

January/February 2026



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

p. 12

plus

**CHARTER MEMBERS
FIRST WINGS AWARDS
FALL 2025**



Ninety-Nines Magazine

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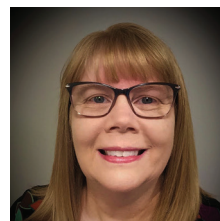
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Ninety-Nines® International Organization of Women Pilots® promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.

Let's Get Social    

ON THE COVER

San Diego, California, location of the 2026 Ninety-Nines International Conference. See pg. 12 for details.

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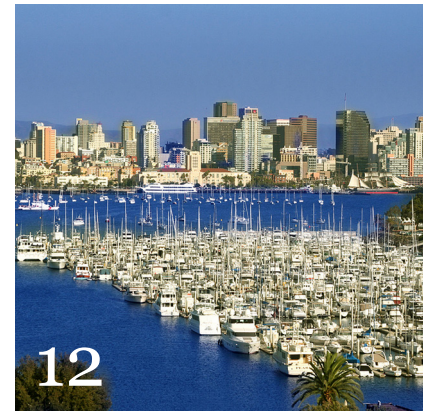
July 7-11, 2026 | San Diego, California

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Thank You to Our Sponsors



2026

JAN

- 1 **Deadline:** Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Application
✈ Apps@Aescholarship.org
- 15 **Deadline:** Chapter to Section AE Scholarship Application (when applicable)
✈ Apps@Aescholarship.org
- 31 **Southwest Section Winter Workshop**
Carlsbad, California
Palomar Chapter

FEB

- 5 **Deadline:** Section to Trustees AE Scholarship Application
✈ Apps@Aescholarship.org

MAR

- 6-7 **International Board of Directors Meeting**
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
✈ HQ@ninety-nines.org
- 19-21 **Annual Women in Aviation Conference**
Gaylord Texan Resort & Conference Center
Dallas, Texas
✈ wai.org
- 27-29 **North Central Section Spring Meeting**
Batavia, Ohio
All-Ohio Chapter
✈ Val Palazzolo, val.palazzolo@gmail.com

APR

- 1 **Deadline:** First Wings Applications to Chapter AE Chair (or Section AE Chair, if there are no chapters)
✈ Apply@Aescholarship.org
- 14-19 **Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo**
Lakeland, Florida
For members Use Discount Code: NNI647 (capital letter I)
- 25 **New York-New Jersey Section Spring Meeting**
Rome, New York
✈ Lisa Hotung, lisa.hotung@gmail.com
- 25-26 **New England Section Spring Meeting**
Rockland, Maine
Katahdin Wings Chapter
✈ Casey Raymond, caseymraymond@gmail.com

MAY

- 1-2 **South Central Section Spring Meeting**
Wichita, Kansas
Air Capital Chapter
- 1-3 **Southeast Section Spring Meeting**
Sarasota, Florida
✈ Holly DiLecce, hdilecce@myakka.com
- 29-31 **East Canada Section Annual Meeting**
Tbd, Canada
✈ Rani Tolton, rgtolton@gmail.com

JUN

- 26-28 **JHV German Section Annual General Meeting**
Hildesheim (EDVM)
✈ ninety-nines.de
✈ Sabina Jaeckel-Engler, scjaeckel@gmail.com

JUL

- 7-11 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**
San Diego, California
✈ ninety-nines.org
- 20-26 **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh**
Oshkosh, Wisconsin
✈ eaa.org/airventure

SEP

- 12 **International Forest of Friendship 50th Anniversary**
"World Friendship Through Flight" Induction Ceremony
Atchison, Kansas
✈ ifof.org

OCT

- 2-4 **North Central Section Fall Meeting**
Indianapolis, Indiana
Indiana Chapter

NOV

- 6-7 **International Board of Directors Meeting**
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
✈ HQ@ninety-nines.org
✈ Erin Hammer, erin@hammergrip.tv

2027

- 9-11 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**
Sydney, Australia

MAGAZINE

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

are one month prior to issue date.
MAR/APR issue deadline: Feb 1.

Check the online calendar for the latest information.
✈ ninety-nines.org/calendar.htm

The President's Message



Robin Hadfield

President
The Ninety-Nines, Inc.
president@ninety-nines.org

As a new year begins, we naturally look both forward and back – to the possibilities ahead and to the long history that brought us here.

Our journey began in 1929, when 26 licensed women pilots gathered at Curtiss Field to form a pioneering community. They named themselves The Ninety-Nines for the number of women who joined and elected Amelia Earhart as their first president. What united them then still unites us now: the belief that women belong in the sky.

Nearly a century later, whether you've just soloed or have flown for decades, being a Ninety-Nine means belonging to an extraordinary international community of women pilots who understand your milestones, challenges, and dreams. To our newest members – welcome. This is a place to grow as a pilot, find mentorship, and build friendships that last far beyond any logbook.

I have been asked how The Ninety-Nines fit within today's aviation landscape, now filled with organizations for airline pilots, military aviators, and groups celebrating Asian, Latina, Black, Indigenous, and other online communities in aviation. These groups strengthen our

industry, and many Ninety-Nines proudly belong to them.

What makes us stand out is that we connect women pilots across all these experiences – across cultures, continents, and every kind of flying. Commercial or recreational, military or airline, research or instruction, aerobatics, seaplanes, gliders, or spaceflight dreams – we hold it all under one wing. We are not defined by a job title or rating; we are defined by flight itself.

Here, a student pilot finds mentorship from a long-haul captain; a helicopter pilot meets a future astronaut; an instrument student pilot finds encouragement from a senior check airman; a private pilot exchanges tips with a member in Britain; a pilot in India swaps stories with someone flying medevac in Canada. Every connection expands what is possible. We have not just become one more organization in a crowded field – we are the rootstock from which so many others have grown.

Wherever you come from, whatever your dream in flight – you belong here. And you strengthen the legacy that began in 1929.

We also celebrate the tremendous work of our four Trusts: Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, Museum of Women Pilots, and the Endowment Fund. Special congratulations go to the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund, which awarded 70 scholarships in 2025, totalling \$464,600. It's a remarkable achievement, and we hope to continue this success for even more members. Past winners have used their scholarships to sharpen their flying skills, assist in career possibilities, conduct research, write books, and contribute to aviation science.

If you're considering applying, dream big – floatplane training, emergency maneuvers, glider or seaplane ratings, turbine transitions, even that jet type rating. And if you aren't selected the first time, try again. Many of our most inspiring recipients succeeded on their second – or third – attempt. Ask past winners in your chapter to review your essay, start early, and trust the process.

Belonging to The Ninety-Nines means stepping into a story that began in 1929 and is still unfolding – lived in hangars and chapter meetings, written in logbooks, and carried in the hearts of women pilots worldwide. You are not only part of history; you are helping shape what comes next.

With each of you, we will continue to soar.

Executive Director Message



Jill van Egmond
Executive Director
The Ninety-Nines, Inc.

During preparation of my article, our amazing Membership Coordinator, Amy Stout, sent me this wonderful piece that I felt needed to be shared in this edition of the magazine. I couldn't have said it better.

Holiday Season Reflections from The Ninety-Nines: Celebrating Connection, Achievement and the Spirit of Flight

Amy Stout
Headquarters Membership Coordinator

As the holiday season winds down and a new year begins, this is a natural moment to reflect – not only on recent celebrations, but on the shared values that connect us as members of The Ninety-Nines. Around the world, women in our organization have welcomed this season through many different cultural and family traditions. Whatever and however we celebrated, we carry forward a renewed sense of community, gratitude, and the joy of lifting one another up.

The past year brought remarkable accomplishments across our Chapters and Sections. We welcomed new members, marked first solos and new ratings, recognized career milestones, and watched our sisters launch into bold new aviation journeys. Ninety-Nines gave their time at airports and aviation events, inspired young women through education programs, championed scholarship efforts, and

represented our organization with professionalism and pride. Each achievement reflects the strength of our mission: to advance aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and shared passion for flight.

Winter still shapes the way we fly, reminding us of the importance of preparedness and safety as we move into the new year. Cold temperatures, icing, reduced visibility, and limited daylight continue to call us to a higher level of planning and vigilance. This is an ideal time to review procedures, share lessons learned, and support one another in every phase of flight – continuing the camaraderie that has defined The Ninety-Nines for more than 95 years.

This transition into a new year also invites gratitude. We remain thankful for our instructors, mentors, mechanics, dispatchers, controllers, and the families and friends who support our flying. We honor the pioneering women who formed this organization in 1929 and created a path for those who followed. And we are grateful for every member who carries that legacy forward – encouraging others, serving with heart, and helping ensure that women in aviation have a place to learn, grow, and lead.

As we look ahead, may we set bold intentions for the year to come – whether that means pursuing the next rating, mentoring a new pilot, attending conferences or section meetings, or stepping into chapter leadership. The Ninety-Nines thrive when each of us invests in one another's success and believes in what we can accomplish together.

However you spent the holidays, may the year ahead be filled with warmth, inspiration, and meaningful connection. Thank you for your dedication to aviation, to one another, and to the enduring legacy of The Ninety-Nines. Here's to safe flights, blue skies, and a new year filled with purpose, progress, and possibility.



Learn About The Ninety-Nines' Membership Benefits

Get a discount on a Lightspeed ANR headset, win a FREE headset, and more!

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Holding Short

Wright Brother's Master Pilot Awardees

David Michael Gitelman

(49 ½ of Marcia Gittleman) May 2008
– Finger Lakes Chapter

Marjorie N. Gorman, June 2006, Lifetime Member, flew to New Horizons 2015; **James C. Gorman** (49 ½ of Marjorie) June 2006 – All-Ohio Chapter

Gayle G. Green, November 2023; **Richard M. Green** (49 ½ of Gayle) November 2023 – All-Ohio Chapter

Mary Latimer February 2024 – Wichita Falls Chapter (Recipient of both FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award and the FAA Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award. Inducted into CFI Hall of Fame in July, 2025)

Leonard "Lenny" Ohlsson

(49 ½ of Pat Ohlsson) June 2021
– Long Island Chapter

For those 99s who missed the second request for information from members who have been honored with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, please send your information to Patohlsson@fly-in.com. Please email your name, month and year received, and chapter name.

Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award has certain eligibility requirements; one is that the effective start date for the required 50 years is the date of the nominee's first solo flight or military equivalent. The Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award is the most prestigious award the FAA issues. Named for Charles Taylor, the award recognizes individuals who have exhibited exemplary aviation expertise, distinguished professionalism, and steadfast commitment through at least 50 years of aviation maintenance experience. Applications are available on the FAA website.

Master Pilot Awardees Honored at Spruce Creek Flying Club

Wednesday, November 9, 2025, the Spruce Creek Flying Club in Daytona Beach, Florida, sponsored the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Awards presented to **Mary Bryant** of the Florida Suncoast Chapter, **Patti Kihm** of the Daytona Chapter, **Pat Ohlsson** of the Long Island Chapter, and **Kathy Royer** of the Daytona Chapter. It is given by the FAA in recognition of 50 years of exemplary aviation flight experience, distinguished professionalism, and

steadfast commitment to aviation safety. Congratulations to all and blue skies!



Left to right, standing: Daytona Chapter members Ginger Jabour, Patti Kihm, Kathy Royer; Marilyn Patierno, New Jersey Chapter

Seated: Mary Bryant, Florida Suncoast Chapter; Carol Gosling, Spaceport Chapter; Pat Ohlsson, Long Island Chapter; Diane Fisher, Long Island Chapter; Lynn O'Donnell, guest; Marcia Gitelman, Finger Lakes Chapter.

SCHOLARSHIPS

ALF Girls Scholarship

– By Lori Plourd,
Katahdin Wings Chapter



Top left: Carla Soplantila | Top right: Yulia Bougouin and Sara Christian-O'Connor | Bottom: Maggie Kerns, Erin Coulter, and Stephanie Baynes

Alice L. Forbes loved seaplanes. Her love affair started when she met her co-worker and future husband, Jim Forbes, who took her on a flight in a Piper Super Cruiser. They were married on December 31, 1968, and over the next 56

years, they had an adventurous life that centered around their love of aviation. Although not a licensed pilot, Alice was Jim's flying companion for over 4,000 hours. She was extremely involved with all aspects of airplane ownership – from maintenance, electronics, to selecting aircraft, and making flight plans. Alice was very supportive of women pilots and organizations like The Ninety-Nines, and especially the Katahdin Wings Chapter, offering encouragement to other women interested in flying.

After Alice passed away on October 28, 2022, Jim wanted to do something to honor Alice. So he contacted his old friend, Mary Build, about sponsoring a seaplane scholarship through the Katahdin Wings Chapter. The idea of the ALF Girls Scholarships (named after Alice L. Forbes) came to be in 2024 and the first four members of the New England Section were awarded the ALF Girls Scholarship. The ALF Girls Scholarships continued in 2025, and four 99s completed their seaplane training and received their Single-Engine Sea Rating over the summer. The scholarship covered the rating with seaplane flight training and check ride fees paid directly to the flight school.

The 2025 winners of the ALF Seaplane Scholarships were: **Carla Soplantila** and **Sara Christian-O'Connor**, both of the Eastern New England Chapter; and **Maggie Kerns** and **Yulia Bougouin**, both of the Connecticut Chapter. One additional scholarship was given to **Stephanie Baynes**, a Maryland Chapter Ninety-Nine, on staff at Airplane Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). The scholarship winners were trained under the direction of Charles Surprenant, CFII ASEL and ASES, AGI, IGI, DPE with Central Maine Aviation in Pittsfield, Maine, along with his daughter Erin Coulter, member of the Katahdin Wings Chapter and owner of Tough Kitty Flying.

Jim has continued to honor Alice's passion for aviation and found a way to continue her support of women who share that passion. Through his generosity and thoughtful guidance, the ALF Girls Scholarships will continue to be offered to members of the New England Section next year. The Ninety-Nines and particularly the Katahdin Wings cannot express how grateful they are to Jim for his generosity, inspiration, and vision.

Holding Short

West Canada Section Scholarship 2025

– Jacki Heffren,
Scholarship Judging Committee,
West Canada Section



The West Canada Section Scholarship 2025 winner is **Cortney Schultz** of the Alberta Chapter. She will use the funds to complete her Multi-IFR Rating.

About the scholarship:

The annual \$2,000 scholarship is open to pilots and non-pilots and non-99s residing in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

There are three purposes for which women can apply for a scholarship: advancement of flight training; an educational or research project; or advancement of a career in an aviation-related field.

Scholarship contact is
wcs99scholarship@gmail.com

Tennessee Chapter

Joelle Wash of the Tennessee Chapter, and winner of our chapter's Judy Wayman Robinson Memorial Scholarship, passed her Commercial check ride on November 18.

Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter

Congratulations to Fall First Wings Scholarship winner **Breanna Frazier**



and to Women in Corporate Aviation Solairus Rating Scholarship winner **Kacy Thompson-Smith**.

Kacy Thompson-Smith

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

50th Anniversary of the First U.S. Female Airline Captain

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Colorado Chapter's **Capt. Emily Warner** (October 30, 1939-July 3, 2020) becoming

America's first female airline captain on June 6, 1976, flying a Twin Otter for Frontier Airlines. Emily is featured in the opening shot of the Rocky Mountain PBS video that celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2025. She was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

The video is now available worldwide at vimeo.com/1113000137

7000 Miles: Now Available On Demand on Amazon and Apple TV

Alixzandra Dove Rothschild, co-creator and actress of *7000 Miles*, is thrilled to announce the release of the inspiring new indie film – created by a mother-daughter duo and brought to life by a talented, all-female production team.

