

SEC JOURNAL

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- NOTICE -

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The SEC-AAAE Board of Directors will meet Sunday, March 5, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. in the Pensacola Room at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel in Jacksonville, Fla. Members are invited to attend.

Bryan Elliott, AAE,
Immediate Past President

Timothy Doll, AAE,
President

David Edwards, AAE, President-Elect

Lew Bleiweis, AAE,
Secretary-Treasurer

Directors

Kim Wade, AAE
Ken Spirito, AAE
James Bennett, AAE
William Marrison, AAE
Scott Brockman, AAE

TRAVEL WATCH—WHAT'S COMING, WHAT'S GOING AND WHAT'S GOING ON

Here is some of what to expect over the course of the upcoming months. But then again, we're in the airport business, so who knows?

Speedy Security—Clear Registered Traveler, the biometric security program that is being tested at Orlando International Airport, will be ready to expand to 30 to 40 major U.S. airports by April 2006. Travelers who register for Clear submit fingerprints and iris scans in exchange for expedited passage through airport screening.

Swan Song—Though Song, Delta Air Line's popular low-cost carrier, will stop taking reservations in May, its best amenities (leather seats, satellite television, on-demand videos) will live on in retrofitted Delta airplanes. More than 50 Delta aircraft will be converted. Don't expect to see flight attendants wearing Song's Kate Spade uniforms; however, new uniforms are being designed by Richard Taylor. Scratch the whole program

if Delta pilots go on strike.

Room Rates—The average U.S. hotel room rate for 2005 was expected to hit a record high of \$90.70, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers. This figure is projected to reach \$95.30 for 2006.

Coming Clean—The EPA has finally struck a deal with 24 domestic airlines, including American, Continental, and Northwest, to improve the quality of airplane drinking water. The carriers have pledged to monitor their water and disinfect water systems routinely. For updates on a particular airline's progress, email airlinedrinkingwater@epa.gov. Now, can we do something about that air...?

Taking Care of Business—British Airways is launching a major revamp of its business class—the second in five years. The airline will pour \$174 million into Club World and all long-haul flights are due for the makeover starting in mid-

2006. Can you understand why airlines lose money.

Better Booking—hotels.com's newly designed website allows users to view 360-degree photos of properties, compare hotels side by side, and read reviews from past guests. And should you have a pressing question about the town you are visiting, you can call a hotels.com city specialist at 1-800-246-8357 and ask for the details. Collectively, these operators are trained to be experts on about 400 cities worldwide.

Sky Sleeping—This year, passengers on American Airlines' business class will be able to stretch out 180 degrees (almost). The carrier will be one of the first domestic airlines to install "lie flat" seats that, while technically level, are actually pitched at an eight-degree angle. The rollout will happen throughout 2006 on all Boeing 767-300's and 777's.

UPDATE:

At press time, the Registered Traveler Program is set to begin June 20, 2006.

FORMER COMMISSIONER JAILED; PATRON MACED, SUES AIRPORT; FUEL TRUCK HITS JET

2006 starts out as an interesting year at Richmond International Airport as Ed Barber, former Airport Commissioner and Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors Chairman, spent New Year's in jail on a sexual battery charge. Barber, who was arrested late on December 29th, faces one count each of aggravated sexual battery and object sexual penetration according to the Richmond Times Dispatch. This follows a former Capital Region Airport Commission Chairman who was jailed for falsifying travel receipts and another Airport Commissioner who was jailed for refusing to provide the name or names of his heroin suppliers to a Richmond judge.

Barber was held without bond in Hopewell's Riverside Regional Jail until his January 3rd preliminary hearing in Chesterfield's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

In a telephone interview with a Richmond Times Dispatch staff writer, Barber's wife, Theresa, said, "Of course, with allegations like this, people automatically assume guilt, so it's devastating to the whole family. I absolutely don't believe that it's true. Ed is a loving father and has never, ever done anything to have people question his integrity when it comes to kids." She said the allegations are linked to a domestic dispute between her 16-year old daughter, the girl's bio-

logical father, his wife and the Barbers. Chesterfield Police would not discuss any details of the case citing a state law that prohibits them from identifying juveniles who report alleged criminal activity.

Meanwhile, a Richmond man has filed a lawsuit against Richmond International Airport charging that an airport police officer maced him for no reason. In the suit, filed in September, Kassceen Weaver seeks \$1.35 million in damages from the Capital Region Airport Commission and Diane Otey, a police officer employed by the airport. The suit was originally filed in Richmond Circuit Court and was recently transferred to Henrico Circuit Court.

