



WAI Connect

The Official eNewsletter of
Women in Aviation International



[FOR MEMBERS](#)

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[Aviation for Women MAGAZINE](#)

August 2021

We've Got 100 Scholarships!

The 2022 WAI scholarship program is live and taking applications. Members are encouraged to visit www.WAI.org/scholarships and review dozens of scholarships that fit your aviation and aerospace interests.

Currently there are 100 scholarships totaling \$485,505 offered for flight training, engineering, maintenance, dispatcher, drones, and professional development for individuals in all stages of life.

Applicants are encouraged to check for new scholarships often and may apply for up to three scholarships per year. In order to qualify for a scholarship, the applicant must be a WAI member as of October 1, 2021. The deadline for 2022 applications is Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

In 2021, WAI awarded 149 scholarships valued at \$731,805. This total includes 47 scholarships awarded through a \$250,000 Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant. The total amount of scholarships awarded by WAI since 1995 is more than \$14.5 million.



Victoria Besler, Alaska, WAI 99103, Spring 2021 Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Initial Helicopter Scholarship winner



Brin Barnett, Utah, WAI 88601, Spring 2021 Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Aircraft Maintenance Scholarship winner

The 2022 scholarships will be awarded during the [33rd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference](#) in Nashville, Tennessee, from March 17-19, 2022.



Shakar Soltani, Texas, WAI 84326, 2021 Spring Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Private Pilot Scholarship winner

[WAI 2022 Scholarships](#)

[Meet the Winners of the 2021 Spring Scholarships](#)

[#OSH21 Shines with Connect Breakfast and Busy WAI Booth](#)

Enjoying the return to a major in-person aviation event--EAA Air Venture Oshkosh 2021--Women in Aviation International kicked off WomenVenture 2021 last week with more than 200 attendees at the 13th WAI Connect Breakfast, co-sponsored by Avemco and United Airlines. Held at the Paul H. Poberezny Conference Center (PHP Tent), the breakfast featured two female members of the Orbis MD-10 Flying Eye Hospital, pilot Cyndhi Berwyn and mechanic Valerie Sudberg, who shared their stories about volunteering for the global effort to end



Valerie Sudberg (L) and Cyndhi Berwyn (R) of the Flying Eye Hospital at WAI Connect Breakfast.

avoidable blindness in this state-of-the-art flying teaching hospital. WAI members and guests were invited to tour the aircraft during #OSH21 and learn more about this important humanitarian program.

In past years, the group would have migrated from the breakfast to Boeing Plaza for the annual WomenVenture group photo. In 2019, the last time the group photo was taken, more than a thousand women photo was taken in person. Rather, WomenVenture participants were encouraged to take a selfie in the annual WomenVenture t-shirt and submit it to receive a free WomenVenture 2021 framed digital version of their photo. Photos submitted will also be used to create a commemorative photo collage that is available for download here (or after AirVenture 2021).

“WAI was delighted to meet with hundreds of new and existing individual and corporate members during EAA AirVenture last week,” WAI CEO Allison McKay says. “We were able to share important information about our WAI 2022 scholarships, now totaling 100 valued at more than \$485,000 in awards, as well as Girls in Aviation Day on September 25, 2021, and our 33rd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference March 17-19, 2022, in Nashville, Tennessee.”

In addition, WAI staff welcomed hundreds of members at its booth Hangar B-2041 during the week-long event with special visits from WAI members **Jessica Cox**, the first licensed armless pilot; **Olga Custodio**, the first female Latina U.S. military pilot as well as the first Latina commercial pilot at American Airlines; **Tammie Jo Shults**, one of the first female fighter pilots to serve in the U.S. Navy and captain of Southwest 1380 flight; **Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost**, a four-star general recently nominated as commander at the U.S. Transportation Command and now serving as commander of Air Mobility Command, **Patty Wagstaff**, a six-time member of the U.S. Aerobatic Team and the first woman to win the title of U.S. National Aerobatic champion; **Shaesta Waiz**, the youngest woman to fly solo around the world in a single-engine aircraft; and many others.

Check WAI social media for lots of photos highlighting this special week in Oshkosh, Wisconsin!





asa **2021 TEST PREP**

KNOW THE ESSENTIALS TO BECOME A SAFE, COMPETENT PILOT.

PRIVATE PILOT • INSTRUMENT RATING • INSTRUCTOR • COMMERCIAL PILOT • AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT • REMOTE PILOT

A banner for the ASA 2021 Test Prep program. It features the ASA logo on the left and a small image of a propeller plane on the right. The text is centered and includes the program name, a tagline, and a list of pilot categories.

