



AZAA *Matter of Fact*

winter 2020 edition

In this Issue

PAGE 2

FALL CONFERENCE RECAP & PROJECT OF THE YEAR

PAGE 3

UPDATES YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR AZAA

PAGES 4

DID YOU KNOW? NAVIGABLE WATERS RULE

PAGE 5

FAA UPDATES

PAGE 6

ADOT UPDATES

PAGE 7

PR COMMITTEE UPDATES

PAGE 8

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

AzAA's 2020 Walter Burg Fall Virtual Conference

Article contributed by Bradley Falcetti, Airport Manager, Grand Canyon Resort Corporation

Arizona Airports Association's 2020 "Walter Burg" Fall Conference occurred in late October 2020. This was the first AzAA Fall Conference to take place virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate our members and other attendees for working with us as we continue to explore this new media. That being said, survey results show that membership was excited to see AzAA continue to provide content regardless of the situation.

Updates from our friends at the FAA and ADOT were at the forefront of this conference, followed by a passionate keynote speech from long-time AzAA member, Representative Arlando Teller (AZ HR District #7). Representative Teller focused on industry camaraderie and family during trying times.

Sessions included Scenario Planning to better prepare for future uncertainties, Illegal Flight Operations to ensure compliance & safety, and an Advocacy Panel who informed AzAA members about opportunities to advocate for aviation to both state and federal legislators.

Lastly, during the General Membership meeting, Matt Smith shared his experiences with Mike Klein's unwavering dedication to airports in Arizona. We continue to hold space and honor Michael Klein, one of AzAA's own who passed this year.

Thank you to those who contributed to a successful virtual conference. We hope everyone stays safe throughout the holidays and we will continue to bring you important and interesting content in 2021.

Calendar of Events

14	2-4	27 - 28
AzAA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR JAN 14	SPRING CONFERENCE MAY 2 - 4	FALL CONFERENCE OCT 27 - 28



Project of the Year: Prescott Regional Airport

ADOT Aeronautics Selects Prescott Regional Airport as the 2020 Airport of the Year

Article contributed by Jenny Watts, C.M., Senior Aviation Planner, Dibble

The Prescott Regional Airport – Ernest A. Love Field (PRC) and its team, led by Airport Director Robin Sobotta, PhD, AAE, have earned another well-deserved award. Don Kriz, PE, ADOT Aeronautics group manager, announced PRC was selected as this year's ADOT Airport of the Year. The announcement came during the AzAA "Walter Burg" Fall virtual conference, on October 22, 2020.

The award is presented from ADOT's Aeronautics Group annually basis to an Arizona airport. Nominations are based on the airport's accomplishments in aviation advocacy and community relations, airport management, special events and recognition, as well as innovative activities and programs implemented at the airport.

continued on page 2

Airport of the Year (continued)

This is the second time PRC has received this award in recent years; the Airport also won the title in 2014. Winning 2020 Airport of the Year builds on several other notable achievements received last year, including:

- » **2019 Outstanding Airport Award** – FAA Western Pacific Region
- » **2019 Best Civilian Airshow** - International Council of Air Shows
- » **2019 Airport Executive of the Year** – Airport Director Dr. Robin Sobotta – Arizona Airports Association

According to Mr. Kriz, accomplishments attributed to PRC this past year warranting selection for the award included: completing an economic impact study showing PRC's generation of \$160.3M in economic impact to the community; seeking political advocacy for additional State funding support for Arizona airports which secured an extra \$10M in AZ Airport development funding; conducting an innovative on-site ARFF Annual Live Burn training activity; receiving Federal and State support for construction of a new \$15M passenger terminal; and achieving the status of fastest growing commercial service airport (2019) in Arizona with an increase in passenger enplanements of 174%.

Public acknowledgment and congratulations for PRC and its team were echoed by the Prescott City Council members at the November 10th meeting. Councilman Sischka spoke on behalf of the Council praising Dr. Sobotta and the Airport staff for their hard work and dedication in helping PRC become one of the best well-rounded and successful airports in the state. Praise for the steadfast support of the Mayor, City Council, Prescott Police and Fire Departments, and the community, was given by Dr. Sobotta after the congratulations from the Council. She stated, "This is YOUR Airport." She went on to say the Mayor and City Council are "the backbone of the Airport" when it comes to making integral decisions for the continued progress of PRC.



