

HISTORY

The genesis of the Great Lakes Chapter began in the mid 1950's in Mason City, IA. At that time J.R. (Dick) Mettler was the manager of Mason City Municipal Airport, which had a very proactive Airport Commission chaired by Dr. Harold Jennings. The Iowa Association of Airport Executives regularly conducted its summer meetings at Clear Lake, IA a few miles from Mason City. In the mid 1950's the AAAE Board began to hold its summer meeting in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Airport Executives meeting at Clear Lake. Bob Schmidt, Airport Director at Tucson, AZ was a former Iowan who enjoyed the Clear Lake area may have influenced this decision. He was in the AAAE Chairs and became President of AAAE in 1957. In 1956 Dick Mettler was appointed to fill a mid-term vacancy on the AAAE Board. Then in 1958 Mr. Mettler was selected as the AAAE Executive Secretary and Mason City became the home office for AAAE. The Clear Lake site continued to be the natural location for the AAAE summer Board meetings.

In September of 1959 Mr. Mettler left Mason City to become the manager at El Paso International Airport in Texas. The responsibilities of the new job required that he give up the position of AAAE Executive Secretary. A national search was held to select a replacement for Dick. Of the sixty candidates three were interviewed in St. Louis and F. Russell Hoyt was selected. However, one of the other candidates was also successful. Michael G. Griffin, who was a principle in the public relations firm of Brink and Griffin and who had recently been the Acting Manager of the Kent County Airport in Grand Rapids, MI was selected to replace Dick Mettler at Mason City in September of 1959. With Mr. Mettler's departure from Mason City and since he was no longer the executive secretary of the AAAE there was really no reason to continue the national summer board meetings at Clear Lake. However, Mike Griffin was impressed with the reputation that those meetings had built and he was able to continue the summer sessions for a few more years and expanded the invitation to the seven states around Iowa. It was then called the North Central States Airport Managers Conference. Wives and children were made to feel welcome and the conference became family oriented.

As a result of the expanded scope of the Clear Lake meetings new blood began to enter into the Iowa meetings. Barry Craig, from Omaha, Dan Orcutt from Oklahoma City, John Solomon from Tulsa and Bob Michael from Milwaukee became active in the Clear Lake get-togethers during 1960-63. In 1963 Mike Griffin left Mason City to become the manager at Akron-Canton, OH. Bob Fricker, who followed Mike at Mason City, kept the summer conferences going for several more years.

In the mid 1960's Barry Craig and other young airport professionals in the Great Lakes area felt that a closer, stronger relationship with the national office of AAAE was necessary. In July of 1968 Barry Craig, then Director of Aviation at Dayton International Airport in Ohio reached out to AAAE members in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. These states (except Kentucky) comprised the newly redistricted North Central Region of AAAE. Some members in Kentucky felt that they were more closely aligned with the Chicago market area. A meeting was set for August 1, 1968 at the United Airlines terminal in Chicago to discuss the formation of the North Central Chapter of the AAAE. That meeting was attended by 34 persons representing all the invited states with the exception of Minnesota. Barry Craig was selected as acting chair of the meeting. A draft Constitution and By-laws were presented, reviewed and approved for presentation to the AAAE Board by the group. Mr. Craig called for nominations for the Chapter President. Mr. Craig was nominated by acclamation. It was then determined that one representative from each state should be appointed to represent the state to form the Chapter Executive Committee. Those appointed were IL, George Kirk; IN, Ed Petro; IA, Walter Betsworth; KY, Henry Julliard; MI, Bob Ross; MN, Wm. Mathison (not present) MO, Vince O'Brien; OH, Ken Newstrom and WI, Bob Skuldt. The Iowa representative Walter Betsworth was asked to determine if the first Chapter annual meeting could be held in Mason City concurrent with the Iowa Association of Airport executives meeting. The formative meeting was adjourned and President Craig asked the Executive Committee members to remain for a short formal meeting. During that meeting George Kirk, Moline, IL was elected First VP and Henry Julliard, Louisville, KY was elected Secretary Treasurer. Thus the North Central Chapter - AAAE was

formed.

