It’s Girls in Aviation Day!

Saturdays at the WAI conference are full of fun and laughter and the youthful energy of hundreds of girls and young women, courtesy of the Girls in Aviation Day (GIAD) project. This year girls ages 8-17 can earn their WAI Aviation Fun patch by participating in more than a dozen activities, from flying an aircraft simulator to robotics to 3D printing pens. There is even a station for building and flying helicopters, learning Morse code and creating parts.

The girls have their own luncheon speaker, aerobatic champion Patty Wagstaff. But lookout for them this afternoon when they participate in an exciting scavenger hunt in the WAI exhibit hall.

GIAD could not happen without our generous sponsors: PSA Airlines, JSX/JetSuite, Walmart Aviation, FedEx, Alaska Airlines/Horizon Air, Redbird Flight Simulations, and ALPA. The activity stations are staffed by volunteers from Redbird Flight Simulations, Volusia County schools, Civil Air Patrol, Kent State University, EAA, Utah State University, The Boeing Company, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, GAMA, U.S. Coast Guard, Preflight Aviation camp and AWAM. More information about GIAD is on page 54 of the March/April issue of Aviation for Women magazine.

Saturday Ed Sessions Highlights
From learning leadership to careers in helicopters, learning about human factors in maintenance, accident investigation as a career to space and beyond, there is an education session for you! See page 10 for the complete listing.

Pioneers Honored Tonight!
Don’t miss tonight’s WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame invocation. Help us honor Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, Patty Wagner and the U.S. Army’s First Women Rotary Wing Aviators at 6 p.m. in the Coronado Ballroom (tickets required).
General Session Speakers Focus on Diversity and the Future

The Honorable Barbara Barrett has had many firsts in her career, including being in attendance at the first WAI Conference in Prescott, Arizona in 1990. She opened her remarks reminiscing, talking about just how far women have come as an integral part of the aviation industry, and what an important role mentors have played in this growth. Secretary Barrett said that for her, Former Supreme Justice Sandra Day O’Connor was an extraordinary role model. From spearheading the gender-neutralization of the Arizona state statutes while serving in the legislature to shaping public policy while on the high court, Justice O’Connor was the embodiment of a strong female leader and a strong inspiration for Secretary Barrett and others.

Another strong leader was astronaut Sally Ride, who not only did her job, but was instrumental in making things happen for women. She founded Sally Ride Science with the goal of getting more young girls interested in the sciences and related disciplines. Both Ride and O’Connor believed in helping by leading, and mentoring those coming up behind them.

Joan Robinson-Berry, VP and chief engineer at Boeing Global Services, drew on her life and 40-year career to inspire conference attendees about the responsibility women in aviation and aerospace have to embrace the technology and to be part of the future. She also spoke of the responsibility to mentor those entering the industry today. She gave the audience a call to action to think about the person who helped you get to where you are today and reach back and help the person behind you.

Robinson-Berry stressed the need to persevere in spite of the obstacles you face and to be the “CEO” of your career. “What an exciting time to be part of this amazing industry!” she concluded.


—Julie Stone, WAI 76879

Congrats Dr. Janette McMurtrie: WAI Bruce Baty Volunteer of the Year!

Dr. Janette McMurtrie, WAI 70257, American Airlines captain and ordained chaplain, was awarded the 2020 WAI Bruce Baty Volunteer of the Year for her generous donation of her time and passion for the WAI mission and membership. Janette has facilitated several professional and personal development sessions at conference. These sessions span everything from helping chapter leaders navigate conflict, guiding chapter leaders become better leaders, council WAI members on navigating two-pilot-marriages, advising how WAI members can learn to lead in the cockpit, and more. Her sessions are always a huge hit and are usually standing-room-only. Janette truly represents the very best of all of us, and she makes a real difference in the lives of WAI members. Congratulations Janette!

Contact Kelly Murphy, to advertise in The Daily: kmurphy@wai.org

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*APY= Annual Percentage Yield. Rates current as of 1/30/20 and subject to change. Must be enrolled in eDocuments, have ACH direct deposit(s) of at least $300, and 15 net PIN or signature-based debit card transactions each month. Membership with a $5.00 minimum opening deposit required. Visit wingsfinancial.com for additional terms and conditions.
As you may have heard, a Coulson Aviation C-130 firefighting airplane went down in Australia. Tragically, there were no survivors. The Captain (Ian McBeth) was one of the pilots in my Montana Air National Guard squadron. We are a very close Guard family so you can imagine the news was quite hard on our squadron.

Ian was an incredible husband and father of three children. His oldest daughter, Abigale (Abi), WAI 92122, a senior in high school, had recently started to pursue her private pilot’s license in her father’s footsteps. He was able to be with her this summer for her initial solo and cut off the back of her T-shirt that is pinned on the wall.

Thanks to the incredible CFI scholarship I received from John and Martha King at last year’s conference, I will be able to fly with Abi to finish up her training and I anticipate that she will be the first student I send to a checkride. Because of the financial hardship the family is facing with the loss of their father and because of the incredible mentor and instructor Ian was for all of us in the Guard, I will be covering the cost of the remainder of her training.