Prescott Airport Staff

PRC has been flying high on the wings of success in recent years, and Dr. Sobotta and her team of dedicated airport professionals are certainly well deserving of praise. With the new commercial service terminal building nearing completion in early

2021 and other notable projects on the horizon, we are expecting great things to continue to happen at PRC.

Please join AzAA in congratulating the PRC team on this prestigious award.



New Passenger Terminal Under Construction at PRC

Photo Credit: Joe Gettler

The Updates You Need to Know for AzAA

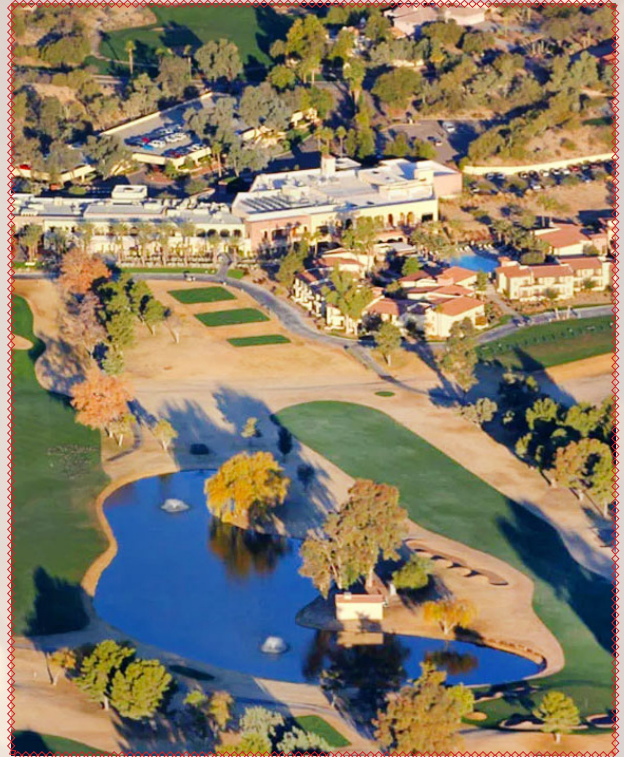
Aviation & Aerospace Day at the Capitol Update

Unfortunately, due to the continued heightened risk of COVID-19, it has been decided that the traditional Capital Lawn Event that had been tentatively scheduled for February 2nd, 2021 will not be held this year. We are working on alternative means to reach out to our legislatures to achieve the Aviation Day goals via a potential virtual event(s). We will provide more information to membership as they are developed. Please feel free to reach out to Immediate Past President Mike Smejkal if you have questions or ideas.

Spring Conference Updates

The conference is scheduled for May 2-4 at the Omni Tucson National Resort co-hosted by Marana Regional Airport and Pinal County.

AzAA would like to reassure our members that we are monitoring the situation very closely and will continue to do so in advance of our Spring Conference. As an organization, we will continue to monitor and explore contingency plans for our members' safety should the risk level elevate as the conference approaches. In the meantime, AzAA suggests that its members continue to follow the preventive actions recommended by the various health organizations. We will send out additional updates as the conference gets closer if conditions change.



Omni Tucson National Resort

AzAA Scholarship Program Update

Article contributed by Jenny Watts, C.M., Senior Aviation Planner, Dibble

Alice Bimrose, AAE, ACE, AzAA Executive Director and the Professional Development and Scholarship Committee Chair, shared during her update at the AzAA Fall Conference general membership meeting that a new resource has been added to the Scholarship Program webpage on AzAA's website. The new page called "Industry Scholarships" includes links to several other organizations' scholarships, such as the Arizona Business of Aviation Association, the Southwest Chapter of AAE (SWAAAE), and Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). If you know a student in an aviation or transportation related degree program who may benefit from this knowledge, Alice encourages you to pass this information along. Also, if you know of another industry organization with a similar scholarship, please let Alice or Desirae Barquin know, and the link can be added to the webpage.

Also, the deadline for the 2021 Marty Rosness student scholarship sponsored by AzAA is **Friday, March 5, 2021**. This scholarship is open to students enrolled in an aviation related degree or program in the state of Arizona. Again, please share with anyone that may be a good candidate for this award.

Finally, Alice would like to remind all members that AzAA not only provides a student scholarship, but also scholarships to assist members with professional development. This includes monetary assistance to attend the AzAA "Dutch Bertholf" Spring conference or another industry conference. Additionally, for those seeking to obtain an industry credential or certificate, AzAA also offers a scholarship to members for this pursuit as well. Although traditional in-person conferences and professional development training courses may have shifted online this past year, some may still have costs associated with participating. Applications for these scholarships are still being offered for 2021, so if you need some extra assistance in these areas, please consider applying.

