



LAFAYETTE REGIONAL AIRPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Welcome to Lafayette Regional Airport

Message from the 2022 Chair and the Executive Director

The year 2022 was a milestone for Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) and the Lafayette Airport Commission (LAC). The big news was the opening of our new, state-of-the-art terminal facility in January. Demolition of the old terminal began in late summer. A new, more convenient and modern terminal loop road was opened to improve access for passengers and visitors.

The terminal received national attention in the May/June issue of Aviation Improvement magazine. In October, LFT was named the 2022 Louisiana Commercial Service Airport of the Year by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

LFT hosted the Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates annual conference for the first time in over a decade. Over 200 aviation professionals from across the state attended the four-day conference featuring Federal Aviation Administration updates, the economic impact of Louisiana's airports, economic development partnerships for success and the state of the aviation industry.

LFT saw the return of our annual Aviation Fun Day after a two-year absence due to the pandemic. More than 240 parents and children from across Acadiana were excited to bring back the 33-year-old event. We look forward to this year's event as the airport staff takes great pride in organizing it.

Passengers continued to Fly LFT in much bigger numbers over the last year, formally marking the end of the slowdown in travel caused by the pandemic. In October, Fly Lafayette Club welcomed its 12,000th member.

The Commission made decisions that provide for LFT's significant growth for decades to come. When adjacent property owned by the Lafayette Parish School System became available, we quickly moved to acquire it for future expansion.

We are looking forward to 2023 being just as exciting as 2022. Thank you to all the passengers who chose and continue to Fly Lafayette!



John Hebert
2022 Chair
LFT Airport Commission



Steven L. Picou, A.A.E., A.C.E.
Executive Director
LFT Regional Airport

2022 LFT Airport Commission

Lafayette Regional Airport Commissioners represent all areas of Lafayette Parish. The city-parish council, mayor-president and area mayors appoint the commission. The seven-member volunteer commission performs strategic and marketing-related oversight. Commissioners work with airport staff to coordinate business development with potential vendors. Additionally, commissioners act as ambassadors for the airport through their interaction with community and government leaders.



John E. Hebert
Chairperson



Samuel Pierre
Vice Chairperson



Paul Segura
Secretary/Treasurer



Paul A. Guilbeau, Sr.
Commissioner



Terry Hurd
Commissioner



Tim Breaux
Commissioner



Charles Schilling
Commissioner



Patrick Edmond, Sr.
Commissioner

Airport Staff

The Lafayette Airport Commission staff strives to provide and ensure a safe, secure and customer-friendly environment for all of the aviation needs of Acadiana, while promoting the continuous growth and development of the Lafayette Regional Airport.

Steven L. Picou, A.A.E., A.C.E., Executive Director

Mary Green, Financial Comptroller

Giles Menard, C.M., A.C.E., Operations Manager

John M. Raedle, A.C.E., Airport Security Coordinator

Mark Thibodeaux, Facilities Manager

Rene Cotton, Property Administrator & Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Liaison Officer (DBELO)