Weaver was driving on Terminal Drive the evening of July 11, 2004 to pick up his fiancée from the baggage claim area, he says in the initial suit. When he pulled his car up to the terminal, according to his attorney, Claire Cardwell, Officer Otey told him to move along. "There were several other cars doing the same thing," Cardwell says, "and no one else was told to move on." That's when, Weaver says in his suit, Officer Otey approached the driver's side window of his car "and sprayed him in the face with mace, causing him to experience severe pain and suffering." Otey then pulled

Weaver from his car, handcuffed him and took him to Henrico County jail, the suit alleges. Weaver was charged with assault on a police officer, disorderly conduct and using abusive language. In September 2004, the first charge was dismissed and Weaver was found not guilty on the second and third charges.

An airport spokesperson confirmed that Otey was a Police Officer for the Capital Region Airport Commission and was no longer employed there.

Most recently, a fuel truck reportedly carrying 4,000 pounds of Jet-A fuel struck the right wing of United Airlines regional jet Flight 8006 at 6:25 am on February 6. The 42 passengers on board were quickly evacuated from the plane with no injuries reported. The truck reportedly struck the Embraer 145 less than two-feet from the jet's fuel tank which was loaded with 5,000 pounds of fuel. The truck driver sustained cuts to his face after the aircraft's wing tip broke through his windshield, according to Eugene McDonough, president of Million Air, the FBO operating the fuel truck.

Airport and Henrico County fire and rescue workers cut through the roof of the truck to remove the driver, who was stabilized.

HUMAN SKULL FOUND IN SUITCASE AT FORT LAUDERDALE AIRPORT

Customs and Border Protection agents at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport found a human skull in a passenger's luggage this past week, authorities

said. The woman arrived aboard Lynx International Airlines Flight 203 from Cap Haitien, Haiti, agency spokesman Zack Mann told South Florida Sun-

Sentinel news partner WTVJ, Channel 6. Mann said the woman is being questioned by authorities, but she has not been arrested.

CAR BURGLARY OCCURS ON AVERAGE ONCE EVERY THREE DAYS

Orlando's Eyewitness News has found there is a car burglary every three days on average at Orlando International Airport. Vehicle burglaries at OIA are up nearly 35 percent over last year. There were four the week of February 3rd.

The Airport Authority says the number isn't significant, but the victims beg to differ.

"We wish we could watch everyone's car 24/7, but obviously that's impossible. We do have constant patrols of cars, but, of course, we can't be on every floor at every car all the time," said Captain Mike Holloway with the Orlando Police Department.

For Mike Smith, it's a bigger problem

than the halogen lights he recently lost. He says the parking garages should be watched as closely as the passengers. "That is scary, that you could be in that parking deck and someone could come into that place and there are no cameras to view what people are doing," Smith said.

ETHICS LESSONS A MUST FOR AIRPORT MANAGER

Zephyrhills, Florida, wants a uniter and a promoter of economic development to serve as its next airport manager. The Airport Authority would like to suggest another trait—someone strong on ethics who understands that even the appearances of impropriety should be avoided.

It's a characteristic that also needs to be injected into the city's advisory boards, most notably the Airport Authority, where one member failed to disclose his past financial ties in a recent dispute.

As recently detailed by the St. Petersburg Times, the forced resignation of Jim Werme as airport manager last November is connected in part to a questionable deal that featured unsigned contracts, hangar owners with free rent and Werme with a new hangar of his own.

In spring of 2005, Werme authorized five hangars from Tampa North Aero Park to move to Zephyrhills Municipal Airport because of pending construction at the Tampa North facility in Wesley Chapel. The semi-permanent T-hangars are valued at \$5,000 to \$15,000 and cost about

\$6,000 to move.

But neither the owners nor the city signed leases and Werme never collected rent. In other words, the hangar owners received free use of public land after Werme acquired one of the hangars for himself. Through sloppiness, inattention to detail or quid pro quo, Werme failed in his fiduciary responsibility to the city and it is agreed that City Manager Steve Spina was correct to ask for his resignation.

Spina said Werme told him he paid for the hangar, but he never produced documentation. The city auditor investigated for possible fraud, but interest in the case waned when Werme resigned his post.

Regardless, the appearance is unsettling and the former airport manager should have known better, particularly after facing a corruption investigation in the 1990's.

Werme, in 1998, was investigated but cleared of wrongdoing after agreeing to

give flying lessons to a contractor in exchange for work at Werme's private property in Trilby. The deal drew scrutiny because the contractor also had a city contract to do \$24,000 in road-paving work at the airport.

Werme was accused of showing poor judgment then and did so again with the hangars. Failing to produce leases in a timely manner cast suspicions on his motives, left the hangar owners in a lurch and required the Airport Authority to make some very difficult decisions.

In December, a month after Werme resigned, the Airport Authority scuttled the deal and ordered the hangars removed within a year. That decision, too, is problematic because Authority member Jim Spears participated in the debate but failed to mention that he had owned one of the hangars before selling it to another party.

AIRPORT EXPANSION PITS CHURCH AGAINST CITY OF TROY

Over the years, tiny Oak Grove United Methodist Church has endured an uneasy co-existence with the municipal airport hidden beyond the nearby tree line. The roar of turbo jets has sometimes interrupted Sunday services, according to members of the 60-strong congregation.

