

## Calendar of Events

- CAC Meeting**  
First Tuesday of every month excluding holidays
- Friends of VNY Meeting**  
Second Thursday of every other month
- BOAC Meeting**  
3 times per year
- April 2nd Rotary Club Service Above Self Dinner**
- April 6th Condor Squadron Annual Egg Hunt**
- April 15th Economic Alliance Career and Health Fair**
- April 17th Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber Inaugural Dinner**
- April 19th Team LAWA SOVA Food Donation Volunteer Opportunity**
- April 25th YMCA Healthy Kids Day**
- May 7th Customs and Border Protection Ribbon Cutting Event**
- May 7th United Chambers of Commerce Women in Business Luncheon**
- May 7th Valley Presbyterian Hospital Dinner**
- May 30th Economic Alliance Valley of the Stars**
- May 2015 Encino Chamber of Commerce Annual Bowling Tournament**
- June 7th Valley Cultural Center's Concert in the Park**
- June 10th Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber BASH**
- June 11th VICA Hall of Fame**
- June 13th Team LAWA YMCA Pancake Breakfast**
- June 14th Valley Cultural Center's Concert in the Park**

## Aviation Careers Education (ACE)

Middle School July 13-17th  
High School July 27-31st

July 2015 Host LAX ACE Middle School  
July 2015 Host LAX ACE High School

## Quick Links ...

- [Van Nuys Airport Homepage](#)
- [Noise Information](#)
- [Runway 16R Improvement Project video](#)

## Tenant Corner

If you wish to submit a video or information for the FlightTracks newsletter, please submit your information to [dsanchez@lawa.org](mailto:dsanchez@lawa.org).

## Subscription List

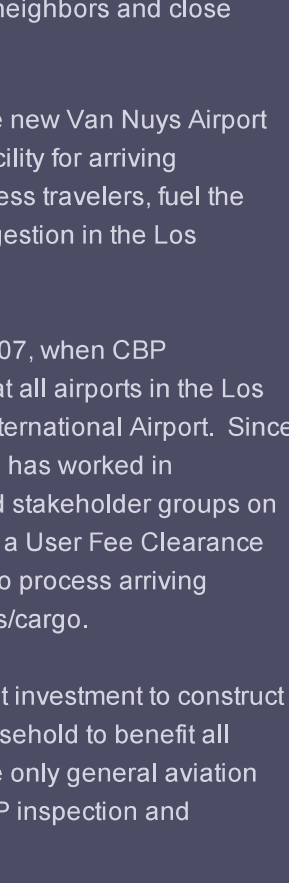
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Send their email address to [VNYPR@LAWA.ORG](mailto:VNYPR@LAWA.ORG) and we will send them a copy of the current issue and an invitation to sign-up.

## A Letter From Our Airport Manager

Greetings to all,

Already 2015 has been a very busy year with many important airport activities to improve and enhance Van Nuys Airport for our tenants and visitors. This issue of our newsletter highlights Clay Lacy Aviation's groundbreaking, another successful Aviation Career Day and other events and activities that demonstrate our commitment to our neighbors and close partnerships with our community.



We eagerly await the formal launch of the new Van Nuys Airport Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility for arriving international flights that will benefit business travelers, fuel the local economy and reduce airspace congestion in the Los Angeles Basin.

VNY has been without Customs since 2007, when CBP discontinued on-call clearance services at all airports in the Los Angeles Basin other than Los Angeles International Airport. Since then, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) has worked in partnership with VNY's major tenants and stakeholder groups on an initiative to re-designate the airport as a User Fee Clearance facility where CBP officers are assigned to process arriving international aircraft and their passengers/cargo.

With Signature Flight Support's significant investment to construct a dedicated clearance facility on their leasehold to benefit all airport tenants and users, VNY will be the only general aviation airport in Los Angeles to offer on-site CBP inspection and clearance services.

For VNY, this will be another major airport milestone and one that demonstrates how a public-private partnership can work together to accomplish great things for the benefit of users. I will share more about the exciting launch in our next issue.

