

All Ohio, Chicago Area, Greater Kansas City, Greater St. Louis,
Indiana, Indiana Dunes, Iowa, Kentucky Bluegrass, Lake Erie,
Michigan, Minnesota, Northwoods, Scioto Valley and
Wisconsin.

Volume 16, Issue 3

Waypoint

FLY HIGH, DREAM BIG!

The beauty of Fall foliage and blue skies is fading as we approach Winter, but the enthusiasm isn't as our chapters continue to provide educational and fun activities for chapter members and opportunities for the public to learn about aviation.

Congratulations to our International Forest of Friendship 2025 Inductees, Mandi Neumann (Wisconsin) and Erin Thompson (Kentucky Bluegrass). Congratulations are also in order for our PPLI Session A graduates, Bisola Saliu (Greater St. Louis) and Bridgett Cornett (Wisconsin). We are proud of our NCS members who receive recognition for their aviation pursuits. Linda Langrill (Michigan) was honored with an Aviation Spirit Award by the Debbie Franceus Memorial Aviation Foundation and Lara Gaerte (NCS Section Member) received her tenth accreditation as a Master Flight Instructor by the Master Instructors and the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators. Lara is only the second woman to achieve this extraordinary accomplishment.

Thanks to the Wisconsin Chapter for an awesome Fall 2025 NCS Meeting in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. We enjoyed the OSH Tower Tour, our visit to the EAA Museum, our banquet speaker, Janis Sierra, and our seminar speakers, Joan Plato and Jenny Beatty. Talking with our 99s friends is always a joy. Wisconsin Chapter did an outstanding job!

The All Ohio Chapter has been busy preparing for the Spring 2026 Spring Meeting, March 27-29, in Batavia, OH, (home of Sporty's) and has some exciting activities lined up for us. Registration information will appear in this issue of Waypoint and on the NCS FB page. Chapters, please consider sponsoring a registration for some of your members who may not have had the opportunity to attend a section meeting. I have been pleasantly surprised by an increasing number of first-time attendees and newer members at recent section meetings. Promoting attendance at section meetings gives your members a better perspective of our organization and affords them opportunities for networking.



Governor's report continued on next page



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Deadline for SPRING Waypoint

3/1/26 send .doc files for text
.jpg files for pictures

GOVERNOR'S REPORT , continued

Our Fundraising Committee had a "Summer Aviation Bingo" Zoom meeting in November that was entertaining. We learned of attendees' aviation accomplishments and enjoyed sharing our summer pursuits. Look for additional events in 2026.

Our NCS Election is coming up very soon. All NCS Board positions are open. Please push voting to your chapter members. Our Nominating Committee has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to obtain qualified candidates. Information about the candidates will appear in this Waypoint issue. Earlier this year our chapter chairs were given a list of NCS members still using paper ballots in their chapters. Thank you for contacting these members to ask about switching to online voting. We have made some progress and are down from 90 to 83, but still could use additional prompting to reduce this number and save costs for the section. Please be aware that NCS and International are both having elections. They are separate elections. **ENCOURAGE YOUR MEMBERS TO VOTE!**

NCS membership hovers between 900 to 950 members. As always, retention remains a problem for most chapters. The NCS Board welcomes ideas that members may have to keep our members interested and engaged in The Ninety-Nines.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Glisson, NCS Governor (2024-26)

WAYPOINT GUIDELINES

Waypoint is the quarterly communication tool used by the NCS to update members on chapter happenings, Spring and Fall section meetings, International items and lots more. Milestones, memories, important dates, human interest stories, aviation promotions, chapter activities..... any, all & more could appear.

Share your story: Photos **MUST** be print quality, high resolution!!! Please don't copy them from Facebook or Instagram as they won't reproduce well. Tell us about a 99 who accomplished something wonderful!

Send your submissions to:
WAYPOINT@NCS99S.ORG

NO HARD COPY ISSUES ARE SENT! Due to the high cost of printing and mailing, and the low subscription numbers for this service, the printed version of WAYPOINT has been recently discontinued. If you need a printed copy, and do not have any access to a computer, please ask your Chapter Chair for a workaround.

SPECIAL NOTE: Waypoint is emailed to every member of the North Central Section at their email address as listed on the 99s International Directory (in the members only section of Ninety-Nines.org). If you change your email address, or other contact information, log in and correct your record to show the new information.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING NCS EVENTS

2026

March 1	Robert J Santori scholarship due
March 27-29	Spring Section Meeting NCS, Clermont County, OH
July 6-12	International Meeting, San Diego, CA
July 20-26	Air Venture, Oshkosh, WI

SAVE THESE DATES



2026 International Conference
July 8-12, 2026
San Diego, California
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

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A vintage biplane is parked on a runway at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The biplane is dark-colored with a yellow nose and a black and white checkered pattern on the fuselage. It is positioned in front of a dark hangar. The overall scene is serene and nostalgic.

SAVE THE DATE

October 2nd - October 4th

*North Central
Section Fall Meeting
2026*

Hosted by INDIANA NINETY-NINES

A vintage biplane is parked on a runway at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The biplane is dark-colored with a yellow nose and a black and white checkered pattern on the fuselage. It is positioned in front of a dark hangar. The overall scene is serene and nostalgic.

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arc
Air Race Classic
June 23-26 2026

Map showing the Air Race Classic route connecting the following airports:

- KPSB, Prairie du Chien, WI
- KJAN, East Allen, IL
- KFTY, Fayetteville, NY
- KSPN, Spartanburg, SC
- KQNH, Douglas, GA
- KOWB, Fannin, AL
- KOWS, Mt. Carmel, MS
- KXBE, Passville, AR
- KWIN, Mount Vernon, IL
- KJAN, East Allen, IL

START

2026: July 20 - July 26
AirVenture Dates



2026: July 20 - July 26
AirVenture Dates



September 11 and 12, 2026
50th Anniversary
"World Friendship Through Flight"

September 11 and 12, 2026
50th Anniversary
"World Friendship Through Flight"

September 11 and 12, 2026
50th Anniversary
"World Friendship Through Flight"

NORTH CENTRAL SECTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The election for the North Central Section Board of Directors and Nominating Committee is coming up! We will be voting for Governor, Vice Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Directors, and 5 Nominating Committee members. We have a full slate of candidates. Their biographies and photographs are shown here. Please take the time to get familiar with the candidates.

The election will open on February 9, 2026, and will close on February 27, 2026. If you have opted for electronic voting, you will get an email on or before February 9th. It is a very simple process to vote. Directions will be provided. If you have not opted for electronic voting, your ballot will be mailed so that you will receive it on time. An addressed return envelope will be included with your ballot, which must be returned postmarked by February 27th. The results of the election will be announced at the Spring Section meeting.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION 2026-2028



For Governor - Margaret Wint

As a member of the 99s for the past 20 years I have held all the chapter level offices. I am also the fund-raising chairperson for our chapter. For four years I was on the international nominating committee. I was a director two different times. I am now the Vice Governor.

Helped with the 2019 international meeting in Dayton and work with several chapters with setting up section meetings. I was a mentor to a high school student; now a Blackhawk pilot for the US army. I was a proctor for the FAA knowledge test until I retired. For 15 years I was Assistant Airport Manager for the Ionia County Airport.



For Vice-Governor— Kathy Lester Ross

As a 13+ year 99, it's been wonderful learning from, sharing time with and encouraging sister pilots. Through growing our membership and work on fundraisers, newsletters, scholarships, compass roses, EAA-AV, sharing ballooning information, plus serving 8 years on the NCS BOD - as Director, then Secretary - I've seen the value and rewards in supporting 99s aviation goals & accomplishments. Truly, WE vs ME works!

Being familiar with the NCS processes, programs and personnel, with added experiences in the business and healthcare environs, lead my desire to give back to the 99s by serving as the 2026-2028 NCS Vice Governor.



For Vice-Governor— Erin Thompson

As a proud member of The Ninety-Nines for 13 years, I have served in multiple leadership roles including Kentucky Chapter Chair, North Central Section IT Chair, and member of the International Nominating Committee. I am currently mentoring a First Wings Scholarship winner, continuing my commitment to supporting and inspiring women in aviation. The friendships and connections I have made through the 99s have deeply enriched my aviation journey. It would be an honor to serve as Vice Governor of the North Central Section, where I can contribute my experience, leadership, and enthusiasm to further our mission and strengthen our community.

More candidates next page



For Treasurer—Martha Reith

Since joining The Ninety-Nines in 2020, I've loved being part of this amazing community of women who share a passion for aviation and supporting one another. I currently serve as Chapter Secretary and am on the IT Committee for both NCS and International. I previously served on the International Marketing Committee. I have a degree in mathematics and professional experience managing multi-million-dollar advertising budgets. I bring strong analytical and financial management skills to the role. I enjoy putting my skills to work for our organization and would be honored to serve as your next treasurer.



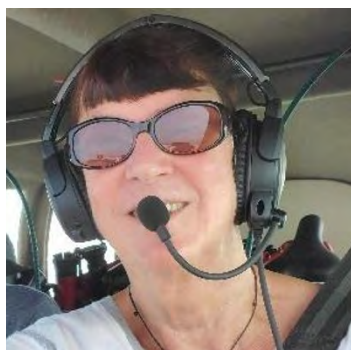
For Secretary— Madison Doepke

I joined the 99s in 2022, a year into my journey towards obtaining my private pilot certificate. I am active in the Iowa chapter, currently serving as the chapter secretary, attending and hosting monthly chapter meetings, and meeting with others to fly spontaneously or to scheduled events. I have also served on the planning committees for the Spring 2025 NCS meeting and two Let's Fly Now events hosted by the chapter. I look forward to the continued friendship, mentorship, and encouragement as I broaden my 99s network, and I would be honored to serve as the Secretary for our section.



For Director—Dee Dreger

I discovered the 99s in July 2005! Since then, I have been an active member, serving as Secretary, Waypoint Editor, Membership and Chapter Chair. At the NCS level I have served on the Nominating Committee, and as Director. I helped before and during the 2019 International Conference in Dayton. In 2021 I chaired the NCS Fall Section Meeting which was in Tomahawk, WI. During my 33-year career as a Special Education teacher I was able to discern strengths and accomplishments in others. I can continue to bring that skill as an NCS Director.



For Director—Joan Plato

I took an aviation class in high school which included 10 hours of flight training. After high school life got busy; college, work, kids, etc. I started training again in Jan. 2018 and received my Sport Pilot license on 8/19/2020. In 2022 I received my PPL license, and I'm now working on my Instrument Rating. I joined the 99's in 2018. I am now Chapter and Section Treasurer. My husband and I own a Jabiru airplane which he built from a kit, and continue expanding our horizons by traveling whenever we can.

More candidates next page



For Nominating Committee—Pat Haneline

My interest in flying began six years ago. I've been a member of the Northwoods Chapter of NCS for over four years. There are no women pilots at my home airport and the 99s have been an inspiration for learning and achievement and a source of friendship. I'd like to help the organization out by continuing on the Nominating Committee. Finding and retaining enthusiastic and effective board members is essential. We need to work with chapter chairs to increase participation in NCS activities and develop new activities. A treat this summer was a flight in B-25 Miss Mitchell.



For Nominating Committee—Sarah Haskett

Taking a discovery flight on my 40th birthday was a life changing. After achieving my PPL, I left my full-time job as a public-school music teacher and started working toward an aviation career. Since then, I have achieved my instrument, commercial, and multi-engine certificates and ratings. I was aided by many generous scholarships: 2 from our local Ninety-Nines chapter and the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship. I volunteer regularly for events for the Michigan chapter, and I've attended 3 section meetings. I am running for the North Central Section Nominating Committee to become more involved at the Section level.



For Nominating Committee—Susan Glisson

I joined The Ninety-Nines in 2003 seeking to find like-minded women to share my passion for aviation. I found "my people" in the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter. I have served in many capacities for the chapter and the section. I am currently NCS Governor. I have attended many section and international meetings over the years and established a network of friends. Having established this network, I feel that I will be successful in helping the NCS Nominating Committee to find members to take on the very important positions needed when elections occur.



For Nominating Committee—Shelley Ventura

During my twenty-six-year membership, I have maintained an active leadership role in the Ninety-Nines. I've served as Chapter Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer for Aux Plaines; Secretary and Treasurer for Chicago Area; Nominating Chair, Director, Vice Governor, and Governor (twice!) for the North Central Section; and was twice elected to be the Council of Governors' Spokesperson. From 2013-2016, it was my privilege to be a Trustee for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I would continue to give back by actively engaging with section members who can be our next leaders.



For Nominating Committee—Samantha Claypool

My name is Sam Claypool, and I have loved aviation for as long as I can remember. Flying in some way has always been part of my family, and being around the aviation community feels like home. I serve as the Treasurer of the Iowa Chapter of The Ninety-Nines and have enjoyed attending several section meetings and getting to know more of our community. I'm grateful for the friendships and support I've found in the 99s, and I'm excited to continue contributing to our chapter and helping other women grow and thrive in aviation.

