

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ASSOCIATION

WORKING TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE YOUR AIRPORT

Dear SMAA Members,

We are pleased to bring you this first edition of the new SMAA e-newsletter and hope you find it informative and useful!

Our newsletter is designed to keep you in the loop on SMAA and related SMO news, including updates on legal actions, information about our airport-based events, and other news of special interest to our community. It will also cover the actions of the Santa Monica City Council and the Airport Commission, identifying important moments that will require our mutual involvement, comments or presence.

The next issue facing us is the city's plans to remove pavement past the ends of the 3500-foot runway and to seed those areas with grass. We believe it is a mistake for the city to spend millions of dollars on this project which will reduce the safety of the runway and are working with the NBAA and others on a response plan.

We urge you to join us at the next

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NOW IS THE TIME!

WANT TO HELP KEEP SMO OPEN? NOW IS THE TIME!

Now is the time for the SMAA and its members to unite behind a revised strategic plan to keep our airport open long past the 2028 date stated in the Consent Decree. Together we can and must inform and influence the citizens of Santa Monica on the tremendous value of our community airport now and into the future. For the voters to step up they must be educated and inspired by what they experience and learn about SMO and become sufficiently cynical about the SM city government's wasteful spending and misleading claims and actions.

To that end we have reconstituted some of our key committees and are seeking volunteers to co-chair them with an SMAA Board Member. NOW IS THE TIME to get involved and make a real difference.

Please take a look at the options below. NOW IS THE TIME to commit to just five hours a week going forward, if you can. Please contact Ellen Kroner to volunteer or with any questions at; egkroner@me.com

COMMITTEES:

MEMBERSHIP-Provide consistent direct contact with and increase value for SMAA membership and support member and community events. Oversee volunteer roster and engage them regularly with the board.





Upcoming Events

City Council Meeting
October 9th, 7:00pm,
City Council Chamber

Airport Commission Meeting
September 24th, 7:00pm,
City Council Chamber

MCAS Miramar Air Show
September 29th & 30th
San Diego, CA

LA 99's Chapter Meeting
Oct 2nd, speaker TBA

Santa Monica Airport Assn.
Meets 3rd Monday of the month
at Proteus Air Services.

EAA Chapt 11 meets at Barker
hangar every 3rd Thursday of
the month

KSMO MILESTONES:

Proteus Air Services: 3 First
Solos! 1 New Commercial Pilot!
2 New Private Pilots!

Reaching SMAA:

Need talking points for council
meetings? Questions for SMAA?
Want to help? Want to
volunteer? Please reach out to
SMAA at:

info@santamonicaairport.info

Liz DeStaffany

COMMITTEES: *continued*

FUNDRAISING - Create new outlets and opportunities for fundraising for monthly events and long term planning for future activities.

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Provide planning, budgeting and fundraising for monthly events and long term planning for future activities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PR - Develop and implement communications strategies to build support for SMO, promoting the value of the airport, the contributions of the pilots, charitable organizations and airport businesses, oversee op-eds, letters to the editor and production of all video materials.

LEGAL AND POLITICAL ACTION - Monitor and report on status of all legal activities. Maintain close relationships with pilot and aviation advocacy groups, fund Freedom of Information requests and other research. Support political actions as they develop.

NOW IS THE TIME to take on a co-chairmanship and make a crucial contribution to an effort that must be user-organized and laser focused on winning the hearts and minds of the Santa Monica citizens. There are many effective ways to do this, but we need YOUR help!

Ellen Kroner, VP

Dear SMAA Members, continued.

Santa Monica Airport Commission meeting to be held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 7 pm at the City Council Chamber, 1658 Main Street, Santa Monica. The meeting is open to the public and comments are permitted. We hope you will attend.

In the months to come we look forward to providing you with deeper insight into the fight to keep SMO open forever. We are at an important crossroads in this battle, and now that legal actions have slowed, there is an urgent need for us to engage in impactful community and political actions to be successful.

The first thing we ask of you now is to volunteer to help us with the key committees outlined in the lead article. Please consider pitching in and helping us be the best advocates we can possibly be for our members, our pilots, our airport businesses, our residents and our future. We can't do it without you....

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm!

Christian Fry

Legal Update: - Neil Rubin

Your Association, in partnership with the NBAA and with airport users and businesses, is part of several legal actions against the FAA and the City of Santa Monica. Two of these actions are challenging the January 2017 settlement agreement between the FAA and the city, which permitted the city to shorten the runway and which allows the city to close the airport in 2029.

The first case challenging the settlement agreement is *NBAA v. Huerta*, a case brought by a group of petitioners including the SMAA in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, contending that the FAA acted illegally in entering into the settlement agreement. Unfortunately, the D.C. Circuit denied our petition on the grounds that it did not have jurisdiction over the settlement agreement. The D.C. Circuit entered its final decision in the case on August 15, 2018. The only remaining appeal in this case would be to the United States Supreme Court. The petitioners are considering whether to pursue that appeal.

The second case is *NBAA v. Elwell*, brought in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The case was brought by the same group of parties that brought the first case and challenges the settlement agreement on the same grounds, but it is in the trial-level federal court in D.C., rather than the appellate level court. This case was filed on July 24, 2018, and the FAA's initial response to our complaint is due on September 28, 2018.

We are also involved in a pending "Part 16" compliance action against the city before the FAA. Our board member Mark Smith, together with airport businesses, the NBAA, and the AOPA, brought a Part 16 complaint in 2016, accusing the city of: (1) diverting airport funds for non-aeronautical purposes, (2) charging excessive landing fees, and (3) refusing to lease space to aeronautical tenants on reasonable terms. In response to this complaint, the city agreed to reimburse the airport fund more than \$3.2 million from the city's general fund to compensate for the earlier diversion of funds. Other issues in this complaint remain pending, and the FAA is currently due to issue a decision on these issues in October.

We continue to monitor several issues, including the city's plans to remove former runway pavement outside of the new 3500-foot runway, the city's leasing policies, and its use of airport funds. If you have information about hangars or other spaces that the city is refusing to lease to aeronautical users or have specific information about improper uses of airport funds that you think we should be aware of, please reach out to an SMAA board member.

KIDS IN PLANES - David Peters

Several times a year the SMAA hosts a “Kids in Planes” event. What is more special than introducing a young mind to new adventures while planting the seed of wonder in both child and adult alike? With a great turn out of planes and volunteers our August 4th event was the best yet. Over 200 kids and parents enjoyed a beautiful morning at the airport climbing into real airplanes, meeting their pilots and learning a bit about aviation at their local airport. The SMAA made new friends and enlisted some new members and donors!



Thanks to all the volunteers who turned out for Kids in Planes

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ASSOCIATION



SMAA Ball Cap
\$20.00

SMAA T-Shirt
\$20.00



Your donation helps defend your airport!



Shirts are available in Sm, Med, Lg, XL and XXL

Pins are - Round Supporter -\$20

Wings - \$25 with membership

Available at Pilot Outfitters 3021 Airport Ave in the lobby of the historic Santa Monica Air Center/Barker Hangar www.PilotOutfitters.com or go to www.santamonicaairport.info