



BOARDING PASS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ABE)



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Grand Opening!

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) joined Tailwind Hospitality, Inc. for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the arrival of The Draffhouse at ABE.

“Judging by the number of passengers sitting around the bar, this is quickly becoming a popular destination within the Airport,” said Thomas Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority.

Providing a full menu of food and beverages, The Draffhouse replaces the PA Pub in the Wilfred M. “Wiley” Post Jr. Concourse which opened in 2012.

“When the ABE folks had this tremendous vision to open up the middle of their concourse, it gave us an amazing opportunity to really bring our prototypical bar to life and spread our wings,” said Jess Backhaus, Senior Vice President of Operations, Tailwinds Hospitality, Inc.

The Draffhouse operates from 5:00 a.m. (daily) until the last departure.

As the first phase of a major overhaul of new concessions at ABE, there is a lot of excitement surrounding the next few months of construction.

“Besides the new Draffhouse, the list of options will continue to grow with the opening of Which Wich® - and a familiar establishment to Lehigh Valley residents, Zekraft,” said Stoudt.



Nonstop to:

- Denver (DEN)
- Fort Lauderdale (FLL)
- Melbourne (MLB)
- Myrtle Beach (MYR)
- Nashville (BNA)
- Orlando (MCO)
- Orlando Sanford (SFB)
- Punta Gorda (PGD)
- Sarasota (SRQ)
- St. Petersburg (PIE)



Nonstop to:

- Charlotte (CLT)
- Philadelphia (PHL)



Nonstop to:

- Atlanta (ATL)



Nonstop to:

- Chicago (ORD)
- Newark (EWR)



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LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



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FLYER FEEDBACK - “Honestly the best airport to use. Very quick in and out, never packed. Small and much less stressful than other ones. If you’re able to fly out of here or into here, I would absolutely do so.” - Rider D.



Ready to go to MCO!

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) staff joined the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) Board of Governors and Allegiant passengers for the start of nonstop flights to Orlando International Airport (MCO) in May.

One lucky passenger was the winner of (2) roundtrip ticket vouchers aboard Allegiant.

Festivities included a ceremonial ribbon cutting, traditional water arch for the departing aircraft, plus delicious treats from Mary Ann's Donut Kitchen and cookies from Amy's Creative Cakes. Thank you to Events by BalloonWorks for creating a sunny environment in the terminal.



One of the best in the US!

The votes were counted, and Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) has been recognized as one of the Best Small Airports in the country.

(15) Airports nationwide were nominated by the Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards in April, with the top ten winners announced in May.



- Huntsville International Airport
- Lehigh Valley International Airport
- Seattle Pain Field
- Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport
- Bangor International Airport
- Missoula Montana Airport
- Springfield-Branson National Airport
- Wilmington International Airport
- Blue Grass Airport
- Wichita Eisenhower Airport

"We're appreciative of everyone who voted to support their neighborhood Airport. ABE remains focused on ensuring that passengers enjoy the highest level of service throughout the entire travel experience, and this Newsweek Readers' Choice Award helps to affirm that the efforts of our dedicated staff and stakeholders rank among the best in the country," Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

For more information, visit <https://www.newsweek.com/readerschoice/best-small-airport>

Happy Anniversary, BNA!

Allegiant passengers boarded through a balloon arch, and enjoyed delicious cookies shaped as guitars and musical notes courtesy of Amy's Creative Cakes to commemorate the 5-year anniversary of nonstop flights from ABE to Nashville (BNA)!



Passenger Surge

The busiest travel season of the year is already producing strong results at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE).

May - 85,243 (16.4% increase from May '23)

June - 98,589 (17.1% increase from June '23)

Thank you for choosing us!



Wings for All!

In partnership with The Arc of Lehigh & Northampton Counties and Delta Airlines (Endeavor), Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) welcomed the return of Wings for All®.

“For families who thought they would never be able to travel by air, this event provides hope. The rehearsal takes place right in their own community and makes air travel a true possibility for them,” said Karen Shoemaker, CEO of The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

A trademarked program, Wings for All® is designed specifically for individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Wings for All® participants experience the following:

- Check-in at the ticket counter
- Security screening by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- Boarding a Delta Airlines aircraft
- Tour of the Sensory Room located in the Gate Concourse
- Depart the aircraft and enjoy refreshments during a special reception



For the first time at ABE, Delta Airlines (Endeavor) provided staff and an aircraft for the Wings for All® event.

