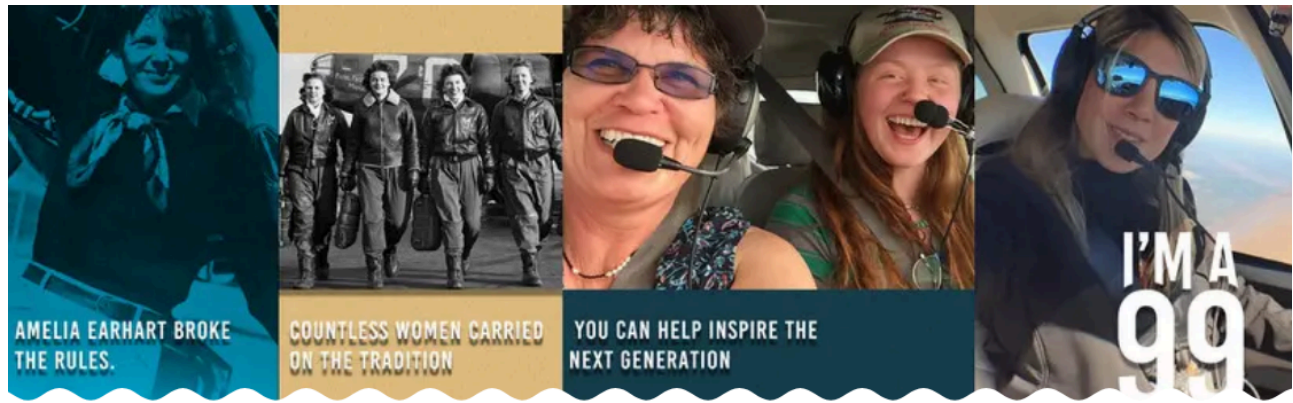


[View this email in your browser](#)



The Ninety-Nines Inc.

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



International Straight & Level: April 2026

Message from your President

Mark your calendars now for the **SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo, April 14–19 in Lakeland, Florida** — and come find us in **Hangar A, Booth 088**, or stop by The 99s clubhouse.

Members receive a discounted admission rate when registering online using the code **NNI999**. (capital letter I)

Beyond attending, I hope you'll consider representing The Ninety-Nines at our booth — it's where future members discover us, student pilots find encouragement, and we share our love of aviation with the broader community. You'll meet pilots from around the world, inspire the next generation, and have a genuinely great time doing it. Shifts are flexible and support is there — just bring yourself.

👉 **Sign up to volunteer here:** <https://signup.com/go/QmjHoQZ>

A single conversation at the booth can make a lasting difference for a student pilot or someone discovering aviation for the first time. That moment could start with you. I look forward to seeing you there.

The **99s Ice Cream Social**, sponsored by SUN 'n FUN — All 99s members and pilots are invited to join us at The 99s Clubhouse on Wednesday, April 15 from 5:30–7:30 PM.

Mid-Month Lift Is Coming — Watch Your Inbox!

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand-new Mid-Month Lift — a fresh, quick connection point designed with you in mind. While Straight & Level remains your source for organizational updates and business news, Mid-Month Lift is all about helping members feel connected, supported, and inspired — with helpful tips for new members, member highlights and



milestones, and ideas to stay engaged. Whether you're newly joined or a longtime Ninety-Nine, look for your mid-month boost arriving straight to your email or by text. Stay tuned — it's on its way!

Vote Now — Get to Know Your Candidates

Our 2026 International election is open, and your voice matters. We've heard that members sometimes hesitate to vote simply because they don't know the candidates — so we've made it easier. Candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Director positions have each provided short video introductions along with their résumés, statements, and intent-to-seek packages. [Meet the candidates and watch the videos here.](#) Take a few minutes to get to know them, then cast your vote with confidence. Your ballot should have arrived by email, text or mail — if you haven't received it, please contact HQ. Be informed, be engaged, and vote!

Donate Today — Help Women Take Flight

Ninety-Nines donors play a vital role in the future of aviation and women pilots around the world. Your support opens doors — funding scholarships, investing in our members, and inspiring girls and women to pursue their dreams in the sky. Every gift fuels the future of flight, and you can be part of that. [Donate today.](#)

To every member who steps up to lead a chapter or section — organizing meetings, planning fly-outs, and keeping our community thriving locally — and to every volunteer who has stood at a booth, answered a student pilot's questions, or shared their story with a stranger: thank you. You are the face of The Ninety-Nines to the world, and your commitment is felt by every new member who finds their place with us and every woman who walks away inspired.

