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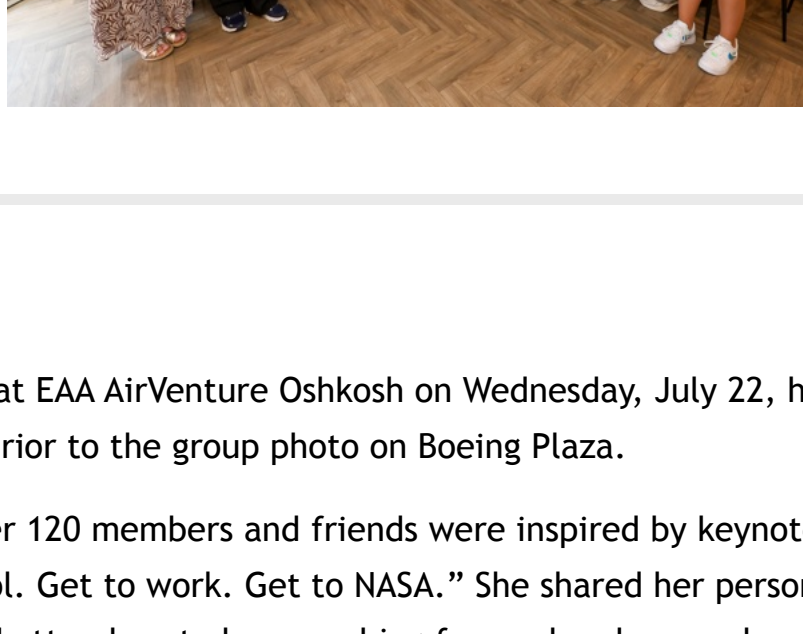
FOR MEMBERS	CHAPTERS	Aviation For Women MAGAZINE
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August 2026

WAI Staff Across the Pond for Farnborough Events

More than 35 WAI members and friends attended the WAI Connect Reception on Friday, July 17 at the Royal Aeronautical Society at 4 Hamilton Place in London for light refreshments, conversations, and networking. WAI CEO Lynda Coffman gave an overview of WAI's membership programs and benefits and introduced the new leadership team of the WAI Gear UK Chapter. To top off the evening, three attendees won a free one-year membership and a WAI2027 conference registration.

Thanks to Kallman Worldwide, WAI hosted over 25 female aviation media and friends on the opening day of the Farnborough Airshow on Monday, July 20, at the Messenger Pub, decorated to commemorate Beryl Markham and her famous aircraft, a Percival Vega Gull, The Messenger.

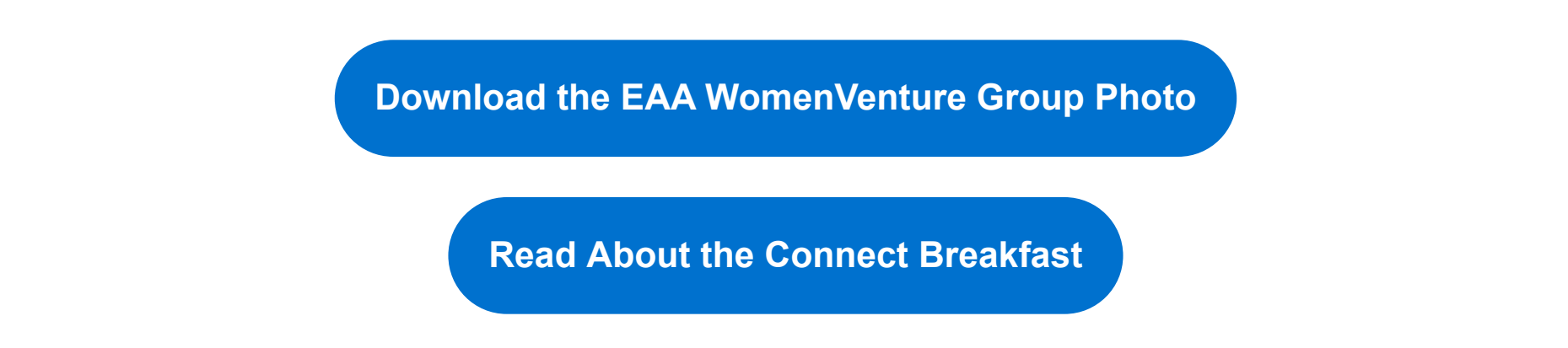
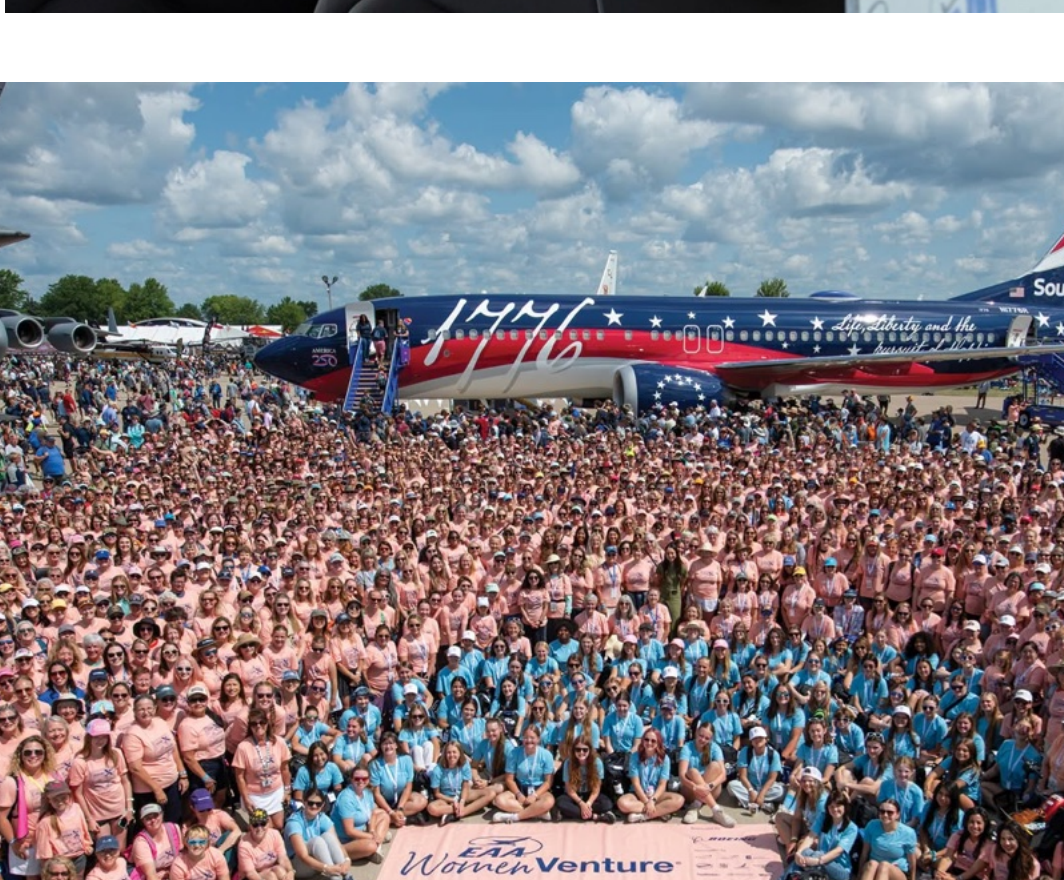