The story imagines a world where Amelia Earhart may have survived, and follows Jo, a female pilot in the 1970s, as she battles glass-ceiling challenges in aviation. As Jo fights for her place in the skies, she begins to suspect that her grandmother may, in fact, be Amelia Earhart. Piece by piece, she uncovers the mystery and must decide what to do with the truth she discovers.

Empowering and thought-provoking, the film celebrates the resilience of women in flight.

“We wanted to tell a story that honors the trailblazing spirit of Amelia Earhart while also shining a light on the challenges women aviators continued to face decades later,” says Alixzandra Dove Rothschild. “This project is our tribute to the generations of women who dared to fly.”

7000 Miles is also available to stream on Tubi.

Learn more: 7000milesfilm.com and on Instagram @7000milesfilm

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Shared Skies, Shared Dreams

– By Kaitlyn Perl, *Lifetime Member*,
Maple Leaf Chapter

I fell in love with aviation — and with my husband, Brahm — in the same summer, but it took 15 years, two kids, and a life fully lived before I stepped into the left seat as a student pilot. Flying felt like coming home. Balancing flight training



with family life wasn't always easy, but each moment in the air reaffirmed my purpose. Aviation has deepened my partnership with Brahm, connecting us not only as spouses but as fellow pilots. It's shaped the way we raise our children and where we've chosen to build our life — rooted in wide-open landscapes and grounded by shared passion. Becoming a pilot reminded me that dreams don't expire; they simply wait for their season. As a proud 99, I'm honored to be part of this community of women who continue to reach higher together.

High Above the Clouds, Where Passion Meets Purpose

– By Monika Sassi, *Quebec Chapter*



My fascination with aviation took flight in childhood, when I spent countless hours crafting and testing paper airplanes. Those simple folds of paper sparked a boundless curiosity about flight — how something so delicate could soar through the air with just the right design. That early wonder soon grew into a lifelong passion for aviation and the science of flight.

As I got older, my interest evolved from imagination to action. At age 15, I enrolled in aviation studies, where I excelled in aviation communication courses. A year later, I had the extraordinary opportunity to work as a hostess for Dassault Aviation, proudly representing the Rafale multirole fighter

at international exhibitions. Standing beside one of the world's most advanced aircraft deepened my conviction that aviation was my true calling.

Determined to turn that passion into a profession, I joined Afriqiyah Airways as a cabin crew member, gaining hands-on industry experience and a firsthand understanding of the world of commercial flight. Though family responsibilities later required me to pause and pursue higher education, my connection to aviation never wavered. I went on to earn a bachelor's degree in art and literature and a human resources management degree from McGill University – building skills that strengthened my leadership, discipline, and adaptability.

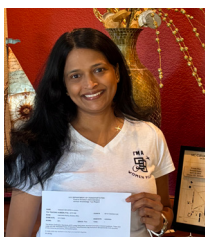
Three years ago, the global pilot shortage reignited my determination to return to the cockpit. Today, while balancing a full-time career as an HR specialist, I am actively pursuing my Private Pilot License (PPL) – the first step toward my ultimate dream: becoming a corporate pilot and eventually an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP).

As a proud member of the Quebec Chapter of The Ninety-Nines, I train and fly out of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (CYJN) and La Chute (CSE4). Every flight – whether over the rolling hills of the Laurentians or along the St. Lawrence River – reminds me why I chose this path. Each takeoff brings me closer to the horizon I've envisioned since childhood: a life where passion meets purpose, high above the clouds.

REPORTING POINTS



Maryland Chapter member **Stephanie Baynes** received some aerobatic training in a Christen Eagle on October 6, 2025.



Sutter Buttes Chapter member **Hannah Nakka** recently took her Instrument Rating Airplane (IRA) knowledge test and passed with 98%.

Arkansas Chapter is pleased to report that **Joclyn Strickland** performed her first solo at Springdale Regional Airport (KASG). Her instructor and fellow 99 is **Leslie Cauble**, and both are scholarship recipients. We look forward to flying high with both of them!



Katahdin Wings Chapter member **Amanda McWhirk** is excited to share the accomplishment of her first solo cross-country flight from Portsmouth

International Airport at Pease (KPSM) to White Mountain Regional Airport (KIZG).



Waterloo on the Grand Chapter member **Contessa Bishop** has reached a very exciting milestone, 10,000 hours. She reports, "September 12, 2025, Air Canada flight 824 from

CYYZ, Toronto, to MAD, Madrid, Spain, was the flight that had me celebrating in-flight the 10,000-hour mark in my personal pilot logbook." This milestone held its place prominently alongside another accomplishment, her Airbus 330 Type Rating.

Southeast Section 99 of Note Award

– Anita Mixon,
Treasure Coast Chapter



Terri Bazacos, Emerald Angels of the Gulf Coast Chapter, was awarded the 2025 Southeast Section 99 of Note Award at the Fall

Section Meeting in recognition of her extraordinary dedication, leadership, and service to aviation and The 99s community. Her achievements exemplify the standards of excellence that this award seeks to honor – spanning aviation advancement, education, mentorship, and humanitarian contribution. Terri is

currently serving her second term as Southeast Section Vice Governor, where she continues to lead with distinction. She chairs the Scholarship, Ways and Means, and Hosting Committees, and is the co-founder of the Corbi Bulluck New Beginnings Scholarship. Additionally, she developed a joint chapter-section scholarship fundraiser, expanding opportunities for aspiring aviators.

Women Aviators Leading the Next Era of Georgetown Flight

– Greta Moore,
Austin Hill Country Chapter

Lisa and Dustin Halvorson – both Army veterans, pilots, and members of the Central Texas flying community – are leading one of the region's most exciting infrastructure projects through their company, Halvorson Development Group (HDG Texas). Lisa is a member of the Austin Hill Country Chapter and serves on her local board.

HDG is developing 54 state-of-the-art aircraft hangars on a 7.3-acre site at Georgetown Executive Airport (KGTU). The project directly addresses the area's growing aviation needs – with more than 400 aircraft currently on the airport waitlist and limited storage options across Central Texas.

"Entrepreneurship comes naturally to us," says Lisa. "As aviators and veterans, we're problem solvers by nature – we assess, adapt, and act. Dustin and I built HDG with the goal of creating infrastructure that truly serves pilots and strengthens the aviation community here in Georgetown."

The couple's hands-on leadership and commitment to quality show in every detail – from durable, modern hangar designs to flexible lease and ownership options, which make private storage attainable for pilots and investors alike.

With permitting and early commitments secured, HDG Texas is transforming Georgetown's aviation landscape – one hangar at a time.

To learn more or reserve your hangar, visit hdgtexas.com or contact hdgtexas@gmail.com.

Ruth Abigail Thomas Bridwell McConnell Hughes



January 11, 1903 –
November 26, 1970

Ruth Abigail Thomas Bridwell McConnell Hughes (1903-1970) lived a life of resilience, reinvention, and quiet pioneering. Ruth was born January 11, 1903, in Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas, to an early colonial family. The Thomas family, originally from Wales, arrived in America in the late 1600s. The Thomas family migrated to the Texas area around the 1870s, and Ruth grew up in Texas during the dawn of aviation.

Ruth successfully passed a series of tests, received her license and

established a record Wednesday, May 22, 1929, as the first woman pilot trained by the Texas Air Transport at the Houston Flying School. Ruth completed a 15-hour course and received her Private Pilot's License from instructor W.A. Morse. Ruth announced that she planned on taking the full 200-hour course, which would entitle her to a Transport Pilot's License, the highest recorded by the government.

An early Ninety-Nines newsletter included Ruth T. Bridwell in the publication by the organization of women pilots, which was founded November 2, 1929. Ruth held license No. 6793 and was listed among the charter members.

Ruth's years as a flyer appear to have been brief. At 17, Ruth married Ernest Lee Bridwell in 1920. The couple had a daughter, Anna Margaret, and later divorced in 1924. Five years later, Ruth married traveling salesman Thomas F. McConnell in Harris County, Texas. By 1930, census records list her as Ruth A. McConnell, age 27, living with Thomas, his parents, and young Anna in Hinsdale, Illinois. By June 1936, she was widowed; Thomas McConnell died in a car accident in Iowa. At the time, Ruth was expecting their son, John Alexander. The 1940 census records her in Dallas, Texas, a 37-year-old widow raising three children: Anna Margaret (Bridwell) McConnell, Jane Kathryn, and John Alexander. By then, her occupation was noted as a nurse – a profession she would continue to hold.

In the 1950s, Ruth settled in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where her children attended high school. Newspaper clippings place her there through the early 1960s. Later in life, she married a third time, becoming Ruth Hughes. By the mid 1960s she had moved to Placerville, California, near her daughter Jane. Ruth died November 26, 1970, at age 67 in Placerville. She was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie, Illinois, beside her second husband, Thomas McConnell. She left behind three children, Anna Bridwell King, Jane McConnell Schlappi, and John Alexander McConnell. Though her obituary did not mention her flying, Ruth's name endures among The Ninety-Nines charter members, a reminder of the many women whose pioneering spirit was nearly forgotten.

– By Susan Roe Musacchio, *Chicago Area Chapter*

Helen "Fay" Gillis Wells

October 15, 1908 – December 2, 2024



In August 1929, Fay began flying at the Curtiss Flying School. In early September, right after she soloed, Fay joined the Caterpillar Club when her airplane fell apart in the sky. Founded in 1922, the Caterpillar Club membership requirements are: "A person must have jumped from a disabled aircraft with a parachute to save their life." Undaunted, on October 5, Fay earned Pilot License No. 9497.

Immediately, the Curtiss-Wright Corporation hired Fay to demonstrate their aircraft

nationwide. In 1930, Fay received her Commercial Pilot's License. During 1930-34, Fay joined her family because her father was working in the Soviet Union. With her aviation and journalism contacts, Fay wrote for the New York Herald Tribune, The New York Times, and the Associated Press. As she became known in the Russian aviation network, Fay became the first American woman to pilot a Soviet civil aircraft, and the first foreigner to own a glider. In 1933, she used her Russian connections to help Wiley Post's solo round-the-world flight. In 1935, when Post invited Fay to co-pilot in another round-the-world flight, she declined because she eloped with Linton Wells, a pioneer newsman.

The Wells became a dynamic foreign correspondent team. In 1935, they covered the Italo-Ethiopian War for the New York Herald. Fay and Linton pioneered radio broadcast reporting. Upon their return to the United States, they both continued newspaper and radio reporting. In 1964, Fay was hired by Storer Broadcasting Company, the largest privately-owned U.S. radio and television broadcaster. Fay became the first female accredited White House correspondent. Fay covered Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter. In 1972, she was one of only three women reporters selected to cover the historic Nixon trip to China. Fay retired in 1977.

During her many years in journalism, aviation was always in her heart. In 1962, using her extensive government and media contacts, she promoted the U.S. Postal Service issuing of the Amelia Earhart Airmail postage stamp. The Wells were key supporters in the creation of the International Forest of Friendship, which Fay co-chaired for many years.

Over her lifetime, Fay Gillis Wells received many aviation and broadcasting awards: 1972 Woman of the Year by OX5 Aviation Pioneers, 1984 Women's Aerospace Achievement Award, 1992 WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame, 1998 Esther Van Wagoner Tufty Award for broadcasting achievement, 2001 National Aeronautic Association Katharine Wright Award, 2002 Amelia Earhart Pioneering Achievement Award, and the American Women in Radio and Television Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2002, Lillian Brinnon and Howard Fried penned a book about this trailblazer, *Fay Gillis Wells: In the Air & On the Air*.

Photo: Fay Gillis Wells | Intl Women Air & Space Museum

– By Penny Rafferty Hamilton, *Idaho Chapter*

Barbara Bancroft (d. 2004)



Florida's Trailblazing Aviatrice: Barbara Bancroft Soars into the Record Books

In the early spring of 1929, when most young women her age were learning social graces, 19-year-old Barbara Bancroft of Melbourne, Florida, was learning how to handle a roaring airplane engine. Under the guidance of Captain A. B. McMullen at Tampa's McMullen Aviation School, Bancroft became one of

Florida's earliest female pilots – an audacious trailblazer who shattered expectations in the golden age of flight.

After only six hours and 40 minutes of instruction, Bancroft made her first solo flight over Tampa's municipal airport. Newspapers called her "an earnest young lady from Melbourne" who was "certain to succeed, barring unforeseen accidents." She earned national attention as the 13th woman in the United States to receive a limited Commercial Pilot's License. The Tampa Tribune marveled at her confidence and superstitions, noting that she wore 13 bracelets and lived in apartment number 13 – turning what many considered unlucky into her charm of courage.

Bancroft's passion extended far beyond the cockpit. When she wasn't in the air, she could be found in greasy overalls, wrench and pliers in hand, studying carburetors, valves, and propeller shafts. "She isn't afraid of oil or grease," the Tribune wrote admiringly. Her mechanical curiosity reflected a new vision of womanhood – one that valued technical mastery as much as daring spirit.

By April, she had signed up for a 50-hour advanced course, and later that month, she completed her first cross-country flight, flying her Travel Air biplane from Tampa to Melbourne. The Orlando Evening Star hailed her as the first girl pilot on Florida's east coast, performing passenger and stunt flights over her hometown. Audiences were thrilled to see the confident teenager loop and dive across the Florida skies.

In the fall of 1929, Bancroft joined Captain McMullen and fellow pilot I. A. Yarnell Jr., the state's youngest certificated male aviator, for three days of aerial performances during Gainesville's Armistice celebration. Both had been trained by McMullen and were recognized by the Department of Commerce for their exceptional ratings. She became known as Florida's "licensed girl pilot," a living symbol of Tampa's growing aviation industry.

Bancroft's achievements were more than personal triumphs – they marked the rise of women in a field still largely closed to them. Inspired by the exploits of Amelia Earhart, she proved that a Florida girl could match any man's skill at the controls. Her instructors praised her steady nerves, quick reflexes, and instinct for flight. "Endowed with a sturdy body and a brain that functions quicker than the flash of a spark plug," one reporter wrote, "she has that inherent knack of measuring distance and balance that instructors declare is above normal."

In just a few months, Barbara Bancroft went from a student pilot to one of the South's most admired young aviators. Her story – captured in the enthusiastic pages of 1929 Florida newspapers – reveals not only the birth of modern aviation in Tampa but also the fearless energy of a young woman determined to rise above limitations. Nearly a century later, her flights remain a powerful emblem of courage, curiosity, and the unbreakable American urge to fly.

– By Susan Musacchio, *Chicago Area Chapter*

Mary Ellen Bacon (d. 1936)



Early Life and Aviation Career

Mary Ellen Bacon was one of the pioneering women who embraced aviation in the 1920s, a time when flying was still dangerous, experimental, and largely dominated by men. She earned her Pilot's License in the late 1920s (License No. 9969), placing her among the earliest licensed women pilots in the United States.

The Ninety-Nines Founding (1929)

In November 1929, Amelia Earhart and 98 other licensed women pilots formed The Ninety-Nines, the first international organization for women pilots. Mary Ellen Bacon was one of the original charter members, signing her name to the roster that day.

Her inclusion connected her with a remarkable generation of aviators who flew in barnstorming shows, regional races, and increasingly in commercial and instructional roles. Bacon's name appears in the

earliest 99s newsletters and rosters, and contemporary press in Boston referred to her as part of the region's "birdwomen."

