

March/April 2024



# Ninety-Nines

*Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929*

**SHE'S BEEN  
MADE FOR  
SOMETHING  
REALLY SPECIAL  
IN FACT, MANY THINGS!**

*p. 16*



*plus*

2024 INTERNATIONAL ELECTION

CARLA LADNER:  
FLYING WITH THE THUNDERBIRDS

ESSAYS



## Ninety-Nines Magazine

Published by The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®  
International Organization of Women Pilots®

A Delaware Nonprofit Corporation  
Organized November 2, 1929 (ISSN 1548-565X)

### Publications Committee

Lori Plourd, *Chairperson*

Jacque Boyd, Corbi Bulluck, Rebecca Burghy,  
Jann Clark, Diane Earhart, Kate Hammarback,  
Lu Hollander, Linda Horn, Susan Larson,  
Donna Miller, Shannon Osborne, Julie Paasch,  
Janice Pelletti, Kate Scott, Sara Tompson

Kirn Creative, *Creative Direction*

### International Headquarters/ Ninety-Nines magazine

4300 Amelia Earhart Dr, Suite A  
Oklahoma City, OK 73159-1140 USA

**Mail:** PO Box 950374  
Oklahoma City, OK 73195-0374  
**Phone:** 405-685-7969  
or toll free 844-994-1929  
**Fax:** 405-685-7985  
**Email:** 99s@ninety-nines.org  
**Website:** ninety-nines.org

### Article Submissions

Visit [www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org) for info  
or email [news@ninety-nines.org](mailto:news@ninety-nines.org)

### Advertise with Us

Email: [advertisingmgr@ninety-nines.org](mailto:advertisingmgr@ninety-nines.org)

### Editorial Policy

The opinions expressed in the articles presented  
in this magazine are those of the authors and  
shall not be construed to represent the policies  
or opinions of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®

The Ninety-Nines magazine is published  
bimonthly by The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®,  
International Organization of Women Pilots, at  
4300 Amelia Earhart Drive, Suite A, Oklahoma  
City, Oklahoma, 73159-1140.

The subscription is included in the annual  
Ninety-Nines membership dues and Friends  
of The 99s dues. Periodicals postage paid at  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and other additional  
mailing offices. Neither The Ninety-Nines, Inc.  
nor the Publisher can accept any responsibility  
for the correctness or accuracy of the matters  
printed herein.

The Ninety-Nines, Inc. does not warrant,  
guarantee or endorse any specific product or  
service that is advertised in its printed or online  
catalog or magazine.

The Publications Committee and the Publisher  
reserve the right to reject any material  
submitted for publication. Copy submitted for  
publication will become the property of The  
Ninety-Nines, Inc. and will not be returned.

### Annual Dues

U.S. – 65 USD; Canada and the Caribbean – 57  
USD; Overseas – 44 USD; Student Member – 35  
USD (65 USD after first two years).

Non-member subscription rates: U.S. – 20 USD;  
Canada and other countries – 30 USD

### Address Changes

Send to: The Ninety-Nines, Inc.®  
International Organization of Women Pilots®  
4300 Amelia Earhart Dr., Suite A  
Oklahoma City, OK 73159-1140 USA

## International Board of Directors



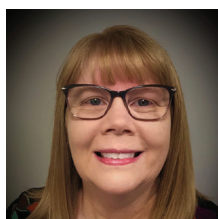
**Robin Hadfield**  
*President*



**Minnetta Gardinier**  
*Vice President*



**Glenna Blackwell**  
*Secretary*



**Aileen Coverdell**  
*Treasurer*



**Nivedita Bhasin**  
*Director*



**Janet Patton**  
*Director*



**Leslie Prellwitz**  
*Director*



**Patricia Prentiss**  
*Director*



**Corbi Bulluck**  
*Immediate Past President*



### 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





- 4 Calendar
- 5 President's Message
- 6 Holding Short
- 7 Touch & Go
- Careers
- 8 Ask a DPE

## 9 2024 International Election

By Kathy Fox, *Chair of Election Procedures Committee*

## 16 She's Been Made for Something Really Special

In Fact, Many Things!

By Sue Mead

- 19 Essays
- 22 Reports
- 24 Book Reviews
- 25 Milestones
- 26 Grass Roots
- 30 Life Members
- New Horizons
- Our Sponsors
- Friends of The 99s

### ON THE COVER

Liz Davidson with her two children,  
holding a copy of her book  
*Cleared for Takeoff*.







## 2024

### MAR

- 1-2 **International Board of Directors Spring Meeting**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
✉ [info@ninety-nines.org](mailto:info@ninety-nines.org)
- 8 **Emily Warner and Women Airline Pilots Day**  
Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado  
✉ Penny Hamilton, PhD  
[DrPenny1@earthlink.net](mailto:DrPenny1@earthlink.net)
- 8 **International Women's Day Recognition**  
Odell Brewing Company, Fort Collins, and Denver, Colorado  
✉ [lydiahbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:lydiahbaldwin@gmail.com)
- 31 **Registration Closes:**  
47th Air Race Classic  
📄 [airraceclassic.org](http://airraceclassic.org)

### APR

- 1 **Deadline:** First Wings Applications  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
📄 [Ninety-nines.org/scholarships.htm](http://Ninety-nines.org/scholarships.htm)
- 5-7 **South Central Section Spring Meeting**  
Atchison, Kansas  
*Northeast Kansas Chapter*  
✉ Laura Burnham  
[Ksflygirl1@gmail.com](mailto:Ksflygirl1@gmail.com)
- 9-14 **Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo**  
Lakeland, Florida
- 12-14 **Northwest Section Annual Board of Directors Meeting**  
Bellingham, Washington  
✉ Theresa White  
[Magicmom444@hotmail.com](mailto:Magicmom444@hotmail.com)
- 15 **AE Scholarship Awards Results Available**
- 19 **Southeast Section Spring Meeting**  
Lafayette, Louisiana  
✉ Marilyn Shafer

### APR (cont.)

- 19-20 **New England Section Spring Meeting**  
Windsor Locks, Connecticut  
*Eastern New England Chapter*  
✉ Elizabeth Young  
[Elizabethyoung1989@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabethyoung1989@gmail.com)
- 25-27 **National WASP WWII Museum Annual Homecoming Celebration & Fly-in**  
📄 [waspmuseum.org](http://waspmuseum.org)
- 26-27 **Mid-Atlantic Section Spring Meeting**  
Frederick, Maryland  
✉ Lyn Caywood, [99lin@comcast.net](mailto:99lin@comcast.net)
- 26-28 **North Central Section Spring Meeting**  
Kansas City, Missouri  
*Greater Kansas City Chapter*  
✉ Laura MacAllister  
[ljmacallister@gmail.com](mailto:ljmacallister@gmail.com)

### MAY

- 3-5 **Southwest Section Spring Meeting**  
Carson City, Nevada  
✉ Pat Chan  
[chiflys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chiflys@sbcglobal.net)
- 24-25 **East Canada Section Annual Meeting**  
Goderich, Ontario, Canada  
✉ Annie Wen  
[annie.wen@outlook.com](mailto:annie.wen@outlook.com)

### JUN

- 1 **New York-New Jersey Spring Section Meeting**  
Long Island, New York  
✉ Frances Englund  
[fenglund@yahoo.com](mailto:fenglund@yahoo.com)
- 14-16 **German Section Annual General Meeting**  
Hildesheim, Germany
- 18-21 **47th Air Race Classic**  
Carbondale, Illinois, to Loveland, Colorado  
📄 [airraceclassic.org](http://airraceclassic.org)

### JUL

- 3-7 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 15 **Deadline:** Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) Application for Mentoring Autumn Session  
📄 [ninety-nines.org/resources.htm](http://ninety-nines.org/resources.htm)  
✉ [mentoring@ninety-nines.org](mailto:mentoring@ninety-nines.org)
- 22-28 **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh**  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

### SEP

- 12-15 **Northwest Section Annual Meeting**  
Olympia, Washington  
*Mount Tahoma Chapter*  
✉ Theresa White  
[Magicmom444@hotmail.com](mailto:Magicmom444@hotmail.com)
- 27-29 **South Central Section Fall Meeting**  
League City, Texas  
*Houston Chapter*  
✉ LuAnn Pfeifer-Cotton  
[luannpfeifer@hotmail.com](mailto:luannpfeifer@hotmail.com)

### OCT

- 1 **Deadline:** First Wings Applications  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
📄 [ninety-nines.org/scholarships.htm](http://ninety-nines.org/scholarships.htm)

### NOV

- 1-2 **International Board of Directors Fall Meeting**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
✉ [info@ninety-nines.org](mailto:info@ninety-nines.org)

### DEC

- 1-9 **India Section Meeting**  
New Delhi, India  
✉ [indiasection99s@gmail.com](mailto:indiasection99s@gmail.com)

## 2025

### JUL

- 8-13 **Ninety-Nines International Conference**  
Burlington, Vermont

#### MAGAZINE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

are one month prior to issue date.  
MAY/JUN issue deadline: Apr 1.

Check the online calendar for the latest information.

📄 [ninety-nines.org/calendar.htm](http://ninety-nines.org/calendar.htm)



# The President's Message



**Robin Hadfield**

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

## ***Leadership and Teamwork***

**W**hat a great start to this year so far! This issue of our 99s magazine is filled with member achievements, activities in our chapters and sections, and great articles about members.

As the president, I think about leadership and teamwork. Being part of a team often comes at a young age when we start getting involved in sports and playing games at school. When you think about it, these teams that we were part of as a child are not much different than the ones that we're part of as an adult. Consider team dynamics: In both childhood teams and workplace teams, there is a leader and the high performers – the ones who show up to participate – and the ones who don't.

A team allows you to spread the workload, increase productivity, build relationships, and reduce stress. Teams are great when they work together to accomplish a task, but sometimes the opposite can happen.

As a chapter chair or governor, how is your team running? As much as we are always encouraged to make our teams work, running a team can be very frustrating at times. If you have procrastinators or members displaying a bad attitude, there is a real risk that this behavior drags down the morale and productivity of those around them. The overall health of your chapter or section depends on how you deal with these others. Like a virus, negativity can spread through your team and chapter or section. Navigating the intricacies of multi-generational chapter executives and members requires finesse and adaptability.

Our bi-monthly Zoom sessions tailored for chapter chairs and vice chairs serve as invaluable platforms for honing leadership skills and exchanging best practices. It's a fun and safe space to share struggles and victories, a place to get inspiration and ideas, and meet others in similar positions across the globe. Guided by Sutter Buttes Chapter Chair, Mary Wich and her Vice Chair, Lorin Ponton, these sessions offer a wealth of insights to propel our chapters toward greater success. Chapter chairs and vice chairs, keep watch for an email from Mary Wich for the Wednesday, March 20th session link, held at 5:00 p.m. Pacific time.

It's coming up to elections! With a lot of information in this issue of our magazine, and in line with today's technology, we advocate for electronic voting to streamline our processes and ensure broader participation. Please take a moment to verify and update your contact details to facilitate seamless communication and voting experiences. Mailing out hundreds of ballots is costly, especially since most are not returned. You can help us reduce expenditures, by marking your membership information as opt-in for electronic voting. If you need help, contact Laura Ohrenberg at HQ: hqmanager@ninety-nines.org, and she will assist you in making this change.