WAI Celebrates a Successful OSH26

WAI hosted its 30th Annual WAI Connect Breakfast at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh on Wednesday, July 22, honoring a longtime tradition to kick off WomenVenture Day prior to the group photo on Boeing Plaza.

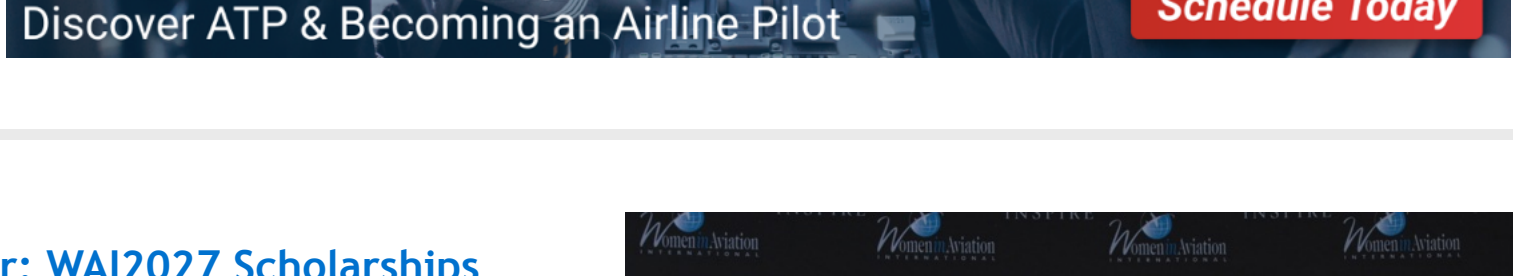
GirlVenture campers and their chaperones plus over 120 members and friends were inspired by keynote speaker Emily Nelson, NASA chief flight director, to "Get to school. Get to work. Get to NASA." She shared her personal journey to help lead NASA's Artemis II mission and encouraged attendees to keep pushing forward and remember that every challenge is an opportunity to learn.

Thank you to this year's sponsor Avemco and strategic partners Amazon, American Airlines, and United for supporting our event.



[Download the EAA WomenVenture Group Photo](#)

[Read About the Connect Breakfast](#)



Reminder: WAI2027 Scholarships Are Open

WAI's generous funders are offering over 80 scholarships currently valued at more than \$400,000. If you are interested in aerospace engineering, dispatch, flight training, UAS, or general leadership and professional development—find up to three scholarships that fit your career goals and submit your applications by Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Applications are open and all current members can apply for up to three scholarships. All applicants must be members of WAI by August 30, 2026, or have a membership expiration date of March 30, 2027, or later.