Ashley Simon, P.E., Environmental Compliance Officer

Todd Broussard, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor

Nicholas Sinanan, Operations Specialist

Kasey Wyman-Young, Operations Specialist

Kaleb Girod, Operations Specialist

Justin Cumbo, C.M., A.C.E., Airport Operations Specialist

Catina Theriot, Secretary/Records

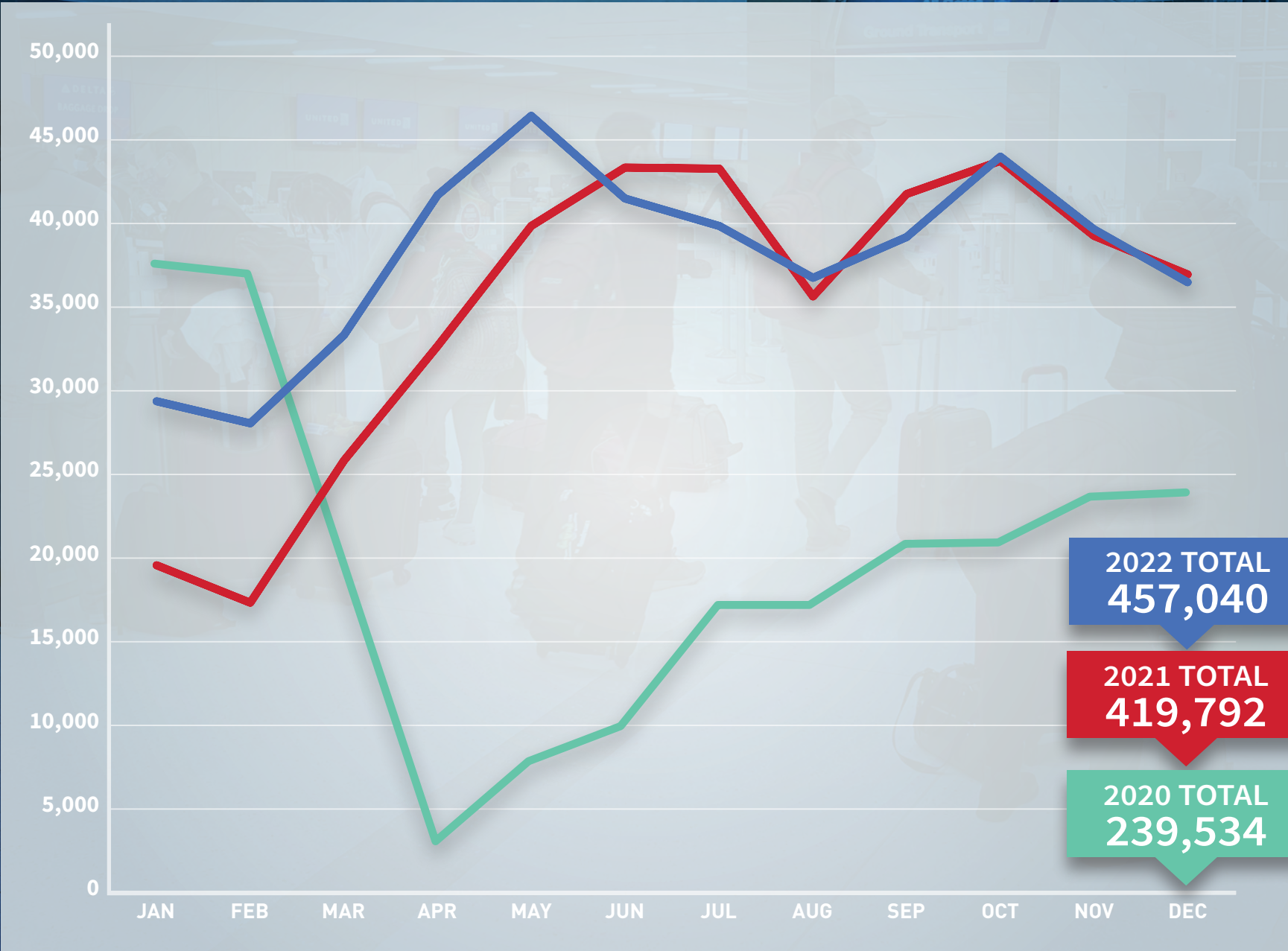
Jennifer Comeaux, Assistant Property & Accounting Administrator

Aline Nelson, Accounting Clerk

Cindy McDaniel, Receptionist

2022 Passenger Counts

The year ended with 457,040 total passengers, surpassing the 419,792 passengers of 2021. The chart below illustrates the continued growth in numbers of passengers.




2022 PASSENGER LOAD FACTORS

Number of seats sold versus number of seats available.
(Average for year)


American Airlines
71.1%
(2021: 67.8%)


DELTA
77.9%
(2021: 68.0%)


UNITED
77.6%
(2021: 73.2%)

2022 CARGO STATISTICS

Pounds of cargo enplaned and deplaned.





New Lafayette Regional Airport Terminal Opened January 20

Under a celebration of water cannons, live media coverage and applause from passengers, Lafayette Regional Airport welcomed its first travelers and flight to the new terminal in the early morning hours of January 20, 2022. Airport Commissioners greeted LFT travelers later that morning with treats and coffee to celebrate the historic occasion.

Just the day before, Governor John Bel Edwards along with other state, federal and local officials received a private tour of the 120,000-square-foot-facility, which was completed on time and on budget after eight years of planning and construction.

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new terminal, LFT staff completed the actual shutdown of service at the old terminal at midnight and the transition of air service to the new state-of-the art facility.



