

Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority Announces New President



Patrick Wilson, A.A.E.

KNOXVILLE, TN – The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority’s Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to hire Patrick Wilson, A.A.E., as its new President, according to an MKAA news release.

Mr. Wilson will replace Bill Marrison, who held the position for 36 years with MKAA. Mr. Wilson will begin Nov. 15, 2018; Mr. Marrison will retire Dec. 31, 2018.

This will be a return to MKAA for Mr. Wilson, as he previously served as the Operations Manager. Most recently, Mr. Wilson served as Executive Director of the Tri-Cities Airport in Blountville, Tenn.

Eddie Mannis, Chairman of the MKAA Board of Commissioners, called Wilson a “natural fit for the position,” citing his economic development experience and his aviation work at the Tri-Cities Airport.

While there, Wilson led the creation of a 160-acre on-airport aerospace industry park that resulted in \$40 million of site infrastructure. He also initiated and secured funding for \$110 million in capital improvements to renovate and expand airport facilities, the release said.

“And the fact that he had McGhee Tyson ties, he did know the lay of the land, that made him the perfect candidate,” Mr. Mannis said. “When we interviewed him, you could tell he’d be very supportive of staff, he’d work well with staff, and that was very important to us. The board just saw him as the well-rounded package to lead the Knoxville airport into the future.”

Mr. Wilson will also focus on recruiting additional service into the airport, Mr. Mannis said.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve as the next President of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority,” said Mr. Wilson. “I hope to contribute to and build upon the strong aviation foundation that exists at both McGhee Tyson and Downtown Island Airports by recruiting air service, creating new jobs and investing in the people who work at and visit the airports.”

Mr. Wilson graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and received a master’s in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee. He is designated through the American Association of Airport Executives as an Accredited Airport Executive and certified as an Airport Security Coordinator.

He has served as President of the Tennessee Association of Air Carrier Airports and serves on the University of Tennessee’s Aerospace and Defense Advisory Board since 2015. He was also appointed by Gov. Bill Haslam to serve on the Tennessee Aviation Funding Task Force from 2015-2016 and is the President-Elect of the AAAE Southeast Chapter.

This national search was conducted by ADK Consulting & Executive Search, a retained executive search firm.

[Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority](#)

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