On at least one occasion, the noise halted a funeral.

Now, the annoyance has turned to alarm as Troy, Alabama—a city of 14,000 almost an hour's drive south of Montgomery—pursues an expansion that could cost close to \$6 million.

Where city leaders envision a practical boost for local industry, church members fear for a spiritual refuge more than a century old. "This is sacred. This is special,"

said Ann Marie Hussey, a lifelong Oak Grove member who counts three generations of family buried in the adjoining graveyard and owns land that would be swallowed up by the airport's expansion.

Under certain plans, the lengthening of one runway to 6,500 feet won't actually eat into Oak Grove's property. But by one church member's estimate, it could bring the taxiway to within 500 feet of the church's back door, less than half the current distance.

At a minimum, members worry that the added noise and vibrations will damage the graceful wood-frame structure and further disrupt worship services. The project is among the latest in a string of small-airport expansions across Ala-

bama, fueled largely by the state congressional delegation's ability to cover the bills with taxpayer money. It has the enthusiastic support of U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Tuscaloosa, who helped to push it forward with a \$1 million appropriation released last year.

Like several other Shelby-backed aviation endeavors, it is also drawing questions about who will benefit.

In an interview, Troy Mayor Jimmy Lunsford was adamant that the city has no intention of touching Oak Grove's grounds, now or in the future. The expansion will take up about 120 acres and requires the filling of a pond.

Southeast Chapter—AAAE

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OBITUARY

We recently learned that R. Alan Atkin, aged 84, passed away on Sunday, August 14, 2005 at Asbury Place. Mr. Atkin was retired from the McGhee Tyson Airport after 30 years of service as Airport Manager.

He was a graduate of Knoxville High School and the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Atkin was a veteran of the US Army Air Corps serving during WWII. He was a member of American Legion Post #2, the local Masonic Lodge, Kerbel Shrine Temple and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at UT.

Following retirement, Mr. Atkin remained active in the American Association of Airport Executives and the Southeastern Airport Manager's Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson, Daniel Alan Fletcher. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Mary Louise Atkin.

17th Annual Finance & Administration Conference

The Southeast Chapter—AAAE and the American Association of Airport Executives are pleased to present the 17th Annual Airport Finance & Administration Conference. The Theme of the 2006 Conference is "Changing How Airports Do Business."

The Conference is scheduled for March 5-7, 2006 in Jacksonville, Florida, at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel. The Conference will cover a host of topics ranging from new revenue opportunities to airline bankruptcy issues. This conference will cover all the subjects that those working in the finance and administration fields need to know to manage today's airports.

Airport executives with finance and administration responsibilities should not miss this special networking opportunity to learn how others are coping with today's challenges. You will come away from the meeting with new ideas that may prove to be the right solutions for your airport or company.

Some of the topics scheduled to be discussed and debated include:

- ▶ Airline Bankruptcy Issues
- ▶ Disaster Recovery Issues
- ▶ Impact of Low Cost Carriers
- ▶ New Revenue Opportunities
- ▶ Capacity Restraints
- ▶ TSA/Current Security Issues
- ▶ Revenue Guarantees
- ▶ Can Airports Reduce Airline Costs?

If you are in the field of airport finance and administration and can only attend one conference this year, this is for you! Come attend the conference, network with other finance and administration professionals and go home with a wealth of knowledge!

Registration information is included with this newsletter.

TOMMY BIBB, AAE, PREPARES NASHVILLE FOR OUR ARRIVAL!

Former SEC-AAAE Board Member and current 2006 SEC-AAAE Annual Conference Chairman, Tommy Bibb, A.A.E., is preparing Nashville, Tenn., for our arrival on May 21, 2006! The 2006 Annual Conference will run May 21—23, 2006 at the Lowes Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel. Tommy Bibb promises a strong program topped with lots of fun, the Lowes Vanderbilt Hotel promises a comfortable and luxurious venue and Nashville promises plenty of music and revelry late into the night! Sounds like a good time, huh?

The 2006 Conference Committee has established a slate of sessions that will prove to

be fresh and innovative and have applications at all sized airports. Some of the session topics include:

- ▶ Natural Disaster Recovery,
- ▶ Master Planning and the Re-Write of FAA Advisory Circulars,
- ▶ Energy Saving Opportunities Through Innovative Technologies,
- ▶ The Cost of Airport Consulting Fees,
- ▶ The Rising Costs of Airport Construction and Development, and
- ▶ Strategic Listening.

Speakers will include industry professionals, members of the academic community and

well-known airport professionals. All will offer new ways of looking at and addressing old problems with new and inovative ideas.

The conference will offer a wonderful learning opportunity and you will write home about the great food and entertainment!

There are plenty of opportunities for corporate sponsorships available at this writing.

Registration forms are available on the Chapter's website or feel free to contact Tommy directly at 615.275.1678 or email him at tom_bibb@nashintl.com.