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# WAI Connect

The Official eNewsletter of  
Women in Aviation International



FOR MEMBERS

CHAPTERS

*Aviation for Women* MAGAZINE

## February 2023 Message from WAI

### Countdown to WAI2023 Conference

We're on final for WAI2023 Conference! WAI members from all over the world will be coming together for the 34th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference later this month. The three-day event in Long Beach, California, will have opportunities to connect with fellow members, listen to inspiring [keynote speakers](#), [professional development seminars](#), [education sessions](#), [exhibit hall](#), [scholarship awards](#), and [2023 Pioneer Hall of Fame inductions](#).

For more information on the conference schedule and activities hosted, please visit [www.WAI.org/2023-conference-overview](http://www.WAI.org/2023-conference-overview). Save and register by **February 13, 2023, at midnight EST**. To register for conference, please visit [www.WAI.org/2023-conference-fees](http://www.WAI.org/2023-conference-fees).

Are you ready to connect, engage, and inspire with WAI?





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**ATP** Go Direct to the A320 & B737  
At 1,500 Hours [Request Free Info](#)

The banner features a Spirit Airlines aircraft in the background. The ATP logo is on the left, and the text is centered. A red button with white text is on the right.

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# 34TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN AVIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



MAYA GHAZAL



CANDACE  
GIVENS



DR. MICHELLE  
PARKER



SHERREXCIA  
"REXY" ROLLE



COL. MERRYL  
TENGEDAL  
USAF (RET.)



HUY KIM TRAN



PAIGE STANTON  
WILSON



DR. SUSAN YING

Two more WAI2023 keynote speakers have been added to our already stellar list! Candace Givens and Paige Stanton Wilson will join Maya Ghazal, Dr. Michelle Parker, Sherrexcia "Rexy" Rolle, Col. Merryl Tengesdal, Huy Kim Tran, Dr. Susan Ying at this year's conference. [Click here](#) to learn more about each of this year's keynote speakers.

**LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**  
February 27 - March 1, 2023 | CHARLOTTE, NC [REGISTER NOW](#)  
**WHERE LEADERS GO TO LEARN**

## WAI To Launch Emerging Leaders Professional Development Program

WAI and Harvard University Division of Continuing Education are working together to launch the Emerging Leaders Professional Development Program for our members. This

members who have 5-10 years of experience and are interested in furthering their careers and leadership roles in the aviation and aerospace industry.

With generous funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, 30 women will be chosen to receive funding support that will include program fees, hotel, meals, and a stipend for airfare. Applicants will spend two days on Harvard University's campus Wednesday, May 3 through Thursday, May 4, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, with a follow-up virtual leadership coaching session to be held on May 16, 2023.



The Harvard University campus is in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Applications for this new Emerging Leaders Professional Development Program are [available online](#) and must be submitted by **March 15, 2023**. Attendees will be notified of their acceptance on **April 1, 2023**.

For more information email Stephanie Kenyon, WAI chief growth officer, at [skenyon@wai.org](mailto:skenyon@wai.org).



## WAI Receives \$100,000 Grant from the William Penn Foundation

A \$100,000 grant from the [William Penn Foundation Special Gifts Program](#) was recently gifted to WAI to support the organization's work to increase the number of women involved in all aspects of aviation.

"With this gift, the William Penn Foundation has demonstrated that they are visionaries who understand that they can play a vital role in strengthening aviation around the world," says WAI CEO Allison McKay.

## Chapter News

Officers and leaders from all WAI chapters are welcome to participate in our monthly webinar to give you the best resources to help Women in Aviation International chapters grow and succeed. Watch the Chapter Leader Facebook page, the WAI Connect newsletter, and the [WAI Chapter Resources page](#) for registration links monthly.

**LEADERSHIP CONNECT IN FEBRUARY, SEE YOU IN LONG BEACH!**

**Please register for next month's Chapter Leadership Connect!**

**March 17, 2023 - (1 p.m. EST)**

**Topic: Aww, do I HAFTA? (Yes, you do!):**

**Reviewing Annual Chapter Reports**

[Register here.](#)

Thinking about starting a WAI Chapter? Have questions about WAI Chapters? [Email Jessi Rowden](#), WAI chapter relations manager!