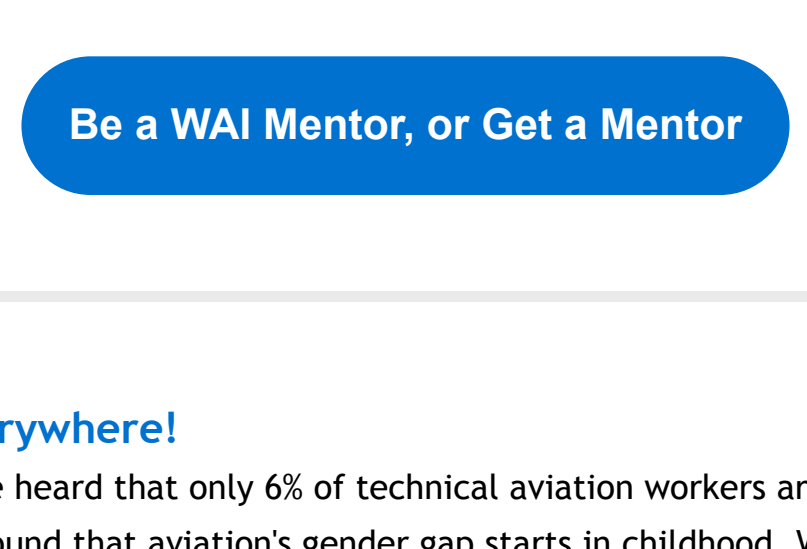


WAI2026 Amazon Scholarship Winners

Become a WAI Mentor

Mentors are the heartbeat of WAI's Mentor Connect program. Every connection, every "aha" moment, every career turning point in this program traces back to a member who chose to share their time and experience. Today, more than 1,400 WAI members across every corner of the aviation and aerospace industry, from every region of the globe, are part of this community—and it keeps growing because members like you keep saying yes.

Becoming a mentor means passing forward the guidance and open doors that helped shape your own career. Sign up today and help keep WAI's network of support thriving, one connection at a time.



[Be a WAI Mentor, or Get a Mentor](#)

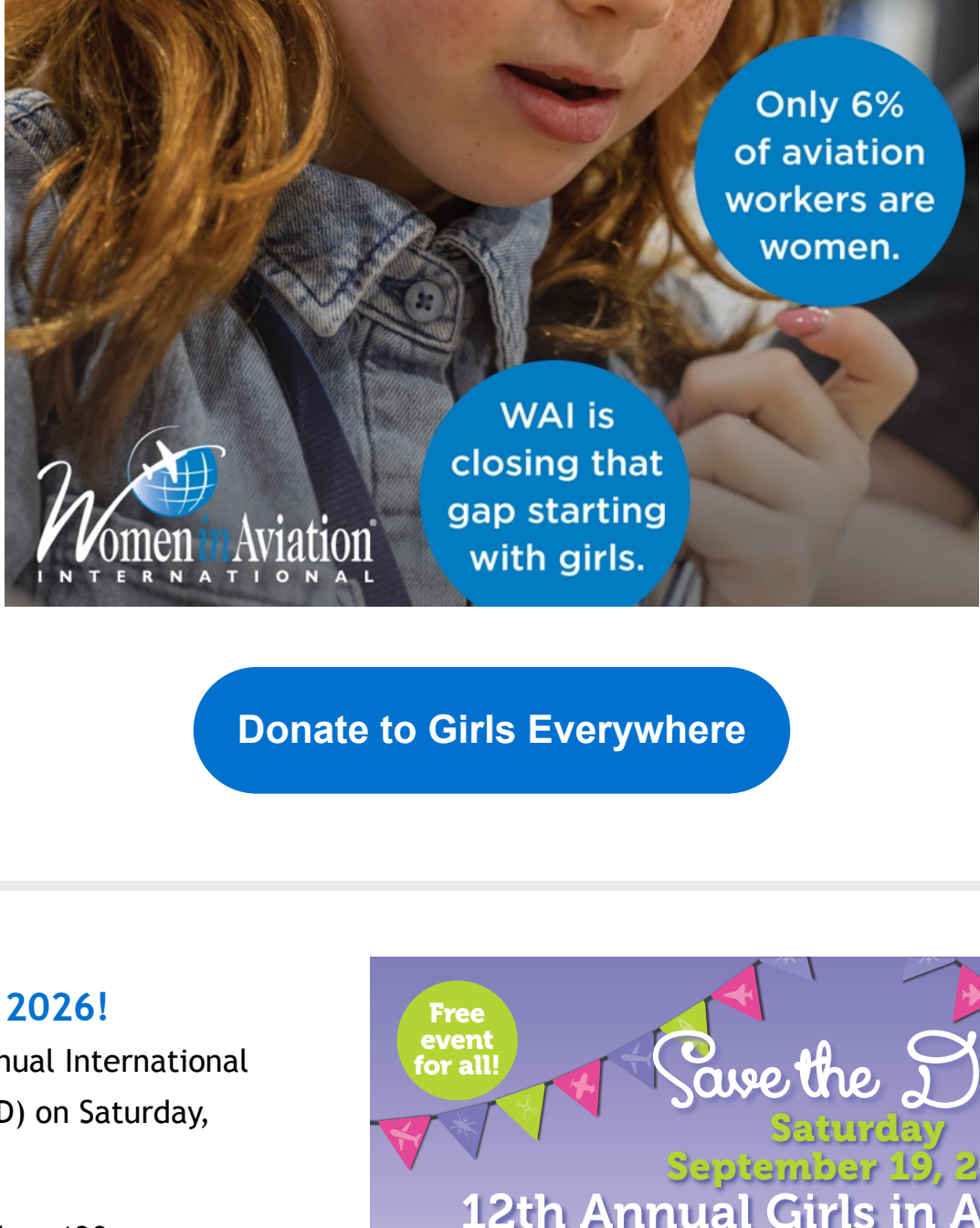
Join Us in Lifting Girls Everywhere!

