The Lindbergh Letter

Volume 1, Issue 1 May 2016

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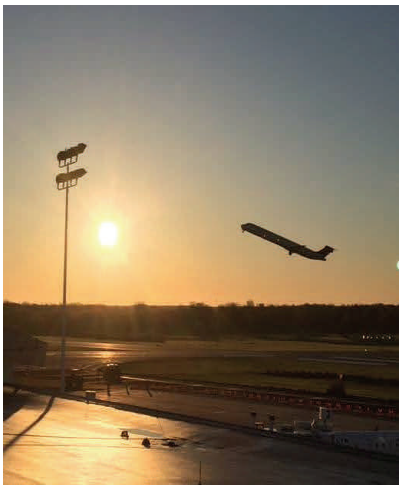
Upcoming Events

- May 18 - ARFF Health Station (Located in Meet & Greet Area)
- June 4 - Talons Out Honor Flight
- July 14 - Aeronautics Board of Trustees Meeting
- August 11 - Aeronautics Board of Trustees Meeting
- September 8 - Aeronautics Board of Trustees Meeting
- November 10 - Aeronautics Board of Trustees Meeting

Welcome

Welcome to the new Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport newsletter! The Lindbergh Letter will feature bi-monthly stories about events happening at the airport, current and upcoming projects, badging, security, and safety reminders, an introduction to staff members, and other miscellaneous news.



Did you know that AZO became the first municipal airport in Michigan and was named Lindbergh Field in honor of the famous aviator, Charles Lindbergh?...Hence, The Lindbergh Letter.

If you have comments, questions, concerns, or would like to share a story please contact Jessecia in the administration office at 269-366-3008.

Air Service Development

I am often asked what the airport staff is doing to recruit new air service for Kalamazoo, and my not-very-exciting response is 'we are always seeking and talking with potential partners'. Talk... not very exciting. The reality, however, is that it takes a lot of time and effort to build community support in developing a business case for new air service. Additionally, getting and keeping the attention of airline planners has proven to be just as challenging. Last December, United Airlines began operating its daily service to Chicago O'Hare after a six-year absence from Kalamazoo. Their return was a result of nearly two years of teleconference meetings, presentations at various Air Service Conferences, and negotiations for the final Operating Agreement.

Why does the recruitment process take so much time and effort? Is southwest Michigan that difficult of a region to sell to our airline partners? Certainly not. The Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area is a diverse and economically strong community that can boast being the headquarters of a number of Fortune 500 companies such as Stryker, Pfizer, Kellogg's, and Whirlpool just to name a few.

The challenges, however, that Kalamazoo face has more to do with the ever-changing airline industry than with our community. When I began working at AZO in the early 1990's, we were home to up to nine airlines. With the numerous airline mergers, we are left with only four major domestic airlines in the US (Delta, American, United and Southwest Airlines), resulting in a more regional approach by the airlines. Coupled with new federal regulations for pilot training and crew rest that has created a pilot 'shortage', it is even tougher for smaller markets like AZO to compete with larger airports for limited pilot/

KALAMAZOO BATTLE CREEK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Fun Facts

- In 1943, AZO's first terminal was built and the airport was renamed the Kalamazoo Municipal Airport.
- American Airlines saved $40,000 by removing 1 olive from each salad served in first class.
- In 1948 an F-80 Shooting Star Fighter plane became the first jet to land in Kalamazoo due to electrical failure.
- Pilots and co-pilots are required to eat different meals in case of food poisoning.
- Miami Int'l Airport has trained therapy dogs walking the hallways to help travelers alleviate their flying fears.

Air Service Development Continued..

aircraft resources.

Our strategy for dealing with this trend is to continue to make our business case with our existing and potential airline partners. I know….talk is boring! Relationship building, however, is essential to this effort. No one is going to share the great story of Kalamazoo for us! Our next opportunity will be in June, at the ACI Jump Start Air Service Conference, where I am planning to meet with Allegiant, Spirit, American, Delta, United and Frontier Airlines. Our 'hit list' includes non-stop service to a Florida market, southwest destinations including Dallas or Houston, and routes to east coast such as Newark, Atlanta, or Washington DC.

As expected, the addition of United had provided a boost in our enplanement numbers, resulting in an increase of 20% for the first quarter of 2016 as compared to 2015. It has also created new interest in AZO from potential airline partners. We look for this trend to continue thru 2016, and will look forward to sharing any future air service developments in upcoming newsletters!

-Dave Reid, A.A.E.
Airport Director

Talons Out Honor Flight

In the early hours of Saturday, April 23, 69 World War II and Korean War veterans made their way to AZO for a day they won't soon forget. These veterans left AZO at 7am to spend the day in Washington, DC, visiting memorials built in their honor, among other sites. They returned to AZO late that night to a hero's welcome, both at the airport, and in a larger celebration for them at Wings Event Center.