Geographic Ties

- New England: Bacon was active in the Boston-area flying community and appears in local newspaper accounts of women aviators organizing at Boston Airport in 1929.
- Pennsylvania: A later roster lists her address in Pitcairn, Pennsylvania, suggesting she lived and possibly flew in the Pittsburgh area in the 1930s.

Death and Legacy

Mary Ellen Bacon died in 1936, just seven years after helping to form The Ninety-Nines. Though her aviation career was tragically short, her role as a charter member secured her place in history. Like many of the early women aviators, her story is a reminder of the risks these pioneers took to advance aviation for women.

Today, The Ninety-Nines honor her memory by keeping her name on the founding roster, alongside Amelia Earhart, Louise Thaden, and other giants of early aviation.

– By Susan Musacchio, *Chicago Area Chapter*

Historic Research Help Needed!

Contact Publications Committee Chair Lori Plourd at news@ninety-nines.org or 99spubschair@gmail.com

THE NINETY-NINES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

JULY 7-11, 2026 | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

By Minnetta Gardinier, 99s Vice President



The Ninety-Nines International Conference Committee and the Southwest Section invite you to the 2026 International Conference in San Diego, California, July 8-12, 2026. Join Ninety-Nines from all over the world in sunny California at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel for learning, networking, fellowship, and fun. Let's all be California girls!

San Diego is an ideal conference location, offering a wide variety of fun activities for visitors. Explore the world-famous San Diego Zoo, stroll through the vibrant Gaslamp Quarter, visit beautiful beaches in Coronado and La Jolla, or head for Balboa Park, which features museums, gardens, and the world-famous San Diego Zoo. The San Diego Harbor is a short walk from the conference hotel, and there you can visit the USS Midway, a historic aircraft carrier, sample the many waterfront restaurants, or take a tour of San Diego Harbor. Whether you enjoy outdoor adventures, shopping, or family-friendly attractions, San Diego has something for everyone to enjoy during their stay.

San Diego History

San Diego boasts a rich and diverse history, dating back thousands of years to when the Kumeyaay people first inhabited the region. In 1542, European explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo claimed the area for Spain, marking the beginning of San Diego's colonial era. Over time, San Diego grew from a small Spanish mission settlement into a bustling port city, especially after California became part of the United States in 1850. Today, its unique blend of cultural influences and maritime heritage is evident throughout the city's neighborhoods and landmarks.





Conference Registration

- Conference information and registration forms may be found on the Conference website. Go to www.ninety-nines.org and click on the Conference logo.
- Full Registration for Ninety-Nines, Guests, and Friends of The Ninety-Nines includes: Conference materials, Conference bag, Seminars, Hospitality Suite, Fly Mart, Thursday Keynote Breakfast and Keynote Address, Thursday Welcome Reception, Saturday Breakfast, Saturday PM Career Panel, Saturday AE Scholarship and International Awards Banquet, and option to purchase tours.
- Children's Registration fee includes Thursday Keynote Breakfast, Thursday Welcome Reception, Saturday Awards Banquet, Seminars, and access to the Fly Mart. Children's registration fee does not include the Saturday morning breakfast, access to the Hospitality Suite, Conference materials, or a Conference bag.

Deadlines and Fees

- Early Registration by March 31, 2026 – \$329
- On-Time Registration by May 31, 2026 – \$359
- Late Registration after May 31, 2026 – \$379
- Children (under the age of 12 at time of Conference) – \$75
- One-day registration is also available; consult the Conference website.

Hotel Information

The official hotel for the Conference is the Westin Gaslamp Quarter, located in the heart of downtown San Diego. This modern hotel offers comfortable guest rooms, excellent amenities, and is a short walk away from the historic Gaslamp Quarter and the waterfront Embarcadero. Attendees will enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi in guest rooms, a fitness center, outdoor pool, and convenient access to public transportation.

Hotel reservations at the Conference rate are made during the Conference registration process; individuals should not attempt to make reservations on their own.

Getting There

San Diego International Airport (KSAN) serves as the primary airport for the city and is located just three miles from downtown San Diego and the Westin Gaslamp Quarter hotel. The airport offers numerous domestic and international flights daily, making it easily accessible for conference attendees. Ground transportation options from the airport include taxis, ride-sharing services, and rental cars.

For general aviation arrivals, the designated airport is Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport (KMYF); CrownAir Aviation is the FBO. Overnight fees will be discounted with fuel purchase.

SUPPORTING THE CONFERENCE

Conference Sponsorships

Businesses and corporations are encouraged to show their support for The Ninety-Nines by becoming a Conference sponsor. Sponsorships are offered at multiple levels, and a custom package can be created to meet the needs of the sponsor. Conference sponsors receive recognition at the Conference and in Conference print materials. Conference sponsorship information and forms are available on the Conference registration website.

Individuals can also become Conference sponsors and may choose an amount to donate when they register for the Conference. Individual sponsors will be recognized in the Conference program.

For more information, contact Rosanne Isom at 99sconferencesponsors@gmail.com.

"Sponsor A Pilot"

Generous Ninety-Nines have often expressed an interest in supporting Student Pilot members who would like to attend an International Conference for the first time. The option to "Sponsor a Pilot" is available when registering for the Conference. Funds donated will be allocated through a drawing to help offset some of the expenses for Student Pilot members attending their first Conference.

Fly Mart/Exhibit Hall

The Ninety-Nines 2026 International Conference provides the opportunity for businesses and individuals to promote their products and services to a large group of enthusiastic pilots, strengthen customer relationships and loyalty, and demonstrate their commitment to the advancement of aviation. The Conference also provides recruitment opportunities for airlines and other aviation companies seeking to hire pilots. For Sections and Chapters, selling merchandise at the Conference can be an excellent fund-raising opportunity. Exhibitors and vendors will be recognized in the Conference program. Fly Mart table reservation information is available on the Conference website.

Program Advertising

Purchasing an ad in the International Conference Program offers Chapters and Sections a way to recognize a member's achievement, thank a member for her service, or memorialize a deceased member. Conference Program advertising is also a cost-effective way for businesses to reach a very specific audience. Advertising forms are available on the Conference website.

Fun Things To Do In San Diego

Conference Options

Pre-Conference Half-Day Tour – La Jolla, California

Wednesday, July 8, 1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m.

La Jolla is a beautiful, hilly, seaside neighborhood about 15 miles from San Diego, occupying seven miles of curving coastline along the Pacific Ocean, surrounded on three sides by ocean bluffs and beaches. Highlights of the tour include Mt. Soledad, with its panoramic views of the city; the pristine La Jolla Shores; La Jolla Cove, with towering cliffs and views of the famous sea lions basking on the rocks; and Ellen Browning Scripps Park, featuring grassy lawns, towering palm trees, and stunning coastal views.

Pre-Conference Evening Tour: Gaslamp Quarter Food & Drink Tour

Wednesday, July 8, 5:30 p.m – 8:00 p.m.

Or Friday, July 10, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Explore some of the best eats in the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego on this walking tour with an expert guide who has the inside scoop on the district's bustling restaurant scene and will share colorful stories that will make the history of San Diego come to life. Sample delicious dishes at several eateries, sip drinks, and discover the background of the district.

San Diego "SEAL" Tour

Thursday, July 9, 1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m

Is it a boat? Is it a bus? This tour is Diego's only amphibious Sea and Land Adventure! This fully narrated SEAL Tour explores picturesque San Diego streets before splashing down for a cruise through the waters of the San Diego Bay. Experience the history and ecological wonders of San Diego; learn about San Diego's rich military history, and cruise through the waters that are the playground of the California Sea Lion.

San Diego Full Bay Harbor Tour

Friday, July 10, 1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m.

Take a walk less than a mile from the Conference hotel to the San Diego Broadway Pier for a harbor cruise that will explore the North Bay, home to the Maritime Museum, U.S. Navy submarines, and the North Island Air Station, as well as the South Bay, with the Coronado Bridge, Naval Base San Diego, shipyards, and portside industries. The cruise includes live narration by an expert crew knowledgeable about maritime history, military presence, and the environmental beauty of San Diego. The yacht features panoramic views and open-air decks, including shaded seating areas. Snacks and beverages are available for purchase on board.

Gaslamp Quarter Food and Drink Tour

Friday, July 10, 2:00 p.m – 4:30 p.m.

Explore some of the best eats in the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego on this walking tour with an expert guide who has the inside scoop on the district's bustling restaurant scene and will

share colorful stories that will make the history of San Diego come to life. Sample delicious dishes at several eateries, sip drinks, and discover the background of the district.

Choose Your Own Adventure

Balboa Park

With more than 1,200 acres, Balboa Park is the cultural heart of San Diego, featuring lush gardens, renowned museums, and Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Whether you're interested in art, history, or simply soaking up the vibrant atmosphere, Balboa Park offers something for everyone. Distance from the hotel is approximately 2 miles.

San Diego Zoo

The San Diego Zoo, located within Balboa Park, is one of the most celebrated zoological parks in the world. Home to over 3,500 animals representing more than 650 species and subspecies, the zoo is renowned for its pioneering efforts in conservation and naturalistic animal habitats. Distance from the hotel is approximately 2 miles.

Embarcadero

The Embarcadero is a vibrant waterfront area along San Diego Bay, known for its picturesque views, maritime museums, and lively public spaces. Stroll along the harbor, explore historic ships such as the USS Midway Museum, or enjoy fresh seafood at waterfront restaurants. Distance from the hotel is approximately 1 mile.

USS Midway Museum

The USS Midway Museum is a historic naval aircraft carrier museum located on San Diego's Embarcadero. Housed aboard the USS Midway, America's longest-serving aircraft carrier of the 20th century, the museum offers an immersive experience through restored aircraft, interactive exhibits, and guided tours of the ship's flight deck, hangar bay, and crew quarters. Distance from the hotel is approximately 1 mile.

Petco Park

Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres, is a premier baseball stadium located in the heart of downtown San Diego. Known for its stunning architecture and sweeping views of the city and bay, Petco Park offers more than just baseball games. Distance from the hotel is approximately .7 miles.

Old Town Trolley Tours

Old Town Trolley is a popular hop-on, hop-off sightseeing tour that allows visitors to access major landmarks such as Old Town, Balboa Park, the Embarcadero, and more. With entertaining narration from knowledgeable guides, guests learn about the city's history, culture, and hidden gems while enjoying scenic views from comfortable, open-air vehicles. Closest stop to the hotel is approximately .4 miles.

Little Italy

Little Italy is a vibrant neighborhood just north of downtown San Diego, celebrated for its rich Italian heritage, bustling streets, and lively atmosphere. Visitors can wander through charming piazzas lined with authentic Italian restaurants and trendy cafes. Distance from the hotel is approximately 1 mile.

Old Town

Old Town is the historic heart of San Diego, renowned for its vibrant blend of Mexican and early American heritage. Visitors can stroll through preserved adobe buildings, lively plazas, and colorful markets, experiencing authentic cuisine, folk art, and cultural performances along the way. Distance from the hotel is approximately 3 miles.

Coronado Ferry Landing

Coronado Ferry Landing is a picturesque waterfront destination located on the bayside of Coronado, offering stunning views of the San Diego skyline. This lively complex features a mix of boutique shops, art galleries, and diverse restaurants, perfect for a leisurely stroll or casual dining. Flagship Cruises offers a scenic ferry service from Harbor Pier to Coronado Island. The ferry features spacious seating, panoramic views of the city skyline and waterfront, and convenient departure times throughout the day. Distance from the hotel to Coronado Ferry Terminal is approximately .8 miles.

E-Bike Tours

Another Side of San Diego Tours E-Bike Tours offer a fun and eco-friendly way to explore San Diego's scenic neighborhoods and coastal sights. Guided by knowledgeable locals, these tours provide unique insights into the city's history and culture while allowing participants to enjoy the outdoors and cover more ground than traditional walking tours.

Segway Tours

Another Side of San Diego Tours offers Segway Tours that provide an exciting and accessible way to see the city's highlights. Gliding along scenic routes, participants enjoy a guided experience that combines local history, fun facts, and plenty of photo opportunities. The tours are suitable for all skill levels.

"The Top Gun Bar"

"The Top Gun Bar," officially known as Kansas City Barbeque, is a legendary San Diego establishment featured in the iconic film Top Gun. Located near the waterfront and just a short distance from the Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel, this casual eatery welcomes visitors with its movie memorabilia, relaxed atmosphere, and classic barbecue fare. Distance from the hotel is approximately .6 miles.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

TUESDAY, JULY 7

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Registration

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Exhibitor Set-Up

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
PRE-CONFERENCE OPTION
Private La Jolla
Sightseeing Tour

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
International
Board of Directors
Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
OPTIONAL TOUR
Gaslamp Quarter
Food Tour

THURSDAY, JULY 9

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Keynote
Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
"Flying Without Arms:
Redefining Limitations
and Possibilities"

Jessica Cox
Pilot, Motivational Speaker,
Author, Founder of
Rightfooted Foundation
International, Author of
Disarm Your Limits

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
SEMINAR
"Clear the Legal Skies:
A Guide for All Ninety-
Nines"

Maria Esparraguera
Pilot, Attorney, Ninety-Nines
General Counsel

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
SEMINAR
"Why Your Mind is Your
Most Important Flight
Instrument"

Tammy Barlette
USAF Lieutenant Colonel
(retired), Founder of
Crosscheck Mental
Performance Training

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
SEMINAR
"Preflight Your Physical -
Do's and Don'ts"

Dr. Rachael Ferraro
Owner of Aviate Medical,
PLLC, Author of "Ask the AME,"
Ninety-Nines Magazine

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
SEMINAR
"SHenanigans in the Sky:
Women, Speed, and Air
Racing"

Jeanné Willerth
CFI, CFII, MEI, ATP, Air Racer,
AOPA Instructor, FAASTeam

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
OPTIONAL TOUR
San Diego "SEAL" Tour

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
AEMSF Trust Meeting

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Endowment Fund
Trust Meeting

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Council of Governors
Meeting

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
First-Timers Meet & Greet

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception

FRIDAY, JULY 10

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Registration

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
SAFETY SEMINAR
- WINGS CREDIT
"High Flying Trivia:
The Aviation Jeopardy
Challenge"

Dr. Thao Do
FAA Gold Seal CFI, CFII, MEI,
FAA Safety Representative,
NAFI Master Flight Instructor

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
SEMINAR
"The Pilot's Checklist:
Ten Tips to Ace Your
Checkride"

Julie Keane
Corporate pilot,
Airline Pilot, DPE

Lauren Scott
DPE, ATP, CFI, CFII, MEI, SES

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
SEMINAR
"Fabulous First
Female Flyers"
Jenny Beatty
Airline Pilot, Aviation
Researcher, Writer,
Presenter, Advocate

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
"Laugh, Learn, and Lead"
Round table discussions
to inspire and energize
Chapters and Sections
- All members encouraged to
attend!

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
OPTIONAL TOUR
San Diego Full Bay
Harbor Tour

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Annual Meeting
Comm Session

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Reception for Current
and Past Presidents
and Governors

SATURDAY, JULY 11

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Registration

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Breakfast Buffet

8:30 p.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ninety-Nines International
Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibits/Fly Mart

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hospitality

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Life Member Luncheon

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
PROFESSIONAL PILOT
CAREER PANEL
"Blazing the Trail for
Today's Career Pilots"

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
SEMINAR
"G'Day, Ninety-Nines!"
Preliminary Briefing
on 2027 Conference
in Sydney

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
SEMINAR
"The Spirit of Flight -
Flying for a Cause in
Australia's Outback"

Dee Bond
Air Racer, Ferry Pilot,
Precision Flying Competitor

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
International Board of
Directors Meeting

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Cocktail Hour
(Cash Bar)

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Awards Banquet
Amelia Earhart
Memorial Scholarships
Ninety-Nines
International Awards

2026 International Conference Featured Speakers

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“Flying Without Arms: Redefining Limitations and Possibilities”



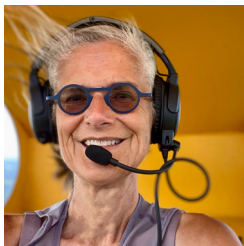
Jessica Cox

Thursday, July 9, 8:00 a.m.

