

the Daily

Saturday, March 29, 2025



EXPERIENCE CONFERENCE



Ask SKYEbot your questions

Meet WAI's exclusive Skye Chatbot available on the WAI website (WAI.org) and the official

WAI2025 conference app. She can answer questions about this week's events, registration, directors, weather, WiFi, and more!



Download the #WAI2025 App

Navigate your conference experience by using the official

conference app. Scan the QR code

and enter your email and badge

ID to create your profile. Use the

app to reference the Schedule At

A Glance, Sessions List, Exhibi-

tors, plus Attendees and Speakers. You can

also view Conference and Exhibit Hall Maps,

Braindate, and digital issues of *The Daily*.



Join the Conversation

Share the excitement of attending the 36th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference and use these hashtags on your social media.

#WAI2025 #IamWAI #WeAreWAI

#WomeninAviation

#WomeninAviationInternational



Watch WAI On Air

Sponsored by GoJet

Meet inspiring WAI members from around the world pursuing their personal aviation dreams and interests by viewing video interviews on the exclusive WAI On Air channel. Listen, watch, and learn at @WAIOnAir



Celebrate Girls In Aviation Day Denver!

Saturdays at the WAI conference are dedicated to inspiring our next generation of aviators, maintenance technicians, astronauts, pioneers and aerospace industry leaders. Hundreds of girls and young women will join us at Girls in Aviation Day Denver. This year, girls ages 8-18, will earn their WAI Aviation Fun Patch by participating in over 30 activities.

For the older girls, a college and training fair with 19 participants including flight schools, and airline pathways. The fair will offer information about their aviation-focused programs and career opportunities to pursue for attendees focused on their future.

A stellar "The Sky is Unlimited Career" panel will include **Maj. Gen. Regena Aye**, Civil Air Patrol National Commander and CEO; **Capt. Zack Busch**, American Airlines Senior Manager and Chief Pilot at DFW; **Ali Faddis**, Amazon Air Director of Global Aviation operations and new WAI board member; **Evie Garces**, American Airlines VP of Line Maintenance; **Joy Forrest**, Southwest Airlines Network Operations Control Dispatcher; **Dr. Kristina Otero**, The Aldrin Family Foundation Vice President of Education; and **Amy Tomlinson**, Amazon Drone Delivery Senior Manager and retired Naval Aviator and Blue Angel. These women will share their personal aviation journeys, offer advice to the participants, and answer their questions.

The girls will have their own keynote speaker, **Jessica Cox**, the world's first and only armless pilot is poised to encourage our youth to challenge the impossible, learn adaptability and pursue their dreams. Thank you to our generous Girls in Aviation Day Sponsors, Amazon, American Airlines Cadet Academy, United and the University of North Dakota.

—**Annie Stikeleather**, WAI 107402

Listen to Amy Purdy's Story of Resilience!

You won't want to miss our Closing General Session this morning from **10:30-11:45 a.m.** in the Aurora Ballroom to hear **Amy Purdy's** motivational story. This young woman has defied the odds throughout her life and overcome a near death-experience to accomplish some extraordinary things.

Amy grew up with a passion for snowboarding and dreamed of traveling the

world...and despite obstacles that perhaps should have stopped her dead in her tracks that passion carried her not only to the upper echelons of athletics but onto the dance floor of Hollywood and well beyond.

She is a *NY Times* best-selling author, and she is a 3-time Paralympic medalist, making her one of the most decorated Paralympic snowboarders in the history of Team USA.

Enjoy coffee and light refreshments this morning from 8-9:30 a.m. in the Exhibit Hall. It's your last chance to visit exhibitors.

This issue of *The Daily* sponsored by:



Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l

“When you walk out of here today, remember, courage doesn’t come from feeling 100 percent ready. It comes from doing it anyway.”

—Michelle “MACE” Curran



“I want to remind you, one is always first, first in their class, first in their school, first in their tenure, first in their street, first in their family, first in their race, first in their color, first with red hair-- so why not make it you?”

—Natalee Johnston



“When I got to college, I found a sense of belonging with the female engineers, and my professors, they became mentors who introduced me to opportunities that I could never have had otherwise.”

—Emily Calendrelli



“It starts with you, not the person next to you. Don’t be expecting someone else to make a change.”

—Stephanie Goetz



“As we sit here now our hard-earned achievements and accomplishments are being erased from history. We all know that without support and encouragement women do face barriers in aviation. And that isn’t good for anyone.”

—Lynda Coffman



“We see [EVTOL] as a great entry and career for pilots engineers, maintenance technicians, and more.”

—Bonny Simi



Braindate!

