

Aspen Fly Right's Staff, Officers, Directors, and Professional Advisors

Staff

Aspen Fly Right's four Directors, listed below, include its three founding Officers, who are also its volunteer operating staff. Their work is coordinated by the President, who curates most of the research and writing. Other volunteers provide occasional support. There are no paid staff. A paid consultant provides professional services for Aspen Fly Right's educational campaign.

Expert sources

Our information sources include confidential direct and indirect discussions with an informal network of unpaid aviation experts including Aspen Airport and Fixed Base Operations (FBO) employees, NetJet pilots, SkyWest management and pilots, Roaring Fork Valley pilots and aircraft owners, several major US airlines' senior operating personnel, Federal Aviation Administration personnel, Washington DC aviation counsel, international and domestic airport architects, construction designers, and contractors, and aviation consultants with global experience in airport design and redevelopment (including FBO operations, terminal design, aircraft performance, airport navigation requirements, and other airport and aircraft disciplines). Many of our informants have requested anonymity. We cite our sources if they permit us to. We gratefully acknowledge all informants' generous cooperation. Responsibility for any reporting errors is ours. We invite and request all readers to notify us of any errors they find.

Governance

Aspen Fly Right, founded 25 August 2022, is governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Directors, initially comprising three volunteer Officers and in December 2022 adding one Independent Director, who resigned a year later for personal reasons. Another Independent Director was added in January 2024. In alphabetical order, the four current Directors are:

Ellen Anderson, Treasurer

Ellen W. Anderson earned a BA from Brown University, was certified in 1982 as a Colorado Peace Officer, received advanced professional training, and pursued graduate studies in public administration at the University of Colorado (Denver).

Beginning her career in education (including as Assistant Director of Information Services for the College Board), Ellen then served as a Pitkin County Deputy Sheriff for 30 years (with a two-year hiatus 2001–2003). While performing all uniformed-officer duties, she became Airport Liaison, founding director of Aspen's Topsy Taxi service, Special Projects Coordinator, Crime Prevention Officer, and Public Information Officer. She represented Pitkin County at many organizations up to national and international levels, and developed the County's plans for Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Points of Distribution, Emergency Operations, Continuity of Operations, and Courthouse Security.

During 2001–03, Ellen consulted for a private security firm developing successful proposals for the Pitkin, Eagle, and Routt County Airports and the 2003 X Games, was certified as an armed security guard at Aspen Airport, and managed a large Aspen office building. Her most influential work, in a 1995–2002 collaboration with Dr. Marcelline Burns (Southern California Research Institute), was *A Colorado Validation Study of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Test Battery* (Burns and Anderson), funded by NHTSA and published by the Colorado Department of Transportation. It validated the field sobriety tests with Colorado data to a 0.05% BAC level.

In 2003, the Pitkin County Sheriff and Public Safety Council chose Ellen as the County’s Emergency Management Coordinator. Her duties included harmonizing County-wide emergency services and mutual aid across 27 public safety agencies, extensive public education, suicide-prevention work, and organizing and facilitating Incident Management Teams for seven public health or hazard threats plus special law enforcement incidents.

Since 2011, Ellen has continued to serve the Sheriff’s Department as a Consultant for the Prevention of Impaired Driving. She continues as director of Aspen’s Topsy Taxi, which she created in 1983—a national model that has given many tens of thousands of people safe rides home so they don’t drive drunk—and to spread its practice *pro bono*.

Ellen received Basalt Town Council’s Outstanding Community Service Award in 2005 and national recognitions from the Colorado Department of Transportation, National Commission Against Drunk Driving (twice), and Centers for Disease Control. She has served on Aspen City Council, the Aspen Planning and Zoning Commission, the Pitkin County Clean Air Advisory Board and County Election Commission, and more than a dozen other organizations while managing three properties. She has lived in Aspen since 1976.

Amory B. Lovins, President

Physicist Amory Lovins (1947–) is Cofounder (1982), former CEO, Chairman Emeritus, former Chief Scientist (2007–19), and Trustee (1982–) of RMI (formerly [Rocky Mountain Institute](#)), where he continues to collaborate. He helped build RMI from scratch to more than 700 staff with offices worldwide, a \$170-million annual budget, and a global reputation for rigorous research and effective implementation, largely in collaboration with the private sector. RMI’s mission is to transform the global energy system to secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all. There is no connection between RMI and Aspen Fly Right—an entirely independent group.