The election will open on February 9, 2026, and will close on February 27, 2026. If you have opted for electronic voting, you will get an email on or before February 9th. It is a very simple process to vote. Directions will be provided. If you have not opted for electronic voting, your ballot will be mailed so that you will receive it in the mail on time. An addressed return envelope will be included with your ballot, which must be returned postmarked by February 27th. Results of the election will be announced at the Spring Section meeting.

Nominating Committee, Anne Mongiovi, Samantha Claypool, Deb McGee, Pat Haneline, Linda Langrill



NCS SPRING 2026 SECTION MEETING REGISTRATION

"I Flew to Sporty's" • Batavia, OH • March 27-29, 2026

Hosted by the All-Ohio 99s Chapter

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Guest or 49½: _____

☐ Guest ☐ 49½

Check all that apply:

☐ Student ☐ First Time Attendee ☐ Lifetime Member ☐ AE Scholar/Year _____ ☐ First Wings/Year _____

Office(s)/Committee(s) Held:

Current:

Past:

Chapter: _____

Section: _____

International: _____

Fees for 99s, 49½s & Guests:

Full Registration No Later Than March 5, 2026:

Late Registration After March 5, 2026:

Fly Market Table (6-Foot):

Cost	x Quantity	= Total
\$110.00		
\$125.00		
99s: \$10 Non-99s: \$30		

Registration fee includes transportation between Clermont County Airport (I69) and Holiday Inn & Suites Cincinnati-Eastgate, hospitality room, Sporty's lunch and tour, goody bag, and Saturday night banquet and speaker.

Please indicate any dietary restrictions: _____

Optional Events:

Friday Afternoon Jungle Jim's Tour:

Friday Night Dinner & Cinema:

Guest/49½ Cincinnati Museum Center Tour:

Cost	x Quantity	= Total
\$5.00		
\$30.00		
\$20.00		

Arrival Information:

☐ Driving to Meeting

☐ Arriving to CVG

Arrival Date/Time: _____

of Passengers: _____

☐ Arriving to I69

Arrival Date/Time: _____

of Passengers: _____

Aircraft Tail #: _____

Eastern Cincinnati Aviation (ECA) is Sporty's FBO.

Designated parking at south end of airport. Landing and parking fees waived.

Total Amount Due: _____

Payment Method:

☐ Check payable to **All-Ohio 99s**

☐ Zelle: **dalyabu91@gmail.com**

☐ Venmo: **@AllOhio99s**

Submit Registration Form To:

Dalya Abu-Shaweesh

6260 Pearl Rd, Apt 502

Cleveland, OH 44130-3039

dalyabu91@gmail.com

Hotel booked separately – see details on following page.

Questions? Contact Val Palazzolo at val.palazzolo@gmail.com or (614) 582-0003.



NCS SPRING 2026 SECTION MEETING

"I Flew to Sporty's" • Batavia, OH • March 27-29, 2026

Hosted by the All-Ohio 99s Chapter

Hotel: Holiday Inn & Suites Cincinnati-Eastgate



4501 Eastgate Blvd
Cincinnati, OH 45245
(513) 752-4400

Hotel must be booked separately

Room Rate: \$152.00 per night plus taxes for King or
Double room, includes breakfast buffet for 2 occupants

For room reservations, please:

- Call (513) 752-4400 or 1-800-HOLIDAY and mention block code **NNN**
- Scan the QR code and enter the dates March 27-29, 2026
- Click the [link here](#) and enter the dates March 27-29, 2026



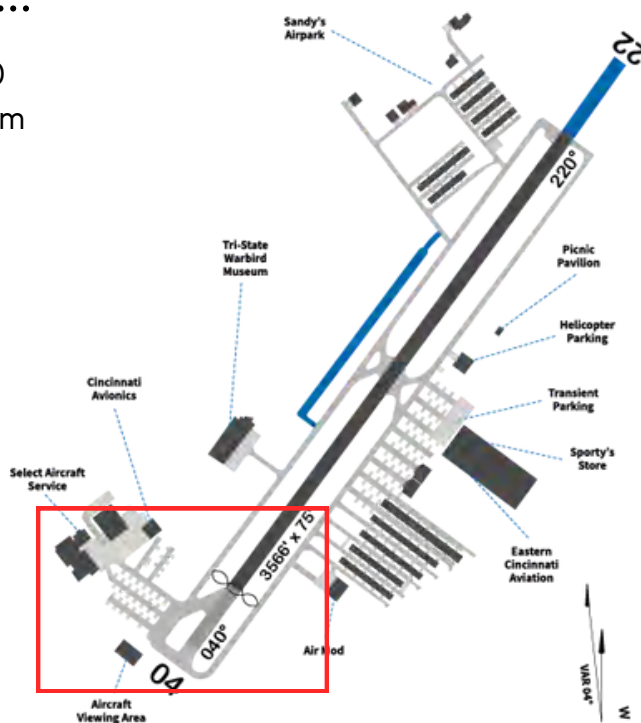
FBO: Sporty's Eastern Cincinnati Aviation

(513) 735-9500
info@FlyECA.com

Designated parking is at the south end of
the airport.

Landing and parking fees are waived.

Transportation between I69 and hotel is
included in registration fee.





NCS SPRING 2026 SECTION MEETING

"I Flew to Sporty's" • Batavia, OH • March 27-29, 2026

Hosted by the All-Ohio 99s Chapter

Jungle Jim's - Eastgate

Friday, March 27 from 4:15-6:00pm



Jungle Jim's International Market is a massive food lover's paradise, known for its international groceries and unique shopping experience. Join one of two simultaneous 90-minute guided tours (limited to 20 people each) featuring 10-12 samples from around the world. The cost is \$5.00 per person, and everyone is welcome to shop—we'll even have coolers in our van to store your purchases. Get ready for a global experience right in Cincinnati!

RJ Cinema, Distillery & Taproom

Friday, March 27 from 6:00-9:30pm

RJ Cinema, Distillery & Taproom will host us in the evening with a delicious Ohio BBQ Buffet in the Paradise Pavilion. After dinner, enjoy a private screening of *Hearts Above Clouds*, an Emmy-nominated documentary celebrating 100 years of women in aviation, followed by *Beyond the Powder*, highlighting the inspiring women of the Air Race Classic. Popcorn, snacks, and beverages are available for purchase during the films. This event costs \$30.00 per person.



Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal

Saturday, March 28 from 9:15am-12:30pm



Guests and 491s can spend the morning at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, a National Historic Landmark known for its stunning Art Deco design and interactive exhibits. Explore the Cincinnati History Museum, complete with a remarkable diorama of the city from 1900-1940, or step into the Natural History Museum, where you can travel through the Ice Age and encounter prehistoric creatures—or enjoy both for a fuller experience. After your visit, attendees will be taken directly to Sporty's for lunch. This tour costs \$20.00 per person.



NCS SPRING 2026 SECTION MEETING

"I Flew to Sporty's" • Batavia, OH • March 27-29, 2026

Hosted by the All-Ohio 99s Chapter

Sporty's Pilot Shop

Saturday, March 28 from 12:00-4:30pm



Founded in 1961 out of the trunk of Hal Shevers' car, Sporty's has grown into a premier destination for pilots, offering everything from retail and training to maintenance and airport management. During your visit, you'll tour the campus—including catalog and web departments, the fulfillment center, video production, flight school, and maintenance facilities. We'll kick things off with Sporty's famous Saturday Cookout, then enjoy time in the retail shop before breaking into smaller groups for tours. As a keepsake, each guest will receive an "I Flew to Sporty's" baseball cap.

Saturday Night Banquet

Saturday, March 28 from 7:00-9:30pm

We are honored to welcome Captain Janet Patton as our banquet speaker. A trailblazer in every sense, Captain Janet Patton has spent nearly four decades breaking barriers in aviation. A longtime Ninety-Nines leader, she founded the organization's first virtual chapter and has served in roles up to International Director. She made history as Spirit Airlines' first woman pilot and Captain before joining American Airlines, where she is now a Boeing 777 Captain based in DFW. A mentor, advocate, and author, she continues to inspire the next generation, including her two pilot children, Ren and Danielle.



Shirt Pre-Order

For the NCS Spring Meeting "I Flew to Sporty's" shirts, scan the following QR code.



For Ninety-Nines International shirts, scan the following QR code.



Questions? Contact Val Palazzolo at val.palazzolo@gmail.com or (614) 582-0003.

For more information on what Clermont County has to offer, visit the Clermont County Vistor Bureau's website [here](#).



NCS SPRING 2026 SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE

"I Flew to Sporty's" • Batavia, OH • March 27-29, 2026

Hosted by the All-Ohio 99s Chapter

Thursday, March 26: Early Arrivals

Dinner on your own (hotel or nearby restaurant)

Friday, March 27:

All Day	Transport from Clermont County (I69)
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Registration Open – Hotel Lobby Hospitality Room Open Fly Market & Silent Auction Open
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Board Meeting – All 99s are welcome to attend
4:15 PM - 6:00 PM	Transportation to Jungle Jim's for Tour and Shopping
5:45 PM - 6:00 PM	Travel to RJ Distillery & Taproom (for those who did not go to Jungle Jim's)
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Dinner at RJ Distillery & Taproom
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Movies after dinner at RJ Cinema <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Heads Above Clouds</i> and <i>Beyond the Powder</i>
9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, March 28:

6:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Hot Buffet Breakfast at Hotel: Meetings (networking tables for leadership groups, e.g., Chairs, Treasurers, Membership Chairs, Scholarship Chairs, etc.)
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration Open – Hotel Lobby
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	NCS Business Meeting
9:15 AM - 12:30 PM	Tour of Cincinnati Museum Center (Guests/49½s), then to Sporty's for Lunch/Tours
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Transportation from Hotel to Sporty's for Lunch and Tours
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open
12:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Silent Auction and Fly Market Open
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Cash Bar and Social Hour
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM	Banquet / Awards
9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open

Sunday, March 29:

6:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Hot Buffet Breakfast at Hotel
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open
All Morning	Transport to Clermont County (I69)

Remember to bring a contribution for the Silent Auction!



North Central Section Spinning Prop Award 2026

SECTION AWARDS

The North Central Section **Spinning Prop Award** recognizes the NCS member who logs the most uncompensated general aviation hours in a one-year period. Flight hours in all aircraft are included: airplane, helicopter, light sport, glider, balloon and more. Take to the skies and log those hours!

Purpose: The NCS Spinning Prop Award was created to encourage and promote more flying by 99s members.

Pilot Eligibility: This award is open to all NCS Ninety-Nines and Student Pilot members. All applicants must be International members. If a member joined during the period of eligibility, only those hours accrued during that portion of the year that she was an official 99 (including Student Pilot member) are eligible.

Hours of Eligibility: General Aviation hours for which the pilot did not receive any compensation are eligible. Safety pilot time is applicable. Student pilot time is eligible when logging PIC hours. Simulator time is not eligible.

*(Note to CFIs: time can be counted if you provided **free** dual time and therefore **no compensation was received** – your logbook must verify this.)*

Dates of Eligibility: March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026.

How to Apply: Applicants should submit the following information to the Chapter Chair: name, date the applicant joined The 99s, total hours flown in the eligibility period, and specific number of uncompensated hours flown in that time.

(NOTE: The total number of eligible uncompensated hours must match those shown in the logbook.)

Once the 99 who has the most uncompensated hours is identified by the Chapter Chair, the Chair should submit a recent picture and hard copies of the logbook for the applicable period. Both sides of the logbook must be copied and numbered clearly. Please number the left side page as XXA and right side as XXB (1A,1B, 2A, 2B, etc.). Hours that are not applicable, as well as those that apply, must be clearly identified. If you submit electronic logbook pages, be sure to include column headers. Allow for sufficient time for the Chapter Chair to review before the final submission deadline (see below).

Chapter Chairs: Please review and provide copies of the relevant logbook pages of your member with the highest number of uncompensated hours during the Dates of Eligibility, along with a recent picture of this 99. All requested information for the Chapter's nominee should be provided to NCS Directors Dee Dreger and Jeneanne Visser via email (preferred) at directors@ncs99s.org or via hard copy mailing to:

Jeneanne Visser, 2305 NE 11th St, Grimes, IA 50111

*(NOTE: By mail or email, clear images of all logbook pages must be submitted. For emails, documentation for each nominee should be sent as a **single** PDF file after scanning the required logbook pages for the PDF file. No submissions will be allowed without the proper logbook data.)*

For NCS Members at Large: You may nominate yourself and send copies of the relevant logbook pages directly to the NCS Directors at the address above.

Deadline: All submissions are due to the Directors **POSTMARKED OR EMAILED NO LATER THAN:**
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 (11:59 pm Central)

Other Information: The Award will be presented at the NCS Spring Section meeting in Batavia, OH on March 28, 2026. We will recognize our high-flyers and celebrate their time in the sky.

For Further Information: Contact Dee Dreger and Jeneanne Visser at directors@ncs99s.org.

North Central Section 49½ Award 2026



The North Central Section **49½ Award** recognizes significant others and friends of The 99s who give their time, energy, passion and exceptional contributions to support The Ninety-Nines and our passion for flying. They are frequently the unsung heroes in our midst. Each Chapter is encouraged to nominate an outstanding helping hand to receive this award.