In closing, I extend profound gratitude to Linda Horn for her exemplary stewardship of the *Straight & Level* newsletter. As Linda transitions to new endeavors, an opportunity arises for a member to contribute to this important communication channel. We have a member offering to continue the newsletter, but she would like another member to assist her. Please send me an email if you are interested, president@ninety-nines.org

Thank you for your continued dedication to The Ninety-Nines. Together, let us navigate the skies of opportunity and innovation, guided by the principles of collaboration and excellence.

Warm regards,  
Robin Hadfield

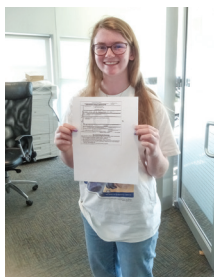


# Holding Short

## Just 17

– Diane Earhart,  
Greater St. Louis Chapter


**Mia Petruso** (top photo), Greater Kansas City Chapter, celebrated her 17th birthday on November 2, 2023, by successfully becoming a private pilot. She is now one of fewer than 400 17-year-old pilots in the United States, (not all of whom earned their certificate on their birthday). Mia proudly holds her Temporary Airmen Certificate almost exactly as her flight instructor, **Diane Earhart** (bottom photo), held her own Temporary Airmen Certificate on her own 17th birthday, February 24, 1974. Diane quipped, “The Temporary Airmen Certificate looks exactly the same as it did nearly 50 years ago except mine was written on a typewriter with carbon copies, and Mia’s was computer generated!”



Following her successful check ride, Diane wore an embroidered, appliqued skirt and top outfit she made herself. For her check ride, Mia wore a Rosie the Riveter t-shirt that she also wore on her first solo flight less than six months before. “This shirt belonged to my grandma, so this is a way to include her,” noted Mia. Diane pointed out the obvious, “You will have to wear that good luck t-shirt from now on for every check ride for the rest of your life!”

The pair plans on doing some animal rescue flights to start building Mia’s cross-country requirement for her Instrument Rating.

**Celebrate Emily Warner & Women  
Airline Pilots Day March 8**



America's Pioneer Female Airline Pilot & First Female ALPA Member (1973), First Woman Airline Captain (1976), National Aviation & National Women's Halls of Fame, Women in Aviation Intl Pioneer Hall of Fame. In 2015, Granby/Grand County Airport named Emily Warner Field.

<https://grandcountyhistory.org/museums/emily-warner-field-aviation-museum/>

## Celebrate Emily Warner Day on Media Calendar

– Dr. Penny Hamilton, *Colorado Chapter*

The Grand County Historical Association Emily Warner Field Aviation Museum initiated the annual worldwide Celebrate Emily Warner and Women Airline Pilots Day on March 8, which was just selected for inclusion in the prestigious Chase’s Calendar of Events 2024 (used by international newsrooms, media, and events planners). “All our volunteers are honored with this important selection now giving our annual celebration a worldwide audience and platform,” said Dr. Penny Hamilton, Aviation Museum co-founder.



## British Columbia Coast Members Flying High

– Madeline Ungurain,  
British Columbia Coast Chapter

British Columbia Coast Chapter member **Chiomma Okoro** (shown above) was recognized at the Women of Inspire Award Gala held on October 14, 2023, at Edmonton International Airport (CYEG), where eight women were awarded for working on innovative ideas in aviation, recognized as up-and-coming superstars in the industry and for providing a platform of support for women in the industry.

**Amanda Tosto** received the 2023 Northern Lights Aero Foundation Captain Judy Cameron Scholarship

**Terra Samson** was awarded the 2023 Emil Oucharek Rotary Commercial Scholarship, Northern Lights Aero Foundation CIBC Scholarship.



## Scholarship Winner Update

– Stacy Uebelhor, *Greater Seattle Chapter*

2023 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship recipient **Stacy Uebelhor** used the award to complete her multi-engine commercial add-on training at Midwest Corporate Air in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Now in the time-building phase of her journey, Stacy can be found flying and instructing in the beautiful Seattle/Tacoma area.

## Alabama Chapter Member First Female Chair of Airport Authority

– Kathy Powell, Alabama Chapter



Alabama Chapter Vice Chair, **Faith Hooper**, was voted in as Chair of the Pryor Field Airport Authority at the October Board Meeting. Faith is the airport authority's first female chair, a position voted on by her fellow board members. Those five board members are appointed by Limestone County, Morgan County, the City of Decatur, and the City of Athens.

Faith is a private pilot with ratings of Advanced Ground Instructor and Instrument Ground Instructor, and an adjunct instructor in aerospace systems management at Athens State University in Athens, Alabama.

## Willy Mattocks Elected President of Aero Club

– Marie Flanigan, Western New York Chapter



**Mary (Willy) Mattocks**, Western New York Chapter, received the gavel as the 90th President of the Aero Club of Buffalo, October 19, 2023. The Aero Club of Buffalo is one of the oldest aero clubs in the United States and second in the world (Aeronautique of Paris was the first). The Aero Club of Buffalo has a 113-year history, and Willy is only the third female to be elected. Visit [aeroclubofbuffalo.org](http://aeroclubofbuffalo.org) for more details.

# Careers



## Mentors and Motivators

By Donna Miller

**A**s we move along our career paths, we are confronted by challenges and obstacles that threaten our greatest dreams. It's easy to get so discouraged that we begin looking for the path of least resistance, and even settle for something less than what we truly want.


When this happens to me, I stop and look around at the people who are where I want to be. I don't have to know them to be inspired by their stories. How did they overcome the obstacles in their way to achieve their dreams? My friend Kerri reminded me that to a young Girl Scout, a 17-year-old working on her Private Pilot Certificate is much cooler and more inspiring than a retired airline Captain. The 17-year-old is more relatable, reachable and is still navigating her way to her goals.

I look at The 99s Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) program and marvel at its structure to systematically get pilots on their career path with focused guidance. A formal mentorship is formed and you have the guidance you need to stay on track to achieve your goals. You also mentor someone coming up behind you. In addition to formal mentorship programs, we all have informal mentors who guide us on our journeys. Sometimes, they have insight to help us make informed choices. Military or civilian? A regional or a national airline? This major airline or that one? Corporate or private? Floatplane or Tailwheel endorsement?

And then there are motivators that give us that kick in the pants we need to keep on going. They don't even have to be pilots to hold us accountable. They'll ask things like, "Have you scheduled your written exam yet?" or, "When are you flying next?"

Oftentimes, I watch running videos and can truly be inspired by the discipline it takes to excel in the sport. How can I use that inspiration in my aviation career? I can certainly transfer the discipline aspect to my study habits, and the commitment it takes to do well. The athletes manage their food intake and sleep schedules to maximize their efficiency. That certainly applies to flying. I know that I feel much better when I do the same, and my performance as a pilot is better.

I challenge you to write down the names of five people who are mentors and motivators to you. Have you touched base with them? It certainly doesn't have to be in person. Signing up for online presentations can be inspiring and motivating if you are unable to attend in person. One of my favorite presentations is Social Flight Live with Jeff Simon on Tuesday evenings. It started during COVID when no one was out flying but became so popular that it continues today. The guests are accomplished pilots and builders and I'm inspired by their stories.

We don't have to look very far to see amazing women pilots that surround us. Our own chapters are filled with women making their dreams come true. Look for mentors and motivators, and know that, whether you realize it or not, you are probably one too. 





**Julie Paasch**  
*Mount Tahoma Chapter*

***Do you have a question  
that you've always  
wanted to ask a DPE?***

Email Julie Paasch at  
askadpe99@gmail.com

Your question may be  
answered in the next issue!

## **How do I know what's required for my qualifications if I'm adding a rating to an existing pilot certificate?**

### **Do I still have to cover everything in the Airmen Certification Standards (ACS)?**

Most pilots that are planning to fly for a career will at some point add a category or class rating to an existing certificate. The great thing is you don't have to cover everything in the Airmen Certification Standards (ACS) and often you can get credit for existing time and qualifications. This information can be found under Title 14 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 61.63 and in the ACS.

The first important question to ask is: Are you adding a category or a class to your certificate? In CFR Title 14 Part 61.50(b) it defines the difference. A few examples of an aircraft category are airplane, rotorcraft, or glider. In contrast, a couple examples of a class of airplane would be single-engine land or multi-engine land. Once you determine if you are adding a category or a class to your certificate then we refer to CFR Title 14 Part 61.63.

CFR Title 14 Part 61.63 gives us the regulations on adding aircraft ratings and what's required. For example, if an applicant holds a Commercial Pilot Certificate with an Airplane Single-engine Land Rating and wanted to add an Airplane Multi-engine Land Rating, it would be a class change. Therefore, the applicant would need to have a logbook endorsement or training record that meets the aeronautical knowledge areas and proficiently pass the test. There is no minimum specified training time required and no need to take any additional knowledge tests. Often applicants will have flown between 8-15 hours and then take the practical test. The endorsements are also complicated for added categories so ask a DPE if you or your CFI are unsure.

In comparison, if an applicant holds a Commercial Pilot Certificate with a Rotorcraft Rating (often military helicopter pilots transitioning to civilian) and decide they want to go fly for the airlines, they will need to add Airplane to their Commercial Pilot Certificate. This is a category change. Again, looking at CFR Title 14 Part 61.63, the applicant would have to meet all the aeronautical experience requirements, have a logbook or training record on the aeronautical knowledge areas from an authorized instructor, and be proficient. They wouldn't need to take an aeronautical knowledge test. The applicant will get credit for some of their rotorcraft flight time; however, they would have to look at CFR Title 14 Part 61.129 and determine what they will get credit for. At a minimum, an applicant will need 50 hours in airplanes. I would recommend consulting a flight instructor and doing a logbook audit to determine your eligibility.

For the practical test, the back of the ACS has tables that the examiner will use to determine the minimum required areas. The top of the page lists what is being added to the certificate. In the table itself, you find your rating that is held and then it will list the required areas of operation. It's important to note that your examiner could evaluate you on other areas in the ACS even though it's not in the table. It's always advantageous to be prepared.

Whether adding category or class, make sure to investigate the requirements before you get started. Sometimes it can be complicated, so make sure to do your homework. If in doubt, ask an examiner or a CFI for help! Good luck to everyone getting close to their practical tests! If you have any questions email me at askadpe99@gmail.com

# 2024 *International Election*

of Officers, Directors,  
Members of Nominating  
Committee, and Trustees

By Kathy Fox,  
*Chair of Election  
Procedures Committee*



## INTERNATIONAL ELECTION PROCEDURES

Voting will commence on March 15, 2024, at 00:00 GMT  
and end on May 1, 2024, at 00:00 GMT.