Jessica Cox will share the extraordinary journey that took her from being born without arms to becoming the world’s first licensed armless pilot – the result of her unshakable determination, creativity, and refusal to accept limitations. Now, Jessica is taking her story to new heights as she prepares to fly The Impossible Airplane – the first aircraft custom-built for an armless pilot – set to debut at AirVenture 2026 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This presentation offers a rare glimpse into the groundbreaking innovation, resilience, and teamwork behind the project and will inspire you to embrace challenges and reimagine what is possible.

Jessica Cox is a renowned motivational speaker who has been featured on TV shows such as Ellen, CNN, National Geographic, Fox & Friends, and BBC News. Over an 18-year speaking career, she has inspired audiences in 28 countries, reaching 40,000 people at a time. She is the author of *Disarm Your Limits*, an autobiographical self-help book that has sold over 10,000 copies. When she’s not soaring through the skies, Jessica trains in taekwondo and holds a fourth-degree black belt.

“Clear the Legal Skies: A Guide for All Ninety-Nines”



Maria Esparraguera

Thursday, July 9, 9:15 a.m.

As a member of The Ninety-Nines Legal Team, Maria will present information and answer questions on some of the most common issues faced by Ninety-Nines Chapters and Sections, such as setting up scholarships, writing and revising bylaws, fundraising, and avoiding conflicts of interest.

Maria Esparraguera has served as a civilian attorney for the Army for 41 years. She has served as the Chief of Labor and Employment Law for the Department of the Army at the Pentagon, responsible for all labor and employment law litigation and policy. She has also been a member of The Ninety-Nines General Counsel’s office for the past two years, flies for Civil Air Patrol, and owns her own 182.

“Why Your Mind is Your Most Important Flight Instrument”



Tammy Barlette

Thursday, July 9, 9:15 a.m.

This presentation delves into the mental performance skills that distinguish good pilots from great ones. Attendees will learn practical techniques used by elite aviators to build cognitive resilience, manage anxiety and imposter syndrome, maintain sharp focus during complex operations, recover from mistakes and setbacks, and transform perfectionist tendencies into confident preparation. Tammy will share real stories from the cockpit and provide tools pilots can implement immediately in their flying.

Tammy Barlette is a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel, A-10 pilot with over 3,000 hours, former T-38 instructor pilot, and founder of Crosscheck Mental Performance Training – an aviation-specific mental performance training company.

“Preflight Your Physical – Do’s and Don’ts”



Dr. Rachael Ferraro

Thursday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.

This presentation equips pilots and student pilots with the knowledge and tools to confidently navigate the FAA medical certification process confidently. Attendees will learn how to anticipate and avoid common medical pitfalls, prepare documentation, and navigate FAA expectations – to stay flight-ready without unnecessary delays. The session features real-world scenarios, concise reference checklists, and time for interactive Q&A, providing a comprehensive understanding of the process.

Dr. Rachael Ferraro is the owner of Aviate Medical PLLC in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, where she helps pilots navigate the medical certification process with clarity and care. She writes the “Ask the AME” column in the *Ninety-Nines Magazine*, providing trusted guidance to aviators on health and safety in aviation. A frequent speaker at aviation events, she is passionate about supporting pilots both in the cockpit and beyond.

“SHenanigans in the Sky: Women, Speed, and Air Racing”



Jeanné Willerth

Thursday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.

What’s changed in air racing over the past five decades? Quite a lot! Jeanné Willerth began racing planes alongside her mother and her flight instructor more than 50 years ago. In this engaging presentation, she will share how the sport has evolved – from paper charts to glass cockpits, from weather guessing to precision forecasting, and from skirts to skorts. Join Jeanné for a fascinating stroll through the many ways air racing has transformed since the 1970s.

2026 International Conference Featured Speakers

Jeanné is a CFI, CFII, MEI, and ATP with over 4,200 flight hours. Jeanné loves flying “Charlie,” her Cessna 182, in air races as team “SHenanigans.” She has trained pilots and re-certified flight instructors nationwide for AOPA, where she teaches the Rusty Pilot course. A passionate educator and aviator, Jeanné was named the 2012 FAASTeam Representative of the Year and 2015 FAA Central Region CFI of the Year. She also volunteers with Angel Flight Central, Challenge Air, and the EAA Young Eagles program.

SAFETY SEMINAR – WINGS CREDIT

“High Flying Trivia: The Aviation Jeopardy Challenge”



Dr. Thao Do

Friday, July 10, 8:00 a.m.

Are you ready to have fun and get WINGS credit? If so, this program is a must-attend. Dr Thao Do will present an aviation version of the beloved game show Jeopardy!, where we will split into teams and play. This is a fun opportunity to brush up on your FAR/

AIM, charts, airport markings, and pretend you are a contestant on Jeopardy!

Dr. Thao Do is an FAA Gold Seal CFI, CFII, and MEI, FAA Safety Representative, and NAFI Master Flight Instructor. She teaches pilots from teenagers to Air Force officers and airline professionals, guiding them from private through instructor levels. Beyond the flight deck, she writes books and produces educational videos that blend technical precision with mindfulness and wisdom in aviation.

“The Pilot’s Checklist: Ten Tips to Ace Your Check Ride”



Julie Keane & Lauren Scott

Friday, July 10, 9:15 a.m.

This session will deliver valuable insights for every pilot. Julie and Lauren will dive into the latest tips, common pitfalls, and “gotchas” for the Sport Pilot, Private, Instrument, Commercial, and CFI check rides, both oral and flight portions of the practical exam. Even if you are not currently training, you will walk away better informed and better equipped to support your fellow pilots. Don’t miss this opportunity to stay sharp and up to date!

Julie Keane has enjoyed a career in aviation for over 40 years. Julie’s designations, ratings, and certificates include DPE, ATP, CFI, CFII, MEI, and SES. She has had the

privilege of flying over eighty different types of aircraft, ranging from a J-3 Cub to a Citation Jet. A member of the San Diego Chapter, Julie has been a proud Ninety-Nine for decades.

Lauren Scott is a second-generation pilot, following in the footsteps of her father and her aunt, Mary Webb Nicholson – a charter Ninety-Nine and WWII ATA ferry pilot. After a 17-year break raising three children, Lauren returned to flying as her teen-aged daughter’s instructor. She went on to instruct many more students, fly PC-12s as a corporate pilot, serve as a Designated Pilot Examiner, and fly the Airbus A319/320 as an airline pilot. A member of the Las Vegas

Chapter, Lauren is an AEMS award recipient, two-time Air Race Classic champion, and the 2025 Southwest Section Professional Woman Pilot of the Year.

“Fabulous First Female Flyers”



Jenny Beatty

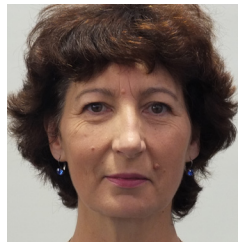
Friday, July 10, 9:15 a.m.

Many people recognize the name of just one female pilot – Amelia Earhart. But have you heard of the women who flew years and even decades before Amelia was born? And what about the other women pilots who helped found The Ninety-Nines?

In this entertaining presentation, you will learn about fabulous first female flyers from all over the world, and their adventures and misadventures – including the Mile High Club – all while picking up new aviation safety tips along the way.

Captain Jenny Beatty is an airline pilot rated to fly large transport jets, seaplanes, and gliders. She is a longtime aviation researcher, writer, presenter, and advocate, with a particular focus on women and others historically excluded from aeronautical professions. A Life Member of The Ninety-Nines in the Wisconsin Chapter, Jenny is an AEMS award winner and past Trustee and co-founder of The Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative.

“The Spirit of Flight – Flying for a Cause in Australia’s Outback”



Dee Bond

Saturday, July 11, 2:30 p.m.

Kiwi pilot Dee Bond will share her thrilling adventure across the Outback sky. Dee departed New Zealand with just five hours of experience in a 750XL SuperPac, setting out across the Tasman Sea for Australia.

From there, she traveled up Queensland’s east coast, visiting Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) bases to promote the Outback Air Race – a timed navigation challenge rather than a traditional race – aimed at raising \$750,000 for the RFDS.

After collecting her crew in Cairns, Team 27, the “Kiwi Express,” turned inland to Ayers Rock for the race start. Over the next two weeks, 38 teams navigated more than 2,000 miles across nine legs through Australia’s vast interior.

Dee Bond, former Ninety-Nines International Director and current New Zealand Section Membership Chair, loves flying adventures that have taken her all over the world. She has represented New Zealand at the World Air Games and the World Precision Flying Champs and has competed in nine Air Race Classics since 2001, winning in 2017 and 2022. She has ferried planes internationally, flown over Africa on safari, and has now completed another bucket list item by participating in the Outback Air Race.

First Wings Awards

Congratulations go to the 25 student pilot members named recipients of the Fall 2025 First Wings Awards. Those women represent 22 different Chapters in nine separate Sections.

They represent the United States and Canada.

The First Wings Award is a progressive scholarship of up to \$6,000 towards an initial pilot certificate. Awarded each spring and fall, First Wings payments are based on specific flight training milestone achievements, which are:

- WRITTEN EXAM \$500
- SOLO \$2,500
- LONG CROSS-COUNTRY \$2,000
- PRIVATE \$1,000

For the Fall 2025 cycle, the AEMSF Trustees were able to fund these awards in the amount of \$121,500.

Originally, the scholarship was not milestone-based. The awards for our student pilot members began in 2001 as the New Pilot Award of \$1,500, which was increased to \$2,000 in 2012. In 2013, the award was renamed Fly Now and was worth up to \$3,000 based upon specific milestone completion. Soon after, the award amount was doubled, increasing the value to the current \$6,000, and most recently, it became the First Wings Award.

Our grassroots approach within the organization begins at the chapter level. One of the biggest changes leading to the most success was the addition of a mentoring process. The follow-through and open exchange between the recipient and their mentor are hugely important. Many of the Mentors in this award cycle are past winners of the New Pilot, Fly Now, First Wings, and Amelia Earhart Flight Training scholarship. Once again, the Trustees extend a special thank you to the Mentors of our winners who have a special means of giving back to The Ninety-Nines, Inc.



Marie-Pier Arsenault

British Columbia Coast Chapter,
West Canada Section
Mentor: Terra Samson

Born next to a regional airport, I grew up mesmerized by aviation – I could see planes landing in my kitchen window (or so it seemed). As a child, I vividly remember climbing my backyard fence every time I heard an engine roar, just to be close to these giant metallic birds, thinking one day I would be in one of them. Fast forward to today, where I'm the proud recipient of the First Wings Scholarship that's helping me take on this wonderful journey of becoming a commercial pilot. I'm deeply grateful to The 99s for this opportunity and this supportive community.



Kathleen Christensen

San Gabriel Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Loreen Dee Wynja

Thrilled by my first flight at the age of four, a lifelong fascination with aviation began for me. On my 51st birthday, I was gifted with a lesson in a Cessna 152 and excitedly began my journey to become a private pilot. I've been serving as Chapter Secretary since 2023 and am grateful for the encouragement and support of my sister 99s while preparing for my first solo. I'm honored to receive this award and look forward to completing my certificate so that I can offer flights to new 99s, encouraging them to progress in their own aviation journey!



Rachel Donawerth

Orange County Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Diane Titterington-Machado

Within the last few years, I went from never imagining I could be a pilot to never imagining life without flight. I grew up attending airshows with my dad, but when he gifted me a discovery flight in 2022, it sparked a deep love for flying, learning about aviation, and cheering on others in their aviation journey. Now, he and I are both training for our Private Certificate with the same instructor! I'm working towards becoming a CFI to encourage women that they can accomplish aspirations in aviation they once never imagined possible, just like I did.



Danielle Dow

Reno High Sierra Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Stacie Goodwin

I'm a student pilot based in northern Nevada, where I'm Vice Chair of the Reno High Sierra Chapter of The 99s. My background is in engineering and business, but my heart is now fully in aviation. I've helped ferry a J5 Cub from Texas to Nevada, completed ground school, passed my written exam with a 97%, and recently celebrated my first solo. I'm passionate about backcountry flying and hope to become a CFI/CFII – the first woman instructor at my airport – so I can mentor new pilots and help more women discover the adventure and freedom of flight.



Breanna Frazier

Kentucky Blue Grass Chapter,
North Central Section
Mentor: Kacy Thompson-Smith

I'm a student pilot working toward my Private Pilot Certificate, driven by a lifelong calling to fly. Each step forward I take on this journey challenges a history that once held women like me back and pays tribute to the legacy of the Black women whose dreams were denied. As I build on this foundation and earn my certificate, I plan to continue into Instrument, Commercial, Seaplane, and Remote Pilot Ratings. My goal is to fly professionally and use my platform to inspire young Black girls to see aviation as a place where they belong and can thrive.



Sarah Fudali

Maple Leaf Chapter, East Canada Section
Mentor: Cailyx Madensky

I was inspired to pursue flying when I had the opportunity to participate in a Ninety-Nines Let's Fly Now! event at my local airport in Brantford, Ontario. After earning my Private Licence, I plan to pursue further ratings and licences through a university program, with the career goal of becoming an airline pilot. I would like to thank this incredible organization for all the support I have received since the very beginning of my aviation journey. I look forward to continue managing the Maple Leaf Chapter's Instagram page and writing book reviews for the East Canada Section newsletter.



Sarah Smith

All-Ohio Chapter, North Central Section
Mentor: Valerie Palazzolo

I spent most of my twenties working as a flight attendant, never imagining I could become a pilot. It wasn't something encouraged in my family, but talking with the pilots I worked alongside made me realize that maybe I was capable. I grew tired of watching from the sidelines. I wanted to be the one at the controls. While working full-time and running a nonprofit program, I committed myself to training and earned my Private Pilot Certificate. These experiences have shaped my dedication to mentorship, service, and growth. I'm truly honored to receive the First Wings Scholarship and excited to continue advancing in aviation while making a meaningful impact on others.



Renah Gallagher

Georgia Flying Belles Chapter,
 Southeast Section
Mentor: Emily Dykstra

My name is Renah Gallagher, and I'm a dedicated student pilot working toward my Private Pilot's Certificate at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport in Atlanta, Georgia. As a single mother, receiving this award is especially meaningful. It allows me to complete the milestones left without feeling the financial burden of training. Immediately after earning my Pilot's Certificate, I will start training for my Instrument Rating, bringing me one step closer to becoming a Certificated Flight Instructor. As a CFI, I will teach and mentor new pilots, as well as build the experience needed to fly professionally.



Jadyn Justice

Houston Chapter, South Central Section
Mentor: Paulina Umansky

I'm a 16-year-old student pilot, the youngest member of my chapter, and currently a high school student working toward my Private Pilot Certificate. Aviation has inspired me for as long as I can remember, and training has made my dream feel real in a way nothing else has. After earning my certificate, I plan to continue into my instrument and commercial ratings and eventually pursue a professional career in aviation. I hope to inspire other young women and students to explore flying. I'm incredibly grateful to The 99s and the AEMSf for supporting my journey.



