

CONNECT, INSPIRE, AND LEAD



Who He Is –

[Greg Principato, President and CEO, National Aeronautic Association](#)

Greg began his career in politics and segued into law before landing in aviation. He first served as the President of Airports Council International (ACI) – North America. He followed that with time at the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) where he served as President and CEO. Today, Greg is the President and CEO of the National Aeronautic Association (NAA). In this role, Greg oversees the mission to highlight the persistence and accomplishments of those who excel in aviation and aerospace.

[Why You Should Listen to Him](#) – Greg is naturally charismatic and easily delivers joy to others on the dullest of days. When engaged, he breaks the ice by sharing that he LOVES baseball and has visited 46 major league stadiums (including all 30 in current use). Leaning on what he has learned by experience and absorbing from the impactful leaders on the NAA Board and those influencers around him, Greg does not read management theory books. Rather, he immerses himself in history, with an emphasis on American Presidents. He is not only fond of understanding “what made them tick”, but also where they lived and thrived. Greg enjoys relating to these pivotal leaders to such a degree that he has personally visited all of these leaders’ final resting places. He admires, and is inspired by, people who stood for their beliefs at great personal risk (such as Viola Liuzzo; James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner) when they could easily have stayed on the sidelines.

In our podcast, Greg speaks about what inspired him to become one of the first IAWA Advocates and the importance that women play as mentors in his life, even from the very beginning. He reveals the influence of his mother and relates fondly how she routinely ensured him that anything a boy can do a girl can do too. He speaks about the effect of growing outside of one’s comfort zone. Greg is a champion of DE&I and the importance of casting a wider net. Additionally, Greg calls on leadership to generate a diversity of thought as a way to attain their recruitment and retention goals. From his experience, Greg shares the value, especially for men, of including female mentors in their careers. He further discusses the secrets to a long and active life as found from speaking with other leaders - tapping into your curiosity to expand your mind. Finally, Greg discusses the concept of a “personal board of directors” to help one reach outside of aviation to maintain perspective as well as engage your curiosity and innovation.

How You Can Apply His Wisdom to Your Career – A few of the take-aways to contemplate:

- How are you connecting with, and mentoring others, (women and men) in the aviation industry?
- What can you do to build your personal board by connecting with other leaders outside of the industry?
- How does self-care play into your well-being and your ability to regenerate and lead your teams effectively?

