



The Ninety-Nines Inc.

4300 Amelia Earhart Drive Suite A, Oklahoma City, OK 73159 USA



Straight & Level: November 2025

From the President's Desk



The Story of Our Beginning

In 1929, twenty pioneering women pilots competed in the first transcontinental Air Derby from Santa Monica to Cleveland — a milestone in aviation history. **Louise Thaden** won **first place** in

the heavy airplane class, and **Phoebe Omlie** took **second in the lightweight class**. Although the women did not race directly against men, their success proved they could compete just as capably, and many soon did — earning top placements in mixed-gender air races.

Later that year, on **November 2, 1929**, women pilots gathered at **Curtiss Field, Long Island**, to form an organization for mutual support and the advancement of women in aviation. **Louise Thaden** served as Secretary, helping the group grow, and in 1931 **Amelia Earhart** became the first President.

Named for its **99 charter members**, *The Ninety-Nines* continues to honor their legacy — inspiring, connecting, and advancing women in aviation worldwide.

If you are interested in watching a good PBS documentary on these early women fliers, there is a film from 2023, *Hearts Above Clouds*, <https://www.pbs.org/video/hearts-above-clouds-zha04q/>

Calling All Social Media Experts!

Do you love creating engaging content and sharing the joy of aviation? The Ninety-Nines is looking for a member with strong **social media experience** to help us educate and inspire through our online platforms. We're seeking someone who can create **one educational post per week** for Instagram — posts that can also be shared across our other social media channels. If you have a passion for storytelling, digital engagement, and helping grow awareness of women in aviation, we'd love to hear from you!

➔ Interested? Please contact Jen Toplak, jen.toplak@gmail.com or text (305) 205-0843

Together, let's keep our history and mission flying high online!

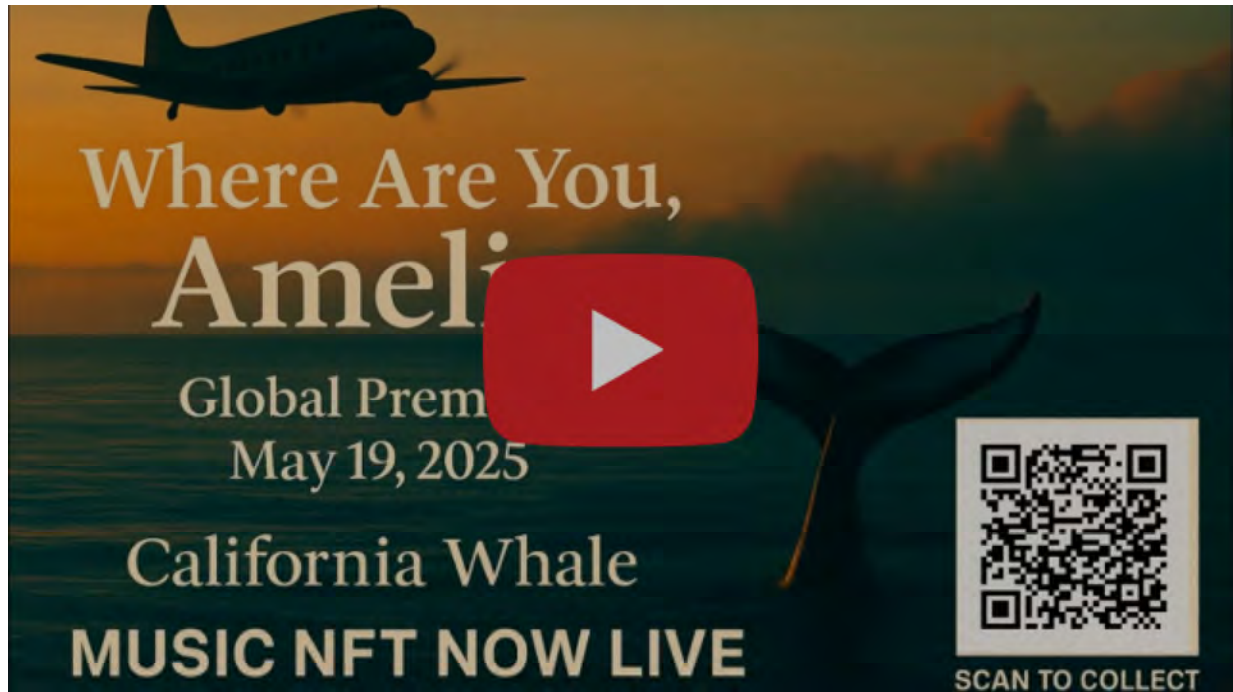
BOGO Winner Spotlight!

