



WAI2024

A TIME TO CONNECT ENGAGE INSPIRE

Marking 35 Years of Annual Three-Day Gatherings



PAULA GRUBB



ANDREW ZABACK



CAROLYN HUTCHINS

CONNECT ENGAGE INSPIRE



MIKE ULLERY



CAROLYN HUTCHINS



Women in Aviation International held one of its largest and most successful annual gatherings during the 35th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference at Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, Florida, March 21-23, 2024. With its unique blend of world-class speakers, busy exhibit hall, an array of education sessions, and more than 130 scholarship recipients, the WAI2024 conference delivered numerous opportunities to connect and network with female peers in the aviation and aerospace industry.

A total attendance of over 5,200 includes 142 international representatives from 35 countries including Nigeria, Canada, United Kingdom, Tunisia, Brazil, Australia, United Arab Emirates, and others.

"As the largest organization in the world dedicated to increasing the number of women in all aspects

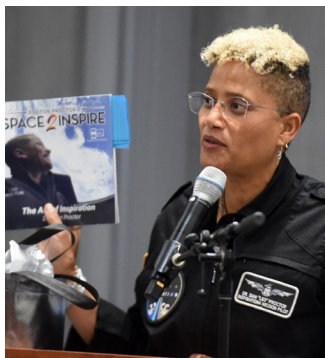
of aviation and aerospace, WAI was able to celebrate the strength of our expanding Women in Aviation International community during our annual conference," WAI CEO Lynda Coffman said, adding "At every moment during WAI2024, thousands of attendees were able to learn, network, and mentor one another in a venue full of like-minded women who come together to share their passion for aviation and aerospace. We are helping to change the face of aviation, and WAI is proud to support our members throughout their aviation journey with a lifetime of programs." Lynda acknowledged the annual conference representing attendees from a variety of aviation and aerospace careers was an impressive venue to celebrate Women's History Month. WAI thanks the generous support of sponsors, passionate members, and volunteers.



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JOHN RIEDEL

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"Earth light is the most beautiful light that exists. I was transformed by Earth light."

Dr. Sian Proctor
Space2Inspire

RICH SPOLAR



"There is no male or female leadership style, each of our leadership styles are unique to your personality and who you are."

Pam Melroy
NASA

JOHN FIEDEL



"Be bold. Work towards your goal and keep that vision."

Nicole Battjes
Rainbow Helicopters

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"We put barriers on ourselves, and we need to remove them."

Rear Admiral Nancy Hann
NOAA

"You can't fly without using fuel, but you can fly without creating contrails."

Erica Brand
Google

PAULA GRUBB



"We as women think too much about what other people think and want, rather than what we need and want."

Dr. Patty Chang-Chien
The Boeing Company

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"Positional power is the title you hold. Personal influence is the glue that holds people together."

Teri Bristol
former FAA ATO

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THANK YOU

Thank you #WAI2024 sponsors for your generous support of our 35th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference!

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EDUCATION SESSIONS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS

Conference attendees were able to select from dozens of education sessions, professional development seminars, and workshops held Thursday through Saturday choosing which sessions were best for their career goals and personal interests.



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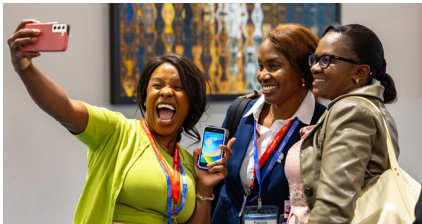
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CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

The WAI Chapter network has reached 180 chapters in 26 countries worldwide representing 140 U.S. chapters and 40 international chapters. Some 42% of WAI members belong to their local chapter.

Chapter members were able to participate in several sessions geared to acquiring additional resources and tools from WAI. The WAI membership booth in the exhibit hall was a great gathering spot for attendees and a place for chapter showcases. A big shout-out to the **WAI Huffman Prairie Chapter** for winning the chapter logo contest. This Dayton, Ohio-based WAI chapter won a free customized chapter logo WAI banner.

Congratulations to **Young Chappell**, WAI Greater Oklahoma City Metro Chapter member, for receiving the 2023 Dorothy Hilbert Chapter Volunteer of the Year Award.

Kudos to **Lori Goodenough**, WAI Tampa Bay Chapter member, for winning the chapter selfie-challenge contest. Lori received a free registration to WAI2025 in Denver, Colorado.