Purpose: The North Central Section 49½ Service Award was created to honor those who support 99s members, whether actively within the organization or individually, or by doing things that allow and encourage the 99 member to actively participate in Chapter, Section, International or aviation activities in general.

Eligibility: All 'significant others' of a current Ninety-Nine are eligible. A 'significant other' can be a family member, a friend of the Chapter, Section or aviation in general, a person or organization whose support is exemplary, even if not outwardly known. *Friends of the 99s* members are eligible.

Note: The nominee does not need to be a pilot. Previous recipients of the award are not eligible.

Dates of Eligibility: From the time the significant other began supporting the Ninety-Nines or the date the member joined The Ninety-Nines until the close of this application period (March 11, 2026).

How to Apply: The Chapter should compose a letter of recommendation stating why their Chapter's nominee is the most deserving candidate. This is a service award, not a flying award; the nominee need not be a pilot. The emphasis should be on the service the person has provided to The Ninety-Nine(s).

Considerations might include:

- Participation in Chapter activities/meetings
- Section meetings attended
- International meetings attended
- Special projects or activities
- Active promotion of The Ninety-Nines and aviation
- Contributions in kind, in time, or in tangible donations
- If the nominee participates in aviation activities, consideration might include:
 - Speaker on an aviation topic to civic or service groups
 - Member of an aviation civic group
 - Participation in safety seminars

Recommendation letters may be sent via email (preferred) to NCS Directors: Dee Dreger and Jeneanne Visser at directors@ncs99s.org or a hard copy may be mailed to:

Jeneanne Visser, 2305 NE 11th St, Grimes, IA 50111

Deadline: All submissions are due to the Directors **POSTMARKED OR EMAILED NO LATER THAN:**
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 (11:59 pm Central)

Other Information: The Award will be presented at the NCS Spring Section meeting in Batavia, OH on March 28, 2026. Let's celebrate the accomplishments of these loyal and dedicated friends of The Ninety-Nines and show our appreciation for their hard work!

For Further Information: Contact Dee Dreger and Jeneanne Visser at directors@ncs99s.org.



North Central Section Governor's Service Award 2026

The North Central Section **Governor's Service Award** recognizes members who have given their time, energy, passion and support to The Ninety-Nines. Their exceptional contributions and dedication to aviation are long-standing. They are the wind beneath our wings and frequently are our unsung heroes. Each Chapter is encouraged to nominate an outstanding member to receive the prestigious NCS **Governor's Service Award**.

Purpose: The North Central Section Governor's Service Award was created to honor Ninety-Nines who exemplify our mission and have provided exemplary and continuous service to The Ninety-Nines.

Eligibility: All NCS Ninety-Nines are eligible, except for current International and North Central Section officers and board members, and previous Governor's Service Award recipients.

Dates of Eligibility: From the date the member joined The Ninety-Nines until the close of this application period (March 11, 2026). This award considers the member's entire history of contributions to The Ninety-Nines and aviation in general.

How to Apply: The Chapter Chair (or Vice Chair, if the Chair is the nominee) should compose a letter of recommendation stating why their Chapter's nominee is the most deserving candidate. This is a service award, not a flying award; as such, the emphasis should be on service to The Ninety-Nines.

Considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- Length of 99s membership in Chapter/Section/International
- Section meetings attended
- Member of civic group on aviation
- Committees chaired (Chapter, Section, International)
- Active promotion of the Ninety-Nines
- Speaker on aviation topics to civic or service groups
- Special projects or activities not listed
- Participation in chapter activities/meetings
- International meetings attended
- Offices held (Chapter, Section, International)
- Mentorship of fellow 99s
- Promotion of aviation in general
- Participation in safety seminar
- Aviation awards received

Recommendation letters may be sent via email (preferred) to NCS Directors: Dee Dreger and Jeneanne Visser at directors@ncs99s.org or a hard copy may be mailed to:

Jeneanne Visser, 2305 NE 11th St, Grimes, IA 50111

Deadline: All submissions are due to the Directors **POSTMARKED OR EMAILED NO LATER THAN:**
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 (11:59 pm Central)

Other Information: The Award will be presented at the NCS Spring Section meeting in Batavia, OH on March 28, 2026. Let's celebrate the accomplishments of these loyal, dedicated women and show our appreciation for their service to The 99s.

For Further Information: Contact Dee Dreger and Jeneanne Visser at directors@ncs99s.org

THE NINETY-NINES, INC. NORTH CENTRAL SECTION
FALL BUSINESS MEETING – October 4, 2025
Oshkosh, Wisconsin Hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter

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The meeting was called to order by Governor Sue Glisson at 0900 CDST. This in-person meeting did not have hybrid / Zoom options, as approved in advance.

On behalf of NCS 99s, Sue thanked the Wisconsin Chapter for their efforts in organizing a well-structured meeting and delightful weekend.

Dana McLaren, WI Chapter Chair, offered the Invocation. Vice Governor Wint (Indiana Dunes) asked for a moment of silence to honor those 99s who have gone to New Horizons.

NCS Board Members in attendance included: Governor Sue Glisson (Kentucky Bluegrass), Vice-Governor Margaret Wint (Indiana Dunes), Secretary Kathy Lester-Ross (Wisconsin), Treasurer Joan Plato (Wisconsin), Director Dee Dreger (Northwoods), Director Jeneanne Visser (Iowa), Past Governor Deb McGee (IA). Guests included 99s International IBOD Director Madeleine Monaco (Chicago Area), International 99s Trademark Chair Maria Lamia (Blue Ridge, Southeast Section) and International IBOD Director Carol Voss (Emerald Angels – Gulf Coast, Southeast Section) who served as the IBOD Representative for this meeting.

Governor Glisson introduced NCS BOD and International 99s guests.

In-person attendees shared their membership milestones:

- 4 attendees are members < 1 year
- 22 attendees are members for 1-10 years
- 8 attendees are members for 11-20 years
- 11 attendees are members for 21-30 years
- 2 attendees are members for 31-40 years
- 8 attendees are members for 41-50 years
- 0 attendees are members for >50 years
- 2 attendees are members for >60 years: Ellen O'hara (Chicago) and Kaye Coombs Moore (KY)

Among the attendees were: 3 past NCS Governors, 11 AE and First Wings scholarship winners; 7 former NCS Governor Service Award winners, 12 first time NCS meeting attendees. 26 arrived in 11 G.A. planes.

Secretary Lester-Ross reported 59 NCS members signed the in-person attendance sheets and they represented 11 chapters. Greater Kansas City, Scioto Valley and Lake Erie Chapters did not attend. A quorum was achieved.

BOARD REPORTS

Governor Glisson's report included:

Thanks were extended to the Wisconsin Chapter for hosting this NCS 2026 Fall Meeting. Gov. Glisson indicated she is always impressed by the variety of aviation activities our chapters present or in which they participate. It is obvious our chapters are willing to share their passion for aviation. Keep up your good efforts!

The Iowa Chapter hosted the Spring 2025 NCS Meeting and offered side trips to our 99s and guests to the University of Iowa AirCare Emergency Transport and to the University of Iowa Operator Performance Laboratory. A barbeque hangar party complete with an airplane decorating contest and delicious ice cream kicked off the weekend. Wings seminars included "15,000 Feet, -30 Degrees Celsius in a Balloon," and "ATC Was My Co-Pilot." These seminars enlightened us about high-altitude balloon flying and spatial disorientation.

Congratulations to the 2025 NCS Award Winners – Governor's Service Award, Kaye Combs Moore (KY Bluegrass); 49 ½ Award, David Ross (Kathy Lester Ross, Wisconsin); and Spinning Prop Award, Kim Marcell (Minnesota).

Spring First Wings scholarship winners are to be congratulated: Gabrielle Fullilove (Chicago Area), Yuanqing He (Minnesota), Taylor Peeff (KY Bluegrass) and Rachel Stivers-Bender (Kentucky Bluegrass). Our 2025 NCS Richard J. Santori Scholarship winners were Joan Plato (WI) and Gabriela Tan (All Ohio).

A shout-out was given to NCS members who volunteered and participated in this year's Air Race Classic (ARC) which began in Fairhope, AL, and ended in Spokane, WA, a true cross-country race. Congratulations to the "Is This Heaven?" Iowa team, Minnetta Gardinier & Brenda Frye, for their 3rd place finish in the competition class. Next year's ARC will include 4 airports in the NCS, including the start in East Alton, IL. Other NCS stops are Frankfort, KY; Prairie du Chien, WI and the terminus will be in Mount Vernon, IL. It's not too soon to encourage your members to participate in the race or volunteer at the NCS stops.

Twenty plus NCS members traveled to Burlington, VT, for the International 99s Conference. The conference was packed with enjoyable side trips and informative seminars. We had a perfect weather evening for a dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen. Some attended a tour of nearby Stowe, VT, with a visit of the "Sound of Music's" Von Trapp Family Lodge.

Keynote speaker, Colonel Laura Caputo, USAF, and special guest Bram Kleppner, Vermont legislator and great nephew of Amelia Earhart, both presented interesting talks. Congratulations to our NCS 2025 AE Scholarship recipients – Cherry Kan (Michigan), Dana McLauren (Wisconsin), Jun Oikawa (All Ohio) and Arian Perez (Michigan).

NCS members elected to International positions included Madeleine Monaco, Director (Chicago Area); Deb McGee, Endowment Fund Trustee (Iowa); and Rene Burger Bowman, AE Memorial Scholarship Fund Trustee (Minnesota). Kathy Lester-Ross (WI) will be serving as the Chair of the International Nominating Committee. Thanks to the New England Chapter for hosting the 2025 International 99s Conference.

No sooner had the Int'l 99s Conference wrapped up, when many of our NCS members were heading to EAA's Air Venture 2025, volunteering to work in both of the 99s booths and enjoying the event

At the September's International Forest of Friendship ceremony, NCS 99s Mandi Neumann (Wisconsin) and Erin Thompson (Kentucky Bluegrass) were honorees. Bisola Saliu (Greater St. Louis) and Bridgett Cornett (Wisconsin) graduated from the Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative 2025 Session A. Congratulations, ladies!

In that same spirit of service, overwhelmingly a trait of North Central Section members, our Nominating Committee has been working to solicit members who will take on the positions open for the NCS BOD 2026-28 terms. The Nominating Committee will be speaking during the Committee Reports later in this meeting. NCS Intent to Seek Election Forms are due October 31, 2025.

I hope your chapter chairs have been taking advantage of the Chapter Chair Roundtable Zoom meetings, held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Central Time/8:30 p.m. Eastern Time. On a side note, please be sure to update Headquarters when your chapters change officers. If your chapter is missing an officer position, please do what you can to have that position filled. Positions can be appointed if your chapter election is not due. The Chapter Update Form is on the website in the library.

As we head into Fall, I wish everyone blue skies and tailwinds as you continue your membership in The Ninety-Nines. We are 956 strong – let's see if we can meet that 1000 mark soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Glisson, NCS Governor (2024-26)

Vice Governor Wint reminded members that due diligence is required when insurance may be required when Chapters host aviation events. If planning any flying activities as a 99s group, contact International headquarters for clarification of possible insurance needs.

Secretary Lester-Ross reminded all the minutes from the Spring 2025 meeting in Iowa City, IA, were reviewed by the NCS BOD, emailed to all Chapter Chairs and Vice Chairs and appeared in Waypoint. Hard copies were available to review on site. Madeliene Monaco (Chicago Area) moved the minutes of the Spring 2025 meeting be approved as published. Brenda Hanson (MN) seconded the motion which then carried unanimously.

As NCS Membership Chair over the past 5+ years, Ms. Lester-Ross reviewed current stats and noted the NCS has grown from 676 to 956 – a net increase of 41%. Chapters have grown from 13-29% each. About 9% of new members do not renew within 24 months, generally after joining at Sun'n'Fun, WAI or EAA-AirVenture

As **NCS Membership** Chair over the past 5+ years, Ms. Lester-Ross reviewed current stats and noted the NCS has grown from 676 to 956 – a net increase of 41%. Chapters have grown from 13-29% each. About 9% of new members do not renew within 24 months, generally after joining at Sun’n’Fun, WAI or EAA-AirVenture aviation events. ‘Back then’ over 50 did not list an email or contact address, over 7% then. By the fall of 2025, only about 1% cannot be reached by those common methods. The proportion of Life and Student pilot members remains stable, as are the numbers of monthly Standby and Hold members. NCS has 42 ‘Golden Girls’ – greater than 50 years as a 99. We have 74 ‘Ruby’ members with 40 or more years as a 99. The NCS remains the 4th largest Section in the whole organization, with membership approaching 1,000.

Treasurer Plato presented the YTD financial report, including the checking and savings balances, rebate revenue from memberships and projected income and expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year, which runs from June 1 to May 31. As discussed at the Spring NCS meeting, \$10,000 from the NCS general account will be transferred to a one year CD, paying 3.51% interest from the Bank of America. Members were reminded to indicate the reason for using the Zelle account or paying by check so that funds can be appropriately recorded. Treasurer Plato reminded all that chapters are responsible for accurate and timely completion of necessary filings required by the IRS, as well as their respective state documents. She requested that all Chapters copy her on any Chapter forms required by the respective state or their governing body.

