



The Delaware River and Bay Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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**DRBA and Wilmington Airport (ILG) Welcome Northeast Chapter of the
American Association of Airport Executives (NEC/AAAE)**
58th Annual Conference Takes Place at the Chase Center on the Riverfront from August 14-17, 2016

(New Castle, DE) The Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA), operators of the New Castle Wilmington Airport (ILG) will host the 58th Annual Conference, Exhibit and Meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (NEC/AAAE) at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, Delaware. The Conference, which runs from August 14-17, is expected to draw more than 200 delegates and guests. The Northeast Chapter is one of four regional chapters and serves member airports and airport management professionals from Maine to Virginia. The Chapter, founded in 1958, last held its regional conference in Delaware in September 1977.

“On behalf of the DRBA Commissioners and staff, we would like to welcome the NEC/AAAE delegates and guests to Delaware for the first time in nearly 40 years,” said Scott A. Green, Executive Director for the DRBA. “We look forward to several days of quality airport business sessions and leading edge discussion on developments in the airport industry.”

“Historically, Wilmington Airport, then known as Greater Wilmington, has been a leading and active member since the organization’s inception, and we believe this conference will continue that legacy of aviation and airport leadership,” added Stephen D. Williams, Director of Airports for the DRBA.

Governor Jack Markell also welcomed the delegates to the First State, saying “as we continue to strengthen our aviation industry leadership, I am pleased that Delaware has been chosen as the site for the 58th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives. In Delaware, we know that the impact of aviation means good jobs for our citizens and economic activity that benefits out entire state.” The State boasts eleven public-use aviation facilities, including our flagship commercial service airport in Wilmington, three business class airports, five smaller general aviation facilities, and one joint-use civilian/military facility. The industry supports more than 12,000 jobs and provides about \$600 million in income.

Among the featured airport business sessions will be a discussion on the impact of the UAV/drone industry on airports, a Washington legislative and FAA funding update, future airport technologies, and a session on diversity and inclusion in airport management. Attendees will also get to learn firsthand of the rich history of aviation in Delaware with a luncheon presentation by Jan Churchill, a pioneering aviation author and pilot. Each delegate will receive a complimentary copy of Ms. Churchill’s book, “From Delaware to Everywhere” and she will also be on hand following her presentation to autograph them.

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About the Delaware River and Bay Authority

The DRBA, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962, owns and operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May- Lewes Ferry, and the Forts Ferry Crossing. The DRBA also manages corporate and aviation properties through its economic development powers - two airports in New Jersey (Millville Airport and Cape May Airport) and three in Delaware (New Castle Airport, Civil Air Terminal and Delaware Airpark). All DRBA operating revenues are generated through the bridge, ferry and airport facilities. For more information, visit www.drba.net.

About the American Association of Airport Executives - AAAE

Founded in 1928, AAAE is the world's largest professional organization representing the men and women who work at public-use commercial and general aviation airports. AAAE's 5,000-plus members represent some 850 airports and hundreds of companies and organizations that support the airport industry. Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., AAAE serves its membership through results-oriented representation in Washington, D.C., and delivers a wide range of industry services and professional development opportunities, including training, conferences, and a highly respected accreditation program.