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Young Chappell

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EXHIBIT HALL ENERGY

The busy exhibit hall hosted over 200 separate companies and organizations highlighting all the career possibilities and interests in the aviation and aerospace community.

Watch livestream video coverage from the exhibit hall on WAI's YouTube channel [@WAIOnAir](#).

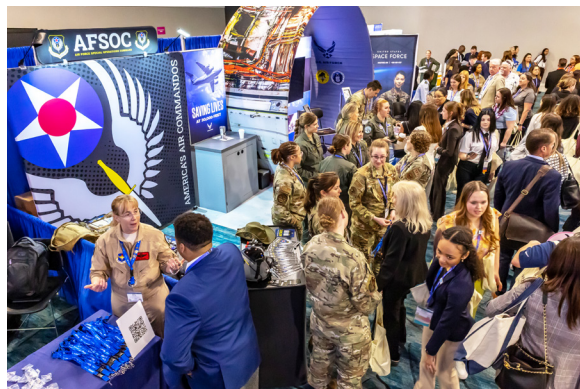
RE-LIVE THE CONFERENCE

WAI published three issues of *The Daily* during conference to keep attendees updated on each day's activities and sessions. Reference the digital versions of #WAI2024 at www.WAI.org/the-daily.

View all the videos from #WAI2024 Orlando including the opening conference video, 2024 scholarship winners, Pioneer Hall of Fame inductees and more on the WAI YouTube channel [@WomeninAviationIntl](#) and [@WAIOnAir](#).



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

During the WAI annual membership meeting, **Capt. Bart Roberts** was approved as a new board member, and **Michaela Lucas** was re-elected for an additional term and will continue her role as board secretary. **Capt. Deborah Hecker**, outgoing board chair, and **Marci Veronie**, board member, were both recognized for their nine-year terms serving the WAI board of directors. Effective April 1, 2024, **Kathy Yodice** assumed the role of board chair and **Shannon Weidekamp** became board vice chair. **Linda Markham** will continue to serve as board treasurer.

The membership report detailed over 18,000 active members in 120 countries with 1,800 international members and over 5,000 junior members aged 18 years and younger. Both student members (over 3,700) and corporate members (nearly 500) continue to increase.



SEE YOU IN DENVER NEXT YEAR!

The 36th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference will be held March 27-29, 2025, at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Denver, Colorado. For more information, visit www.WAI.org/2025-conference.

WATCH THE WAI2024 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP VIDEO.



Many thanks to
our volunteer
photographers
Paula Grubb
Carolyn Hutchins
Ben Miller
Christopher Miller
Emily Miller
John Riedel
Rich Spolar
Mike Ullery
Andrew Zaback



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A highlight of every conference is the induction of women into WAI's Pioneer Hall of Fame. This year's inductees include **Katherine Johnson**, a legendary mathematician of her time and a NASA trailblazer featured in the book and movie *Hidden Figures*; **U.S. Air Force First Undergraduate Navigator Class 78-01**, the first female class of six navigator candidates to pave the way for other women in military aviation; **U.S. Army Air Forces World War II Flight Nurses**, a dedicated group of 500 volunteer flight nurses who served 31 medical air evacuation squadrons at the height of World War II.



▶ Watch the 2024 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductees Videos.



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TRAILBLAZERS INDUCTED



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GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY ORLANDO

On Saturday, March 23, 250 girls along with their chaperones were hosted by more than 100 WAI volunteers at Girls in Aviation Day Orlando. The girls, ages 8-18, visited nearly 30 activity stations, heard about six different aviation careers from “The Sky is Unlimited” career panel, had lunch with Nicole Battjes, Rainbow Helicopters CEO and owner, met multiple role models, and had fun while they learned about aviation/aerospace. The older girls had the opportunity to meet with representatives about their aviation-focused programs from 14 participants including the military, universities, flight schools, and airline pathways. Each participant earned a WAI Aviation Fun Patch.



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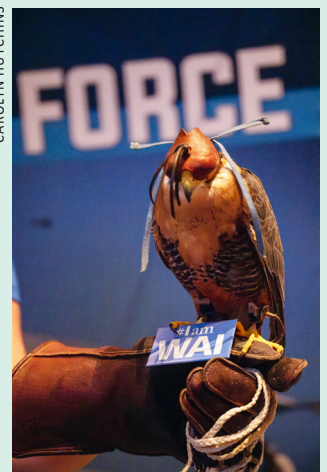
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