Jimena Garcia

Eastern Ontario Chapter,
 East Canada Section
Mentor: Eileen Carter

I'm a mom, an immigrant in Canada, and a student pilot figuring life out one step at a time. I work in finance and administration, and between work and parenting, I'm studying to become a pilot. I want to keep learning, earn my PPL, and one day fly with my son and sisters. The 99s showed me what real support and community feel like, and I hope one day I can give that back to other women.



Jennifer Keck

Maui Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Anita White

I'm a Reiki Master, wellness entrepreneur, and passionate student pilot based in Maui, Hawai'i. After overcoming cancer, I pursue aviation with resilience, purpose, and deep enthusiasm. As Membership Chair of the Maui Chapter of The Ninety-Nines, I support women in aviation and engage in community outreach. I'm currently training toward my Private Pilot Certificate and plan to begin Coast Guard Auxiliary air crew training this spring, with future goals of flying for the Auxiliary and possibly Civil Air Patrol. This award propels me toward completing my certificate and embracing the freedom to reach remote areas and serve my community.



Kristin Gray

Arkansas Chapter, South Central Section
Mentor: Elizabeth Booker

I first learned of The 99s while conducting research for my children's novel, *The Amelia Six*, set at The Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum. There, I met 99s who all asked me the same question: Why wasn't I flying? As a single mom with a new cochlear implant, I laughed. But two years later, a serendipitous Facebook post from a mutual friend – and 99 – invited people on a discovery flight. I jumped at the chance to fly with Leslie Caubbe, my now CFI and introduction to the Arkansas Chapter. Thank you to everyone who encouraged me to think, "Why not?"



Mackenzie Lake

Mt. Shasta Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Barbara Boot

On this journey to becoming a pilot, I'm inspired and empowered by the incredible women in The 99s aviation community! I'm 36 and have always loved flying, adventure, and exploring new heights, but only recently did I truly believe I could be the one flying the plane. My initial goals are Private Pilot, Commercial, then CFI. Beyond that, I hope to fly my family, future kiddos and grandkids, inspire others, pilot Young Eagles, take on remote missions, earn a seaplane rating, and keep taking in the world from those high vantage points. Onwards and upwards.



Esme Lowry

Michigan Chapter, North Central Section
Mentor: Deborah Howell

I'm currently a lab manager and research technician at the University of Michigan, having recently graduated with a master's degree in Biochemistry. I'm working toward a Private Pilot Certificate in my free time, flying with Crosswinds Aviation out of Willow Run Airport. I have been a member of The 99s since May of 2024, and I have greatly enjoyed hearing the stories of my fellow members during chapter meetings, as well as volunteering with them to promote aviation to other women and girls. I look forward to flying recreationally and earning additional ratings after completing private pilot training!



Priya Patel

Keystone Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Section
Mentor: Rosanne Stencil-Johnson

I began pursuing my Private Pilot Certificate at the start of 2025. After college, I wanted to keep learning and reconnected with an early interest in flying. Since then, I've been welcomed into the aviation community and have met incredible women who have inspired and supported me. I'm truly grateful to receive the First Wings Scholarship to help me continue this journey. Earning my Private Pilot Certificate is a key step toward understanding aircraft systems and gaining experience that will support my future career in aerospace. I plan to keep flying for fun and pursue aerobatics next.



Alexandra Miller

Maui Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Kimberly Fong

Being chosen for this award means the world to me, as it's given me both the confidence and momentum to keep pursuing my dream. I'm currently working toward my Private Pilot Certificate, and every hour in the plane reminds me why I fell in love with aviation in the first place. Once I earn my certificate, I plan to keep building time, pursue advanced ratings, and inspire more women to chase their wings too. I'm incredibly grateful for this support and excited to keep pursuing my dream of becoming a commercial pilot.



Shawna Phillips

Georgia Flying Belles Chapter, Southeast Section
Mentor: Kerbi Mueller

I'm thrilled to pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. After 15 years in film and television, it seems daring to pivot toward a new career, but as our founder Amelia Earhart said, "The most effective way to do it, is to do it." With that in mind, I started training for my Private Pilot Certificate. As a wife and mother, I'm working to become an airline pilot and find ways to volunteer with my new skills. Being a Georgia Flying Belles member has been so meaningful to me, I've learned aviation is nothing without community. Thank you for this opportunity.



Semira Morales

Mt. Shasta Chapter, Southwest Section
Mentor: Barbara Boot

After obtaining my Private Pilot Certificate, I plan to continue my studies and earn my instrument rating towards my goal of becoming a commercial pilot. Being the first in my family to pursue a pilot's certificate, I have struggled with trying to navigate my future. Fortunately, I've been supported by so many inspiring women in The 99s, who have constantly encouraged me and opened doors to new opportunities. I look forward to continuing my aviation career as a commercial pilot with the support of The 99s and to contribute to a community that has already given me so much.



Karly Siroky

Greater Seattle Chapter, Northwest Section
Mentor: Madison Sommer

I have 80 hours toward my Private Pilot Certificate and still haven't soloed. At times, this has felt deeply embarrassing and discouraging, till I remember I used to be afraid of flying. Gradually, I'm overcoming that fear. I also run a creative agency that builds brands that place people and planet over profit, supporting underrepresented founders. My aviation journey has felt like that – long, arduous, yet important. My mentor, Madi Sommers, and The 99s have helped tremendously. This award validated my effort – it said, "You belong here." My goal: to fly seaplanes and bush planes to reconnect people with nature, themselves, and their power.



Sydney Otis

Eastern Idaho Chapter, Northwest Section
Mentor: Katie Krapes

I'm Sydney Otis, a homeschooled, high school junior and student pilot working toward my Private Pilot Certificate. Ever since I soloed a glider, aviation has become a defining part of my life, and I'm so grateful to have received this scholarship. I currently fly in pursuit of my Private Pilot Certificate while balancing school and other hobbies including Civil Air Patrol, skiing, baking, and hiking. Once I earn my Private Pilot Certificate, I will continue building flight experience, obtain additional ratings, and mentor other young women in aviation. I plan to attend college for aerospace engineering and thereafter pursue a career as a pilot.



Patience Stoller

Lake Erie Chapter, North Central Section
Mentor: Jessica Maslach

I'm from Tennessee and moved to Ohio to pursue flight training. After receiving my Private Pilot Certificate, I'm planning to move onto instrument, commercial, and CFI. I want to flight instruct because teaching others will help me grow in my own knowledge and skills. I've had an awesome flight instructor who's encouraged me every step of the way. Not only have I learned a lot about aviation from my instructor, I've also learned about myself and useful tools to help me progress in the future. As a flight instructor, I'm looking forward to giving back and being that person for someone else!



Abigail Thibodeaux

Lake Charles Chapter,
South Central Section
Mentor: Dominique Durand

I'm incredibly honored to have been selected as a recipient of the First Wings Award. The path to my Private Pilot Certificate has been full of unforgettable memories and experiences. My check ride is fast approaching, and I would like to thank my fellow 99s for the endless support they have given me throughout this journey. Upon receiving my certificate, I will be glad to take flights with family, friends, and other 99s members. Becoming an airline pilot has been my lifelong dream, and thanks to this scholarship, I'm able to take one step closer.



Melanie Troxel

Air Hearts-Utah Chapter,
Southwest Section
Mentor: Liz Jones

I have long wanted to pursue flying, but it never seemed to be the right time. I raced cars professionally for over a decade and have cherished being a mother since then. I have finally made the commitment to myself to see this dream to fruition. I'm not sure where it will take me, but I could see myself earning my CFI certificate and teaching long-term. Joining The 99s has given me a solid support system and inspiration. I'm honored to receive the First Wings Scholarship and hope that I can help future female aviators on their journey.



Ekaterina Zubareva

Old Dominion Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Section
Mentor: Frances Mercado

My name is Ekaterina Zubareva, and I'm a senior in the Magruder High School aviation program. My passion began with stories from my great-grandfather Boris, a WWII pilot who flew his first mission after only 11 hours, the same milestone I recently reached. I intern in aircraft maintenance at Bravo Flight Training in Frederick and serve in Civil Air Patrol. With the First Wings Award, I plan to solo this spring and earn my Private Pilot Certificate before starting university. My goal is to pursue advanced ratings, become a CFI, fly for an airline, and support humanitarian aviation.



Reagan Zupkus

Connecticut Chapter,
New England Section
Mentor: Constance Castillo

Hi everyone! I'm Reagan Zupkus. I fly out of Meriden Airport and am an active member of the Connecticut Chapter. I plan to use this scholarship to complete my training for my Private Pilot Certificate. Flying has been a passion of mine for a long time, and earning my Private Pilot Certificate will allow me to continue building skills, confidence, and experience in the air. Once certified, I want to pursue advanced ratings and stay involved in the aviation community while working toward a future career in the industry.

Careers

Building Resilience

By Donna Miller, *Colorado Chapter*



Resilience (*ri-zil-yuhns*) – *noun*:
The power or ability of a person to adjust to or recover from illness, adversity, major life changes, etc.

– Dictionary.com

If you're going to be a pilot, resilience is essential. But how do we build this necessary skill that we can carry with us through our

aviation careers? Resilience grows over time and through experience. It isn't a trait we are born with but a skill we develop through effort and reflection. Think of the days as a new pilot when you stayed in the pattern, doing landing after landing. After each one, you assessed the event. If it was good, you attempted to replicate it the next time. If it wasn't, you reflected on it and determined what you could do better. As pilots, we've chosen to see the skill of flying not as an obstacle to overcome, but as an opportunity to learn. Many have taken their skills to the next level, and just like a game, each level gets tougher. At each level, we ask ourselves whether we are willing to stay in the game and keep trying.

In building resilience, we learn to face setbacks with confidence rather than fear. Knowing that a setback is just part of the learning process is important to our success. Having a strong network helps us work through temporary lapses. Our peers can help us adjust our study methods and create solutions we hadn't considered. It's important to meet with our instructors before we fall behind and to seek help from classmates or form study groups. We learn that even the most successful pilots have struggled at some point in their careers. But how did they overcome their obstacles?

As we know, crew resource management (CRM) is now taught early in aviation training. Debriefing and constructive feedback after a flight help build resilience. Even after a solo flight, ask yourself how it went. What went well? What could have gone better? If you're an instructor, provide the feedback a student might be too intimidated to ask for. As a student, be bold and ask how you can improve. As we progress in our aviation careers, our resilience grows stronger.

Finally, self-care. Yes, we talk about it a lot, but nothing builds resilience more effectively than a dedicated program of sleep, exercise, and nutrition. When you're in the middle of a stressful six-week transition course, one of the best things you can do for yourself is take breaks when you need to. I remember not going home when I had two days off during training. I stared at the paper panel in my room and wrote out limitations. I felt burned out and still stressed, while my classmates came back refreshed and ready to tackle the next week of training. I also learned that brisk walks or a quick workout are worth the time away from the books. And of course, eating well is what fuels your mind. Choose meals wisely.

Success and resilience build on each other. As Nelson Mandela wisely said, "Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."



JET STREAM

Author: Austin Ferguson

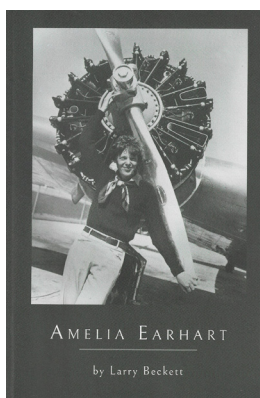
Published in 1974, this gripping story has two big things going for it. The narrative reminds us how aviation has changed yet remained the same: pilots inspect the airplane before flight; mechanics correct squawks and defects; and young women worked as stewardesses, often navigating all-male cockpits where Playboy centerfolds were still considered acceptable decor. And it's accurate from both aviation and meteorological standpoints.

Mike is the flight engineer (FE) on TransCon's B727, and his duties are described with the accuracy that only a B727 FE could provide. The reader gets a glimpse into what a major airline's maintenance facility is like and into the mind of the chief dispatcher, who watches severe weather move into the western United States on an unusual jet stream and must make decisions on reroutes, flight cancelations, and delays. Unaware of both the dangerous passenger and the weather ahead, Captain Pete and First Officer Stan make dinner plans with the stewardesses, each preoccupied with personal problems. Meanwhile, escaped convict Donald Greco has been captured, and TransCon 602 will be flying him from Utah back to prison in Chicago. A jet stream is bringing Arctic storms from the West Coast to the Midwest. A young, pre-occupied air marshal is in charge of a hardened criminal – while the captain is in the aft lavatory. What could go wrong?

Anyone who was a pilot 50 years ago should read this book. So should any pilot who was not.

Guest Reviewer: Diane Earhart, *Greater St. Louis Chapter*

Publisher: William Morrow & Company Inc., 1974 | Copyright 1973 | ISBN: 0-688-00219-6 | Used copies are still available on Amazon or ThirtfBooks



AMELIA EARHART

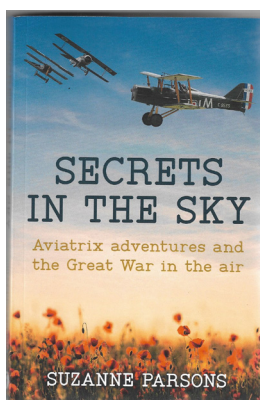
Author: Larry Beckett

This book is an unusual way to read Earhart's story. It's written as a novel and takes some license – as novels often do. Told in Earhart's "voice," it covers her childhood, flying adventures, courtship, and her final flight. I kept an open mind while reading it the first time – and then reread it, more than once. The book is only 60 pages long. It might be too romanticized for some.

However, I also read – and reread – his listed source material. Beckett has done his homework. From Earhart's 1932 book *The Fun of It* to Jean Backus' edited 1982 work *Letters to Amelia*, the "first chapter" has an interesting start. If it was about Amelia and her flying and her final flight, he's read it. Add the emotion found in other works – such as *Love of Flying* by Gore Vidal, or *Wind, Sand, and Stars* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery – and it gives you a taste of what this book is.

My opinion is to read it if you want an entirely different perspective. I'm happy that Beckett sent me the book for review. I might otherwise have missed a delightful experience.

Publisher: Finishing Line Press | Copyright 2018 | ISBN: 978-1635346350 | Available on Amazon and ThirtfBooks



SECRETS IN THE SKY: *Aviatrix adventures and the Great War in the air*

Author: Suzanne Parsons

Typically, I'm not big on fictionalized stories of women in aviation – particularly those from WWI and WWII. That being said, there aren't many out there written about real WWI aviatrixes. I'll make an exception for this one.

Parson writes a good story – one that doesn't get bogged down in the romance of the situation, and I liked that. The story is believable and her character, Ayda di Corsi, is also believable and true to the time period.

Parson's historical notes provide a great background to her storytelling. She does admit having to deviate a bit from "the facts," but in my estimation that didn't detract from the overall historical setting.

Secrets in the Sky was one of nine books selected for Hachette UK's Future Bookshelf Cohort for 2021. The book is the first in a fictional series of female led aviation/wartime adventure stories. This one makes me want to explore her other books.

Publisher: Sapere Books | Copyright 2024 | ISBN: 978-0854953530 | Available on Amazon

Day vs. Night Flying: Aeromedical Factors Worth Revisiting as We Start a New Year

By Dr. Rachael Ferraro, Senior AME, Aviate Medical, Intermountain Chapter

With the new year comes the heart of winter – short days, long nights, and a natural shift in when many of us find ourselves flying. For pilots who typically operate in daylight, this season quietly increases the amount of night time logged. It's the perfect moment to revisit the aeromedical realities that separate daytime operations from flying after sunset.