As members of WAI, you may have heard that only 6% of technical aviation workers are women—and that number hasn't moved much in decades. We've found that aviation's gender gap starts in childhood. Women in Aviation International is changing what girls believe is possible for their futures, one runway at a time.

This July, we are launching Lift Every Girl, Everywhere—a six-month campaign building toward #GivingTuesday on December 1, 2026. Last year alone, Aviation for Girls programs reached more than 45,000 youth across 85 countries, including many in rural, underserved, and first-generation communities where a career in aviation once felt out of reach.

Your gifts keep that reach growing, no matter how big or small, to help fund the app, the mentors, the events, and the year-round programming that tell a girl: this is for you.

Give today and help us Lift Every Girl, Everywhere.



[Donate to Girls Everywhere](#)

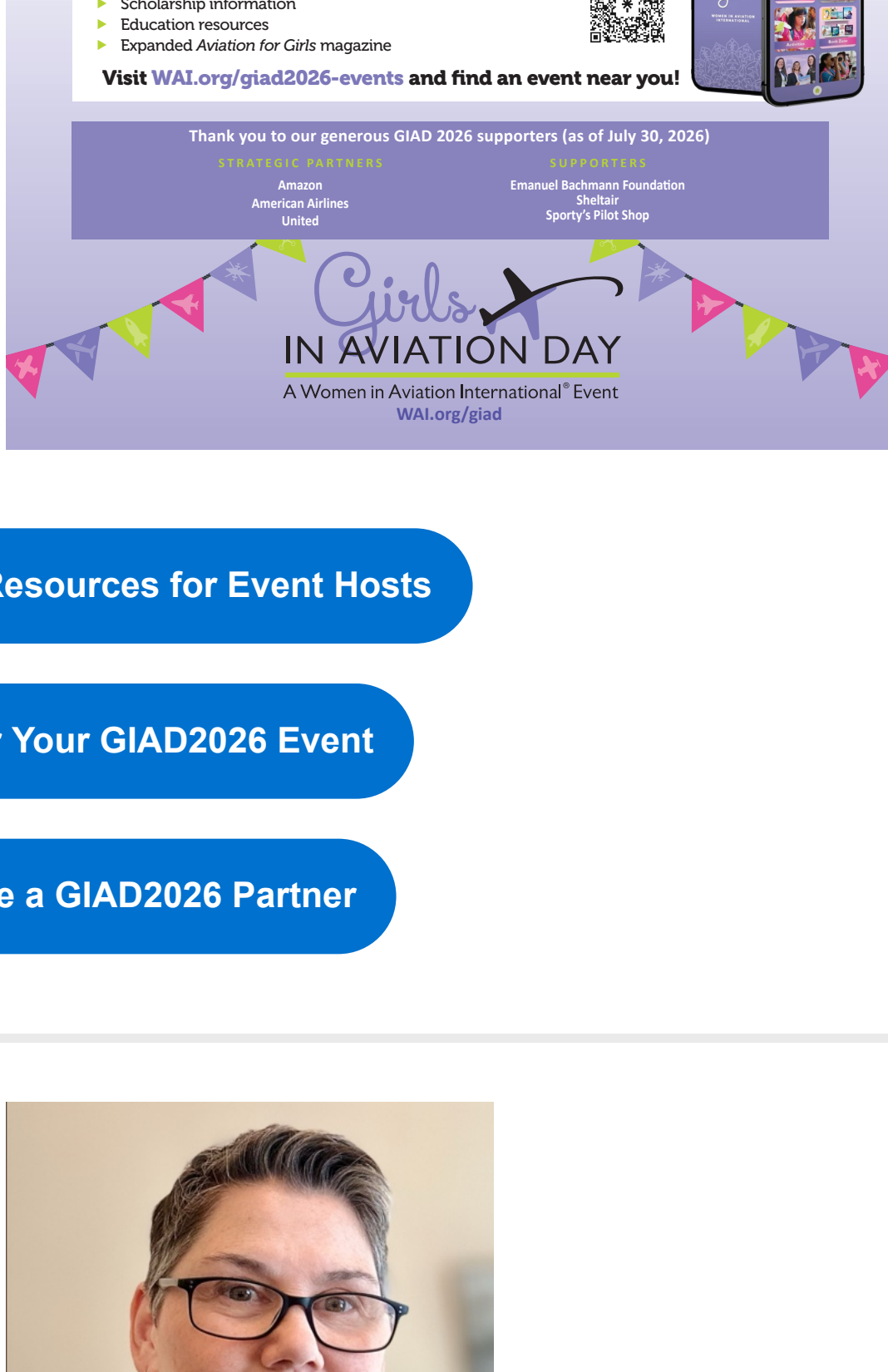
Countdown to GIAD 2026!

