

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

Staff

Aspen Fly Right’s four Directors, listed below, include two of its three founding Officers. In practice, the Directors are also the volunteer operating staff, 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 specifically of any errors they find, so we can fix them under our rigorous error-correction policy.

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. The founding Treasurer resigned in March 2024 after 19 months’ service. Two Independent Directors were added in January 2024. In alphabetical order, the four current Directors are:

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 (founded as [Rocky Mountain Institute](#)), where he continues to collaborate. He helped build RMI from scratch to more than 800 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—nor between either and [Citizens Against Bigger Planes](#), a local group formed in March 2024.

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.

Lovins was unable to participate in the ASE Vision process due to travel and work obligations. He applied to join the Airport Advisory Board in 2022 but was not accepted. A third-generation Coloradan (with a 40-year gap), he 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. In 2024 she applied to fill a vacancy on the Airport Advisory Board, but was not accepted.

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

Dr. Kate Violette Spencer, Independent Director

Dr. Kate Spencer, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS, is a local physical therapist, mother, and advocate for Aspen’s community. She moved to Aspen for the winter in 2007 and ended up working as a winter seasonal PT for ten years before moving to Aspen Village full-time in 2017. She has worked at Aspen Valley Hospital and two local home health agencies, and since 2018 has co-owned her own practice, Ajax Physical Therapy, PC, with her husband, physical therapist Dr. James Spencer, serving local healthcare workers, Aspen Skiing Company employees, second homeowners, tourists, and many other clients.

The Spencers’ two small children attend Aspen School District schools where Kate often volunteers and regularly converses with community members from all backgrounds. As president of the Aspen Village Homeowners Association, too, she discusses local issues with her neighbors.

At Northeastern University, Kate earned a Bachelor of Rehabilitation Science *magna cum laude* and a Master’s and Doctorate in Physical Therapy, and later was a part-time Lecturer for six years. She serves as a programming chair for APTA Private Practice, a section of the American Physical Therapy Association, helping annually to plan the largest PT conference in the country. She has served on the APTA Colorado chapter board, constantly networking with healthcare providers statewide. She has presented and published widely on several medical topics.

Long engaged and informed in local politics, Kate was inspired soon after moving here full-time to join the ASE Vision process. She served on the Focus Group with a small contingent of locals considering Valley transportation linkages with the airport. Open-minded exploration led her to conclude that the airport needs an updated terminal but not bigger aircraft. However, as she and others found such opinions not welcomed, she began to feel that the airport would be expanded regardless. Determined to remain a voice in the process, she continued to attend airport-related public events and write letters to the BOCC. She applied to fill a vacancy on the Airport Advisory Board in 2021 and 2024, but was not accepted. Her goal in serving on Aspen Fly Right’s Board of Directors is to give a voice to the people of Aspen, Pitkin County, and the Roaring Fork Valley, educate neighbors, and bring community feedback to the BOCC to support better airport decisions.

Susan Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer

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.

Independent Directors emeritus/emerita

Michael J. Kinsley served as an Independent Director from December 2022 to December 2023, when he resigned for personal reasons. An artist, political scientist (BS Houston), 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 and two fellow-Commissioners pioneered the County’s national leadership in land-use planning. He is currently a Trustee of Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, a member of the Old Snowmass Caucus, and principal of Kinsley Diplomacy. He has lived in the Valley since 1970 and was inducted into the Aspen Hall of Fame in 2013.

Ellen W. Anderson, a 1976– Aspen resident, served as founding Treasurer from August 2022 to March 2024. After earning a BA (Brown), she became a Colorado Peace Officer in 1982, with graduate studies (Denver) in public administration. She served as a Pitkin County Deputy Sheriff for 30 years, except 2001–03, when she consulted on security for three airports and guarded one. Her many County roles included the County’s Airport Liaison and the Emergency Management Coordinator for 27 agencies. She is founding director of Aspen’s national-model Topsy Taxi Service, and has served on Aspen City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission, the Pitkin County Clean Air Advisory Board and County Election Commission, and many others.

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.