For more information on each of the scholarships discussed, including how to apply, and to check out the new Industry Scholarship page, please visit: <http://azairports.org/Scholarship-Program>.

Did you Know?

The Navigable Waters Protection Rule Definition of Waters of the US?

Article contribution: Russell Waldron, SWCA Environmental Consultants

The Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR), effective in all States (except Colorado) as of June 22, 2020, redefined waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) as 1) territorial seas and traditional navigable waters (TNWs); 2) perennial and intermittent tributaries that contribute surface water flow to Category 1 waters in a typical year; 3) certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters; and 4) wetlands adjacent to other jurisdictional waters. Under the NWPR, all ephemeral streams (e.g., arroyos and dry washes) are categorically excluded from being considered a WOTUS and therefore are not federally protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Therefore, CWA Section 402 or Section 404 permits for stormwater discharges or fill activities, respectively, are not required for direct discharges to, or impacts by fill in, such drainage features.

In Arizona, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)

administers Section 402 of the CWA on non-tribal lands through their Arizona Pollution Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) program. Arizona does not administer the CWA Section 404 program. ADEQ is currently pursuing a “local control approach” that includes defining waters of Arizona (WOA) to include certain surface water features that are no longer protected under the NWPR and associated state regulations, including the AZPDES permit program for stormwater discharges. Once the WOA program is implemented, projects that do not discharge to a federally protected WOTUS may still require AZPDES permit coverage and an associated Stormwater Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP) if located on non-tribal land, cause 1 acre or more of ground disturbance, and may discharge directly or indirectly to a WOA.

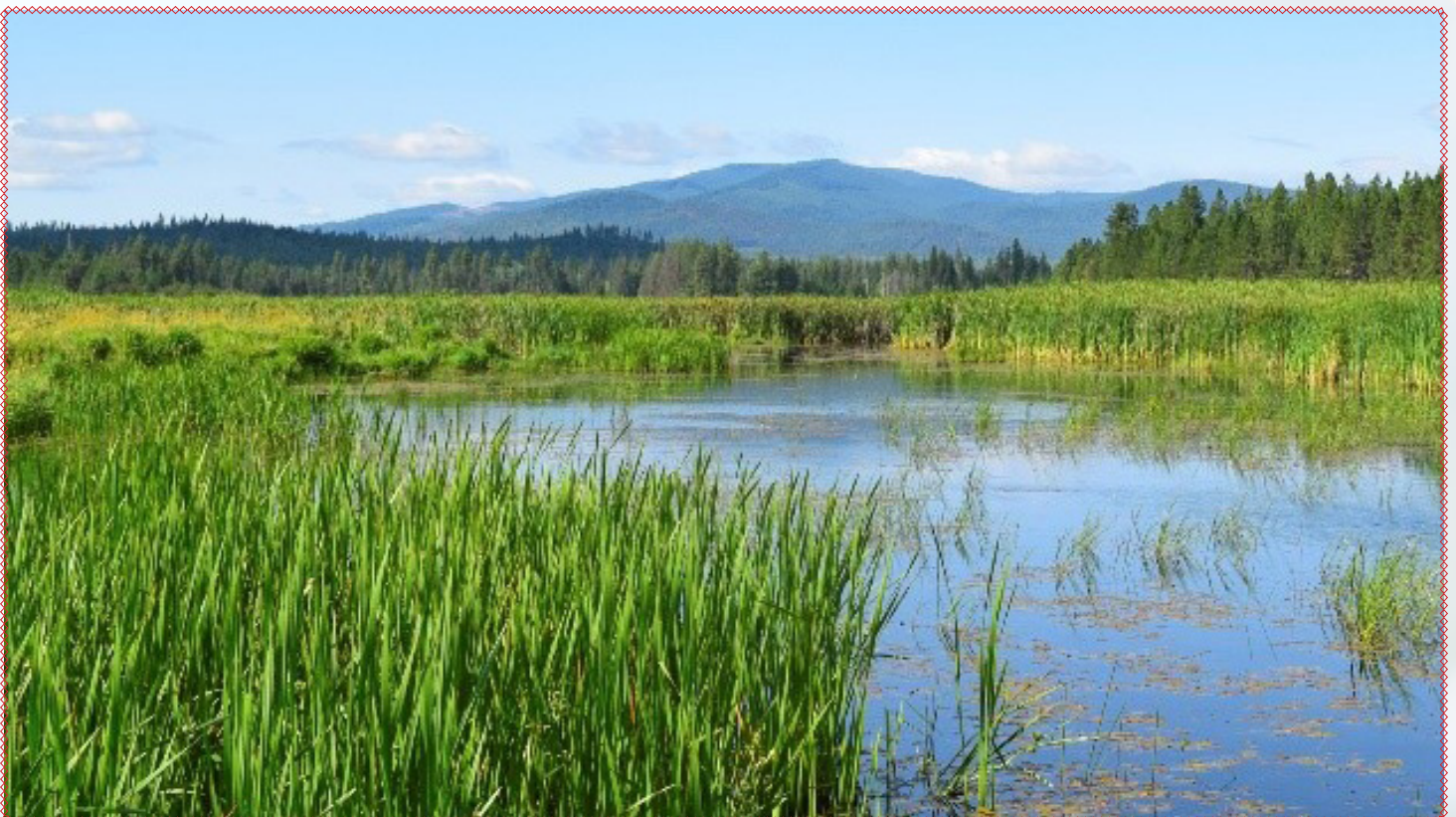
The NWPR is currently under litigation that could possibly overturn the NWPR, though there is no estimate on when

