

**Aviation Council of Alabama, Inc.  
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting  
The Bright Star Restaurant  
Bessemer, AL  
June 21, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Jed Blackwell	Nikki Jordan	Jeff Powell	Mike Smith
Jerry Cofield	Ray Miller	Todd Storey	
Ken Gilbert	Art Morris	Courtney Tomberlin	
Russ Kilgore	Bobby Odom	Kevin Vandenberg	

**Board Members Absent:**

Menzo Driskell, Thomas Hughes, Col. Roosevelt Lewis, Fred Sington, Rick Tucker

**Quorum:**

Present

**Others Present:**

Kari Storey, Melissa Morgan, Tim Wasyluka, Lynn Weldon, Misty Jones

**Call to Order:**

President Jed Blackwell called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. Mr. Ken Gilbert gave the invocation.

**Recognition of Guests & Visitors:**

Todd Storey introduced his daughter, Kari Storey.

**Consideration of Minutes:**

Jed Blackwell presented the minutes from the monthly board meeting held May 17, 2017. Ray Miller made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Ken Gilbert. All members unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**A. Financial Report**

Jed Blackwell reviewed the financial statement for May 2017. Jeff Powell requested that last year's numbers be presented on the financial statement for comparison with current year figures. Jed Blackwell discussed the two matured CD's at Regions Bank. He will look at options on what to do with the matured funds and present to board members at the next board meeting. Ken Gilbert made a motion to approve the financial statement with a second by Russ Kilgore. All members approved.

**B. Legislative Committee Report**

Jed Blackwell updated the board concerning Dr. Eagerton's desire for the ACA to draft a letter opposing privatization of ATC. Kevin Vandenberg noted that some confuse privatization and modernization. Should the ACA send a letter to the representatives, a distinction needs to be made between these two topics. Ray Miller made

a motion for Kevin Vandeberg and Jed Blackwell to work together in drafting a letter to the representatives regarding privatization of ATC. Mike Smith gave a second. All members approved.

#### **C. Workshop/Annual Meeting Committee Report**

Lynn Weldon stated that all contracts and deposits are in place for the conference and lodging in September. All packet information is ready except for the cover letter from ACA President Jed Blackwell. A late registration fee was set at \$200.00 for those that register after September 4, 2017. Government rates are available for approximately \$90.00. Those needing this rate will have to call the Hotel Capstone directly rather than the reservations desk. Lynn also noted that a mailing list needs to be recreated for conference information. Jeff Powell stated that the new FBO at Tuscaloosa Regional Airport wants to have their grand opening and host the ACA before the banquet on Tuesday night.

Lynn Weldon will also be checking into having new polo shirts made for the ACA board members.

#### **D. Website Committee Report**

Lynn Weldon stated that she had put the conference information on the ACA website. Todd Storey said the board meeting minutes and the calendar need updating.

#### **E. Membership Report**

Nikki Jordan passed out new ACA brochures and stated that she is having membership certificates professionally printed. The Board approved the printing of 500 legal size envelopes for mailings and 500 larger envelopes for Membership Certificates.

#### **F. Academic Relations Committee**

Jerry Cofield updated the board on the presentation of the inaugural Buzz Sawyer Memorial Scholarship to recipient, Ms. Hannah Rogers of Ozark, AL. The scholarship was presented to Ms. Rogers by ACA President Jed Blackwell and Jerry Cofield on June 14, 2017 at the Aviation College in Ozark, AL. Cofield suggested awarding multiple scholarships in 2018. A motion to approve the scholarship recipient selected by the Academic Relations Committee was made by Bobby Odom with a second by Kevin Vandeberg. All members approved.

#### **G. Corporate Liaison Committee**

No report.

#### **Auburn University Department of Aviation**

Todd Storey discussed the aviation program at Auburn University. He stated that for many years the University offered two aviation degree programs. The Flight Training Program was moved from the College of Business to the AU Aviation Center in July 2014. The Aviation Degree Programs will move from the College of Business to the University College in August 2017. Mr. Storey discussed the challenges of keeping pace with what was going on in the industry along with new requirements and regulations. He also discussed accreditation through S.A.C.S. and the required criteria.

In June 2017, with a new curriculum, the University Board of Trustees gave the program authorization to move into the University college and designate it as the Department of Aviation. He stated that being named a department is a huge status and will assist with funding. Mr. Storey stated that he believes these changes are a huge step for growth in the University's aviation program.

Nikki Jordan introduced guests, Mr. Tim Wasyluka, Executive Director of Bessemer Airport Authority and Ms. Melissa Morgan with Southern Museum of Flight.



**NASAO Convention Sponsorship Update/Registration**

Kevin Vandenberg reviewed the Silver Sponsorship of \$6,000.00 for the NASAO Conference. A motion to approve the Silver Sponsorship of \$6,000.00 was made by Mike Smith with a second by Russ Kilgore. All members approved.

**Privatization of US Air Traffic Control System**

Previously discussed under Legislative Committee Report.

**President's Report:**

**Economic Development Incentives for Alabama Airports**

Jed Blackwell stated that he had discussed with Rep. Mike Jones and Sen. Jimmy Holley setting up a meeting with the Department of Commerce to discuss economic development incentives for Alabama airports. He encouraged all board members to talk with their own representatives. Once the meeting with the Department of Commerce is confirmed all ACA board members will be invited to attend.

Jed Blackwell asked Kevin Vandenberg to chair the Nominating Committee for officers and board members from October 2017 – September 2018 with other committee members being Ken Gilbert and Col. Roosevelt Lewis. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Ray Miller with a second by Jeff Powell. All members approved.

**ALDOT Report:**

No report.

**Open Discussion/New Business:**

Jeff Powell discussed an email from NASAO giving all Alabama airports a discounted rate for the NASAO Convention in September.

Nikki Jordan stated that Mr. Thomas Day with Golden Eagle Aviation is interested in being an ACA board member.

Melissa Morgan with Southern Museum of Flight offered free passes to the museum for all people who complete and return the survey in the conference welcome packet.

Russ Kilgore stated that 44 airports in Alabama are programmed to receive grants this year.

**Date/Time for Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on **Wednesday, July 12, 2017**, at 10:00 a.m. in Montgomery, Al. Mike Smith agreed to host the August ACA Board Meeting in Alexander City on August 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wellborn Muscle Car Museum.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:35 a.m. by Ray Miller with second by Nikki Jordan. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mike Smith, Secretary

July 12, 2017  
Date