- The official ballot will be delivered in one of two forms: electronic or paper. If you chose electronic voting, you will receive an electronic official ballot at the email address on file with The Ninety-Nines. If you did not opt in for electronic voting, you will receive an official paper ballot at the mailing address on file with The Ninety-Nines.
- PLEASE READ THE BALLOT CLOSELY AS SOME SECTIONS MAY BE RUNNING THEIR SECTION ELECTIONS AT THE SAME TIME.
- Delivery of paper ballots to your address may take several weeks depending on your location. If you do not receive a ballot (either via email or via regular mail) please contact Laura Ohrenberg at HQ: [hqmanager@ninety-nines.org](mailto:hqmanager@ninety-nines.org). Paper ballots must be mailed back and postmarked no later than May 1, 2024.
- The slate of candidates is prepared by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the Bylaws and Standing Rules. Candidates for each position are listed in the order received by the Nominating Committee per the Standing Rules requirement.
- You may vote for up to the maximum number of candidates for each position by: choosing from the nominated candidates, writing in the name of a candidate, or by indicating that you are abstaining from voting for any position. Ballot instructions will also clarify the criteria for spoiled ballots.
- Ballots are prepared in accordance with industry standard procedures for secret ballots and are distributed using current membership records maintained by The Ninety-Nines. No unique voting numbers list is kept.
- All ballots (both electronic and paper) are retained until after the next Annual Meeting.
- Please direct any questions about these procedures to Kathy Fox, Chair of the Election Procedures Committee, at [voting@ninety-nines.org](mailto:voting@ninety-nines.org).





CANDIDATE FOR

**PRESIDENT – VOTE FOR ONE****Robin Hadfield** *First Canadian Chapter, East Canada Section*

In my role as President of the Ninety-Nines, I am committed to enhancing our organization's national and international presence within the community of female pilots in North America and beyond. Drawing upon over four decades of executive experience in corporate and non-profit sectors, I bring a demonstrated history of effective leadership, strategic oversight, and impactful marketing.

My dedication to the Ninety-Nines involves governance oversight for our organization and supporting Members, Chapters, and Sections to facilitate our growth. Involved in social media and marketing for the past five years on the Board of Directors, we have successfully expanded our membership through strategic social media and marketing initiatives, and I am currently overseeing the redesign of our website to highlight our history, programs, and vibrant community.

Described as an energetic and motivated leader, I prioritize an attentive approach, listening to diverse perspectives, and formulating constructive solutions. In my capacity as President, I commit to serving and championing the interests of all our esteemed members, guiding us toward an exciting future.

Together, let's navigate a path to success in the world of aviation, increasing our role as female pilots within this ever-evolving landscape. As we approach our 100th anniversary, let's honor and integrate our rich history of women pilots since 1929, with the Ninety-Nines leading the way.



CANDIDATE FOR

**VICE PRESIDENT – VOTE FOR ONE****Janet Patton** *Ambassador Chapter, South Central Section*

It is my great pleasure to serve the 99s. I joined in 1988 and have held many positions including most recently International Director (terms 2021-2023 and 2023-2025) and chapter chairman. The 99s were instrumental in my flying career. As such, I am honored to pay it forward through dedicated service to the 99s.

My second term as Director has started. At this juncture I am able to continue my service, as Vice President if elected, or as Director for my remaining year if not. It takes time to learn the ways of managing the 99s. I have very much enjoyed meeting many members at Section and International meetings. Currently, I am the liaison for the Endowment Fund and look forward to learning about sustainability that secures our future. I am excited to help continue the momentum and seeing the 99s grow and expand our reach.

In aviation I am: a 777 First Officer, a PA-28-180 owner/pilot, and a hot air balloon owner/commercial pilot. My love of aviation includes sharing this love and passion with others, especially through the 99s.

To all 99s, it is my sincere hope you will consider electing me for the position of Vice President. In this position, we can grow and learn together how to best support each other leading into our next one hundred years. It is an honor and privilege to serve on the board, as I am dedicated and devoted to you, the 99s.



CANDIDATE FOR

**VICE PRESIDENT – VOTE FOR ONE****Minnetta Gardinier** *Iowa Chapter, North Central Section*

I discovered the camaraderie of The 99s through our *Iowa Chapter* flyouts and *North Central Section* meetings around the upper Midwest. These interactions inspired my commitment to pay it forward – Chapter, Section, and beyond across International. The 99s epitomizes *mentoring* and *networking*.

I acquired strong team-building skills over 35+ years as researcher/teacher/administrator. I gained a deep understanding of The 99s over 15+ years, serving at all levels – Chapter (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary), Section (Governor, Vice Governor, Director), International (Director, Vice President) – and in service roles (e.g., newsletter, scholarship, webmaster, International Conference chair/host). *Please review my resumé for full details.*

Now retired, I devote my efforts and commitment to The 99s on a full-time basis. The Vice President (VP) is the International Board of Directors (IBOD) liaison for our annual conference, but it unexpectedly expanded to effectively organize and manage our 2023 International Conference (Jordan). The Israeli-Hamas crisis also demanded cautious scrutiny for our members' safety. This example illustrates how the VP role requires flexibility, depth of knowledge, and readiness to respond.

The VP serves and assists the President, and I accomplish this through active and engaged dialogue with our IBOD. During IBOD discussions, my constant focus is considering how our decisions assist our Chapter and Section leadership teams and benefit our members.

In the coming months and next term, I anticipate renewing my efforts to establish interactive Section/Chapter leadership workshops on our OKC campus. Session goals will be to strengthen our leadership network and to develop pipelines for new leaders.



CANDIDATE FOR  
**SECRETARY** – VOTE FOR ONE

**Debi Dreyfus** *Washington DC Chapter, Mid-Atlantic Section*

When I was six, my uncle took me up for a ride in a 172. It was a thrill I still cherish to this day, having purchased a Texas taildragger while still a student pilot. But it wasn't until 1990 that I was able to realize my dream of becoming a pilot and joining the 99s, both having a significant impact on my life, and being able to help others follow their passion.

I own three airplanes, and actively fly over 200 hours per year. During the pandemic in 2020-21, I logged almost 300 hours rescuing over 100 animals through PilotsNPaws, taking fellow pilot "pup wranglers" as co-pilots in my Piper Mirage.

A successful business owner for over 20 years, I was able to advance my aviation ratings and experience from Tailwheel, ASEL, to ASES, AMEL/Instrument/Commercial, CFI, ATP, and CFII. I ran my company as a tight ship, jumping into any capacity necessary for our many large projects throughout the US. I've always been active in the 99s, from Chapter Chair, Section Secretary, International planning, Airmarking, and Section Governor.

I personally fund the Washington DC DDDD Aviation Award for my Section, helping members achieve their aviation goals. As your International Secretary, I can assist our organization as well, and look forward to working with other innovative pilots to make us better, stronger, and more relevant to the new generation of women pilots.



CANDIDATE FOR  
**TREASURER** – VOTE FOR ONE

**Aileen Coverdell** *Mid-Columbia Chapter, Northwest Section*

As a financial officer with over 30 years of leadership and management experience in accounting, I apply for this opportunity to continue the duties of treasurer for this amazing organization of women pilots!

I am the Lead Accountant for the City of Pasco, where I direct accounting matters for the city government. I manage the payroll, accounts receivable and accounts payable activities for the City. I compile and prepare the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the City and I am the audit liaison for the Office of the State Auditor. I am a Washington State licensed Certified Public Accountant and my experience ranges from being in the accounting trenches to executive financial management. My skillset applies to tax, governmental and non-profit accounting, providing a solid foundation to serve as your treasurer.

My first term as Treasurer I strived to ensure accurate and timely financial reporting. I facilitated a bookkeeping software upgrade which has supported easier access to the accounting information and will provide opportunity for future processes.

I have been actively involved with the Ninety-Nines since joining as a student pilot. I am grateful for the support and camaraderie that this organization has provided to me. My involvement at the Chapter and Section level board positions has given me the opportunity to give back to the group that supports me in my aviation endeavors.

I look forward to continuing the opportunity to serve this organization of women pilots as your International Board Treasurer.



CANDIDATE FOR  
**DIRECTOR** – VOTE FOR TWO

**Mary Bryant** *Florida Suncoast Chapter, Southeast Section*

My uncle arranged my first flight before I could reach the rudder pedals. Once I was out of school, he found an instructor for me, a woman. After soloing, I flew only sporadically. I was busy using my newly earned MBA and CPA working in finance for Fortune 200 companies evaluating investments, acquisitions/divestitures, and managing corporate budget and strategic planning departments. Later, I worked as a management consultant for a leading international consulting firm.

Once I started flying regularly again, I decided life was too short to not enjoy work. I quickly earned my Private, Instrument, Commercial, CFII, and MEI. I later added an ATP and Citation Type Rating and commenced a decades long career in aviation with two major aircraft manufacturers and, subsequently, my own companies.

While earning my ratings, I discovered The 99s. I was delighted to find knowledgeable pilots, women who supported my efforts, aviation adventures and good friends. I received wonderful support and encouragement from fellow 99s and learned much from their experiences. The enthusiasm and comradery of The 99s has been a contributing factor to my success in aviation and enjoyment of flying.

As Director, I'll work to achieve our goals of mentoring, promoting, and supporting the new generation of women pilots. I'll assist in positioning our organization to capitalize on the current unprecedented opportunities in aviation, while acknowledging the contributions of those whose shoulders we stand on. Most importantly, we should enjoy each other's company and have fun.





CANDIDATE FOR

**DIRECTOR – VOTE FOR TWO****Mary Build** *Katahdin Wings Chapter, New England Section*

In the Katahdin Wings, I have taken the position of Chapter Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary more than once. I have also been on the Nominating Committee and Aerospace Educator for several years. In 1997, I co-chaired the 99's International Convention in Portland, Maine. At the Section level, I have been Treasurer for 6 years, and Vice-Governor twice, and now in my fourth year as Governor.

I started Treasure Hunts as fund raisers. Each year a different area on New England was selected with a variety of clues to solve and fly over to photograph. I monitor the Ninety Nines listserv and have for the past several years.

After four years as a scenic flight and charter pilot, I started my own seaplane flight school in 2000, on Brandy Pond in Naples, Maine. I develop safety seminars drawn from my own experience as a Single Engine Land and Sea pilot with over 6,500 hours. I gave two safety seminars at Oshkosh in 2020.

I have crossed the US and Canada four times going to Alaska in my own plane escorting other pilots, crossed multiple more times while going to and from air races. The latest adventure was organizing a group of twelve people for a ten-day African Flying Safari in June of 2019. There were seven women Ninety-Nine pilots, three male pilots and two women passengers.

My goal is to give back to the Ninety-Nines. That is the purpose of my running for this position.

CANDIDATE FOR

**DIRECTOR – VOTE FOR TWO****Pat Chan** *Bay Cities Chapter, Southwest Section*

In 1984, I became a Ninety-Nine and served as Vice-Chairman and Chairman for the Bay Cities Chapter. The next elective office held was the 2016 Southwest Section Nominating Committee Chairman. Also, in 2016, I became a Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots Trustee.

Ninety-Nines participation continued with serving as Southwest Section Vice Governor, 2018 – 2020, and Governor, 2020 – 2022. I'm currently serving a second term as Southwest Section Governor, 2022 - 2024.

I was fortunate to be a delegate at Southwest Section Meetings and 99s International Conferences.