Winter Darkness and Night Vision Physiology

Daylight flying lets us rely on crisp central vision for reading terrain, spotting traffic, and judging distance. At night, rods take over as the primary photoreceptors, reducing detail, color recognition, and the speed at which we process visual cues. Winter intensifies this transition: stepping from bright snow glare into a dark cockpit makes night adaptation feel abrupt. Protecting night vision – using dim red cockpit lighting and allowing time for dark adaptation – directly improves comfort and safety.

Altitude adds an important twist that many pilots underestimate. At cabin altitudes above 5,000 feet, night vision begins to noticeably deteriorate. Rods are extremely oxygen-sensitive, and even mild hypoxia – barely perceptible during daylight – can erode night visual acuity, depth perception, collision avoidance, and instrument interpretation. If you're cruising above 5,000 feet at night, consider using supplemental oxygen even when not required. It's one of the simplest ways to preserve both visual and cognitive performance.

Spatial Disorientation: A Winter Multiplier

Night flying already removes many of our visual anchors. Add winter haze, intermittent snow, fog layers, or the "black void" of sparsely lit terrain, and spatial disorientation becomes more likely – and more dangerous. Even

experienced pilots are vulnerable when the horizon disappears unexpectedly. A disciplined instrument scan, even on VFR nights, remains one of the strongest defenses against illusions and sensory misinterpretation.

Circadian Rhythm, Fatigue, and the Early-Winter "Sleep Switch"

January often brings disrupted sleep schedules, travel fatigue, and the body's natural tendency to feel tired earlier in the evening. Winter causes melatonin to rise sooner, reducing alertness right when many of us are preflighting. Fatigue management – like hydration and intentional rest planning – becomes an aeromedical priority during this season.

Seasonal Illusions and Approach Hazards

Winter intensifies night illusions: black hole approaches, featureless snowfields, and deceptive ground lights can all distort your sense of glidepath and height. A stabilized approach, instrument cross-checks, and a mental briefing of night-specific hazards are powerful tools for countering these traps.

Icing: More Than an Aircraft Problem


Icing is usually discussed in terms of aircraft performance, but its aeromedical implications matter too – especially after dark. Ice accumulation increases workload, elevates stress, and compresses decision-making timelines. Night conditions make early detection harder, as subtle cues on wings or struts are easily missed. Temperature inversions, rising humidity after sunset, and cold-soaked fuel tanks raise the odds of encountering icing even when conditions initially seem benign.

For pilots, this means adopting earlier and more conservative go/no-go decisions, recognizing how stress narrows cognitive

bandwidth, and avoiding the "get there-itis" mindset that winter nights can tempt.

A Smart Reset for the New Year

Night flying is peaceful, rewarding, and uniquely beautiful. As winter shifts more of our flying into darkness, refreshing our understanding of how physiology, fatigue, altitude, and environment shape nighttime performance is a smart way to start the year. With a little extra awareness – and oxygen when appropriate – we can launch into the new year safer, sharper, and better prepared for the nights ahead.

Are you planning to attend the 2026 Northwest Aviation Conference & Trade Show? I'll be there Saturday, February 21, answering aeromedical questions and supporting pilots through the medical maze. Come say hello, and let's talk about how we can keep you flying! 



Dr. Rachael Ferraro
Senior AME, Coeur d'Alene,
Idaho Aviate Medical PLLC
www.aviatemedical.com
208-777-5282

Disclaimer: This is general information and not medical advice. Always consult your AME or medical provider for personalized guidance.

When Confidence Doesn't Match Capability



Tammy Barlette

*Tucson Chapter,
Founder and CEO of
Crosscheck Mental
Performance Training*

Recently, a fellow pilot shared something that resonated with so many of us: “I know I’m a good pilot, and others tell me I’m a good pilot... but performance standards are so high that when I don’t meet them, the fear of failure hits hard.” She also mentioned the constant internal dialogue, the second-guessing, the “Do I really belong here?” thoughts and named what so many pilots experience quietly: impostor syndrome.

And here’s the truth many don’t realize: Fear of failure and performance anxiety are deeply connected. You can be competent, prepared, and capable, and still feel like one misstep means you’re not enough.

Confidence gets talked about in aviation as if it’s binary, it’s something you either have or you don’t. But after more than two decades of flying and teaching, I can tell you this: confidence is a moving target, and even the most skilled pilots can find theirs shaken.

That gap between how we perform and how we interpret our performance is where fear grows. It’s also where impostor syndrome does its best work. These experiences aren’t flaws or weaknesses, they’re signals. And when we begin treating them as signals rather than verdicts, everything changes.

Fear of failure often shows up when the stakes feel high, when we care deeply about doing well, or when our identity becomes wrapped up in our performance. Impostor syndrome often appears when we step into new territory, transition to a new aircraft, tackle an advanced rating, or simply have a long stretch without consistent flying. None of this means we aren’t capable, it means we’re human.

But here’s the problem: Aviation culture has historically rewarded composure over vulnerability. We’re expected to “be confident,” “look confident,” and “act like we have it handled,” even when we don’t feel that way.

Because confidence is often something we think we must perform, we don’t talk about it. And when we don’t talk about it, we don’t train it. That’s when small doubts grow into bigger ones – sometimes quietly, sometimes quickly.

The good news? Confidence is a skill. A trainable, repeatable, rebuildable skill – just like any other part of aviation.

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continued on page 25



ANNE MCCLAIN
ASTRONAUT

MARCELLA RICHTER
WG#191

JUNE ELLINGTON
WASP 43-4

PRESERVING THE PAST INSPIRING THE FUTURE

*The Women Airforce Service Pilots Collection
at Texas Woman's University Libraries*

Between 1942 and 1944, over 1,000 women broke aviation barriers as the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), flying military aircraft and testing experimental planes during World War II. Despite their crucial contributions, these trailblazing aviators operated without official recognition, and their stories remained largely untold for decades. Texas Woman's University Libraries houses the world's most comprehensive collection of women's military aviation materials, including WASP archives and our broader Women's Military Aviators collection.

When you entrust your materials to TWU, you're placing irreplaceable pieces of history in expert hands. Our archives preserve personal letters, flight logs, photographs, uniforms, and oral histories that document women's contributions to military aviation from World War II through today, ensuring these inspiring stories will reach future generations.

Visit our website at twu.edu/library/womans-collection



WOMEN MILITARY AVIATORS
OFFICIAL ARCHIVE

WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE
PILOTS - OFFICIAL ARCHIVE

Milestones

continued from page 24

And like any skill, confidence improves through intentional practice:

- **Repetition:** Doing the thing, even when you're nervous – in low pressure environments first.
- **Reflection:** Actually learning from what went well, not just critiquing what didn't.
- **Feedback:** Truthful input from instructors, mentors, and peers to calibrate how we see ourselves.

Confidence doesn't fade because you lack ability; it often fades because life gets busy, the mental load gets heavy, or you haven't had recent reps in the areas that matter most. One shaky landing, one tough flight, or a stretch of time away from flying can distort the picture.

But the moment you start reframing fear and self-doubt as information – not identity – you give yourself the power to rebuild.

So, the next time you feel that familiar whisper of impostor syndrome or that weight of performance anxiety, try this: Pause. Recognize it as a signal. And remind yourself that confidence isn't something you lose forever. It's something you can train again.

Because capable pilots aren't the ones who never doubt themselves, they're the ones who know how to rebuild when they do.

Tammy Barlette, a retired Air Force pilot with extensive instructor experience in the T-37, T-38, A-10, MQ-1, and MQ-9, understands the critical role mental performance plays in aviation. Her passion for teaching and belief in the transformative power of mental performance training drives her mission to help aviators enhance focus, reduce stress, and build confidence. These skills are not only essential for success in the cockpit but are also crucial for maintaining peak performance in every aspect of aviation.



Madison Barch
CFI
– Michigan

Maya Cardenas-Berkowitz
Instrument
– Bay Cities



Claire Dunnigan
Private
– Michigan



Hannah (Libby) Faris
Solo
– Maui Chapter



Sarah Haskett
Multi-engine
– Michigan



Sarah Smith
Private
– All-Ohio

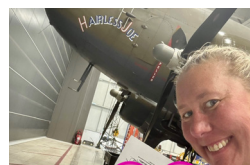


Berfin Kayikcioglu
Instrument
– Michigan

Mona Knock
Tailwheel Endorsement
– Chicago Area



Paige Kuhn
Commercial
– Wisconsin



Rachel Lindvig
DC-3 Type Rating
– Michigan

Maya Macias
Private
– Chicago Area



Allyson Mangold
CFII
– Florida First Coast



Alexandra Miller
Solo
– Maui Chapter



Lainey Mungle
Private
– Arkansas



Ruth Nyamekendo
Private
– Lake Charles



Kelley Rogers
Instrument
– Michigan

Kacie Smith
Private
– Austin Hill Country



Joelyn Strickland
Solo
– Arkansas



Joelle Wash
Commercial
– Tennessee



Rebecca Williams
Private
– Florida First Coast



Devin Wilson
CFI
– Keystone



Women Airline Pilots Hold Annual Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland

– Terri Donner, Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter



Every year, members of the International Society of Women Airline Pilots (ISA+21) from around the world meet to celebrate their profession and encourage women to progress in their aviation careers. Their mission statement reads: “We are the

global voice to Inspire, Support and Advocate for female airline pilots.” This year the annual conference was held in Reykjavik, Iceland on September 23-25. Ninety-four female airline pilots from 26 airlines and six countries attended the annual business meeting decked out in their respective company uniforms. Roll call was taken as members went around the room to introduce themselves, their airline, aircraft type, flight position, domicile, and where they live. The ISA+21 organization was formed in 1978 in Las Vegas, Nevada, with 21 original members. Two charter members were in attendance this year.

ISA+21 members are a very photogenic crowd. In addition to the entire membership photo, subgroups are taken of each airline, charter members, Board of Directors, all cargo pilots, Captain’s Club, International members, etc. The largest subgroup photo is always members of The Ninety-Nines, and this year’s photo boasted 43 members. A new category of membership for the ISA+21 organization is Aspiring Membership. This category is available to any female aspiring to be an airline pilot – no minimum age, and it is absolutely free. Aspiring Members can apply for the ISA+21 suite of scholarship programs. They have access to mentoring, networking, and professional programs. Once becoming a female airline pilot, your first year as an Individual Membership is free. Do you need to become an Aspiring Member of ISA+21? This year, our youngest Aspiring Member, Miss Piper Beattie, daughter of ISA+21 Treasurer, Chrissy Beattie, made her debut at the impressive age of 11 months old.

ISA+21 offers many scholarships on their webpage, ISA21.org. The application window is open July 1 through November 1 each year. Applicants must hold an FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate and be in pursuit of a career as an airline pilot. The scholarship must be used for an advanced rating such as CFI, CFII or MEI, or a type rating scholarship, as available that year. At the

Iceland conference, the silent auction raised \$13,819.38 for the scholarship fund.

This year, eight non-U.S. members attended the ISA+21 conference, and three were Ninety-Nines members. Felicity Bush, KLM (retired), Liz Jennings Clark, Transavia (retired), and Cathy Fraser, Air Canada (retired).

ISA+21 welcomed 12 new Lifetime Members. Five are Ninety-Nines members: Rosemary Albrecht, American Airlines; Lauren Goza, United Airlines; Shannon Jipsen, UPS; Suzanne Skeeters, Delta Airlines; and Janet Patton, American Airlines.

At ISA+21, we recognize our peers’ hard work, dedication, and skill that has been demonstrated to achieve a command rank by inducting members into the Captain’s Club at the annual conference. Each inductee is awarded a plaque inscribed with her name, airline, aircraft type, and date she signed her first dispatch release. The Captain’s Club grew by eight members, four of whom are Ninety-Nines members: Dottie Norkus, American Airlines; Juliet Lindrooth, American Airlines; Lauren King, Atlas Airlines; and Lynn Austin, Delta Airlines.

The conference featured an opening kickoff dinner on Tuesday evening at the Harpa Concert Hall. It was an evening of great company, incredible Icelandic food, and amazing views of the waterfront. The next morning, bright and early, the ISA membership conducted their annual business meeting where the newest ISA+21 members were recognized. A lovely luncheon followed. The Wednesday evening reception was a dance party to remember – there may have been a conga line. Thursday morning attendees boarded a motor coach for a quick trip over to the famous Blue Lagoon geothermal spa. Our members got to try multiple face masks, sip green juice and cocktails in the lagoon, and enjoy the spa at the property.

The post conference three-day tour of the Golden Circle area of Iceland was one to remember! We experienced all the rugged, gorgeous nature Iceland has to offer. Our group of more than 60 members walked behind massive waterfalls, stood next to icebergs, strolled along black sand beaches, viewed silent active volcanoes set inside breathtaking glaciers, passed countless sheep, spotted a few northern lights, and most importantly, spent time together on one wild adventure. Historic winds delayed many of the flights home for 4-6 hours.

One thing all Ninety-Nines and ISA+21 members share is our love of travel. We enjoy the annual conferences that are held at locations all over the world. Both organizations have excellent scholarship programs. Many ISA+21 members are graduates of The Ninety-Nines’ Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI)

program and are Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund (AEMSF) awardees. It's very heartwarming to see that many Ninety-Nines have not forgotten their roots in aviation or are making a full circle back to general aviation after a career flying airline jets. The 2026 ISA+21 conference will be held September 22-24 in beautiful Honolulu. Visit the ISA+21 website for more information: www.isa21.org.



Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum

Educating With Bugs

By Mika Schrader, *Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, Director of Operations*

Amelia Earhart's family valued education, which makes the fact that her birthplace is now the site of a museum even more meaningful. The educational programs at the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum exist to share the life and legacy of Amelia Earhart in a way that connects modern day visitors to Amelia through her childhood stories. Every donation from donors like you allows us to continue providing quality educational programs to students.

Throughout her childhood, from birth through her preteen years, Amelia Earhart often lived with her maternal grandparents in their home on a bluff with a beautiful view overlooking the Missouri River and surrounding countryside. It was there that Amelia's early scientific curiosity began to bloom.

As a child, Amelia spent much of her time exercising her scientific curiosity by exploring the world outside rather than playing inside with dolls. She and her younger sister, Muriel, built a bug "museum" made from a crate and wire top. They populated it with insects they caught, including katydids and luna moths. After their Uncle Carl gave them a pet chameleon to add to their collection, the museum's inhabitants suddenly disappeared – the newcomer chameleon had decided the bugs were a tasty snack and ate the collection.

While the original bug collection was no more, that bug "museum" has been recreated at the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum as a teaching tool for young "scientists." A bug collection can:

- Teach children scientific skills, such as looking closely to notice details and observe behavior
- Stimulate curiosity about where bugs live and what they eat
- Promote critical thinking and problem-solving about the use of specific bug characteristics

- Foster patience and fine motor skills while waiting for a bug to appear and handling a magnifying glass
- Discover the world of ecosystems and foster an appreciation for all living creatures
- Help children articulate their thoughts to discuss their findings
- Introduce children to conservation needs and the importance of protecting habitats

Will you help us at the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum continue to attract children, stimulate their curiosity, and foster change? Your precious gift of \$50, \$250, \$500, or any amount will be appreciated and put to use educating future generations who share the scientific curiosity of this national hero, Amelia Earhart. Scan the QR code to donate, or visit <https://www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org/donate>.



Are You Ready to Vote in the Next Ninety-Nines International Election?

