



BOARDING PASS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ABE)



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Busiest Travel in 20 Years!

Significant infrastructure investments and additional air service options were only part of the success story for Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) in 2023.

930,946 passengers traveled through ABE in 2023 – a two percent jump from 2022 – and the highest level of passenger activity since 2004.

“Plenty of positive momentum across different areas of the operation is a phrase that best describes last year for us,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

“Airlines increased capacity with new nonstop destinations and the community certainly took advantage of these opportunities for travel. Plus, the Airport improved the customer experience with an upgraded and expanded TSA Checkpoint. Both previously listed factors certainly helped with passenger growth.”

2023 produced plenty of accomplishments which include:

- Opening of the new TSA Checkpoint and Terminal Connector (\$38 million)
- Launch of nonstop service to Denver, Colorado and Melbourne, Florida
- Tailwind Concessions beginning operation at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE)
- Hosting the 43RD Annual Pennsylvania Aviation Conference at The Historic Hotel Bethlehem.
- Expanded community outreach – First Annual Lehigh Valley Plane Pull (Special Olympics Pennsylvania), unveiling a painted mural in the pedestrian tunnel (ArtsQuest), packing over 1,800 food boxes for Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeastern Pennsylvania

“The Airport packed a lot of noteworthy events and celebrations into twelve months. It’s really a credit to the dedicated staff and stakeholders at ABE, plus the strong support of our loyal passengers and leaders from across the region,” said Stoudt.



Nonstop to:

- Denver (DEN)
- Fort Lauderdale (FLL)
- Melbourne (MLB)
- Myrtle Beach (MYR)
- Nashville (BNA)
- Orlando (MCO) *Starts May 15
- 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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Air Force One!



Your neighborhood airport serves as the gateway into the Lehigh Valley for all aircraft including, Air Force One. President Biden arrived at ABE on Friday, January 12th for a visit to downtown Emmaus and the City of Allentown Fire Academy.

Coming Soon – Which Wich!

Tailwind Concessions is officially operating at ABE, and a complete renovation project of existing restaurant spaces in the Wilfred M. “Wiley” Post Jr. Concourse will continue throughout 2024.

The Airport is excited for the arrival of Which Wich – a delicious grab-n-go alternative for passengers with loads of signature sandwiches, wraps, or bowls, and even build your own options - there is something for everyone!

An opening date has not been announced.



Holiday Traditions!

16 schools participated in the 27th Annual Holiday Festival of Trees. Their creative decorations were fantastic, and each tree had a unique theme! The Annual Holiday Concert Series featured performances in the Wilfred M. “Wiley” Post, Jr. Concourse by: Whitehall H.S. Chorale, Dieruff H.S. Choir and Husky Harmony, and Emmaus H.S. Aca Bella / Fermata Nowhere.



Ready for orders!

After a three-year hiatus, the Lehigh Valley Cafe has reopened on the 2nd level of the Main Terminal at ABE. Café hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. / 7 days a week.



Shop with a Cop

This special assignment for our Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) Police Department reminds us of the joy and spirit around the holiday season! Twenty-five (25) students from the Catasauqua Area School District were invited to the 7th Annual Shop with an Airport Cop at Target in Allentown.

“For the officers, volunteers, and sponsors; this is our chance to shine for these families that need a little help during the holidays,” said Officer Timothy Varga, LNAA Police Department.

There was a pizza party and gift-wrapping session following the shopping spree which also included a visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

All participants were provided a full holiday meal (turkey, ham, and side dishes), gift cards to Weis Markets and Wegmans, pre-lit Christmas Trees / ornaments, and event attire from Phillipsburg / Easton Honda.

Thank you to our amazing sponsors including Lehigh Valley Community Benefit, Target, The Home Depot, NAM Knights, The Wanderers Club, and Mission BBQ.

“The emotions are overwhelming knowing what these families are going through, but the high point is knowing we were able to improve their Christmas in a small way. We put the unity back in community,” said Rick Nauman, President, Lehigh Valley Community Benefit.





Santa's Waiting!

ABE hosted our annual flight to the North Pole.

