

BAYOU AVIATION

LA DOTD Aviation Newsletter Volume VIII

December 2017

Distinguished Service Award



A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Allen Taylor, Airway Systems Manager, LADOTD Aviation at the 46th Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates (LAMA) Annual Conference.

Over 45 years of aeronautical experience and 40 years of planning, P & ID haz-op design modeling, coal gasification research instrumentation design, area lighting design, boiler combustion control design, environmental compliance monitoring design, control logic design, plant start-ups and R&D engineering in instrument and electrical systems development for industrial, commercial and government. Since 1994, with DOTD, his responsibilities include airspace obstruction analysis, instrument approach development, NAVAID, airport lighting, R & D, state

standards development, periodic airport lighting and NAVAID construction inspections, testing and final acceptance for FAA and State funded projects for Authorities, Boards, City and Parish government airport owners and/or sponsors statewide. Since early 2010 he has been continuously field testing a solar powered LED taxiway lighting system using an advanced technology power supply. Currently, he is also testing a “low profile” LED taxiway and runway fixture for airports and taxiway centerline solar powered LED pavement retro-reflective pavement markers. He is one of six active Illuminating Engineering Society Airport Lighting Committee (IESALC) General Aviation (GA) subcommittee members charged with developing low cost national



Pictured: Brad Brandt - Director of DOTD Aviation, Nancy Taylor, Allen Taylor, and James Taylor.

Article continued on page 2



standards for general aviation airports. He is a recipient of the 2010 DOTD “Secretary’s Award of Excellence” and the DOTD BI-Annual Conference “2011 Transportation Excellence Award” for “Use of Innovative Product or Technology - False River Regional Airport LED Lighting Test Program”.

Allen received the 58th annual Charles E. Dunbar, Jr., Career Service Award, presented by the Louisiana Civil Service League. The award, named for the founder of the League and co-author of the original Civil Service Law in Louisiana, is presented to employees in a classified merit system who have distinguished themselves by service over and above the call of duty. Allen has been employed with the State of Louisiana for over 23 years.

Allen is responsible for airport obstructions analysis, instrument approaches, navigational aids, lighting, developing standards, inspections, final acceptance for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and State funded projects. His extensive experience and integrity insures a degree of credibility with our investors. What he does better than anyone else is to simply make flying safer.

Allen is a Vietnam veteran, married since 1975 to his wife Nancy of 41 years and they have one son, James, who is 28 years old. 



What do you want to see in our next Newsletter?

Do you want to write an article or have news to share?

Email: Heidi.Higginbotham@LA.GOV

From the Director’s Chair

By: Bradley Brandt
Aviation Director



In October 2017 the staff and I had the privilege of attending the annual Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates Conference in Natchitoches, LA. It is very important to our office to attend these important events to learn from aviation professionals, vendors, and industry partners in refreshing and strengthening our relationships with our stakeholders.

This year was unique and an extreme pleasure to be a part of not only a great conference and atmosphere, but also to experience one of our own office employees be recognized, appreciated, and supported by an industry and aviation system that has excelled under his guidance. On Tuesday, October 17 at the conference luncheon awards, the Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates honored Mr. Allen Taylor, DOTD Airway Systems Manager, with the organization’s first “Distinguished Service Award”.

I will let the article in this newsletter do the speaking for Allen and his illustrious career, but I did want to take the opportunity to emphasize the importance and pleasure we have all had in working with Allen on airport projects and important issues facing our state. Please enjoy the article and help me thank Allen Taylor for all of his years of service to our great state.

I have known and worked with Allen for over 17 years and consider him a mentor, peer, but most of all a friend. I am honored and proud to have been a part of that captivating and memorable moment.

Allen, I thank you for your dedication and unwavering commitment in aviation safety to this state, the airport system, and the citizens of Louisiana.