that litigation will conclude or the likelihood that the NWPR would be overturned.

It is recommended that airport managers contact their local environmental consultant, the Arizona Regulatory Branch of the US Army Corps of Engineers, or ADEQ office for further guidance on CWA permitting and compliance under the NWPR. SWCA maintains 3 offices in Arizona (35 nationally) and provides coordination services and local assistance in complying with the CWA.

Additional Information:

- » More information on the NWPR and CWA compliance: <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr>
- » More information for the Arizona State Waters Program: <https://azdeq.gov/node/6560>



Updates from FAA

STAFFING

- » We welcome **Jocelyn Hazelwood** as our new Airports Program Specialist. Jocelyn is returning to Arizona from the Agency's Southwest Region in Ft Worth, TX. Jocelyn has a strong background in processes, tracking, data management and we are excited for her to join our office. Report date to our office effective is December 7, 2020. WELCOME ABOARD!
- » **Amy Anderson** has concluded her temporary detail as the Acting Assistant Manager.
- » **Holly Dixon, Assistant Manager** returned to the ADO in her regular role as the Assistant Manager effective November 9, 2020.
- » The recruitment process for our vacant Lead Civil Engineer is ongoing and we hope to have a candidate in the near future.

FISCAL YEAR 2021

- » We are actively working with all of you regarding planned projects for the upcoming Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). As a reminder, below are the milestone dates for the upcoming fiscal year:
 - > Arizona ACIP meetings - May 1, 2020 through July 3, 2020 (completed)
 - > ACIP Input to ADOT (Arizona) - August 28, 2020
 - > CatEx Submission (FFY) - October 1, 2020
 - > ACIP Submission to FAA (Phoenix ADO) - December 10, 2020. NOTE: Arizona Airports - Please submit your ACIP data to your assigned Phoenix ADO Planner.
 - > Grant Application Submission - December 31, 2020
 - > NEPA Approval (CatEx, FONSI, ROD) (FFY21) - December 31, 2020

SECTION 163

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 included numerous changes to statutes and other authorizing Acts governing the operations and administration of multiple programs under the Office of Airports. Section 163, Limited Regulation of non-Federally Sponsored Property, consists of four (4) provisions, three (3) of which do not amend statute but prohibit the FAA from regulating, directly or indirectly, certain airport property. Additional information is available in Reauthorization Program Guidance Letter (RPGL) 19-02.

- » Section 163 is project and airport location dependent and requires the ADO to analyze the sponsor request. This analysis determines what approval authorities the FAA may or may not have related to a specific project, which may or may not include approval of the ALP and NEPA.
- » Section 163 does not apply to projects, as noted: 1) Any change or alteration within a movement area; 2) Any change or alteration within a runway visibility zone; 3) Any change or alteration with a Runway Protection Zone (RPZ); 4) Any change or alteration within the Airport Traffic Control Tower Line of Sight; 5) Any development within a NAVAID critical area(s); and, 6) Any change or alteration resulting from a new approach or departure procedure.
- » Proposed projects which are not included in the six (6) areas noted above will require a specific Section 163 analysis and determination by the ADO. As Section 163 can impact NEPA, this analysis needs to be completed prior to initiation of a NEPA determination.

