



DR. PEGGY
CHABRIAN
1997

History in the Making—WAI Turns 25

A chapter program where members can communicate, socialize, promote aviation in their local area, support initiatives important to them, and interact year-round is a very strong element of connection to the organization.

WAI's First Six Chapters

- #1 Purdue University
- #2 WAI—St. Louis
- #3 College of Aeronautics
- #4 Mt. San Antonio College
- #5 St. Louis Women with Wings
- #6 Parks College of St. Louis University

Four of the first six chapters were located on college or university campuses. Today, 32% of the 130 WAI chapters are located at institutions of higher education.

There are several individuals who contributed to the development and success of our 25-year-old organization. This is the first article of a three-part series highlighting how and why WAI began.

During the recent celebration of the 30th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference in Long Beach, it was also time to celebrate the 25th year of the organization—Women in Aviation International. That may seem a little odd as many associations form and afterward decide to hold an annual meeting or convention. We began as an annual conference that decided to become an organization. In fact, it was the success of those annual conferences that led to the idea.

The first conference was held in March 1990 in Prescott, Arizona, as an event hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where I served as the dean of academic support. In 1989 the number of female students at ERAU was approximately 5%, and these students had a lower retention rate. While analyzing this data and reviewing a recent survey of the female students I was inspired to create a solution. Why not hold a conference that would include female speakers from all areas of aviation to inspire the students, and allow them to interact and hear their stories? As the planning progressed the decision was made to expand the invitation to attend this confer-

ence beyond the campus via a press release to the local community and aviation media. A total of almost 150 individuals attended this event, which at the time it was being planned was never thought to be an annual event. But at that first conference while welcoming the attendees I said, "Welcome to the first annual Women in Aviation Conference." I didn't realize I had said it until someone told me months later.

Pilots, mechanics, students, air traffic controllers, and faculty from ERAU attended. Some of these women were speakers including **Dr. Shannon Lucid**, first American woman to walk in space; **Jeana Yeager**, who was one of two crewmembers to fly the Voyager airplane nonstop around the world; **Bobbi Trout**, early record-setter of speed and endurance in the 1920s and 1930s; and WASP **Dr. Byrd Howell Granger**, who had recently published her book on the WASP. The mix was about 10% men and 90% women, a reverse of other aviation events. The attendees represented general aviation, airlines, and the military. As a precursor to our current day exhibit hall, we had five tabletop displays.

A few months after this first conference ended, I accepted a position as dean and later served as the associate vice president at Parks College of St. Louis University. I moved the conference with me to Parks College and began contacting speakers, locating sponsors, and exploring the option of adding an exhibit area for the second conference. The second Women in Aviation Conference that attracted 250 individuals was held in St. Louis in March 1991. At the time I wondered who else could we find to speak at this event as we had "all" of the women in aviation headliners at the previous year's conference. After 30 years it has never been a problem to find amazing individuals from the aviation industry to participate at our annual conference!

Every year the number of attendees continued to grow, and in 1994 at the fifth annual conference in Florida, the idea for an organization was germinated. A regular conference attendee asked, "It's great to come to this annual conference but it's only once a year—how do I join the organization?" In the summer of 1994, I raised the idea of establishing an organization with the conference planning committee of 17 men and women during our meeting in Collinsville, Illinois. We discussed the mission of the organization, drafted



1990 Conference:
Jacque Smith,
Bobbi Trout,
Barbara Barrett



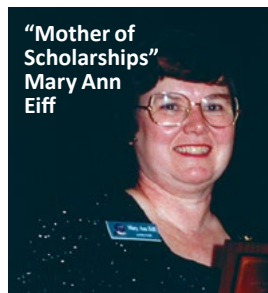
1990 Conference:
Astronaut Dr.
Shannon Lucid

bylaws, and those 17 individuals committed to serve as a part of this new organization as founding board members for WAI.

These founding board members represented two aircraft manufacturers, military, engineers, pilots (airline and general aviation), publishers of two aviation magazines, aviation association staff members, business owners, university faculty members, an attorney, and aviation writers.

I began the process of applying for our 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS and received our notification of approval in December 1994—the date we use as our official beginning as an organization. At the March 1995 conference in St. Louis with approximately 600 attendees, we announced this new organization along with a press release distributed to aviation media around the world.