As is the NCS tradition, a ‘pin penalty’ envelope was circulated. Members not wearing their gold 99s member pin contribute \$2.00. First time attendees and student pilots are exempt from this contribution. The \$26.00 donated will be added to the general NCS treasury funds.

The NCS **Director** reports included

Director Dreger (Northwoods) shared the many ways NCS Directors can help Chapters who are planning to host a spring or fall Section meeting. They have check lists, notes and stats from previous meetings and reminded all that 18 months in advance is not too soon to begin serious planning, especially regarding hotel contracts. Hosting chapters were reminded to submit detailed event reports to the Directors and NCS BOD, to be added to the collective information for future NCS meetings

Director Visser (IA) elaborated on the criteria for the 3 NCS annual awards. She reiterated there were many qualified submissions for the 2025 awards and suggested candidates not chosen in the past should be renom-inated in the future. She reminded all that Spinning Prop documents need to carefully delineate compensated vs non-compensated flown hours. Electronic logs are easier to review, especially when properly annotated. She suggested contacting the Directors to be sure if/whether/when simulator, student PIC, solo and other hours can be included. Spinning Prop flying time is from Mar.1, 2025 – February 28, 2026. Details and facts are very important in nominations for the 49 ½ and Governor’s Service Awards. Given that the Spring 2026 meeting is a bit earlier, March 27-29, 2026 in Batavia, OH, the deadline for all 3 NCS awards will be moved to March 11th. Further information about the 3 NCS awards will be available in Waypoint and both Directors are available to answer your inquiries.

The **Ninety-Nines IBOD representative** to our meeting, Director Carol Voss, presented information on behalf of the International Board of Directors.

International will be requesting 2 minutes of your time to complete a Membership Survey. The 2 questions will help update the 2021 survey and help reset the 2025 Strategic Plan. A QR code & link were offered. Response is needed by Oct 8 at noon.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFNFRPF>

The International Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Directors and 3 Nominating Committee positions. These each are 2 year terms. All 4 Trusts have open positions for their 3 year terms, from 2026-29. Please contact the Trust Chairs for information and details about positions.

Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum – Jan McKenzie

Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund – Susan Passmore

Endowment Fund – Mary Wunder

Museum of Women Pilots – Izzy Kearney

Intent to Seek Election packets are due dec. 31, 2025.

For questions, contact the Nominating Committee (nominating@ninety-nines.org).

International Award information was provided.

Award of Achievement for a 99s member, group, or organization

Contributions to The 99s

Contributions to Aviation

Contributions through Humanitarian Efforts

Award of Merit – for significant contributions to any facet of aviation for non-99 individual or organization

George Palmer Putnam Award – for support provided to The 99s (for a non-99s individual or organization)

See The Ninety-Nines magazine (Sep/Oct issue, pp 15-17) for our 2025 awardees.

For more information, email Laurie Adams Peake, Awards Chair (awards@ninety-nines.org)

Deadline for nominations: **January 31, 2026**

Members are encouraged to support our museums.

Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, Atchison, KS

The AEBM Trustees invite you, your Chapter, and this Section to help keep the Museum as an integral part of The 99s. It is the only place where you can experience a *young* Amelia, within the ambiance of the walls and personal belongings, where her childhood adventures took place.

Our treasured Museum was conditionally bequeathed to The 99s, for as long as we can maintain this 164-year-old home and its contents! Your help in maintaining the home and personal artifacts is critical. **Donate today! Consider a modest monthly, ongoing donation!**

<https://www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org/donate>

Museum of Women Pilots {MWP}, Oklahoma City, OK (on the site of 99s headquarters)

Its mission is to preserve the history of women in aviation, honor their achievements, and share their stories with the public. The archives include artifacts, photos, documents and oral histories

The Museum is dedicated to assisting outside researchers and writers with their projects on women in aviation. Explore our 99s history through our searchable, digitized 99s magazines! **Donate today!**

<https://www.museumofwomenpilots.org/donation.htm>

2025-2029 Strategic Plan Goals include

Increase membership by 5% per year through 2029

Improve retention and decrease membership non-renewals by 10%/year through 2029

Continue to work to increase membership satisfaction

2025-2029 Strategic Plan Objectives include

SUPPORT – Robin Hadfield, Madeleine Monaco

The 99s supports volunteer and professional human resources to advance the organization's mission and strategic goals and to optimize member engagement.

COMMUNICATION – Debi Dreyfuss, Carol Voss

The 99s promotes and advances the organization to communicate with its members and public entities through a variety of communication streams.

FINANCES – Aileen Coverdell, Mary Build

The 99s ensures long-term financial strength and sustainability by increasing revenue.

GOVERNANCE – Minnetta Gardinier, Pat Chan

The 99s strives to emulate best practices of nonprofits.

Each Objective has 5-7 specific action items that the team will pursue.

Collegiate Women's Achievement Award

The CWAA replaces the former NIFA National SAFECON award sponsored by The 99s.

The CWAA recognizes the achievements of a collegiate member of The 99s in the areas of academic excellence, professionalism, leadership, and volunteerism. CWAA elevates the visibility of The 99s in collegiate aviation programs across the U.S. Applications are accepted from July 1 to October 1. CWAA Committee will have representatives from across the U.S. Sections. Section boards should consider coordinating with the CWAA Committee for future participation.

Headquarters Updates

Executive Director – Jill vanEgmond has been busy learning about our organization and strengthening our staff support. She is developing plans for fundraising, including assisting these efforts on the Conference Committee.

Office Manager – Laura Ohrenberg continues to manage the Headquarters staff.

Membership Coordinators – Amy Stout and Nautica Carter; Lacey Bowman resigned.

Office Assistant – Price Welch replace Nautica Carter.

Accountant – to be hired. We need a full-time accountant to more professionally and comprehensively manage our finances.

REMINDER: Be sure that your contact information is up-to-date in our 99s database. It's important for communications, mailings and the upcoming election.

Future Section Meetings

Each IBOD member attends one Section meeting each Spring and Fall, in addition to her own 'home' Section. It's important Section Governors collaborate to coordinate the Section Meeting calendar. 6-8 week period each Spring and Fall for 10 North American Sections to schedule their Section meetings

Goal: No more than two (2) Sections should meet on any one weekend. Council of Governors dialogue could help structure a scheduling plan/rotation.

International Board Of Directors Fall Meeting –

Join us in OKC Thursday November 6 thru Saturday November 8

Finance Committee and Council of Governors meet on Thursday

IBOD Fall Meeting is on Fri and Sat

Trusts, Section Governors, and Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend and update us on your activities.

Interested 99s members are also welcome to attend. A block of rooms is available for 99s at the Hilton Garden Inn Airport (\$105/night). This weekend is a great opportunity for quality in-person time with 99s leadership teams and Headquarters staff. For those unable to travel to OKC, a Zoom link will be provided.

International Board of Directors



Robin Hadfield, President



Minnetta Gardinier, Vice President



Debi Dreyfuss, Secretary



Aileen Coverdell, Treasurer



Madeleine Monaco, Director



Carol Voss, Director



Mary Build, Director



Pat Chan, Director



THANK YOU for being a 99...

YOU are what makes this organization so special!



Questions?



After a brief break, Maddie Eckberg (IN – Lafayette Wing) recapped the successes of the revitalized Indiana Chapter and interactions with Purdue University students. She shared some of Amelia Earhart's intense history with the university, the renaming of the University airport in her honor and how the University continues to be involved in the search for Amelia. Maddie, formerly a Wisconsin 99, was acknowledged for her efforts to bring a 99s 'wing' to Purdue.

The NCS nominations committee is seeking 99s to fill all NCS leadership positions for the 2026-2028 term: Governor, Vice Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Directors. 'Intent to Seek Election' forms are available on site and appear in Waypoint and on the NCS website. See Anne Mongiovi [STL] or Samantha Claypool [IA] for details. Anne has hard copies available at this meeting. Deadline for submissions is Oct. 31, 2025.

International Nominating Chair, Kathy Lester-Ross (WI) reminded attendees that all major elective positions need to be filled in the 2026 process: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 IBOD positions, 3 nominating places and at least 1 for each of the 4 Trustees. The Intent to Seek Election packet is available on The 99s website, in Straight and Level, via the Nominating Committee and through Laura at Headquarters. Deadline for submissions is December 31, 2025. Our leadership is our future and finding good candidates to lead us into the future is imperative.

Gov Glisson lead the 2 minute oral Committee Reports. Mandatory written reports from each committee will appear in Waypoint.

AEMSF – Laurie Probst	IT – Erin Thompson via Martha Reith
Airmarking – Patti Sandusky	Membership – Kathy Lester-Ross
Aviation Education – Madeleine Monaco	NCS Nominating – Anne Mongiovi & Samantha Claypool
Flying Activities – Dee Dreger [done in prose]	Safety/FAAST – Laurie Probst
Fund-Raising – Brenda and Brenda [via a skit]	501c3 – Joan Plato
History & Preservation – Ellen O’Hara	Waypoint – Madeleine Monaco
Insurance – Margaret Wint	Website – Minnetta Gardinier
IFO – Kaye Combs Moore	

Vice Governor Wint offered announcements as submitted by attendees:

- It is imperative that all badges be returned no later than after the banquet. Every one was used for this meeting, so quantities are becoming limited.
- If not going on the EAA Museum tour, attendees are encouraged to attend the 2 WINGS presentations—Joan Plato sharing her Off Field Landing and Jenny Beatty sharing the history of the Fabulous First Female Flyers.
- WI 99 Stacey Wolak has a few of the limited edition T-shirts commemorating the meeting. \$25 ea
- IBOD Director Voss has her Chapter patches. The \$20 donation goes toward their scholarships.
- Details about the hours for the Silent Auction and Fly market were announced.
- Co-chair of the meeting, Darcy Kulesha, requested that all attendees gather outside the meeting room for the group picture. Lunch will be provided in the same area.

The invitation for the 2026 Spring NCS meeting in Batavia, OH, was presented by the All Ohio Chapter. “I flew In To Sporty’s” is the theme for the weekend of March 27-29, 2026. The bookmarks and area brochures that all received will help us save the date. Watch for details in Waypoint and your emails.

Vice Governor Wint provided the calendar of deadlines and events.

Oct 31, 2025	NCS Intent to Seek Election packets due
Nov 7-8, 2025	IBOD meeting, OKC
Dec 1, 2025	Waypoint news due
Dec 31, 2025	International Intent to Seek Election packets due
Jan. 1, 2026	AE Scholarship applications due
Mar. 1, 2026	Waypoint news due
Mar. 1, 2026	Santori Scholarship applications due
Mar. 11, 2026	Spinning Prop, 49 ½ and Governor Service Awards due
March 27-29, 2026	Spring NCS Meeting – Batavia, OH. All Ohio Chapter hosting Mandatory Annual Chapter Reports due.
Jun. 1, 2026	Waypoint news due
Jun. 23-26, 2026	Air Race Classic - Four sites at NCS airports
Jul. 6-12, 2026	99s International Convention – San Diego, CA
Jul. 20-26, 2026	EAA AirVenture – OSH

Governor Sue Glisson adjourned the meeting at 1150 CDST

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lester-Ross
NCS Secretary

NCS FALL REPORTS **AE Memorial Scholarship Foundation Committee** **Laurie Probst, Chair**

Fall 2024-Emails were sent to the section AE/Chapter Chairs with reminders regarding First Wings and AE Scholarship applications. This included any changes, as well as resources for candidates and mentors to help make applications high caliber.

Fall First Wings winners from the NCS: Deborah Howell (Michigan) and Gabriela Tan (All-Ohio)

AE Scholarship: In the 2024-2025 cycle, the NCS AE Committee received 14 AE Scholarship applications and three Vicki Cruse applications. We were able to send nine AE applications (per the quota based upon NCS membership) and all of the Cruse applications on to the Trustees.

Recipients of the AE Memorial Scholarship from the NCS included: Cherry Kan (Michigan), Jun Oikawa (All-Ohio), Arian Perez (Michigan), Dana McLaren (Wisconsin)-Vicki Cruse

Spring First Wings winners from the NCS: Gabrielle Fullilove (Chicago), Yuanqing He (Minnesota), Taylor Peeff (Kentucky Bluegrass), Rachel Stivers-Bender (Kentucky Bluegrass)

March of 2025-I sent out a First Wings Checklist (that had been provided by the Trustees) to the AE/Chapter Chairs.

Fall 2025: I attended an International AEMSF Chair Zoom call, hosted by Lori Parker. There were some great conversations around current issues, suggestions for improvement, and other points. September 24th, an International Chapter Chair Roundtable was offered via Zoom. I sent that information out to all NCS AE/Chapter chairs and there was great attendance from the NCS! From what I saw, St. Louis, Michigan, Indiana Dunes, All-Ohio, Iowa, Northwoods, and Chicago all had attendees (sorry if I missed anyone!). Some who could not attend that evening emailed me for the link to the recording. There were three documents provided by the Trustees, which I also sent out to chairs prior to the Zoom meeting. There were some great discussions and lots of questions answered.