Life's experiences combined to fulfill the role of a Ninety-Nines Director. Being employed for many years, in a corporate environment, brought opportunities to work in creative and technical fields. Collaboration skills were developed to communicate with diverse ways of thinking. Work processes and project management were honed during those years. Volunteer work, as a Ninety-Nine, added another dimension. Collaboration and project management continued, but with parameters of volunteerism. Serving as chapter and section officers brought about a familiarity with other offices within the Ninety-Nines. Plus, the opportunity to interact with the Ninety-Nines headquarters staff.

The Ninety-Nines goals are specified in the organization's Mission Statement which "promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight". They are more than goals. They set a course of action.

The Director's goal is to put forth effort needed to fulfill the Director's job responsibilities as they are implemented to perpetuate the organization's goals.



CANDIDATE FOR

**DIRECTOR – VOTE FOR TWO****Mary Wich** *Sutter Buttes Chapter, Southwest Section*

Dear Fellow Ninety-Nines,

"As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others." -Bill Gates

This statement encapsulates the essence of my vision for the future of the Ninety-Nines. I am Mary Wich, and I am eager to express my commitment to serving as your International Director.

My journey with The Ninety-Nines began 22 years ago, and the transformative power of this organization has been profound. From lifelong friendships to unwavering support, The Ninety-Nines have played a pivotal role in my career as a corporate pilot, flight instructor, and now, a business owner. Amelia Earhart Scholarships fueled my training, and I am driven to give back, sharing my wealth of experience.

As Chair of my Chapter, we've achieved remarkable growth and success, securing our hangar, conducting free ground schools, and fostering an environment of dynamic participation. I mentor pilots, provide guidance on goal-setting, instruction, and job placement, all rooted in love and service.

Receiving the 2023 Southwest Section Woman pilot of the Year Award humbled me, highlighting that my greatest accomplishments lie in empowering others to recognize their potential. If elected as International Director, I will bring my perspective as an aviator and business owner to the board, emphasizing innovative problem-solving and fostering greater international connections. I envision celebrating our diverse uniqueness and strengthening our collective goals. Thank you for considering me for this role. I am excited to contribute to the continued success of The Ninety-Nines. Blue Skies!



CANDIDATE FOR

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE – VOTE FOR THREE****Jill Oakes** *Manitoba Chapter, West Canada Section***History of Participation and Philosophy**

I am a long-term member of the 99s', continuous since 2013 when I began increasing our chapter's scholarship endowment fund significantly by soliciting numerous airplane donations. I am familiar with International 99s elected positions, qualifications, and responsibilities.

My philosophy is to support the International 99s' mission statement, and have done so in numerous ways, one example: I helped the East Canada Section acquire a club plane for 99s in that region to build affordable hours.

**Qualifications and Contributions to Nominating Committee**

My goal, if elected, is to promote women pilots by identifying, informing, and encouraging 99s to seek leadership positions at the International level. I am excited to utilize my professional networking, data management, confidential document training, writing skills, and personal commitment and passion for aviation. I am enthusiastic to attend regionally diverse section and chapter meetings as one way of sharing all position information with interested 99s. My writing skills will help prepare information promoting International 99s leadership positions for the President's monthly email and the Sept-Oct 99s magazine. My data management skills are useful for maintaining the spread sheet for all elective positions, a digital file of all elected positions, and communicating with International 99s' related funds and museums regarding their Trustee positions as outlined in the International 99s By-Laws and Standing Rules.

Thank you for considering selecting me as a member of the Nominating Committee, I am honoured to promote aviation through our shared mission statement and passion for aviation.



CANDIDATE FOR

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE – VOTE FOR THREE****Kathy Lester-Ross** *Wisconsin Chapter, North Central Section*

Ten years as a 99 have been life-changing. It is easy to see the value and rewards of supporting the aviation goals and accomplishments of sisters in the sky. Through Wisconsin Chapter work on fundraisers, newsletters, scholarships, compass roses, charity events, volunteering at EAA-AV, sharing ballooning information, growing our membership, and serving in many Chapter leadership roles, it is easy to see growth in our members as well.

Serving as a North Central Section Director, Membership Chair and Secretary over the past 7 years, has given me the opportunity to advance the mission and goals of The 99s organization in varied ways. Each year, I am increasingly more familiar with the processes, programs and personnel that comprise our organization. Experiences in the business and healthcare environs, and providing consultation & education to clients, are achieved with a detail oriented, outcomes based work ethic. These same skills can be transferred to organizational needs.

"Each One – Reach One – Teach One" is a mantra we can adapt to assure our membership is dynamic, growing and committed to advancing our missions. By learning our members' strengths and assisting in overcoming their aviation challenges, we enhance our personal and organizational successes. By identifying those who can lead others to achieve success, we enhance our organization in its totality.

To assist in the growth of The 99s, I offer my desire to serve on The 99s Nominating Committee, via the 2024 Election process.



CANDIDATE FOR

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE – VOTE FOR THREE****Kaylee Jeffries** *Dallas Chapter, South Central Section*

Having been a member of the Ninety-Nines for nearly 10 years I have had the opportunity to get to know many wonderful aviators, especially ones like me who joined not knowing how intertwined my life would become with the organization. As I started volunteering in small ways with the organization, I was encouraged to take on more significant roles. I have had experience being Chapter Chairman, assisting with multiple Committees, being the Section Scholarship Chair, and serving on the Nominating Committee at the Section level. It has been my pleasure to try to give back to this wonderful organization and get others involved. Being on the Nominating Committee gives me the chance to meet many new faces and connect with others who aim to promote our goals through service. I hope to share my passion for serving and encourage others to do so in this fantastic organization.





CANDIDATE FOR

**AMELIA EARHART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

– VOTE FOR ONE

**Tina Hartlaub** *Wisconsin Chapter, North Central Section*

I am seeking reelection for the Board of Trustees of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund. I have served all levels of the AEMSF as International Trustee and Recording Secretary, NCS AE Scholarship Chair, NCS AE Scholarship committee member, and Chapter AE Chair for the Wisconsin Chapter. I was a previous AE scholarship recipient for my Commercial Seaplane Add-on Certificate in 2007. I have used both of my Bachelor degrees in Flight Operations and English to aid the Trust by being the Recording Secretary and sharing my 22 years of aviation knowledge in my career as a flight instructor, professional pilot, and airline pilot with those students this scholarship touches. My continued goal for the AEMSF is choosing our best applicants, working with Chapters and Sections to improve their applicants' scholarship packets, encouraging our new pilots to reach their milestones, and spreading information about the Ninety-Nines and the AE Scholarship Fund through outreach. I enjoy giving back to the Ninety-Nines at the International level as I have seen the global effects of this organization and Trust by meeting members from every corner of the world. This scholarship helped change my life and I wish to help other Ninety-Nines accomplish their goals to be better and safer pilots through it.



CANDIDATE FOR

**ENDOWMENT FUND – VOTE FOR TWO****Virginia Harmer** *San Gabriel Valley Chapter, Southwest Section*

The design of the endowment Fund is reflective of the Ninety-Nines Mission; to provide networking opportunities, aviation education in the community and preservation of the unique history of women in aviation. This fund will exist as it was designed, to keep this organization strong and protective of its membership. As a life member of 31 years, I am proud to be a Ninety-Nine and seek to keep our mission intact and prolong its purpose.

In 2006 I was given the opportunity to become a director of the 99s and took this opportunity to learn about all the facets of the organization. I became a trustee of the Endowment Fund when my term as a director ended in 2010 and continued until 2019. Seeking reelection as a trustee will continue to follow my goal of protecting the financial strength of the Fund for the Ninety-Nines organization.

Working for a brokerage firm while attending college, I learned what it took to make money grow. I believe my participation along with the rest of the Trustees helped the fund reach the level it is today.

I continue to participate with my local chapter as an active member and Scholarship Chair. I also attend Section and International meetings.

The Endowment Fund has a strategic plan in place to continue to grow the fund. I would like to be a part of this incredible team of Ninety-Nines to provide for our infrastructure and preserve our heritage by being an Endowment Fund Trustee.



CANDIDATE FOR

**ENDOWMENT FUND – VOTE FOR TWO****Stephenie Roberts** *Texas Dogwood Chapter, South Central Section*

Shortly after earning my wings in 1980 I was invited to join the local Ninety-Nines chapter. The doors that invitation opened! Becoming involved with Texas Dogwood provided the opportunity to serve as Chapter Chairman, and in other offices and committees. I am honored to have been elected Governor, and to have participated in many areas for the South Central Section. In addition, I served as The Ninety-Nines International Public Relations Chairman and am currently a Trustee for the Endowment Fund.

Locally I sit on various nonprofit boards, and have chaired and participated in many fund raising endeavors. One exciting opportunity came as Chairman of the City Airport Board during the development and building of a new airport terminal. Additionally, I was privileged to be appointed by the Governor of Texas to the Texas Department of Aviation where I was involved in disbursing Federal funds for Texas general aviation airports and monitoring the use of those funds.

Because of my involvement with nonprofit organizations and as the owner of an aviation related business I recognize the importance of a vital financial structure to the health of any organization. As a member of the 99s, whose life has been enriched by my membership, I want to see The Ninety-Nines continue to flourish. I offer my varied experience in the belief that by serving as an Endowment Fund Trustee I can aide in continuing the excellent work that has laid the foundation for a bright future for The Ninety-Nines.



CANDIDATE FOR

**AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM** – VOTE FOR THREE**Joyce Parker** *Northeast Kansas Chapter, South Central Section*

I am looking for the opportunity to serve as a trustee on the Board of Directors of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, KS.

I have visited the museum on numerous occasions. When I was an AF Jr. ROTC Instructor from 2009-2012 at Highland Park High School, Topeka, KS., on a quarterly basis, I would personally fly the cadet students who were awarded “Cadet of the Quarter” to the Amelia Earhart Airport (K59) in my own airplane. We would borrow the airport courtesy car, then travel to the museum for an afternoon of exploring and learning all about the life and flying of the famed aviatrix, Amelia Earhart.

I have recently started a youth aviation program for underserved students through Community First, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization here in Topeka, KS. I believe serving as a trustee on the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Board of Directors will be another avenue of exposure for the museum and bring its rich and enduring history to another generation of future pilots and aviation enthusiasts.



CANDIDATE FOR

**AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM** – VOTE FOR THREE**Joan Widener** *Air Capital Chapter, South Central Section*

I am seeking election to be an Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Trustee. I have been flying for over ten years as a student pilot and licensed private pilot.

My first flight instructor introduced me to the Ninety-Nines organization early in my flight training. I found support, friendship, and true inspiration after meeting these kind, adventurous, and competent women.

Since that day, I have continued to actively work and grow as a member of the Ninety-Nines. I have volunteered and served as a board member in the Wichita Air Capital chapter in the South Central Section of this organization.

I was a teacher for 40 years, raised a family and moved several times for my husband’s career. When he took a position with Textron’s Financial Division, we were introduced to the opportunity for Employee family members to complete flight training and join the Textron Aviation Employee Flying Club – literally down the street from our home! I completed my flight training and have over 500 flight hours.

