

News Release



St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport

® A Pinellas County Government Service

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For Immediate Release
April 7, 2005

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St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) receives news that Hooters Air plans to take over Lehigh Valley Air Service

Officials at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport received news that Hooters Air plans to take over all flights offered by Lehigh Valley Air, including the Allentown, PA/St. Petersburg-Clearwater service. Lehigh Valley Air is operated by Pace Airlines, the contract carrier currently providing the aircraft and crew for the flights from Allentown to PIE. Pace Airlines is a subsidiary of Hooters Air.

Hooters Air is headquartered in Myrtle Beach, SC and Hooters of America, the parent company, is based in Atlanta, GA. Hooters opened its first restaurant locally in Clearwater, FL in 1983. Twenty years later, in 2003, Hooters Air was launched.

Hooters Air is a rapidly growing airline flying Boeing 737 and 757 aircraft. They currently serve Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson, Baltimore-Washington, Columbus-Rickenbacker, Denver, Gary-Chicago, Las Vegas-McCarran, Myrtle Beach, Nassau, Bahamas, Newark Liberty, Pittsburgh, and Northwest Chicagoland Airports. The Airline features "Club Class" seating, food service and advertises the best service in the air. All Hooters Air flights are operated with a standard flight crew plus two additional restaurant employees who assist with hostess and food/beverage functions.

Lehigh Valley Air's inaugural flight into the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport was March 24th. Since the new 6 day a week service began, the flights have had high passenger loads. Hooters Air currently plans the same non-stop jet service daily (except Tuesdays). Reservations can still be made by calling 1-800-FLY-LVAIR (1-888-359-5824) or via the web at www.flylvair.com. No further details are currently available concerning the Hooters Air transition into our market area.

Airport Director Noah Lagos states, "Allentown has been a very popular service destination for PIE. Hooters Air serves several very attractive destinations, many of which were previously served from our Airport. We are hopeful that Hooters Air's plans are finalized in the near future, as they may consider expanding service at PIE by adding flights to new destinations."

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