The first office of the organization was a desk and file cabinet in my home in Columbia, Illinois, with an electric typewriter to type out membership cards. We designed and printed our first membership brochure with application form, and established a checking account. My husband, **Bruce Baty**, our first volunteer and WAI member 2, provided lots of support and enthusiasm and was instrumental in the founding of this new



“Mother of Scholarships”
Mary Ann Eiff

organization for four years until he passed away in October 1998.

Part of the mission of the new organization was to provide members with resources, including financial support, to reach their aviation goals. **Mary Ann Eiff**, one of our founding board members and a faculty member at SIU Carbondale at the time, took this challenge on and helped establish our scholarship program. During the 1995 conference, we raised a little over \$1,000 through a raffle hosted by the new organization and used the funds to give out two \$500 scholarships. We were off and running!

The next year the conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Northwest Airlines provided tours of its facilities, sponsored one of our functions, and contributed to the scholarship program by providing the first WAI type rating scholarship. When the vice president at NWA first mentioned he wanted “help our new scholarship endeavor” I assumed they would provide a cash gift—maybe another \$1,000 or similar amount. I was pleasantly surprised when he of-

fered a scholarship to earn a type rating and in any airplane in their fleet. When the winner’s name was announced, she was asked what airplane she wanted to utilize. Her response? B-747!

During this time, I served on the board of the Experimental Aircraft Association (from 1991 through 2006). At a board meeting in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in January 1995 I spoke with **Paul Poberezny**, founder of EAA, about the establishment of WAI as an organization. (He was familiar with the annual conferences since he had participated as a speaker during our conference in 1991.) I asked Paul, if he were to begin EAA all over again, what would he do differently, and what would he do the same? The information he shared was extremely beneficial, and one of the takeaways was his belief that the EAA chapter program was one of its key strengths.

Having an annual event, an official magazine, and member benefits are all important to an association. But the inclusion of a chapter program where members can communicate, socialize, promote aviation in their local area, support initiatives important to them, and interact year-round is a very strong element of connection to the organization.

The first WAI chapter to become official was the Purdue University Chapter organized by WAI founding board member Mary Ann Eiff.

During the summer of 1995, Bruce and I moved to the Dayton, Ohio, area. For a year WAI shared an office with the International Women’s Air and Space Museum in the Dayton Convention Center. However, the museum eventually relocated from Dayton to Cleveland, Ohio. In the meantime, Bruce and I located a beautiful piece of land about 25 miles west of Dayton that had a 2,600-foot grass strip runway running through it. The farm was called Morningstar from its original owner, Gen. George Morningstar.

In the summer of 1996, I presented a five-year business plan to the board of directors. Up until this point there were no paid employees. I felt if the organization were to succeed it needed a full-time president and shared a plan that would accomplish this goal. When I presented it to the board they asked if I would serve in this capacity as a full-time employee, and I agreed. The office then was contained in one room of our home at Morningstar, but in a few short months expanded to two rooms and two employees to help process memberships and conference registrations as well as answering the phones. ➔

.....
In Part 2 in the September/October issue, I will review the beginning of this magazine.



Co-founders Peggy and Bruce Baty plant the sign at the first dedicated office at Morningstar in 1996



Peggy Baty Chabrian and Kristy Brubaker, the first employees



Aerial view of Morningstar Airport



Members fly in to HQ.



Morningstar Airport on a sectional chart



DR. PEGGY
CHABRIAN
2002

Where in the World Is WAI?

As we celebrate the organization's 25th year, I thought it would be fun to indicate the places WAI has established offices over its history.

Main Office Locations

October 1994-1995
A corner of a room in my home in Columbia, Illinois

1995-1996
Dayton Convention Center
Dayton, Ohio

1996-2000, 2006-present
Morningstar Airport
West Alexandria, Ohio

2000-2005
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University
Daytona Beach, Florida

Auxiliary Office Locations

1997-2000
Southern Office
Auburn, Alabama

1997-present
Art Director's Office
North Salem, New York

2000-2005
WAI Membership Office
Morningstar Airport
West Alexandria, Ohio

2001-2013
Editorial Office
Ft. Myers, Florida

2013-2016
Editorial and Chapter Office
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

2015-present
Outreach Director's Office
Dallas, Texas

2016-present
Washington, D.C., Office
Vienna, Virginia

WAI Files a Flight Plan for Success

This is Part 2 of my series highlighting how and why WAI began 25 years ago.