In addition to the Zoom meeting information and the three documents, I included information about changes in the applications, etc. for this year's AE Scholarship/First Wings.

I will be contacting those who stepped up to help with last year's cycle to see if they wish to continue on the committee. I also invite new members-contact me if interested. We only review AE scholarships, and it's a short window.

Airmarking Committee **Patti Sandusky, Chair**

An email was sent to all Chapter Chairs on September 1, 2025 requesting chapter air marking activity for the year to date.

1. Nine chapters responded as follows:

- a. Scioto Valley and All-Ohio Chapters worked together to complete a compass rose at Licking County Airport KVTA.
- b. Lake Erie Chapter completed an air marking on May 31, 2025 at Lorain County Regional Airport KLPR
- c. Minnesota Chapter completed a compass rose on September 26, 2025 at Quentin Aanenson Field in Luverne, MN
- d. Six other chapters; Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Northwoods, Greater Kansas City and Chicago have not done any this year.

2. Five Chapters did not respond.

Aviation Education Committee

Madeleine Monaco, Chair

During the course of the past year we have published articles in Waypoint offering assistance in educating the public about aviation. We have encouraged each Chapter Chair to report on their educational activities within their communities. We have also asked them to consider appointing a Chapter member to serve as Aviation Education Chair. This remains the case from the previous year.

We offered to provide assistance at Section Meetings to any Chapter interested in activating their educational outreach. There were no takers, however, many Chapters report on activities that would fit into this category in their Annual Reports. There were requests to report on educational activities, and a general solicitation of each Chapter to relate an experience where education reached beyond the 99s and other aviation groups. Only two Chapters reported – and one was my own. Thanks to Michigan Chapter for the other.

Please know that we see great value in demystifying aviation to the world. The more we provide information and guidance, especially as the premier organization of women pilots, the more we make aviation a possibility for women and girls. And educating the community can help immensely in defusing and correcting misconceptions.

Flying Activities Committee

Dee Dreger, Chair

Flying Activities around our Section

Maybe too many to mention

To meetings and parties and just plain fun

I would say these ladies have all won.

Some experienced special rides

In Stearmans and Gliders and Gyrocopters, too.

Many have been working towards ratings

To name just a few.

There were several 99s who flew the Air Race Classic

From Alabama to Washington in Spokane

One NCS team came in Third

Flying as fast as they could across this land.

“Let’s Fly Now” events were hosted by some Chapters

To Introduce aviation to others

To share the Joy of Flight

To possibly new sisters and brothers.

Keep flying, ladies, and continue to share your joy with others and joy for yourselves!

Fundraising Committee

Brenda Hanson and Brenda Frye, Chairs

The Fundraising Committee hosted two fundraisers in the past year. The first event was Tea + Trivia on November 12, 2024. This event had 18 participants who tested their knowledge of tea and aviation trivia. The event was held via Zoom with representatives from most of the NCS chapters. The second event was Tribuvia, a combination of trivia and a tribute to women pioneers in aviation to celebrate Women's History Month. This Jeopardy style event held on Feb 24, 2025 had 13 participants. Between these two events and other donations submitted through a corporate giving program, Benevity, the committee raised over \$1,000. The next event to be held this month will be aviation summer bingo, a chance for members to talk about their "summer vacation" in the form of a bingo card.

History and Preservation Committee

Ellen O'Hara, Chair

Question: Where were you yesterday? That's history. We all remember it now, but later when memory doesn't work, then what? You have to go to recorded items that show your history. Our chapters come in here. We don't always have chapter members around to remind us of what we did. And they also can't call out how you did without having something to look at about what it was. It's as simple as that. And it's that simple to just write it down in the first place. There. Done.

So now where can we share that history? For our section we have Waypoint. It's our history. IF, IF we put something into it. Enough said. How about sending a clip to the chapter historian for keeps. Ask someone to be an Historian if you don't have one. Or YOU do it! Yes! Done. It's actually fun. And informational!

Of course you now have a saved copy of the event on your own files if you need to look it up again. By the way, do you know the dates and places where your parents were born, and grandparents, too? Surprising how those need to be fine tuned one day and unfortunately you only remember "generally".

Time goes by. Years go by. Remember when you... No? Look it up! How cool. Here it is! Having printed copies of family trees and important dates in family history and My Flying History is cool, too. Do it. Now. When the family or friend wants to know where you flew and when, it'll be there when YOU won't be able to tell those stories anymore. Done. Questions? Ask someone. Anyone. Now. Done.

Insurance Committee

Margaret Wint, Chair

There is not much to report for insurance. Any Chapter that did a flying program contacted HQ and requested the form. Any chapter that had static display did not need to inform HQ.

International Forest of Friendship Committee

Kaye Combs Moore, Chair

Congratulations to the 2025 International Forest of Friendship Honorees. NCS 99s Mandi Neumann (Wisconsin) and Erin Thompson (Kentucky Bluegrass) were honorees this year. Thanks, ladies for your service to The Ninety-Nines.

Next year's ceremony will mark the 50th anniversary of the Forest and many special activities are planned. Those who fly to the event will receive a seedling from the "Moon Trees" that were grown from seeds taken into space in 1971 on the Apollo 14 mission. Seeds were successfully grown into seedlings, including loblolly pine, American sycamore, sweet gum, coast redwood, and Douglas fir. Fly in and receive your piece of living history.



The Forest's 2026 goal is to induct 50 honorees. Consider nominating a 99 from your chapter or a supportive person to be honored next year. September 11-12, 2026, are next year's dates. For more information about the Forest go to ifof.org.

IT Committee

Erin Thompson, Deb McGee, and Martha Reith

The IT Committee helped set up and run Zoom during the Fall 2024 NCS meeting in Minnesota. The team monitored the chat, ran the presentation in the room, and streamed the presentation digitally to members watching online.

While Zoom was not provided during the Spring 2025 meeting in Iowa, the IT Committee did set up and monitor the presentation during the business meeting.

At the International Conference in Burlington, Martha Reith oversaw the tech setup and execution during the Business Meeting. She worked alongside Sue Glisson who managed the Zoom chat and Executive Director Jill vanEgmond to stream the presentation in the room and online via Zoom.

Membership Committee

Kathy Lester-Ross, Chair

Following the NCS Membership for over 5 years, many interesting stats have emerged.

We've grown from 676 to 956 – a net increase of 41%. Chapters have grown from 13-29% each. About 9% of new members do not renew within 24 months, generally after joining at Sun'n'Fun, WAI or EAA-AirVenture aviation events. 'Back then' over 50 did not list an email or contact address, over 7%. By the fall of 2025, only about 1% cannot be reached by those common methods.

Life membership is at 79 – a steady increase. Of the 220 F [Future women pilots] listed, 51% have been members less than 2 years. Forty-seven members are on Hold and 26 on Standby as of this date. These are similar proportions over the past few years.

NCS has 42 "Golden Girls" - members for 50 years or more. In addition, 74 members are 'Ruby Gals' and have been members for 40 years or more. Several chapters have sought out these treasured members within their ranks and rekindled the spirit of aviation with them, and brought smiles and memories to these wonderful women who laid our Section foundation.

Via calls, emails, meetings and Waypoint articles, Chapters have been encouraged to contact new members early after receiving their contact information; mentoring and one-to-one encouragement and early involvement in Chapter activities definitely helps retention. Acknowledging each member's participation, regardless of whether lots or limited, has helped sustain long term commitment to The 99s.

The North Central Section remains the 4th largest section in the entire Ninety-Nines organization. We continue to grow, in membership, in achieving aviation dreams, in personal successes and in living our mission - to promote the advancement of aviation through education, scholarship and mutual support, while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.

It has been a distinct honor and pleasure to serve the NCS membership Chair the past 5 years. Our members are friends and truly sisters in the sky.

Nominating Committee

Anne Mongiovi, Co-Chair

The committee met regularly via Zoom since the Spring Section meeting. We emailed Chapter chairs reminding them to speak to their members, and recommend candidates for section offices. Spoke with a few of them, but most did not respond.

The Intent to Seek Office form is published on the NCS web page, and blurbs were inserted in the summer and fall issues of Waypoint.

All offices need to be filled.

Have possible candidates, need a few more especially for secretary, for which there is no candidate at this time. Also possibly need another name for the nominating committee. Please speak to one of us (me, Deb McGee, Pat Haneline) here if you have questions or need a paper form.

Log on to the NCS web page and scroll down to NCS documents, then further down to "Intent to Seek" fillable form.

REMINDER: we do not have paperwork from those who have already expressed their interest in consideration as a candidate.

The Intent to Seek Office forms are DUE no later than October 31st, 2025!!!

Candidate biographies will be in the Winter waypoint, and on the NCS web page.

Please watch for information on voting procedures to come in January 2026!!!

Voting will take place a bit earlier since the spring section meeting is in March.

Safety/FAASTeam Committee

Laurie Probst, Chair

I sent out information to help members gain even more access to WINGS credits. The following links are a great way to subscribe to the webinars. You only register once and they send you reminder emails. Here is the information:

Want a convenient way to earn WINGS credits? The Milwaukee and Minnesota FSDO FAAS Teams have worked together to offer webinars on a regular basis. Once you register, you will be able to attend these series for the rest of the year without having to pre-register each time. They will even send you a reminder email. Here are the links:

Pro Tips for CFI's and Students:

https://faavideo.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_vrR4VmgVQf6wTiwr_wceew

Pro Tips for Pilots:

https://faavideo.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_7h9HW5M2QUmkZsPpRKd55g

Pro Tips for Maintenance:

https://faavideo.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_M06EkTMys6CSTE_wFQiPdw

Saturday Morning Coffee and WINGS:

https://faavideo.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_syRmrq6aS1uiPB7yL14xMg

The two seminars being offered at the fall section meeting are eligible for WINGS credit, which I will award at the end of the sessions. I worked with Joan and Jenny to put their seminars into SPANS, assign credits, and gain approval from the FSDO FPM.

I am happy to help any chapters with their WINGS needs/questions. I know Chicago does a great VFR/IFR WINGS seminars event annually. What can other chapters offer?

Going forward, I am hoping to provide a safety article in Waypoint.

501 (c)3 Committee

Joan Plato

What is a 501(c)3 organization? The IRS defines a 501(c)3 organization as: To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes, and none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual. Generally, tax-exempt organizations must file an annual information return. Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less can satisfy their annual reporting requirement by electronically submitting Form 990-N if they choose not to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

To further explain this, the Ninety-nines is a 501(c)3 organization. We need to adhere to certain rules and regulations. What this means for us is as follows: In order for us to maintain our 501(c)3 tax exempt status, we must file a 990-N form with the IRS each year. If the 501(c)3 reports are not received, and the 990-N form cannot be filed, the Chapter or Section could lose its 501(c)3 status.

Each Chapter and Section **MUST** complete a 501(c)3 form and send it to the Section Treasurer by June 30th for the reporting year. The form must be signed by the 501(c)3 Chairman (this is typically the Treasurer), and the Chapter Chairman(s). Some of the recurring errors that I have found are listed below. By insuring these items are done, will save me a lot of follow up emails to you.

*Please take time to read the instructions that are sent each year carefully. If there are any questions, please reach out to the Section Treasurer.

*Make sure that the International Members website is up-to-date with current officers. This is what I use to email the 501(c)3 report, 990-N acceptance and International Report.

- *Make sure the last year's ending balance matches this year's beginning balance.
- *Make sure the 'Net Income or Loss' line for Revenues and Expenditures matches the Banking section 'Net Income or Loss' line.
- *Make sure the Tax ID number, Chapter name, 501c3 Chairman Name, and Chapter Chairman name are entered correctly.
- *The Chapter Chairman should review the report for accuracy and reasonableness. They should follow up with the 501c3 Chairman if there are any questions of concerns with the report.

As the Section Treasurer , it is my job to make sure the following is done:

Make sure all 501c3 reports are accurate. I have 15 reports to review.

Follow up on discrepancies. Once all the discrepancies have been resolved, and the 501c3 reports look accurate, I must file a 990-N form with the IRS. I have 15 990-N forms to submit to the IRS.

Once the 990-N forms are submitted and accepted by the IRS, I need to email each Chapter 501c3 Chairman the confirmation from the IRS

I also send a consolidated report to International.

I must also file an annual 'Not for Profit Report' with the State of Illinois (where our section is registered) each year to continue to be tax exempt from State Taxes for the section. Each Chapter is responsible for filing a 'Not for Profit Report' with your State.

Waypoint Committee

Madeleine Monaco, Chair

The Quarterly issues of Waypoint continue to go out in a timely manner.

Most contributors are considerate with their contributions: sending them on time and in the proper format. (doc type files, and jpg or tif photos) The one consistent negative is the lack of readership. Please remind all of your Chapter members that Waypoint exists – as our NCS Quarterly publication, and many of their questions can be answered by looking it over. IF YOU MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ IT, AND WANT TO REFER BACK, it is saved on the NCS website and can be reviewed or reprinted from there. NCS99s.org

The future issues will be improved in the following suggested ways:

*Chapter Officers Update forms will be published and/or reminded every issue.