Lovins is sole or lead author of 31 books and over 880 papers; a designer of superefficient buildings, vehicles, and industrial plants; and an advisor (1973–) to major governments and firms worldwide on advanced energy efficiency and strategy. He received the Blue Planet, Volvo, Zayed, Onassis, Nissan, Shingo, and Mitchell Prizes, MacArthur and Ashoka Fellowships, 12 honorary doctorates, the Heinz, Lindbergh, Right Livelihood, National Design, and World Technology Awards, and Germany’s Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit.

A Harvard and Oxford dropout, former Oxford don, honorary US architect, Swedish engineering academician, and 2011–18 member of the US National Petroleum Council, Lovins has taught at ten universities (most recently the Naval Postgraduate School and Stanford University, where

he's currently Adjunct Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Visiting Scholar of the Precourt Institute for Energy). In 2009, *Time* named him one of the world's 100 most influential people, and *Foreign Policy*, one of the 100 top global thinkers. Stanford's analysis of Scopus citations lists him among the top 2% of scientists worldwide.

Besides flying many millions of commercial miles and an occasional simulator, military flight, or light-plane right seat, his aviation background includes serving on two Defense Science Board task forces on military energy (mostly aviation), launching an Air Force weight-reducing effort that saved over \$10 billion, visiting and lecturing at US and European aeronautical research centers, advising a major airframe-maker on design process and strategy, cofounding and chairing an advanced-composites firm serving aviation customers, leading two RMI studies of aviation efficiency (one Pentagon-cosponsored), and in 2019, keynoting the world sustainable aviation conference for the industry's Air Transport Action Group, addressing the International Civil Aviation Organization's similar conference, and consulting for the CEO of one of the world's largest airports. His insights into superefficient and electrified [autos](#), where he helped launch three startups, support his novel synthesis of parallel revolutionary paths in aviation.

A third-generation Coloradan (with a 40-year gap), Lovins has lived in Old Snowmass since 1982. His wife, fine-art landscape photographer Judy Hill Lovins, arrived in Aspen in 1971.

Jackie Merrill, Independent Director

Jackie has lived in the same house on West Buttermilk for 35 years. She has focused her energies both on a company she founded and on several nonprofit efforts in the Roaring Fork Valley.

In the late 1980s, she founded CenterPoint in Aspen, Inc., a company that for some 25 years offered leadership retreats for women and for couples in her house and tipi on her property. She also facilitated off-slope workshops for participants in the SkiCo's clinics for women on personal mission and self-esteem.

In the early 2000s, Jackie was trained and certified as a Storyteller by Spellbinders, a national nonprofit fostering intergenerational connections and training volunteer storytellers to be placed in elementary schools around the country. She chaired the Spellbinders Board for about 12 years. Currently, she tells stories to fourth-graders in Aspen Elementary School on the theme of heroes and heroines.

Jackie has had a longstanding interest in the Aspen Airport and the evolution of its commercial operations. She served on the 2019–20 ASE Vision process's Vision Committee for its duration, and helped to formulate the Common Ground Recommendations.

A 1961 graduate of Smith College, she holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management in Chicago.

Susan Taylor, Secretary

Susan Taylor began her professional career in North Carolina designing commercial interiors after earning a BS at the University of Georgia with a concentration in Interior Design and Art. She spent her career as a commercial designer, finding it critically important to develop space and interior environments to support both function and aesthetics. Her decades of experience focused on the importance and implementation of the highest use of space to support people in their professional lives, at their offices—the most time-consuming place for Americans. She’s a firm believer in “form follows function”...then making it aesthetically pleasing.

Ms. Taylor has also been involved in a multi-generational child development facility. The importance of child development and support for the best possible outcome for our future generations—appropriate healthcare, nutrition, education, and environment—cannot be compromised if we are to create a better world for all.

She has spent the past several years traveling extensively, familiarizing her with air travel across the globe and gaining an enhanced sense of airport function, comfort, and efficiency.

Ms. Taylor has lived in Pitkin County full-time since 2006, starting in Aspen. She was involved in the Woody Creek Community Center from its opening to its closing, and is currently on the Woody Creek Planning Board.

Director emeritus

Michael J. Kinsley served as an Independent Director from December 2022 to December 2023, when he resigned for personal reasons. An artist, political scientist, facilitator, mediator, lecturer, trainer, author, and pioneer in local economic development (with 33 years’ experience at RMI), he served as a 1975–85 Pitkin County Commissioner. He is currently a Trustee of Pitkin County Open Space and Trails and a member of the Old Snowmass Caucus. He has lived in the Valley since 1970 and was inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame in 2013.

Professional advisors

Aspen Fly Right is represented in tax and organizational matters by Ken Ransford, Esq., CPA, of KenRansford, P.c. in Basalt. Our General Counsel is Moye White LLP in Denver. Our specialist counsel is Recht Kornfeld P.c. in Denver.