"I was very excited for this opportunity. It's a very good way to isolate people to talk about specific topics in a more quiet space. The Braindate lounge is important, it offers one on one without a crowd pushing around you. It also gives a window of time for people to stop and give their full attention to a specific subject. It's also a good place to start a conversation for fitness and health, it's a very good start. You should keep this up!"

"My Braindate was very insightful! There's a lot of pilot-themed conversations here so something as niche as Airport Operations is more of what I was looking for. My connection was great, and we're definitely going to stay connected through LinkedIn!"

The Daily is a publication of Women in Aviation International, published during the annual conference.

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MIKE ULLERY

First Time Exhibitor Spotlights

Clear Skies Ahead

Clear Skies Ahead strives to create an avenue for aviation professionals to get support for mental and physical health without fear of losing their medical certificate. There exists a major issue wherein pilots delay or under-report medical issues due to the concern of losing the ability to fly.

Clear Skies Ahead has a mission to provide safer skies through research, education, and support to promote change in the industry. The organization also connects mentors to those seeking answers to questions and support to make decisions. Want to learn more? Visit www.clearskiesaheadnonprofit.org.

Photo: (L to R) Dawn Chaney and Alicia Carney



International Trip Planning Services

International Trip Planning Services provides flight planning and trip support services to private aviation clients to all seven continents. The team at ITpops has doubled in size over the last two years. How does the magic work? Team members manage all aspects of trips, from flight planning to customs and any requests in between, and their clients are some of the most influential people in the world (so discretion is paramount). The company's iTrip online Trip Management application allows clients to view all aspects of their trip and print out any related documents. Want to know more about exciting careers? Look them up at www.itpops.com.

Photo: Erin Haven - Head of Talent Acquisition



SUIT SHOP

Founded out of Wedding apparel, the SuitShop offers quality suits for women and men outfitting individuals to entire teams and organizations. The company recently began outfitting FBOs and realized the need in the aviation world for established professionals and those new to this field to have quality interview suits at an affordable price. SuitShop offers ready made suits in a variety of colors and styles with pieces that coordinate and are easily interchangeable with other pieces for the starting price of \$199. They also will tailor suits and have additional color options. Visit: www.suitshop.com to find online fitting tools for ready to order options or custom tailoring.

—Mary Woolf, WAI 45799



Why Aviators Should Pay Attention to the Supreme Court

Why Aviators Should Pay Attention to the Supreme Court (276 words)

Did you know that there were cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2024 that could have implications to the aviation world? Most of us do not follow all the cases overseen by the Supreme Court. If you attend this morning's "Why Aviators Should Pay Attention to the Supreme Court" from **9-10 a.m.** in **Summit 7** — you'll learn more.

Trevor Simoneau, Embry-Riddle Graduate Research Assistant, Boing Center for Aviation & Aerospace Safety, is joined by aviation attorneys, Justine Annette Harrison, General Counsel, Kathleen A Yodice, Esq., Lauren Haertlein, and Philip Weissman who will share their perspectives of how these cases could help or hinder other cases on the civil front.

"Our goal for this panel discussion is to bring awareness to three major Supreme Court decisions from 2024 and their potential impact on the aviation industry. We'll show how these cases that,

at first glance, seem to have nothing to do with aviation do indeed hold important implications for our industry. We'll talk about broad and nuanced issues, and we'll think about these issues from multiple perspectives.

As aviators, we don't often think about the Supreme Court. But it's vital to understand how the Court's decisions play a role in our industry. And it's equally vital to know how those decisions impact the Federal Aviation Administration.

I'm so excited about our panelists. They're all terrific aviation advocates and each of them brings a different perspective to this conversation from their impressive work in FAA enforcement matters, safety regulation advocacy, and efforts to integrate novel aviation technologies to the national airspace system. This will surely be a fascinating, engaging, and fun discussion."

—Michelle Graves, WAI 45798



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Meet the WAI International Ambassadors

WAI CEO Lynda Coffman introduced the 11 WAI International Ambassadors during the International Members reception, sponsored by Embraer, on Thursday evening. The new program is a prestigious initiative designed to strengthen WAI's global reach and engagement. Each of the 11 international ambassadors will help others find their way to the WAI community and their aviation dreams around the world.

L to R Lynda Coffman and Monica Newman, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and the Embraer Foundation

WAI International Ambassadors

Hannah Belz, Europe
Jackie Book, Canada
Tammy Camilleri, Australia
Pearla Cordero, Asia Pacific
Erin Gormley, Europe
Kristen Long, Canada
Nyasha Maniyka, Africa
Fiona Omondi, Africa
Althea Paul, India
Lou-Ann Seet, Asia Pacific
Mervat Sultan, Arab World



WAI International Members gathered for this annual reception Thursday evening at the conference

Authors Connect Saturday Book Signing Schedule

10–11:30 a.m.