Prepare for the Fun of Girls in Aviation Day 2021!

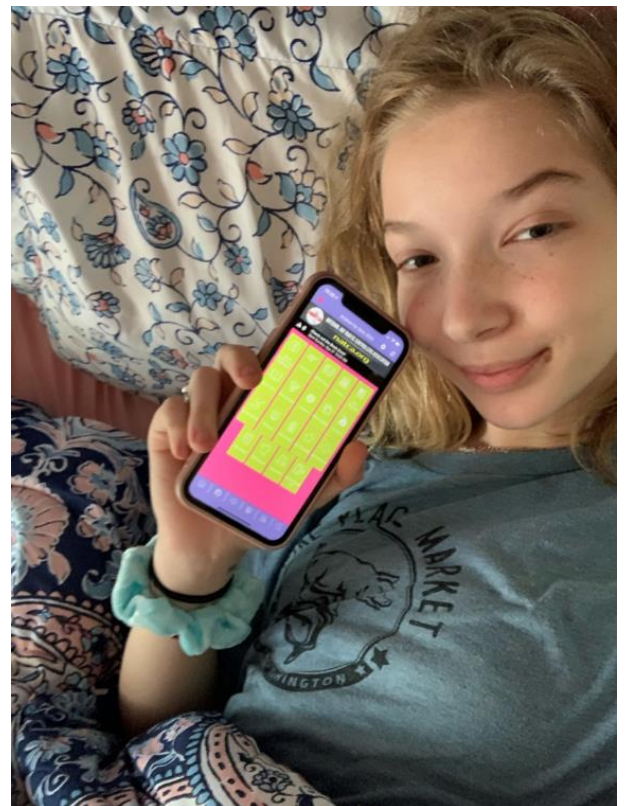
Is your chapter planning an event for the 7th Annual Girls in Aviation Day on September, 25, 2021? Are you a WAI Corporate Member and want to learn how to participate or host a #GIAD21 program?

WAI can help with GIAD resources, activities, and tools. Order the new 2021 Girls in Aviation Day merchandise kit online by August 23, 2021.

Visit www.WAI.org/chapters/resources.

[Interested in becoming a GIAD21 partner? Contact Jennifer Thomas.](#) Funds are used for the distribution, including associated shipping and handling costs, of the 2021 merchandise kit for each participant around the world.

Learn about the content available on the Aviation for Girls App, and how to download and access at WAI.org/aviation-girls-2021-app.



[Watch the Girls in Aviation Day 2021 Promo Video](#)

[Find a Chapter Near You](#)

Many thanks for our 2021 Girls in Aviation Day partners, without whom this incredible program would not be possible. PREMIER - United Airlines; CONTRIBUTING - Envoy Air, ISTAT Foundation, PPG Foundation, Pratt & Whitney, Sporty's Pilot Shop; SUPPORTING - ALPA, Amazon, CAE, FedEx, GE Aviation, NATCA, Netflix Inc., NetJets/NJASAP, Solairus Aviation, SpaceX, Textron Aviation, The Kroger Company; ADDITIONAL PARTNERS - Air Transport Services Group (ATSG), American Express, Aviation Suppliers & Academics (ASA), Cape Air/Nantucket Airlines, Emanuel Bachmann Foundation, Hartzell Propeller, JCL Aviation Services, JJR Solutions, Scorpius Imagery Inc., Wings Financial

Join a strong community of pilots, builders, and dreamers.



Get Ready for WAI2022 in Nashville!

Start planning for our 33rd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference next year in Nashville, Tennessee!

[Rooms are now available for booking at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center](#) with rates starting at \$195 per night available through February 8, 2022, or until sold out. All conference events will take place onsite at the Gaylord Resort.

On-site parking fee: \$32 daily, valet parking fee: \$40 daily. Shuttles from Nashville International Airport (BNA) to the Gaylord Opryland Resort will be available on limited days/hours pending COVID-19 restrictions. Check back closer to the event date to schedule transportation.

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center
Nashville, Tennessee

33rd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference
March 17-19, 2022

WAI2022

WAI is headed to Nashville, Tennessee, and we want you to join us for WAI2022!

The 33rd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, March 17-19, 2022 in Nashville, Tennessee. Come experience the energy and excitement of Music City at Gaylord Opryland as you network with aviation industry professionals and continue your career development at education sessions, professional development seminars, and industry briefings. Save the date for next year's three-day gathering for more mentoring and fun!