One of our founding board members, **Amy Carmien**, was the owner and publisher of a magazine titled *Women in Aviation* that she had begun in 1989. When WAI was established, Amy generously offered to give us four pages in her publication to include news about the organization and a subscription was included as a member benefit beginning in 1995. A couple of years later **Dick Koenig**, WAI founding board member and publisher of *Flying* magazine, suggested we consider owning a publication. In 1997, WAI offered to buy *Women in Aviation* magazine and so came the need for us to find an editor.

In the fall of 1997, we added a vice president position and **Carolyn Williamson** served in that capacity. We now had a "Southern WAI Office" in Auburn, Alabama, with Carolyn serving as the editor of our new magazine, *Aviation for Women*, which would launch in March 1998, as

part of her job responsibilities. A transition magazine issue was published in January 1998. Carolyn also oversaw our now growing chapter program with seven official and three provisional official chapters.

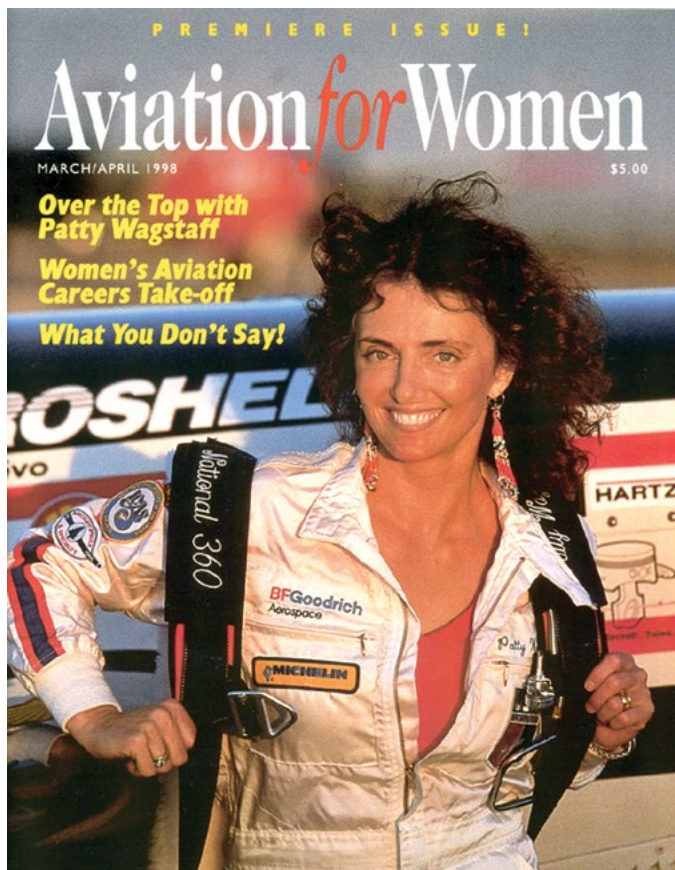
We were going to need an art director to help produce a magazine as well. Thanks

to WAI board members Dick Koenig and **Amy Laboda**, who had been a writer for *Flying*, we found **Nancy Bink**. Nancy had served as the art director for *Flying* magazine previously. Nancy has been an integral part of WAI since 1997, first

Amy Carmien generously offered to give us four pages in her publication to include news about the organization and a subscription was included as a member benefit.

as a contract employee to serve as art director for the magazine, but as her duties increased to oversee all of WAI's publications including membership and conference brochures, posters, and photography assignments, we eventually hired her to come on board full time and she is now our senior art director.

