



The Ninety-Nines, Inc.,  
International Organization of Women  
Pilots  
New Member Guide



# THE NINETY NINES INTERNATIONAL NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK

Welcome to The Ninety-Nines!

You won't find us listed in the dictionary, the encyclopedia, or even the yellow pages. But thousands of women around the world have sought us out to become a part of the history and fellowship that are The Ninety-Nines tradition. When those first pioneer women pilots met in a Long Island hangar in 1929, they had a vision of what flying meant and would mean to them -- a fledgling group of aviators who believed in the future. Aviation was a man's world then, and women were excluded from more than air races and flying jobs. By joining together, these intrepid women of the air fortified their chances of success. They perfected their skills and far surpassed many of the men who surrounded them. They became outstanding aviators and accomplished sweeping victories for aviation.

Today, The Ninety-Nines are still setting the pace for women and flight. We are proud of the legacy we have inherited. The Ninety-Nines have become a network of proactive, progressive aviation leaders. We air mark taxiways at airports. We educate young and old alike. We provide scholarships. In committees, and at conferences and caucuses, we enrich the aviation community and educate the non-flying public. Not content to wait for opportunity, we create it. We are both realists and visionaries. We share with our sister pilots a commitment few outsiders understand. At the root of our dedication lies a single pursuit: to assure a future in the air for ourselves and those who come after us -- to stay aloft.

There are 25 geographic Sections of The 99s throughout the world, and many more Chapters which make up the Sections. We have an International President, Section Governors, and Chapter Chairmen. We are always welcome at one another's meetings and activities. In fact, once you receive your International Ninety-Nines directory, you will realize that you not only have acquired a local family, but you now have a worldwide network of sister pilots who welcome you wherever you go. Take your directory with you when you travel. Whether you are looking for a flight instructor, want to rent an aircraft, need help understanding local VFR routes, have unexpected mechanical problems, want guidance on local sightseeing, or are looking for a place to bed down, you almost always find a Ninety-Nine willing to go out of her way to assist.

As a woman and a pilot, you have already separated yourself from the masses. Now you have rewarded yourself with membership in the only international organization dedicated exclusively to women pilots. Welcome to the flight deck. Welcome to the future of aviation.

Blue Skies and Tailwinds!

Fran Strubeck and Catherine Houghton  
99s International Membership Chairmen

# NINETY-NINES NEW MEMBER GUIDE

## Contents

- International Headquarters
- Membership Directory
- Who We Are and What We Do
- Glossary of Common Terms

## International Headquarters

The Ninety-Nines International Headquarters is located in Oklahoma City, OK, on six acres of land at the Will Rogers International Airport. The 99s Museum of Women Pilots is located on the second floor of the headquarters building and houses an extensive collection of archival records, video and oral histories, books, art, film, photographs, personal artifacts, collections and memorabilia, and biographical files of thousands of women pilots from around the world.

Headquarters staff is available to assist all members during normal office hours. Renewals, membership material requests and general information questions are only a small portion of how the staff can assist you. Normal office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

## Membership Directory

One of the best sources of information about The Ninety-Nines is our Membership Directory. You will receive a copy of the current Membership Directory with your new member packet. An additional Membership Directory Book is available from Headquarters at an additional cost. Membership information is also online in the “Members Only” section of The 99s International website at [www.ninety-nines.org](http://www.ninety-nines.org). The Online Directory is the most current listing of membership.

Many members pack their 99s Membership Directory whenever they travel. 99s share a common bond and wherever you go there is usually a 99 for socializing or assistance!

Within the Membership Directory you will find:

### General Information

- Mission Statement
- History
- Past Presidents
- Charter Members
- International Board Members
- Section Governors
- International Committee Chairs
- Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Winners
- Board of Trustees
- The Ninety-Nines Prayer
- Tax Deductible Gift Information

Sections, Chapters, and Members  
Map of Section Boundaries  
Sections and Chapters  
Member List

Organizational Bylaws and Standing Rules  
Certificate of Incorporation  
Bylaws  
Standing Rules

## Who We Are and What We Do

Type of Organization:	Nonprofit, charitable membership corporation registered in the State of Delaware, holding 501(c)(3) U.S. Tax Status. Governed by a nine-member elected board of directors.
Founded:	November 2, 1929 at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York, by noted aviator Amelia Earhart and other early women pilots. Of the 117 licensed women pilots of the day, 99 became charter members of the organization and took the name from their number. The membership was international from the beginning and Earhart was elected the first president.
Membership:	More than 5,000 licensed women pilots from 36 countries. Membership includes Life Members, Emeritus Members, Ninety-Nines, Academic and Associate Members.
Mission:	The Ninety-Nines is the international organization of women pilots that promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.
Activities:	Each year, local chapters sponsor several hundred educational programs, including aerospace workshops for teachers, airport tours for school children, fear-of-flying clinics for airline passengers, and flight instructor revalidation seminars. For many years, 99s have co-sponsored more than 75 per cent of the FAA pilot safety programs in the United States. Members have worked with the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's student flying competitions since 1948 as judges, runners, and teachers, as well as with funding assistance. More recently, The 99s became sponsors for the Girl Scouts of America offering a merit badge for aviation.