By Kathy Fox, *Chair, Election Procedures Committee*

The next election for Officers, International Directors, Nominating Committee members, and Trustees will be held from March 15 to May 1, 2026. Voting online is easy, efficient, secure, and cost effective. Make sure that you have opted for online voting (which is much less expensive than voting by mail). If you aren't sure of your status, please log in to The Ninety-Nines website and go to "Update Information."

Look for this section (below) and select "yes."

Online Voting

*Would you like to vote online (versus physical mail)? Yes () No

Voting online, rather than requesting a paper ballot, can really lower the voting costs for your organization.

Make sure your contact information is up to date!

New in 2026! Voters who have chosen to vote online can now receive their ballot by both email and text. Make sure that your member profile includes both a current email address and a current phone number for a device that can receive text/SMS messages. You can access your ballot via the link in either the email or the text message, but you can only vote once. We are also looking at the possibility of sending voter notifications via WhatsApp. More to follow.

Of course, should you still prefer to receive a paper ballot, please make sure that you have updated your correct mailing address on file.

The choice is yours! Thank you.

If you have any questions, you may contact us at: electionprocedures@ninety-nines.org.

Clarification of Standing Rule VIII – Nominations, Elections, and Procedures Regarding Campaigning Activities

In anticipation of the upcoming Ninety-Nines International elections, we wish to inform all members about which candidate activities are and are not permissible during the campaign period. The purpose of this information is to promote consistency, fairness, and transparency and provide a level playing field for all candidates running for International office.

In accordance with Rule VIII Section 1 of The Ninety-Nines Standing Rules:

C. Candidates may be supported through personal correspondence by individual members of The Ninety-Nines. Official Ninety-Nines stationery or titles within the organization shall not be used.

D. Candidates may not, during the campaign period, distribute or cause to be distributed the following:

- 1) Any type of campaign communication, including electronic media
- 2) Campaign souvenirs
- 3) Any ads containing personal information, name, or picture of a candidate

E. Violations of any of the above may result in removal from the ballot or disqualification from office.

F. The campaign period is from January 1 to May 2.

To candidates: Thank you for your willingness to serve and your adherence to The Ninety-Nines Standing Rules.

Many of you currently serve in leadership or committee roles within The Ninety-Nines. Please continue performing your duties as usual, while being mindful not to use your position or Ninety-Nines resources for election-related communication.

To members: You are welcomed and encouraged to reach out to individual candidates if you wish to learn more about the candidates or their positions.

To all:

Permissible activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Candidates may post on their personal social media sites about personal topics.
- If invited, candidates may speak to a chapter or section about a topic for which they have expertise (for example: Let's Fly Now!, Museum of Women Pilots (MWP), Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI), Amelia

Earhart, etc.).

- If asked whether they are running for election, candidates may acknowledge or confirm that they are running but may not campaign or seek votes in a group setting. Candidates may have one-on-one discussions about their candidacy.
- Redirect members to the magazine or the website for more candidate information.
- Members, sections, and chapters may post and share generic "get out and vote" messages as long as these messages do not endorse a specific candidate.
- A member may personally endorse one or more candidates if she uses her personal email, her personal website or social media site, non-99s stationery, or a non-99s website.

Non-permissible activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Candidates should not use any platform to solicit votes or promote their own candidacy.
- Submit posts on chapter, section, or International social media sites with the intent to promote an individual candidate.
- Candidates posting "get out and vote for meS" or other such messages on any platform.
- Sections/chapters posting or sharing messages in support of specific candidates.
- Members should not use official chapter or section email lists for endorsements.

How can candidates get their message out to members?

Candidate photos, bios, and position statements are published in the Ninety-Nines magazine and posted on the members-only section of our website.

In addition, we may offer each candidate the opportunity to record a video so she can introduce herself and provide information about her positions. These videos would be posted in the members-only section of the website.

We cannot list all situations that you may encounter during the campaign period. If you are in doubt, please contact the Election Procedures Committee, listed on the Members' website under Standing Committees (email: electionprocedures@ninety-nines.org).

Authorized by the Election Procedures Committee
December 1, 2025

A 99 Turns 99

By Renee Bowman, *Minnesota Chapter*

Minnesota 99 **Nadine Sudgen** turned 99 years old on September 25, 2025, celebrating with fellow aviators at a party coordinated by her daughters. An inspirational pilot locally and within the chapter, Nadine is known as an elegant, ever-encouraging, ever-smiling aviation enthusiast. Nadine began flying in the 1950s with the intent of supporting her husband while flying their personal aircraft. However, flying became a passion of her own, prompting Nadine to earn her Instrument Rating – the first woman in Minnesota to do so – and to continue to fly for 50 years.

From her first solo – after just eight hours – in 1957, Nadine loved flying and took to it easily. “I was hooked on that first day, unable to believe I was really in the sky, ready to learn a whole lot more.”

With her husband, George, equally enthralled with flying, the pair shared a plane with another Mankato pilot, flying it as often as possible for family vacations, adventures, and volunteer activities. Their three children were dressed in their best, then buckled into the back seat for the annual Easter flights to visit Grandma in Kentucky. They flew to New Mexico to help brand a family member’s cattle, landing on a precarious strip high on a mountain bluff – a landing about which Nadine said she “most definitely didn’t want to land too short or too long!” In 1970, the family flew to the Bahamas over the Thanksgiving holiday, only to find that Eleuthera did not have any turkeys for their American-style meal. An extra flight to Nassau was flown to ensure the holiday would be properly celebrated. A terrific skier, Nadine flew her kids and their pals to ski hills across the country. Their Bonanza made frequent flights to the family cabin on a lake near Aitkin, Minnesota, too, where granddaughter Shannon noted that her grandma Nadine slalom water-skied until age 80 and played “killer tennis.”

Nadine says she was fascinated by the beauty of the view from the cockpit, the colors of the sky and the ground below, and grateful for opportunities she might not have had any other way. She recalled a flight deep into Alaska where a survival kit was required gear, as well as landing on a strip near an Inuit celebration that allowed her to watch women being tossed into the air from a blanket as part of the festivities.

Nadine has been a member of the Minnesota Chapter for most of her life. In her more than 50 years as a pilot, Nadine has held nearly every office and participated in Section meetings and International Conferences. Through her years in the group, she’s joined fellow 99s for compass rose paintings at airports throughout the state, volunteered to fly for American Cancer Society fundraising events and American Red Cross blood flights, and remains especially fond of her time as the Chapter Scholarship Chair.



With her home base of Mankato Regional Airport (KMKT), after earning her ratings, Nadine joined the Mankato Airport Commission as well as the Mankato Pilot Club, where she was once honored as “Man of the Year.” Her work on these committees helped expand KMKT along with the Minnesota State University aviation



program where she has donated significant scholarship support for the past 40 years to aspiring pilots and recently established the Nadine Endowment Fund. Additionally, in years past, the university asked Nadine to deliver prominent speakers to campus in her Bonanza, including anthropologist Margaret Mead.

A modest but tenacious woman, Nadine continues to be active locally with the Blue Earth County Historical Society. She has served on the Mankato Hospital Board; helped organize numerous Mankato air shows; served on the Governor’s Board for Higher Education; been a member of the Mankato Area Foundation; served as a board member of the Association of University Women; and volunteered at her church and on various parent committees – all while in support of her husband’s business presence in Mankato and raising their three children.

Additionally, Nadine is well known for her carefully curated, personally written letters, notes of thanks, encouragement, civic project promotion and summaries. Her impeccable penmanship and thoughtfully constructed sentences have become keepsakes for politicians and acquaintances alike.

Nadine’s earliest years were spare. During the depression, her family traversed the United States in search of work for her parents. The family landed in Iowa when she was a teen. Nadine married Minnesotan George Nadine after she had the opportunity to attend college. Following George’s commitment to the military, the couple moved to Mankato, his hometown. George was equally remarkable in his aviation and civic participation. Both have been selected as honored members of the International Forest of Friendship. Nearly 50 years earlier, the YWCA was the first organization to recognize Nadine’s philanthropy, honoring her as a Woman of Distinction.

With a model of her prized Bonanza gracing her table, Nadine remains in Mankato, living independently. 

Grass Roots



Top left: Vickie, Shelley, Madeleine, Ellen, Corie, and Leslie at the NCS Banquet. | Top right: Shelly, Madeleine, and Vickie flying to Oshkosh in Vickie's plane. | Middle left: Madeleine, Tina Hartlaub, Jenny Beaty, and Shelley (all AE trustees at some time). | Middle right: Birthday Cake – Bill, Leslie, and Maria.

CHICAGO CHAPTER

Chapter members Vickie Szewczyk, Shelley Ventura, Madeleine Monaco, Ellen O'Hara, Corie Wild, and Leslie Prellwitz attended the North Central Section Fall 2025 Meeting at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Chapter Chair Vickie flew her Piper Warrior II, "Bessie Mae," with Shelley and Madeleine as her able crew. Vickie commented that even when AirVenture is not happening, KOSH can be a complicated place, with four paved and two grass runways. But they were able to taxi right to the hotel ramp – a definite plus!

The Wisconsin 99s rolled out the red carpet and did a terrific job. Events included two great tours: one of the KOSH tower and another of the EAA Museum. We also celebrated birthdays with a big cake for 99s Leslie Prellwitz, Maria Lamia, and 49½ Bill Dreger.

Other fall events included a chapter meeting at Lansing Airport (KLAN). For the program, Cynthia and Ralph Madsen presented an air race clinic, going into detail on what to expect during a proficiency race as opposed to a speed race. The chapter hopes there is enough interest to hold a chapter air meet next year. Cynthia and Ralph Madsen and Madeleine Monaco also attended the 2025 Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame (IAHF) Induction Dinner. Cynthia is our chapter's representative to the IAHF.



Feed My Starving Children

Our November chapter event was for charity and was held at a local Feed My Starving Children facility. Our chapter team of volunteers joined a host of other like-minded teams packing meals to be shipped around the world to many in great need. We had a fun evening with music and friendly team competition. Chapter hostess for the event was the vivacious Jill Feldman.

– Diane M. Cozzi



AUSTIN HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

Wings, Wonder, and Community: The Austin Hill Country 99s' First Hallo-Wing Event

On October 11, 2025, the Austin Hill Country 99s brought aviation and Halloween spirit together for their first-ever Hallo-Wing event at Georgetown Executive Airport (KGTU) – a festive celebration that blended airplanes, costumes, and community.

More than 50 volunteers – including pilots and aviation enthusiasts from across Central Texas – came together to decorate aircraft and host a Halloween-themed trick-or-treat for families from throughout the Greater Austin area. The event drew an impressive crowd of more than 300 attendees who filled the ramp with excitement and laughter. Children collected candy from creatively decorated airplanes, while families enjoyed a lineup of engaging activities – from mummy-wrapping and kids' costume contests to the best-decorated aircraft competition, raffle prizes, and a classic candy corn guessing game. Guests also indulged in delicious food, coffee, and treats, with Kona Ice adding a refreshing touch to the warm fall afternoon. Through the generosity of sponsors and community members, the event raised over \$2,400 in support of the Austin Hill Country 99s Scholarship Fund, which helps empower and advance women in aviation.

Austin Hill Country 99s extend heartfelt thanks to the incredible sponsors and partners who made Hallo-Wing possible: Cutter Aviation, who graciously hosted the facility and provided ramp space for aircraft displays and activities; PNC Bank, for contributing a major candy donation that fueled the excitement and kept kids smiling all day long; all the participating aircraft owners, pilots, and volunteers, for decorating planes, welcoming families, and helping make Hallo-Wing a success; and BUBBL'R Antioxidant Sparkling Water, for keeping everyone refreshed and energized throughout the day. This combined support helped turn a fun idea into a meaningful fundraiser that will continue to uplift and inspire future generations of women aviators.

Beyond the games and giveaways, Hallo-Wing captured the spirit of The 99s' mission – inspiring the next generation of women aviators and strengthening the bonds of the local aviation community. As laughter echoed across the ramp and families explored aircraft up close, one thing was clear: the Austin Hill Country 99s' first Hallo-Wing was a soaring success – and the start of a beloved new tradition that will continue to lift both hearts and horizons for years to come.

– Hannah Lundgaard



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

Fourteen Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter members gathered on a gorgeous October day at New Garden Airport (N57) to paint the airport name and identifier. Our chapter had painted this four years ago, so it was in need of a refresh. Our Airmarking Chair Heather Hill and her husband, Dan, ran the operation smoothly and efficiently, as always, and we all enjoyed the teamwork, camaraderie, and sense of accomplishment. Afterward, we held our monthly meeting in the airport meeting room, so it was a full and rewarding day!

– Mary Ellen Morris



Australian Section Governor Dominique Estival (left) with Vice Governor Cathy Hobson on October 7, 2025, at Circular Quay, a historical landmark in Sydney, Australia, with Sydney Harbour Bridge in the background.

AUSTRALIAN SECTION

International Conference: Australia 2027

The Conference subcommittee has been looking at possible sponsors and activities for the Sydney 2027 Conference. There is a Google Docs spreadsheet that we update with new suggestions. The International Conference Committee asked me and Vice Governor Cathy Hobson to visit the two hotels selected as possible venues, which we did on Tuesday, October 7, 2025. We provided a report with our recommendations but are waiting to hear from the International Conference Committee's official decision.

Hope to see you all in Sydney, Australia in September 2027 – mark September 8-11 on your calendar now.

– Cathy Hobson



Left to right: Shannon Osborne Chan, Greater New York Chapter; Lin Caywood, Sugarloaf Chapter; Eva Thierry, Keystone Chapter; Mary Wunder, Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter.

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY AND MID-ATLANTIC SECTIONS

Fly Out to Sky Manor Airport (N40)

New York-New Jersey and Mid-Atlantic Section members Shannon Osborne Chan of the Greater New York Chapter; Lynn Caywood of the Sugarloaf Chapter; Eva Thierry of the Keystone Chapter; and Mary Wunder of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter flew into Sky Manor Airport (N40) in Pittstown, New Jersey, for lunch and a special mission to plant the Half Moon Sycamore Tree. The Half Moon Tree is a sapling from the American Sycamore Moon Tree growing in the International Forest of Friendship (IFOF) in Atchison, Kansas. The original Moon Tree was grown from a seed that orbited the moon in Apollo 14 in 1971. Over the years, it has grown to more than 30 feet, encircled at its trunk by stones honoring the memories of astronauts who lost their lives in the quest to expand our knowledge beyond Earth. This year, honorees and attendees at the annual IFOF Induction Ceremony had an opportunity to take home their own Half Moon trees, saplings grown from seeds of the Moon Tree. Shannon Osborne Chan was a 2025 honoree.

– Shannon Osborne Chan

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER



Theresa Levandoski-Byers

represented the Monterey Bay Chapter at the Watsonville, California, City Hall to receive a proclamation from the mayor. The proclamation includes the International Organization of Women Pilots' history and mission statement as well as the activities the chapter has been engaged in at the Watsonville Airport (KWVI). Activities have included members' donation of pilots, planes, fuel, and time for 10¢-a-Pound fundraisers for

the chapter's scholarship fund; providing educational outreach within the local school system and at the airport; and recent completion of a compass rose – all while helping the airport reach its goals.

– Jeanne Sabankaya

Grass Roots

FLORIDA GOLDCOAST CHAPTER

A Year of Inspiring Women in Aviation

The Florida Goldcoast Chapter celebrated an outstanding 2025, marked by outreach, education, community involvement, and a continued commitment to supporting women in aviation.

