



From the President..

Greetings from the Tennessee Aviation Association,

The board has been hard at work this past year in the difficult COVID conditions. We are ready to get our airports back together again. The board is excited to announce that we will hold the 33rd Annual Tennessee Aviation Conference on March 28-30, 2022, in Murfreesboro at the Embassy Suites. Be looking for future correspondence on the event.

Additionally, we have been working on updating our website. Stop by and take a look <https://www.tnairports.org/>. We are working on an events tab and calendar to post all of the fly-ins, breakfasts and other aviation events at your airports. If you have an event scheduled, please submit your event dates to us via the website.

The board is anticipating a busy legislative schedule this spring. With the legislation passed last year lowering the taxable limit to 5 million to any one entity, the General Assembly agreed to find other sources to fund the shortfall. The TAA will be working with legislators and the Aeronautics Division to determine the shortfall and convey the information to the General Assembly. It is imperative for our members to be talking to your legislators concerning next years funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benson Hadley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Benson Hadley, President

Tennessee Airports Conference is Back!

SAVE THE DATE: March 28-30, 2022

REGISTRATION IS OPEN WITH EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

The Tennessee Airports Conference will be held March 28-30 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Murfreesboro, TN. Make your reservations now and take advantage of the Early Bird Discount. Everyone is very excited to get back together for a fellowship and discussion about Aviation in Tennessee. The theme is "Lets Build Together" and the fun is centered around a Casino Night with lots of prizes for the big winners!

The tentative agenda will be posted soon. We welcome your input and look forward to seeing you there. If calling the hotel for reservation use the code C-TAC

Click on the photo for a direct link to the Embassy Suites Hotel link and Conference rate:



AIRPORT SPOTLIGHT

Upper Cumberland Regional Airport



Upper Cumberland Regional Airport, along with almost every other airport in the state, has seen unprecedented growth over the last few years. This growth has allowed us to leverage revenue generated from fuel sales and hangar rents to begin addressing growth needs. For example, we bought a new Skymark Jet A refueler to compliment our other 2 fuel trucks and cash flowed the purchase from jet fuel revenue increases that we saw in 2020.

All of Tennessee's airports have experienced the lack of funding in previous

As all of Tennessee desperately need hangars, the lack of funding is driving us and other airports to seek private investment in hangars. As such, we are currently finalizing a ground lease for a 135 operator to build 2 more box hangars and expand the south ramp. We look forward to welcoming JetRight to our based customer list.

This airport was recently given a starter grant through White County to perform a demographic and potential route analysis for a commercial service operator. We just received responses for our RFQ for a commercial service development consultant and selected Ailevon Pacific Aviation Consultants as our partner in this process. In preparing for the possibility, we have been working through the requirements of part 139 and developing our ACM.

Upper Cumberland Regional Airport is in the process of rebuilding our fuel farm infrastructure to increase capacity and move away from underground storage tanks. At the request of TDOT Aeronautics, this project was split into phases across several years. This posed a major concern when the FAA disapproved fuel farm projects from AIP eligibility. Luckily, TDOT aeronautics agreed that this project was in the works well before the change occurred. They agreed to see the project through although the airport had to provide a 20 percent local match to make it happen, again, utilizing revenue generated from airport sales. We see a light at the end of the tunnel with the recent grant cycle approval that will allow the next phase of this project to be completed.

The continued growth of this airport will have us looking at options for a fire station, working on options to replace our aging non-fed ILS, and working with the FAA for a communications solution in the form of a newly commissioned WRAG site.

On October 22-23 Upper Cumberland Regional hosted our first AirFair. We saw approx. 7000 people come across the airport grounds to see hot air balloons, a 5k on the runway, a nighttime drone show, the Paradigm performance team, and tour a C-17, C-54, A-10, Blackhawk, and many others. We were recently approved for operations of C-17 and KC 135 aircraft and this was the first operation of a C-17 under that newly approved status.

As airport managers and staff we have a lot on our plates that the flying public never sees. I would like to thank all the airport managers and board members across the state that are there for each other. From my perspective there are few in local government that grasp the magnitude of the challenges and responsibilities we have on our shoulders. Having a group to talk with that understands the different directions we are pulled helps us all realize we are not alone.



The **Millington-Memphis Airport** (NQA) recently completed a \$18.5 million dollar reconstruction of Runway 4/22. During closure of its only runway, the Airport worked closely with the FAA to certify the parallel taxiway as temporary Runway 3/21. This allowed the University of Memphis flight program based at the Airport to continue serving the twenty Diamond DA-20 aircraft operated by Crew Training International. Temporary Runway 3/21 provided 2,536' x 75' of Day-only, VFR operating surface during the runway project. To accomplish the taxiway conversion, the Airport printed temporary acrylic directional sign panels, used 4" PVC caps to cover the taxiway lights, and remarked the taxiway as a runway using water removable paint provided by Sightline Inc.

Due to the shortened temporary runway length, the Airport also worked closely with neighboring Charles W. Baker Airport (2M8) operated by Memphis International Airport (MEM), and Covington Municipal Airport (MO4) to accommodate student solo flights, and the larger Diamond DA-42 Twin Star aircraft operated by the flight school. "Airports working together to meet aviation system needs is what makes Tennessee's system of airports one of the best in the world" said Roy Remington, Executive Director of the Millington-Memphis Airport.

To celebrate completion of the runway, the Airport will host the U.S. Navy Blue Angels on June 18-19, 2022 for the Midsouth Airshow presented by FedEx. "The air show brings over 75,000 people to the airport, showcasing what an incredible asset this facility is to the region" Remington said. Tickets to the June 18-19, 2022 event are available online at [MidsouthAirshow.com](https://www.midsouthairshow.com)



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



STATE:

The 112th session of the Tennessee Legislature adjourned on May 5, 2021 and is scheduled to reconvene at noon on Tuesday, January 11th , 2022.

Now is the time to connect with your local representatives, invite them to the airport for a tour and explain all the advantages and impact the airport has on the community.

The Tennessee Aviation Association will be working diligently to connect with all officials across the State of Tennessee.

FEDERAL:

The House late Friday, Nov. 5th passed the \$550 billion Infrastructure and Investment Act — the bipartisan infrastructure bill — by a vote of 228-206. The bill now goes to the President for signature, bringing with it billions of dollars in new federal investment on core infrastructure, including airports, roads, bridges, ports and broadband

OPPORTUNITIES

PROFESSIONAL PILOT TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

MTSU seeks candidates who are committed to innovative teaching, robust research/creative activity, and meaningful service. We also seek to attract a culturally and academically diverse faculty who value working with a diverse student body. Salary and rank commensurate with education and experience. The Aerospace Department at MTSU invites applicants for 2 full-time, tenure-track faculty positions at the rank of assistant/associate professor. The start date for the positions is 8/1/22. The positions are contingent upon funding. Successful candidates will be expected to teach classes in the Professional Pilot concentration, undertake collaborative and multi-disciplinary research within the department and university, and be actively involved in university and professional service.

Web: <https://careercenter.aaae.org/jobs/15665323>

Upcoming Events

Tennessee Airports Conference

**Embassy Suites,
Murfreesboro, TN**

March 28-30, 2022



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