FSAI SM

4TH ANNUAL

DESIGNATED PILOT EXAMINERS SYMPOSIUM

NEW DATE, SAME LOCATION

WED-FRI, SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2026

DALLAS, TEXAS

DALLAS/FORT WORTH AIRPORT MARRIOTT

HEAR AND BE HEARD

a don't miss event for all DPEs and future DPEs

Designees have been looking forward to this in-person event's return, so we are glad to announce that it is not far off. After being postponed in November 2025 due to the federal government shutdown, FSAI's 4th Annual DPE Symposium will take place Wednesday thru Friday, September 23-25, 2026, in Dallas, Texas.

By chance if you haven't heard, earlier this year FSANA underwent a name change. We are now FSAI, spelled out, Flight School Association International. Different name, but our event is sure to be the same great gathering as in previous years.

For all you who were at our third Symposium in October 2024, or either of the previous two, we're sure you'll want to return for this 4th edition. If you've never had the opportunity to attend, it's time to see what all the noise is about.

The event kicks off Wednesday at 6:00 pm with a reception and dinner. There is no academic programming that day. Thursday and Friday's sessions are focused directly on how DPEs do their jobs, how they integrate and work with flight training providers, and some of the challenges they encounter in the work they do.

DPEs, flight school operators, chief flight instructors, and anyone serious about becoming a DPE, this annual event is for you. The symposium brings DPEs together to help standardization, help individuals who might be interested in becoming DPEs learn more about the process and potential, and bring FAA staff together with attendees to share information about FAA efforts, DPE practices, and currency.

Fax, email, or mail the registration form on page 11 or register online at www.FSAI.org/events

REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- ✓ Professional sessions
- ✓ Wednesday reception and dinner
- ✓ Thursday and Friday lunches
- ✓ Coffee breaks

If you had previously registered for the symposium that was scheduled for November 2025 and subsequently cancelled due to the government shutdown and you did not request a refund, you are already registered for the event.

PROGRAM

Detailed session descriptions appear on pages 8-10.
Times and sessions subject to change.

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6:00 pm **Reception and dinner**

DAY 2
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 Registration Opens

8:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00 **FAA Designee Program Update**

10:00 **FAA Orders: 8000.95 and 8900.1 – Critical Content for a DPE**

11:00 **Airman Practical Testing Programs Update**

Noon Lunch

1:30 **Standardization of Discrepancies in the Practical Testing Landscape**

2:30 Break

3:00 **Working with Training Providers to Best Develop Understanding of What It Takes to Deliver a Good Quality Applicant**

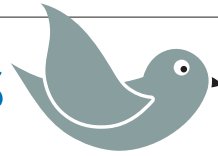
4:00 Concurrent sessions:

A. **Plans of Action Development and Management**

B. **How to Become a DPE**

5:00 Adjourn for the day

Program continues next page

EARLY BIRDS  SAVE $200

DAY 3

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:30	Registration Opens
8:00	**Documenting Checkrides: Proper Disapproval Notice Practices**
9:00	Break
9:15	**IACRA and DMS Best Practices, Tips & Tricks**
10:15	Break
11:00	**What MOSAIC Means for DPEs**
Noon	Lunch
1:15	**Awkward, Challenging, and Contentious Situations for DPEs and How to Handle Them**
3:00	**DPE Due Process Denied: Briefing on the National Class Action Lawsuit Challenging FAA Designee Terminations**
4:30	Adjourn

FSAI SM

KEEP TWO HUNDRED

Since 2016, FSAI has played an active role in the DPE community. The Symposium is just one of the ways that FSAI supports DPEs. All DPEs and future DPEs are invited to join FSAI. **Your FSAI membership saves you $200 off Symposium registration.** Sounds crazy, but that's greater than your FSAI membership annual dues! DPEs can join for just $150 annually, one of our lowest membership rates.

JOIN AT WWW.FSAI.ORG

Already an FSAI member? You bet you save $200 on Symposium registration.