Congratulations to Pamela Flesher — our October BOGO

Membership Bonanza winner!

Pamela renewed her membership in October and has earned *next year's dues free!* She's a proud member of the Santa Clara Chapter, Southwest Section.

You could be next! Renew your Ninety-Nines membership for a chance to *next year's dues on us!* Each month, one lucky member who renews will be randomly selected. Renew now and keep your wings in the air — you might just be our next winner! ✈️



Where Are You, Amelia

If you attended The Ninety Nines' International Conference in Vermont, you may recall the moving opening performance that held the crowd spellbound — **“WHERE ARE YOU, AMELIA”**. This amazing original composition was written by a father and daughter team, emotionally moved and inspired by the life of "our" **Amelia Earhart**. It was released to the world during a global premiere in May.

Subsequently, composers and performing artists Bo and Michelle Meiqi Yu have brought international recognition to The Ninety Nines and **Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum** by entrusting **“WHERE ARE YOU, AMELIA”** to our permanent collection. As Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum Trustees, we are both humbled and honored by such thoughtfulness, creativity and generosity. Please consider a personal gift to the Museum.

[DONATE HERE](#)

From the Legal Corner

Scholarships and Bylaws seem to be recurring areas where Chapters and Sections have questions for the Legal Team. If your Chapter or Section has questions, please reach out to us at Legal@Ninety-Nines.org. We also have rubric that can be used as a starting point for scholarship evaluations if your scholarship committee could use it.

Again, we are expressing heartfelt gratitude to the incredible Martha Phillips, who retired from her role reviewing Hotel/Event contracts. Martha generously contributed her time and expertise to The 99s in countless ways over the years, and we are deeply thankful for her service. Going forward, please direct all contract review requests to Legal@Ninety-Nines.org. Reviews are conducted promptly and are designed to help you and your Chapters identify potential liabilities and pricing inconsistencies.

We STILL seeking volunteers to assist with these reviews. A legal background is not required—just a detail-oriented mindset and solid business sense. The commitment is just a few hours per month, and responsibilities include:

- Validating pricing structures
- Ensuring consistency across contracts
- Identifying ambiguous language

This is a meaningful opportunity to contribute at the national level and collaborate with a fantastic team of attorneys. If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you!

Advocacy in a Politically-Charged World: What Are the Boundaries?

The Ninety-Nines is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; we must remain nonpartisan to retain tax-exempt status. This means we cannot endorse or oppose political candidates, contribute to campaigns, or use organizational resources for partisan activity. This restriction exists to protect public trust and ensure tax-deductible donations aren't used to influence elections. Violations may result in IRS penalties. These are examples of what we can do: advocate for aviation-related policies and safety issues (e.g., opposing incompatible zoning near airports); share factual information (e.g., "Recent FAA data suggests increased ATC errors caused by staffing shortages"); promote access for underrepresented groups, and host educational events.

These are examples of what we cannot do: praise/criticize candidates/parties (e.g., “Candidate X has failed to address ATC shortages”); in posting personal political views, use organizational titles or platforms; or engage in campaign activity, even indirectly.

Our mission—advocating for women and aviation—should be done in a nonpartisan, inclusive, and educational way. Questions? Legal@ninety-nines.org

(Special thanks to Stacy Howard for suggesting this topic)

Halloween fun at Headquarters



Are you part of the 5%?

Five percent of our nearly 7,800 members equals 390.

That's an approximate number of 99s who are likely to be involved in leadership roles in Chapters, Sections and at The 99s International level. Are you part of this group? Do you want to be?

The end of the calendar year brings opportunities to consider sharing our aviation passions, skills and organizational talents, by seeking positions to serve The 99s and our member sisters. We have the chance to give back, share more, learn lots, work toward our mutual goals and help guide The Ninety-Nines, Inc. into the future. If interested in contributing to more 99s successes, please complete your Intent to Seek Election packet for any positions listed below and be sure the Nominating Committee receives it by **December 31, 2025**.

The following positions will need to be filled in the 2026 election:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Directors (2 positions)
- Nominating Committee (3 positions)

In addition, each of our 4 Trusts will need to elect at least one member:

- Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum
- Museum of Women Pilots
- Endowment Fund
- Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund

Please send any comments, questions and/or your completed packet to: nominating@ninety-nines.org.

