Director's Highlights

Dear Friends,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Pinellas County's Airport Director at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport since February 2004. This will be my last newsletter column as I retire in mid May to explore the next journey in my life's adventure. It has been a fulfilling 11 years. The vision that the staff and I shared for a vibrant and growing “hometown” airport is blossoming. It hasn't always been easy, but with the support of the Board of County Commissioners, members of the local community, and the traveling public, PIE has a bright future and is challenged with the “growing pains” of success.

A lot has changed over the years. PIE has had its ups and downs, a rollercoaster ride of gains and losses in passenger traffic. In 2004, traffic hit an all time high at 1.33 million passengers only to recede to less than 400,000 passengers in 2006. In November 2006, Allegiant Air started service with 12 destinations and now… 43 cities and growing. Last year, PIE served almost 1.25 million travelers and this year we expect over 1.7 million passengers, the largest in our history. It was a thrill to get the chance to celebrate March as the biggest month in our history before my departure. We have completed over $76 million in capital programs during the last 10 years, including several phases of terminal renovations. It was also a great pleasure to reinvent ourselves with a new logo and slogan “Tampa Bay The Easy Way”.

It was difficult to make the decision to retire. However, I leave the airport in good hands. Tom Jewsbury, Deputy Director of Operations and Facilities, has been appointed as the new Airport Director. He will continue the visioning process and ultimately will guide the airport forward to meet the growing travel needs of Tampa Bay and the many visitors to our destination. So as my journey continues, I want to say thank you for all your kindness and support.

And as always with PIE, still more to come........Noah Lagos

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Allegiant Air CEO Maurice Gallagher Named 2015 Tony Jannus Award Honoree!

We are thrilled Mr. Gallagher is receiving this year’s award. Here at PIE, we know the impact Allegiant has on our airport and community. The Jannus Award honors his impact internationally, especially in underserved markets in the U.S. and to tourist destinations like ours. We hope you join us in celebrating his achievements at the annual awards dinner to be held on Thursday, November 5th at 6:30 PM at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available. Also, check out info on the Jannus College Scholar Awards and High School Essay Contest for more ways to keep the Jannus Legacy alive.

Visit www.tonyjannusaward.com for more info.

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After 38 years at PIE, Deputy Director of Finance & Administration Jeff Noa retires. Jeff received the “traditional” airport blue light gift to mark his tenure. Jeff had an incredible impact on the airport and will be greatly missed.
Parking at PIE - We are planning a **cell phone waiting lot** for those picking up arriving passengers. Located adjacent to the Air Traffic Control Tower, we plan this new convenience to open in fall 2015.

Remote Parking Lot Expansion - The expansion will add 500 parking spaces to the existing remote parking lot, bringing the total to over 1000 spaces. The project will include area lighting, shelters, and call-boxes. The existing lot will get a new surface. Construction begins this spring and may be completed by October 2015. Additionally, a temporary remote lot will be operating this summer off of Fairchild Drive to accommodate high demand for customer parking.

Terminal Renovations Phase 3 - This project will almost double passenger hold room capacity in Gates 7 thru 10 to approximately 750 seats. This 10,000 to 12,000 square foot addition includes a new retail court for restaurant, news and gifts, a children’s play area, new restrooms, an expanded TSA checkpoint, and a new chiller to support the existing HVAC system. The project also involves the renovation of the existing restrooms in baggage claim, second floor Operations wing, and the second floor restaurant. The project is currently under design and construction is anticipated to begin January 2016 and completed in spring 2017.

**Terminal Apron Hardstand Phase 2** - As part of a two phase project to reconstruct the terminal apron pavements (aircraft parking), the Phase II project will replace the existing asphalt pavement at Gates 1 and 1A, and Gates 7 thru 11, with a long-life concrete pavement. The project will be funded by grants from the FAA and FDOT. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2015 and be completed in the spring of 2016.

Air Service News

After the biggest month in our history (March), 3 more destinations begin service with Allegiant in May: Akron/Canton, Oh; Raleigh-Durham, NC, and Tulsa, OK. Year to date, PIE’s passengers are up 28%, including a year to date international passenger increase of 30%.

We are looking forward to the strongest summer in our history and continued growth throughout the year.

PIE has joined the Twitterverse! 
**Follow us on @iflypie**
Airport Operations

Noise Affairs Update
For information concerning noise affairs, contact the Noise Affairs Office at (727) 453-7877 or email to airportnoise@fly2pie.com. Airport Noise Abatement Task Force Meetings are held quarterly to discuss noise affairs at the airport. Meetings are held at 3:00 PM in the Airport Conference Room #234.

Upcoming 2015 meeting schedule: July 15, October 21

Staff News at PIE
PIE’s own Deputy Director of Operations and Facilities Tom Jewsbury was appointed by County Administrator Mark Woodard as the new Airport Director. Tom began his aviation management career in 1990 as an Airport Operations Supervisor at the Dane County Regional Airport in Madison, WI. He was hired at PIE in September 1994 as an Airport Operations Supervisor to help develop its Operations Division. In 1999, he was promoted to Airport Operations Manager and later to Deputy Airport Director in 2001. In his appointment letter, Woodard noted, “Tom is very capable and willing to continue to build on the relationships and partnerships that have made the Airport successful. I am confident that Tom and his team will continue to bring much success to the Airport.”

PIE welcomes Yvette Aehle as our new Deputy Director of Finance & Administration. Yvette was the Airport Director at Southwest Georgia Regional Airport (ABY) in Albany, Georgia for over ten years and opened a new commercial terminal building in August 2013, their first terminal building in over fifty years. ABY was also her first career position out of college. After her beginnings in Albany, she served as the Deputy Director for Administration and Finance at McAllen-Miller International Airport in McAllen, Texas for 5 years.

Yvette has always taken a keen interest in aviation. Before she chose airport management as a career, she was a flight attendant for American Airlines in the late 1980’s and was based out of Miami. Yvette holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Aviation Management and a Master’s degree in Contract and Acquisition Management from Florida Institute of Technology.

Welcome aboard Mark Sprague, Operations Manager! Mark has an Associate of Science degree in Professional Piloting and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Management. His aviation career began as an airline pilot flying commercially for Comair and Spirit Airlines. Ten years ago, his career path changed from flight operations to airport operations, including managing the FAA Part 139 program, Assistant Security Coordinator, Airport Construction Coordinator, initiating new software programs for the FAA, and Incident Commander in Airport Emergency Management. He earned the Certified Member accreditation from the American Association of Accredited Executives.

The airport also recently welcomed new Firefighters Tyler Hyde and Judith Pyles. And since our last newsletter, Facilities welcomed Brad Weeks and Drew Jester and Operations added part-time Traffic Specialists Alice Sullivan and John Scozzsfava. Welcome aboard!

Flight Information and Paging System (MUFIDS)
The airport has a new flight information system with more accurate flight time information on arrivals and departures. Additionally, the new system includes visual paging for the hearing impaired and an improved sound system for audio paging and announcements.

Exit Lane Portals
PIE installed a new technology for passengers exiting from Gates 7-10. The portals close after passengers enter and then open on the other side for exit into the baggage claim area. This provides a new TSA approved system for moving from secured to unsecured public areas of the airport and eliminates the need for airline to staff the exit lane. The portal sensors detect objects left behind and alert the passenger to remove items. This technology was implemented as a cost-saving security innovation.
St. Pete-Clearwater International continues to be the home for West Central Florida Honor Flights. The public welcome home receptions are in our baggage claim facility and begin at approximately 8:30 PM. Honor Flight provides for free parking for all to attend the reception. For more information about the Honor Flights, contact info@honorflightwcf.org or call (727)498-6079.

**PIE Hosts WWII Veterans Honor Flights - April 21, May 19 and June 23**

**Pil(e)π Day** - Our airport staff and volunteers had a great time serving pie to our customers for Pil(e)π Day of the Century 3.1415... We celebrated a day early on Friday the 13th and served key lime and strawberry pies curbside, in our hold rooms for departing passengers, and in bag claim after they landed. We served about 1200 slices from 1:30-3:14 PM - Easy as Piel!