

PRESS RELEASE

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FRENCH LICK AIRPORT RECIEVES AIRPORT OF THE YEAR AWARD

French Lick, IN-47432- The Aviation Association of Indiana announced the selection of the eighth annual **AIRPORT OF THE YEAR AWARD** to the French Lick Airport. The award includes a cash grant in the amount of \$1,000 to be given to an eligible 501 (c) community organizations of the Airport's choosing. The Airport Board has designated that the French Lick West Baden Museum will receive this year's grant.

Selection of the Airport of the Year is made after an evaluation of the Airport's role in promoting aviation safety, education, economic development, and corporate citizenship. The program is a cooperative effort between the Aviation Association of Indiana (AAI), the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Indiana Department of Transportation – Office of Aviation, and aviation industry sponsors to annually recognize an outstanding airport.

In making the selection of the French Lick Airport, the aviation organizations highlighted the role that the Airport has played in economic development with the new Terminal Building and the new Parallel Taxiway, educating students on the role the Airport plays in the community, and expanding the knowledge of emergency responders to aircraft incidents. The Airport has also used social media efforts to keep the public informed on current events.

Accepting the award for the Airport was Mr. Bill Kimmel, President of the French Lick Board of Aviation Commissioners, at the Annual Aviation Association of Indiana conference in Plymouth, Indiana on October 13, 2011. Mr. Kimmel stated, "Everyone associated with the French Lick Airport has been working very hard for the last four years to enhance and improve our Airport. Being awarded the AAI "Airport of the Year" award is the crown jewel of this effort and I believe it will enhance our efforts for future growth and development. Brian Payne and his staff deserve significant credit for their professionalism, dedication, and perseverance in the pursuit of this award."

Airport Manager Brian Payne commented, “It is an honor to have French Lick named Airport of the Year for 2011. This award will show the citizens of French Lick how vital this Airport is to the continued success of French Lick and West Baden. Myself, the Board of Aviation Commissioners, and all of our employees have worked diligently to bring the Airport to the next level and that hard work has paid off, however, we will not stop working to make this Airport even better. Security/wildlife fencing and the Airport Access Road project are around the corner and the possibilities are endless with this facility. I would like to thank the Airport Board, the Town Council, the French Lick Resort, and all of our employees for their continued support. It is with a combined effort that we have won Airport of the Year and we will need that effort to continue this forward momentum.”



Pictured from left to right: Board Member Mark Stanfield, Board Vice President Tom McCracken, AAI Director Bart Giesler, Airport Manager Brian Payne, Board President Bill Kimmel, Board Member Evan Cox