



NEWS RELEASE

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Virginia Meets Goal of 100% Participation in Airport Support Network (ASN)

Richmond, VA - The Commonwealth of Virginia has become the first state in the nation to have 100% participation in the Airport Support Network (ASN) at its 66 public use airports. ASN is a project of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), which encourages volunteers to act as communications liaisons at public use airports between AOPA, local pilots, airport management and local governments. These individuals promote their local airport and help educate local officials and community neighbors about the value of their airport. Volunteers also communicate the needs of local airports to AOPA.

Virginia Department of Aviation Director Randall Burdette was previously an ASN volunteer at Stafford Regional Airport and understands the value of having volunteers in place at Virginia's public use airports. According to Mr. Burdette, "It's beneficial for the airport, its customers and the Commonwealth of Virginia to have enthusiastic volunteers help communicate what's happening at Virginia's airports, the economic benefits and the needs of our airports to better serve our communities." With this in mind, he set a goal to assist AOPA in recruiting a volunteer for each of the Commonwealth's sixty-six (66) public use airports.

At a recognition breakfast for ASN volunteers held on April 13th during the Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In & Expo in Lakeland, Florida, the President and CEO of AOPA, Craig Fuller announced that Virginia had reached its lofty goal of 100 percent representation.

"By enlisting volunteers at each of the state's 66 public-use airports, Virginia is setting a great example within our Airport Support Network," said Craig Fuller. "AOPA is a member-driven organization, and protecting the freedom to fly means getting involved, as our members in Virginia have shown."

AOPA's mission is to preserve the freedom to fly by advocating on behalf of its members; educating pilots, non-pilots, and policy makers alike; supporting activities that ensure the long-term health of General Aviation; fighting to keep General Aviation accessible to all; and securing sufficient resources to ensure their success.

The Virginia Department of Aviation's (DOAV) vision is to become the standard of excellence among state aviation agencies and make the Virginia aviation system the model air transportation system providing Virginia communities economic development opportunities and convenient access to the National air transportation system. DOAV's mission is to cultivate an advanced aviation system that is safe, secure and provides for economic development; promote aviation education and awareness; and provide the safest and most efficient flight services for the Commonwealth leadership and state agencies.

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