WHAT PREVIOUS ATTENDEES HAVE TO SAY

“Each time I attend the DPE Symposium, I gain a broad range of operational insights that enhance my ability to serve both the FAA and my test applicants. The event offers numerous learning opportunities, and the professional connections made there are incredibly valuable.

“Serving as a Designated Pilot Examiner is a rewarding way to support aspiring pilots – whether their goals involve recreational flying, business aviation, or pursuing a professional aviation career. Attending the Symposium in person has played a key role in helping me grow and improve in this important role.”

–**KENNETH RAMOS, DPE**
FLIGHT GEAR AVIATION

“As a flight school operator, it has been very valuable to attend the DPE Symposium in person and interact with so many DPEs and the FAA. The interaction with DPEs from across the United States has helped our school and our customers. Flight school operators should send at least one person to this event every year. Attending the DPE Symposium has provided added insights that we would not have gotten to experience otherwise.”

–**JIM WHITE,** General Manager
ARIZONA AERO-TECH

“Being a DPE who has been doing this for nearly 20 years, I know there is always more to learn. The FSAI DPE Symposium is the best opportunity for DPEs to get together and share what they know and make us all better at our jobs. It is also a unique opportunity to meet with senior FAA staff who work with DPEs. I wouldn’t miss this event.”

–**JASON BLAIR, DPE**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

FAA Designee Program Update

FAA staff will provide an update on the current status of the FAA Designated Pilot Examiner program. Topics include metrics of DPE activity from a national perspective, changes in training, designation, deployment and training of DPEs, and expectations of potential changes that might be coming. Discussion of the effect of and process of national office transition will be included.

FAA Orders: 8000.95 and 8900.1 – Critical Content for a DPE

A summary of changes of the past couple years of content in the 8000.95 and 8900.1 documents that a DPE needs to be aware of to stay in compliance, do the job properly, and best work with the FAA. There are critical parts of these documents that commonly get overlooked, changes that have happened, and confusion in some circles about what compliance needs to be met. Some presentation material will be given and an open discussion will be had to address questions and concerns.

Airman Practical Testing Programs Update

FAA staff will discuss upcoming changes expected in the airman testing and certification sector. This will be an opportunity to discuss any recent or coming regulatory changes coming that might affect the administration of practical tests. It will also highlight how some of the changes affect DPE sourcing material for testing and reviewing applicant performance for future testing such as the knowledge test report.

Standardization of Discrepancies in the Practical Testing Landscape

An opportunity for DPEs to discuss any discrepancies that are rumored to be out in the testing landscape, this session will talk frankly about the details of test provision. Topics of how many landings must be completed on particular tests, what instrument approaches may be used to satisfy ACS/PTS requirements, and how to best sequence test flows to incorporate all required tasks will be discussed. Each test has its differences, and this will be an opportunity for attendees to ensure the tests include all required tasks. It will be an opportunity to address any "localized" interpretations that may be perceived from local managing offices that may differ from other testing areas.

Working with Training Providers to Best Develop Understanding of What It Takes to Deliver a Good Quality Applicant

Working with flight training providers is an important part of providing testing services. DPEs and flight training providers will lead a discussion in this panel about how they can best work together to maximize testing volume allowance while also ensuring positive and compliant testing experiences.

Plans of Action Development and Management

A session focused on structure, content, and development of plans of action, it will be lead by senior DPEs who have been building plans of action for many years and for multiple types of practical tests. While there is no one right way to build your own plan of action, sharing individual practices can help fellow DPEs more effectively and efficiently build their own plans of action for tests. The session will share source materials, build structures, and practices for management and retention of a DPEs own plans of action.