My squadron brought Abi to this year’s conference. She has been a rockstar through all of the tragedy and has held resolute in her pursuit of her pilot’s license. We are thrilled to introduce her to the incredible support she has from the entire aviation community and the amazing group of female aviators. We just want to show Abi she has an incredible sisterhood to look forward too.

—Melissa “Missy” Martin, WAI 77913

Dr. Peggy Chabrian, founder of WAI, was awarded the 2020 Cliff Henderson Trophy by the National Aeronautic Association yesterday. NAA President & CEO Greg Principato noted the trophy is awarded to an individual for whose vision, leadership or skill has made a significant and lasting contribution to the promotion and advancement of aviation and aerospace in the United States. “Peggy not only possesses all three in abundance, and when you throw her energy into the mix you get an absolute force of nature.” Thank you Peggy for your decades of leadership in steering the Women in Aviation International mission that today represents more than 16,000 members worldwide.

Compiled by Sarina Larson, WAI 90887
Hiring Briefings: Formal Meet and Greets With Your Prospective Employers

Hiring briefings allow companies to outline their basic application procedures, discuss current positions available and their requirements, as well as answer any frequently asked questions. These briefings will last 30-45 minutes. The hiring briefings require a conference badge and are open seating. Check your conference app for any updates to companies, days, or locations.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Coronado N
9:00–9:45 a.m.
SkyWest Airlines
10:00–10:45 a.m.
United Airlines
11:00–11:45 a.m.
FedEx

Coronado R
9:00–9:45 a.m.
Envoy Air
10:00–10:45 a.m.
FAA Office of Civil Rights
11:00–11:45 a.m.
Southwest FO/Pilot and Destination 225°

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Mother/Daughter Mx Team

Rebecca Hines is an A&P student graduating in May 2020 and Hannah Hines is also an A&P student graduating in July of 2021. They both go to Rock Valley College, located in Rockford, Illinois. Yep, they’re mother and daughter, respectively, and quite a team!

“For me, deciding to go into aviation maintenance was pure dumb luck,” chuckled Rebecca. “I had been a stay-at-home mom for 20 years. I saw that the local airport was expanding and I wondered if there were jobs there. There were! I signed up for the job, but I fell in love with aviation.”

Rebecca was so excited about aviation that she was attending community pancake breakfasts at the airport and bringing her daughter Hannah along and...”slowly,” Hannah said, “I started to think this is kind of cool and I’d like to be a part of this.”

If you are wondering, do they share tools? The answer is yes. Do they share books? Yep, books too. They study together, but really they’ve only had one semester where they overlapped.

They are here at WAI because it is all about women helping women, and, said Rebecca, “Coming last year was my first conference and it changed my life. It taught me the power of women helping each other and there’s nothing else like it. And everyone just wants to help each other.”

—Amy Laboda, WAI 14
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27, at 8 a.m. EST and ends
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you’ll find aviation memo-
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Come From Away Broad-
way tickets, jewelry, watch-
es, luggage, flying gear, and
more!
# Chapter Events

**Saturday, March 7**

## Chapter Showcase Schedule

**WAI Membership Booth**  
**Veracruz Exhibit Hall**

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| 10:30–11:30 a.m. | Embry-Riddle Daytona Beach Chapter 25 | Audrey Hallam  
707-225-4624  
hallama@my.erau.edu |
| 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | Stars of the North Chapter 97 | Jessica Belcher  
205-296-1664  
jessicabelcher0215@gmail.com |
| 12:30–1:30 p.m.  | Tampa Bay, Chapter 120 | Allison Abellaneda  
612-805-3868  
info@waitb.org |
| 1:30–2:30 p.m.   | Ghana Chapter, Chapter 159P | Cynthia Kukah  
2.33244E+11  
cynhatekah@gmail.com |

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## Women in Aviation Ad Day 3

General aviation manufacturing and maintenance professionals are passionate about aviation. Join a team of experts who are proud of and excited about what they do. **Learn more by visiting the internship and career page on [GAMA.aero](http://www.GAMA.aero).**
Jazz With Wings Hangar Dance, sponsored by Wings Financial Credit Union, had attendees on the dance floor.

The theme was sun and sand at the WAI Connect Beach Party.
**WAI Builds Leaders**

WAI is all about workforce development and diversity, and WAI 2020 is laser focused on the subject. In the seminar “Leadership: How to Direct and Motivate Others” presented by Dr. Janette McMurtrie, MA, Psy.D and sponsored by XOJET, attendees absorbed insightful, practical, and actionable tactics for how to lead and motivate others and develop oneself as a leader.

Janette emphasized the difference between management and leadership, motivating and inspiring others, and effective communication. She outlined the different types of leaders, and shared tips for new leaders to avoid pitfalls.

So, how do true leaders motivate and inspire others? They find out what people are passionate about, pick the right roles for those people, make them feel like they belong, find out how to let them do what they want to do, and finally, they encourage and recognize their contributions.