I have been pleased to have been part of our Ninety-Nines chapter’s efforts to promote aviation awareness in our community and the state of Kansas. We strive to offer opportunities for young people to experience the thrill and science of flight and the excitement of discovering they, too, can learn to fly!

As an educator I believe I will be an asset as a museum trustee to further develop and achieve the goals for aviation education through the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum.



CANDIDATE FOR

**AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM** – VOTE FOR THREE**Mandi Hill** *Memphis Chapter, Southeast Section*

I am pleased to seek a position on the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Board of Trustees. I have already served one term and would like to continue for a second. I have held multiple positions within the Kansas 99s and Memphis 99s including Chair and Vice Chair. I was lucky to grow up in aviation being a third generation pilot. My husband flies for FedEx and we own a Cessna 210 and a Piper Super Cub that I soloed in. I’m happy to have the privilege to serve the aviation community by serving on this board.



CANDIDATE FOR

**MUSEUM OF WOMEN PILOTS** – VOTE FOR ONE**Isabelle Kearney** *Oklahoma Chapter, South Central Section*

My name is Isabelle ‘Izzy’ Kearney, and I am seeking a position as Trustee for the Ninety Nines Museum of Women Pilots. I have been a continuous member of the Ninety Nines since 2020, with my original membership beginning in 2012. I am a member of the Oklahoma Chapter, where I serve as chapter newsletter editor, proudly showcasing the accomplishments of our chapter. Additionally, I have been a regular volunteer at a number of aviation events, manning our chapter booth.

My life has been devoted to aviation endeavors- it is truly my passion. I am an instrument rated private pilot, currently working on my commercial, with sights set on an eventual career shift to become a professional pilot. I love sharing aviation with others and strive to be a role model for younger generations. Aviation is at the center of both my personal and professional life. I am currently the Director of Operations for the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in the Air Force Reserve.

It would be a great honor to serve as Trustee for the Ninety Nines Museum- a place I hold near and dear to my heart. I eagerly share our organization’s story every chance I get, and I regularly promote the museum. It would bring me great joy to play a role in invigorating the museum and increasing visitor traffic through marketing efforts- all in an effort to inspire the next generation of women pilots, while honoring our organization’s incredible heritage.





*Eric pauses engine work on Piper Navajo for picture with his family.  
(Theo standing behind Eric and Jasper on the floor next to him)*



# She's Been Made for Something Really Special

## *In Fact, Many Things!*

By Sue Mead, *Connecticut Chapter*

One of the things I watch for is ripples and patterns on the water to know where the wind is coming from and how to set up my approach,” said bush pilot **Liz Davidson** as we neared Igiugig – located on the south bank of the mouth of the Kvichak River and Lake Iliamna in remote southwestern Alaska. Although very familiar with the small gravel strip that services this native village with a population of approximately 70 (that consists mainly of Yup’ik Eskimos, Dena’ina, Aleuts, and Athabascan Indians) Liz was carefully scanning the water, trees, and the sky to make a safe and predictable landing in the wilds of The Last Frontier.

The Beechcraft Bonanza rolled to a stop and Liz off-loaded her passenger and a cache of eagerly awaited goods and gear to a small contingent of locals that she knows as friends (as she is their taxi in the wilderness). I was thrilled when we unburdened the rear seat area of the table saw, pizzas, baby diapers, and some of the other cargo that was strapped in the back of N777AK. I must admit as a pilot who has flown less than 300 hours and took my check ride having to do a weight and balance to accommodate my DPE’s small cooler that was perched in the rear seat (filled with ice and a small portable fan on a hot Texas day), I was thrilled when we shed the table saw! When the trailer pulled by a four-wheeler pulled up planeside at Lake Clark Air in Port Alsworth, Alaska, before our flight, my heart clenched when I saw the amount of gear that would soon be swallowed up inside the Beech A36. As Liz signed off, I stopped myself from asking her about the aircraft’s serviceable load – after all, this 36-year-old experienced pilot with more than 5,000 hours knew what she was doing and I was here to learn.

It was the second of six stops that Liz and I would make during the day that we spent together flying 260 nautical miles for Lake Clark Air. For Liz, it was just another day on the job; for me, it was pure joy to fly with one of my heroes – Alaska Chapter member I’ve followed for the past few years on Facebook and have watched as her life has unfolded as an aviator, wife, mother, and author (and who is also in the middle of building a home in Port Alsworth that is situated in Lake Clark National Park, one of the most remote parks in the country). Liz’s stunning photos and occasional tales of life in

“The Big Wild” compelled me to visit her and learn more about her story – and so, I did.

Liz grew up in the Pacific Northwest, in Oregon. What first lit her fire to become a pilot was traveling by airplane to visit family in Illinois. “When I was little, I got to sit in the cockpit a number of times and my favorite part of visiting family was the airplane ride and being in an airport,” she remembers. “That was my main fun!” At the time, Liz didn’t know that anyone in her family was in the aviation business, but later found out that her grandfather and his brother both flew airplanes.

“As a teenager, I realized I had to give up my childhood dreams about becoming a dolphin trainer,” she explained with a laugh, “but I thought a lot about my family trips, airports, and travel and thought that being a pilot could be a really fun thing. When I was 11, I started mission trips, and when I was 15 I had been thinking of a career as a pilot and that’s when the idea of mission work and aviation came together. As I spent time with mission organizations and did some trips, I started looking at mission and aviation work more seriously. I then met a pilot who became a fabulous mentor and talked about how to do both. After high school, I went to Letourneau University, in east Texas, and realized I didn’t like heat and humidity or big bugs, although I spent a semester in Kenya and loved it there. I realized I needed to go farther north and west to escape the heat, so one summer before graduating from college, I traveled to Port Alsworth for a weekend with an alumnus who lived there.” Little did she know then that it would become her home!



Top to bottom: A cockpit visit during a family trip (Liz, about 4 years old). Liz during pilot training. Liz with her first passengers. A semester in college abroad, flying a DC3T in Kenya.





Liz prepares for her day of flying in company A36 Bonanza.

Liz earned her Private Pilot Certificate during her first year in college and her Instrument and Commercial Ratings and Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certification followed. “After college, I went back to Port Alsworth and worked for Lake Clark Air on the ramp loading bags and checking in passengers for one summer and then got into the hangar for five years and I got my IA during that time.”

Liz met her husband, Eric, when she was working full time in the hangar and he was working as a cook for Samaritan’s Purse (that has an outpost in Port Alsworth) after his education in culinary school. “He then decided to work for the winter doing construction projects, then went to New Jersey to work for a humanitarian disaster team and came back – and the rest is history. We were married in 2014 and I bought a Cessna 205 to build hours toward Part 135 minimums. Eric decided to get an A&P certificate and we worked together in the hangar; but when I became pregnant with Theo, I decided to move to the flight line because of chemicals in the hangar. At that point, I’d been at the company for six years and started flying a Cessna 207 before getting into Bonanzas and a Navajo.”

I asked Liz, “What’s it like to be a bush pilot in the wild?” She responded, “Some days it’s beautiful and some days it’s not. It doesn’t matter in general if there’s weather, because of my familiarity with the terrain and weather patterns. We maintain legal minimums; however, that leaves a lot of flyable days that aren’t beautiful. As for being a female bush pilot, most of my passengers are comfortable with me and most passengers say I make it look easy. So much is ingrained in me to be instinctual because of my mechanical experience. How do I do it all? Well, I don’t do it all at the same time. I’ve been flying since 2006, so 18 years. As for sexism in general, I realize it’s not a reflection of me but of the person, and if a guest/passenger might be difficult, I try to find common ground. I’ll share some things about me and also let people know that the owner of the lodge on Port Alsworth is fully confident with putting his children in an airplane with me. Sometimes I even have riders that have their own airplanes but aren’t comfortable flying for particular reasons, such as weather, and they fly with me. I did have one time when a comment was made by a couple of customers saying it was a woman flying the airplane. I just simply said ‘I operate the airplane with my hands and feet’ and often use humor to command respect.”

“My flight area is typically from Anchorage down the Alaskan peninsula to the first island of the Aleutian chain and shuttling people from villages to Port Alsworth and back and forth from Anchorage in the summer, carrying loads and meeting needs. It’s not unusual to fly to seven locations a day, but I have also flown up to 21 and landed on gravel strips as well as paved runways. People are the best part of the work, especially the regulars from the native villages and even some of the lodge guests. I love to show and point out the beautiful places and take my friends’ kids to different sports events from the island. At Lake Clark, on Port Alsworth, there are four regular line pilots, while there are more at the Anchorage base. I’m the only female.”

“The best and the worst?” I asked Liz. “Best is the passengers and the people I get to see as well as the beauty. It’s so amazing that I get to do this and the bottom line is, I’m paid too much – yet some days when there are crosswinds and turbulence, I think I’m not paid enough! The hardest part is rough air and turbulence and strong winds and trying to hold airspeed when the airplane is shaking violently.”

Rounding out the picture of flying with Liz was meeting her boys, Theo (7), Jasper (5), and her husband Eric, who works in the hangar, and hearing about the new house she and Eric are building. “The boys love airplanes and help pre-flight – they are pretty well doomed to the business. We are hoping to have them capable to get their Commercial Ratings at 18 and A&Ps following, but they are not required to be in the industry.”

In her spare time, Liz has written two books. “They came from reading to my own children and the vast difference in the quality of books and really not finding many about aviation that are accurate for children. *Kaydee’s Quest*, about a float plane that takes people to see the beauty of Alaska, was my first idea (although it was published second). I thought a lot about that and my writing when I’m flying. *Cleared for Bedtime* evolved when I was flying and going around the airport at night and saying good night. This book is a great way for children who have a family member who is a pilot and others in the aviation business to stay connected when they’re away. I plan to continue to write for my kid’s reading level and to target books where I can use themes about morals and focus on how we’re all made for really special things. I’m particularly interested in biblical morals. That’s what we’re made for!” Just like Liz Davidson, who was made for really special things! 🌈



## CARLA LADNER: FLYING WITH THE THUNDERBIRDS

– By Dr. Sandra J. Leder and  
Carla Ladner, *Lake Charles Chapter*

**Carla Ladner** (a retired mathematics, computer science, and aeronautics teacher) was awarded a ride with the United States Air Force Thunderbirds. According to the Air Force, “This program honors remarkable people from every corner of our nation; these individuals ignite inspiration in those around them and leave a profound mark on their communities. Each hometown hero embodies what the Thunderbirds stand for: service in the name of something greater than oneself.” Carla was described by the Thunderbirds as “A hometown hero that perfectly exemplifies everything we stand for on the Thunderbirds!”

Carla recently retired from 37 years of teaching; the last 18 were at Hudson High School in Lufkin, Texas. She instructed grades 8-12, was the head tennis coach, and developed an aeronautics class. This led to her pursuit of a Private Pilot Certificate, as she believed this was the best way to fully immerse herself in a curriculum she loved. Through earning her Private Pilot Certificate, Carla has been able to understand more fully her daughter Lauren’s profession in Naval Aviation. The day before her check ride, Carla learned that she had breast cancer. Despite this bad news, she passed her check ride and later beat cancer! One of Carla’s students, Emma Burgess, reached out to the Thunderbirds on Instagram in 2022 stating, “Mrs. Ladner is my absolute role model. She started us with \$20 model rockets that she purchased with her own money and the program has grown into what it is today with more advanced model rockets, drones, and five flight simulators. Eighteen students have become certificated drone pilots, and 11 students have either completed or begun work on their Private Pilot Certificate.” Emma remains so appreciative of taking Carla’s class and is now a private pilot and attending Louisiana Tech University pursuing a degree in aviation.