We need you and what you can bring to The 99s — you can make a difference. If you influence anyone — in any way — you are leading. Consider helping lead The 99s!

Your 2026 International Nominating Committee: Anele Brooks [Southwest Section], Annie Wen [East Canada Section], Jill Oakes [West Canada Section], Kaylee Jeffries [South Central Section], Kathy Lester-Ross, Chair [North Central Section]

Intent to Seek Election Packet

Looking for a way to volunteer for The 99s at the International Level?

Join The Team!

Do you enjoy writing and proofreading? Historical research and meeting new chapter members? Consider joining the team of talented and dedicated members of the Publications Committee. This is a great way to get involved with The 99s, and can be accomplished remotely, with flexible time commitment.

We are actively seeking writers to interview members, proofreaders with a sharp eye for grammatical and graphic details, and researchers to assist in our Charter Member project. Committee members also assist with outreach to Governors and Chairs of the various International committees to remind them of deadlines and encourage submitting Grass Roots, Milestones and Committee Reports.

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

Call for Nominations: International Awards 2026

Do you know a Ninety-Nine, or someone in the wider aviation community, who deserves to be recognized on an international stage? *Now is your chance* to honor their impact and celebrate their achievements!

The International Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for our prestigious awards, to be presented at the 2026 International Conference in San Diego, California (July 8 –12, 2026). These awards shine a spotlight on individuals and organizations who make aviation stronger, safer, more inclusive, and more inspiring. But we can't do it without you—nominations come from our Chapters, Sections, and Trusts. Please send questions and submissions: Awards@ninety-nines.org

Read more

Deadline for Proposed Bylaws/Standing Rules Amendments

The International Bylaws/Standing Rules (IBL/SR) Committee is now accepting proposed amendments for the 2026 annual meeting. Chapters, Sections, Council of Governors, International Board of Directors, or International Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee may propose amendments to the bylaws and standing rules. In order to be presented at the annual meeting in 2026 (*San Diego, California*), electronic copies of proposed amendments must be received by the IBL/SR Committee by December 31, 2025.

To assist in preparing proposed amendments, follow the [Instructions for Submission of Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules](#), available in the Bylaws section of the library in the member-only area of the website. Electronic submission will be the only accepted means of submission. For documents that require a signature, such as the letter from the Chair/Governor or the minutes from the Secretary, please scan these documents and send them along with the proposed changes. Send proposed amendments (and questions or requests) to: Juliet Lindrooth, Chairman, International Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee at: governingdocs@ninety-nines.org.



From “Flying Without Arms” to “SHEnanigans in the Sky,” and everything in between, the San Diego International Conference is a must-attend event!

Join us for an inspiring lineup of speakers and sessions, including **Jessica Cox**, the world’s first armless pilot, who will share her incredible journey of defying limits and proving what *can* be done.

Whether you're looking for tips on passing your medical, acing your check ride, hearing stories of flying across Australia, or earning **FAA WINGS credit** with a fun and informative safety program, there will be something for everyone at the 2026 International Conference.

Don't miss this unforgettable event packed with education, empowerment, and aviation excitement!

Registration opening soon!

[Learn more](#)



AEMS F DONATIONS September 2025: \$714.90

RECURRING MONTHLY DONOR: Lynne Hsia

INDIVIDUALS: Janet R. Henshaw, Jill Hopfenmuller, Karlen Krall, Joan Plato, Melissa Hanthorn Shantz, Kathleen Stafford, Sandra Williams, Cleo Olive Webb

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW L. MILLER: Barbara Jose, Shannan M. Smith and Mary Ellen Devlin

SPONSORSHIP: Lightspeed Aviation



Mark your Calendar

[Click here to access the online calendar.](#)

Section Statistics of Members, as of October 31, 2025

African	20	Member at Large	15
Arabian	56	Mexico	1
Australian	32	Mid-Atlantic	482
Austrian	3	Nepal	12
Brazil	2	New England	262
British	17	New York-New Jersey	231
China	2	New Zealand	16
East Canada	375	North Central	952
Far East	4	Northwest	640
Finnish	9	Russian	3
French	12	South Central	1,080
German	56	Southeast	1,320
India	46	Southwest	1,981
Israeli	4	West Canada	242
Italian	4	TOTAL	7,853



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Straight & Level Editor, Eva Thierry

Our mailing address is:

4300 Amelia Earhart Road, Suite A

Oklahoma City, OK 73159-1104

844-994-1929

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