Headquarters:	<p>Opened the permanent headquarters building on the grounds of Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1975. A second, two-story building expanded the facility to twice its original size in 1988.</p>
Scholarships:	<p>Each year Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarships are awarded to qualified members for fully funded advanced flight training, jet type ratings, and technical training. Partial funding is awarded for academic scholarships per educational institution semesters. In addition, the scholarship fund provides Research Scholarship Grants and New Pilot Awards. Aside from generous donations received from 99s Chapters, Sections, and individual members, the United Parcel Service Foundation has graciously donated significant funds annually, as have 99s members and other individuals through their estate bequests. Maule Air Inc. has been providing ten hours of flight training in their tailwheel aircraft to one worthy 99 annually for the past few years. Since 1941 the scholarship fund has awarded 470 scholarships, not including Research Grants or New Pilot Awards. Currently the fund’s investment account is valued at approximately \$4 million.</p>
Careers:	<p>The Careers Committee sponsors projects for members in pilot professions. The 99s Pilot Career Resource Center can be accessed through the members only area of The 99s website. The Pro99s Network is an email forum for women pilots to discuss pilot career concerns. In the 99s Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative, “Captains” develop leadership and career achievement skills as they are mentored by “Navigators” in a structured formal mentoring program.</p>
Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative:	<p>This formal 12-month mentoring program aims to provide highly motivated members pursuing professional pilot careers with the tools necessary to develop their career and leadership skills, through guided activities and one-on-one mentoring with experienced pilots.</p>
Endowment Fund:	<p>Income from the fund is reinvested to build principal. When the principal reaches \$1 million, the income earned by the protected principal will be allocated for the perpetuation and advancement of Ninety-Nines activities. The principal, comprised of donations, will remain intact.</p>

Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum:	<p>The 99s own and manage the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas, The home in which Amelia Earhart was born and spent the early portion of her life. Since 1984, the organization has fully restored the 1850's Victorian structure to the era when Amelia lived there.</p>
The 99s Museum of Women Pilots	<p>The 99s Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City was dedicated in 1999. Located on the second floor of the organization's headquarters, the museum contains displays and artifacts focusing on the history of women in aviation. In addition, archives and other resources are maintained on site, as well as the largest collection of Amelia Earhart memorabilia.</p>
Recognition:	<p>The 99s, Inc. has received recognition from numerous local, regional, national, and international sources. In 1982, The 99s received the National Aviation Hall of Fame Spirit of Flight Award. The organization was inducted into the Oklahoma Air Space Museum Hall of Fame in 2001, and in 2002, was selected as the recipient of the Frank G. Brewer Trophy by the National Aeronautic Association. The 99s were recognized by Russia's Aviatrix Women's Club of Flying Specialties for active interaction support and cooperation in realization of joint projects.</p>
Publications:	<p>The <i>99 News</i> is the official magazine of the organization (non-member subscriptions are \$20). The annual <i>Membership Directory</i> is published for member use only. <i>Headquarters Dispatch</i> is an internal monthly newsletter published for member use only.</p>
Internet:	<p><a href="http://www.ninety-nines.org">www.ninety-nines.org</a> is the official website for The 99s. The 99s Email Network, Flight Training Forum, and Pro 99s Network offer members throughout the world the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics – flying, Chapter/Section innovations and ideas, networking and mentoring, being a 99, and more. The Members Only Area offers an online directory updated regularly as well as other valuable information pertinent to being a 99.</p>