I wish all of you safe skies, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 



New Positions at the FAA District Office

Jean Gamarra
Program Manager
LA/NM
Airports District
Office
Federal Aviation
Administration



Jean Gamarra is currently serving as a program manager for (4) primary airports and (27) general aviation airports for the Southwest Region. Prior to this he was a construction business owner, and he also worked in the private sector for precast/prestressed concrete manufacturers in Florida, and Virginia. He is a current PhD student and holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington with an emphasis in Construction Management and Engineering. Jean is an accomplished researcher of advanced materials, currently working on the applications of Ultra-High Performance Fiber-Reinforced Concrete in different segments of the concrete industry. Besides research, he is also a passionate Taekwondo practitioner with 35 years of competitive and disciplined training. He enjoys spending time outdoors camping, cooking, and traveling with his family.

Andy Velayos
Lead Engineer
LA/NM
Airports District
Office
Federal Aviation
Administration

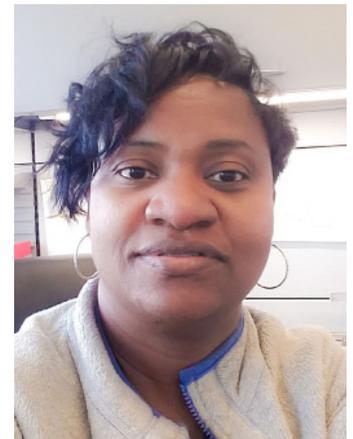


Andy Velayos has been reassigned as the Lead Engineer for the Louisiana/New Mexico ADO. Previously he served as the Lead Program Manager for the office. He will now be reviewing all high profile and/or complex projects for the ADO,

providing engineering and program management expertise and mentoring, along with continuing to serve as a program manager for a few select airports. Andy holds an Architectural Engineering degree and a MBA with an emphasis in management.

Andy is excited to be working closely with the sponsors and their consultants in determining the best course of action for the various airport challenges they face.

**Kimberley
Harris**
ACIP/NPIAS/PFC
Program Manager
LA/NM
Airports District
Office
Federal Aviation
Administration



Kimberly Harris has taken over the ACIP/NPIAS responsibilities for the ADO. Kimberly also, administers all non-hub Passenger Facility Charges for the ADO. Prior to becoming a member of the LA/NM ADO Kimberly was the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 Program Manager for the entire Southwest Region. Kimberly has owned her own home inspection service business, as well as provided marketing and small business start-up consulting for businesses in the Dallas/Fort Worth area since 2005 when Kimberly and her family moved here from Queens NY. In New York Kimberly worked for the FAA Logistics Division for 9 years. Kimberly holds a Master degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, Six Sigma Black Belt trained and Process Improvement Certified which she obtained from the Villanova University. Kimberly has two children, one in college and one in high school, she is married to her husband who she met in college. The entire family enjoys all sports and have all participated in some form of select and/or college sports.



Farewell & Best Wishes to Jason Duet

Jason, we appreciate your dedication and service to our airport system. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and career. You will be missed by many, farewell. 

The Aviation Division would like to wish farewell to one of our Program Managers, Jason Duet. Jason has been a Program Manager in our office since 2010. He has created a positive and welcoming environment and has been a pleasure to work with.

Jason was born and raised in Cut Off, LA and graduated from South Lafourche High School in 1998. After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management from Louisiana Tech University in 2003, he began his career as an Airport Operations Supervisor at Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY).

After four years at MSY (including Katrina), he moved back to Lafourche Parish and accepted the Airport Manager position at the Leonard Miller Jr. Airport in Galliano. After three and a half years of continuing the progress started by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and the previous airport manager, Jason accepted the position of Program Manager for the Louisiana DOTD Aviation Division.

In the seven years at LADOTD, Jason has served as Program Manager for both the Southeast and Northwest Regions, as well as for all of the Air Carrier airports in Louisiana. He has worked with our team and other stakeholders to revise the State's consultant selection guide for airport sponsors, and worked with our team to organize annual training seminars to help spread awareness of policies, procedures, and best practices.

Jason has made positive impacts on the growth and preservation of airports within Louisiana. He always strives to do what is best for the airport and ensures safety is priority.