Jess L. Romo, A.A.E.  
Airport Manager

## Mayor Garcetti, Councilwoman Martinez Celebrate Groundbreaking for Clay Lacy Aviation's New South Campus



Photo compliments of Clay Lacy Aviation

On February 12, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilwoman Nury Martinez (CD-6) joined members of the San Fernando Valley community to break ground on the Clay Lacy Aviation South Campus, a 6-acre expansion to Clay Lacy's current headquarters at Van Nuys Airport (VNY). The event was also attended by over 100 students from NVOC-Aviation, a VNY based aircraft mechanics school which Garcetti and Martinez helped save from closure after threatened budget cuts in 2013.

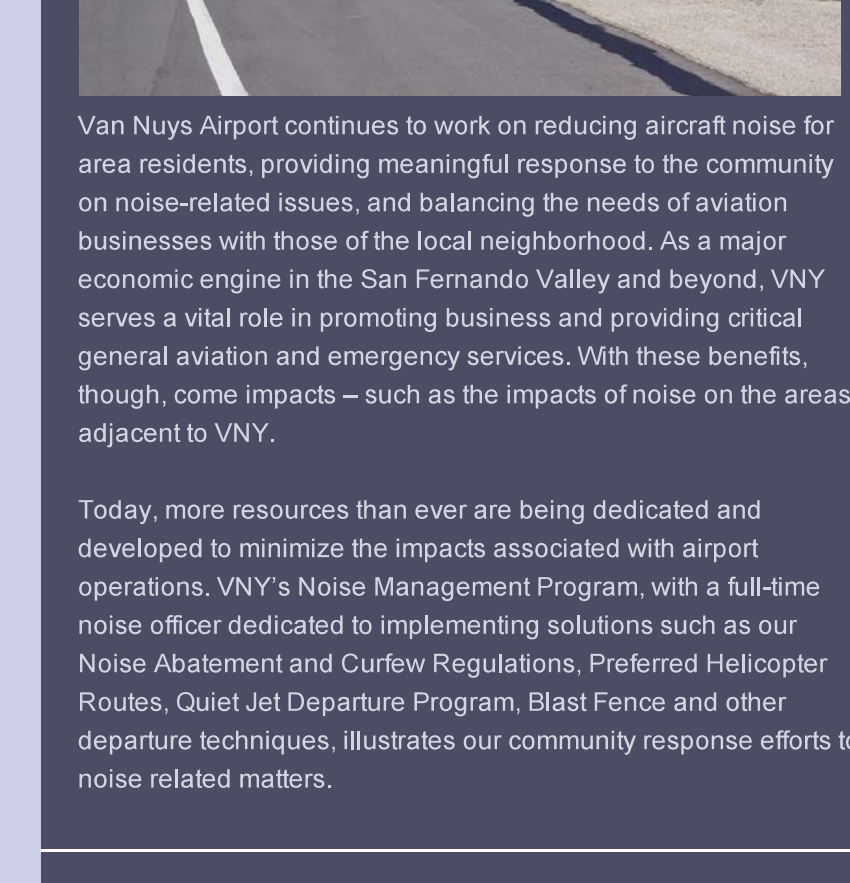
"This major financial investment in our city will boost our local economy and create good middle class jobs for Angelenos, including those young Angelenos who train at the LAUSD Van Nuys aviation mechanic school right next door," said Mayor Garcetti. "Clay Lacy Aviation is a hometown, family-owned company that has been headquartered at Van Nuys Airport for nearly half a century, generating revenue to sustain Los Angeles. Clay Lacy's growing operations demonstrate that our city is the place for businesses to start, grow and launch new ideas."

Following the welcome by Clay Lacy Aviation's President and CEO Brian Kirkdoffer, legendary aviator and company founder Clay Lacy announced a new scholarship program for two NVOC-Aviation students in financial need each year. The scholarship will cover the entire costs of tuition, tools, materials, and required Federal Aviation Administration exams.

"When I started Clay Lacy Aviation in 1968 with a single Learjet, I could never have imagined operating a fleet of 75 business jets or having more than 300 employees as we do today," Lacy said.

Designed to be Los Angeles' most secure and private corporate aviation complex, the physical orientation of Clay Lacy Aviation's South Campus is designed to keep private jet travelers completely out of view from the surrounding street and aircraft ramp areas. The complex is scheduled for completion by the end of 2015.