WAI will mark its 12th Annual International Girls in Aviation Day (GIAD) on Saturday, September 19.

There are already more than 130 events planned for Girls in Aviation Day 2026 that will see participation by over 26,000 youth. Show all the opportunities available in aviation and aerospace to youth around the world by hosting, volunteering, supporting, or sponsoring an event near you. Visit [WAI.org/giad](#) for all the details.

Ready to inspire your community? [Register your GIAD2026 event here.](#)

GIAD is a trademarked WAI event. Please review host policies before planning.



[GIAD2026 Resources for Event Hosts](#)

[Register Your GIAD2026 Event](#)

[Become a GIAD2026 Partner](#)

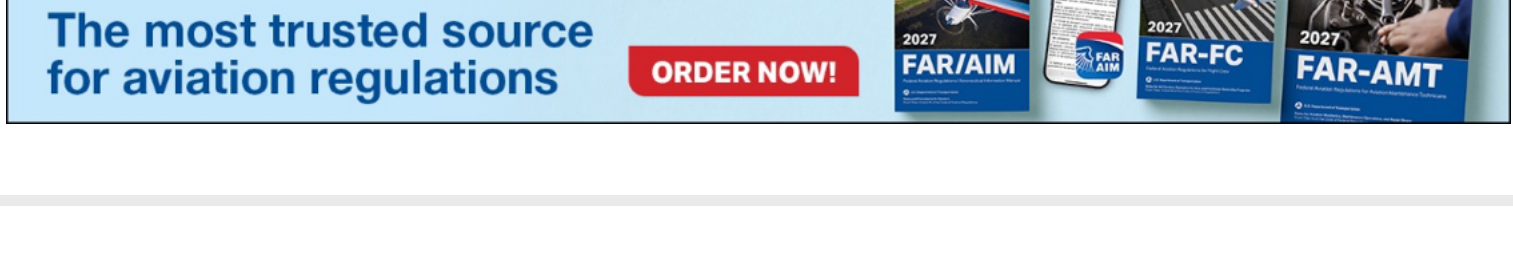
Welcome to the WAI Team!

WAI is thrilled to announce that Kelli Wondra, CEM, has joined the staff full-time as of July 23 in the role of operations, sponsorships and exhibits. Kelli brings a background in academic event management along with commercial and nonprofit business operations, with a particular focus on exhibitions and sponsorships.

She earned her BS and MS degrees in Speech and Theatre from Kansas State University. Outside of work, when the sky is clear, Kelli can be found trying to photograph the many phases of the moon.



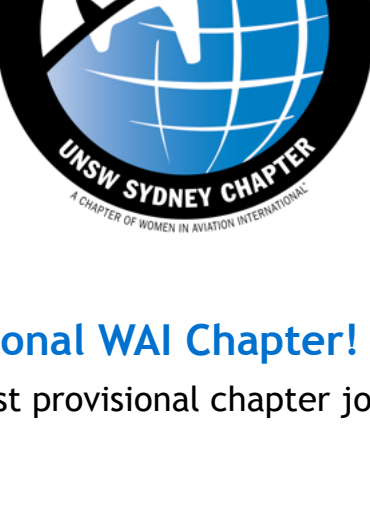
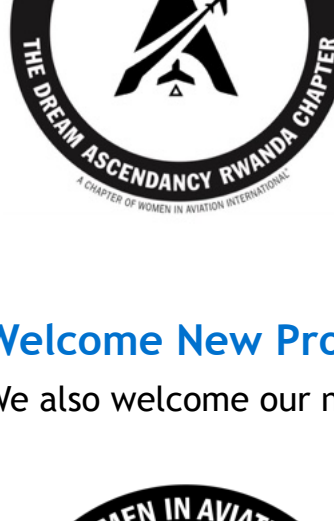
Kelli Wondra, joins WAI as specialist, sponsorships and exhibits



Welcome New Official WAI Chapters!

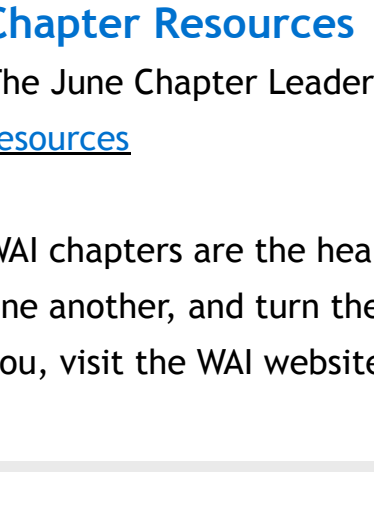
Congratulations to the following Women in Aviation Chapters on becoming official!