Another initiative that began in the first year of the organization was a commitment from founding board member **Sandy Anderson** to launch an endowment fund. The concept was to raise funds from which the interest earned would go to support scholarships, education, and youth programs as well as possible research initiatives. To make the fund a reality, Sandy gave the initial gift of \$2,000 in





Capt. Sandy Anderson established the WAI Endowment Fund

1995. The first goal was to reach a level of \$250,000.

During the 30th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference in Long Beach, California, March 14-16, 2019, the Endowment Fund reached the \$1 million goal. A generous gift from the Boeing Company put us over the limit and Sandy Anderson recently pledged another gift, of \$30,000, to start us on the way to \$2 million.

WAI enjoys a longtime partnership with the FAA, including several MOUs, the first of which was signed in March 1995 at a ceremony during the annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri. **Linda Daschle**, FAA deputy administrator, and I co-signed the agreement during the first day's general session. We had prepared a glass frame and proudly put the MOU on display in the frame on a tripod for conference attendees to see.

On the last day of the show—while packing up the conference supplies—I carefully put the MOU on top of the shell of my small pickup truck intending to place it on top of one of the boxes, making sure it was secured for the drive home. As I was pulling out of the parking garage, I heard a noise and immediately jumped out to find the MOU, still in the frame, but the glass broken and a tire mark across the document. After arriving home, I cleaned it as well as I could (but with the tire mark still slightly visible) and ironed out most of the wrinkles. A new frame was purchased, and it is still in good condition. Despite this incident, we have signed several other MOUs with FAA administrators including **Marion Blakey** and most recently **Michael Huerta**.

Those early days were focused on securing our premier membership benefit, *Aviation for Women* magazine, creating the WAI Endowment Fund, and establishing important industry partnerships including the FAA. This strategic platform provided us with the tools to build a strong organization for many years ahead. ➔

.....
In Part 3 in the November/December issue, I will review the additional milestones WAI reached to establish its important role to encourage the current aviation workforce and inspire the next generation of female aviators.



Linda Daschle, FAA deputy administrator, at WAI 1995



Editor Carolyn Williamson and Art Director Nancy Bink unveil the premiere issue of *Aviation for Women* magazine in 1998



FAA Administrator Marion Blakey renewing the MOU with Peggy Chabrian in 2006



FAA Administrator Michael Huerta renewing the MOU with Peggy Chabrian in 2015

The Men of Women in Aviation

Since the inception of Women in Aviation International men have been an integral part of the organization. In fact, even before WAI became an organization several men were involved in the success of the annual conference and in encouraging the idea of starting an organization. Some served as founding board members and as key volunteers. Currently, 22% of WAI's members are men, many involved in chapters (including officer positions) and hold board positions.

Ray Adams, WAI 884: As business manager at Parks College, he oversaw the accounting aspects of the conferences through 1995 and later volunteered for 15 years to help with accounting during the conferences.

Bruce Baty, WAI 2: A key volunteer at conferences and during the beginning years of the organization, Bruce was great at encouraging others to volunteer and to join.

Jerry Chabrian, WAI 1234: A board member and lifetime member, Jerry was instrumental in setting up the Morningstar Airport new office. A volunteer from 1998 through present, he assists at conferences, the main office, and trade shows. He invited WAI to be involved in the Sun 'n Fun Youth Activities Center that he created and chaired.

Gary Eiff, WAI 6: A founding board member, Gary and his wife Mary Ann were integral in attaining 501(c)(3) status for WAI.

Doug Henderson, WAI 678: Built the initial WAI membership database in December 1996 and has grown and developed the database that also includes conferences and events registration, donor tracking, exhibitor database, and website integration with database. IT manager contractor from 1997 to present

Dick Koenig, WAI 19: Founding board member, fundraiser, treasurer for 15 years

Ted Mallory, WAI 14811: Board member and volunteer for 12 years, initiated the WAI Wings Society to recognize key donors

Bill Monroe, WAI 18: Founding board member

Fred Schmidt, WAI 436: Volunteer at annual conference every year since 1992 and assists at EAA AirVenture booth and WAI Connect Breakfast

Jerry Thayer, WAI 74201: Volunteer at annual conferences, helping with audio visual equipment placement, repair, and training from 2012 through present

Verne Wiese, WAI 1435: Volunteer at annual conferences, headed up the coordination center for 20 years



DR. PEGGY
CHABRIAN

Girls in Aviation Day Keeps Growing

Dear WAI members:

What an exciting two months we have wrapped up—with more than 100 Girls in Aviation Day events conducted around the globe! WAI reached 20,000 youth from 8 to 17 years of age, introducing the exciting world of aviation, thanks to the dedication and volunteer spirit of thousands of *you*, our WAI members. I would like to personally thank all of you who helped plan, coordinate, and implement a Girls in Aviation Day program in your local community.