Carla’s ride was in conjunction with the practice show for “Wings Over Houston” on October 13, 2023. During the ride she was welcomed into the 9G club, was able to log 15 minutes of actual flight time in the F-16, and was one of the only civilian guests to ever fly in the delta formation with the Thunderbirds! The Thunderbirds pilot was Major Jeff “Simmer” Downie.

Invited guests included Emma Burgess; Carla’s family, friends, and former colleagues; and Dr. Sandra Leder and Cathie Cox, members of her Lake Charles Chapter. 🏹







Top left: Deborah Edwards visiting a Ugandan primary school. Bottom left: Just landed in Kaabong, near the border of Uganda. Middle: Deborah and Madeline in the DC-3 at Entebbe Airport. Top right: En route to Moroto, with support for nearby refugee communities. Bottom right: Exploring the capital city, Kampala.

## 99S ACCOMPLISH THEIR MISSIONS

– By Madeline Ungurain, *British Columbia Coast*

Two active Canadian members, volunteers, and scholarship recipients of The 99s met for the first time on a vision trip to Uganda last year which offered an opportunity to experience their mutual aviation dream careers halfway across the world. This is the story of **Deborah Edwards**, of the Canadian Rockies Chapter of The 99s, who I'm proud to now call a lifelong friend.

The trip to Uganda consisted of three pilots, an Aviation Maintenance Engineer (AME) and his wife, and a senior pilot and recruitment manager for Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada (MAF), who served 10 years in Uganda. Together we ventured off on a trip of a lifetime to get a taste of what it looks like to serve as a missionary pilot in Uganda with MAF.

Deb and I were excited to discover upon landing in Entebbe that we're both members of The 99s. It was such an incredible experience to get to know her on this trip as we took steps to pursue our aviation dreams.

We visited MAF Uganda headquarters, traveled several hours to isolated villages by very treacherous roads, and later got to experience flying all over Uganda visiting some of the villages MAF serves with MAF pilots. During this time, we were also asked to share our testimonies (this is what drew us closer). Through this experience, I learned that, from a young age, Deb had a firm understanding that the world is a broken place and had a burning desire to do something about it! Deb always dreamed of flying, and was ecstatic to discover that Mission Aviation Fellowship uses flying to bring humanitarian aid and the hope of God's word to people living in isolated locations. Thus her dream was born, and she had a streamlined vision of where it would lead.

Deb began flying as soon as she received a scholarship upon graduating high school. She has always been goal-oriented and a hard worker – often working three jobs at a time to fund her training. Deb is grateful to have been awarded scholarships from various organizations; notably The 99s Fly Now Award in 2018 (which helped her complete her Private Pilot License) as well as the Amelia Earhart Memorial scholarship in 2022 (which covered her IFR training, one of the last requirements she needed to get hired with MAF). Without these generous scholarships, it would have been much harder to complete her training that has led her to the position she's in now.

Though she's still young, Deb has accomplished much through hard work and determination and has inspired many along the way. Some of her experience includes a 50-hour float, bush, and mountain course; and two years of flying charters, fire patrols, surveys, and instructing – all while maintaining her role as Chapter Secretary and, eventually, Chapter Chair of the Canadian Rockies Chapter. Deb is proud to say, "It was a privilege to give back to an organization that had done so much for me."

Once Deb had the experience requirements for MAF, she started the lengthy application process. When I met Deb on the trip, she'd just officially been hired by MAF. "The trip to Uganda helped open my eyes to the need for aid and hope globally, fueling my passion to serve overseas," said Deb.

Upon returning from Uganda, Deb was asked to instruct at Prairie Aviation Training Centre – a renowned flight school which is a part of Prairie College in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada, and partnered with MAF. Allowing her to mentor students, this serves her purpose of using flying to help others, which she hopes to continue, whether that be overseas or in Canada flying medevacs.

So where has this all led? Today it is with great joy, inspiration, and excitement I share that Deb recently received her assignment with MAF in Ecuador! There she'll be flying with MAF to support isolated jungle communities. The program works closely with Compassion International and the local government to serve people. "To these isolated communities, our flights mean life or death for a patient in need of medical care. They also mean that doctors, pastors, and teachers can reach these communities." Deb commented, "I'm currently in the process of fundraising and training towards this upcoming four-year term in Ecuador. I'm very much looking forward to reaching my support-raising goal so that I can get to the field!"

While many scholarships are awarded annually through The 99s, it's not as often that we hear follow-up stories about how they led members to their chosen careers or, rarer yet, introduced 99s to each other in a third-world country while pursuing such a unique career as a missionary pilot! It's an honor to support Deb in her mission as a friend, as a fellow aspiring missionary pilot, and of course as a 99s sister!

MAF has supported several 99s events in the past and continues to seek avenues on how to support females in the industry. To learn more about MAF and to support Deb's journey, visit <http://maf.ca/missionaries/edwards>.





Andrea Amberge (left) enroute to Isle of Wight. Top right, the Fire Brigade of Sandown Airfield. Bottom photo: The Beach and the Challenger Cliff on the Isle of Wight.

## BY HELICOPTER TO ENGLAND

– By Andrea Amberge, *German Section*

A long-planned excursion, in the true sense of the word, finally took place in May 2023. Together with our friends of the German Historic Flight e.V. (German historic aircraft flying club), we visited the southern English island Isle of Wight.

Early in the morning, we departed with the black R66 helicopter from Reichelsheim Airport (EDFB). The first landing took place at Aachen Merzbruck Airport (EDKA). We refueled the helicopter, filed the flight plan, accomplished all the formalities and then we took off headed to Calais Marck Airport (LFAC).

We had fantastic weather for flying. Whoever has had the opportunity to fly in Belgium knows how difficult it is to circumnavigate all the restricted and danger areas. Finally, we reached Calais, France, at the coastline of the North Sea. Unfortunately, on this day refueling could only be possible with a carnet of Total, so we had to jump over to Le Touquet Cote D'Opale Airport (LFAT), our common meeting airport with all the other flight crews. It's a highly frequented airfield, very friendly and helpful staff, but you must be aware that between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. only French-speaking pilots are allowed to land. All other times, CTR is active and an English-speaking controller is on duty. Important to know!

After refueling, the most beautiful flight leg began that day: one hour across the British Channel, along the steep coast of southern England with a direct course to the Isle of Wight. It was an incredible experience in bright sunshine. The approach to the Sandown Isle of Wight Airport's (EGHN) runway 23 was uncomplicated. Dan, the airport owner, welcomed us kindly on the radio. Fifteen minutes later we ordered a wood-fired pizza in his restaurant. That was very picturesque!

During the following two days, we discovered the island with a rental car and local buses. Very British! Very nice!

For the return flight, we chose the route over the cliffs to Lydd Airport (EGMD), an airfield located a few miles west of Dover, England. Here the fuel tank truck came to the helicopter, which was very practical. We were also able to do the departure formalities quickly.

This time we flew from Lydd Airport over the British Channel directly to Aachen, Germany (flight time 2.22 hours). Three friendly border police officers were already waiting for us there. We refueled and flew the last flight leg to Reichelsheim, Germany.

As for the last few days, the weather was perfect, and "seeing from pole to pole," as we say in aviation.

Le Touquet and the Isle of Wight should definitely be visited. A must for all pilots and friends. 🐾



## TRAINING THROUGH THE DOUBT

– By C. Amaris Robinson, *Alabama Chapter*

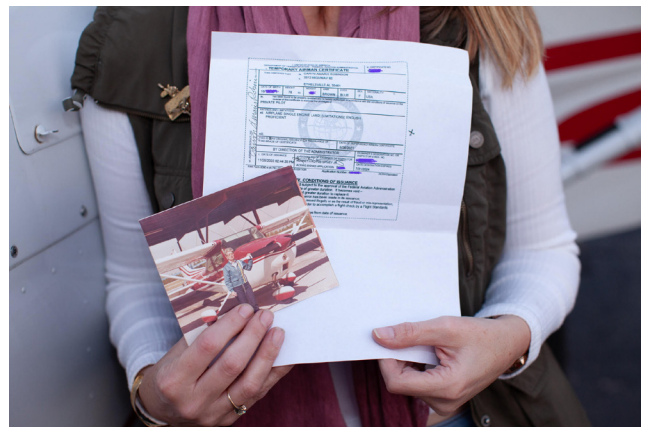
Alabama Chapter member C. Amaris Robinson passed her Private Pilot check ride on Saturday, November 25. In her words, “it was a long two-year journey with lots of stops and starts for different reasons. One of my biggest hurdles with overcoming self-doubt and fear, and I was so scared of the check ride that I almost quit a couple of times just because I didn’t want to have to go through it.

I started lessons when I was 46 years old, and flight training definitely took me out of my comfort zone. Learning to fly has helped me grow in so many ways, and I’m so thankful for the experiences flight training has given me.

I’m so proud to have joined my husband and my son to become the third certificated pilot in our family. My next goal is to move onto instrument training in 2024 and get my Tailwheel Endorsement so I can have a rating that my husband and my son don’t have! I intend to fly for fun and travel, as well as participate in Young Eagles events with my EAA Chapter, and support events for girls in aviation.

I’m also proud to follow in my Aunt Ruby Dickerson’s footsteps as a member of The 99s. She’s my inspiration and she was a longtime 99. I’ve carried her photo with me in my logbook throughout my training. She earned her ratings in the 1960s, despite receiving a lot of doubt from other people and went on to be a professional flight instructor for many years in the Birmingham, Alabama, area.

The encouragement I’ve received from other women, pilots, and CFIs has been crucial in my journey earning my certificate. I look forward to participating in more 99s events in the future! 🛩️





# Reports



## THE NINETY-NINES Museum of Women Pilots

### NINETY-NINES MUSEUM OF WOMEN PILOTS EXPANDS FOR ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year by expanding its exhibit and secured storage space at its facility on Will Rogers World Airport (KOKC) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Since opening in July 1999, the Museum has oag over 3,000 square feet of gallery and workspace.

To support ongoing renovations, a generous benefactor has pledged a \$5-for-\$1 matching contribution for all donations earmarked for upgrading the temperature/ humidity control system for the collections storage areas. You can support this milestone year by donating at [www.museumofwomenpilots.org/donation.htm](http://www.museumofwomenpilots.org/donation.htm). You may also mail a check to the museum.

The museum converted an office adjacent to the existing collections storage area into additional storage. Collections include founding documents and historical records of The Ninety-Nines, personal artifacts of noted pioneer women aviators Louise Thaden, Jackie Cochrane, the WASP, race trophies, books, videos, and much more.

The museum is a resource for research, provides STEM education through aviation, and displays exhibits preserving the history of and the advancements of women in aviation. "This expansion will allow the museum to add new exhibits, develop new programs, and gain recognition for the work it strives to do," said Lisa Cotham, Museum Trustee Chair. Exhibit topics include Amelia Earhart, the WASP, women in military aviation, commercial aviation, space exploration, air show performers, air racing, and International achievements, with new exhibits planned.

Donors of \$500 or more will receive a thank you gift from the museum. Donations of at least \$1000 will be memorialized inside the museum. The campaign runs through June 30, 2024. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.

The museum is located at 4300 Amelia Earhart Dr., Suite B, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73159. It's open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

For more information:  
Diane Earhart, Trustee  
618-235-8823  
[earhart500@aol.com](mailto:earhart500@aol.com)

### AMELIA EARHART BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM OFFERS COFFEE IN HONOR OF AMELIA

Amelia loved hot chocolate; it was her beverage of choice throughout most of her flights. On her record-setting solo Pacific flight in her red Lockheed Vega, Amelia drank hot chocolate, stating, "That was the most interesting cup of chocolate I have ever had, sitting up eight thousand feet over the middle of the Pacific Ocean, quite alone."

To honor her memory and her love for hot chocolate, we've collaborated with Burr Roasters to bring you Amelia Earhart's Hot Chocolate Blend, a French roasted Colombian coffee with dark chocolate, graham cracker, and marshmallow flavors. Whether you drink it at home, or in a plane, we hope you enjoy it as much as we do. To purchase, please visit: <https://aebm.square.site/product/amelia-earhart-s-hot-chocolate-coffee-blend/833>

– Mika Schrader, Assistant Director AEBM

### THE 99S WEBINAR COMMITTEE WANTS TO BE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT OUR MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS!

On the second Wednesday of every month, the committee hosts a webinar. Everyone is invited to join us by preregistering in advance. Past webinars are available to view on our website at: [ninety-nines.org/webinars.htm](http://ninety-nines.org/webinars.htm) or on The 99s YouTube channel.

If you have an aviation human-interest story or flying adventure to share, please contact: Deb Henneberry, webinar chair, at [debhenneberry@gmail.com](mailto:debhenneberry@gmail.com) or Glenna Blackwell, board liaison, at [blackwells@verizon.net](mailto:blackwells@verizon.net).

### Upgrade your next flight without upgrading your plane

\$300 rebate on the Garmin GDL® 52 portable SiriusXM/ADS-B receiver



**SiriusXM**  
AVIATION

Learn more at [garmin.com/GDL52](http://garmin.com/GDL52)

---

# Book Reviews

Jacque Boyd, Rio Grande Norte Chapter



Publisher: Knox Press  
— an imprint of Permuted Press  
ISBN: 978-1637585948  
Available on Amazon

## **THE FLY GIRLS REVOLT**

*The Story of the Women Who Kicked Open the Door to Fly in Combat*

Author: Eileen A. Bjorkman

This is truly a book that you'll come back to time and time again. There were portions of the book that hit me hard. I learned to fly in 1975 and was told the military option wasn't open to me. The stories of my contemporaries are riveting and heartening. These women are true trailblazers and their accomplishments have paved the way for everyone who followed. This book is my favorite for many reasons. I love the stories and the writing is superb, but I truly have an elevated appreciation for the appendices! The appendices, the bibliography, and the index will serve as one of the most comprehensive sources of information on this era. It's a must have for your library.



Publisher: Flight to Destiny Press  
ISBN: 978-1735059532  
Available on Amazon

## **CORNELIA FORT WAFS PILOT**

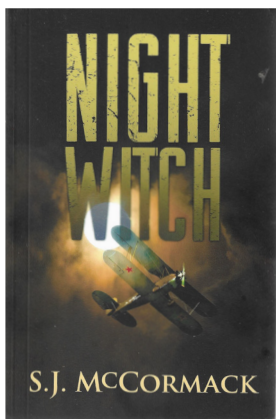
*Her Life For Her Country  
(Wasp Ferry Pilots Of WWII)*

Author: Sarah Byrn Rickman, *Colorado Springs Chapter 99*

This is a wonderful addition to the list of books by Sarah Byrn Rickman detailing the individual histories of the women who flew for the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron – which was later integrated into the WASP program that began after the WAFS. Cornelia Fort's story begins with her involvement in the Pearl Harbor attack, when she was in the air flight instructing at the time of the Japanese attack. Her career in the WAFS was, unfortunately, short lived when she was killed in a mid-air crash.

Rob Simbeck, who wrote an earlier, exceptional biography of Fort said, "Sarah tells this story beautifully. Her research is meticulous, her writing is sublime." I agreed totally!

Even though this book is technically listed as a young adult book, it serves as a great introduction to Fort's life. Rickman has great input from the family and shares her background of being a Tennessean. This book is exceptional. It belongs in your library!



Publisher: Self-Published,  
Copyright 2015  
ISBN: 978-0996751414  
Available on Amazon

## **NIGHT WITCH**

Author: S.J. McCormack

Although I'm not a huge fan of fictionalized accounts (particularly when it comes to books about women pilots), this book is an exception. McCormack's writing is very good, and the story she weaves is believable. It's a nice take on the Russian Night Witch history. Her approach to the Night Witch's history is accurate in comparison to some of the other nonfiction books about the subject. You will not be disappointed. Even though this book is nearly ten years old, her writing and the story are still relevant.



# Milestones



**Mia Anderson**  
Tailwheel endorsement  
– Old Dominion

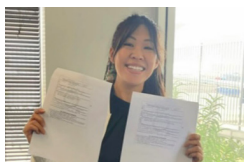
**Jessica Arciero**  
Private  
– Bay Cities



**Amanda Barker**  
Instrument  
– Florida Suncoast

**Jocelyn Biglin**  
Instrument  
– San Antonio

**Rachael Bonilla**  
CFII; Commercial  
Multi-engine  
– San Antonio



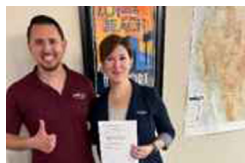
**Lindsey Chen**  
FI, CFII, Multi-engine  
Instrument  
– Orange County



**Grace Coleman**  
Private  
– Hampton Roads



**Caryl Collins**  
Instrument  
– Orange County



**Jinifer Conover**  
Private  
– Orange County



**Sally Frakes**  
Private  
– Florida Suncoast

**Lori Hanson**  
Private  
– San Antonio

**Victoria Hodges**  
ATP  
– Hampton Roads



**Cyndi Ice**  
Private  
– Oklahoma



**Miranda Keller**  
CFI, Commercial  
Multi-engine  
– Orange County



**Carly Kurzava**  
CFI and CFII  
– Colorado



**Christine Lee**  
Solo  
– Kentucky Bluegrass



**Kimberly Marcell**  
Solo  
– Kentucky Bluegrass



**Sara Martinez**  
CFI  
– Austin Hill Country



**Rachel Meitler**  
CFII; Multi-engine  
Instrument  
– Antelope Valley



**Tiffany Meredith**  
Commercial  
– Kentucky Bluegrass



**Cloe McDowell**  
Private  
– Phoenix

**Andrea McGilvray**  
Commercial Airplane  
Single & Multi-engine;  
Helicopter; Instrument  
Airplane & Helicopter  
– San Antonio



**Elise McLendon**  
Instrument; Commercial  
– Oklahoma



**Jun Oikawa**  
Instrument  
– All-Ohio



**Kelli O'Donnell**  
Instrument  
– Florida Suncoast



**Riley Offenderbacker**  
CFI  
– Arkansas

**Sunny Oh**  
Private  
– Bay Cities



**Olivia Parmenter**  
Commercial  
– Kentucky Bluegrass



**Jenny Reeb**  
Airbus 320 type rating  
– Old Dominion

**Amaris Robinson**  
Private  
– Alabama



**Allison Schlotthauer**  
Instrument  
– Oklahoma

**Kenli Seaman**  
CFI, CFII, Multi-engine  
Instrument  
– Orange County



**Miranda Spurgeon**  
A&P  
– Kentucky Bluegrass

**Sarah Stanley**  
High Performance and  
Complex endorsement  
– Tennessee



**Nicole Tait**  
B-777 Type Rating  
– Old Dominion Chapter



**Maria Vianco**  
Private  
– Rio Grande Norte



# Grass Roots



## ALOHA CHAPTER

The Aloha Chapter held their annual cookie caper for the air traffic control towers on the first weekend of December. It was a wintery Hawaiian evening on Friday night, December 1, meaning that the temperatures might've dipped to 70 degrees and the winds started feeling a little cooler than the usual warm, humid, tropical breezes. Members showed up in Christmas sweaters, with two dozen cookies, and a potluck dish to share.

The ladies worked together to make mixed boxes of those cookies for each control tower across the state (LIH, HNL, HJR, MKK, OGG, KOA, ITO). Once the cookie boxes were made, bows tied, and photos taken, they discussed and organized the delivery of all these boxes to the towers, both on our island and across the Hawaiian islands.

The ladies were able to enjoy the wonderful potluck of food and desserts while they caught up on the sisters' flying journeys, successes, obstacles, plans, and dreams.

We know how diligently the controllers work to keep the skies safe, and this is one small token of appreciation by the Aloha Chapter to let them know they are valued.

Mahalo to all who brought cookies and flew them around the state!

– Michelle JoAnn and Meredith Grimmer



### BE PART

of AviNation by subscribing at:  
[avinationusa.com](http://avinationusa.com)

AviNation magazine is designed to generate excitement and interest in aviation by focusing on aviation students, programs and events that appeal to youth and promote the growth of the aviation industry.

By celebrating the industry and encouraging youth to pursue aviation career paths, AviNation magazine works to shape the future of the industry by cultivating the next generation of aviation leaders, business owners, service personnel, mechanics and pilots.

***You can help to shape your business' future now! Join the movement today.***



**SCAN & SUBSCRIBE!**

### BE A PARTNER

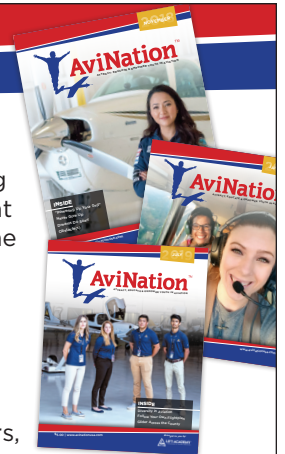
in AviNation by submitting your pictures & story ideas:

Jacob Peed, Publisher:

(515) 408-3763, [jpeed@gmail.com](mailto:jpeed@gmail.com)



**INSPIRE OTHERS!**  
 Share a Video of Your Aviation Story Today!



[www.avinationusa.com](http://www.avinationusa.com)



*Ninety-Nines at Chicago Area holiday party*

## CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

### Holiday Party

Our Chicago Area holiday party, co-hosted by Vickie Szewczyk and Donna Klein, was a wonderful success. Good company, lovely surroundings, and a generous buffet of good food was enjoyed by all, old friends and new. We tested our brain power with a challenging game of aviation trivia. Seven teams competed, with one team per table – 99s and 49<sup>1/2</sup>s, new pilots, and experienced pilots. The winning team won bragging rights! Great fun!