Book your room now at www.WAI.org/conference-hotel-2022.
Registration coming soon at www.WAI.org/22conference.

Women in Aviation INTERNATIONAL
WAI.org/22conference

We can't wait to see you in Nashville next March 17-19 to connect, engage, inspire!

[Book Your Hotel Room](#)

[Watch the Nashville Promo Video](#)



Airline Career Pilot Program
Get the Competitive Edge & Access More Opportunities with Advanced Qualifications

ATP
Request Info

The banner features a dark background with a cockpit instrument panel. The text is white and red, with the ATP logo in red and white.

Member News

Wally Funk, Lifetime member 26, fulfilled her lifelong mission to become an astronaut on July 20, 2021, during New Shepard's first human flight. At age 82, Wally became the oldest person to fly in space and joined Jeff and Mark Bezos, the first siblings to ever fly in space together, and Oliver Daemen, the youngest person to fly in space at age 18.

WAI members and friends around the world, watched Wally and her three colleagues during their approximately 10-minute flight to space.

Wally is the first female FAA inspector and first female NTSB air safety investigator, and was inducted into the [WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame in 1995](#). The city of Grapevine, Texas, will welcome Wally home this Saturday, August 7 at noon [during a parade along Grapevine's Historic Main Street](#).

Watch Blue Origin's replay of New Shepard's first human flight [here](#).



One of the best photos from the historic New Shepard First Human Flight on July 20, 2021, is Wally Funk's arrival after the picture perfect landing in the West Texas desert!

Industry News

What the Airline Industry Needs to Know About the Employee Retention Credit

Presenters: Tyler Noesser and Jennifer Groff

Tuesday, August 10, at Noon CT/1pm ET

As the U.S. economy begins to reopen, business owners within the airline industry are looking for ways to accelerate recovery. There are government incentives available to you because of the services you provide here in the U.S. Join alliantgroup for an informative session on the latest updates to powerful tax credits and incentives for WAI Corporate Members. Hear from alliantgroup's technical directors, Tyler Noesser and Jennifer Groff, as they walk you through the NEW, 2021 version of the Employee Retention Credit, why it applies to you, the latest changes to the tax code from the IRS, how you can qualify for these critical credits, and why all business owners not claiming it need to seriously reconsider. To date, alliantgroup has helped over 20,000 businesses uncover over \$13 billion in credits and cash refunds. [REGISTER HERE FOR THIS FREE WEBINAR.](#)

Employee Retention Credit for Women in Aviation Corporate Members

SPEAKERS

**Jennifer Groff**
Associate Director

**Tyler Noesser**
Director

Tuesday, Aug. 10, at Noon CT

alliantgroup®

Shop at the [WAI Store!](http://www.WAI-Store.org)



Gear Up for Summer

Shop the WAI Store, and show
your membership pride!

**Heathered
mandala
t-shirt**
\$20

Water Bottle
24 oz.
\$12

**Ladies Nexus
Softshell Jacket**
\$95

**Aviation Plush
Throw**
\$45



Baseball Hat
\$16

Custom design by AC Aviation Art

**Smalls 5,000 mAh
Powerbank**
\$35

**Waterproof Bluetooth
Speaker**
\$40

Aviation Duffel
\$60

Shop at

www.WAI-Store.org



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 Outreach Director Molly Martin to sign up.*

2021

August 11-13 - FORWARD OBAP 2021 Virtual Conference www.OBAP.org

August 27 - AOPA Aviator Showcase, Manassas Regional Airport (HEF), Manassas, Virginia www.AOPA.org

September 17-19 - NGPA Cape Cod Classic, Provincetown, Massachusetts www.NGPA.org

September 25 - 7th Annual International Girls in Aviation Day www.WAI.org/girls-aviation-day-2021

October 1 - AOPA Aviator Showcase, Fort Worth Alliance Airport (AFW), Fort Worth, Texas www.AOPA.org

October 12-14 - NBAA-BACE, Las Vegas, Nevada www.NBAA.org

October 29 - Aviation Education & Career Expo, ProJet Aviation at Leesburg Executive Airport (KJYO), Leesburg, Virginia www.ProJetAviation.com

2022

March 17-19 - 33rd Annual International Women in Aviation Conference, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee www.WAI.org/22conference

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

- **Flying magazine subscription:** annual \$8.00 rate for new subscribers
- **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

"A woman is like a teabag--you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water."
-Bessie Coleman

[Pioneer Hall of Fame](#)

[Education & Careers](#)

[Scholarships](#)



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