Marcus Manion LADOTD Aviation 2017 Fall Intern

We would like to recognize our Fall Intern, Marcus Alexander Manion, a Junior Aviation Management student with a minor in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) from the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). Marcus is originally from Atlanta, Georgia and was raised in a military family. He decided to pursue aviation upon graduating high school and received an athletic scholarship to ULM where his passion for aviation continues to grow. Marcus' passion for aviation derived from traveling to various locations and spending time at airports during his childhood.

Marcus strives to seize every opportunity that he is presented with to grow himself professionally. During his freshman year of college, he pledged to become a member of the national honor society of leadership and success, Sigma Alpha Pi and is also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Marcus had the opportunity to internship with us this fall working on various research projects, conducting assessments, and visiting airports. He has networked with several aviation professionals within our state and is grateful for all the time and knowledge shared.

Marcus plans to return to ULM in the spring and continue pursuing his degree along with starting a new internship at the Monroe Regional Airport. Marcus will graduate from ULM next year and wishes to pursue his career goal in becoming an airport director as well as a certified drone pilot. We are all excited to see where his future will take him and we wish Marcus the best of luck. 

ADS-B EQUIP NOW!

**DON'T
GET
LEFT**

**IN THE
HANGAR**

By January 1, 2020, you must be equipped with **ADS-B Out** to fly in most controlled airspace.

Experience a new level of situational awareness:

- ▶ Weather
- ▶ Traffic
- ▶ TFRs
- ▶ NOTAMs

See and be seen. **#ADSB**

ADS-B
EQUIP NOW!

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
faa.gov/go/equipadsb



**Federal Aviation
Administration**



2017 Louisiana Art Contest

By: Tonjia Summerell
Grants and Reimbursements
Program Manager

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is pleased to announce the 2018 Louisiana Aviation Art Contest sponsored by the Aviation Division. The theme for this year's contest is "Flight into the Future."

Students, ages 6-17, are encouraged to create artwork based on the use of this year's theme in relation to the aviation world. Participants are encouraged to visit and learn more about their local airports by visiting our website and locating the airport nearest to where they live. The intent of the contest is to encourage young people throughout Louisiana to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering, and science.

Entries will be judged in six classes as determined by the age of the participant on December 31, 2017. The contest classes will contain the following age groups:

- Class I-Ages 6 to 7,
- Class II-Ages 8-9,
- Class III-Ages 10-11,
- Class IV-Ages 12-13,
- Class V-Ages 14-15,
- Class VI-Ages 16-17.

Completed artwork must be received by the Aviation Division no later than Friday, January 19, 2018. Entries must be sent to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Aviation Division,

Attention: Ms. Tonjia Summerell,
P.O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245.

Local and state aviation officials will select three winners per age category, resulting in a total of eighteen winners. Winners receive aviation-related prizes appropriate to the age group and will also earn the opportunity to compete in the National Aviation Art Contest in Washington, D.C. Please visit our website to view the official contest brochure or contact the Aviation Section for additional information at 225-379-3053. 



Airport Engineering Cycle

(Calendar Year)



Please reference the diagram to ensure proper planning of airport projects. Proper planning will increase your probability of success which means staying on schedule, within budget, and scope.



Port of South Louisiana Executive Regional Airport (KAPS) Opens First Transient Hangar



Port of South Louisiana Executive Director Paul Aucoin and Airport Director Vincent Caire, along with members of the Board of Commissioners, commemorated the official opening of the first transient hangar (1) at Port of South Louisiana Executive Regional Airport, on October 31, 2017, expanding services at the aero center in Reserve, Louisiana. Designed by NY Associates, Inc. and constructed by Justin J. Reeves, LLC, the 6,363 square-foot hangar has the capacity to accommodate a variety of large corporate and business aircraft, which are utilizing the Executive Regional Airport in Reserve on a more frequent basis.

“The commemoration of the new hangar demonstrates Port of South Louisiana’s commitment to making the Executive Regional Airport a full-service airport,” said Executive Director Paul Aucoin. “The new hangar, along with our other improvements, allows us to be very competitive and we will continue to make additional improvements to attract more aircraft.”