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SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

continued

How to Become a DPE

This session will be dedicated to the requirements to become a DPE and the overall selection and deployment process. It will be lead by senior DPEs and DPEs who have recently been through the process. The goal of this session will be to educate interested parties about the process of becoming a DPE.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Documenting Checkrides: Proper Disapproval Notice Practices

About best practices of creating notices of disapproval, how to make sure a DPE can document missed areas so another DPE would be able to complete the re-test, how not to add in inappropriate material that could show up in an applicants PRIA, and how to make sure it is clear to the applicant and their CFI can clearly understand the areas that were unsatisfactory and need to be retested and what is left to be tested.

IACRA and DMS Best Practices, Tips & Tricks

A hands-on approach to working in the DMS and IACRA systems, discussion will be related to how DPEs can best manage their work in these systems to be compliant and efficient. DPEs and FAA staff will provide content in this session to help provide [good] [sound] information that will properly document a test activity.

What MOSAIC Means for DPEs

A review of changes from MOSAIC regulatory changes and how it affects pilot training, what pilots can do, and how DPEs do their jobs. Many changes have taken place that will be relevant to DPEs testing private pilots and CFIs, and how applicants are able to be eligible for practical tests. The session will review these and allow discussion about how DPEs will and are implementing the changes and things DPEs need to watch out for as they qualify applicants for not just sport pilot tests.

Awkward, Challenging, and Contentious Situations for DPEs and How to Handle Them

This practical discussion-based session will draw on real-world experience from DPEs to explore common awkward, challenging, and contentious scenarios from practical test events. It will discuss what happens when the applicant is mad because they failed, doesn't understand why they got a disapproval, wants their money back, threatens the DPE, spreads things on social media, and much more.

The DPE is there to do a job, many applicants think they are there just to give them a certificate they paid for and fail to understand that testing is the purpose. including pressure from applicants, flight instructors, or flight schools to "go easy" or pass marginal candidates, confrontational or emotional applicants (nervous breakdowns, entitlement, or post-failure disputes), conflicts involving mental fitness, or human factors evaluations, dealing with complaints, anonymous hotline reports, or threats of retaliation, difficult interactions with FAA personnel or other DPEs on standardization issues and ethical dilemmas around documentation of practical test aberrations and even some discussion of liability protection for DPEs.

The session will emphasize practical tools, role-play scenarios, and lessons learned from experienced DPEs to help you stay calm, fair, and protected in high-pressure moments as best as possible.

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SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

continued

DPE Due Process Denied: Briefing on the National Class Action Lawsuit Challenging FAA Designee Terminations

Join the attorney who is handling the lawsuit for the ongoing class action legal complaint (Lasky et al. v. FAA) filed against the FAA. This potentially landmark case directly challenges the FAA's termination practices for Designated Pilot Examiners (DPEs), Designated Engineering Representatives (DERs), and Designated Medical Examiners (DMEs), alleging violations of the Administrative Procedure Act and Fifth Amendment due process rights.

The attorney will provide a detailed briefing on the current status of the litigation, the key legal arguments (including challenges to the 1954 and 2021 regulatory changes, elimination of meaningful appeal rights, and "for cause" terminations), the real-world concerns it exemplifies – such as arbitrary terminations based on anonymous complaints, reputational harm, and loss of livelihood – and what the case could mean for DPEs and other designees across the country.

The session will include a briefing and discussion session relating to the complaints areas of concern. Any DPE should find this session interesting with relation to concerns with due process, liability protection, and the future of the designee program.

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON FAT TUESDAY NEXT YEAR?

TUE-THU / FEBRUARY 9-11, 2027 / NEW ORLEANS

EVENT LOCATION AND LODGING

DALLAS/FORT WORTH AIRPORT MARRIOTT

8440 Freeport Parkway
Irving TX 75063
Main (non-reservation) 972-929-8800

FSAI is pleased to host this year's DPE Symposium at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott. The newly renovated hotel at DFW Airport is just a short drive from premier shopping, dining, and entertainment at Grapevine Mills Mall, Southlake Town Square and Downtown Dallas. Located next door to DFW International Airport, the hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the transportation hub.