Chairman John Hebert and Commissioner Terry Hurd





Steven Picou, Executive Director of the LFT Regional Airport, welcomes attendees at the LAMA Conference Opening Ceremonies.



Jay Dardenne, Louisiana Commissioner of Administration was the keynote speaker who presented a history of Louisiana.

LAFAYETTE REGIONAL AIRPORT (LFT) HOSTS STATEWIDE AVIATION CONFERENCE FOR FIRST TIME IN OVER A DECADE!

For the first time in over a decade, Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) hosted the annual conference of Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates (LAMA) in October 2022. More than 170 aviation professionals from across Louisiana met for four days of networking. Formed in 1970, LAMA’s purpose is to provide a forum for the exchange of aviation management ideas with a goal to provide better aviation services to Louisiana travelers. These aviation experts discussed the state of the industry and the impact airports and aviation have on economic development. They also shared common ideas to help improve efficiency and customer relations.

“The presentations by these officials at this, the 51st Annual LAMA Conference, were very informative,” said LFT Executive Director Steven Picou. “The topics discussed were of great importance to the aviation professionals in attendance. We all face similar challenges. That is why LAMA was formed decades ago, to gather and share information. Lafayette Regional Airport was honored to host the conference and invite the attendees to see our new terminal.”

Each year, a different Louisiana airport is selected to host the conference.



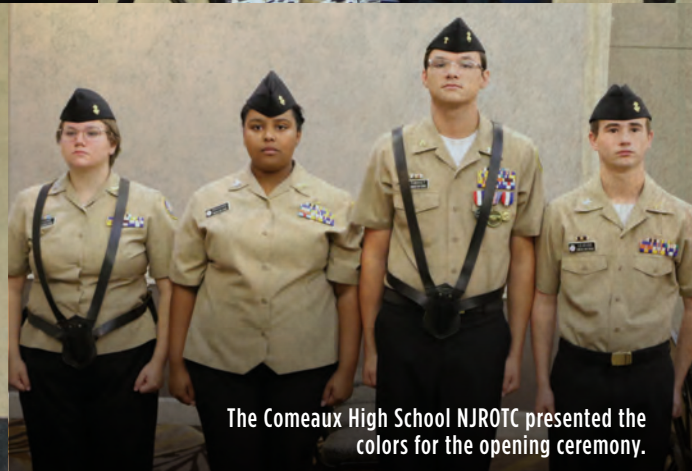
Scott Gammel, LAMA President and Director at Alexandria International Airport, welcomes attendees at the LAMA Conference Opening Ceremonies.



Steven Picou (right), Executive Director of the LFT Regional Airport and Josh Duplantis, Assistant Aviation Director with the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development.



Deputy Associate Administrator for the FAA Office of Airports Winsome Lenfert provided attendees with FAA updates and how they affect Airport operations.



The Comeaux High School NJROTC presented the colors for the opening ceremony.



Graeme Scott of RS&H and Lafayette Regional Airport’s Financial Comptroller Mary Green were in attendance at one of the many breakout sessions.

Former Chair Paul Guilbeau Leaves Lafayette Airport Commission (LAC) After 14 Years of Service

Lafayette Airport Commissioner Paul A. Guilbeau was recognized for his years of service at the October 2022, LAC meeting where he was honored by his fellow Commissioners for serving more than three full terms on the commission. Guilbeau was first appointed as a volunteer Commissioner in October 2008. During his time on the LAC, he served as Chair three times.

Guilbeau was instrumental in spearheading the new terminal project beginning in 2014. He was part of 72 presentations that helped educate voters on why a new terminal was needed. The voters of Lafayette Parish then overwhelmingly approved the measure to tax themselves, and the temporary sales tax over eight months generated \$34

million that would be exclusively used for the terminal project.

Guilbeau used his years of experience with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to help the airport staff move the project along on time and on budget. He often served as a mentor to his fellow Commissioners soon after they were appointed, helping them understand the aviation business and how it affects the airport commission’s decisions.

“Paul was an excellent commissioner who set a high standard for those who were appointed after him,” said LAC Chair John Hebert. “He personally took me and many other commissioners under his wing and



led by example. His wisdom and financial knowledge will be missed, but we had him working side by side with us for 14 great years. Congratulations to Paul Guilbeau on a job well done.”