*A one page report on the most recently held NCS Meeting will be published. Editor asks the host Chapter to send in 5-6 pictures and a paragraph or two.

*SHOW ME YOUR AIRPLANE. Please send a photo to feature in each issue. I know that you take pics – just text one to me at 847-431-1847

*Our Section 501c3 Chair (Treasurer Joan Plato) needs copies of your state tax returns. Please remember to send those to her.

*Every issue, every Officer, Chapter Chair and Committee Chair CAN send in an article. Once each year our Chapter Chairs MUST submit their annual report. And once each Year Committee Chairs MUST submit their annual report.

Any officer can submit any information they wish disseminated to all of our Section members as needed.

Thank you for your contributions to this publication and especially to all who read it.

Website Committee

Minnetta Gardinier, Chair

I continue to manage the North Central Section web domain and internet communication platforms. I also oversee the Chapter subdomains under the NCS 'umbrella', responding to any problems that Chapters may run into as they administer their own Chapter subdomains. Each Chapter is required to identify a member who serves as the subdomain's web admin. They may also identify a 2nd admin for their sites to assist in the management and or serve as back-up as needed.

The website and subdomains are hosted on GoDaddy (cPanel server). The domain name (ncs99s.org) contract is renewed on an annual basis – most recently paid 12/27/2024 (\$43.16). The Section web hosting was most recently renewed on a 3-year contract 12/05/2023 (\$503.64 = \$13.99/mo), and this includes the Chapter subdomains (no additional cost for our subdomains). Web hosting will be due for renewal next year (12/05/2026).

Section website: We have experienced no problems with the web site. Periodic updates are made as needed. Members are encouraged to contact me (m.gardinier@gmail.com OR info@ncs99s.org) if they find errors or a need to update pages. Over the winter, I anticipate doing some background updates; however, I also take the approach that *"if it ain't broke, don't fix it"* in general. So updates will remain conservative and continue to keep our web site simple and informational (not transactional monetarily) to avoid any security concerns for hacking of sensitive personal information.

Chapter subdomains: Thank you to all Chapter admins for your work! Twelve of 14 Chapters utilize the Chapter subdomain sites that were created. Admin access is given to a Chapter when they identify the responsible person. They can add an additional admin as needed and transfer admin rights to another member. They hold primary responsibility for updating Chapter information on their sites. They are advised to NOT update operating web files so that I have responsibility for those updates. Very infrequently, this policy is not followed and a subdomain site has gone down. When this happens, the Chapter is liable for paying any 'repair' costs if GoDaddy services are required to fix the problem. So far, we have never been charged for any required fixes. Only Chicago Area and Greater St. Louis have opted out of the NCS Chapter subdomain opportunity – the NCS website does provide links to their stand-alone sites.

MailerLite: This platform provides our tool for sending out email blasts to all NCS members as needed. These email campaigns are kept to a minimum to avoid 'spamming' members. We primarily limit its use to information on Waypoint releases, Section meeting info, Governor's messages, and election information. The member emails are downloaded from the International directory and uploaded to MailerLite for each mailing to ensure that we have the most current dataset in place. Up until the past month, this service was free for up to 1,000 contacts, but it reduced that to 500 contacts now. Section is nearing 1,000 members, so we had to upgrade to a paid plan. I secured the change taking advantage of a 30% discount on a paid one-year subscription (\$126) – renewal due 9/23/2026.

Thank you to all members who may have contacted me over the past year for any updates and corrections!





Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship

The Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship offers two annual scholarships to members of the North Central Section (“NCS”) under the auspices of The Chicago Area Chapter of The Ninety-Nines (“CAC”).

One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is to be used to assist a 99 in the completion of an additional pilot certificate or rating. Applicant must be a current pilot with the appropriate medical certificate.

The other scholarship offers \$1,000 to assist a Student Pilot Member toward completion of an initial pilot certificate in any aircraft. Applicants must have soloed, and, if required for the pilot certificate sought, must have a current medical certificate and must have passed the written exam.

Applicants must be a current member of The 99s, the NCS and their chapter in good standing.

Applicants must submit three (3) copies of each: the completed and signed application including the form; attached essay; letter of recommendation from their chapter chair; proof of certificates and ratings held; medical certificate; proof of date and score of knowledge tests taken; copy of last page(s) of logbook showing current hours flown; and a letter of reference from someone outside of the aviation community who is not a relative. These documents must be mailed to the address on the application form to be post-marked no later than the date indicated on the form.

Funds will be paid from receipts which document the training. Receipts must be signed by both the student and instructor and include copies of the logbook if applicable.

Funds are to be used within two years of the award date. Prior applicants and recipients may re-apply in future years.

The winning candidate and all candidates who did not qualify will be notified within one month after the receipt deadline.

2026

**Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship Application
\$2,000 to a Ninety-Nine for Advanced Certificate or Rating**

Name _____ email: _____
Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: (_____) Chapter: _____
Application for which certificate or rating? _____

Please attach an essay (essay may not exceed one page, one side only) and include at least the following elements:

1. Tell us about yourself, your activities in aviation, and participation in The Ninety-Nines. Be specific.
2. Describe your goals in aviation or aerospace, and opportunities. Tell us what you have already accomplished in pursuit of these goals, pertinent to specific certificate/rating sought. Why are you seeking this specific training? How will it help you to qualify for or to advance in an aviation-related profession or charitable cause?
3. Tell us how you have financed your training and education so far. Make a statement of financial need for completion of this training.
4. How will awarding you this scholarship benefit The Ninety-Nines and the aviation community?
5. If applicable, clearly explain any training request that might be considered unusual.

The completed application must include:

1. This form and attached essay.
2. Proof of certificates, ratings, knowledge test taken (with score) and medical held.
3. A copy of the last page(s) of your logbook showing current hours flown.
4. A letter of reference from someone not a family member and outside of the aviation community.
5. A letter of recommendation from your chapter chair.
6. The signed and dated Signature Form.

SIGNATURE FORM

Print full name: _____
Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Return three (3) copies of the Application and attachments to:

Chicago Area Chapter of The Ninety-Nines
Cynthia Madsen
(see Ninety-Nines Directory for address)

Completed Application and Attachments Must Be Postmarked by **March 1, 2026**

2026

**Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship Application
\$1,000 to a Student Pilot Member Ninety-Nines, Inc.**

For Initial Pilot License

Name _____ email: _____
Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: (_____) Chapter: _____

Please attach an essay (essay may not exceed one page, one side only) and include at least the following elements:

1. Tell us about yourself, your activities in aviation, and participation in The Ninety-Nines. Be specific.
2. Tell us how you have financed your training and education so far. Make a statement of financial need for completion of this training.
3. How will awarding you this scholarship benefit The Ninety-Nines and the aviation community?
4. If applicable, clearly explain any training request that might be considered unusual.

The completed application must include:

1. This form and attached essay.
2. Proof of student medical certificate held, knowledge test taken (with score), and solo.
3. A copy of the last page(s) of your logbook showing current hours flown.
4. A letter of reference from someone not a family member and outside of the aviation community.
5. A letter of recommendation from your chapter chair.
6. The signed and dated Signature Form.

SIGNATURE FORM

Print full name: _____

Signature of Applicant _____ **Date** _____

Return three (3) copies of the Application and attachments to:

Chicago Area Chapter of The Ninety-Nines

Cynthia Madsen

(see Ninety-Nines Directory for address)

Completed Application and Attachments Must Be Postmarked by March 1, 2026

2026 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

The International Awards Committee is receiving nominations for three prestigious awards to be presented by The Ninety-Nines, Inc. at the 2026 International Conference in San Diego, CA. The deadline for submitting nominations is **January 31, 2026**.

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT (for Ninety-Nines)

Three Awards of Achievement may be presented for:

[Contributions to The Ninety-Nines](#)

[Contributions to Aviation](#)

[Humanitarian Efforts](#)

Who May be Nominated? An individual member of The Ninety-Nines (living or deceased); a group of Ninety-Nines; or an organization within The Ninety-Nines, such as a Chapter, Section, Committee, or Trust. ***An individual recipient must be a current member, or have been a current member at the time of her death.

AWARD OF MERIT (for non-Ninety-Nines) Recognizes a significant contribution to any facet of aviation, such as aviation or aerospace education, aviation science, aviation history, aviation commerce, aviation legislation, etc.

Who May be Nominated? An individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization. ***The recipient may not be a current or former member of The Ninety-Nines or of a group within The Ninety-Nines.

GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM AWARD (for non-Ninety-Nines) Recognizes support provided to The Ninety-Nines by an individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization. The contribution may have occurred in the past or present, as a single action or a series of events.

Who May be Nominated? An individual (male or female, living or deceased), or an organization. The recipient may not be a current or former member of The Ninety-Nines or of a group within The Ninety-Nines.

Who may submit nominations? A Ninety-Nines Chapter, Section, or Trust.

Please go to [Award Nominations Template](#) to download the template to use for submissions.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

Download the Awards Nomination Instructions and Form document.

Complete ALL fields – either by selecting from the drop-down menu (e.g., year, category of award, date of submission) or typing information in the text boxes. There is no limit on the number of characters in the text boxes; however, your nomination should not exceed the equivalent of four (4) printed pages.

Once completed, save your work to your computer, using a file name in the following format:

Category of award – last name of nominee (e.g. Award of Merit – Smith).

You should save in PDF format, although Word format is also acceptable.

You may use the fillable form OR you may complete the nomination materials on your own using the form as reference. Either way, be sure to submit ALL materials as noted on the template form.

Email your completed nomination to: Awards@ninety-nines.org

by no later than January 31 of the year in which the Awards are being issued.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chair of the Awards Committee at Awards@ninety-nines.org

ALL OHIO CHAPTER

Margaret Hazlett

Happy Holidays from the All-Ohio 99 Chapter members!



Currently, as hosts, we are deep in preparation to welcome everyone to the Spring North Central Section Meeting at Sporty's in Clermont, Ohio. One of our projects is to sew 99s tote bags to be given to the first forty registrants. They were designed by Peg Ballou and we met at her home to cut out and stitch them together. When CFII Peg isn't quilting and sewing, she is instructing students in PPL and IFR ratings.

Jun Oikawa earned her karate Black Belt! Because her previous karate style had no school here, she had to start over as a white belt in a new style: Taiyo Washin Ryu Karate. She noted that learning a new skill is like road construction: inconvenient, but also good. She compared her karate studies with aviation when one thinks one knows enough but is mistaken.

Sarah Hofacker passed her PP checkride and was also interviewed by American Air Lines for their cadet program. She established a non-profit organization to give free haircuts to the homeless and recently they gave 47 free haircuts. Sarah is also the recipient of a First Wings Scholarship.



Gabby Tan has been awarded a First Wings Scholarship, and a Richard Santori Memorial Scholarship.

Evie Lechuga spent the summer in Arkansas in an aviation internship, where she helped with a compass rose, an volunteered with the forest service. She is now a college student working on her IFR rating.



Cat Stritenberger, a flight attendant for PSA, has been accepted to their Pilot Cadet Program. Cat recently received the President's Award from PSA Airlines for exemplary service! This award was based on recognition from her colleagues and the human resource department.

CFII Kylie Gottman's two commercial students passed their checkrides recently, and she soloed 5 students.

Valerie Palazzolo, retired airline captain (747, DC8, etc.) and 33 year FAA official, has been a 99 since 1977 and attended Oshkosh this summer for the first time for fun, instead of in her capacity as the National FAASTeam Manager. She brought her mother, Miss Lillian, who celebrated her 95th birthday in September, to the meeting and reported she is a "spitfire who has no cane or wheelchair."



The Cleveland Air Show was the place to find Civil Air Patrol Captain Lisa Blair on Labor Day weekend. Lisa shared aviation experiences with student pilot and CAP Lt. Samantha Fisher. Lisa also was recognized for her excellent job on our invitation video at the Wisconsin NCSM.



All-Ohio Chapter members, Erin Walling, who earned her PPL last year and is nearly an A&P. Evie Lechuga, and Jun Oikawa volunteered at the annual "Girls in Aviation Day" at the USAF Museum in Dayton September 28. Jun was at the riveting experience table and reported that it was a very popular activity with nearly 300 visitors



Our Treasurer, and the Section's new Membership Co-Chair, Susan Roe Musacchio, is putting together a first in the country aviation film festival and working with Gigi Coleman, great niece of famous aviatrix, Bessie Coleman. The date of the festival is Thursday, April 30, 2026, the 100th anniversary of Bessie's death.

Susan is hosting the festival in the Chicago Area and hopes filmmakers will be inspired by Bessie Coleman and we will tie the 100-year centennial film festival to today's innovations in electric aviation.



Chicago Area Chapter Members at the Fall NCS Meeting in Oshkosh, Wisconsin L-R Vickie S, Shelley V, Madeleine M, Ellen O, Corie W and Leslie P. (not shown Sandra K)
Great event—Thanks to the Wisconsin Chapter for making it happen.