WAI  
CHAPTER  
LEADERSHIP  
CONNECT

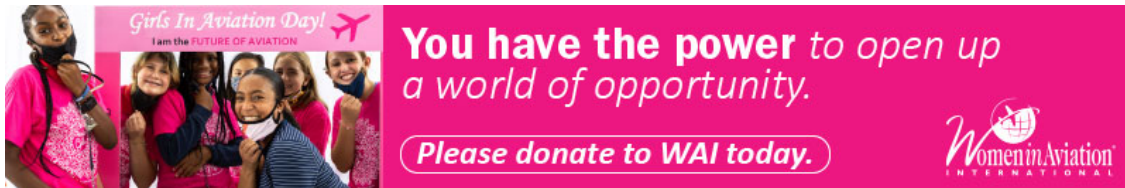
AWW, DO I HAFTA? (YES YOU DO!):  
REVIEWING ANNUAL CHAPTER  
REPORTS

MARCH 17, 2023  
1PM EST

WOMEN IN AVIATION  
CHAPTERS

The banner features a woman with glasses looking at a laptop, a smartphone displaying a video conference grid, and a tablet with the WAI logo.

*Understand all the details of how to file an Annual Chapter Report for WAI by attending the March 17, 2023, Chapter Leadership Connect. Register to attend [here](#).*



Girls In Aviation Day!  
I am the FUTURE OF AVIATION

**You have the power to open up  
a world of opportunity.**

**Please donate to WAI today.**

Women in Aviation  
INTERNATIONAL

The banner shows a group of diverse young girls in pink shirts, with the WAI logo in the bottom right corner.

RESERVE YOUR LIMITED EDITION WAI2023 CONFERENCE MERCHANDISE.

# Shop for WAI 2023 Gear



Unisex sizes: XS – 3XL  
\$22



Ladies sizes: S – 3XL  
\$22



Unisex sizes: XS – 3XL  
\$25



CamelBak  
Tritan Water  
Bottle  
25 oz. \$25



Unisex sizes: XS – 3XL  
\$40



Unisex sizes: XS – 2XL  
\$38

Pick up on-site at the WAI Store in the main lobby of the Long Beach Convention Center starting 2/23/23.



[www.WAI-store.org](http://www.WAI-store.org)



White Ceramic Speck  
Camper Mug  
15 oz. \$12



Black Ceramic Cork  
Bottom Mug  
13 oz. \$12



One size fits all \$12

## WAI WELCOMES NEW JUNIOR MEMBERS!

- Are you 18 years old or younger?
- Do you love aviation and STEM?
- Do you want to learn more about living your aviation passion?
- Are you interested in finding out more about scholarships in aviation?

**We have a free WAI membership for you!**

Join for free here and learn about all the resources and benefits at [WAI.org/membership-information](http://WAI.org/membership-information)



## Upcoming Events

The calendar of events is a source of information about industry/organization events. Events marked with \* are WAI events that we sponsor, exhibit, or partner.

Interested in volunteering to help at events where WAI is participating? [Email Rorie Ainbinder, Chapter Relations Specialist](#), to sign up.

### 2023

February 9-12 - NGPA Winter Warm-Up, Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel, Palm Springs, California, [www.NGPA.org](http://www.NGPA.org)

\*February 23-25 - 34th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference, Long Beach, California, [www.WAI.org/2023-conference](http://www.WAI.org/2023-conference)

March 6-9 - HAI HELI-EXPO, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, [www.HELIXPO.com](http://www.HELIXPO.com)

April 25-28 - Professional Women Controllers (PWC) National Training Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, [www.PWCinc.org](http://www.PWCinc.org)

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## Member Benefits

[WAI members](#) seek to inspire and stand for encouragement, continued education, and a whole lot of fun! We invite you to take advantage of exclusive discount programs, including many diverse benefits, available to our valued members.

### Exclusive Discount Programs for Members

- **Avemco:** 5% discount on insurance
- **Aviation Medicine Advisory Service:** 5% discount on standard case fees
- **Enterprise and National Rental-A-Car:** special discount rates with promotion code
- **General Aviation News subscription:** free sample issues and 50% off subscription
- **King Schools:** free package of 5 King courses focused on Risk Management and 20% discount on all King Schools course
- **MedJetAssist:** reduced annual and multi-year rates
- **SmithAmundsen:** free 30-minute consultation on legal services
- **Travelpro®:** exclusive 20% discount on all products

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*"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right."  
- Rosa Parks*

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To update your email address, visit the Members Area of the WAI website at:  
[\[https://www.wai.org/member-compass#profile\]](https://www.wai.org/member-compass#profile)

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