

**Michigan Association of Airport Executives  
Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Aeronautics  
2021 Michigan Airports Conference**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

- 8:30 - 8:35           **Welcome and Overview**
- 8:35 - 9:30           **Federal Aviation Administration Update**  
**John Mayfield, Manager, Detroit Airports District Office**, will give an update from the Federal Aviation Administration.
- 9:30 - 10:15        **Session: Airport Special Events Planning**  
This session will provide airports with guidance on how to plan and manage special events by sharing stories of unique experiences covering a variety of happenings.  
The panel includes **Lisa Carr, Public Safety and Operations Director, Gerald R. Ford International Airport**, and her experience with 5K Community Running Events; **Larry Bowron, Battle Creek Executive Airport**, and their experience with VIP Air Force One visits; **Matt Barresi, Gaylord Regional Airport** on his experience with Wings Over North Michigan Air Show; and **Darin Everett, AvFlight** on his experience with the financial aspects of a VIP visit. This session will be moderated by **Miles Weaver**.
- 10:15 - 10:30       **Break with Vendors**  
Virtually visit with our various conference vendors and sponsors.
- 10:30 - 11:15       **Session: PFAS at Michigan Airports**  
Learn the latest on PFAS activities with an overview on what is occurring at Michigan airports, from both an airport and consultant perspective.  
**Chris Cieciek, Senior Project Scientist, LimnoTech**, will provide an insight into Michigan studies and resources available to assist airports through the PFAS investigation process; **Steve Smigelski, Manager, Alpena County Regional Airport**, will give a short talk about Alpena County Regional Airport's experience and the unique challenges faced in working with the county and military for remediation. This session will be moderated by **Dan Sal**.
- 11:15 – 11:45       **Session: What's New in Grant Funding**  
**The Office of Aeronautics Airport Development Section staff** will give an update on available state and federal grants, as well as tips to help get payments processed faster.

11:45 - 12:30

**Session: Federal Grant Assurances**

This session will provide guidance and updates on navigating the federal grant assurance process. **Barry Molar, Director of Financial Assistance Maximization Practice, Unison Consulting, Inc.** will share his years of expertise working with federal grants; and **Nicole Harris, Regional Compliance Specialist, FAA Great Lakes Region Office** will offer her knowledge from a current FAA standpoint. This session will be moderated by **Phil Johnson**.

12:30 - 1:00

**Lunch – Wings of Mercy Charity**

Learn about opportunities to assist the **Wings of Mercy** charity, a non-profit, volunteer pilot organization dedicated to connecting general aviation pilots with low-income patients in need of transportation to distant medical facilities. Presented by **Steven Melvin, pilot and volunteer for Wings of Mercy**. This session will be introduced by **Chris Sieklucki**.

1:00 - 2:00

**Roundtables: General Aviation & Air Carrier Airports**

Traditional roundtable discussions moderated by **Matt Barresi, Manager, Gaylord Regional Airport** (General Aviation); and **Chris Sieklucki, Operations Manager, Cherry Capital Airport (Air Carrier)**.

2:00 - 3:00

**Social Hour- Pure Michigan Winterfest**

Join C & S, Commonwealth, Mead & Hunt, Prein & Newhof, and RS & H for a fun hour of networking, games and prizes! Wear your most outlandish winter hat and set your background to your favorite Michigan winter setting to win. Teams can also enter breakout rooms to play for more prizes.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

8:30 - 9:00

**MAAE General Membership Meeting**

9:00 – 9:15

**MDOT Office of Aeronautics Update**

**Mike Trout, Executive Administrator, MDOT Office of Aeronautics and Director of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission** will give an update from the Office of Aeronautics.

9:15 – 10:00

**Session: State of the Aviation Industry**

Hear from national leaders on the state of the aviation industry and changes that have occurred since the pandemic began. This robust panel will include **Faye Malarkey Black, President and CEO, Regional Airline**

**Association; Jonathon Freye, Vice-President of Government and Public Affairs, National Air Transportation Association; and Greg Pecoraro, President, National Association of State Aviation Officials.** This session will be moderated by **Bryan Budds**.

10:00 – 10:30

**Session: Chairman House Transportation Committee**

Welcome our honored guest, **Representative Jack O'Malley, Chairman of the Michigan House Transportation Committee.**

10:30 – 10:45

**Break with Vendors**

Virtually visit with our various conference vendors and sponsors.

10:45 – 11:00

**Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist**

Michigan's **Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II** gives appreciation to the airport community in a special, pre-recorded video.

11:00 - 12:00

**Session: Pandemic/Covid-19 Impacts at Michigan Airports**

Join **Mark Johnson, Manager, Livingston County Spencer J Hardy Airport, Howell; Michael Duker, Manager, Grosse Ile Municipal Airport; and Tim Haizlip, Maintenance Director, Gerald R. Ford International Airport** as they discuss the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic to Michigan airports and how it has affected and changed the way airports conduct business. This session will be moderated by **Cheryl Bush**.

12:00 - 12:15

**Final Break with Vendors**

Virtually visit with our various conference vendors and sponsors.

12:15 - 1:00

**Awards Presentation and Conference Wrap-up**

Alissa VanHoof and Mark Noel from the Office of Aeronautics will conclude the conference with the traditional presentation of the awards for **Airport of the Year – General Aviation Category; Airport of the Year – Air Carrier Category; and Consultant of the Year;** along with two **Distinguished Service Awards.**

1:00 – 2:00

**Consultant Roundtable**

An optional consultant roundtable discussion moderated by **Alissa VanHoof, Manager** and **Elyse Lower, Supervisor, Office of Aeronautics, Airport Development Section.**