Cady Coleman

Sharing Space: An Astronaut's Guide to Mission, Wonder, and Making Change

Sherri L. Smith

American Wings: Chicago's Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky, Flygirl, & Who Were the Tuskegee Airmen? & others

Merielle Veilleux

The Adventures of an Aviatrix: The land of the midnight sun and beyond

Elizabeth Wein

American Wings: Chicago's Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky, Code Name Verity, Stateless & Others

Career Pathways for Aircraft Technicians

The Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certificate offers a pathway to a varied and fulfilling field, extending far beyond traditional aircraft maintenance. This certification provides a broad understanding of aircraft systems, including electrical and hydraulics, enabling proficiency in maintaining, repairing, and inspecting various aircraft.

During the session from **9–10 a.m.** in **Red Rock 9**, **Laura Mancevich, Cynthia Rodina, Kim Pritchard**, and fellow **Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance (AWAM)** members are delving into the impact of an A&P license on your career, its applicability across various sectors, and the key skills necessary for women to excel in the aircraft maintenance industry.

A key advantage of an A&P license is its adaptability. It's not merely about mending airplanes; it's about expertise in handling intricate systems and problem-solving under pressure. These skills are highly sought after across industries such as in amusement parks managing rollercoaster systems, or in water parks overseeing water hydraulics.

Cynthia emphasizes, "This pertains to your personal life, too." She continues, "I don't need to employ anyone to assist at home as I possess the mechanical skills to mend my own furnace! It significantly cuts down expenses," she adds.

The panel will also explore the value and influence of women in this industry and provide beneficial advice on effective communication and self-assurance in this male-dominated field. "Women are meticulous and our small hands make a considerable difference," Laura affirms. "As a line mechanic, we remove and replace large tires on the aircraft. I can spin the tire while it's getting torqued and my smaller hands can get the cotter pin installed between the rim and the nut," she continues.

Women are vital to the industry and an A&P certificate is a gateway to a myriad of career opportunities. Come hear how these women embraced the journey, triumphed over hurdles, and blazed a trail for future generations of women mechanics.

—**Mary Woolf**0, WAI 45799



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The Race for Equality in the Sky: African American Aviation Trailblazers



SARAH LASETZ

In a powerful and inspiring panel, “The Race for Equality in the Sky: Bessie Coleman, Janet Harmon Bragg, and Willa Brown,” several aviation leaders and authors came together to share stories of resilience, resistance, and legacy. Retired United Airlines Captain Theresa Claiborne moderated the session, joined by Gigi Coleman (great-niece of Bessie Coleman), Captain Beth Powell, and authors Sherri L. Smith and Elizabeth Wein.

The conversation traced Black aviation history from Bessie Coleman—who, in 1921, became the first African American woman to earn an international pilot license in France after being denied flight training in the U.S.—to the groundbreaking aviators who carried her legacy forward.

“Bessie never quit,” said Gigi Coleman, dressed as her great-aunt to honor her memory. “She believed in educating and inspiring others. She wanted to open a school to teach young Black boys and girls to fly.”

Panelists then discussed the remarkable lives of Janet Harmon Bragg

and Willa Brown. Janet, inspired by an ad that read, “Birds can learn to fly—why can’t you?” became the first African American woman to earn a commercial pilot certificate. Often the only woman in the room, she was known for her grit and determination. Willa, a teacher and social worker turned aviator, became the first Black woman to earn an FAA pilot’s license, trained Tuskegee Airmen, and championed legislation to increase Black participation in civilian aviation programs.

Sherri, co-author of *American Wings*, shared the powerful story of John C. Robinson and Cornelius Coffey—men who refused to take “no” for an answer. Denied admission to flight mechanic school because of their race, they persisted: applying, being accepted, and then suing when their enrollment was revoked. John took a job as a janitor just to learn, and when he outpaced the students in the class, he was invited in to be a student as well. They ultimately graduating at the top of his class and were asked to teach the next classes of black aviators at the school.

“These men and women didn’t wait for permission,” said Beth, co-author of *Queen of the Skies*.

“Don’t take no for an answer,” Theresa urged. “We’re all qualified. Hold your head up high and don’t you ever forget that.”

The panel closed with an empowering call to action to honor and uplift these hidden histories by purchasing these books related to these aviators: “*Queen of the Skies*” a synopsis of Bessie Coleman’s life, cowritten by Gigi and Beth and *American Wings: Chicago’s Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky* cowritten by Sherri and Elizabeth. “Buy these books for the people you love,” said Theresa, “because we don’t know how much longer they’ll remain in libraries.”