- The Dream Ascendancy Rwanda
- UNSW Sydney



Welcome New Provisional WAI Chapter!

We also welcome our newest provisional chapter joining the WAI network, Farmingdale State College.



Chapter Resources

The June Chapter Leader Connect Webinar is posted on the Chapter Resources page: <https://www.wai.org/chapter-resources>

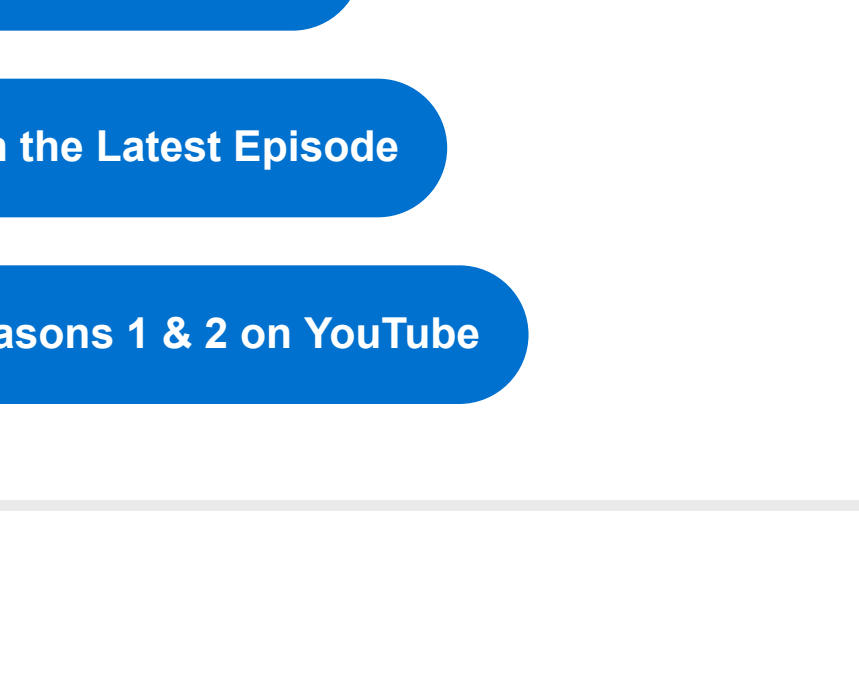
WAI chapters are the heartbeat of our organization, creating local communities where members can connect, mentor one another, and turn their passion for aviation into lasting friendships and career opportunities. To find a chapter near you, visit the WAI website's chapter directory at <https://www.wai.org/chapters>.

Have You Followed the WAI On Air Podcast Episodes?

Discover a world-class podcast that informs, inspires, and educates - [WAI On Air](#). Each episode will take you behind the scenes of the aviation/aerospace world to meet the remarkable women shaping its future.

Be sure to FOLLOW or SUBSCRIBE so you never miss our bi-weekly episodes!

Available on [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), [Apple Music](#), and [Amazon Music](#).



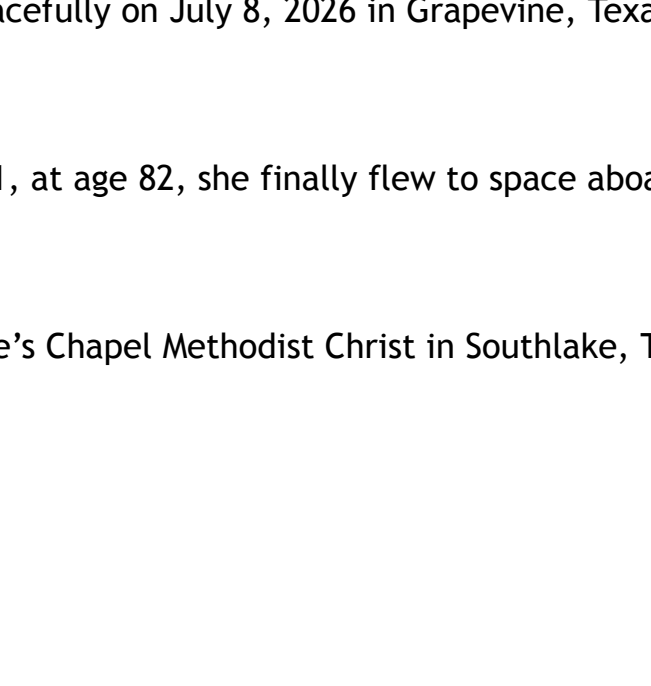
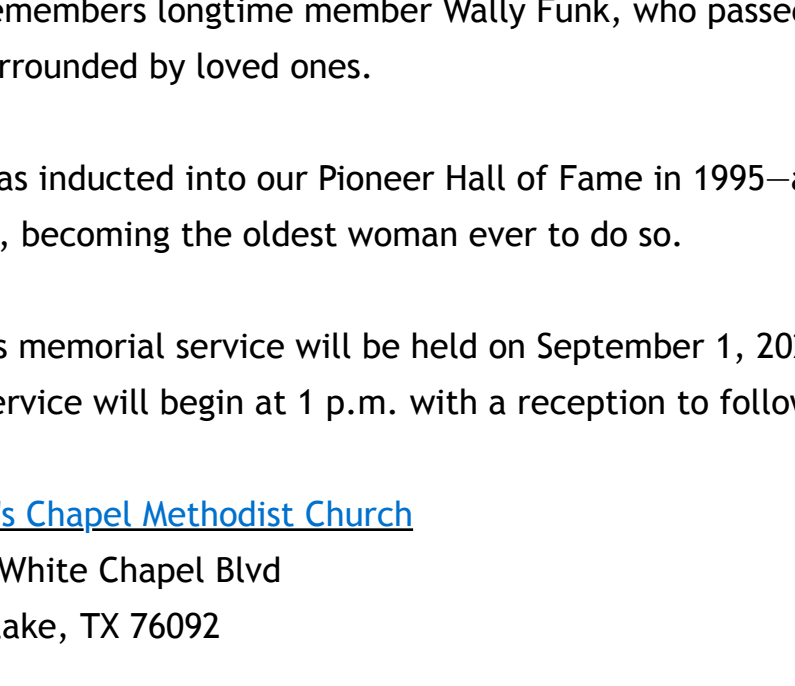
On Air podcasts are brought to listeners and viewers by WAI Strategic Partners Amazon, American Airlines, and United.