Amenities include:

- Texas-sized guest rooms
- Free WiFi
- Restaurant and lounge on-site
- Business center
- Indoor and outdoor pool
- Fitness center
- Whirlpool
- Onsite parking (fee: $24.99 daily)

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Book by September 2 to receive our group's special nightly rate of $199.00 single/double plus tax. After this date rates may be higher or rooms may be unavailable.

Book online: Visit www.fsai.org and use the hotel link to book a room.

Our online booking code is: **DPS**

Or book by phone: **1-888-236-2427**
Identify yourself as being with the group "**4th Annual DPE Symposium**" at the time your reservation is made to receive the special FSAI group rate.

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL

A convenient complimentary airport shuttle is available between the Mariott and DFW International Airport. Other options include taxi, Uber, and rental car services.

Fax, email, or mail the registration form on the next page or register online at www.FSAI.org/events

SERVING THE FLIGHT TRAINING INDUSTRY SINCE 2009

Flight School Association International (FSAI), established in 2009 as the Flight School Association of North America, is a membership-oriented association with a mission of increasing the pilot population by engaging passion-driven people at an early age. FSAI serves a membership which includes flight schools, firms that provide products or services to the flight training or aviation industry, supporting partners, and individuals. Its inventive aero programs are just one of many ways FSAI helps both new and existing flight schools grow their business. New members welcome; join at fsai.org.

FSAI SM BORN TO FLY SM

3111 Arcadia Avenue Allentown PA 18103
610 791-4359 info@fsai.org Fax 610 797-8238
fsai.org

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2026 DPE SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

FSAI SM

INSTRUCTIONS

Copy this form and fill in STEP 1 for each additional person. Send all forms together.

FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION CONTACT FSAI

by phone: 610-791-4359
by email: info@fsai.org

ATTENTION NON-MEMBERS, SAVE BY JOINING

Join or renew now. FSAI membership in the DPE category is set at only $150. Other membership categories vary. DPEs, do the math — the savings pays for membership! Join at fsai.org.

EARLY BIRDS SAVE $200

REFUND POLICY

Cancel on/before August 28, 2026, receive full refund.

Cancel August 29-September 11, 2026, receive registration fee less $100.

Cancel after September 11, 2026, no refunds will be given.

EVENT BASICS

Event: 4th Annual DPE Symposium
Date: September 23-25, 2026
Presenter: FSAI
Contact:
by phone: 610-791-4359
by email: info@fsai.org
Location:
Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott
8440 Freeport Parkway
Irving TX 75063
Hotel phone: 972-929-8800

STEP 1: COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE

Full name _____ _____
First Last

First name or nickname for badge _____ Title/Position _____

Organization _____
Your organization's name will appear this way.

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Email _____

Arrival date _____ time _____ Departure date _____ time _____
(Needed to estimate attendance at meals and functions)

❍ I have special dietary restrictions or other special needs that I will phone or email you about.
❍ I am a current FSAI member.
❍ I already registered in 2025 and confirm my intent to attend. Please apply my previous payment unless it was refunded.

STEP 2: PAYMENT

Check one:	Early Bird Rate (by Sep 1, 2026)	Regular Rate (after Sep 1, 2026)	On Site Rate (Sep 23-25, 2026)
General	❍ $795. pp	❍ $995. pp	❍ $1,145. pp
FSAI Member	❍ $595. pp	❍ $795. pp	❍ $ 945. pp

Number of persons: ❍ one ❍ other # _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ..... $_____

❍ Check enclosed payable in U.S. dollars to: **FSAI**

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS # _____ – _____ – _____ – _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Expiration date _____ / _____

~~Card security code #~~ _____

STEP 3: FOUR WAYS TO REGISTER

Online: **fsai.org** (this form is not required)
Fax form(s) to: **610-797-8238**
Email form(s) to: **info@fsai.org**
Mail form(s) and remittance to: **FSAI**
3111 ARCADIA AVE
ALLENTOWN PA 18103