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WAI Connect

The Official eNewsletter of
Women in Aviation International

[FOR MEMBERS](#)[CHAPTERS](#)[Aviation for Women MAGAZINE](#)

February 2025

Letter from WAI CEO Lynda Coffman

Dear WAI Members,

As we prepare to celebrate our 36th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference, I'm honored to address and connect with our members in the spirit of support, inspiration, and growth.

Throughout the years, our conferences have provided extraordinary opportunities for members to learn, share, and build new friendships. We have supported one another through the good times as well as challenging times. Today, I wish to speak to you about an emerging challenge, specifically the recent policy changes that have affected us all. Understandably, these changes may have stirred feelings of concern and uncertainty among you. Yet, I stand before you to reaffirm that our dedication to supporting one another remains steadfast and resolute.

We have experienced many challenges throughout our history, and time and again, we have emerged more resilient and united. This occasion will be no exception. Our true strength emanates from our collective spirit, shared experiences, and dedication to advancing the role of women in aviation and aerospace. We have built a formidable foundation and will continue to thrive, drawing upon the strength and determination of our members.

Women in Aviation International will continue to offer our resources and lifetime of programs to strengthen your personal and professional growth. Our mentorship initiatives, networking opportunities, and educational programs will remain available and accessible. Additionally, we are exploring innovative ways to connect and engage with one another, some of which will be unveiled at WAI2025.

We acknowledge that these times may indeed be challenging. However, it is in these moments that

our solidarity becomes essential. I urge each of you to reach out, share your experiences, extend your support to one another, and encourage others who are not members to join our community. Remember, WAI is here to serve as your support network. Together, we can navigate these changes and continue to thrive.

I am profoundly grateful for your dedication and passion. It is your resilience and determination that defines Women in Aviation International. Let us move forward with confidence, knowing that we are a strong, supportive community, ready to face any challenge together. Together, we can build a world where the sky is open to all, where aviation and aerospace dreams are possible without barriers.

Sincerely,
Lynda Coffman
WAI CEO

It's time to own your money.

Join Today

Wings
Credit Union

Insured by NCUA. Membership with a \$5 Share Savings account required.

WAI Announces 2025 Scholarship Winners

Women in Aviation International is proud to announce [the WAI2025 scholarship recipients](#) who will be recognized on Friday, March 28, at a Scholarship Recognition Breakfast during the 36th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The 90 winners represent WAI members at every stage of life and will use the funds for academic use, lifestyle enhancement, and flight training including type ratings. Thank you to the 49 funders providing financial resources to help support the learning experiences of our members. Since the WAI scholarship program was established in 1995, funders have awarded more than \$15 million to WAI members.



Alycia Edmond of Florida will receive a 2025 Southwest Airlines Maintenance Scholarship

Congrats to the WAI2025 Scholarship Winners!



Congratulations to the New WAI Harvard Class of 2025!

[Meet the 30 WAI members](#) who have been selected for the *Women in Leadership: A Program for Emerging Leaders Class of 2025*, offered in partnership with Harvard University's Division of Continuing Education. This three-day program, May 13-15, 2025, at Harvard's campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will also include a follow-up virtual leadership coaching session in mid-June. Women from various countries, including Kenya, Slovakia, South Africa, UAE, the United Kingdom, and the United States, will have the opportunity to expand their own leadership roles through this professional development education program.



The 2024 Class of WAI/Harvard Women in Leadership: A Program for Emerging Leaders at the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts

Kudos to the 2025 Class of Emerging Leaders!



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Register for Girls in Aviation Day Denver at WAI2025!

Girls ages 8-18 are invited to attend Girls in Aviation Day Denver during the 36th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference on Saturday, March 29 at the Gaylord Rockies Resort from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Participants will tour the WAI2025 exhibit hall, hear from leading ladies in aviation and aerospace during a career panel, and experience nearly 30 unique hands-on STEM activities.

The 300 attendees will have lunch with [Jessica Cox](#), the world's first and only armless pilot and Taekwondo black belt who has never let "impossible" stand in her way. Now, she's on a mission to inspire the next generation of fearless young women in aviation and STEM! At this special Girls in Aviation Day at WAI2025, Jessica will share her incredible journey, proving that limits are meant to be broken. Through her powerful message of courage, adaptability, and "thinking outside the shoe," she'll challenge girls to dream big, take on challenges, and believe that they, too, can soar.

Don't miss this unforgettable opportunity to meet Jessica, ask questions, and get inspired to take flight—both in aviation and in life!