In November a group of members and friends met for dinner and then went to a Libertyville location for Feed My Starving Children. We try to do some charitable outreach each year, if possible. This one is fun and competitive consisting of packing specialty food for hungry nations, our went to Senegal. Loud music, lots of speed and a great result of boxes filled with nourishment. Jill F hosted this event. L-R Coraline D, Vickie S, Yosh & Larisa K, Jill F, Emily L and her friend Nico, Phil R, Pete & Lisa M, Penny L.



On December 14th we held our Annual Holiday Party, this year hosted by Lisa and Pete Mitchell at Lake Barrington Shores Club House Fireside Room. Fantastic selection of wonderful appetisers, entrees, sides, and desserts. It was a FEAST. There were a lot of regular attendees, and a good number of new women pilots in attendance. We had a wonderful time—lots of warmth and friendship on one of the coldest days of the year!



Next up for us:

Chicago Area 99s
Aviation Expo 2026

January 31, Hilton
Chicago Northbrook

IFR/VFR Seminars
Flying Companion Class
and vendors

GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

Linda Newland

Past Few Months in Review

The past few months have been a meaningful and memorable season for the Greater Kansas City Chapter. We began with a somber moment, as we said goodbye to a valued member, Sharon Bockelman, who has passed on to new horizons. She will be deeply missed, and her memory continues to inspire the spirit of connection, mentorship, and camaraderie within our chapter.



In October, we created a fun and welcoming trunk setup for the Ronald McDonald House Trunk or Treat event. Our aviation-themed display sparked curiosity and excitement among girls and women of all ages, showing them that the world of aviation is open, accessible, and full of possibility.



In September, we gathered for Billie's annual Pig Roast—a favorite tradition that brought members together for great food, warm conversation, and plenty of laughter. It served as a wonderful reminder of how strong, supportive, and joyful our aviation community truly is.



Most recently, Kate organized an incredible trip to Rolla, Missouri, where members of our chapter joined three other chapters (Greater St. Louis, Northeast Kansas, and Ambassador) for a private tour of the family-owned and female-run Culver Prop shop. The visit offered an up-close look at propeller craftsmanship and aviation history. It was both educational and energizing, giving everyone a deeper appreciation for the skill and passion that go into such a critical part of aircraft performance.

GREATER ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

Martha Norman



Our balloon pilots were busy. Lynn Brownell and Stephanie Maughan could be found on September 19-20 at The Great Forest Park Balloon Glow and Balloon Race. Lynn (in the baseball cap) and her Sweetfish (her balloon) team.

Lynn had the honor of piloting the St. Louis Children's Hospital balloon. Weather Saturday caused the race to be canceled, however, the balloon glow scheduled for Friday evening was a success. Lynn, with the Children's Hospital balloon, and Stephanie, with her balloon (Fluffy), took part in a balloon glow.



Between October 4 and 12, we found Stephanie in New Mexico at the Albuquerque Balloon Festival. She was there with Zulu and Como se Llama, her balloons.

An all day Saturday chapter event was planned for Greenville (Illinois) Airport and the Centralia (Illinois) Balloon Fest. Anne Mongiovi and her family enjoyed breakfast at Greenville. Jennifer Vorhees was among the volunteers that made their breakfast a success. Stephanie was at Centralia with her balloon and Libby Yunger joined the group. Weather put a damper on activities at Centralia; it cleared in time for a tether flight and the balloon glow.



Stephanie's balloon, Fluffy.



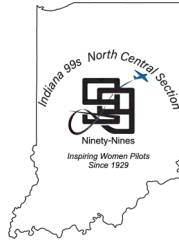
Libby got a bird's eye view of Centralia Park when Stephanie took her aloft in a tethered ride with Fluffy.

The balloon glow did happen! Fluffy and team.



INDIANA CHAPTER

Erin Hammar



We hosted our Holiday Gathering at Rick's Boatyard in November and had several members attend. We are hosting a Trivia Night on December 8th. Mostly, we have been working on planning the NCS Section Meeting for the Fall of 2026. We have our location secured and are working through the details with the hotel. We are in the process securing sponsors, a speaker and swag. We are super excited to have this opportunity and look forward to welcoming everyone to our state!

See our Save the Date. We are planning an Indiana experience for you.



INDIANA DUNES CHAPTER

Margaret Wint

In September we attended Aviation Day in South Bend and had the attendees make friendship bracelets.

October had us running in several directions: the North Central Section Meeting was held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on the site of the famous EAA Air Venture. Then, also in that month, LaPorte Airport hosted Scairport, 2025 where we dressed up and handed out candy to about 700 kids. Marcia Forcey decorated her plane and car and were grave diggers. The kids loved it and she won first place.



Diana Austin, Margaret Wint, Marcia Forcey and friend, Michael Barry

Chapter Member Tricia DeBlock spoke to a group of girls about jobs in aviation.

Our Chapter is working on plans for a celebration of our 50th Anniversary, which will be in June.

IOWA CHAPTER

Brenda Frye

The Iowa Chapter has had a busy and rewarding few months since April, filled with memorable fly-outs, successful competition, volunteering and impressive professional achievements by our members!

Fly-Out Adventures; Social Gatherings We've enjoyed several wonderful opportunities to utilize our wings and connect as a chapter:

* Our May fly-out took us to the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame and Museum and KOXV in Knoxville, Iowa. Our host for lunch was fellow 99 Katie Shawver, who along with her husband Kyle, owns Knoxville Aviation at KOXV. Members had a fantastic time exploring the museum and enjoying the aviation camaraderie.

* Our June fly-out/meeting was held in Independence, IA (KIIB) with 7 members present.

* In August, the chapter flew to the western part of the state, landing in Atlantic, Iowa (AIO) for a delightful picnic. It was a perfect chance to enjoy a beautiful day, catch up on flying activities and share stories.

* In September, members Olivia and Jenny volunteered at the Cedar Rapids Youth in Aviation event, interacting with kiddos of all ages (and their Moms).

* The Iowa Chapter was also well-represented at the NCS meeting in Osh Kosh, with 8 members in attendance.

* November found our chapter in Marshalltown, IA (KMIW) for our annual planning meeting. It was a beautiful November day which allowed five planes to fly in and twelve members in attendance. We planned our meeting, events and fly-outs for next year and invite you to join our fun flying adventures which will be posted on our chapter website soon.



Air Race Classic Success



Chapter Chair Brenda joined long time racer, Minnetta on the Air Race Classic through the Rocky Mountains, resulting in a 3rd place finish for team 'Is this Heaven'? Members Jeneanne and Madison supported ARC as start volunteers.



We are also proud of a few of our younger members working in aviation:

Trinity and Raynee LaGrange both earned their AAS, Aviation and Airport Management degrees, at Iowa Lakes Community College and they are now instructing at Iowa Lakes, honing their skills and building hours.

Chloe Krohn, who attended Iowa Lakes, is now instructing at Morningside College in their aviation program.

Congratulations to our chapter members who have achieved new ratings this flying season.

- Delainey Woodman – Private Pilot Certificate - SEL
- Raynee LaGrange – Certified Flight Instructor, CFII and MEI
- Trinity LaGrange – Certified Flight Instructor, CFI and MEI
- Chloe Krohn - CFI
- Jeneanne Visser – Commercial Certificate - SEL
- Taylor Smith – Instrument Rating Commercial Cert. - SEL



KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

Sue Glisson



September was a busy month for the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter. We staffed two 99s booths on the same day. One booth was at the WAI Girls Aviation Day at Bowman Field in Louisville, KY and the other at Capital City Airport Aviation Day, Frankfort, KY. Thanks to our KY 99s who presented our "sectional scavenger hunt" to those who came by our booths.



Several KY 99s also enjoyed a performance of "Come From Away" at the Derby Dinner Playhouse together. The play, about grounding of aircraft on September 11, 2001, in Gander, Newfoundland, portrayed the kindness of the Canadian townspeople who assisted the passengers during their stay until flights could resume.



Kaye Combs Moore, Sue Glisson, and Amy Bogardus represented KY Bluegrass 99s at the NCS Fall Section Meeting in Oshkosh, WI, hosted by the Wisconsin Chapter. Sue with Kaye and Amy with friend, Bill, flew to the meeting on a nice, early October day.

October's meeting was held at Samuels Field, Bardstown, KY. Our speakers were Rick Markle of Bluegrass Aerospace Experience and one of his students, Anna. Interested Nelson County High School students in the 4-year program participate in building an aircraft, take ground school and fly with instructors up to solo. Afterwards, we were invited to the chili cookoff lunch and viewed Bardstown's Pumpkin Drop event. One of our members, Mads, tried her hand at pumpkin dropping to hit a target in a Cessna 150.



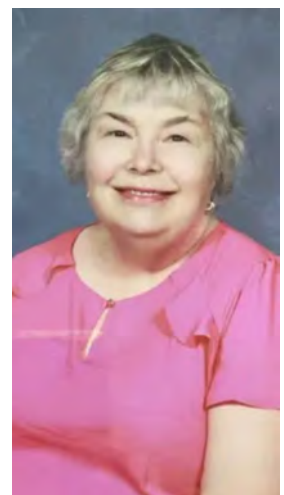
November found us at the EAA Chapter VMC meeting at the Aero Club, Bowman Field, Louisville, KY. The educational meeting explained the FAA Wings Program and participants played an exciting game of Aviation Jeopardy.

ACHIEVEMENTS - Congratulations to Jennifer Drosos-Instrument Rating, Kacy Thompson Smith – Women in Corporate Aviation, Solairus Aviation Advanced Rating Scholarship winner, Breanna Frazier – Fall First Wings Scholarship winner, and Erin BlissThompson, 2025 International Forest of Friendship Honoree, nominated by the Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter for her service to the chapter and section.



WELCOME – Welcome new members Emily Johnson, Blair Cantrell and Chasity Jackson.

NEW HORIZONS - It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of our most active and long-time members, Louise Bornwasser, on October 29, 2025. Louise and her 49 ½, Louis, attended most of our KY99s meetings and contributed to the success of our chapter in countless ways. Our condolences to Louis, their daughter Liz (also a KY99s member) and her family and friends.



LAKE ERIE CHAPTER

Lori Manthey

In Memorium: Bernice Barris, 1921-2025. The Lake Erie 99s beloved charter member, Bernice Barris, passed away on September 24, 2025 at the age of 104. Bernice was named our very first Pilot of the Year back in 1974. Earning the rank of Lt. Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, Bernice stayed active in the aviation community throughout her life. The Lake Erie 99s are proud to continue her legacy by awarding the Bernice Barris scholarship to an aspiring woman pilot each year. Fly high, Bernice. We miss you.



Our Lake Erie 99s are doing an amazing job earning ratings and even upgrading to Captain! Here are a few accomplishments since July 2025:

Dorean Demar: Instrument written passed

Katelyn Heinselman: Private Pilot Certificate and Instrument Rating

Nakyung Lee: Instrument Rating

Jessica Maslach: Captain upgrade

Emma Robinson: Private Pilot Certificate

Grace Stoller: Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot Certificate, and Certified Flight Instructor

Patience Stoller: First Solo

Kaitlin Uzl: Private Pilot Certificate

Ava Vidovich: Certified Flight Instructor, and Light Sport Instructor Airplane

We held our annual Pilot of the Year Banquet at Kent State University on November 9, 2025, with special guest speaker Josselyn Slagle, the National FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year. Last year's Pilot of the Year, Emily Bowling, handed off the coveted trophy to this year's winner...Grace Dempsey! Other significant award winners included Katelyn Heinselman receiving the Fledgling Award, David Vidovich receiving the 49 1/2 award, and Nakyung Lee receiving the Achievement Award. Congratulations to all of our award winners!



Pilot of the Year
Awards
11-9-25



Our Holiday Party was held at the Aviator Restaurant and Pub near Cleveland Hopkins Airport on December 8, 2025. The snowy day added to the charm of festive event, as 9 unstoppable LE99s plus guests braved the winter storm to celebrate the Holiday season together. A delicious lunch and a gift exchange made the event a fun and memorable experience. A special thank you to Kaitlin Uzl for organizing the party this year!



MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Linda Langrill

September's monthly Zoom meeting featured a discussion of Mary S. Lovell's book, *Straight on Til Morning*, an autobiography of Beryl Markham's life from England to Kenya. Spotlight speaker was Julie Lowman, from St. Johns, MI, winner of the 2025 Mary von Mach Scholarship, which helped pay for her Commercial Pilot Certificate.

Dolly Ross, of Naples FL, and Linda Langrill, attended the Grand Opening of the Hillsdale Municipal Airport Terminal Building. Dolly's daughter, Ginger Moore, oversaw the funding and construction of the new terminal during her tenure as Hillsdale's Airport Manager.

On September 27, 2025, while several chapter members were volunteering at Girls in Aviation Day events with Women in Aviation International, five-chapter members volunteered at the Let's Fly Now event at Lake City Home Acres Sky Ranch airport, a well-maintained grass strip near Cadillac, Michigan. As a result, eight women applied for student pilot certificates and four women joined the 99s. Thanks to Samantha Inguanzo, Florida Gold Coast Chapter, for volunteering as chair of this event, publicizing it and recruiting local sponsors, EAA members and local pilots to provide introductory flights for the participants.