## Glossary of Common Terms

49 1/2	The spouses and/or other supporters of the members of The 99s
501(c)(3)	The 99s are covered under this U.S. tax exception status as an educational, charitable, or scientific organization. As a result, we are required by law to submit annual reports on Chapter, Section, and International activities.
Air and Space Education	Programs to educate the general population on the value and benefits of aerospace and aviation. These can include Girl & Boy Scout Programs, Career Days, Aviation Seminars and Workshops.
Air Bears	An educational program to introduce school age children to aviation careers.
Air Derbies & Air Races	Events usually sponsored by a Chapter(s) to promote safety and proficiency in a fun and competitive manner.
Air Marking	Location markers are painted on airports and surrounding buildings by 99s to guide pilots. Air marking can also include compass roses.
Air Race Classic	An annual cross-country air race open to teams of women pilots flying stock airplanes certified in normal or utility category.
All Women's Transcontinental Air Race (AWTAR)	Best known by its trademark, The Powder Puff Derby, it was the oldest, longest and largest speed air race for women in the world. The race was run from 1947 to 1976 with a commemorative 30 year race conducted in 1977. Today, the Air Race Classic carries on the tradition.
Associate Members	A mentoring category of membership for student pilots, who are expected to become full members when they qualify. Associate Members pay reduced dues and receive credit toward time required to qualify for scholarships.
Bylaws	The rules governing the organization which can be amended by a 2/3 vote by the membership.
Chairman's Manual	A handbook that assists the Chapter Chairman with parliamentary procedure, forms, applications, and other operating procedures. This is available for download through the Members Only Section of the website or may be purchased from Headquarters.

Chapter	A subset of a Section, consisting of seven or more members, usually but not always centered in a local area or airport. This is the grassroots membership of The 99s, normally led by a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chairman.
Charter Member	A category of membership given to the founding members of The 99s. (There were 99 charter members.)
Council of Governors	All the Section Governors are part of the Council of Governors and serve as an advisory council to the International Board of Directors.
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)	The 99s participate in the annual EAA Convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and the mid-year convention in Lakeland, Florida (Sun 'n Fun Fly-In).
Flying Companion or Right Seat Seminar	Usually a one to two day presentation for passengers of light air planes, teaching basic radio skills, chart reading, and flight planning to help them feel more comfortable on flights.
Forest of Friendship	A memorial garden to commemorate the achievements of aviators and their supporters co-founded by Charter Member Fay Gillis Wells. Located in Atchison, Kansas, it exhibits trees and flora from around the world. Bronze plaques line the walkways honoring the individuals who are inducted in the Forest of Friendship each June.
Insurance	The 99s are covered under a blanket insurance policy. Before scheduling any event, you should always check with International Headquarters on the coverage and restrictions.
International Board of Directors	The top level of governance of the organization. Our International Board of Directors includes President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors. The immediate past President also serves on the Board.
International Conference	The annual membership meeting which includes the Annual Business Meeting, Amelia Earhart Scholarship Banquet or Luncheon and Awards Banquet. The Conference always includes a variety of events and seminars for members and their guests.
Legislation	A committee responsible for watching legislative activities for topics that impact the flying public and passing along the information for action by the membership.
Life Member	A category of membership provided to members who meet the eligibility requirements and who pay an amount equal to ten year's dues at the time they qualify.
Member-At-Large	A category of membership for those who reside where there are no Sections.

National Intercollegiate Association (NIFA)	NIFA sponsors competition among university flight teams. The 99s provides volunteer support at the regional and national levels and make up most of Flying the judges at regional and national NIFA competitions. The 99s sponsors the Top Scoring Woman Pilot Award and the Women's Achievement Award each year.
Oral History Program	Funded by dues and contributions, this program tapes stories of accomplished women pilots for our International archives.
Pin Fines	During official Section and International meetings, members not wearing an official membership pin may be subject to pay a fine. All in good fun and for a worthy cause--us!
Pinch Hitter Course	A Pinch Hitter Course is similar to the Flying Companion Seminar, except it includes actual flight instruction in the participants' aircraft.
Poker Run or Poker Rally	Flying event in which players retrieve cards at a number of selected airports. Cards are assembled into poker hands at the last airport and prizes are awarded to winning hands. The more airplanes, the more fun, the larger the pot.
Robert's Rules of Order	The standard of rules and procedures observed by the organization during meetings.
Safety Education	The multi-faceted effort to support aviation safety within the aviation community.
Scrapbook	Each Chapter collects articles and pictures for a scrapbook. Copies of significant items should be sent to the Section and International scrapbook chairman.
Section	A subset of the International membership of five or more members. A Section is led by a Governor and a Board elected every two years.
Section Meeting	Meeting of the Section at which Section business is conducted. A Section Meeting is usually hosted by a Chapter or group of Chapters. It includes a business meeting, seminars, speakers and fun events for members and 49 1/2s.
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	Guidelines for holding Chapter, Section, International, and Committee events, programs and meetings.
Standing Rules	The secondary set of rules governing The 99s organization which can be amended by a majority vote of the membership.
Ways and Means	A committee to generate money to help support the objectives of the organization.
Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)	An auxiliary unit of the U.S. Army Air Force commissioned during WWII to have women perform flying duties stateside to free up servicemen for combat missions overseas.