“At Delta, we believe travel is for everyone, and we’re proud to support this program that furthers our ongoing efforts to create a world that is more inclusive and accessible for all,” said Brandon Osterman, Delta’s Regional Manager - East.

Since 2014, this one-of-a-kind program has positively impacted approximately 400 individuals across the Lehigh Valley and throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

“With the addition of our Sensory Room in 2018, to offering the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard program in 2022, we’re extremely proud to continue working with regional / global organizations to provide and expand resources for all air travelers,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

Visit from the Doc!

Built during World War II, this historic Boeing B-29 Superfortress made two stops at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) in May.

Known as, “Doc”, this aircraft is one of only two remaining B-29s that are still airworthy and flying today. Flight deck and ground tours, as well as 30-minute Doc Flight Experience rides were available to the public.

“It was a technology marvel as the first high altitude, pressurized, and all electric bomber ever made, with a computerized gun system,” said Josh Wells Executive Director & General Manager of Doc’s Friends Inc.



Future Firefighters!

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) hosted the first annual Junior Fire Camp with (20) campers attending the two-day event.

Campers participated in fire extinguisher training, search & rescue operations, learned about fire safety plans, and watched demonstrations of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) vehicles.

“The program is designed to teach kids how to save lives, prevent a fire in their house, just promote safety, whether it’s here at the airport, at home, at school, or with their friends,” said Greg Hill, Captain, ARFF.



Prepared for an Emergency

Over 250 emergency response personnel from approximately 40 different agencies participated in a full-scale disaster exercise of the Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE).

The exercise is required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) every three years.

Thank you to the approximately 70 volunteer role players who were moulaged to simulate injuries for training purposes.





Learning about Aviation

Springhouse and Orefield Middle Schools (Parkland School District) each held a STEAMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Medical) Expo this spring for 6th grade students to showcase their projects that demonstrated a particular STEAMM aspect.



Altogether, approximately 900 students participated in both events.

Students who visited the ABE table participated in making and decorating a paper airplane to fly with our Customer Experience team.

Employee Appreciation

This year's Employee Appreciation events have been a delicious mix of menus to satisfy every appetite!

Thank you to Borderline Restaurant, Isabella's Pizza, Danny's Food Truck, Philly Pretzel Factory, Geakers Taco Truck, BJ's, Arctic Ice Cream Truck, Grubnight Food Truck and Wegmans!



Adventures Await at ABE!

In April, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) employees invited their children for an adventure at the Airport and to learn about jobs at ABE.



The Annual "Take Your Child to Work Day" event included a busy itinerary for 17 kids which included:

Check-in to receive a boarding pass for an airfield tour with Bus Driver Captain – Brian Dennis, Operations & Safety Manager.

A scheduled layover at the Maintenance Building to see snow removal equipment.

Landing at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Department (ARFF) for truck and emergency response demonstrations.

Before departure, the kids enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Chick-fil-A and games.



Thank you, Volunteers!

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) recognized our amazing volunteers who serve in the C.O.P.E. (Canines Offering Passengers Encouragement), Navigator, and Junior Navigator programs.

From sharing their adorable dogs to reduce the stress of air travel to assisting passengers with a friendly smile, their contributions are invaluable to delivering the highest level of customer service. "Thank You" snacks were available in the Volunteer Room, and every volunteer received an appreciation pin for their lanyard.





Employee Spotlight



**Christopher
"Chris" White**

Chris grew up in Slatington and graduated from Northern Lehigh High School. After graduation, he moved to Jim Thorpe, and currently lives in Lehighton with his family.

He started his career at Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) in April 2022, as a supervisor of the FBO (Fixed Based Operator) at Hangar 7.

When not at work, Chris enjoys spending time with his wife, Janine, and their daughter, Skylye. He also enjoys playing video games and attending air shows.

Volunteer Spotlight



**Dedra Sobol and Arlene Barats
(Navigator Volunteers)**

Dedra and Arlene work together through Via of the Lehigh Valley where Arlene supports Dedra to explore community settings.

One of Dedra's favorite activities is volunteering for the Navigators Volunteer Program at ABE because she loves meeting people who are excited for their trip and interacting with Airport staff. Her hobbies include gymnastics, swimming, soccer and competing at the Special Olympics every year.

Arlene enjoys walking, swimming, and roller skating. Together, they challenge each other to find new activities they can enjoy as a team.

