

NOISE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO INSURE A SOUND-CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT
The National Aviation Noise Lobby • An Affiliate of the National League of Cities

WASHINGTON NOISE WATCH

November 4, 2004

WINTER MEETING REMINDER

A reminder that the NOISE Winter Meeting will be held in conjunction with the National League of Cities Congress of Cities conference on December 3rd. The meeting will be held at the Indianapolis Marriott, Indianapolis, IN, Marriott Ballroom 1 and will include a complimentary breakfast. We invite you all to come and join community officials from across the country to discuss and further the fight against airport noise pollution in your communities, and to receive a federal briefing on federal and national developments on the issue. Along with members from communities across the United States, NOISE Executive Director Dennis McGrann will share and discuss noise issues affecting people across the United States. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP Adam Luebke at (202) 544-9844.

NOISE ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT SUMMER CONFERENCE

At its 34th Annual Aviation Noise Symposium in Dania Beach, Florida, the National Organization to Insure a Sound-controlled Environment (NOISE) elected a new leadership team of local officials from across the country to lead the organization.

The new slate of leaders includes:

- President Susan Lienesch, Councilmember from Centerville, Ohio, a community impacted by the Dayton International Airport;
- Vice President Skip Lowry, Councilmember from St. John, Missouri, a community impacted by Lambert St. Louis International Airport;
- Second Vice President Mary Rose Evans, Commissioner from Parkway Village, Kentucky, a community impacted by Louisville International Airport;
- Secretary George Nichols of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, representing communities impacted by Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport; and
- Treasurer Dennis Patten, Commissioner from Brook Park, Ohio, a community impacted by Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

NOISE Executive Director Dennis McGrann praised the new slate of leaders. "This lineup represents a diversity range of communities, from large metropolitan areas to inner ring suburbs to small town communities. The team is energetic, dedicated, and ready to lead this organization into the national debate over whether we are going to enhance air travel capacity by engaging our local communities rather than ignoring them. That is a debate that this team relishes, and it is a debate our membership welcomes."

Executive Board members serve two year terms, which will run through the 2006 NOISE Summer Conference.

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NOISE NAMES CENTENNIAL AIRPORT “AIRPORT OF THE YEAR”; **BRIDGETON, MISSOURI “COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR”**

At its 34th Annual Aviation Noise Symposium in Dania Beach, Florida, the National Organization to Insure a Sound-controlled Environment (NOISE) awarded its annual recognitions to an airport and local community for their outstanding efforts to reduce the impact of aviation noise on local residents.

Centennial Airport, the “Mary E. Griffin Airport of the Year”

NOISE members voted to recognize Centennial Airport for working tirelessly with a unified delegation of civil leaders to ensure that the Airport remained without scheduled service, yet remain a thriving airport eligible for federal funding.

Greenwood Village, Colorado Councilmember Karen Blilie, who nominated Centennial Airport for the award, presented the award to Centennial Airport Executive Director Robert Olislagers. Billie noted that fearing a dramatic increase in the number of flights out of Centennial Airport and the noise levels over many residential areas, Centennial Airport officials took a stand against allowing passenger service at the Airport, which resulted in a lawsuit and a cut in federal funding for the airport. “Airport officials were persistent in working with government officials and local leaders to resolve the funding dispute without having to agree to scheduled passenger service that would have significantly disrupted its neighbor communities,” said Blilie.

The award is named for former San Mateo County, California Supervisor Mary Griffin, who was also on hand to present the honor. Griffin is an original founder of the San Francisco International Airport/Community Roundtable, nationally recognized as a model for community-airport cooperative decision-making. .

Bridgeton, Missouri, the “Betty Ann Krahnke Community of the Year”

NOISE members voted to recognize Bridgeton, Missouri for the longstanding efforts of its Mayor, Conrad Bowers, to reduce the impact of the new runway at St. Louis Lambert International Airport in St. Louis. Bridgeton abuts the runway, and the airport expansion has devastated huge swaths of Bridgeton neighborhoods.

St. John, Missouri Councilmember Skip Lowry, who nominated Bridgeton for the award, accepted it on behalf of Mayor Bowers, who was not in attendance at the conference. Councilmember Lowry noted that City of Bridgeton had tried to work cooperatively with Airport officials with respect to new runway expansion at the airport, and once it became evident that the Airport was not interested in a cooperative approach, stood strong for its residents by employing every means at its disposal to protect the community’s integrity. NOISE Executive Director Dennis McGrann praised Bridgeton’s “development of innovative legal theories to combat the Airport’s expansion in contravention of City zoning ordinances.” McGrann added, “For years -- over a decade -- Mayor Bowers has stood for the proposition that a city must have the ability to have meaningful input for a project sponsored by an intruding government body, and in that stand has become a model for other communities.”

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The award is named for the late Betty Ann Krahnke, long time Montgomery County, Maryland, councilmember and national officer of NOISE. Krahnke fought for aviation noise abatement for her community and all areas surrounding Washington National Airport, and the controlled and healthy growth of Montgomery County. In addition, Krahnke was repeatedly asked to testify before Congress and submit commentary on aviation noise and other pressing local and national issues. Her passion and talent for public service helped raise awareness of aviation noise issues and brought national respect and recognition to the NOISE organization.

“AIRPORT NOISE CURFEW ACT” INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

On September 21 Congressman Joe Crowley (D-New York) introduced the Airport Noise Curfew Act of 2004 (H.R. 5109) in the House of Representatives. The bill includes the creation of a commission that will study and make recommendations to Congress regarding the establishment of curfews on nonmilitary aircraft operations over populated areas of the United States during normal sleeping hours. The commission shall be composed of 9 members: 4 of which shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives 2 of which should be members of the aviation community, 3 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. No later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this act shall the commission transmit a report of its findings and recommendations to Congress.

The bill was cosponsored by Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-New York). Congressmen Crowley and Weiner were recognized by NOISE as their “Legislators of the Year” in 2000. The bill is unlikely to pass before Congress adjourns this fall. However NOISE will work with these offices to promote the proposal when the 109th Congress convenes in January.

UNITED KINGDOM AVIATION OFFICIAL VISITS NOISE OFFICE

Jill Adam, Head of International Branch, Aviation Environmental Division, Department of Transport in the United Kingdom, paid a visit to the NOISE offices in Washington, DC to learn how local noise issues are handled in America. Ms. Adam was invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program

NOISE staff brought Ms. Adam up to speed on the relatively weak position local communities find themselves in today in terms of legal and political standing, where airport decisions are involved. We explained our legislative agenda and how it would improve the plight of airport neighbor communities. We were also pleased to learn from Ms. Adam the details of the very different noise mitigation and aviation regulation system in place in the U.K.

As international aviation increases, building international coalitions is an “untapped resource” that NOISE leadership is committed to using. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with European and international officials so that we might learn from one another’s very different approaches to a common problem.