At the first regular meeting of the North Central Chapter held on October 8, 1968 in Norman, OK it was agreed that those who joined the Chapter prior to December 31, 1968 would be considered Charter Members (See Appendix Charter Member Lists). At that meeting it was also agreed that the Chapter would be renamed the Great Lakes Chapter. It was also announced that AAAE Board had formally recognized the Chapter and suggested two minor changes to the proposed Chapter Constitution and By-laws. The suggested changes were approved by the Chapter.

The first Great Lakes Chapter Annual Conference and business meeting was held in Mason City, IA on the weekend of August 16th 1969. The style and scope of the Great Lakes Chapter conferences would become unique within AAAE in that the founding members and the Chapter Officers and Executive Committee agreed that the Chapter Annual Conferences should be family events. The philosophy behind this style of conference will be addressed further following this introduction.

During the first business meeting held at Mason City, IA August 16, 1969 the states of Nebraska, North and South Dakota asked to be included in the Chapter. As was the case with the managers of the northern Kentucky airports the managers in Nebraska and the Dakotas felt that business activities in their states were more closely tied to the Chicago market area. Their requests were subsequently approved by AAAE.

On May 18, 1971 the Great Lakes Chapter-AAAAE was incorporated as a not for profit corporation in the state of Wisconsin. The filing was handled by Robert S. Michael then Director of the Milwaukee County Airport Dept. General Mitchell Field.

At the 1991 Winter Executive Committee meeting in Springfield, MO Chapter President Robert J. Hancik noted that the AAAE North Central Region boundaries included the Canadian Provinces of Manitoba and Ontario. Following that invitations were extended to the airport managers in those provinces and in November of 1991 Mr. F. L. (Lynn) Bishop Manager of Winnipeg International Airport was the first Canadian representative to join the Chapter representing the province of Manitoba. The first members representing the province of Ontario were Mr. Phil Bluck of Waterloo-Guelph Regional Airport and Mr. A.F.J. Home of the Toronto Island Airport. They joined the Chapter in January 1992. Since then Canadian membership in the Chapter has ranged between ten to twenty members.

To complete this introduction we should review the member service efforts of the Chapter beginning with the Crash Fire Rescue (CFR) training program, which the Chapter inaugurated in 1970. The Officers and Executive Committee felt that sharing expertise in this critical public safety service would play an important role in expanding knowledge about new equipment, extinguishing agents, tactics and requirements involved as we moved toward airport certification in the industry. Attendance was open to airports throughout the country. The first Chapter CFR school was held in Dayton, OH in 1971. At the 1971 Chapter Annual Conference AAAE President George Bean commended the Chapter for sponsoring this important training effort in the industry. In the years since schools were held in Cincinnati, OH, Indianapolis, IN and South Bend, IN. As a result of the training programs the Chapter saw the need for recognition for those professionals in the now Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) field who demonstrated exceptional dedication, ingenuity, ability or acts considered heroic in the performance of their duty. The Chapter decided on two awards. The ARFF Valor Award open to nominees from throughout the country to be presented annually at the AAAE Annual Conference and the Airport Fire Rescue Achievement Award to be presented to individuals nominated from within the Chapter at the Chapter Annual Conference. The Chapter presented its first awards in 1975.

In 1978 and 1979 the Chapter sponsored Airport Police Pistol Matches. The competition committee was chaired by Ted J. Bushelman along with Program Coordinator Jack M. Barry of the Greater Cincinnati Airport. The matches, supervised by the local FBI office, were held in Cincinnati prior to the Chapter Annual Conferences and awards were presented at the annual Conferences in Kentucky Dam Village and Mason City, IA.