There's a lot of talk in the aviation industry today about the workforce needs for pilots, maintenance technicians, engineers, and more. The long-term solution to this problem is to "recruit" future employees by exciting young people about aviation careers. This may not put new employees in the cockpit or the maintenance hangars this year or next but it will over the next five to 10 years. And if the process continues, a steady stream of prospects will be in the pipeline.

I remember during my days as a university administrator talking with the admissions department about recruiting activities and goals for the aviation programs. Too often the focus was on the upcoming freshman class with little thought about the freshman class in future years. I stressed the need to reach out not just to high school juniors and seniors, but middle school students and even elementary school students to introduce them to aviation in general and our institution in particular for their future education needs.

Girls in Aviation Day is in its fifth year with tremendous growth each succeeding year. To learn more about how Girls in Aviation Day was created, see Part 3 of my series on the history of WAI on pages 22-23 of this issue.

I had the pleasure of participating in the Girls in Aviation Day program coordinated by our Bluegrass Chapter in Louisville, Kentucky. It's always inspiring to see the smiles and excitement displayed by the youth in attendance and almost as much fun to watch the adults hosting the event. There were lots of hands-on activities, plus 30 booths, more than 10 static aircraft on display, plus lots of opportunities to learn about aviation.

This is my last president's letter for *Aviation for Women* magazine as my term as president and CEO has ended. I look forward to seeing many of you in March 2020 in Florida at our annual conference. In fact, it will be a new experience to have time to attend some of the education sessions, sit and chat with old friends and meet new ones, and maybe even go on a tour. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your president for the last 25 years since the organization was founded. My wish is for continued growth and new opportunities for WAI in the next 25 years!

Sincerely,

Dr. Peggy Chabrian
President/CEO and Founder



WAI BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

I enjoyed meeting girls of all ages at the WAI Bluegrass Chapter Girls in Aviation Day at the Old Terminal Building at Bowman Field in Louisville, Kentucky.

CONTACT US • PHONE: 937-839-4647

Education, Industry Relations

Cassandra Bosco
Education and Industry
Relations Director
cbosco@wai.org • 202-415-2798

Membership, WAI Merchandise

Sue Coon
New Member Services Manager
scoon@wai.org

Stephanie Gordon
Renewal Services Manager
Conference Registration
sgordon@wai.org

Aviation for Women Magazine
Aviation for Girls Magazine
Kelly Murphy
Director of Communications
kmurphy@wai.org • 703-967-8113

Conference

Kerisa Citro
Director of Conferences and Events
kcitro@wai.org

Hope Moore

Conferences and Events Assistant
hmoore@wai.org

Chapters, Volunteers, Girls in Aviation Day

Molly Martin
Outreach Director
mmartin@wai.org • 850-508-8769

Christine Culver

Chapter Relations Specialist
cculver@wai.org

Scholarships, Exhibitors

Donna Wallace
Scholarship Coordinator/Exhibitor Coordinator
dwallace@wai.org

Art and Photography

Nancy Bink
Senior Art Director
nbink@wai.org

Jennifer Moore
Contributing Art Director
jmoore@wai.org

Business Development

Jennifer Saddler Thomas
Business Development Manager
jthomas@wai.org • 740-819-0471

Everything Else
Connie Lawrence
Operations Manager/Executive Assistant
clawrence@wai.org

Dr. Peggy Chabrian
President/CEO and Founder
pjchabrian@gmail.com



DR. PEGGY
CHABRIAN
2019

Honoring the Past, Educating the Future

In my final three-part series detailing the history of WAI, I explain how we have accomplished our third goal to focus on educating the general public about women's contributions to aviation, both historically and currently.

When Women in Aviation International began we wrote a mission statement with three goals. The first is to encourage women to pursue careers in the aviation industry; the second is to provide resources to assist women in aviation to realize their goals; and the third is to educate the general public regarding women's contributions to aviation, historically and currently.

