



# JACKSON HOLE AIRPORT STAFF UPDATE

January - March  
2023

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Submit photo entries to Kevin Dunnigan at [kevin.dunnigan@jhairport.org](mailto:kevin.dunnigan@jhairport.org) to be considered each month. As we near the month of April, we'd love to see some pictures of our screening team.

## Employees of the Month



For the month of January, the Airport Board recognized the staff that helped mitigate the December 27<sup>th</sup> bathroom incident as joint Employees of the Month. This group was quick on the scene as the hold room area was full of passengers. Some staff were in the basement dealing directly with the clogged plumbing, hosts were assisting guests, and the security team was escorting people to use the restrooms. It was an all-hands-on-deck scenario and the team rose to the occasion. Thank you for all of the hard work in a critical moment!



The Employee of the Month for February was awarded to Miguel Hernandez. Since joining the Badging department, Miguel has been helping coordinate the many tasks the security team takes on. He has embodied the People Helping People motto since joining the airport. Recently, he has taken time to help train new staff and he does all of this with a positive attitude. Congratulations, Miguel!



Ray Brence received the March Employee of the Month award. Ray has been with the airport for 25 years! He shows up every day with a big smile, and he brings dedication, passion and commitment to his work. In addition to his Host role, Ray is also a certified EMT. Staff also greatly appreciates Ray's skillset managing the curb in front of the terminal. This is not an easy task, and Ray does it with grace and professionalism. Great job, Ray!



## Welcome New Staff Members



Paul Donato, Facilities Manager, joined the Airport in 2022. He works closely with the shift leads to oversee the Airport's custodial operations.

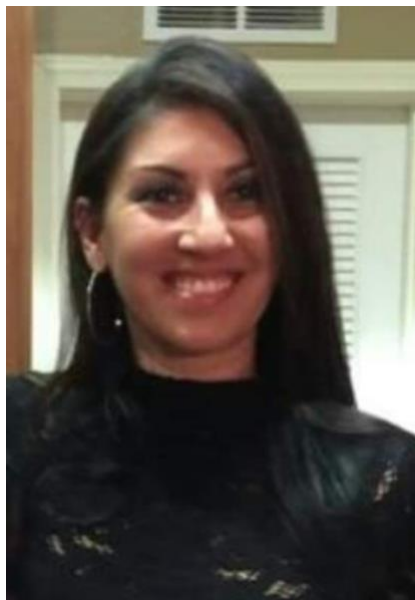
Paul is also a former General Level Falconer. He misses his license and his goal is to become a Master Level Falconer. Paul has 13 birds and he uses three eagles that he is training to hunt deer with.



Brandin Schwab, Second Shift Custodial Lead, was born and raised in Star Valley, Wyoming.

He is retired Air Force and has held several jobs since retiring from service. Brandin's former experience includes working on oil rigs, building trusses for houses and working with TSA.

He enjoys outside activities like camping, hiking and panning for gold.



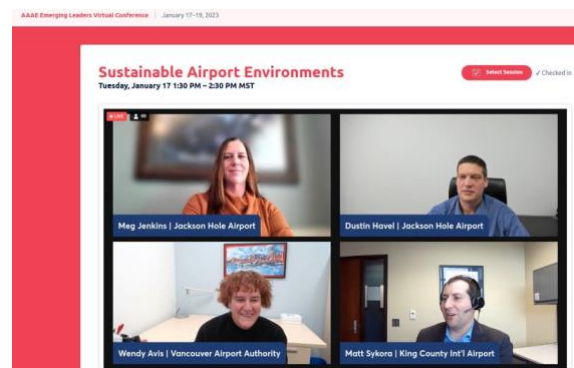
Yesenia Vejar, Third Shift Custodial Lead, was born and raised in California.

Before Covid, she worked in the oil and gas industry. Yesenia has three children ages 18, 21 and 22.

She enjoys biking, cooking, traveling and her family.



## Community Outreach



Both Meg Jenkins and Dustin Havel were featured speakers at the AAE Emerging Leaders Conference on the topic of Sustainable Development. Of all the sessions that took place over the two-day event, their session received the highest rating from attendees.





The Airport Management Division of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in Japan recently visited JAC to learn about its sustainable efforts and unique airport operations as they look to develop an airport in Ogasawara. JAC was the only airport in the U.S. that they visited. This was a day-long event that also touched on wildlife management and community partnerships. While here, the guests also received a tour of the airport.



In February, the airport hosted a Chamber of Commerce Mixer in the terminal's new restaurant space. The event was well-attended, Jed's catered an excellent food spread, and members of the community came together to enjoy the new area.