REMINDERS

- » **SAM (System of Award Management) Account**
Check the SAM registry.
<https://uscontractorregistration.com/>
- » **DELPHI**
Expired or Incorrect Delphi Account. Check your account, if you need to register a new user, follow help directions at:
https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant_payments/
 - > Please coordinate with your assigned Civil Engineer and/or Community Planner.
- » With the end of Daylight Savings Time, Arizona is now on Mountain Standard Time, one (1) hour ahead of Nevada.

Updates from ADOT

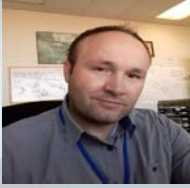
ADOT CONTACTS:



Donald J. Kriz, PE

- » Aeronautics welcomes Sonia Pizano as our new Grant Manager! Sonia was promoted internally and previously was working as an administrative assistant in Aeronautics for the past year. Please welcome Sonia!
- » **ADOT announces that there will be no sweep to the Aviation Fund. Losses in revenue to other parts of ADOT was severe but our fund has remained intact. The fund is solid, currently with a balance of about \$50 M. All airport Sponsors are reminded to complete all grant offer paperwork and/or to make grant reimbursement requests as soon as possible so we can encumber as much of that balance as possible. This balance is extraordinarily high and remains a target for future action.**
- » The 2021-2025 ACIP was approved by the Board of Transportation on October 27. ADOT will begin issuing State/Local grants for FY21 immediately.
- » With the implementation of the Federal CARES Act rendering Federal/State/Local grants to 100% Federal match (and therefore 0% State match) Aeronautics has reallocated its \$5 M budget from FSL to SL for a new total budget of \$15 M for the SL program. We are awarding about 10 more SL grants as a result.
- » In addition, Aeronautics is increasing its APMS budget from \$5 M annually to \$8 M. This was done to take advantage of the high funding in the Aviation fund as well as to catch up with the program (we are nearly one year behind Schedule but now have been able to procure a consultant to do the work).
- » Aeronautics has included and won approval to proceed with the next Triennial Study. An RFQ and selection should occur next Spring with work beginning in the late summer of 2021.
- » The Economic Study is currently underway and all Sponsors are encouraged to participate. Results will be shared Statewide with all Sponsors and the State legislature. The total economic impact to the State of Arizona in the last study (2012) was \$58 BILLION per year. We expect a much larger impact this time and your participation is critical to the success of the study.
- » Aeronautics is also moving forward with having new Aeronautical charts printed and has won approval to proceed with a Land Use study in FY 2022.
- » As a result of adding our third grant manager, some airport assignments will be changing. An email was sent out recently with the new assignments. We tried to minimize the changes as much as possible while balancing the workload for our managers. If you have not received the new assignment list, please let us know and we will forward on the list to you.
- » Starting in FY2022, ADOT will begin matching change orders for FSL grants. This will begin for FSLs with State matches after July of 2022. Matches will not be considered for any prior grants. As always, all change orders must be pre-approved in writing by ADOT or the match will be considered ineligible.
- » **ADOT has contacted AzAA and has asked for assistance to form a committee to evaluate changes recommended by the recent State Aviation System Plan (SASP) regarding changes to funding allocations for SL grants. Some significant changes are being recommended which will impact the aviation community. ADOT would like to invite interested parties to participate and offer opinion to the changes. We anticipate that the committee will form after the first of the year.**

| PR Committee Updates



Tom Bahr,
Airport
Manager,
Show Low
Regional
Airport

The Benefits of AzAA Committees Involvement

When I first took the position as the Airport Manager at the Show Low Regional Airport I was new to Arizona, and knew very few people. At times I found the need to reach out to other airports for information. It was these managers that introduced me to AzAA, and it was expressed by them the benefits of doing so.

Since becoming a member of AzAA and getting involved on an AzAA Committee I have seen many benefits it has offered me as an airport manager, and to the future of my career in the aviation industry. First, I have seen how the members of AzAA come together for the general benefit of aviation in Arizona. In addition to being part of an organization whose primary goal is the benefit of the industry I work in, being involved in AzAA has also benefited my career in more direct ways. It has allowed me to get to know people working in a variety of positions within the industry who have been an excellent resource for information and advice.