Beginning in 1992 during the third Women in Aviation Conference, we began recognizing pioneers of aviation.

The WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame recognizes women or organizations that have made significant contributions to the aviation industry as record-setters, pioneers, or innovators. Special consideration is given to individuals who have helped other women become successful in aviation or opened doors of opportunity.

In 1992 during the Las Vegas conference, the first inductees into the WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame were **Moya Olsen Lear**, Lear Avia Inc. chairman of the board and visionary of the Lear Fan's successful first flight; **Emily Howell Warner**, first woman to fly for a major airline; **Fay Gillis Wells**, co-founder of the Ninety-Nines and aviation journalist; **Edna Gardner Whyte**, owner and operator of airports and flight training schools for 60 years; and **Jeana Yeager**, copilot on the around the world, nonstop, non-refueled Voyager flight in 1986.

The first group or organization to be inducted was the Women Airforce Service Pilots at the 1993 conference. Thirty-six members of the WASP attended the ceremony in St. Louis along with our two other inductees in 1993, **Nancy Hopkins Tier**, founder of the International Women's Air and Space Museum; and **Bobbi Trout**,

record-setting pilot in the 1920s and 1930s.

The new organization, Women in Aviation, was announced in 1995 to attendees of the 6th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference in St. Louis. The Pioneer Hall of Fame inductees that year included **Bessie Coleman**, the first African American to earn an international pilot certificate. Other 1995 inductees included **Eileen Collins**, the first woman named as a space shuttle pilot and later the first woman named as space shuttle commander; **Wally Funk**, one of the Mercury 13 astronaut candidates; **Jean Ross Howard**, founder of the Whirly-Girls; and **Nadine Jeppesen**, co-founder of the Jeppesen Corporation.

The individual primarily responsible for creating the concept of the WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame and who has served as the chair of the Pioneer Hall of Fame committee is **Trish Beckman**, WAI 17 and a founding board member. Trish continues in this role today.

A Lifetime Educator

Before our WAI conference or organization existed, my life's work was focused on aviation education. My master's degree is in aerospace education from Middle Tennessee State University, and my doctoral degree is in higher education administration.

From my time as an MTSU graduate student, I was involved with the university's annual Aviation and Space Teacher Workshops for elementary and secondary education. The goal was to share with teachers how they could implement aviation and space subject materials into their curriculum for math, geography, science, history, and more. The teachers were also provided with three flight lessons as part of the course.

During this time, I was a volunteer for the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education. Concepts learned from these two events played a part in the formation of the WAI conferences and organization.

Since the second WAI conference in 1991, we have offered an Aviation Teacher Workshop for teachers in the host city. We also invite our conference attendees—who may be educators or volunteers with local youth programs in their area—to show them how to use aviation as a motivator in the classroom or provide resources and activity ideas to be used when working with youth.

In 1985, while I was the aviation department

WAI and the WASP



The WASP at the 1992 conference



In 1993 the WASP were inducted into the WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame and 36 WASP attended the conference.



The WASP at the 2003 conference



At WAI 2007 the WASP took part in a signing event, flanked by their military mentees.



The first issue of *Aviation for Girls* premiered at Girls in Aviation Day 2015, with 17-year-old Adisfen Fenrich on the cover.

chair at Georgia State University, I wrote the Training Course Outline and developed its

Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic program. The FAA issued me a designated airworthiness representative certificate—the first non-FAA employee to hold such a designation for FIRC.

When I became a faculty member at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, I provided these clinics at both the Daytona Beach and Prescott, Arizona, campuses. The courses I developed included multiple speakers throughout the three-day events including **William K. Kershner**, a well-known aviation author.

Two years later, I was offered the position of associate dean at ERAU's Prescott campus. And from 1990-1995 I served as dean and associate vice president of Parks College of St. Louis University. Because of my interest in aviation and space education for students in the elementary and secondary schools, I initiated and developed FAA approved Teacher Resource Centers in three locations—ERAU's two campuses, plus Parks College in Cahokia, Illinois. These resource centers provided learning materials from various organizations and government agencies including the FAA, NASA, GAMA, Cessna Aircraft Company, Civil Air Patrol, and many others for these students.