"This is an opportunity for these families to take a vacation from all the challenges they're dealing with right now," said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

Thirteen (13) amazing families from Dream Come True of the Lehigh Valley boarded a SkyWest Airlines flight, as Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus anxiously awaited their arrival to celebrate the holiday season.

"This is the greatest event ever. As the aircraft wheels touch down, and the kids start chanting Santa, it brings chills to you," said Rayann Vasko, Executive Director, Dream Come True of the Lehigh Valley.



Thank you United, SkyWest Airlines, and all the sponsors / volunteers for your support in helping us make this day possible.



It's a record!

1,080 boxes were packed in 2 hours by Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) Airport staff and members of Julabo USA, Inc. to support the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania Senior Food Box Pack Program. This is a federally-funded program that is designed to improve the health of low-income seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious food.

Thank you to the food bank staff for their amazing efforts in our community.



Deck the Howls!

368 pounds of donated pet food and treats were delivered to the Animal Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley in December. Thank you to Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) employee Kimi Eisenhart for always coordinating this annual holiday tradition.



PROPS for YOU!

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) hosted a special luncheon at Gate 3 for the 2023 recipients of our employee recognition program - Positive Rewards for Outstanding Performance or Service, also known as PROPS. Thank you for delivering the highest level of service to our airport community! Learn more about our PROPS program by visiting flyabe.com/abe-advantage/employee-recognition-program/



Law Enforcement Appreciation

Donuts & coffee were delivered to the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) Police Department during Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.



Employee Spotlight



**Officer Timothy Wagner
(LNAA Police Department)**

Timothy Wagner embarked on a remarkable journey that began at ABE in the early 1990s. Commencing as an intern in the communication center, Tim quickly showcased dedication and talent, earning a full-time position as a dispatcher upon the completion of the internship.

ABE swiftly became more than just a workplace—it became a family. Even as Tim progressed in his career, the bond with ABE endured. Many colleagues from the 1990s remain part of this family, a testament to the lasting connections forged within the organization.

In 1997, Tim pursued an additional facet of public service by attending the Allentown Police Academy. Balancing both roles, Tim continued to contribute to ABE's success. A year later, fueled by a passion for law enforcement, Tim transitioned to various roles, leaving an indelible mark on organizations such as the Lehigh County Drug Taskforce, the Lehigh County Computer Forensics Lab, the FBI Gang Taskforce, and excelling as a Hostage Negotiator. Also serving the Catasauqua Police Department as a patrol Officer, and the Slatington Police Department as a Detective.

Although Tim ventured into new horizons, the connection with ABE remained strong. In 2021, after a fulfilling career, Tim retired, and the natural choice for the next chapter was to return "home" to ABE. The familiar faces and the growth of the Police Department over the past 25 years presented a refreshing perspective.

Tim is delighted to contribute to the continued growth of ABE, recognizing the unwavering commitment and hard work of the entire team.

Canine Corner



**Dutton & Linette Martino
(COPE Volunteers)**

Dutton and Linette have been part of the C.O.P.E. (Canines Offering Passengers Encouragement) Volunteer program since February 2019. Dutton was born and bred to be a service dog from Canine Companions (CC). CC is a national organization that provides service dogs to people with disabilities free of charge. Linette is also a volunteer puppy raiser for CC. She has been raising pups for CC since 2014 and Dutton was the second pup she raised. He did not make the cut to be a service dog and Linette adopted him back. Linette knew Dutton was meant to work and help others and so the therapy dog journey began. They have enjoyed several years of working in hospitals, schools, and other facilities.

The C.O.P.E. program was introduced to Linette when she and her husband were waiting for a flight out of ABE airport in the winter of 2016. They met a beautiful Golden Retriever that was part of the C.O.P.E program. Linette knew she wanted to be part of this program because she already had the perfect dog for the job, Dutton. Dutton loves coming to the airport and gets very excited when they pull into the parking lot. He loves going through TSA, which they refer to as "pet downs" and he loves all the ABE staff as well as the passengers. He wags his tail nonstop when he is at work and that gives his human joy to know that a silly, friendly dog can help bring comfort, smiles and maybe even a welcomed distraction for people who are waiting for their flight.

