



# VIRGINIA AVIATION BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

2022 Aviation, Aerospace and UAS Legislative Reception

Nearly 450 attendees gathered at the Richmond Main Street Station and witnessed firsthand the most recent innovations and technological advances of the aviation and aerospace industry at the 2022 Aviation, Aerospace, and UAS Legislative Reception.

The annual VABA Legislative Reception has always been the best attended industry event during the General Assembly. This year was no exception with distinguished guests, Governor Glenn Youngkin, Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears, five cabinet officers, and many members of the General Assembly. The Governor delivered remarks alongside the Virginia Wing CAP cadets, in which he reinforced his unconditional support for Virginia's aviation, aerospace and unmanned systems industry. Furthermore, the Governor placed special emphasis on promoting aviation and aerospace careers among school age and young adults, in order to develop a larger, highly qualified workforce in the future.

The VABA also recognized the dedication and commitment of Delegate Mark Sickles and Senator John Cosgrove, both of whom have continuously strived to support and improve Aviation and Aerospace in the Commonwealth. In addition, the VABA paid tribute to Donna Lawson, NASA legislative affairs officer, who has been maintaining US leadership in aerospace for more than thirty years and recently announced her retirement.

The VABA Air Boss, Jay Willmott, oversaw the drone demonstrations. The area consisted of a National Institute Standards Technology (NIST) obstacle course among other flying events. Even Governor Youngkin took a turn at flying a drone!

Our thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors for making the event an incredible success.

This year we had 33 exhibitors, four Virginia Universities, five teams of Drone operators, Civil Air Patrol Cadets, and more. The 2022 VABA Legislative Reception demonstrates the innovation in the aviation, aerospace and unmanned systems industry and promotes the industry's legislative goals. The continued support of industry and the General Assembly is fundamental to maintaining and expanding growth in Virginia.



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# *2022 General Assembly Update*

## **Aviation Sales Tax Credit**

The Virginia Aviation Business Association is thrilled to announce that the extension Aviation Parts and Supplies Tax credit has been passed and signed into law by Governor Youngkin! Extending the aviation sales tax exemption was the VABA's top priority through the 2022 General Assembly Session. The VABA staff spent countless hours discussing the benefits of this tax credit with members of the General Assembly, highlighting the advantage the sales tax exemption provides to Virginia's maintenance facilities and the Virginia workers they employ. This credit is critical to communities across Virginia that depend on the economic benefits created when these facilities bring in new business from other states.

Thanks to the credit, Virginia maintenance facilities can attract business from competitor states and keep Virginia-based aircraft being serviced here. While some may argue that the tax just benefits aircraft owners, in truth, Virginia businesses and their employees receive the benefit of this credit. Aircraft, from a small single engine to a Boeing 777, are highly mobile; it is well-worth the cost of a several hour flight to receive a four or five figure tax savings in another state. Finally, extending the tax credit provides certainty to Virginia businesses. VABA is a proud supporter of this tax credit and looks forward to its continued success. We want to thank our General Assembly patrons, Delegate Terry Austin, Delegate James Edmunds, Delegate Mark Sickles and Senator Jennifer Kiggans, all for their support and commitment to helping to expand opportunities for Virginia companies and their employees.

Additional thanks to Sean Collins with Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), and Greg Voos with National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) for providing support in the passage of these bills.

## **Funding the Next Workforce**

The VABA continues to advocate for funds to support aviation and aerospace education. The initiatives supported by the VABA will provide hands on experiences and outreach to youth to spur their pursuit of aviation related careers to serve as the pilots, mechanics, and unmanned system pilots of the future. The House Budget provides \$580,000 and \$400,000 in funding respectively for JCOTS Aviation and Aerospace Portal and Pathways Flight Academies; the Senate Budget provides for \$264,000 for more targeted internship experiences as part of the Virginia Space Grant Consortium STEM Internship Program. VABA will continue to support these budget items as the House and Senate conferees work on the budget after the General Assembly adjourned without a budget March 12. VABA expresses its gratitude to Mary Sandy and the Virginia Space Grants Consortium for her and her staff's support of driving home the need for a ready prepared workforce and to Delegate Mark Sickles and Senator Jennifer Kiggans for sponsoring these budget amendments.



## FEEDING THE PIPELINE DEVELOPING VIRGINIA'S AVIATION AND AEROSPACE WORKFORCE



Bud Oakey, President of VABA, presented to the Career and Technical Education General Assembly Caucus Thursday, February 17. Oakey addressed the fundamental need to invest in the development of Virginia's aviation and aerospace workforce. During his presentation, Oakey emphasized the critical need of motivating Virginia's youth to pursue aviation related careers. Projections indicate the increasing number of pilots, mechanics, and unmanned system pilots in the future. Virginia's aviation industry and airports already positively impact the economy of the state; hence, a larger, highly qualified workforce will return even greater benefit for Virginians.

To view the full presentation, click [HERE](#).