—Chrissi Sperduto



Learn to Lead at the Board Level

Attendees at WAI had the opportunity to learn how board membership can serve as a dynamic platform to leverage their hard-won skills, giving them the chance to contribute to organizations in meaningful ways. Shelly deZevallos and panelists Lacey Pittman, Becky Lutte and Elizabethe Dornak worked with attendees to identify the unique value each one might bring to the table, teaching them to draw on their diverse experiences to enrich board discussions and drive impactful decisions.

Ultimately, they learned that the objective lies in harmonizing their skills with a board's needs and an organization's strategic goals. What was definite from the event was that whether you're drawn to driving growth in for-profit enterprises or championing causes in the non-profit sphere, seizing the opportunity to serve on a board can be an invigorating path to revitalize your career and leave an indelible mark on the world. Don't miss this chance to learn, connect, and ignite your next chapter!

--**Mary Woolf**, WAI 45799



MIKE ULLERY

Hundreds of new members were greeted with Hawaiian music and fresh leis during Thursday morning's breakfast sponsored by Alaska Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Horizon Air.



JOHN RIEDEL

WAI recognized the 93 WAI2025 scholarship recipients during Friday's Scholarship Breakfast. Thanks to the generous support of more than 40 scholarship funders these WAI members will be able to pursue their aviation/aerospace dreams. Since the program was established by WAI in 1995, hundreds of members have benefited from the financial support.

(Left) The Martha King Scholarship for Female Flight Instructors was awarded to Lily Mocharnuk, Texas.



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Schedule Subject to Change (as of March 17, 2025)

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

7-8 a.m.	8-9 a.m.	9-10 a.m.	10-11 a.m.	11-noon	noon-1 p.m.	1-2 p.m.	2-3 p.m.
Girls in Aviation Day Denver <i>(Registration Required)</i> 8 a.m.-3 p.m.							
Registration Open 7-10:30 a.m.							
Self Defense Course * 7-7:45 a.m.							
Exhibit Hall Open 8-10:30 a.m.			Closing General Session 10:30-11:45 a.m.				
Coffee & Conversation in the Exhibit Hall 8-9:30 a.m.							
Student & Collegiate Chapter Leadership 8:30-10 a.m.							

Education Session Tracks



Career Development



Emerging Technologies



Health & Wellness



Leadership Skills



Maintenance and Tech Ops.



Military

In addition to our 6 Education Session Tracks each session is identified with our Lifetime of Programs for:
 Youth Programs | Initial Training | Workforce Entry | Mid-Career | Experienced Professional.

Note: Seating for all Education Sessions, Chapter Sessions, and Special Sessions will be on a first-come, first served basis.

* Additional Fee, Registration Required

Altitude and Attitude: Elevating Your Leadership Through Effective Communication
 9-10 a.m. Summit 8



Mid-Career
Experienced Professional

PANEL: Why Aviators Should Pay Attention to the Supreme Court
 9-10 a.m. Summit 7



Workforce Entry | Mid-Career
Experienced Professional

Pursuing Flight while Maintaining a Career & Your Health
 9-10 a.m. Crest 3



Workforce Entry | Mid-Career
Experienced Professional

Empowering, Retaining, and Championing Women at Work
 9-10 a.m. Willow Lake 3



Mid-Career | Experienced Professional

PANEL: AWAM Session Exploring Career Pathways for Aircraft Technicians: From Operation to Leadership
 9-10 a.m. Red Rock 9



Initial Training | Workforce Entry



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Harvard Emerging Leaders Three Year Reunion

JOHN REIDEL



Class of 2023

The Harvard Emerging Leaders Classes of 2023, 2024, 2025, gathered this week to network and share their experiences. The incoming class of 30 WAI members will meet on Harvard University's campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the three-day course May 13-15, 2025. A fourth day of training will be held virtually in mid-June. This professional development course hosted by WAI and conducted by Harvard University's Division of Continuing Education is generously funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

JOHN REIDEL



Class of 2024



Each Harvard Emerging Leader received a special commemorative class pin.

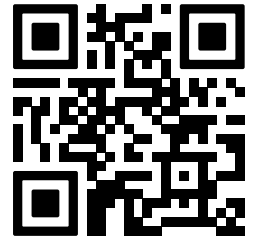
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Class of 2025



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“There are no shortcuts to get your wings to join the flight deck. Pilots refine their skills through annual training, helping them to prepare for the unexpected. In order to earn the Airline Transport Pilot certificate that’s required to fly a commercial airliner, first officers, who serve as co-pilots, must have logged at least 1,500 hours of flight time or received credit toward those hours from previous experience flying military aircraft or earning structured college degrees in aviation. To be promoted from a first officer to a captain, pilots must have logged at least another 1,000 hours of flight time in commercial service. In addition, pilots must meet a complex series of requirements that include a medical exam as well as practical and knowledge tests.”



Capt. Jason Ambrosi
ALPA PRESIDENT

OP-ED, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT