

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, CONT.

11:45 a.m.	<b>Box Lunch</b> If you are not staying for the FBO workshop sessions, plan to stay for lunch and finish conversations that started during the conference, or grab lunch and start your journey back home.
12:15 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>FBO Workshop</b> This workshop is included in your full registration. If you want to participate in only the workshop, you may pay a separate registration fee for the workshop only. Lunch is included.  <b>Unleaded Avgas Transition</b> Josh Palmer, Aviation Business Development, Swift Fuels, will lead a discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FAA certification process</li><li>• ASTM fuel specifications</li><li>• Engine/airframe OEM collaborations underway</li><li>• Airport considerations, including new regulations and unleaded AIP incentives for tanks and trucks</li></ul> <b>Open Discussion – FBO Roundtable</b> Rachel Boulhanis, LaPorte, will lead a discussion focused on FBO issues.



NOTES



**2026 AVIATION INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
Mark your calendars for our 2026 conference at the Four Winds Casino, South Bend, Indiana on October 14-16, 2026



2025 AVIATION INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sponsored by Abonmarche  
Four Winds South Bend

All times displayed are in Eastern Time. All sessions are in the Ribbon Town Ballroom unless noted otherwise.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

<b>AAI Scholarship Fund Inc. Scholarship Golf Outing/Notre Dame Tour</b>	
11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Golf Registration/Lunch</b> Knollwood Country Club   16633 Baywood Lane   Granger, IN 46530   574-277-1541
12:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Cost: \$150 (includes lunch). <i>Will be billed separately from registration and includes a donation to AAI Scholarship Fund, Inc.</i>
	<b>OR</b>
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Notre Dame Tour</b> Cost: \$40 (includes bus transportation to campus and back to Four Winds). Meet in the Four Winds hotel lobby. <i>Will be billed separately from registration and includes a donation to AAI Scholarship Fund, Inc.</i>
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	<b>Registration</b>
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	<b>New to AI Conference?</b> For those new to the conference and Aviation Indiana (AI), this informal session will connect you with an AI member who will introduce you to other members, as well as answer any questions you have about AI or the conference.
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	<b>Welcome Reception</b>
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner/Retirement Party</b> Aviation Indiana will honor Sue Mowery-Schalk, who recently retired from the FAA. Sue started her aviation career in Indiana and dedicated herself to advocating for airports.
9:00 – 9:30 p.m.	<b>Committee Meetings</b>

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>
7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Professional Headshot Photography</b> Need a new business headshot or even two with different outfits? Fairfield Photography will provide complimentary professional business headshots in the exhibit area at this year’s conference. Reduce your wait and reserve your headshot slot in advance by visiting <a href="https://bit.ly/4ndR6ge">https://bit.ly/4ndR6ge</a> before the conference, or visit the Fairfield Photography headshot station when it’s convenient during the conference. Thanks to Direct Effect Solutions for sponsoring the business headshot station this year!
7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Registration</b>
8:00 – 8:10 a.m.	<b>Title Sponsor Introduction</b> Nate Hahn, Evansville Regional Airport Director and AI President, will introduce the title sponsor Abonmarche to welcome everyone to this year’s conference.
8:10 – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Conference Welcome</b> Elected officials from South Bend and St. Joseph County will welcome everyone to the conference and the city.
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>The Evolution of the Work</b> Mindy Price, Direct Effect Solutions, will lead the presentation. While the pace of change continues to increase in both speed and frequency, the way we work has not kept up. Even though we may have adopted new tools, devices, and technologies into our working environments, we are still leading and managing ourselves and others using techniques that were developed in the early industrial era. This session will be provocative and entertaining while it takes you on a journey from the past to the present to identify the truths and myths affecting the way we manage ourselves in today’s work environment. Through stories, facts, evidence, and observations, you will learn to look at yourself and your work environment differently. This session promises to make you say, “I never thought of that,” and will encourage you to do just one thing differently.
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>South Bend Airport (SBN) Highlights</b> SBN will lead a discussion on what has been happening recently at the airport, including completed, ongoing, and future projects.
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	<b>Break with Exhibitors</b>
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Airport Board Member Breakout Session - Wagosh 9</b> Marcus Dial, Aviation Manager, INDOT Office of Aviation and Ed Volk, President, La Porte Airport Authority, will lead a discussion on how to help airport board members better understand their responsibilities. This session is also recommended for new airport managers, as it focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the airport, INDOT, and FAA.
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Legal Session and Land Use</b> Sean Grammel, Anderson & Krieger, LLP, will present on several topics, including the scope of an airport’s proprietary rights, how to ensure compatible uses, how to use non-aeronautical land, and how to work with FBOs and other stakeholders on the property (including what not to do, like give exclusive use). This session will briefly highlight environmental issues, mainly to flag considerations that should be addressed before executing contracts or assuming liabilities. Lastly, this session will address some of the recent decisions on the new Grant Assurances for consideration when airports seek new grants.
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Qualification-Based Selection/Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Agreements</b> Colleen Torres, ACEC; Greg Martz, GM Development; Spencer Varner, BF&S; and Patrick Mac Carthaigh, SBN, will discuss how to select a consultant based on qualifications versus the lowest price, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of BOTs.
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> Matt Ubelhor, Indiana Secretary of Transportation, will provide an update on infrastructure projects in the state.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, CONT.