TERMINAL LOOP ROAD OPENS TO CREATE EASIER ACCESS TO TERMINAL BUILDING

Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) completed the Terminal Loop Road project that makes access to the terminal and parking areas more accessible to visitors. Once the old terminal was demolished, work began to tie the airport entrance at Blue Boulevard to Terminal Drive. The road was repaved and new signage was installed to make it easy for motorists to navigate. Terminal Loop Road was reopened to full access in November 2022.

Construction of the new road also made improvements possible to short and long-term parking entrances. It also allowed the airport to expand parking by more than 200 parking spots to a total of 966. Modern ticket dispensers and gate arms were also installed.



New Terminal Featured in Airport Improvement Magazine

The New LFT Terminal was featured in the May/June 2022 issue of Airport Improvement magazine, a national publication. The article provides a detailed look into how the terminal project progressed. It covers the original planning, construction method selection, funding from numerous sources, and why the building was designed in a particular fashion to reflect the community.



The article emphasizes the project being a true community-wide effort. It details how the community voted to tax themselves for eight months in 2015, which provided \$34 million that LFT officials leveraged for additional funding from federal and state sources. The article also features the design concept process in which LFT leadership asked the community to vote on which of two designs they liked best.

The entire article is online at <https://bit.ly/3yRNDhw>.



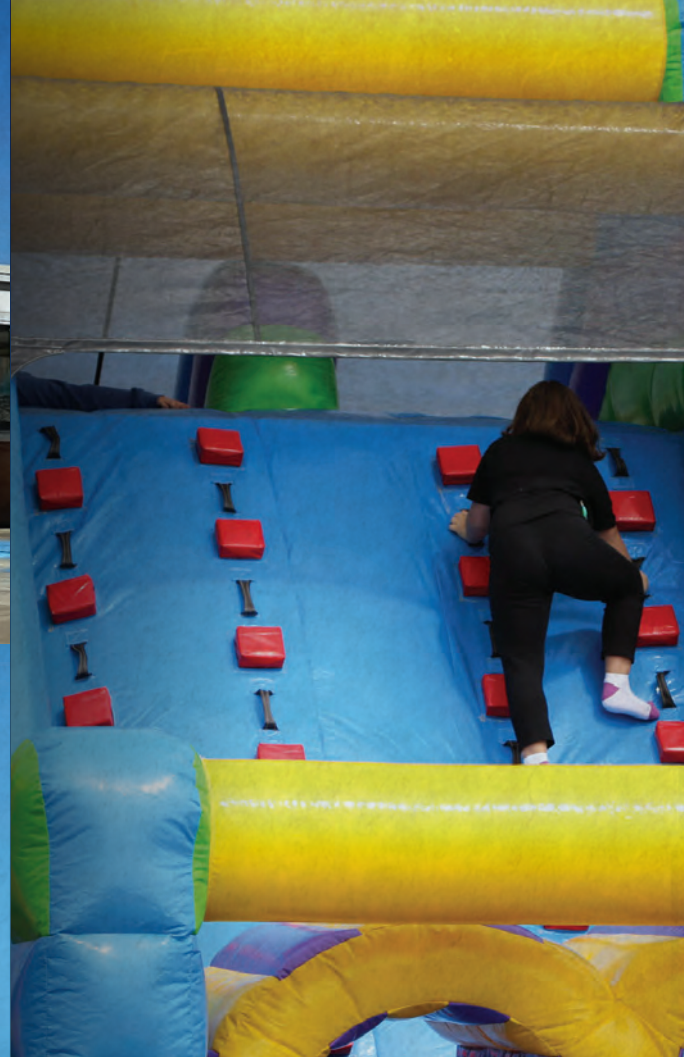


LAFAYETTE REGIONAL AIRPORT ACQUIRES LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM PROPERTY

Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) and the Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS) agreed in May 2022 to LFT's purchase of 10.8 acres of land for \$4.2 million, including LPSS administrative offices and other buildings located at 113 Chaplin Dr. As part of the purchase agreement, LFT will lease the property back to LPSS for two years for \$273,201 per year to provide time for LPSS to renovate and move to a new location. After the two-year lease ends, LPSS will continue to lease a warehouse and two small subsidiary buildings for three additional years for \$51,440 per year.

"This was an easy decision for the Lafayette Airport Commission," said chair John Hebert. "We're basically landlocked, with a finite amount of property on the airport grounds that LFT can use for future growth. This was a unique opportunity for us to acquire land that connects with our existing LFT site."

