

REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Regional Groups Add Value by Focusing on Maintenance

The essential role that maintenance and repair professionals play in business aviation is becoming more of a focus for regional business aviation groups, as many of them strive to provide educational, vocational and networking opportunities to all segments of the industry.

"We want to provide more resources and professional development to the maintenance community," says Debi Carpenter, executive director of the Southern California Aviation Association. SCAA has recently formed a Technical Committee that will provide a focal point for SCAA's efforts in the avionics and maintenance arena. Carpenter said that the association plans to hold two events a year specifically on topics of interest to maintenance and repair professionals. Several sessions on ADS-B already have been conducted, and SCAA is considering hosting an Inspection Authorization (IA) renewal seminar.

The Chicago Area Business Aviation Association (CABAA) has had a Maintenance Committee since 2013, and has held an annual maintenance day – which draws about 100 attendees – every year since then.

"We've covered a lot of NextGen topics and heard from a lot of the OEMs," said Mark Quandahl, CABAA's Maintenance Committee chair. Sponsorships from the 2016 maintenance day even netted a profit for the group, which used the money to form a dedicated annual maintenance scholarship for college students.

Eric Black, president of the Ohio Regional Business Aviation Association (ORBAA), said that his organization is looking into providing more resources and events for maintenance professionals, and has already established an annual \$2,500 maintenance scholarship.

"We want to be more inclusive and add value for our members," said Black. ORBAA has had some conversations with the Central Ohio Professional Aviation Maintenance Association about working together more closely, according to Black.

"Reaching out to the maintenance and repair community is a great way for the regional groups to add value for their members."

STEVE HADLEY

Director of Regional Programs, NBAA

At the Colorado Business Aviation Association (CABA), a new Maintenance Committee is being established, and Chairman Kandi Spangler said that the group's monthly educational events will soon feature maintenance topics several times a year. An annual maintenance day also is in the works, and may include an IA renewal seminar.

"Reaching out to the aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul community is a great way for the regional groups to add value for their members," said Steve Hadley, NBAA's director of regional programs and Southwest regional representative. "It also may provide an avenue for attracting new members." ✦

To contact the above groups, use NBAA's Regional Business Aviation Groups Directory at www.nbaa.org/regional.



A REGIONAL GROUP WITH A MAINTENANCE FOCUS

With more than 800 members and a reach that extends beyond maintenance, the Westchester Aircraft Maintenance Association (WAMA), based at New York's Westchester County Airport (HPN), focuses on providing educational programs and networking opportunities for aviation maintenance professionals. Over 80 percent of WAMA's members work for operators based at HPN or nearby airports. "We cover the Tri-State area, but we also have some corporate members with a national reach," says WAMA President Jody Kerton.

WAMA holds monthly informational dinners (except during the summer), at which products or services of interest to maintenance professionals are discussed. Students are welcome to attend these meetings free of charge, and the association has sponsored scholarships, attended career fairs, and contributes regularly to the Corporate Angel Network, which also is located at HPN. Once a year, WAMA hosts an inspection authorization renewal seminar as a service to its members.

Although WAMA's focus is technical in nature, the group likes to stay abreast of issues that affect all of business aviation.

"Through Dean Saucier [NBAA Northeast regional representative], we keep up with national and local topics that affect our members, such as privatization and tax reform," said Kerton.

www.wamahpn.org