



# BOARDING PASS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ABE)



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## READY TO FLY!

Transitioning from winter to spring signals the takeoff to the travel season!

Popular nonstop routes have returned, and airlines have also expanded flight options at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE).

"We see a pent-up demand for people to get out of the house and go places," said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

"We hear more and more people are making vacation plans, are ready to travel, and definitely looking at Summer 2021 to do it," said Stoudt.



Since the start of 2021, all airlines (Allegiant, American, Delta, and United) operating at ABE have increased capacity:

- Allegiant Air has daily flights to Orlando/Sanford (SFB), has resumed service to Savannah (SAV), and flights to Myrtle Beach (MYR) begin on April 15th.
- American Airlines and United Airlines have resumed service to Chicago-O'Hare (ORD).
- Delta Air Lines has added a second daily flight to Atlanta (ATL).

If you have not used your neighborhood airport in a while, the Fly Safe with ABE program ensures an enjoyable and convenient travel experience by producing the healthiest environment for family, friends, and travel companions.

"We've strengthened and adapted ABE's terminal complex with the necessary tools for customers to experience a noticeable enhancement to the facility," said Stoudt.

Here is an important travel checklist:

1. Masks or face coverings are a federal requirement when in or on Airport property for all person's ages 2 and older. Failure to comply may result in being escorted from the property or potential criminal charges. For additional information, visit CDC.GOV
2. Adhere to social distancing signs and floor markings.
3. TSA allows one liquid hand sanitizer container up to 12 ounces per passenger in a carry-on bag.
4. Wash or sanitize your hands frequently throughout the travel process.

We look forward to seeing you again! Visit FlyABE.com to book your next trip.



### Nonstop to:

- Fort Lauderdale (FLL)
- Myrtle Beach (MYR)
- Nashville (BNA)
- Orlando Sanford (SFB)
- Punta Gorda (PGD)
- Sarasota (SRQ)
- Savannah (SAV)
- St. Petersburg (PIE)



### Nonstop to:

- Charlotte (CLT)
- Chicago (ORD)



### Nonstop to:

- Atlanta (ATL)
- Detroit (DTW)



### Nonstop to:

- Chicago (ORD)
- Newark (EWR)
- Washington, D.C. (IAD)



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LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



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**FLYER FEEDBACK - "I'VE FLOWN OUT OF ABE MANY TIMES. EVERY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN GREAT. THE 5 STARS ARE FOR THE ACCESSIBILITY, CLEANLINESS, FRIENDLINESS, AND OVERALL GOOD VIBES." – BRANDI M.**



## CHARGING UP FOR SPRING!

As people begin traveling again over the next few months, Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) is charged up!

Completion of a \$1.7 million parking lot renovation project includes the installation of five (5) dual port electric vehicle charging stations supplied by ChargePoint. A total of ten (10) of these parking spots will be available for customers using the Short-term Parking Lot.

“Customers expect the latest innovations and technologies from the parking lot to the ticket counter when choosing to fly from ABE. We believe this amenity demonstrates our continued commitment to alternative energy sources,” said Ryan Meyer, Director of Planning & Programming, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

The Short-term Parking Lot remains closed and is expected to re-open this spring.



## 15 MINUTE RESULTS

Since January 4, 2021, approximately 4,000 customers have received COVID-19 rapid testing at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE). 15 Minute Results offers this drive-through test location for Airport travelers and the local Lehigh Valley community.

Clients have access to FDA-approved Antigen COVID-19 testing and results are delivered in under 15 minutes. Results are CLIA laboratory certified and securely delivered to the client’s cell phone via push notification. Tests are self-administered.

With 15 Minute Results on site, travelers can comply with CDC guidelines for testing when traveling.

“The Fly Safe with ABE program has built a foundation of trust among passengers using our facilities, and we’ve been working hard to secure a COVID testing site. The arrival of 15 Minute Results Rapid Testing only enhances the ability of ABE to ensure everyone’s customer experience is healthy and safe when taking off or landing at your neighborhood airport,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

For more information, please visit: [15MinuteResult.com](https://15MinuteResult.com).



## NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

They were given a special assignment: Lock-up that razor!

For the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority Police Department, the order was easy to follow but it was not given by Chief Timothy K. Koder.

Fighting bile duct cancer, LNAA Properties Manager Makala Ashmar challenged her friends in blue at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) to continue their participation in No Shave November.

The purpose of No Shave November is encouraging individuals to put down the razor for 30 days and let your facial hair grow to create awareness of the ongoing battle against cancer.

100% of the monies raised are donated to “For Pete’s Sake Cancer Respite Foundation” – a non-profit organization that helps cancer patients create some ease in their life by sending them on a vacation.

“Makala always wanted to pay it forward to another young person facing cancer,” said Marci Schankweiler, Founder and CEO, For Pete’s Sake Cancer Respite Foundation.

Unfortunately, Makala lost her battle to cancer on September 5th, 2020.



“When I think about her, the words bubbly, bold, brave, and beautiful immediately come to mind. What we can take away from this campaign is the impact Makala made on all our lives,” said Schankweiler.

In 2020, the LNAA police were able to raise \$1,400 during their campaign – surpassing 2019’s campaign of \$1,050.

“Makala had a special place in her heart for this organization and we wanted to beat our previous record of donations. Hopefully, someone else facing the tough challenge fighting cancer can go on a much-needed vacation,” said Sgt. Steve Gensits.

Mission accomplished for Makala!



## NEW YEAR... NEW OUTLOOK

Not since 1972 had Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) experienced passenger traffic numbers dipping below 400,000 – only 390,764 travelers used ABE in 2020.

Twelve months after the COVID-19 pandemic stifled commercial aviation, Airport Executive Director Tom Stoudt is cautiously optimistic that a turnaround is on the horizon.

“Vaccinations and the enhanced safety protocols throughout the aviation system have built a foundation of trust with travelers. These two elements are instrumental in our return to normalcy for the industry,” said Stoudt.

So far, January and February passenger traffic has remained steady in 2021. Thank you for trusting your neighborhood airport!

## 2021 TOTAL PASSENGERS: JANUARY – 23,545 / FEBRUARY – 26,299

It is important to remember ABE celebrated a series of positive moments despite the pandemic, including the arrival of a two-aircraft Allegiant Crew Base – bringing 60-plus new jobs to the region and new air service to Sarasota (SRQ) and Chicago-Midway (MDW). Plus, United Airlines expanded their travel footprint with the takeoff of twice daily nonstop service to Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD).

“Adding three new routes during a time of great uncertainty surrounding commercial air service reflects the strong commitment by our airline partners to ensure options for the Lehigh Valley and surrounding communities,” said Stoudt.

Passengers are encouraged to learn more about COVID-19 prevention efforts at ABE, plus TSA and airline travel requirements by visiting: [FlyABE.com](http://FlyABE.com)



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The Canines Offering Passengers Encouragement (C.O.P.E.) program celebrated its 5-year anniversary at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) on December 28, 2020.

The program at ABE currently consists of 21 therapy dogs and their handlers who provide plenty of smiles, occasional tricks, several wet noses, and loads of comfort with enjoyable visits to passengers throughout the airport travel experience.

Please enjoy [this video](#) from some of our C.O.P.E. members.



## NONSTOP HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Holiday traditions were never in danger of being delayed or canceled at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) in December.

Passengers enjoyed the sights, sounds, and spirit of the season starting with the Annual Festival of Trees located in the Main Terminal. All trees were donated by Unangst Tree Farms, located in Bath, PA.

“Due to the pandemic, we were unable to invite local schools to decorate the trees. Instead, the Airport reached out to several non-profit organizations in the region, and they did a fantastic job,” said Paula Bonstein, Manager of Customer Experience, LNAA.

A very special thank you to The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties, Dream Come True, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley for participating in this event.

Using a virtual format, the Holiday Concert Series allowed local schools to submit a pre-recorded performance that played over the public address system throughout the terminal to entertain passengers.

The North Pole Charity Flight changed course in 2020, ensuring the safe and successful takeoff of this important community outreach program.

