

# AIR NEWS

Chicago Area Chapter Ninety-Nines®, Inc., International Organization of Women Pilots.



FEBRUARY 2026

chicagoarea99s.org

We did it

Hope you got to be there

## 2026 Aviation Expo

### IFR PILOT SESSIONS

8:15 Opening Remarks Madeleine M  
**Speaker Intros- Vickie S**

9:00 Flying Real IFR—a Comprehensive Review  
Gary Reeves—the Guy in the Pink Shirt (GPS)  
This 3 hour comprehensive class will bring you up to date and help your level of confidence while operating in the airspace.

13:30 ATC Was My Co-Pilot  
Minnetta Gardinier, Race Pilot, 99s Vice President

15:00 Tales from the TRACON  
Eddie Trujillo, Air Traffic Controller

### VFR PILOT SESSIONS

08:15 Opening Remarks Madeleine M  
**Speaker Intros- Larisa K**

09:00 VFR Airport Runway Procedures  
Jennifer Settle, FAA Runway Safety

10:00 Mosaic Can Change your Pilot Life  
Michael Baraz, CFII, FAA Safety Rep

11:00 Backcountry Airstrips & Your Role in Safe Ops  
Mike Purpura, Regional Manager

14:00 Between a Rock & a Hard Place Mental Health  
Penny Levin CFI, PhD

15:00 Flying Paved Alaska  
Dave Montgomery, Intrepid Aviator

### FLYING COMPANION SESSIONS

09:00 How Does It Fly?

10:40 Customary Communications

13:30 Finding Your Way Around

15:00 Stay Calm and Carry On

A Comprehensive all day Program for Right Seat Riders

All sessions created, produced and presented by Chicago 99s  
Jen M + Jamie S

### Vendors

Aviation Chicago, Blue Skies Flying Services, Civil Air Patrol, Chicago Executive Airport , Chicago Executive Pilot Association  
Chicago Executive Flight School, Chicago Flight Instructors Association, Chicago TRACON, DuPage Airport, EAA Warbird Squadron 4, Eagles Nest Projects Wisconsin, Extreme Flight Simulation, FAA FSDO, Fly America, Fly Waterloo, Golden Wings Team, Holiday Airways, IDOT Division of Aeronautics, Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame, Leading Edge Flying Club, Lewis University, Lifeline Pilots, Midwest Sight Foundation, Plane English, Poplar Grove Airmotive, Recreational Aircraft Foundation, Soaring Society of America, Stick and Rudder Flying Club, Tuskegee Airmen DODO Chapter, Women in Aviation Leading Edge Chapter, Wair Aviation

PHOTOS IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE OF AIR NEWS

**WHO'S WHO  
in the  
Chicago Area Chapter**

**CHAIR**

**Victoria S**



# *Skywriting*

*Chicago Area Chair, Vickie S*

**VICE CHAIR**

**Larisa K**

**SECRETARY**

**Lisa M**

**TREASURER**

**Susan M**

Deadline for submission the  
20th of the month :

Editor

**Madeleine M**

Air News is published monthly by the Chicago Area Chapter of the 99s Inc and is available to non-members for \$20 per year. Members must pay chapter dues to receive Air News. Suggested donation for a business card size ad is \$5/month or \$50/year. Members may place 6 free personal ads per year. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and shall not be construed to express the policies or opinions of the Ninety-Nines, Inc.

Welcome to Winter! I hope that I was able to see you at our Aviation Expo! Did you get a chance to meet up, talk airplanes and learn a few things? Thank you to Madeleine for another amazing Expo! Also, thank you to Susan for handling the vendor tables, Cynthia and Megan for new membership, Jen & Jamie for Flying Companion, Larisa for VFR introductions, Eva for photography, Krista for publicity, and anyone else that I missed! It takes a team effort to put on the Expo, but I can tell you that it is appreciated! Members from my EAA chapter have told me how they look forward to the event. It is something special that the Chapter has been putting on the Expo for over 50 years. Thank you and Great job!