It is also very easy to become involved. All you would need to do is contact the AzAA Membership Committee Chair. You can do this by selecting the link on the committee's page on the AzAA website.

If you are able to get involved, I encourage you to do so. The time required to be involved in a committee is very minimal, and what benefits you receive are worth it.

Letter from PR Committee

On behalf of the AzAA Board of Directors, the PR Committee would like to thank the membership for their on-going involvement in the organization throughout this challenging year. As we pivoted in April from an in-person spring conference to a virtual conference, you continued your involvement in our wonderful organization. Since April, we've enjoyed a couple of virtual happy hours, seven membership round tables, and a virtual fall conference. Although it, appears we will continue with virtual gatherings during the first part of 2021, we invite you to stay active as we find new ways to positively impact the airport industry in Arizona.

As we bring this year to a close, we wish you and your families happy and healthy holidays.

Social Media Scavenger Hunt

We are cooking up a photo scavenger hunt for January on Instagram. Participants will win prizes daily! The scavenger hunt will take place over one week. *Will you be a lucky winner?*

Starting January 11, AzAA will post a type of photo to take each day. Participants will post the requested photo, follow, and tag @azairports and the prize donor. The winner for each day will be notified and will receive a prize from the designated donor!

Follow us @azairports now to stay in the loop and learn how you can win.

Letter from the PRESIDENT

AzAA PRESIDENT:



*Ryan Reeves,
A.A.E., P.E.
Airport Business
Coordinator, Chandler
Municipal
Airport*

AzAA Contacts

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Recently, I've been recalling a conversation I had several years ago at a conference. It was late in the evening and a small group of us were doing our earnest best to keep the evening going. We had moved from discussing all the topics presented that day and found ourselves falling into that time-honored practice of hangar flying. Telling outright lies to your friends about what a great aviator you are - "There I was, inverted and spinning..." - inevitably leads to someone offering-up the old chestnut, "Those were the glory days. We'll never see their like again sadly..." and that evening was no different.

One of our group said, "You know, it's sad. We'll never see another time in aviation like the 1920s through the 1940s. It's just not possible to see that much advancement again. There's just not that much left to discover."

After a moment or two of thoughtful quiet, nearly everyone sitting around that table took issue with the statement. For the next hour we cited examples of advancements just past or in progress that none of us would have dreamed of just a few short years prior. The advancement of avionics, drones, electric aircraft and civilian spacecraft of every shape and size, new supersonic passenger aircraft in the making, military spacecraft capable of flight durations inconceivable to most, and the simple fact that spaceports were just then becoming operational all pointed to something rather indisputable - we have plenty to discover, but we might just take all these technological leaps for granted. Technological advancement and innovation in our industry, perhaps, has simply become what we expect to happen.

During the past several months, or "The Great Pause" as many call it, we've all been reconsidering and reconfiguring how we go about our work. Technological leaps we were once so enamored with have given way to immediate concerns of infrastructure and safety upgrades to maintain our operations and staffing. The Great Pause is just that, a pause. While the past several months have been difficult, we've also continued with the business at hand of keeping our airports open and safe. And thinking of the conversations I've had over the past months with many of you, our ability to remain innovative at the toughest of times allows us to do our jobs so well.

As I write this, even the national news is carrying some positive stories about our industry. The FAA has just cleared the 737-Max for return to service after two years, welcome news to our airline partners. Many of our members will be on the front lines of the aircraft's re-implementation. Even more prescient, two pharmaceutical companies are showing highly encouraging results for a COVID vaccine. Given the recent test-case data we're seeing both regionally and nationally, this news couldn't be more welcome.

AzAA is a family, to borrow a turn of phrase from Representative Teller. I extend that to the whole of aviation. Our industry has always met its challenges with innovation, and we've done some of our best work when we remember we're family. Without teamwork, there's little room for moving forward.

And with the election cycle drawing-down and the transition into a new legislative session at the doorstep, our collective industry knowledge and that engrained innovation will be called upon again. AzAA is undertaking a new initiative with Legislative Advocacy, which we are rather proud of and we hope you will all take part in enthusiastically. What we've done in the past may very well not work again. The coming year is the time to establish stronger relationships with your legislators, to engage as actively as you can as ambassadors for airports and advocates for our industry, and to keep planning for the unexpected - because that unexpected might just happen.

And just like the industry we love, we're never finished discovering new ways to make the world feel a little less isolated.

*Ryan Reeves
Arizona Airports Association President 2020-2021*