



ALASKA AIR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

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The Alaska Air Carriers Association (AACAA) is a membership organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for the Alaskan commercial aviation community. Recently, the Medallion Foundation, the safety organization for the Alaskan commercial aviation companies, announced it would close their doors on September 15, 2019.

Matt Atkinson, AACAA President states “The Medallion Foundation was created in the early 2000’s with the support of Senator Ted Stevens and moved the needles advancing safety programs and the aviation culture in Alaska. AACAA will work to develop options that address member concerns to advance voluntary safety programs relevant to their company size and activity, audits, and simulator training. Safety is AACAA's number one priority.”

The Medallion Foundation provided training to assist carriers with development of voluntary safety programs, mentored them on attaining compliance with those programs, and then audited their continuing compliance. Medallion also provided flight training devices or “simulators” in many hub communities throughout Alaska, which were used by the commercial aviation industry to support CFIT (controlled flight into terrain) prevention training, and which were also used extensively by general aviation pilots to supplement their instrument flight training.

AACAA will take a measured and purposeful approach in response to challenges brought on by the loss of volunteer programs and services previously offered through the Medallion Foundation and valued by the membership.

AACAA Executive Director Jane Dale summarized next steps, “Our members are moving forward on safety and AACAA will be there to support their efforts”.

Lastly, AACAA will continue to advocate for safety priorities established by the membership, including:

- New infrastructure to support instrument and visual flight rules.
- Encourage Alaskan air carriers use of instrument flight rules when available.
- Address membership issues and concerns related to the loss of Medallion Safety Programs.
- Advocate for programs to address work force issues in Alaska.