## Van Nuys Airport Exhibits at 2015 NBAA Conference in San Jose, CA

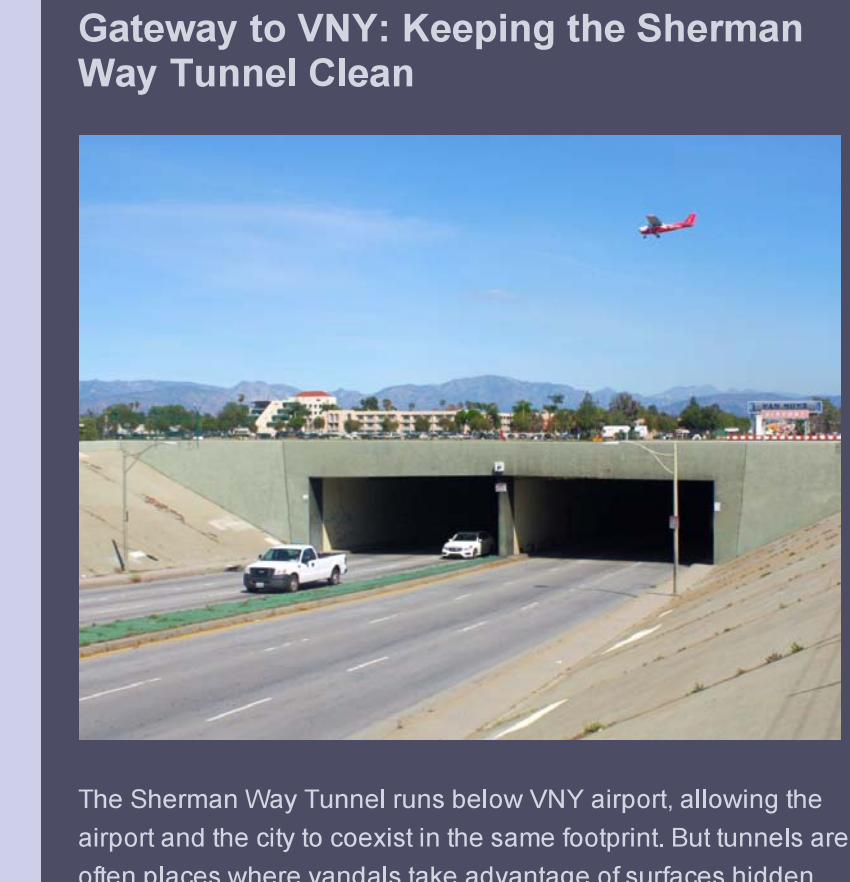


The 2015 NBAA (National Business Aviation Administration) Schedulers & Dispatchers Conference took place February 3 – 6 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, with VNY again represented at this important industry gathering. Among the latest airport enhancements announced was the return of Customs and Border Protection to one of the busiest general aviation airports in the country, which was made possible with the help of Signature Flight Support, Inc.

The focus of this year's show, safety and emergency preparedness, was brought to life with a general session featuring a live 90-minute crash scenario drill on stage with 10 role-players, air traffic control audio clips and video segments.

Also of note was the annual "Pay It Forward" clothing drive benefiting local charities in San Jose. Before the start of this year's event, industry apparel provider Shirt Boy and Landmark Aviation each committed to donating 200 new blouses, while World Fuel Services provided 400 dress shirts. Signature Flight Support sponsored a pedometer contest to determine who walked the most during the course of the show, with all proceeds going to Pay It Forward.