Cate Cavanaugh, USAF pilot, was guest speaker at the October meeting. She is currently training to fly the F-16 Viper. She was a former recipient of the Mary von Mach Scholarship in 2017. Frances Rose, chapter Secretary and Social Media Chair, led a discussion of *Jet Boss: A Female Pilot on Taking Risks and Flying High*, by Captain Laura Savino.

Michigan Chapter members helped with the Girls Fly, Too event at Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport on November 1, 2025. Sarah Pagano, Friend of the 99s, chaired the educational event for girls who are members of Girl Scouts of Michigan, Shore to Shore. Samantha Inguanzo also volunteered and was guest speaker for the event.

The Michigan 99s Denton Traveling Trophy was awarded:

September - Reya Dila, Private Pilot Certificate (earned on August 23, 2025)

October – Alyson Galbraith, CFI and CFII

November - Sarah Haskett, Multiengine Rating

December – Berfin Kayikcioglu, Instrument Rating

New Ratings:

Alyson Galbraith (Leonard, MI) CFI and CFII in August, Commercial Multi-Engine in September

Loryn Heidema (Holland, MI) Private Pilot certificate in September 2025

Claire Dunnigan (Jackson, MI) Private Pilot in September 2025

Samantha Inguanzo (Cadillac, MI) Commercial Pilot September 2025

Rachel Lindvig (Canton, MI) DC-3 Type Rating in September 2025

Madison Barch (Shelby Township, MI) Commercial rating in September and CFI in November

Kelley Rogers (Grandville, MI) Instrument rating in October 2025

Sarah Haskett (Midland, MI) Multi-engine rating in October 2025

Berfin Kayikcioglu (Kalamazoo, MI) Instrument rating in November



MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Cheryl Daml

A jam-packed September and October made for a very fun fall for the Minnesota Chapter. Our quarterly meeting was held at Anoka County Airport in early September. We had an initial discussion about hosting a Let's Fly Now event in 2026.

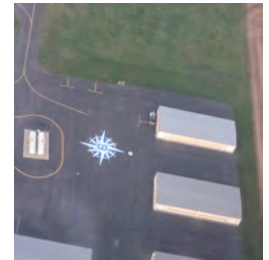
Girls in Aviation Day, on September 20 was held at Flying Cloud Airport. Several hundred girls, young women, and families participated in many aviation related activities, talked to colleges and flight schools, and learned about the 99s. The weather held off and it was a great event.



As our Fall Waypoint article mentioned, long-time member, Nadine Sugden, turned 99 on Sept 25! 9 of us joined Nadine and her family in Mankato for a wonderful birthday celebration. Nadine was thrilled and we all got to talk about our fond remembrances of 99s events, how we met Nadine, and learn about her history with the Chapter. Her 100th birthday celebration is on the calendar!



From Mankato, several of us drove another 2 hours to the farthest southwest corner of Minnesota to do an airmarking at Luverne, MN. (KLYV). 7 of us got the project 98% done on Friday the 26th, with a little touch up and clean up on Saturday morning. Unexpectedly we were treated to skydivers who launched from Luverne and landed about the time we got finished with the cleanup. What a great way to finish off the event and start a 5-6 hour drive back home. A couple of us were able to fly to Luverne, which made their travel time a lot shorter! Minnesota is a big state!



The following weekend six of us joined those in attendance at KOSH for the NCS Fall Section Meeting. What a fun time, with lots of socialization, tour of the OSH tower, Museum, and several speakers! It was great seeing our NCS friends again! Can't wait till the Spring meeting in OH.

On October 25, an FAA inspector, who we met at the Great MN Aviation Gathering came to speak to us about her job at the FAA and some of the challenges they face when doing accident investigations. It was an interesting presentation. Of course, some of us went out to lunch afterwards.

We will participate in the Holiday Tree of Hope toy collection event on Dec 6. Thousands of toys are collected by the aviation community. We unload, tag, sort, and bag the toys, which are delivered by volunteer drivers to 42 hospitals across the state, Ronald McDonald Houses and some women's shelters. Children who are hospitalized during the holidays are given toys from this event, which has been going on for over 32 years. The next day will be our meeting and holiday party. That will wrap up a very busy year for the MN Chapter.

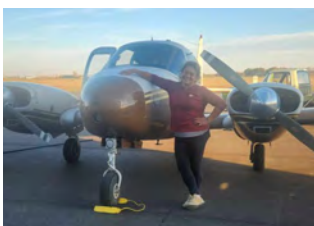
Congratulations to these members for accomplishments and/or significant events:

Brenda Hanson and Chris Kocinski both became grandmothers this year!!

Carmen Kivisto: Captain C-130 Air Force Guard, First Officer Envoy Airlines

Becky Juarez: Commercial multi-engine

Kim Marcell: CFI



WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Dana McLaren

The Wisconsin Chapter has had an incredibly busy and productive past few months, filled with engagement, education, and inspiration. We had the distinct honor of hosting the North Central Section Meeting and truly enjoyed the opportunity to welcome all the fantastic women from our section. It was wonderful to connect with everyone and showcase the beautiful things Wisconsin has to offer, and we appreciate all those who traveled to join us.



In addition to hosting the North Central Section Fall meeting, our members had a lot of fun giving back by volunteering at Girls on the Fly, which was hosted by EAA. Our chapter was hands-on, helping young girls build radio control airplanes, giving Young Eagles flights, and conducting tower tours. This partnership is vital in helping us inspire and encourage young women to enter and pursue careers in aviation, and we look forward to continuing this important work by helping out again in the spring!



Finally, we celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our members who have been busy conquering the skies and significantly improving their flying skills.

Congratulations to Paige on achieving her Instrument Rating,
Mandi on her IFOF
Bridgett on her PPLI
Eden on her CFII, and
Audra on successfully completing her IPC.

We also recognize Laurie for reaching a milestone in her Young Eagles volunteering.



Kentucky Bluegrass Ninety-Nines Presents

AMELIA EARHART MEDAL

FIRST WOMAN TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN SOLO

BACKGROUND

The city of Philadelphia presented this medal to Amelia Earhart in recognition of her 1932 solo, non stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean making her the first woman and only person since Charles Lindbergh to fly nonstop and solo across the Atlantic Ocean. On May 20, 1932 she took off from harbor Grace Newfoundland, Canada and 15 hours and 2,026 miles later, she landed in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

FUNDRAISER

The Kentucky Bluegrass chapter has received a generous donation of duplicates of the medal presented to Amelia Earhart. They are being presented for donations to help support the chapters scholarship funds. There is a strong tradition of scholarship recipients in the Bluegrass Chapter and the medals are being sold to help continue that tradition of supporting ladies in flight training to help support the need for women in Aviation.

Front of Medal

Relief Bust of Earhart and text "FIRST WOMAN IN THE WORLD TO FLY ALONE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN MAY 12, 1932 AMELIA EARHART"

Reverse Side

Relief of Earhart Lockheed 5B Vega flying over a map of the Atlantic Ocean and the coat of arms of the City of Philadelphia. Text "AWARD OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA PRESENTED BY MAYOR MOORE AT THE GIMBEL BANQUET SEPTEMBER 24, 1932"



*Only A Few Left
Contact Terrie
NOW!*

Terri Donner

Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter
Treasurer
terri.donner@yahoo.com
(502)-419-7938

INTERNATIONAL FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP REPORT Kaye Combs Moore

On November 19th Terri Donner and I met with Linton Wells who was attending a conference in Louisville, KY. Linton is the Co-Chairman of the International Forest of Friendship, Atchison, KS. His Mother, Fay Gillis Wells, was the Co-Founder!

Fay "went West" in 2002. I showed him my photos with Fay at the 50th Anniversary of the 99s in NY when I met Muriel Earhart Morrissey. Terri and I showed him our photos at the Forest over 30 years ago and we have been many times.

Terri and I took our copies of this book about Fay and asked him to sign them.



Fay Gilles was a Charter Member of the Ninety-Nines and her story is a fascinating one, in aviation and in journalism. In 1929 she became one of the first women pilots to bail out of an airplane to save her life, and as a journalist she corresponded from the Soviet Union in the 1930s.

Fay "went West" in 2002. I showed him my photos with Fay at the 50th Anniversary of the 99s in NY when I met Muriel Earhart Morrissey. Terri and I showed him our photos at the Forest over 30 years ago and we have been many times.

We talked about the exciting 50th Anniversary of the Forest Celebration for September 11-13, 2026!!! Please put that day on your calendar and come!

Membership Committee

Deborah Howell and Susan Roe Musacchio, Co-Chairs

Introducing the new Membership Co-Chairs

I am happy to be serving as the North Central Section Membership Chair and the Michigan Chapter Fund-raising Chair. I am approaching aviation as a second career, after spending over a decade in the mental health field. Aviation has been an amazing adventure, and I am still constantly in awe that it is a part of my life. I am excited to share my wealth of knowledge, both aviation related and not, to our amazing group of female pilots.

My main goal as Membership Chair is to help every member feel included and connected. I believe in strength in numbers, and already I have felt the benefits of having a strong group of women around me cheering me on. My background in mental health has given me an interesting perspective in what things help lift people up and achieve their dreams. I am hoping to use this knowledge to help the Ninety-Nines grow as a group and to raise and support the next wave of pilots.

When not flying, I am spending my time with my two wonderful children (ages 3 and 5), my husband and my dog Lana. They are my motivation to keep pushing forward and to create a healthy environment for future pilots.

Warm regards!
Deborah Howell

I am honored to serve as the North Central Section Membership Chair and Chicago Chapter Treasurer, building on more than three generations of women aviators in my family. My grandmother, Eddie Ferguson, flew with Henry Ford’s test pilot Harry Brooks, and her passion for aviation has shaped my own journey as a filmmaker, storyteller, and advocate for the future of sustainable flight. My mother was publisher of Woman Pilot magazine. Today, I combine that history with a commitment to elevating women and girls in aviation through films, educational programs, and public engagement. I am an active member of the Chicago Area Chapter, founder of the Queen Bess Centennial Aviation Film Festival, the Electric Aviatrix podcast and multiple aviation documentaries celebrating heritage, innovation, and community. Most recently the production of the Pulitzer Trophy, an electric aviation race documentary. I strive to inspire the next generation while supporting those already on their journey.

My Goals for 2026:

1. Collaborate with Chapter Leaders:I plan to work closely with chapter leaders to grow and strengthen membership by highlighting the exciting new advances in aviation—especially where innovation intersects with opportunity for women.
2. Create Engaging, Growing Events:I will support chapters in developing fresh, fun, and mission-driven events that attract new members and showcase the 99s as a vibrant, welcoming community.
3. Personally Welcome New Members:I will make it a priority to personally reach out to new members, ensuring they feel connected, supported, and encouraged from day one.

Together, we will foster a strong, inspired network of women who fly.

Sincerely,
Susan Roe Musacchio

Here are some new activities to share with the Chapters in our North Central Section. These came from Laurie Probst of Wisconsin Chapter. Tell us what you or someone in your Chapter has done that informed the non-flying public. Tell us how just in conversation, maybe in your normal life, you have had an opportunity to educate the community. What did you do? Email mjmonaco150@gmail.com

X Chapters responding!

All Ohio	X Chicago Area	Gtr Kansas City	Gtr St Louis	Indiana	Indiana Dunes
Iowa	Kentucky Bluegrass	Lake Erie	X Michigan	Minnesota	Northwoods
	Scioto Valley		X Wisconsin		

I will check off each Chapter as I hear from you, and share your stories/ideas next issue!

Laurie Probst reports this educational outreach!

Last May I gave a presentation about the 99s to the Elkhart Lake Study Club. This is a club for women of the community and one of their objectives is to learn something new by having guest speakers at each meeting. My presentation focused on some of our more notable 99s and fun and obscure facts. The ladies enjoyed it very much and stated that they hadn't heard about most of these women.

Also from Laurie:



Last year, I trained at EAA to become one of their Young Eagles pilots at the Museum/ Pioneer Airport. I passed my checkride last September. This year, I was able to volunteer for the whole season and have enjoyed introducing aviation to over 200 kids and their parents. I've also been able to promote the 99s to the girls and their families.

SHOW US YOUR AIRPLANE

One you rent
One you own
One you borrow
One you train in

Why? 'cause we love flying

*Sarah Hofaker and
her husband Taylor
All Ohio Chapter*



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Pat Haneline

Linda Langrill

Deb McGee

Anne Mongiovi – Co-Chair

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SECTION MEETING HOST CHAPTERS

INDIANA FALL 26

CHICAGO AREA FALL 27

NORTHWOODS FALL 28

INDIANA DUNES FALL 29

SCIOTO VALLEY FALL 30

MINNESOTA FALL 31

WISCONSIN FALL 32

ALL OHIO SPRING 26

MICHIGAN SPRING 27

LAKE ERIE SPRING 28

GREATER ST LOUIS SPRING 29

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS SPRING 30

GREATER KANSAS CITY SPRING 31

IOWA SPRING 32

WAYPOINT

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the North Central Section

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