Fly safe and have a great April,

Robin

Robin Hadfield
President, The Ninety-Nines Inc.

BOGO Winner Spotlight!

Congratulations to [Jessica Peterson](#) —

our March BOGO Membership Bonanza winner!

Jessica renewed her membership in March — and scored next year's dues for free! She's a proud member of the Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section.

Renew your membership on time and you might be next. Each month, we randomly pick one renewing member to receive a complimentary year of dues. Stay connected, stay inspired, and keep lifting up women in aviation — your renewal could be the lucky one. ✨

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SPRING MEETING REPORT

by Minnetta Gardinier, International Vice President

The International Board of Directors (IBOD) held their Spring meeting March 6-7 (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma). In addition to IBOD members, Trustees, Governors, Committee Chairs, and members joined in person or via Zoom.

For full details, see the Spring 2026 meeting packet available online in the Members Area of the 99s website.

Highlights:

The Board gathered on Wednesday and Thursday to conduct some headquarters business (staff reviews, budget and finance review). The Finance Committee met on Thursday.

IBOD members provided brief remarks on their activities. Treasurer Coverdell presented a summary of the year-to-date financial report and a preliminary proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Executive Director vanEgmond and Office Manager Ohrenberg gave brief reports on their activities.

Nominating and Election Procedures Committees: The Nominating Committee successfully filled the slate of candidates for our 2026 Elections. With an even-year election, we have candidates running for all IBOD positions – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors (2). In addition, candidates are running for Nominating Committee (3), and Trusts (1-2 each Trust). International Elections are now open through *ElectionBuddy*, and paper ballots were sent to those not enrolled in electronic voting. For those voting electronically, ballot links were sent via both email and text. The Board encourages members to vote. Voting ends May 1 (23:59 GMT).

International Conference Committee: International Conference Chair Cathy Prudhomme reported on registrations for our upcoming conference in San Diego, California (July 8-12). Jessica Cox will be our keynote speaker – *“Flying Without Arms: Redefining Limitations and Possibilities.”* Visit the conference website (www.99sconference.org) to check out the other speakers and tours available. Additional future conferences include: Sydney, Australia (2027); Seattle, Washington (2028); and NY/NJ Section TBD (2029 Centennial Celebration).

International Awards Committee: The Committee received several nominations for consideration. They are receiving final input from the external judges. Thank you to those who submitted candidates for review.

New Chapter: South Central Section announced the ratification of the West Texas Chapter Charter.

Trusts: *The Museum of Women Pilots* (MWP) is drafting a Strategic Plan and updating their Trust Resolution. Trust Secretary Leslie Prellwitz emphasized the need for MWP to be more self-sustaining and to hire a staff member to assist with marketing and fundraising. *Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum* (AEBM) Trust Chair Jan McKenzie reported the completion of a 5-year Strategic Plan and the search for a new Director of Operations. They are actively engaged in seeking grants and funding to move forward. The IBOD approved a request that AEBM receive \$20,000 from the Endowment Fund to assist with some urgent needs. The *Endowment Fund* (EF) is at nearly \$4.2M, and the Trustees keep the fund well-balanced and continue to provide The 99s with exceptional support as needed. The *Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund* (AEMSF) provided 25 First Wings Awards in Fall 2025. The AEMSF Trustees received 78 applications (49



Chapters, 12 Sections, 5 countries) for the 2026 AEMSF cycle. Sarah Rickman is concluding her Research Scholar Grant, which will result in the publication of “Let’s Make a Race of It”, a compilation of AWTAR stories spanning 1947-1977. Proceeds from the book sales will return to AEMSF to fund future Research Scholar Grants. AEMSF value is at \$7.6M+.

Council of Governors (COG): Six of 25 Section Governors participated either in person or online for the COG meeting. Governor Brooks (Southwest Section) presented the COG report to the IBOD and will conclude her term as COG Spokesperson at the Annual Conference. The Governors provided updates and shared ideas with one another (e.g., elections, scholarships, Section Meetings). Beth Chapple (Northwest Section) was elected to become the next COG Spokesperson following the Annual Conference in July.

International Bylaws / Standing Rules Committee: The IBOD approved consideration of one Standing Rule change that will require ratification by the members at our Annual Meeting. Standing Rule VIII.1.F. currently defines the campaign period as “...from the ‘Intent to Seek Election’ deadline until the election results are announced.” The new definition of the campaign period will be from the Intent to Seek Election deadline through May 1 (when voting ends).