More than 40 guests attended the event that culminated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, including St. John the Baptist Parish President Natalie Robottom and Assessor Lucien Gauff as well as FAA and LA DOTD representatives, and resident industry leaders.

“Today we celebrate Port of South Louisiana’s growing contribution to our state, national and the global economies,” said DOTD Assistant Secretary for Policy Chance McNeely, who served as the guest speaker during the event. “This project is a demonstration of how investing in multimodal infrastructure pays off. We are proud of the Port’s efforts and our many years of partnership.”

The self-funded \$739,000 project began construction

in the summer of 2016. KAPS’ newest addition will allow the airport to better serve the needs of general aviation and corporate aircraft. “It’s the first hangar constructed on the airfield that is operated by the Port of South Louisiana, which is why it is affectionately referred to as ‘Hangar 1.’ Others on the field are privately owned.” said Vincent Caire, Airport Director.

Hangar 1 is just one of many planned improvements and additions for the airport since Port of South Louisiana acquired it in the summer of 2009. Since then, its runway was extended to 5,150 feet complete with a parallel taxiway and new lighting and AWOS system. KAPS features the same services and amenities that selective passengers and flight crews would expect to find when traveling through any FBO. Customer service and line service crew is trained to cater to the needs of customers. The airport offers Jet-A and AvGas fuel plus its FBO features a service lobby, conference room, pilot lounge, coffee bar, kitchen/catering area, rental cars and crew cars.

KAPS hosted several fly-ins and community events throughout 2017 including a community breakfast celebrating St. John the Baptist Parish IEDC’s National Economic Development Week (May); a Pilots N Paws fly-in during which pilots volunteered to provide transportation of homeless animals to potential forever homes across the country (June); the Andouille Festival fly-in in conjunction with an FAA safety seminar [Note: the Andouille festival fly-in also attracted local television news program WGNO’s News with a Twist, who came out to film a segment about the local fair and KAPS] (October); plus the First Annual St. John the Baptist Parish Aviation Awareness Day (May), an educational outing for the community, especially children, to learn about flying and aviation. On November 4, they hosted a Pilots for Patients fly-in to provide air transportation to people with medical conditions to out-of-town medical facilities at no cost.





Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself

By: Jason Ball
Aviation Inspector

No we aren't in the 90s R&B era anymore, even though we totally should go back to comfy clothes, high tops, and great hair-dos. We are talking about conducting self-inspections at your GA airport. Self-inspections will help the manager get a hands-on, or eyes-on view of the day to day status of the airfield and help the inspector identify any issues that the manager may be unaware of. The self-inspection process benefits the airport in many different ways. We have outlined a few of them for this article to help you, the sponsor or manager, understand why this process is important to our program as well as your airfield.

Identification of potential problems is the main benefit. By conducting a daily, weekly, or even monthly inspection of certain aspects of the airfield, you can document any issues or potential issues for monitoring BEFORE they become a problem. Small cracks, dips, and even ruts are examples of deficiencies that you would want to document and monitor for further deterioration. While these are not necessarily large enough to be a "write-up" they are worth watching and if they develop further then preventive measures could be put into place to keep the crack or dips becoming a problem area that is costly to repair.

Documentation is another benefit to the airport because this allows them to record specific items, such as light fixtures that go out, to determine if there is more going on than appears. If the same light is failing 3 times per year and others around it are not, this could be evident of a larger scale issue than just a failing bulb. Documentation also allows the inspector to understand what is happening at the airfield on a larger scale. As an inspector, we get a snapshot in time of the airfield's condition. By reviewing the inspection records we can see that the sponsor is maintaining their pavement properly or we can see that certain maintenance is not working and can recommend that something larger scale may be needed and the program manager and engineer should be aware of a potential future project.

Even though we all would love to go back to the 90s with our rag tops down so our hair can blow, we are here in the era of technology and there are many ways you can conduct your self-inspections. We ask that you keep your records for review during our 5010 inspection meeting and if you need any guidance on implementing a self-inspection program we are always available to discuss what has worked for some of our airports that have programs already in place. 