We kicked off the year with an unforgettable Let's Fly Now! event at Miami Homestead General Aviation Airport (X51), where 48 future aviators experienced their first flight. We continued that momentum into February with an engaging Intro to Drones class, introducing participants to the rapidly expanding world of unmanned aviation.

In March, we partnered with Wayman Aviation Academy for Girl Scout Aviation Day, inspiring young girls through hands-on activities and mentorship. April brought SUN 'n FUN, where we celebrated aviation and strengthened our ties with the broader flying community. June marked the installation of our new Board of Officers at Banyan Air Service, followed by an informative FAAST Seminar and chapter meeting focused on safety awareness and professional development.

September was one of our most active months. We flew into La Belle Airport (X14) for a community fly-in, presented our very first Bi-Annual Scholarship Awards, and enjoyed brunch at Short Cakes Restaurant. We also proudly represented the chapter at SAFE E – the South Florida Aviation Expo, engaging with students, families, and aspiring pilots.

We supported Aviation Career Awareness programs in South Dade schools and toured the Pan Am Airbus Training Center, offering members an inside look at advanced airline training technology. We strengthened our community spirit with a successful Give Miami 5K fundraiser, benefiting chapter initiatives and outreach.

We closed 2025 with our cherished tradition: the Annual Chapter Scholarship Luncheon Ceremony. This celebration honored perseverance, passion, and the promising future of women in aviation, reflecting the thousands of scholarships awarded by chapters past and present to empower the next generation of female aviators.

– Lashae Bacon



HOUSTON CHAPTER

99s Deliver Groceries to Local Air Traffic Facilities

In early November, Houston Chapter Chair Rachel Golden came up with the idea for a fundraiser to purchase groceries for local Houston air traffic facilities after it appeared the government shutdown was not ending any time soon.

With contributions from chapter members, other aviation friends, and several local businesses, a total of more than \$3,000 was raised by the time the shutdown ended. Rachel had the fun of delivering carloads of groceries to David Wayne Hooks Airport (KDWH), Houston TRACON, and Houston ARTCC.

Here, in her own words, is an example of the reception she received with the deliveries.

“My favorite reaction/story is that I had called DWH during the week to give them a heads up that I was coming with a lot of groceries and stuff for them. I called them again the Saturday of their drop off because I also took them some pizza and to let them know when I'd be coming by. When I got there, the two folks who met me at the door (a manager and a trainee) were so excited about the pizza. But then when they saw all the groceries in the back of my car and that it was completely full their jaws dropped. The person I had talked to earlier in the week thought I was joking when I said I had a car full of groceries for them, but they were so shocked it was an actual car full of groceries. They were particularly grateful given they have some new trainees who had just moved to the area and would directly benefit from what we were able to provide them.”

Suffice to say, these “carloads of groceries” were received with both surprise and heartfelt thanks from the recipient locations.

– Lu Hollander

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION

I Flew to Sporty's – and You Can Too!



Sporty's is a name familiar to most pilots. It's where many of us buy our headsets, flight bags, and all kinds of flying gear. It's also the home of ForeFlight and a major provider of training courses on the EFB, along with seminars on a wide range of aviation topics.

Hal Shevers, the founder of Sporty's, started the business from the trunk of his car in 1961. From that humble beginning, he grew Sporty's into the company we know today. Now permanently based at Clermont County Airport (I69) in Batavia, Ohio, Sporty's offers thousands of aviation products,

a flight training academy, and maintenance services all on one campus.

From March 27-29, 2026, the All-Ohio 99s will be hosting the North Central Section Spring Meeting at Sporty's. Attendees will have the opportunity to see everything behind the scenes, from video production to the warehouse that ships all those aviation goodies. We'll also be visiting Jungle Jim's – an international grocery store featuring more than 800,000 items from over 70 countries – and wrapping up Friday night with dinner and movies at RJ Distillery & Taproom.

We hope to see you there! For complete registration details, visit www.ncs99s.org.

– Gabby Tan



Top: Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter members, Bluegrass Aerospace Experience speakers, and guests at Samuels Field, Bardstown, Kentucky's Fly In Pumpkin Drop. | Bottom left: Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter members at the local EAA Chapter's VMC Meeting at the Aero Club, Bowman Field, Louisville, Kentucky. | Bottom right: Kaye Combs Moore, Sue Glisson, and Amy Bogardus representing Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter at the North Central Section Fall Meeting.

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

October proved to be another busy month for the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter. Some of our members attended the North Central Section Fall Meeting in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter. We enjoyed the KOSH Tower Tour, EAA Museum Tour, informative seminars, and visiting with our 99s friends.

Our chapter meeting was held at Samuels Field (KBRY) in Bardstown, Kentucky. Our speakers were Rick Markle of Bluegrass Aerospace Experience and one of his students, Anna. Interested Nelson County High School students in the four-year program participate in building an aircraft, take ground school, and fly with instructors up to solo. We viewed their current Sling TSI projects, enjoyed a chili cookoff lunch, and viewed Bardstown's Pumpkin Drop competition. Kentucky Bluegrass 99 Madeline Elliott tried her hand at dropping a pumpkin from a Cessna 150.

November found us at the local EAA Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) Meeting at the Aero Club, Bowman Field (KLOU) in Louisville, Kentucky. The educational meeting explained the FAA Wings Program and participants played an exciting game of aviation themed Jeopardy!

It is with great sadness we report the passing of one of our most active, longtime members, Louise Bornwasser, on October 29, 2025. Louise and her 49 1/2, Louis, attended most of our chapter meetings and contributed to the success of our chapter in countless ways. Our condolences to Louis, their daughter, Liz (also a Kentucky Bluegrass member), and her family and friends.

- Sue Glisson



Left to right: Sarah Krammen, BJ Yuke, Penny Woods, Lynn Meadows, Diana Croyle, Serena Singh, Raj Karwa, Nicole Bringolf, Pat Northrop, Kim Northrop, Alanna McClellan. Front, Kristen Gregory.

LAKE TAHOE CHAPTER

On October 17, the Lake Tahoe Chapter celebrated our 50th anniversary.

The Lake Tahoe Chapter was founded in the summer of 1975. Postcards were mailed to all the FAA licensed women pilots in the Lake Tahoe area. Recipients were asked whether they would be interested in joining other women pilots to form a new chapter of The 99s. Many of these women were members of the Reno Area Chapter. Because it was difficult to drive to Reno during many months of the year, a local chapter could benefit those women living and flying in the Truckee-Tahoe area. Women pilots could also positively affect the aviation community and the Truckee Tahoe Airport through a local chapter of The 99s.

After a few organizational meetings and informational articles in the local newspapers, 14 charter members were presented on October 25, 1975, with a charter for the Lake Tahoe Chapter of The International Organization of Women Pilots, The 99s. The charter was presented by Southwest Section Governor, Marion Barnick and 99s flew in from many parts of California and Nevada to attend a gala party, which drew 48 members and friends from the Southwest Section.

The first slate of officers was installed by Reno Area Chairman Del Hass. The officers were: Chairman Bonnie Seymour; Vice Chairman Kay Schlinkman; Secretary May Haskell; and Treasurer Marilyn Andrews. Each new officer was presented with a red rose. The new chapter was also presented with a gavel from the Reno Area Chapter.

The 14 charter members were: Marilyn Andrews, Tincia Arrell, Lois Brown, Pam Brown, Barbara Davis, Helen Foeger, May Haskell, Julie Hoffman, Kay Schlinkman, Marjorie Schwed, Bonnie Seymour, Marilyn Van Sant, Shirley Weiss, and Sharon Wofford.

True to form for the area, a snowstorm hit during the weekend of the charter presentation party. Many of the fly-in guests were weathered-in until Monday.

- Lynn Meadows

Grass Roots



Left: (left to right) Ninety-Nines Lydia Hodgson, Linda Langrill, Julie Lowman, Samantha Inguanzo at the Let's Fly Now! event. | Top right: Sarah Pagano, Friend of The 99s at the Girls Fly Too event. | Bottom right: Samantha Inguanzo, Florida Goldcoast Chapter, at the Girls Fly Too event.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

The Michigan Chapter held Zoom meetings in both October and November. Cate Cavanaugh, USAF pilot, was a guest speaker for our October meeting. Cate is currently completing her Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) at Columbus Air Force Base at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico where she is completing her initial training on the F-16 Viper aircraft. Cate credited winning the Michigan Chapter's Mary von Mach Scholarship for allowing her to complete her primary training while being a member of the Michigan Civil Air Patrol. Cate shared highlights and challenges of her aviation career, including attendance at the U.S. Air Force Academy, competing as a member of the U.S. Air Force sailplane racing team, and training in the T-6 and T-38 aircraft.

Following our business meeting in November, our Secretary, Frances Rose, led a discussion of our Book Club selection, *Jet Boss: A Female Pilot on Taking Risks and Flying High* by Captain Laura Savino, who is a member of The 99s. Members highly recommended the book that highlighted Captain Savino's accomplishments throughout her professional aviation career. We also watched a video featuring interviews with our Michigan 99s members. The video was produced to encourage women to pursue aviation careers. There is a link to the Women in Aviation video on our chapter's website.

The chapter recognized the following members who were awarded the Michigan 99s Sandy Denton Traveling Trophy. Each month Michigan 99s members share their accomplishments with chapter leadership. It's a challenge each month to select only one of the many deserving members who have achieved their personal and professional aviation goals.

Alyson Galbraith – Commercial Multi-Engine Rating (October)

Sarah Haskett – Multi-Engine Rating (November)

Berfin Kayikcioglu – Instrument Rating (December)

On September 27, 2025, volunteers from the Michigan 99s, in conjunction with the Friends of Lake City Airport, and EAA Chapter 234, held a Let's Fly Now! event at Lake City Home

Acres Sky Ranch (Y91). Discovery flights and education stations were offered to participants and staffed by volunteers. Attendees were also able to sign up for a student certificate after their introductory flight, if they were interested in becoming a pilot. Eight attendees signed up for Student Pilot Certificates and four women joined The 99s as new student pilot members. Member event leads were Amy Witzke, Samantha Inguanzo (Florida Goldcoast Chapter and Immediate Past Chair of Treasure Coast 99s), and Michigan Chapter Chair Linda Langrill. Additional Michigan 99s volunteers included Lydia Hodgson and Julie Lowman.

Michigan Chapter members supported the Girls Fly Too event held at Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport (KTVC) hosted by Giving Wings Aviation on November 1, 2025. Linda Langrill, Chapter Chair, and new member Teagan Martinson joined Event Co-Chairs, Sarah Pagano, Friend of The 99s and Samantha Inguanzo, Florida Goldcoast Chapter, along with local aviators and shared information with Girl Scouts who are members of the Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore. The girls were enthusiastic participants in a wide variety of interactive learning experiences about airport operations, aerodynamics, navigation, parts of the airplane, and aircraft construction.

The Michigan 99s recently welcomed six new members: Claire Dunnigan, Lori Fuller, Zoie Reichert, Sharon Fitzgerald, Teagan Martinson, and Katie Stull.

Reba Milow (New Boston, Michigan) was recently sworn into the Air National Guard and will be attending training for the new KC-46A Pegasus covering navigation and other systems for large military aircraft. Reba is also beginning training with the Civil Air Patrol for Emergency Location Services as a mission scanner.

– Barbara Vukits



DAYTONA CHAPTER

On a perfect Sunday, November 16, 2025, Daytona Chapter 99s got together with other volunteers to paint The 99s Compass Rose at Spruce Creek Fly-In. Volunteers and 99s included: Gretchen Howell, Stu Morse, Hannah Dong, Hinano Ishokawa, Daytona Chapter Treasurer Jessica Garcia, 99 Leah Jaicks, Bob McFadden, Kayla Greco, Jeanne Whitehead, Elizabeth Downers, 99 Jen Downes, Will Weatherbee, 99 Kathy Koshan, Richard Downes, 99 Naomi Arpi, Aditya Kar, Sigma Kar, Victoria Downes, Marilyn Patierno, Naiara Peralanda, and organizer of the Compass Rose 99 Pat Ohlsson.

Missing from the picture: Daytona Chapter Secretary Jennifer Rice, Mary Bryant, Past Chapter Chair Kristen Kasper, Eileen Weingram, Daytona Chapter Chair Amanda Fallon.

– Pat Ohlsson, Long Island Chapter



Maryland Chapter members and friends at the Space Telescope Science Institute tour.

MARYLAND CHAPTER

James Webb Telescope Visit

On November 2, the Maryland Chapter and friends embarked on a stellar journey to the Space Telescope Science Institute, home of the groundbreaking Webb Telescope on the Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University.

Guided by 99s member and scientist Christine Pulliam, the group got an insider's look at how the Webb Telescope is revolutionizing our view of the cosmos. Unlike its predecessor, the Hubble, Webb looks into the universe using infrared light – unlocking secrets from the earliest galaxies and revealing astonishing structures in deep space that were previously invisible.

From high-resolution glimpses of distant planetary systems to dazzling star clusters, Webb's discoveries are reshaping our understanding of the universe. The visit offered a thrilling blend of cutting-edge science and community connection – an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

– Maria Esparraguera



99s from the Kansas City, St. Louis, and Northeast Kansas Chapters at Culver Propellers, with owner Alaina Lewis (third from the right).

NORTHEAST KANSAS AND GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTERS

The Northeast Kansas Chapter is thrilled to be collaborating with the Greater Kansas City Chapter lately. We contributed to Sarah Deaton's purchase and distribution of treats to the FAA Kansas City Center during the government shutdown and we joined the October effort Kate Slinkard organized to visit Culver Propellers outside of Rolla, Missouri, run by Alaina Lewis. Also, in October we had a productive chapter meeting with CFI Kermit Crane sharing tips and tricks for effective use of ForeFlight.

– Sara Tompson



Our newest Life Members

Barbara Barrett
Ambassador Chapter

Pamela Rudolph
Rio Colorado Chapter

Jo-Ann Prater
Scioto Valley Chapter

Cheryl McCord
Idaho Chapter

Nancy Haraldson
Chicago Area Chapter

Dana Glidden
Fullerton Chapter

Helen McKeever
Keystone Chapter

Karen Flynn
Greater Seattle Chapter

Elizabeth Young
Eastern New England Chapter



Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

Skye Amherst
Elmhurst, IL

Greg Anderson
Denver, CO

Craig Blumer
Milan, IL

Kaelyn Weil
Encinitas, CA

Stephen Wright
Miami, FL

Sil Schoonman
Deerfield Beach, FL

Brenda Botsford
Sanger, TX

Steven Williams
Boulder City, NV



New Horizons

This space is dedicated to our members and 49½s who have passed on to New Horizons. We will miss them, and thank these 99s for all of their contributions to our organization.

Phyllis Westcott
Imperial So-Lo Chapter
October 23, 2023

Betty Prakken
Life Member
Columbia Cascade Chapter
Northwest Section Past Governor
September 11, 2025

Anita Bline Hessin
Colorado Chapter
October 15, 2025.

Patricia Ann Krueger
South Central Section
October 16, 2025

Jean Griffin
Eastern New England Chapter
October 29, 2025

Louise Bornwasser
Kentucky Bluegrass
October 29, 2025

Taylor Dickey
NOLA Chapter
November 24, 2025

CORRECTION: Due to erroneous AI information, the November/December 2025 New Horizon listing for Nell Bright was incorrect. Nell is very much alive. She celebrated her 104th birthday in June.

WOMEN WHO FLY.
WOMEN WHO LEAD.
WOMEN WHO BELONG.

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