In the mid-2000s, in working with SAFE, WAI provided FIRC for WAI members who are flight instructors and CFIs in the area where the conference was being held. WAI provided an aviation education component to our membership services.

Educating the Next Generation

For the 2012 conference in Dallas, Texas, I invited **Rod Hightower**, then president of the Experimental Aircraft Association, to be a keynote speaker. Before the conference, Rod mentioned he had four daughters and wondered if it would be okay to bring one or two of them to the conference.

During our next weekly conference planning meeting, I mentioned Rod's question. One of our staff, **Pat Luebke**, said it sounded like "Bring Your Daughter to Work" but now it could be "Bring Your Daughter to the Conference." The idea spurred an event during the conference where attendees can bring a daughter, granddaughter, niece, or other young person to enjoy some specially designed activities for that age group. The first Bring Your Daughter to the Conference Day occurred in 2012 with around 140 youth, ages 8-16, in attendance. We also advertised this new event in the local Dallas community, inviting girls from local Girl Scout troops, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and local schools.

We continue to hold this event, now named Girls in Aviation Day, on the Saturday of the conference each year with hands-on activities, college/university representatives, aviation career information, dynamic speakers, and an exhibit hall scavenger hunt.

After the fourth year of these conference events, I realized we were missing a unique opportunity. These annual events were valuable for those who could attend, but it was once a year in a single city wherever the conference was located. What if we asked our chapters to conduct similar events in their local community in the fall? We've always suggested our chapters hold at least one education activity annually. Some would visit schools in their area to participate in a career day event, or attend a local Girl Scout troop meeting or a youth outreach event to introduce youth to aviation.

Some chapters struggled with knowing what to do, or who to approach for these events, so WAI provided templates of activities and materials that could be used all year round. *AFW* Editor-in-Chief **Kelly Nelson** created a new youth magazine called *Aviation for Girls* with content that included career information and education resources. Sectional training charts and worksheets, plus hands-on activities ideas were additional resources offered for Girls in Aviation Day.

Both our education outreach initiatives and Girls in Aviation Day are recognized throughout the aviation industry as key programs to encourage our future workforce and help to address the shortage of pilots and technicians. ➔



In 1992 three of the very first WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame inductees, Emily Howell Warner, Moya Lear, and Fay Gillis Wells, celebrated with Gen. Chuck Yeager.



The Bessie Coleman stamp was unveiled at 1995 conference.



JOHN RIEDEL

The first official Bring Your Daughter to the Conference Day was held in 2012 in Dallas.



LARRY GRACE

In 2015, Larry Grace photographed the first WAI Stars of the North Chapter Girls in Aviation Day, showing off the vibrant pink backpacks.

Donate to the Annual Fund and get the latest WAI Pioneer tote



WAI staff sporting this year's new Pioneer tote bag at Morningstar Airport in Ohio.

Get the tote bag that inspires!

Minimum donation \$25. Support our endowment and education programs and receive this unique tote bag for free. Want to purchase extra bags as gifts? The 2019 Pioneer tote is available for an extra \$15 per bag once you have made your initial donation. (Totes mailed to single address.)

Donate now at www.WAI.org/annualfund19 or call 937-839-4647. You can also mail your check to Women in Aviation International, 3647 State Route 503 South, West Alexandria, OH 45381.

Challenge the rules like LORNA

Lorna de Blicquy

Preserve history like MARTY

Mary Anna "Marty" Martin Wyall

Step forward like HAZEL

Hazel Ying Lee

Serve your country like VIVIEN

Vice Adm. Vivien Crea'

Turn a wrench like MARY

Mary Felk

Command like EILEEN

Eileen Collins

Perform like JULIE

Julie Clark

Set records like RUTH

Ruth Nichols

Explore like ALICE

Alice du Pont Mills

Be the first like JERRIE

Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock

Change policy like TRISH

Trish Beckman

Blaze a Trail like ROSELLA

Rosella Bjornson

Overcome your challenges like MARION

Marion P. Jayne

Strive to wear out, not rust out like FRAN

Fran Bera

Be the "girl who beat the guys" like LOUISE

Louise Thaden