## Aviation Career Paths Showcased at Job Shadow Day



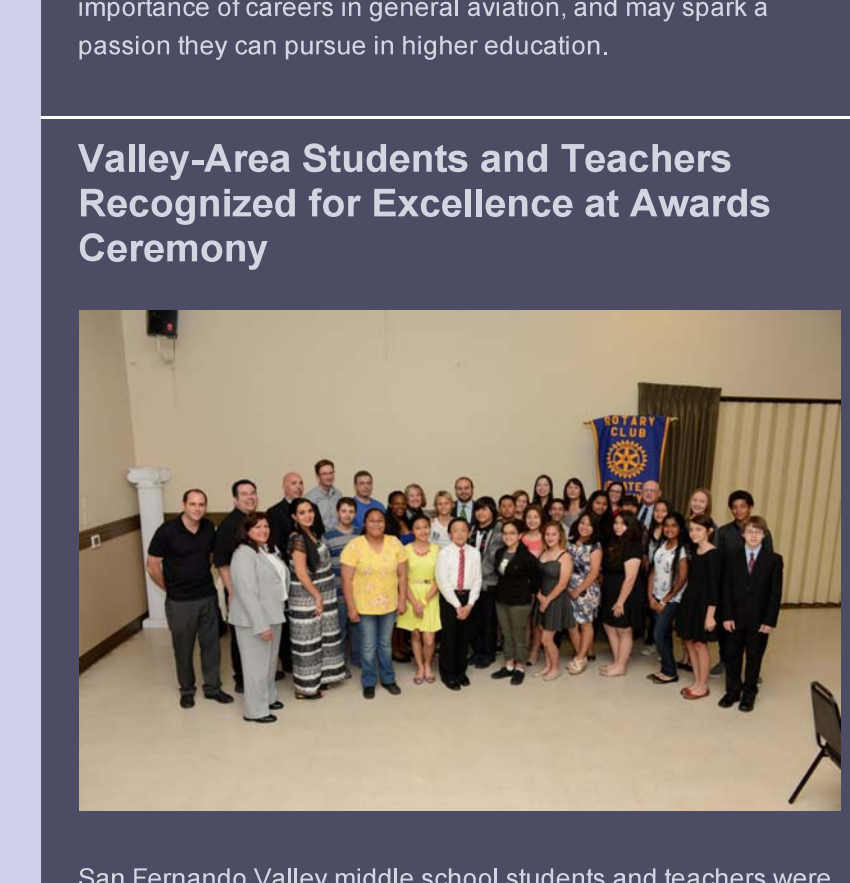
In February, 46 students from Van Nuys High School learned about various exciting aviation career paths through hands-on activities at VNY. A fun play on the annual ritual of Groundhog Day, "Van Nuys Airport's Groundhog Job Shadow Day" is held in partnership with Junior Achievement of Southern California and airport tenants that allow students to participate in a variety of aviation careers, including professional and trade occupations. This experience provides a chance for local youths to see firsthand some of the excellent job options available in their immediate community.

Students began their day with a tour of the Van Nuys Airport airfield before shadowing various airport tenant businesses including Aeroplex/Aerolease Group, Castle & Cooke, Clay Lacy, Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Station #114, MP Aero, North Valley Occupational Center, Rotor FX, Skybird Aviation, Signature Flight Support, and TWC Aviation, along with VNY Operations, Maintenance and Public Relations departments. Students were able to experience how the skills they learn in the classroom are applied in the workplace.

"We enjoy this event every year. It gives us a chance to share our company and at the same time show students what to expect in the workplace," said Norm Anderson, Chief Operating Officer at Skybird Aviation.

Counselors and students concluded the day by coming together for lunch to share their experiences.

## Working Towards a Quieter Van Nuys Airport



Van Nuys Airport continues to work on reducing aircraft noise for area residents, providing meaningful response to the community on noise-related issues, and balancing the needs of aviation businesses with those of the local neighborhood. As a major economic engine in the San Fernando Valley and beyond, VNY serves a vital role in promoting business and providing critical general aviation and emergency services. With these benefits, though, come impacts – such as the impacts of noise on the areas adjacent to VNY.

Today, more resources than ever are being dedicated and developed to minimize the impacts associated with airport operations. VNY's Noise Management Program, with a full-time noise officer dedicated to implementing solutions such as our Noise Abatement and Curfew Regulations, Preferred Helicopter Routes, Quiet Jet Departure Program, Blast Fence and other departure techniques, illustrates our community response efforts to noise related matters.

## A Look Back: Marilyn Monroe's First Job



Photo taken by Army Air Force Photographer David Conover

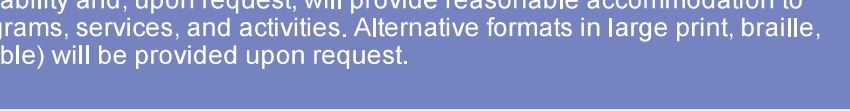
During World War II in 1944, a little known girl named Norma Jeane Dougherty was working in a factory at Van Nuys Airport. Her main job was spraying retardant on planes, but here we get a glimpse of her inside the factory helping to assemble some of the first drone aircraft used as targets for the military.

