

**Board of Directors**

**President – Andrew Moore, C.M.**  
*Greater Rochester International Airport*

**Vice President -- Michael Hall**  
*Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport*

**Treasurer – Greg Topping, PE**  
*McFarland Johnson, Inc.*

**Secretary – Mark Heefner**  
*Greater Binghamton Airport*

**Past President – Grant W. Sussey, C.M.**  
*Watertown International Airport*

**Christina R. Callahan, C.M.**  
*LaGuardia Airport*

**Lee Weitz**  
*Buffalo Niagara International Airport*

**John P. DelBalso, C.M., A.C.E.**  
*Albany International Airport*

**Jeremy P. Martelle, C.M., ACE, ASC**  
*CHA Companies*

**Shelley LaRose-Arken**  
*Long Island MacArthur Airport*

**Pasquale DiFulco**  
*Port Authority of NY & NJ*

**Stephanie Saracco**  
*Ogdensburg Airport*

**H. Jason Terreri, IAP, A.A.E**  
*Syracuse Hancock International Airport*

**Thomas Freeman**  
*Elmira Corning Regional Airport*

**Robert McAdams**  
*Sheltair*

**Kirsten Cerro**  
*C & S Engineers, Inc*

**Don Degraw**  
*Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport*

**NYAMA STAFF**

**Michelle LaVoy**  
*Executive Director*

**Bruce W. Geiger**  
*Legislative Representative, Bruce W. Geiger & Associates, Inc.*



February 10, 2021

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor, New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

In 2015, you signed into law as part of the state budget what we consider to be the most significant aviation initiative for the state in decades, the New York Aviation Jobs Act (AJA).

Putting New York on par with neighboring states when it comes to luring new general aviation (GA) aircraft and businesses, the AJA has been a resounding success! NYSDOT strongly recommended creating incentives for attracting business jets to NY airports after its own data showed that on average, each business jet based in the state delivered five direct on-airport jobs and \$1 million in annual economic activity for the state.

From the farthest reaches of the North Country to Long Island, from the Hudson Valley to the westernmost regions of the Empire State and all parts in between, airports report tremendous growth in business jets based in New York following AJA’s enactment, leading to a slew of investments in new hangar construction, infrastructure expansions, and other privately funded projects and GA support services. These investments generate stable, well-paying jobs in the industry trade professions while growing local, county and state economies as airport revenues increase.

The benefits derived from the AJA extend far beyond our state’s airports, with a ripple effect of gains that provide a boost to any number of related businesses, including manufacturing, flight schools, fixed-base operators, aircraft maintenance and service, construction, equipment and parts sales, fuel suppliers, consulting and engineering, travel and tourism, hotels and hospitality, food service and catering, and much more.

The AJA acts as the perfect complement to your signature Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Competition, and it continues to pump hundreds of millions of state-matching dollars into public-private partnership transformative airport projects that are helping to fuel an aviation renaissance in New York.

**New York Aviation Management Association**  
**230 Washington Avenue Ext, Suite 101 Albany, New York 12203**  
**Phone: 518-687-2241 Email: INFO@nyama.aero**

As you know, airports in New York and across the country are now experiencing unprecedented financial stress and a precipitous decline in airline service and passenger volumes due to the effects of the pandemic on travel. In some places, passenger and aircraft traffic is off by 90%, and even the downstate airports continue to report less than a third of the traffic they handled at this time just a year ago. The extensive loss of commercial services at several upstate airports is profoundly troubling for the future of an industry that has few rivals as an economic engine for New York. Last year, the aviation industry contributed over \$72.3 billion in annual economic activity in New York State and more than 500,000 NY based jobs in aviation or aviation related industries, generating \$25.8 billion in payroll and over \$6 billion in state and local tax revenue annually

Preserving the AJA is pivotal if the aviation sector is to weather the current challenges facing airports in New York, particularly those upstate and in Long Island. We certainly don't want to revert back to a business climate like one that existed before the enactment of the AJA, when New York had lost nearly 700 job- and income-generating aircraft over a 10-year span as neighboring states boasting more favorable tax treatment of aircraft sales ate our lunch.

Your ongoing support for the AJA and the competitive balance it provides New York in the region is critical to sustain aviation's mission and is needed to assure the sector's contribution to the success of the state's economic recovery efforts.

Sincerely,

Andrew Moore, CM  
President- NYAMA

Todd Cameron  
Owner- OnCore Aviation

Robert McAdams  
Regional Vice President / General Manager JFK- Sheltair

Grant W. Sussey  
Airport Manager- Watertown Int'l Airport

William Stubba  
Air Methods- LifeNet LLC of NY

Chui Chan  
Owner- Conlee Flight School

Michael Williams  
Owner- St. Lawrence Aviation

Edward Libassi  
President- A&P Aviation Consulting, INC

Brandon Schwerdt  
Airport Manager- Oswego County Airport (FZY)

Michael L. Churchill PE  
Principal/Director of Operations- BCA Architects & Engineers

Steve Lawrence  
Interim CEO- The Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority

Ed Blumenfeld  
President- BDG Construction

Larry Mattiello  
Matt Aviation Properties, Inc

Jade Stone  
Owner- Jade Stone Engineering, PLLC

Benjamin Walldroff, PE  
Vice President, EE Jade Stone- Jade Stone Engineering, PLLC

Louis Mancuso  
President- Mid Island Air Realty, INC.

Ed Bolen  
President and CEO- NBAA (National Business Aviation Association)

John D. Trimble, PE  
President & CEO- C&S Companies

Kari Mancuso  
Manager- Mid Island Air Realty, INC.

Michael Mancuso  
President- Michael Mancuso Airshows, Inc

Kurt Thomas  
Manager- LaValle Flight Operations