2026 AVIATION INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sponsored by

NGC

Caesars Southern Indiana | 11999 Casino Center Drive SE, Elizabeth, IN

All times displayed are in Eastern Time.

TUESDAY, OCT. 13

All sessions in Conference Center, Maximus AB unless noted.

AAI Scholarship Fund Inc. Golf Outing | Hidden Creek Golf Club, 4975 Utica-Sellersburg Rd., Sellersburg, IN 47172

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	**Golf Registration/Lunch**
12:00 – 5:00 p.m.	**Golf** Cost: $150 (includes lunch). *Will be billed separately from registration and includes a donation to AAI Scholarship Fund, Inc.*
	OR

Churchill Downs Kentucky Derby Museum and Cafe | Louisville, KY

11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	**Churchill Downs Registration** Bus departs at 11:30 a.m. from the hotel
12:00 – 5:00 p.m.	**Lunch and Tour** Cost: $150 (includes lunch and transportation. *Will be billed separately from registration and includes a donation to AAI Scholarship Fund, Inc.*
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	**Conference Registration** *Conference Center, Second Floor Registration Desk*
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	**New to AI Conference?** *Conference Center, Olympus* For people new to the conference, this session will connect you with an AI member who will introduce you to other members as well as answer any questions you have about AI or the conference. Meet at the registration table.
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	**Welcome Reception** *Conference Center, Olympus*
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	**Dinner/Retirement Party** *The Event Center*
9:00 – 9:30 p.m.	**Committee Meetings**

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

All sessions in Conference Center, Maximus AB unless noted.

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	**Breakfast** *The Event Center*
7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	**Registration** *Conference Center, Second Floor Registration Desk*
8:00 – 8:10 a.m.	**Exhibitor Introductions** Nate Hahn, Executive Director Evansville Regional Airport and AI President, will ask all exhibitors to briefly introduce themselves to members.
8:10 – 8:30 a.m.	**Conference Welcome** John Secor, Airport Manager, Clark County Regional Airport, will welcome everyone to the conference and to the area.
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	**Clark County Regional Airport** Chris Snyder, Vice President, Aviation Program Director, Woolpert, and John Secor will discuss the history, improvements, challenges overcome, and lawsuits at Clark Regional.
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	**Aviation Indiana Strategic Plan Update** Nate Hahn, AI President, and Chris Snyder, AI Strategic Plan Chair, will discuss proposed changes in the structure of AI's committee and governance to encourage membership to participate in committees and the organization.
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	**Recreational Aviation Foundation - RAF** Bill Steinmetz, Indiana State Liaison, will discuss the Recreational Aviation Foundation. RAF is a pro-GA, volunteer group whose mission is to preserve, improve, and create airfields in Indiana and around the country for recreational access to activities like camping, hiking, biking, boating, fishing etc.
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	**Break with Exhibitors** *Conference Center Olympus*
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**Airport Board Member Breakout Session** *Conference Center The Senate Boardroom* Travis Warren, Aviation Planner, INDOT Office of Aviation, Ed Volk, President, La Porte Airport Authority, will lead a discussion to help airport board members better understand their responsibilities. This session is also recommended for new airport managers as the session focuses on the roles and responsibilities for the airport, INDOT, and the FAA.
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.	**River Ridge Development Authority** Wendy Dant Chesser, Chief Director, Corporate Strategy & External Affairs, River Ridge Development Authority, will discuss the history of River Ridge and its work with partners, including the Clark County Regional Airport and how it has generated positive economic impact for Southeast Indiana.
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**We Need to Talk: Transforming Dreaded Feedback Conversations** Karen Wood, Jennifer Sharkey. Feedback can inspire growth—or shut it down. This session will debunk the myths that feedback is a one-time event and always negative. We will explore practical methods, conversation strategies, and mindsets that make giving and receiving feedback more effective. Whether you are a supervisor or not, you will walk away with tools you can use immediately to turn feedback into a meaningful, ongoing dialogue while fostering trust, encouraging curiosity, and building a culture of continuous improvement.
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	**Lunch** *The Event Center* Committees will meet at designated tables, feel free to join whatever committee interests you. Here is a chance to find out more about a committee that interests you and what the committee is working on.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14, CONT.

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	**INDOT Update** Marcus Dial, State Aviation Director, INDOT Office of Aviation, will discuss changes in the office and priorities. Discussion will include the maintenance program that is funded by the aviation state/local fund.
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	**New Airport Overlay Zoning Ordinance Requirements** Liz Stitzel, AICP, Executive Director, Clinton County Area Plan Commission, will discuss airport overlay zoning from the local government/planning commission perspective. Legislation passed during the 2026 session that requires political subdivisions within 5 miles of end of runways for primary, national or regional airports to adopt overlay zoning. Airports need to prepare the overlay zoning for the political subdivision.
2:45 – 3:15 p.m.	**Break with Exhibitors** *Conference Center Olympus*
3:15 – 4:30 p.m.	**Breakout Sessions (Pick a session that works best for you.)** **GA Roundtable Discussion** *Conference Center Maximus* Brent Spry, Airport Director, Madison Regional Airport, will lead a panel with representatives from INDOT, consultants, and GA airports to discuss a variety of issues. **Commercial Airport Breakout** *Conference Center The Senate Boardroom* Scott Hinderman, Executive Director of Airports of Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority, will lead the discussion. **Consultant/INDOT Breakout** *The Event Center* Marcus Dial, State Aviation Director, INDOT Office of Aviation, will lead discussions on the day-to-day operations between INDOT and airports. The session is limited to two attendees per consulting organization.
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	**Networking Reception**
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	**Dinner and Awards Banquet** *The Event Center* Business Attire – Coat and Tie Please plan to attend the awards banquet announcing the winners for the Airport of the Year, Legislator of the Year, Person of the Year, Presidential Special Recognition, and AAI Scholarship Fund Inc. Scholarship recipients.

THURSDAY, OCT. 15

All sessions in Conference Center, Maximus AB unless noted.

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	**Breakfast** *The Event Center*
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	**AI Annual Membership Meeting** Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	**Disaster Response** Brent Thompson, Assistant Airport Director, Monroe County Airport, will discuss the February tornado and the damage at the airport. Brent will also talk about lessons learned working with others to restore operations at the airport.
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	**Connecting with Your Community** Rachel Boulahanis, Operations Manager, La Porte Airport, will discuss the importance of engaging with your community and how it benefits the airport.

THURSDAY, OCT. 15, CONT.

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	**Break with Exhibitors** *Conference Center Olympus*
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	**NATA Update** Karen Huggard, VP Government Affairs, NATA, will give a national overview of business aviation interest.
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**Alternative Fuel Transition Update** Chris D'Acosta, CEO at Swift Fuels, LLC, will discuss the latest developments with unleaded aviation gas options.
12:00 p.m.	**Box Lunch** Stay for lunch and finish conversations that were started during the conference or grab lunch and start your journey back home.

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