[Listen on Spotify](#)

[Watch the Latest Episode](#)

[Watch Seasons 1 & 2 on YouTube](#)

Remembering A Trailblazer: Wally Funk



WAI remembers longtime member Wally Funk, who passed away peacefully on July 8, 2026 in Grapevine, Texas, at age 87, surrounded by loved ones.

She was inducted into our Pioneer Hall of Fame in 1995—and in 2021, at age 82, she finally flew to space aboard Blue Origin, becoming the oldest woman ever to do so.

Wally's memorial service will be held on September 1, 2026 at White's Chapel Methodist Christ in Southlake, Texas. The service will begin at 1 p.m. with a reception to follow.

[White's Chapel Methodist Church](#)

185 S White Chapel Blvd
Southlake, TX 76092

Watch below to hear Wally share her life journey in this WAI interview dated March 23, 2023.

[Watch Wally's Interview](#)

Join WAI Together Monthly Virtual Meetup on August 25 at Noon EDT

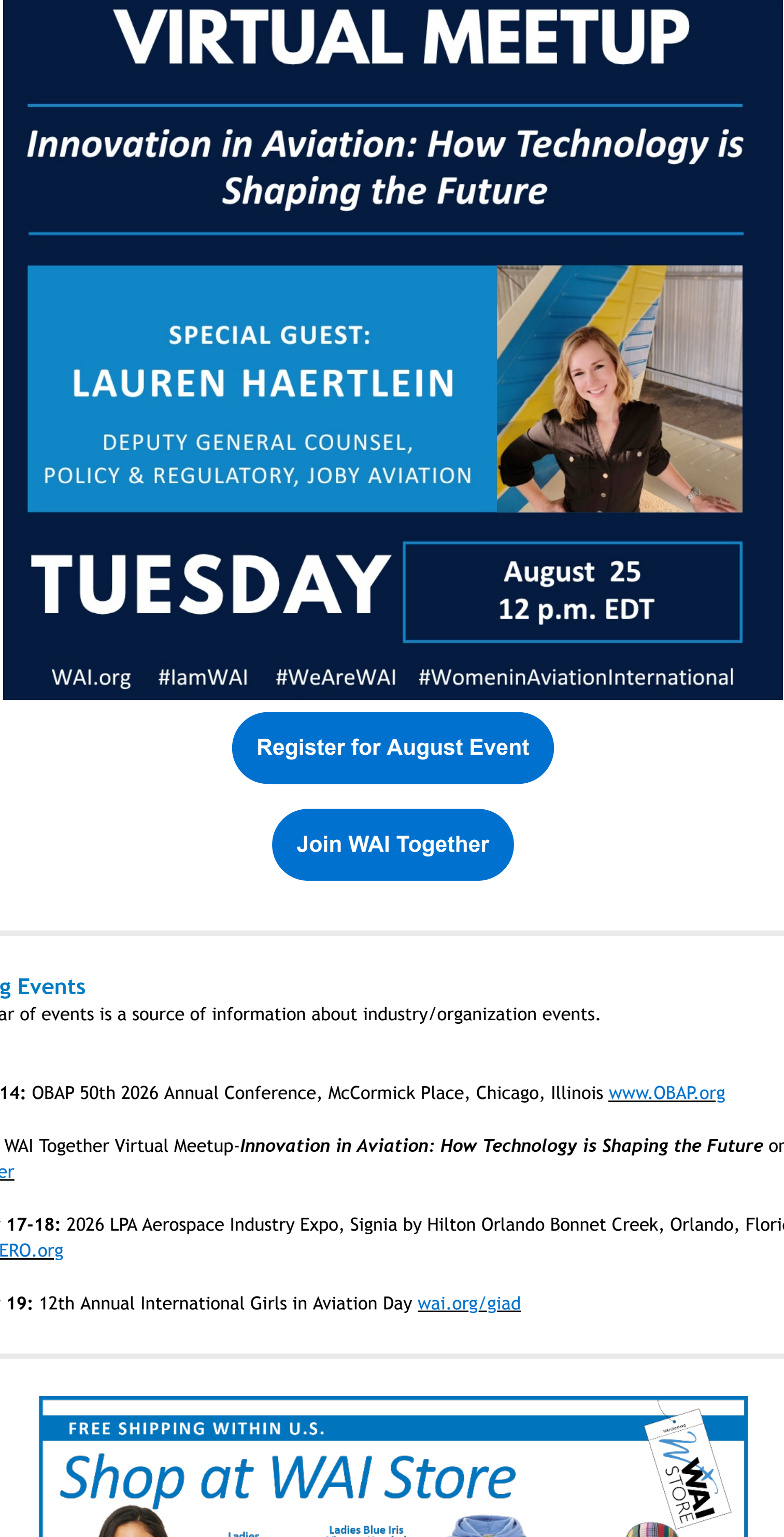
Topic: Innovation in Aviation: How Technology is Shaping the Future
Date: Tuesday, August 25 12 p.m. EDT Virtual