Unmanned radio controlled vehicles are not a new idea, and the first one was built by Nikola Tesla at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in the form of a small boat. In 1915, Tesla applied that technology to aircraft and suggested a "drone" that could be armed as a military defense. The actual prototype of unmanned aircraft came in 1935 when Reginald Denny built the first one in his model plane hobby shop in Hollywood. Using a design from Walter H. Righter, Denny marketed the "Dennyplane" which was picked up by the US military in 1940 for use in anti-aircraft target practice. He opened a factory on the VNY airport grounds that were used by the military during WWII and went on to build thousands of drones.

The first versions built and used by the Army were called the OQ-1 and OQ-2. An OQ-2 model is what Norma Jeane Dougherty is assembling in the photographs taken by Conover. He was sent to the factory to take morale-boosting photos of women helping the war effort for the Army magazine. His photos are credited with launching the future career of young Norma Jeane as he suggested she apply to a modeling agency.

By 1946, she was going by her screen name, Marilyn Monroe, and was not only modeling, but also acting in films for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, and her career skyrocketed from there. Her humble first "media" photos were taken on the VNY property, where her future was propelled to the stars, much like the future of the drones she was pictured assembling.

## Gateway to VNY: Keeping the Sherman Way Tunnel Clean



The Sherman Way Tunnel runs below VNY airport, allowing the airport and the city to coexist in the same footprint. But tunnels are often places where vandals take advantage of surfaces hidden from daylight and public view to deface property. Although law enforcement patrols the tunnel in addition to the surrounding areas, the community plays an important role in notifying the city at the first sign of vandalism. Reporting is easy. Consumers can dial 311 to report issues related to vandalism or graffiti and request assistance. The newest and easiest way to make a report is using the LA 311 app on your smart phone. The "Submit Service Request" feature can be used to report graffiti and potholes and will enable the city to respond promptly so we can all contribute to keeping our community clean, safe and beautiful. Get the app here:

<http://www.lacity.org/myla-311-smartphone-mobile-application>

## Students Explore Aviation Careers at The Sky's The Limit: Aviation Career Day



On March 20th, a group of 1,500 high school students from regional high schools and 40 exhibitors from the aviation industry participated in the tenth annual The Sky's the Limit: Aviation Career Day, hosted by MP Aero, Van Nuys Airport (VNY), Los Angeles City Councilmember Nury Martinez, and The Valley Economic Alliance. Students in attendance were given an airport tour, took part in interactive exhibits, and viewed aircraft displays including a C-130H "Hercules," Condor Squadron's AT-6, Los Angeles Fire Department Air Rescue Unit, Los Angeles Sheriff Department and Van Nuys Airport major tenants including Clay Lacy, Helinet Aviation, and North Valley Occupational Center.

"We're being participating in this event for ten years, and the great part is getting to see some of the students we've talked to at Aviation Career Day become pilots, air traffic controllers, and mechanics," said Jeanne Fenimore of San Fernando Valley Ninety-Nines, adding "There is a big need for young people in aviation, especially women," and this event allows students to learn about careers that they might not normally be exposed to." Stefani Guzman, a 12th grade student at Polytechnic High School, saw the event as eye-opening for both her and her peers. "I was surprised at how my interest in computer science is very applicable to aviation. It was exciting to see how many of the exhibitors have opportunities that fit my background." Aviation Career Day is just one of the many ways VNY and its tenants contribute to community enrichment every year through education, philanthropy and community partnerships. Students are grateful for these unique opportunities to learn about the importance of careers in general aviation, and may spark a passion they can pursue in higher education.

## Valley-Area Students and Teachers Recognized for Excellence at Awards Ceremony



San Fernando Valley middle school students and teachers were recognized for their academic excellence at a recent Teacher Mini-Grant and Young Achievers awards ceremony. This annual event, sponsored by Van Nuys Airport (VNY) and the Greater Van Nuys Rotary Club, awards three educational mini-grants to middle school teachers who include aviation and community service in their curriculum, as well as honors five valley middle school young achievers. The Young Achievers program honored 29 exceptional valley middle school students from 15 schools who excel in academics, athletics, the arts and community service/leadership. Teachers and counselors nominated the students, and the top student in each category received a \$100 grant funded by the Rotary Club. This year, Mike's Roofing added an additional \$100, which allowed for a tie between two of the finalists.