Marketing: President Hadfield reported on membership retention patterns over the past three years (2023-2025). Most departures occur within the first 10 years of membership with the first five years at the highest risk. It is important that new members are engaged in chapter activities and receive strong mentorship to assist them in achieving their goals.

Your International Board of Directors' next meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 6-7, 2026. All members are invited to attend – mark your calendar. Come to OKC!

Jill vanEgmond
Executive Director

As your Executive Director, I want to share why our Board of Directors—and your vote—matter so much to the future of The Ninety-Nines.

The members you elect to our board are the ones shaping our direction and ensuring we stay strong for years to come. They protect our mission, oversee resources, and open doors for programs, scholarships, and partnerships that lift women pilots everywhere.

A strong board keeps decisions grounded in our values and in what matters most to members. It maintains financial health, transparency, and accountability—all essential to keeping The Ninety-Nines stable and respected. When the board is strong, our whole organization benefits.

That’s why your vote matters. In member-driven nonprofits like ours, elections can be decided by just a few ballots. Every vote helps shape the voices and perspectives guiding The Ninety-Nines. When you participate, you strengthen our leadership, demonstrate member engagement, and help ensure decisions reflect the needs and vision of our community.



Before you vote, take a moment to read the candidate statements, consider their involvement, and think about who best represents our diverse membership. It only takes a few minutes—but it makes a lasting difference.

Your vote is your voice—let's use it. When more Ninety-Nines show up, we build a stronger, more vibrant organization that represents all of us and keeps The Ninety-Nines soaring into the future together.

One Member One Vote – Credentialing Process All Online

The Credentials process establishes current membership in The Ninety-Nines, Inc. The 2026 Annual Meeting is employing a hybrid (In-person, Online) approach; therefore in order to vote, ***either in person or virtually via Zoom***, every member **must** complete the Credentials process. Good news, is the Credentials process is done ALL ONLINE using the same platform we employed in 2021 - 2025. The online application, (1) confirms you are a member of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. using the email address on file at International Headquarters. On **June 08, 2026**, Headquarters will send out an email and/or text notification that The Ninety-Nines Annual Meeting Credentials Website is **Open** and outline the process for each member to credential for The Ninety-Nines Annual Meeting, whether it be in person or via ZOOM. Chapter Chairs, check your membership rosters and encourage members to sign up for electronic voting as well as obtaining an email address if none is currently listed in the directory. Members without an email address on file at Headquarters may establish a free email account using GMAIL or YAHOO and forward to HQ. *Members* can even request for their email address to be **omitted** from the online directory if anyone is worried about unwanted solicitation.

Key Dates:

June 08, 2026 – email/text from HQ announcing credentials desk online is open along with instructions on completing the online application

July 08, 2026 – Online Credentials desk will close at midnight central time zone

July 11, 2026 – Check your email *one hour before the Annual Meeting for an ElectionBuddy email confirming your credentials process was a success. ElectionBuddy will be used to establish a quorum and for voting during the Annual Meeting.*

If you have any questions, please contact our Headquarters Manager, Laura Ohrenberg, at 844-994-1929 or 405-685-7969 or via email at hqmanager@ninety-nines.org or Credentials Chair at 315-525-7732 or via email at credentials@ninety-nines.org .

Thank you for being a Ninety-Nine! We hope you will attend this year's Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,
Lois Horne
Credentials Chair



Ninety-Nines International Conference – July 8-12, San Diego, California

Register for the 2026 Conference at www.99sconference.org. On-time registration deadline is **May 31**. You can register for the entire Conference, or just for a day, if your schedule is limited. Members are welcome to purchase guest registrations for friends and family members who would like to attend the Conference.

Do You Have Merchandise or a Service to Market? Reserve a table in the Exhibit Hall/Fly Mart! Reservations can be made by Sections, Chapters, and members, as well as business owners and organizations. The Exhibitor Reservation/Registration form is on the Conference website. Reserve your table by **June 1**.

Recognize or Commemorate a Member of Your Section or Chapter – Is there a member or members of your chapter or section you wish to celebrate or commemorate? An ad in the Conference Program is the perfect way to give them the recognition they deserve. Forms and pricing are available on the Conference Website – Program Advertising. Submit by **May 1**.