# 2022 CHARLES J. COLGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Now Being Accepted



## About the Charles J. Colgan Scholarship

The annual Charles J. Colgan Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000, is awarded to a well deserving Virginia resident High School, Technical School Senior or College/University Undergraduate who is pursuing an aviation related career at an accredited institution. The scholarship will be paid directly to the institution in the name of the awardee. The deadline for 2022 submissions is **Friday, April 29, 2022.**

## Scholarship Requirements

- Completed and signed application and all supporting documents received by the deadline.
- Attained a Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) in their last full year of study.
- Completed essay, typed, double-spaced between 250-500 words on the subject: "Why I Wish to Pursue a Career in Aviation" or "Why Aviation is Important to the Commonwealth of Virginia". Careers in Aviation shall include, but not be limited to, pilots, aviation maintenance, aviation management, air traffic control, aerospace engineering and aviation operations.
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation, preferably from at least one person in the Aviation industry.
- Proof of acceptance into an aviation-related post-secondary education program or proof of good standing in an existing program located in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Consideration may also be given to any additional factors or criteria that an applicant may wish to present to the scholarship committee by submission of an additional statement, typed, double-spaced, of no more than 250 words.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria: Academic performance (30%), Essay (30%), Recommendations (20%), and Subjective (20%).

## How to Apply

- Having read the requirements, complete the following steps to apply for the VABA Charles J. Colgan Scholarship.
- Complete and sign the VABA Scholarship [application form](#).
- Have your guidance counselor or other high school official sign all required certifications.
- Attach an official copy of your current high school transcript and a copy of acceptance letters or other verification of enrollment or good standing/acceptance into an accredited post-secondary institution.
- The individuals that provide your letter of recommendation must put their letters in a sealed envelope, with their signature across the back sealed fold.
- Mail all documents together to arrive by the deadline to:

VABA Scholarship (Attn: L. Cary)  
c/o Virginia Aviation Business Association  
1011 E. Main Street - Suite 400  
Richmond, VA 23219

## Questions?

Please feel free to contact [Lena Cary](#) with any questions relating to our scholarship programs.



# MEET THE BOARD

## VABA's NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

DONNA LAWSON

*NASA Langley Research Center*



As the former Government Relations Officer for NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, Donna Lawson was responsible for developing and implementing strategies to communicate the value of NASA's programs to congressional, state and local officials. She also collaborated with community and industry leaders to raise awareness of the importance of NASA and the aerospace industry to the future of Hampton Roads.

Prior to overseeing NASA Langley's government relations, Ms. Lawson managed public outreach programs and aeronautics advocacy activities for NASA. She earned a master's degree in Technical Communication and Management from Old Dominion University and is a resident of Poquoson.

GEORGE SNYDER

*GHS Aviation Group*



During his noteworthy aviation industry career, Mr. Snyder has earned an FAA Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) with Type Ratings on the BAC 1-11, DC-9, MD-80, B-757, and B-767 aircraft, held positions as Type Rated Instructor (TRI) and Type Rated Examiner (TRE), and accumulated over 12,000 hours of incident, accident, and violation free flight time.

Culminating his service as a line Captain and management pilot, Captain Snyder served US Airways from 1994 to 1997 as Director of Flight Safety and Quality Assurance before being promoted to the position of Vice President Corporate Safety and Regulatory Compliance in 1997. He was recruited by Korean Air in January 2000 as Senior Vice President of its Corporate Safety, Aviation Security, and Regulatory Compliance Department in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Concurrently with his current position as President and CEO of GHS Aviation Group, LLC, Captain Snyder has held executive level advisory roles for several major international Flag Carriers in Asia Pacific, served on multiple Board of Director Aviation Safety and Security sub-Committees, and continues as a long-standing member of the Flight Safety Foundation International Advisory Committee.

TOM WALKER

*DroneUp*



Tom is the founder and CEO of DroneUp, the leading complete drone services provider, transforming businesses and government organizations with drone technology solutions. DroneUp's diverse suite of products includes flight services, data analysis, drone program development, regulatory consulting, training, equipment, and drone delivery.

Recognized as a UAS industry pioneer with patented mobile app technology and a commitment to research and development, DroneUp further fuels invention and application across private and public sectors. With our people, services, and innovative solutions, DroneUp delivers on operational challenges with efficiency, reliability, and safety.

## 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Mickel, Chairman - Dominion Aviation  
Rich Anderson - Col. USAF (Retired)  
Catie Brown - Austin Electrical Construction, Inc.  
Greg Campbell - Virginia Department of Aviation  
Shane Combs - Dynamic Aviation | NextGen  
John Earl - AU Aviation Services  
Ron Gatewood - Sky World Aviation  
Jim Hopkins - Signature Flight Support  
Donna Lawson - NASA Langley Research Center (Retired)  
George Snyder - GHS Aviation Group  
Scott Strimple - VAUS  
Tom Walker - DroneUp  
Todd Yeatts - Boeing Company

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