“The key to leading and motivating others is effective communication,” said Janette. “Pay attention to what is going on with people. Use the S.E.T. Rule (Support/Empathy/Truth). Learn how to truly listen—make eye contact, don’t interrupt, and don’t get distracted,” she continued.

The deck from the presentation is available to download on the conference app—check it out to learn the details.

—Michelle Graves, WAI 45798

**Networking Works!**

Daniel Riskey, People Department from Southwest, shared key networking strategies and tips with students at #WAI20 in his session “Networking 101,” sponsored by Southwest Airlines. His tips were straightforward and effective: know what you want to say—develop your personal elevator speech, make sure you stand out in some way by showing your passion, listen to people you meet to learn about possibilities and next steps—then follow up with them to keep in touch. He also implored students to look into internships, especially from companies that partner with colleges.

Molly Martin, WAI outreach director, spoke about why it is valuable to be a WAI chapter member. “Your fellow chapter members share advice about jobs, job changes, work balance, and navigating your career. You’ll also make lifelong friends and keep the energy of the WAI conference flowing the entire year,” she said.

Finally, Winsome Lenfert, FAA Deputy Associate Administrator, shared that FAA’s mission is to provide the safest and most efficient transportation system in the world.

“Did you know that the FAA employs over 44,000 people?” she asked. FAA employs people in a variety of roles including pilots, air traffic controllers, engineers, HR staff, doctors, mechanics, and environment specialists. All government job openings are at usa.jobs.gov including internships.

—Michelle Graves, WAI 45798
I was just walking around with my mother trying to find a way to be helpful here at the WAI conference when I ran into Eileen Collins, retired astronaut and the first female space shuttle pilot and commander. That’s how this conference is—you run into the most amazing people.

We got talking and she told me about her experiences with her post-astronaut career and the different things she is involved in today. Her perspectives on space travel and how the changing technology is bringing up new issues in the space community were fascinating and timely. For instance: how do you resolve territorial claims in using travel and communications in space? The influx of private companies such as SpaceX or Boeing and the increase in military and government presence in space create issues of regulation pertaining to the use of space.

It’s a new frontier for the space community. Collins currently sits on the National Space Council and I’m still shaking my head with amazement that she took the time to speak with me, a WAI conference newbie, about things that will affect the future of aviation for my generation and beyond. My mom isn’t so amazed, though. She knows this is just how it is at a WAI conference; lots of really talented, experienced people are here and are excited about helping the next generation learn all they can.

My advice to you newbies out there? Just talk to anyone here. You will definitely stretch your mind.

—Sam Creveling WAI 92887

Danielle Varwig is the newest pilot for NOAA’s Hurricane Hunters group based in Lakeland, Florida. She’s making the transition to the department’s Gulfstream GIV from her latest gig as a T-6 instructor pilot for the US Air Force—with prior time in the C-17 and MC-12. Varwig was looking for variety in her flying—as well as continuing her service to her country—with a locally based job that keeps her close to family. Congratulations!

—I project that in this audience today, might be the mother, the sister or the woman who will be the very first woman to put dusty tracks on the moon and maybe the first person to walk on Mars.”

—Barbara Barrett

“The world would not survive without aviation and the aerospace industry. Today, we have the chance to recognize the most amazing women in our field.”

—Joan Robinson-Berry

Pilots often stay hyper vigilant and don’t want to lose the edge that helps them maintain their high level of awareness at work, according to Capt. Eisen, who presented Mindful Aviation on Friday morning. It turns out that pilots can benefit from mindful meditation to learn to be in the moment.

Just as a pilot uses tools and instruments to assess their aircraft, a pilot can use mindful meditation to assess themselves. What does this mean? Rather than ‘thinking’ about how they are feeling, Capt. Eisen encouraged us to ‘come to our senses’ and use intuition and feeling to assess ourselves.

How does one move from ‘thinking’ to using their senses to assess themselves? Just as one lifts weights to build muscle, practicing mindful meditation will lead to more self-awareness!

The attendees learned an exercise called ‘4 Pause 8’ where one breathes in for a count of 4, pauses, then exhales for a count of 8. During the exhale, bring yourself into your body and pay attention to how it feels. What are your ‘instruments’ telling you? Continue to practice this exercise. At first your mind will jump into action and start thinking. Don’t criticize yourself if this happens. Instead gently let go of those thoughts and bring awareness back to your body. ‘Train’ by doing this for 15 minutes 3 times a week and it will yield results. For more information go to www.mindfulaviator.com.

—Michelle Graves WAI 45798
WELCOME TO THE PLACE WHERE ALTITUDE MEETS ATTITUDE.

The ladies of Women in Aviation International are probably used to a little elevation gain. But you know what never gets old? The jaw-dropping views of Lake Tahoe. Or dinner and drinks in the land of no last call. This is where the world’s largest alpine lake meets the Biggest Little City in the World. And it’s ready for any adventures you can dream up.

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