Optional Tours – Space is still available on most of the optional tours. Already registered? Contact Anna at AKA Travel Team to add a tour to your registration — 99s@akatravelteam.com

Conference Jackets – A lightweight jacket is offered for sale this year as a Conference memento – it will also be handy for coastal breezes in San Diego. Purchase at time of registration or add to your existing registration by emailing 99s@akatravelteam.com.

See you in San Diego!

AEMSF DONATIONS February 2026: \$700.00

INDIVIDUALS: Ashlie Montague Gimbel, Audrey E. Johnson, Ila Moses, Amanda Faith Vaughn, Servet Yatin

IN MEMORY OF SYBIL JOANN PAINTER: Dr. Richard P. Hallion

IN MEMORY OF MARY ANN BRADFORD: Karen Songewala

CHAPTERS: New York Capital Region

Have you voted yet?

Have you voted yet? Voting closes May 1 at 23:59 UTC. Information about the candidates running for office is available on The Ninety-Nines website on the Election page.

👉 **Review candidate information and watch the videos now:**

<https://www.ninety-nines.org/election-page.htm>

Don't wait! Your voice is important! Vote now!



If you didn't receive a ballot notification yet, please contact Laura at 99s HQ as soon as possible so you can receive your ballot before voting closes.

From The 99s Museum of Women Pilots

From our work on digitizing deceased member files: Our Museum Director and Archivist Brandy Ball came across this photo of the Whirly-Girls meeting with President Kennedy in 1961. Left to right: Janey Hart, Jean Ross Howard, Danna Henderson, Hanna Reitsch, Dr. Dora Dougherty Strother, Judy Short, Ellen Gilmour, JFK, Jean Wilson, Barbara Riggs, Charlotte Kelley, and Ann Carter. See items like this at our wonderful Museum of Women Pilots.



We will be providing our members information in the future on what is on our wish list for contributions of memorabilia to the Museum, and what the process is to request acceptance of that material. We are small and can't accept everything, but we are mighty!!

Collegiate Woman Achievement Award

The Collegiate Women's Achievement Award celebrates the excellence of our next generation of women aviators. The Ninety-Nines is proud to have launched this new award last year. Read about the winner in our March/April *Ninety-Nines* Magazine on page 28. This new initiative recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of a collegiate member of The Ninety-Nines and will be presented annually to a student who exemplifies the values we hold dear: **academic excellence, professionalism, leadership, and volunteerism.**

By recognizing the achievements of exceptional student Ninety-Nines, the Collegiate Women's Achievement Award will inspire others to strive for excellence, engage in leadership, and give back to their aviation communities. Whether they are working toward their private pilot certificate or preparing for a career as a commercial airline captain, these students are the future of aviation—and of our organization.

Please consider donating to ensure the future of our collegiate Ninety-Nines' aviators at: <https://www.ninety-nines.org/donation.htm>

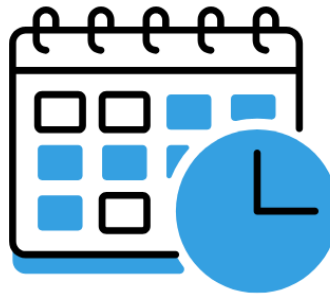
Marilyn Shafer
CWAA Chair

Member Perk Alert!



The promo code **NNI999** is now active and gives members **\$5 off daily tickets** and **\$30 off weekly tickets**. When using the code online or at the ticket window, members may be asked to show proof of membership — so keep that handy.

This offer is exclusively for Ninety-Nines members and Friends of The Ninety-Nines. Please do not share the code with non-members.



Click here to access the online calendar

Section Statistics of Members, as of March 31, 2026

African	18	Member at Large	16
Arabian	52	Mexico	1
Australian	32	Mid-Atlantic	482
Austrian	3	Nepal	13
Brazil	1	New England	240
British	18	New York-New Jersey	231

China	2	New Zealand	15
East Canada	369	North Central	930
Far East	4	Northwest	627
Finnish	10	Russian	3
French	12	South Central	1,096
German	58	Southeast	1,303
India	42	Southwest	1,965
Israeli	4	West Canada	254
Italian	4	TOTAL	7,805

Procedures for Notices in Straight and Level

Information for the Straight & Level must be received by noon on the 25th of the month (except for February when it is needed by noon on the 23rd) for inclusion in the next month's issue.

Send articles and/or questions to: StraightLevel@ninety-nines.org.

Past issues are available in the [Straight & Level](#) area of the website.



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