highlighted by the celebration of 100 years of powered airplane flight in Iowa. Ann Holtgren Pellegrino, author of the trilogy, *Iowa Takes to the Air*, provided a presentation on Iowa's rich aviation history, including notable

pioneers and aeronautical development over the past 100 years. Pellegrino was presented the Outstanding Involvement in Aviation Award from Michelle McEnany, director of the Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Aviation for her work in chronicling Iowa's long and varied aviation history.

Outgoing Iowa Public Airports Association (IPAA) president Robert Grierson presented the IPAA President's Award to Tom Francis and the Ottumwa Regional Airport, recognizing the management and planning of new construction at the airport including runway reconstruction, a new taxiway, and



Ann Holtgren Pellegrino received the Outstanding Involvement in Aviation Award from Iowa's state aviation director, Michelle McEnany.

various other projects that have enhanced the airport in recent years. Additionally, incoming IPAA president Greg Gobble presented outgoing president Robert Grierson with an IPAA President's Award for his service over the past two years as IPAA president and in recognition

of Grierson as he prepares for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Several educational sessions offered new insight to conference attendees. One session included airport board member training with an overview of laws, duties, responsibilities, and tips to enhance the effectiveness of airport boards and commissions. The Iowa DOT's Office of Aviation provided updates on aviation issues and programs in Iowa that included a review of the office's new web site

at iowadot.gov/aviation, as well as a briefing on the Iowa aviation system plan update that is currently underway.

The Transportation Security Administration provided an update on the state of aviation security. Other sessions covered FAA airport programming, public relations for airports, pavement preservation, storm water permitting, and a pilot safety seminar.

The Iowa Aviation Conference is a joint effort between the Iowa DOT's



Tom Francis receives the IPAA President's Award from Robert Grierson at the 2010 Iowa Aviation Conference.

Office of Aviation and the Iowa Public Airports Association. ✈

We wish to thank these organizations for sponsoring this newsletter.

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AirWaves is published as an informational tool for all public airports in the state of Iowa. It is directed to all airport decision makers including airport management, state/local government leaders and airport businesses. We welcome your comments, thoughts and suggestions on how we may serve you better.



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