This event was put on by the Talons Out Honor Flight non-profit organization. Talons Out is part of a national honor flight network, providing veterans with transportation to, from, and around Washington, DC, at no cost to them. This was the ninth such event for Talons Out, who serves Southwest Michigan veterans.

The next Talons Out Honor Flight takes flight from AZO on June 4, 2016. To learn more about the organization, or support our veterans, please visit talonsouthonorflight.org or call (269)273-4545.

-Amanda Woodin, MPA

T-Hangar Availability

AZO currently has two T-Hangars available for rent. Each hangar rents for $236 per month. The available hangars are located on the North side of buildings 10 & 11. For more information regarding the hangars or to be put on a waiting list for a different hangar please contact Jessecia in the administration office at 269-366-3008.

Airfield Project Updates

We're very excited to pass along that both the Taxiway Charlie Project and the Old Terminal Demolition Site Project are very close to wrapping up. After a long winter and a wet spring, we can finally start to see the end of the tunnel for the projects. I would like to extend a thank you to all of those who were affected in any way by either of these beasts. Our main objective and effort is always to strive for absolute safety and efficiency, so your support and cooperation were essential for us to be able to maintain our high standards for both. I can certainly say I'm very happy to see the amount of orange on the airfield lessen for the time being.

I'd also like to send a quick thank you to the operations and maintenance personnel for coming out on top of another winter. The work that is done out there to ensure that our airfield is maintained at the highest possible standards of safety is truly an amazing thing. I can say with complete confidence that we have the most capable snow clearing crew in the State. Thank you for all that you do!

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Being so new to the position I'm in, I feel very fortunate to have such an awesome supporting cast around me. It's not easy filling the shoes that have been left behind, but with the help of those around me, it has made it a much easier task. I've really enjoyed watching our airport grow in the short amount of time that I've been here, and am excited to be a part of it in the future!

Popeye's Bahamas Bowl Trophy Tour

The Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport was the final stop for the Popeye's Bahamas Bowl Trophy Tour. The Bahamas Bowl trophy was on display for several hours in the meet and greet area of the airport on April 14th. The trophy was brought to the Kalamazoo community to celebrate The Western Michigan Bronco's 2015 Popeye's Bahamas Bowl win.

-Jessecia Harter

Meet the Administration Staff

David Reid, A.A.E. - Airport Director - David graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Management. David has held many different positions within the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport. In 1991, he started at the airport as an intern. He worked for the airlines from 1991-1994, became an operations technician in 1994, then became the operations supervisor in 1999. In 2003, David decided to pursue other options at a different airport; however, his love for the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport brought him back. In 2009, David returned to the Kalamazoo Airport as the Assistant Director. He then became the interim director in 2013 and was officially promoted to the Airport Director in 2014.

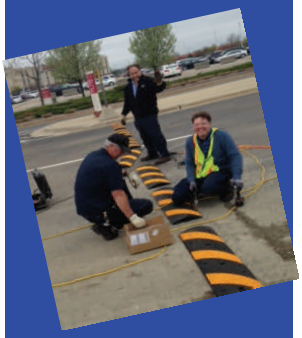
Amanda Woodin, MPA Assistant Director, Finance & Administration - Amanda received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Western Michigan University and obtained her Master's Degree in Public Administration from DeVry University. Prior to starting at the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, in February 2015, Amanda worked at the Land Bank Authority as the Finance and Administration Manager for three years. Before working at the Land Bank Authority Amanda was employed at the Kalamazoo County Health Department as a Senior Financial Analyst for five years.

Eric Anton Bjorkman, ACE - Assistant Director, Operations & Maintenance - Eric graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Aviation Science and Administration Degree. He started working at the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport in January 2015 as an Operations Technician. Shortly after starting his career he was promoted to the Operations Supervisor. He held this position for one year and has recently been promoted again to the Assistant Director, Operations & Maintenance.

Bill Scamehorn - Operations Supervisor - Bill has been with the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport since June 2006. He started at the airport as an operations technician, then moved to security badging. He held that position for three years and then transferred into the Equipment Operator II position and has recently been promoted to the Operations Supervisor.

Jessecia Harter-Administrative Assistant - Jessecia has been with the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport since August 2015. Prior to working at the airport she was an Assistant Manager in student housing for four years. Before going into the student housing industry Jessecia worked as an administrative assistant for 11 years in a public school system.

Watch Out For The Speed Bumps!



Badging

Individuals who require unescorted access to the Air Operations Area (AOA), Security Identification Display Area, Secured Area, or Sterile Area must possess an airport photo ID Badge. If you would like to get a new photo id badge or need to renew your current one please visit our website at www.flyazo.com for an application and instructions on how to obtain one.

Once you have reviewed the instructions please contact Matt Neyens in the badging office at 269-447-4424 or by e-mail at azobadge@kalcounty.com to schedule an appointment.