- Academics: Emily Hofmann, Frost Middle School
- Athletics: Jessie Ostrove, Woodland Hills Academy
- Arts: Samantha Zaman, Frost Middle School
- Community Service/Leadership (tie): Alma Pina, Mulholland Jr. Police Academy
- Community Service/Leadership (tie): Eric Eskandari, Frost Middle School

John Kruse and Mark Hays from Nobel Charter Middle School were awarded a \$500 mini-grant for their teaching of the history and science of human-powered flight. The \$300 mini-grant went to Angelo Spyropoulos of Van Nuys Middle School for teaching aviation safety, and Stacy Tanaka of Madison Middle School received a \$200 mini-grant for teaching history and physics of aviation.

Rotary Club President, Wynne Ritch, says "These young people have shown to their family, church and community that doing well and staying on the path of leadership and responsibility will pay off. The Greater Van Nuys Rotary Club is very proud of who they are and what they have been able to achieve in such a short period of time of their young lives."

## Prop Park Update and Record-setting March Display Day



VNY Prop is the on-site non-profit organization dedicated to propeller aircraft and is comprised of aircraft owners, pilots, aviation enthusiasts, homeowners, business operators and other individuals who have joined together to promote and enhance the value of general aviation. It also intends to assure that propeller aircraft and related businesses are a viable presence at the Van Nuys Airport.

The first phase of constructing the Prop Park at VNY involves the relocation of approximately 70 existing hangars, followed by construction of two buildings for 24 new hangars on a nearly 10-acre site. Paving should be completed in May, and phase 2 is expected to break ground in June 2015.

The VNY Prop Association regularly hosts a display day the third Saturday of every month. The event in March was one of the biggest with displays including the LA Fire Department Helicopter, Rotor FX Mosquito Helicopter, and half a dozen vintage aircraft. For more information about upcoming display days and Prop Park progress, visit <https://vnyprop.org/>

## Cindy Goodfellow Honored with California State Assembly 'Women of Distinction' Award



Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell of the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District honored Cindy Goodfellow, Vice President, Client and Community Relations for The Aeroplex/Aerolease Group at Van Nuys Airport with the "Women of Distinction" award. The annual recognition ceremony pays tribute to exceptional women who have made significant contributions to the community. Cindy was presented with a plaque for her distinguished contributions, including serving as a role model in the community and her ability to implement positive changes that improve lives.

## CAF AirPower History Tour Lands at Van Nuys Airport



"F1F1" landing at Van Nuys Airport. Photo by Brandon Moffitt.

From March 18-22, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) hosted the CAF AirPower History Tour at Signature Flight Support North at Van Nuys Airport. The event included static displays as well as rides in historic WWII aircraft, including "FIFI", the premier bomber of WWII and the last flying B-29 in existence. In addition to FIFI, there were plenty of other aircraft available for tours and rides including: the P-51 Mustang *Man of War*, the C-45 *Expeditor Bucket of Bolts*, and the T-6 Texan. Both the VNY community and visitors were thrilled to have a chance to see these historic planes up close and have the opportunity to fly in and out of Van Nuys Airport.

## About Van Nuys Airport

VNY is one of three airports owned and operated by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), a self-supporting branch of the City of Los Angeles, governed by a seven-member Board of Airport Commissioners who are appointed by the mayor and approved by the Los Angeles City Council.

One of the world's busiest general aviation airports, VNY serves as a valued San Fernando Valley resource, providing ongoing leadership in general aviation, business and community service. Dedicated to noncommercial air travel, VNY had over 232,000 operations in 2014. More than 100 businesses are located on the 730-acre airport, including four major fixed-base operators and numerous aviation service companies.

Annually, the airport contributes approximately \$1.3 billion to the Southern California economy and supports over 12,000 jobs. In addition, VNY provides programs to benefit local residents, along with educational initiatives and aviation-related career and training opportunities.

For more information, visit [www.vny.org](http://www.vny.org), like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/VNYPR](https://www.facebook.com/VNYPR), follow us on Twitter at [@VNYPR](https://twitter.com/VNYPR) and Instagram at [www.instagram.com/vnypr](https://www.instagram.com/vnypr)

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