ABE partnered with The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties for a drive-thru gift-giving event by surprising 50 families from The Arc’s Advocacy Program.

Children ages 5-13 years old received holiday gift boxes containing items donated from companies that advertise at the Airport including: sensory items, activity books, toys, and much more.

“The holiday events calendar is full of opportunities for us to work with our local community and deliver a festive environment for air travelers,” said Bonstein.

## DECK THE HOWLS WITH TREATS!

For a second consecutive year, the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) made a special delivery to the Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley (AFBLV). Donations have been collected during two-week drives at all three Lehigh Valley aviation facilities (ABE, XLL, N43).

“Pets are an important part of my family and for some, a pet is all they have,” said Kimberly Eisenhart, Operations Manager of Queen City Airport (XLL) and Braden Airpark (N43).

The AFBLV mission is to keep companion animals in loving homes and prevent their surrender to the shelter system by supplying families with pet food in times of economic distress.

So far, Kimi’s efforts have yielded 1,473 lbs. of animal food and supplies.

“I can’t say thank you enough to my co-workers, family, and friends for engaging in the two-week drives the past couple of years. The reaction from the Animal Food Bank when my car pulls up is excitement and appreciation,” said Eisenhart.

For more information on the Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley, please visit their website: [AFBLV.com](http://AFBLV.com)





## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Richard Hildebrand**

Rick started working at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) as a Firefighter on May 12, 2015, and currently holds the position of ARFF (Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting) Lieutenant. He has been in the Fire / EMS service since 1982 serving Lehigh Township, Northampton County.

His career path as a first responder started as a junior firefighter and climbed the ladder through the ranks to attain the current position of Fire Chief for Lehigh Township Volunteer Fire Company #1 for the past 14 years.

In 1982, Rick started as a junior firefighter at age 16, upon turning 18 became an interior firefighter, several years later was promoted to Lieutenant, moved to an Assistant Fire Chief position for several years, then to Fire Chief.

Rick attended numerous colleges and fire schools such as Northampton County Community College, Lehigh County Community College, Harrisburg Community College, PA State Fire Academy, and the National Fire Academy. He also has acquired several certifications such as Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor, HazMat Specialist, Vehicle Rescue Technician, Swift Water Rescue Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, Communication Specialist, and County Emergency Management Professional Certification.

On his time off, he enjoys all types of outdoor activities like camping and hunting. He has a fondness for technology working with computers and two-way radio systems.

Rick is married to his wife Christine and they have a daughter Ashley.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER



**Karen Bader**

Karen Bader is a resident of Bethlehem, PA and has been a volunteer at ABE since 2006.

She enjoys being a friendly presence, assisting passengers, answering their questions, filling our bookshelves, and helping at special and unique charitable events.

Karen attended City College (CCNY) in New York City (NYC), earning a Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master's in Chemistry. After graduation, she developed products as a formulating chemist for Shulton, Inc. (Old Spice) before joining the Muscular Dystrophy Association, developing analytical tests. Education became a career focus, as she taught Regents Exams Chemistry in NYC until 1962 and Organic Chemistry at Moravian College, until retiring in 1997.

Karen and her husband raised 4 children and had numerous pets. You name it, they had it - 4 legs, 2 legs, no legs.

She enjoys gardening, both floral and vegetable. The local birds, rabbits, raccoons, and squirrels enjoy it all, often before she gets a chance to do so. Keeping up with her family, including 4 children, 10 grandchildren, volunteering, pet care, and gardening results in a very useful, busy, happy, full life according to Karen.

Beyond ABE, Karen actively volunteers including Musikfest (since 1984, the first year of the festival), ArtsQuest, Touchstone Theatre, State Theatre, Muhlenberg College Theatre, Pennsylvania Playhouse, The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and the inpatient Pharmacy at Lehigh Valley Health Network-Muhlenberg Hospital Campus.



**ABE'S TRAVEL TIP** – Leave prohibited items at home. To reduce the likelihood of physical contact with TSA officers at the checkpoint, check for prohibited items by using the “What Can I Bring?” page on TSA.gov.