We also collected donations for WINGS – a charity for families surviving domestic abuse. We wanted to share this season of hope and joy, of peace and prosperity, and we did.

### Aviation Expo and Safety Seminar

Awful weather plagued the day of our safety seminar – flying was virtually prohibited, and even driving was hampered by the fog. But those who made it in were rewarded with informative and entertaining seminars and speakers, and friendly, enthusiastic vendors.

Staffing the welcome desk were Chapter Vice Chair Larisa Kano, Diane Cozzi, Linda Millon, Erica Okwuazi, and Dinah Spadoni. Larisa also gave the opening remarks. Eva Kozlowski introduced the VFR speakers and the vendors. Chapter Secretary Vickie Szewczyk introduced the IFR speakers and moderated the eyes/ears medical session. Piper Colantone and Katy Criehtfield conducted the flying companion sessions. Corie Wild was the event photographer. Cynthia Madsen and Karen Ballard staffed The 99s membership table in the vendors area.



*Diane Cozzi, Linda Millon, and Erica Okwuazi at the welcome desk.*

Visiting 99s included: Kathy Fox (East Canada Section) who was the speaker for the IFR session on lessons learned from Transportation Safety Board of Canada, International 99s Vice President Minnetta Gardinier (Iowa Chapter) who monitored our flying companion seminar, and Dee Dreger (Northwoods Chapter). Other 99s in attendance were Mary Lou Erikson, Diane Hromak-Sawyer, Gail LaPook, Denise Daichendt, Mona Knock, Christine Albertson, and Nadia Solano Rodriguez who drifted to fill in wherever they could help.

Can't forget our 49<sup>1/2</sup>s: Yosh Kano, Ralph Madsen, Bill Dreger, Chris Kunz (Mona Knock), and Tony Greco (Megan McArthur). Tony stepped in at the last minute and took over the selling of raffle tickets, as our split-the-pot has always been popular. Also, several vendors contributed swag and those were raffled off as well.

Please check out the Chicago Area Chapter Facebook page to view the terrific video of the event, put together by our photographer Corie Wild. It rocks!

– Diane M. Cozzi

## ALABAMA CHAPTER

It's always nice to thank the people that help us when we fly. Alabama Chapter members delivered goodies to three ATC towers in December. The towers in Birmingham, Huntsville, and Montgomery, Alabama, were the lucky recipients. The chapter members in Huntsville and Montgomery were rewarded with tours of the towers.

– Kathleen Powell



*Left: Birmingham Tower – Rachael Ford and Liucija Smaizyte Wright organized the delivery of treats. Top Right: Montgomery Tower Tour – chapter members Kimberly Mershon, Jenn Nash, and Kimberly Davis, with Justin Linn, ATC. Bottom Right: Huntsville Tower – chapter members Ramona Banks, Caroline Hodges, and Katelyn Wilson.*



# Grass Roots



## GERMAN SECTION

### Advent Meeting in the Aviators Farm

From the 9th to the 10th of December 2023, we organized a German Section advent meeting at the Hildesheim Airfield (EDVM) in the Aviators Farm. We met in the afternoon. It was our first meeting of this kind.

Unfortunately, none of us could fly ourselves, but the train and our cars took us safely to Hildesheim.

Aviators Farm's Thomas Schüttoff had decorated the entire venue and the hangar for Christmas. Everywhere was lit and sparkling.

A glass of punch in the hangar was served as a welcome. In the cinema hall, a long table was set for us with candles, fir branches, and chocolate Santa Claus. There was a lively conversation among the members and guests, accented with a piece of cake and a delicious coffee. The mood was exuberant. In the background a feature film of the Powder Puff Derby of The 99s was shown on the big screen.

Before Christmas dinner, we assembled amongst the antiquarian books in the lounge, played billiards, or made plans for the upcoming year. A cook who came especially for us spoiled us with a six-course menu, featuring chestnut soup, roulade, red cabbage, mashed potatoes, and speculoos tiramisu (a very German meal).

Small gifts brought along were raffled.

We met some of our new members personally as well as pilots who had come as guests. Most of us stayed at the nearby hotel so we could continue our exchange of experiences the next morning at breakfast. Later in the cafe of the Aviator's Farm, we discussed topics of general aviation and future joint events with Thomas Schüttoff.

All in all, it was a very successful meeting. We all drove home very fulfilled and inspired. This was not our last advent meeting in Hildesheim, I know that exactly.

– Andrea Amberge

## VENTURA COUNTY CHAPTER

The Ventura County Chapter offers an annual raffle, which became a traveling raffle where they sold tickets at various aviation events including in The Ninety-Nines booth at AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The drawing is on Veteran's Day each November.

This year's winner of the Delta Zulu headset was Phil Brooks from Columbia, Missouri. He purchased his winning ticket at The Ninety-Nines booth at AirVenture and was thrilled to learn he won the headset. He told us he never wins anything. The winner of the Choice of CP Aviation EMT Module 1 and 2 or Tailwheel Endorsement up to 10 hours, was Ben Payton from Thousand Oaks, California. He purchased his winning ticket at our booth at the Wings Over Camarillo Airshow. We sold several thousand dollars of raffle tickets. The raffle proceeds support the Ventura County 99s scholarship program, the Karen Johnson Solo Scholarship (a national scholarship awarded at the annual 99s Aviation Appreciation Dinner at Oshkosh that provides funding for flight training through first solo and beyond to young women between 16 and 20 who want to learn to fly). We thank Lightspeed and CP Aviation for supporting the Ventura County Chapter and International 99s!

– Luz Schaible



Phil Brooks (left) trying out the new Delta Zulu on a flight with another instructor in Columbia, Missouri.



EAA Chapter 1535 Chair Derek Harvey presents the Post Award to Laura Burnham.

## NORTHEAST KANSAS CHAPTER

Northeast Kansas Chapter Chair Laura Burnham was honored by her EAA Chapter 1535 on January 27, 2024, with their Wiley Post Award! Named for the famous aviator and global circumnavigator, 1535's Post Award is "in recognition of leadership by example, exceptional dedication, and outstanding service to the aviation community." Laura is Treasurer for that EAA chapter as well as our 99s chapter Chair. In addition to minding the money, Laura regularly organizes flyouts and refresher clinics (like an annual night flight, one in which our chapter participates) for her EAA chapter, as well as stitching seat covers for various pilots. She kept up all these activities in 2023, despite losing a family member and facing some personal health challenges. Laura is a great, visible example of aviation volunteerism in Kansas! Congratulations to her!

– Sara Tompson



Left photo: Joyce Boylls with Jacque Boyd. Right photo: Amy Ecclesine, Elizabeth Hunke, Clancey Maloney, Susan Larson, Kathy Farrell, Lilo Steffen, and Jacque Boyd.

## RIO GRANDE NORTE CHAPTER

Chapter members and guests celebrated the 20th anniversary of the chapter's chartering in 2003 with a lunch on October 15, 2023, at the Santa Fe Jet Center. With over 40 in attendance, we were delighted to have all seven living 99s (Amy Ecclesine, Elizabeth Hunke, Clancey Maloney, Susan Larson, Kathy Farrell, Lilo Steffen, Jacque Boyd) of the original 13 charter members present. Much appreciation goes out to Jacque Boyd who served as the emcee. A presentation of Ginny Boylls' induction certificate into the International Forest of Friendship held special poignance as Ginny was the chapter's first Chair. Her sweetheart of 55 years, Joyce Boylls, accepted on Ginny's behalf (Ginny passed in 2022).

– Susan Larson



## COLORADO CHAPTER

The January meeting for the Colorado 99s was bitterly cold, with wind chill temperatures in the single digits all day. Chapter members, as well as guests from the Pikes Peak Chapter and beyond, attended in person and via Zoom to learn about and discuss the Air Race Classic (ARC). During this year's ARC, the Colorado 99s will see several chapter members racing across the country from Carbondale, Illinois, to Loveland, Colorado. As the host location for the ARC terminus, many Colorado 99s are busily preparing to welcome race teams and their guests in June. Upcoming chapter events include a panel presentation titled Navigating Your Future in Aviation at Aspen Flying Club at Centennial Airport (KAPA). It's wonderful to appreciate the many supportive resources and collective elements to support women pilots.

Makayla Galler and her SkyBlazers team won first place in the U.S. Drone Soccer AMA district qualifier in Denver, Colorado, in January.

– Lydia Baldwin



## Our newest Life Members

**Heather Curtis**

*Midnight Sun Chapter*

**Judith (Sunni) Gibbons**

*Santa Maria Valley Chapter*

**Theresa Levandoski-Byers**

*Monterey Bay Chapter*

**Betty Lee Longstaff**

*Canadian Rockies Chapter*

**Lola Tomlinson**

*Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter*

**Carol Vautin**

*Ventura County Chapter*

**Barbara Zeigler**

*Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter*

## 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.*

**Clarice Bellino**

February 1, 2023  
*New Jersey Chapter*

**Gayl Henze**

December 9, 2023  
*Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter*

**Ingrid Lohne**

January 9, 2024  
*San Fernando Valley Chapter*

**Rika Ballard**

January 14, 2024  
*Connecticut Chapter*

**Patricia Ann McWha**

January 25, 2024  
*Western Washington Chapter*

**Cheryl Rose Harding**

January 26, 2024  
*All-Ohio Chapter*

**Maryellyn Page**

February 5, 2024  
*Connecticut Chapter*

**Evelyn Kropp**

February 9, 2024  
*Connecticut Chapter*



## Thank You to Our Sponsors



## Our most recently enlisted Friends of The 99s

**David Black**

*North Vancouver, BC  
Canada*

**Derek Coppola**

*Davie, FL*

**Dean Glenney**

*Dunnville, ON, Canada*

**Rosa Maria Hurst**

*Richmond, BC, Canada*

**Timberly Matonic**

*Monrovia, CA*

**Carl Pfeiffer**

*Moline, IL*

**Joshua Reed**

*St Johns, FL*

**Chris Rosenfelt**

*Madison, AL*

**Aryama Sanyal**

*Noida, IN*

**Tonya Scheftner**

*Sonora, CA*

**Tyler Schmidt**

*Honolulu, HI*

**Robin Taber**

*Boca Raton, FL*

**Don Thibodeau**

*Fryeburg, ME*

**Daniel Whittle**

*Vancouver, BC, Canada*



Ninety-Nines

# All Women. All Pilots!

---

Since 1929, the Ninety-Nines have been inspiring women who love to fly!

- Scholarships  
For all ages and training levels
  - Mentorship  
Meet 99s through local chapter seminars and events
  - Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative  
Creating tomorrow's aviation leaders today
- 

Join us.  
[www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org)





# The Ninety-Nines INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & CAREER EXPO



## JOIN US!

July 3-7, 2024

Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront  
Vancouver, British Columbia

Hosted by the West Canada Section

**For more information:**

AKA Travel – [99s@AKATravelTeam.com](mailto:99s@AKATravelTeam.com)

Cathy Prudhomme – [cgprudhomme@gmail.com](mailto:cgprudhomme@gmail.com)