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	<b>INDOT Update</b> Marcus Dial, Aviation Manager, INDOT Office of Aviation, will introduce his team and provide updates from his office, including expanding plans for projects from the aviation fund.
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>AMCG on Property</b> David Benner, AMCG, will discuss one of the more intense issues facing airports today: dealing with the ownership of leasehold improvements at the end of a lease term, commonly referred to as reversionary rights. Many airports are faced with this challenge as historical commercial and non-commercial lease agreements begin expiring and improvements could be scheduled to revert to the airport sponsor. This session discusses the variety of options airport sponsors can utilize to effectively deal with this potentially contentious issue. This session will address the subtle, complex, and controversial world of reversionary rights. Learn about the justification for reversionary rights, recent case studies, and industry best practices (e.g., developing a leasing policy, reversion deferral fees, amortization of improvements beyond term, etc.) to help you develop an effective reversion strategy for your airport.
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Break with Exhibitors</b>
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Breakout Sessions (Pick One)</b>  <b>GA Roundtable Discussion</b> Rachel Boulahanis, Manager of Planning and Outreach, La Porte Airport, will lead a panel with representatives from INDOT, consultants, and GA airports to discuss a variety of issues.  <b>Commercial Airport Breakout – Kizes 7/Kaukema 8</b> Justin Bessler, Woolpert, will lead discussions on parking, SMS, airline issues, and open discussion.
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	<b>Networking Reception</b>
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Dinner and Awards Banquet</b> <i>Business Attire – Coat and Tie</i> Please plan to attend the awards banquet announcing the winners for the Airport of the Year, Legislator of the Year, Person of the Year, Presidential Special Recognition, and AAI Scholarship Fund Inc. Scholarship recipients.
8:30 – 10:00 p.m.	<b>Hospitality</b>

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>AI Annual Membership Meeting</b> <i>Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.</i>
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<b>Aviation Education – “Attracting the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals: Aviation Education Strategies for You and Your Airport”</b> Stephanie Ward, Mead & Hunt, will talk about the gaps in the aviation industry. Learn what you can do to help fill the void by attracting the next generation to aviation careers. The session will explore events you can host, as well as career opportunities, establishing pathways for success and resources.
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Break with Exhibitors</b>
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>From Touchdown to Takeoff: Pilot Perspectives on Airports</b> Chris Snyder, Woolpert, will moderate a discussion featuring pilots who will share their experiences and respond to questions from Indiana airport representatives. The goal is to highlight how airports can better serve airport users, improve safety, and strengthen airport–pilot partnerships.