Space is limited! [Register today](#). Chaperones are required. Tickets are \$10 each and includes lunch. Each participant will receive a fun and educational GIAD Activity Kit and earn the WAI Aviation Fun Patch.

Girls IN AVIATION DAY DENVER

A Women in Aviation International® Event



Jessica Cox, author of Disarm Your Limits, will be the GIAD Denver keynote speaker.



[Register for GIAD Denver](#)

[Register for WAI2025](#)

[View the WAI2025 website](#)

Chapter News

[Enter the annual WAI Chapter Logo Contest](#)

by submitting your new and updated custom logo by **March 1!** Show off your chapter's personality and be a part of the fun. The winning chapter will receive a custom WAI pop-up banner (up to a \$180 value). If your chapter does not have a custom logo but would like to develop one to be judged contact the WAI chapter team by **February 15.**

Nominate your phenomenal chapter volunteer by February 15 to be recognized as the [2025 Dorothy Hilbert Chapter Volunteer of the Year Award](#). Submit a short essay describing how the person has made a difference in your WAI Chapter. Let's celebrate that person who always goes above and beyond for your chapter.

Spotlight your chapter, members, and all of the amazing accomplishments at the [WAI2025 Chapter Showcase](#). To reserve your chapter's showcase time at the Membership Booth [submit this form by March 1](#). A final schedule of participating chapters will be announced by March 15.



Young Chappell WAI Greater Oklahoma City Metro Chapter president received the 2024 Dorothy Hilbert Chapter Volunteer of the Year award.

[Check Out Chapter Sessions at WAI2025](#)

Member Benefits

[WAI members](#) seek to inspire and stand for encouragement, continued education, and a whole lot of fun! When you join WAI, you'll have access to exclusive discount programs and benefits, including many diverse benefits, available only 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 Car Rental:** 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 courses
 - **MedJetAssist:** reduced annual and multi-year rates
 - **Travelpro®:** exclusive 20% discount on all products
-

Upcoming Events

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

2025

February 13-16 - NGPA Winter Warm-Up, Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, California www.NGPA.org

March 27-29 - 36th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference, Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center, Denver, Colorado, www.WAI.org/2025-conference

April 3 - Women ACEs Breakfast at SUN 'n FUN, Aerospace Expo Aerospace Pavilion, Lakeland, Florida, purchase tickets at www.flysnf.org/activities/other-activities/women-aces/

RESERVE AND PICK UP AT WAI2025 CONFERENCE STORE

Shop for WAI2025 T-shirts

Featuring new WAI Vision



WAI2025 Conference T-shirt
Lavender Dust Crewneck
LIMITED EDITION Ladies
Relaxed Fit
100% Combed Cotton
Sizes: Ladies S-3XL
Imprinted on Front and
Back
Pre-Order Cost —
\$25.00*



WAI2025 Conference T-shirt
Heather Dust V-Neck
LIMITED EDITION Ladies Relaxed Fit
52% Combed Cotton, 48% Polyester
Sizes: Ladies S-2XL Imprinted on
Front and Back
Pre-Order Cost —
\$25.00*

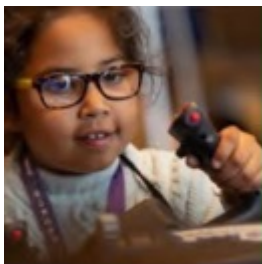


WAI2025 Conference T-shirt
Dark Gray Heather Long-Sleeve
LIMITED EDITION Ladies Retail Fit
100% Combed Cotton
Sizes: Ladies S-2XL Imprinted on
Front and Back
Pre-Order Cost —
\$30.00*

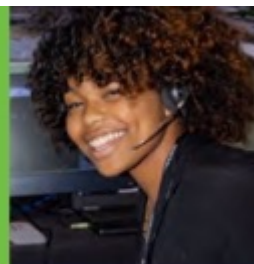


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www.WAI-store.org



WAI donors are visionaries who play a vital role in the long-term health of aviation and aerospace around the world.



Be a visionary.

Donations to WAI are vital to increasing the number of women who work in every aspect of aviation and aerospace.

Your gift will be used to

- **build** a diverse and inclusive industry
- **invest** in our current and future workforce
- **inspire** girls to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace.

Donate today.



www.WAI.org/donate



*"No matter what, expect the unexpected.
And whenever possible, be the unexpected."
-Lynda Barry*

Pioneer Hall of Fame

Education & Careers

Scholarships



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[<https://www.wai.org/member-compass#profile>]

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