As for plans to develop the property, LFT Executive Director Steven Picou said, "This provides a significant opportunity for growth beyond our existing footprint. As was the case with the opening of the new terminal earlier this year and improvements to hangars and taxiways, when Lafayette Parish grows, LFT must grow as well."



Aviation Fun Day Returns to Lafayette Regional Airport

For the first time in three years, after COVID-19 caused its cancellation, the 33rd annual Aviation Fun Day was held Saturday, October 8, 2022, under clear skies and comfortable temperatures.



Aviation Fun Day aims to show children ages five to 12 there are many opportunities in aviation if they choose to follow that career path. Aviation Fun Day drew more than 240 children and adults to the Air Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) station. Activities included music, coloring contests, a firefighting demonstration, fun jumps and slides, a tour of LFT's airfield, static plane displays, and prize drawings. Lunch was also provided.

"We had a good turnout for the event, and the kids really had a lot of fun. We're glad to be able to bring it back," said LFT Executive Director Steven Picou. "The airport staff works hard to put this event on, and they did a great job of organizing it again. Our airport team is already looking forward to planning Aviation Fun Day 2023."





OLD TERMINAL DEMOLISHED AFTER 74 YEARS OF SERVING TRAVELERS

Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) began offering commercial air service in 1948 when Eastern Airlines began operation. For the next 74 years, the old terminal provided safe and secure air service to passengers from Acadiana and beyond. In 1989, the interior of the terminal was renovated and the gates were moved to the second floor. From 1989 through 2019, the airport saw steady growth in the number of passengers. By 2019, passenger levels exceeded 530,000. Since the pandemic, travel has rebounded with more than 457,000 flying LFT in 2022.

Due to post-9/11 security requirements, the terminal size and the growth of the number of passengers mandated security changes that the terminal was not built to accommodate.

There would be no further renovations to the old terminal and instead the new, more modern and larger facility was built next to it.

The old terminal closed forever at midnight on January 20, 2022. The old jet bridges were removed and in August of 2022, the old terminal was demolished in a matter of weeks to make way for future expansion of the new terminal, additional parking and a green space for passengers and visitors to enjoy.

Many have shared stories about how much they enjoyed the old terminal as the starting point for visiting relatives, memorable vacations and important business trips. The demolition of the old terminal marked the end of an aviation era in Acadiana.



Lafayette Regional Airport Named Commercial Service Airport of the Year

Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) was recognized by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as Commercial Service Airport of the Year in Louisiana. The award was presented at the 2022 Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates annual conference, which was held in Lafayette.

“It’s such an honor to receive this statewide recognition for LFT the same year we opened our new terminal,” said Lafayette Airport Commission Chair John Hebert. “A lot of people worked hard to make our airport the outstanding facility it is today. This award reinforces that others in the aviation industry have taken notice of their work and rewarded them for it.”

“On behalf of the entire department, I would like to congratulate Lafayette Regional Airport,” said Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D. “DOTD encompasses much more than roads and bridges, we are in the business of mobility and their work is a testament. The multimodal aspect of our business, in the case of aviation, is a major component that impacts communities across Louisiana. For our citizens, businesses, and visitors, air travel is obviously an important part of our economy.”

To be eligible for the Airport of the Year award, an airport must have managed all maintenance inspection issues, managed all significant safety-related features and made a significant impact on aviation through safety improvements/practices, construction, development or management of aviation resources.



Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) was recognized by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as Commercial Service Airport of the Year and Executive Director Steven Picou received honors as the David Slayter Memorial Louisiana Aviation Professional of the Year.

Executive Director Recognized as Louisiana Aviation Professional of the Year

Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) Executive Director Steven Picou was named Louisiana Aviation Professional of the Year at the Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates conference in October 2022. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Shawn Wilson recognized Picou “based on his superior achievement and professional leadership in the field of aviation.”

“While it is certainly an honor to receive this award, it is shared with the staff and airport commissioners I work closely with every day. We work hard to make LFT the best airport it can be for our customers. I look at challenges at our airport as an opportunity for improvement. It is nice that others recognize that fact,” said Picou.

Also in Summer 2022, LFT’s Executive Director was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the South Central Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (SCCAAE), a professional association comprised of individuals and businesses involved in the management of airports in the Midwest, Southwest and Southern regions of the United States and Central America.

Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) Offers Visitor Pass Program



We frequently receive requests from those who want to visit the new terminal even though they don't have a ticket to fly. For the first time ever, we've made it easy to watch planes take off and land, grab a meal and see what our modern facility has to offer, all without a boarding pass. Now you can get through the security checkpoint with a **Visitor's Pass**, which we began offering in 2022.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) authorized LFT to allow members of the community to visit and explore our new terminal after a background check. Application forms are available online at lftairport.com and must be dropped off in the administrative offices at least 48 hours prior to their planned visit. Visitors can also email the form and a copy of their driver's license to airport@lftairport.com.

A Visitor Pass is good for one day and can be picked up from the Airport Administrative Office or at the Airport Security/Police Office on the second floor of the terminal on the day of the visit. Only ten (10) passes will be issued each day and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visitor Passes for Saturday or Sunday require a 72-hour submittal period prior to use. Weekend passes can be picked up at the Airport Police Office, Room 204, rather than from the Airport Receptionist and must be used on the date issued.

FLC WELCOMES ITS 12,000TH MEMBER



The Fly Lafayette Club (FLC) welcomed its 12,000th member, Lance Hardin of Duson, in October 2022. Lance received prizes from each of FLC's sponsors and special recognition by the Lafayette Airport Commission. Lance says he "flies weekly" from Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT) and swipes his card every time. He was not previously a FLC member until a friend suggested he join while on a trip to Las Vegas. Little did he know, by signing up, his registration marked a new milestone for the FLC.

The FLC was reintroduced in 2014 with just 164 members. Local businesses sponsor the Fly Lafayette Club and provide gift cards to many local restaurants and passes to local attractions that are given out in monthly drawings to those who swipe and fly. The FLC is free and easy to join. Members can sign up online at lftairport.com or on two kiosks located in the gate areas on the second floor. Members are mailed a card they can swipe at the kiosks every time they fly in or out of LFT and be automatically entered in that month's drawing.



(Left to right) Lance Hardin, Chairman John Hebert and Executive Director Steven Picou

JOIN THE FLY LFT CLUB

Thank You for Flying Lafayette!

JOIN. SWIPE. WIN.

The Fly Lafayette Club™ (FLC) was created by the Lafayette Airport Commission as a form of Lagniappe or "something extra" offered to FLC members, with no obligations, as a way for our airport and FLC sponsors to say, "Thank You for Flying Lafayette!"

THANK YOU SPONSORS

FLC sponsors support this free-to-join, passenger-centered travel rewards program by providing monthly prizes that are awarded to FLC members who have flown during the previous month and whose names were chosen through a computer-generated random drawing. To learn about becoming a sponsor, call us directly at (337) 233-6473 and ask for Melissa O'Neal or email melissa@sides.com.

2022 SPONSORS

The Dog Stop (Lafayette, LA)	Children's Museum of Acadiana	Poor Boy's Riverside Inn
Acadiana Kitchen + Bar	Flowers & More by Dean	Raising Cane's (Kaliste Saloom Rd.)
Acadiana Travel	Fun Nation	Rip Van Winkle Gardens
Agave Mexican Cuisine (Agave Mexican Grill and Cantina)	Jet Coffee	Republic Parking System (part of the REEF network)
Baba Kabab	Kart Ranch	Sandra's Café & Health Food Store
Bayou Vermilion District/Vermilionville	Marcello's Lafayette (Marcello's Wine Market Café)	SOCIAL Southern Table & Bar
Bon Temps Grill	Lagneaux's	Suit Up
Café Coachella	Office Hours Sandwich Shop	The TAP Room
Cajun Food Tours	Olde Tyme Grocery	Vestal Restaurant
Charley G's	Pete's	Zeus (Johnston Street location)

NON-STOP TO 4 DESTINATIONS



LAFAYETTE
REGIONAL
AIRPORT

Passengers can fly non-stop to **four (4) destinations**
from Lafayette Regional Airport (LFT).

PARTNERS






LAFAYETTE REGIONAL AIRPORT



 /LafayetteRegionalAirport

 /FlyLafayetteClub

 /LFTAairport

Lafayette Regional Airport

200 Terminal Drive

Lafayette, LA 70508

(337) 703-4800

www.lftairport.com