Explore the exciting ways technology is transforming the aviation industry! This session will highlight emerging innovations, from cutting-edge aircraft systems to advancements in safety, sustainability, and operations. Learn how these changes are creating new opportunities for aviation professionals and discover how you can stay ahead in a rapidly evolving field.

Join WAI Together here: [WAI Together - Women in Aviation International](#)

Our virtual meetups take place on the last Tuesday of every month.

Download our free WAI Together app to join the conversation and get access to the meetup.



[Register for August Event](#)

[Join WAI Together](#)

Upcoming Events

The calendar of events is a source of information about industry/organization events.

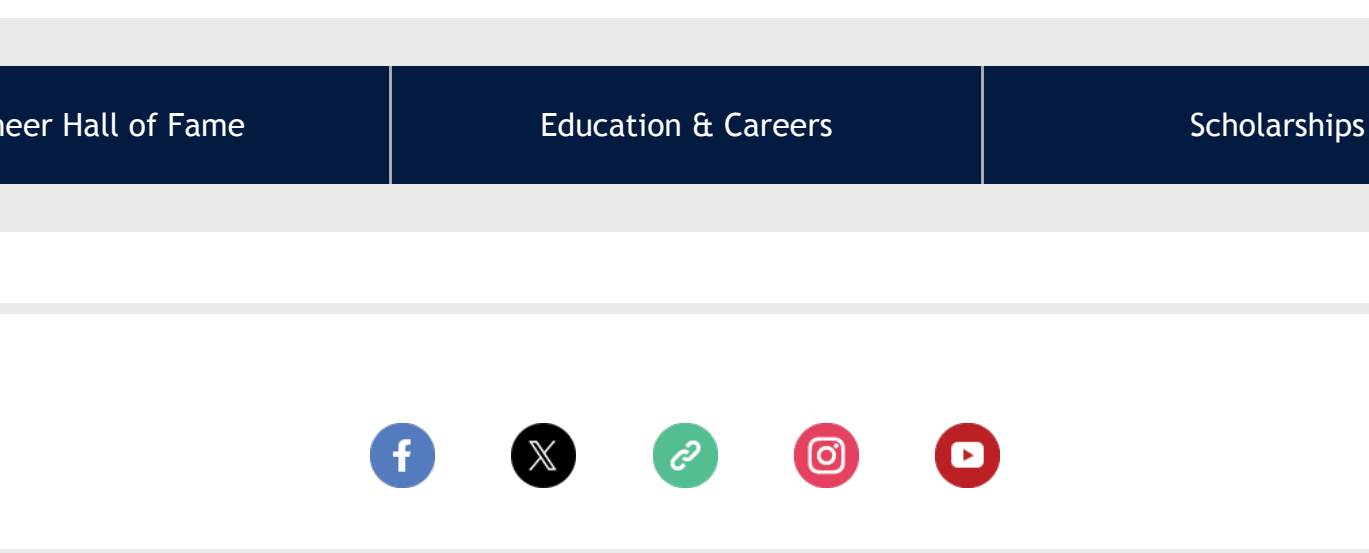
2026

August 12-14: OBAP 50th 2026 Annual Conference, McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois www.OBAP.org

August 25: WAI Together Virtual Meetup *Innovation in Aviation: How Technology is Shaping the Future* on [WAI Together](#)

September 17-18: 2026 LPA Aerospace Industry Expo, Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, Orlando, Florida www.LPA-AERO.org

September 19: 12th Annual International Girls in Aviation Day wai.org/giad

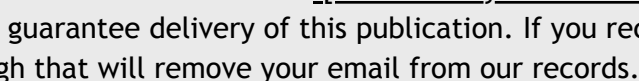


"I like to do things that nobody has ever done."
-Wally Funk

[Pioneer Hall of Fame](#)

[Education & Careers](#)

[Scholarships](#)



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