The airport played host to a birthday party in the Firehouse. This was a raffle prize at the Jackson Hole Children Museum's Touch-a-Truck event.

This was their daughter's first birthday party with friends and the parents were so grateful for the experience.

Energy Works recently celebrated their partnerships with local businesses. The airport has been using 100% green power for five years and continues to lead the way in sustainable energy.



## GTNP Report

Airport and GTNP staff, as well as other Teton County organizations, attended the Governor's Tourism Conference in Cheyenne, WY. The occasion served as an opportunity to collaborate with attendees from around the state, discuss the value of protecting this area, and to recognize tourism as the second-largest economic driver in Wyoming.



The past year at GTNP saw lower visitation numbers compared to 2020 and 2021. This was due to a variety of circumstances such as the airport closure, Yellowstone flooding, and other national and global trends. The park has also been seeing notable changes in terms of how visitation is happening in the park. There was a 40% increase in the number of people on trails, compared to ten years ago.

The park is set to release the results from its visitor mobility study in a couple of months. Through this study, the park has learned that there really isn't a dominant travel pattern associated with the park. The park also plans to release results from a socioeconomic study. This study has been observing where people are coming from, what they're doing while in the area, and how much they're spending.

March has brought on a transitional period for the park. It recently ended its Teton Park Road grooming season, and they're beginning to chip away at the snow pack to clear the road. Additionally, the park's seasonal employees will start to arrive in April.





## Social Media Recap



Over the year 2022, the airport's social media accounts saw growth in communication and audience. The airport's Facebook account page likes increased 27%, and communication went up 115%. The airport's Instagram account followers grew by 34%, and communication expanded by 161%.

The following are some of the top performing social media posts from the past year:



Stay in the know!

The Airport will be closed from April 11, 2022, for the Phase 2 portion of the runway reconstruction and will reopen June 28, 2022. This 2022 project will include runway milling, removal and replacement, drainage and edge light installations, screening and crushing, and batch plant activities.

Learn more at the link:

<https://www.jacksonholeairport.com/.../terminal-improvement/>



Reach: 44,080.



Congratulations to [Knife River Corporation](#) for their hard work and dedication to opening the JAC runway on time. Your incentive is well deserved!



Reach: 17,036



Reach: 17,045

We are eager to welcome everyone back to JAC next week!