In 1990 the Chapter sponsored an Airport Police Public Relations Seminar. The seminar or "Charm School" as it was called was hosted by the Indianapolis Airport Authority and chaired by James J. McCue, Managing Director of Operations. Although both the pistol competition and the police public relations programs were well accepted initially it was difficult to sustain participation because the airports found it difficult to send their public safety officers out for such events due to budget and scheduling difficulties and competing local training requirements.

In 1991 the Chapter held its first annual Aviation Environmental Management Conference in Columbus, OH. This conference was the Chapter's first cooperative member service effort co-sponsored with AAAE and open to nationwide attendance. The conference was hosted by Port Columbus International Airport and was attended by about sixty persons. By letter of agreement the net proceeds were split 50/50 by AAAE and the Chapter. Columbus hosted the conference through 1993. From 1994 on the conference was moved to Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City with each city hosting the conference for two years. In 1999 and 2000 the conference returned to Columbus. Following the Columbus conference in 2000 the Chapter and AAAE felt we could improve participation if the conference was held outside the Chapter area on alternate years. Therefore, in 2001 the conference was held in Dallas, TX. From that point on until present the alternate year pattern in and out of the Chapter area has been the norm.

In 1996 the Chapter offered its first annual National Air Service Conference in Kansas City, MO. This conference was the brain child of Robert F. Selig then Executive Director of the Grand Forks International Airport, ND. The conference was the Chapter's second cooperative member service effort co-sponsored by AAAE and ACI-NA and open to nationwide attendance. Following the initial conference in Kansas City the Chapter established the same practice of moving the conference site in and out of the Chapter area as well. Following the initial conference ACI-NA no longer participated as a co-sponsor.

In 2005 the Chapter launched an initiative to create an Aviation Ground Service program to assist airports in evaluating whether they could improve their airport/airline relations by offering to provide ground services to airlines with airport or FBO personnel to reduce airline costs in cases where preservation of air service was an issue. Chapter Past President Bruce E. Carter, Moline, IL spearheaded this effort and lead discussions with AAAE to make this another co-sponsored workshop or seminar with the parent organization. AAAE agreed that this idea had merit and decided to form the Aviation Ground Service Association (AGSA) as an affiliated organization of AAAE. This was approved by the AAAE Board in April of 2007. An AGSA Policy Board was created with Mr. Carter named as Board Chair. The first AGSA Workshop was conducted in conjunction with the 2008 National Air Service Conference in San Antonio, TX. Members of the Association include airports, airlines, FBO's and corporations affiliated with ground handling equipment and services. After the first year it appeared that formal membership in the association was not going to grow to the extent that was initially expected and Mr. Carter and AAAE staff decided that the association title would be inappropriate. It was then renamed as the Aviation Ground Services Initiatives Workshop and continued to be presented in conjunction with the NASC each year.

At the 2012 Winter Executive Committee Meeting in Appleton, WI it was agreed that the Chapter should include a Corporate Advisory Committee as one of its standing committees. This decision followed informal discussions at the Chapter Past Presidents breakfast during the 2011 Chapter Annual Conference and with various members of the Chapter who represented consulting and service firms that regularly sponsored events at the Chapter conferences. Mr. William Hogan of Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc. agreed to Chair that committee and Chapter Past President Timothy Callister, AAAE agreed to serve as Co-chair representing Mead & Hunt, Inc. The committee held its first formal meeting at the 2012 Chapter Annual Conference. The initial group of seven members discussed goals and objectives and development of a mission statement. They also explored ideas to help the Chapter improve by providing assistance with speakers, program topics, attracting new members and mentoring members on various issues and topics within their various areas of expertise.

This synopsis of Great Lakes Chapter history leads us to the body of this Historical Directory, which contains the year by year listing of those who have served the Chapter, recognition of those who have received special recognition by the Chapter and those Chapter members who have received special recognition by AAAE and those who have served as past Presidents and Past Chairs of AAAE. This is a living document, which is updated annually.

Our sincere thanks to those who have contributed to this effort and provided information and materials, which have been included in the Appendix to this document.