The Louisiana Transportation Conference (LTC) is a biannual opportunity for our engineering community to gather and exchange information on a broad array of topics of interest to DOTD, consultant and contractor employees.

It has been traditional to recognize special achievement in engineering and construction projects performed by the Department and our transportation partners as a part of the LTC. This competition recognizes the "best of the best" projects, demonstrating dedication of all of us to providing the highest quality in transportation infrastructure to our customers, the citizens of Louisiana and the users of our highways, transit systems, airports, ports and other public works. The award recipients will be recognized during a special session on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. More information on categories and entry requirements will be posted closer to the conference.

Our office is assisting in preparing packages to submit airport projects for many categories of these awards. If you have an airport project you would like to submit for one of the below awards please contact Bradley R. Brandt, Aviation Director at brad.brandt@la.gov or (225) 379-3040. Deadline for airport submittals is December 6, 2017. 

Congratulations



Please join us in congratulating Bradley R. Brandt, Louisiana DOTD Director of Aviation, for receiving Honorable Mention for the 2017 Charles E. Dunbar Award in recognition of his exemplary service and years of dedication to the State of Louisiana.

This award is the highest honor classified state employees can receive for their service to the citizens of Louisiana. We appreciate your service and dedication to the Department, as well as to the State of Louisiana, and wholeheartedly commend you on the attainment of such a prestigious honor. 



LAMA Conference Recap

The 46th annual conference of the Louisiana Airport Managers & Associates (LAMA) was held October 15 – 18 at the Natchitoches Events Center with 176 attendees present for updates from the FAA, AOPA, NASAO, State Aviation officials, airport safety & security professionals, in addition to congressional issues on aviation.

The keynote address “Don’t Let Your Human Factor Bite You” was given by national aviation speaker Catherine Fish, an expert on aviation safety. Guest speaker Dr. Jerry Cockrell amused attendees on “How to Fail Your Way to Success in Aviation” with hilarious stories of his career spanning 40 years as a psychologist, Boeing 737 Captain, and aviator with over 20,000 flying hours.

One of the highlights from the conference was the presentation of the Corporate Award to Michael Baker International, an engineering and consulting firm providing a full array of planning, environmental, design and construction phase services to airports of all sizes.

A Distinguished Service Award was presented to Allen

Taylor, Airway Systems Manager, LaDOTD Aviation. His career began with LaDOTD Aviation in 1994 and he currently budgets and administers expenditures of over \$950,000 of State Aviation Trust Funds annually to the airports in Louisiana. “Safety First” is his motto when planning and completing projects for the Louisiana system of airports.

The 2017 LAMA President’s Award was presented to Ralph Hennessy, Interim Director of Aviation at the Baton Rouge Metro Airport (BTR), for leadership, dedication, and loyal service to Aviation in Louisiana. “LAMA President’s Award winners exemplify the best in airport management in Louisiana,” said LAMA President Joe Wheeler. “Ralph is respected among his peers for his knowledge, hard work, and involvement in critical State aviation issues for many years.”

In addition to receiving the President’s Award, Hennessy was elected as the new Vice President of LAMA at the 2017 conference. He previously served as President of LAMA from 2007-2008.

Mr. Hennessy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management from Louisiana Tech University, and has over two decades of airport and aviation management experience. He has been the Assistant Director of Aviation at BTR for 14 years.

Monroe Regional Airport (MLU) Operations Specialist LaKeysha Bullock received the LAMA Bill Dumatrait Scholarship Award for the 2nd year in a row. The scholarship is in recognition of her scholastic achievements. LaKeysha will be graduating from the University of Louisiana - Monroe in December and plans to begin her career as a commercial pilot.

The mission of the LAMA organization is to provide a forum for the exchange of aviation management ideas, to ensure the promotion of both aviation and airport interests, to foster the development of educational programs and scholarships to students based in aviation related studies and/or programs within the State of Louisiana, and to provide a strong credible influence with the State legislative body on legislation concerning aviation and airports in Louisiana. LAMA membership represents over 200 members from every part of the state, all related to the aviation industry.





...best wishes for a
Merry Christmas
and very happy
New Year...