



***Georgia Airports Association  
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**Former members of the Georgia Aviation Trades Association (GATA):**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Airports Association (GAA), I want to personally invite you to join GAA. In most cases, the issues facing Fixed Base Operators (FBO's) and Airports are similar, e.g. airport funding; security; minimum standards; consistent, high-quality airport management.

The Mission of the Georgia Airports Association is "to provide, develop, and expand a safe and efficient airports system to meet the future economic growth of Georgia through the full implementation of the State Aviation System Plan (SASP)." The SASP recognizes that airports are an indispensable component of the state's total transportation system that strongly supports the state's economy. GAA works to accomplish our mission by:

- Lobbying the legislature to increase funding for the Georgia Department of Transportation Airport Aid Program. Through this effort we've increased airport funding from \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2006 to \$11.6 million in the recently passed fiscal year 2008 state budget.
- Support for House Resolutions (HR) 48 and 228. These resolutions propose amendments to the Constitution stating that funds derived from sales and use of motor fuel taxes with respect to jet fuel and aviation gasoline may be appropriated for and grants made for all activities incident to providing and maintaining an adequate system of public-use airports in this state. These resolutions enjoy bipartisan support in the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate, and we are lobbying hard to ensure this Constitutional Amendment is part of the November 2008 statewide ballot.
- Working with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to include airport funding in their legislative agendas. GMA was very supportive this year, and we are currently in talks with ACCG's legislative liaison for Economic Development and Transportation to ensure their support in the next legislative session.

At our smaller airports (generally “airport members” of GAA) the airport provides fueling and other aviation services. Most of these airports don’t have the air traffic necessary to support a full service FBO. However they could use the support, guidance, and professional wisdom only available from a comprehensive full-service provider. GAA recently approved a corporate representative on our Board to advise us on the issues important to our corporate members. I’m confident the Board would be receptive to the same type of arrangement with the FBO community.

As incentive to give GAA a try please visit [www.georgiaairports.org](http://www.georgiaairports.org) and download a membership application. Fill out the membership application, mail it in, and we will waive the 2007 membership dues. Additionally, on the website, you will find information on our annual conference. I’m sure you will find the conference informative and worthwhile, and, as conference chair, I’d appreciate your input on issues / topics you would like addressed. I invite your participation at the member’s rate.

I’ve enclosed our 2007 Membership Directory for your use.

Please feel free to call me directly if I can provide further information.

Best regards,

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