Reach: 16,275



## Airport League of Fun-Havers

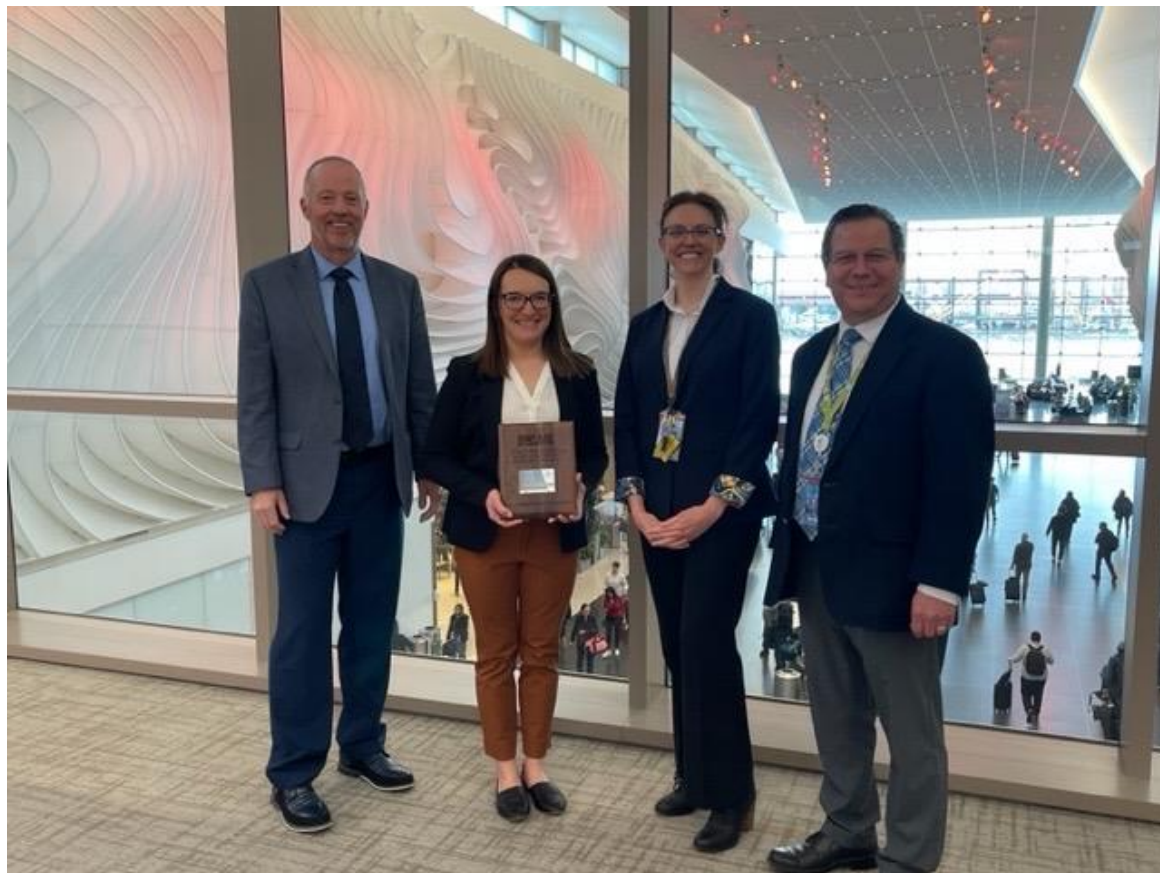


Kickstarted by Airport administration's Gina Van Slyke and Jordyn McDougall, staff now has a new social meet-up group called the Airport League of Fun-Havers (ALFH). The group's overall goal is to meet monthly at a local establishment or to take part in an activity so staff can get to know each other outside of work.

Administration organized the first event, and April's event was cancelled due to weather. The group is asking volunteers to organize each month's event and to have fun with it. Some ideas for future events include bingo, hiking, happy hours, dinners, jogging or running events, kayaking, ice skating, and more. The group's success is fully based on staff involvement and support, so please get involved if you're interested. You can email Gina or Jordyn to express interest or to learn more or stop by the administration office.



## Employee Recognitions



Anna Valsing, the Airport's Administration Manager, recently completed her program to earn the Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) designation. Anna had already completed her C.M. program and was able to complete the demanding final work to earn this prestigious title. She joins a group of less than 500 airport executives nationwide with this designation.

Congratulations, Anna, for this impressive accomplishment!



For the second straight year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Airport's accounting department for its annual comprehensive financial report for the 2021 fiscal year.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Great work accounting team!





## Thank You John Eastman



John Eastman stepped down in February after serving ten years on the Airport Board. Previous to his most recent role, he served two terms as Board President. John played an integral role in leading the Board through the pandemic, which presented many unique challenges. Through this, he worked closely with staff to implement safety leave for employees that were affected. Another accomplishment during his presidency came when the airport was awarded the AAAE Speas Award for its commitment to sustainability.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the airport celebrated John and his family's long-lasting contribution to the airport with the new Amy Ringholz painting in the new restaurant space. The event was a great way for everyone to come together and recognize John.

Other notable accomplishments include playing an important role in expanding the airport's community outreach efforts. John also served on the National Parks Overflights Advisory Board. He worked with staff to enhance the recruitment and retention policies in an effort to reach the Board's goal of becoming an employer of choice in the community. John was President during the planning and design process for the runway reconstruction and capital projects that were completed in 2022. More recently, he helped identify a 5-year transit and parking plan with the Transportation Committee.

Thank you John for all your work with the airport and the community!



## Meet the Airport Board

As of February, the Airport Board makeup looks a little different. Bob McLaurin has assumed the Member at Large position as his Presidency term came to an end. Bob was at the helm when the airport successfully completed multiple capital projects in 2022. These projects were completed on-time and on-budget and earned the Wyoming Airport Coalition's Project of the Year Award. In fact,

he was the only Board President to serve when the airport didn't have a runway. Additionally, Bob led the Board during the FBO acquisition and also saw the airport receive a nomination for the Chamber of Commerce's 2022 Large Business of the Year.

The new Board positions are as follows:

President - Ed Liebzeit  
Vice President - Valerie Brown  
Treasurer - Rob Wallace  
Secretary - Melissa Turley  
Member - Bob McLaurin



The Board also welcomed Melissa Turley as the new Secretary in February. Melissa brings an abundance of experience to the position with ten years of service to both the Jackson Town Council and Teton County Commission. She formerly served as Jackson's Vice Mayor. Melissa is currently the Executive Director of the Teton Village Association, and previously held board positions with the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and Womentum.



## Screener Appreciation Brunch

The Airport Board will be hosting a screener appreciation brunch to be held in the screening breakroom from 9:45 – 11:00 am on Monday, April 24th. Thank you to all the screeners!

Thank you to Jed's for donating all the food and drinks for this event.