Coming up are two sets of elections. The first is for the North Central Section (NCS) from February 2 – 27 th . We will be electing the section Governor, Vice-governor, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Directors and the Nominating Committee (5). The biographies of the candidates are the the NCS Waypoint for Winter 2025/2026. Ballots will be sent by e-mail if you opted for electronic voting or by mail if you did not opt in.

The second set of elections is for International. The Voting will be from March 15th to May 1 st . The election will be for President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Directors and the Nominating Committee (3). Also, trustee positions for the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, Museum of Women Pilots, the Endowment fund, and the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship. Ballots will be sent by e-mail or text if you opted for electronic voting or by mail if you did not opt in. Please consider changing to electronic voting as it is easy and cost-effective. You can change to electronic voting by updating your information on the Ninety-nines website in the member's section. (I find that I do not get the full menu when I first log into the member's section. If I click on any menu item (ie member benefits) and then go back down to the list I will have the full list.) Please remember to vote. It is important.

One more thing, please come join us at the Spring Section meeting March 27-29. Registration has started. Price is \$110 before 3/15, and \$125 after. If you have never attended a section meeting and would like some financial help, let me or another board member know, as the Chapter does have a "scholarship" for a first-time attendee. The meeting is not too far away being in Batavia, OH near Cincinnati. It is the home of Sporty's Pilot Shop too!

Here's to blue skies!

*Vickie*



## STUDENT PILOT UPDATE

Gathered by Joy R

**From Maddie S:** Happy New Year! I have some amazing news to share with the group. On Christmas Eve, I passed my Private Pilot Checkride. Best Christmas gift ever! I attached a photo for the newsletter :)

**What is a common misconception about being a Pilot that you'd like to debunk?** "Small planes are unsafe". Now that I have spent about 75 hours in various 172's, there are always risks but I've found experience, thorough maintenance, and decision-making matter more than size.

**On average, how many hours do you fly or spend on ground school in a typical week/month?** On average, I am flying 2x a week with 1 ground lesson. I also try to study at least one hour on weekdays and a bit more on weekends.

**To date, what has been the best advice you've received from your Instructor or a fellow Pilot?** A piece of advice that really stuck with me was to get in the habit of always thinking a step or two ahead. Doing small things early, like loading frequencies or checking weather and altimeter settings in advance, makes flying feel more manageable. When it's time for takeoff or landing, you can focus on flying instead of scrambling.

Congratulations, Maddie!

And we just heard from our reporter Joy Rickel's daughter, that Joy is recovering from some serious unexpected surgery. Please keep her in your thoughts!



## AND UPDATES FROM OTHER MEMBERS!

by Kadijah H

An update report from our reporter!!!!

**Kadijah H :** I have been helping my instructor change the instrument panel in his glider, a Rolladen-Schneider LS8. The first day of the year started with a glider flight at the Chicago Glider Club in 20-degree weather. It was cold, but it was a lot of fun.





### **Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship**

The Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship offers two annual scholarships to members of the North Central Section ("NCS") under the auspices of The Chicago Area Chapter of The Ninety-Nines ("CAC").

One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is to be used to assist a 99 in the completion of an additional pilot certificate or rating. Applicant must be a current pilot with the appropriate medical certificate.

The other scholarship offers \$1,000 to assist a Student Pilot Member toward completion of an initial pilot certificate in any aircraft. Applicants must have soloed, and, if required for the pilot certificate sought, must have a current medical certificate and must have passed the written exam.

Applicants must be a current member of The 99s, the NCS and their chapter in good standing.

Applicants must submit three (3) copies of each: the completed and signed application including the form; attached essay; letter of recommendation from their chapter chair; proof of certificates and ratings held; medical certificate; proof of date and score of knowledge tests taken; copy of last page(s) of logbook showing current hours flown; and a letter of reference from someone outside of the aviation community who is not a relative. These documents must be mailed to the address on the application form to be postmarked no later than the date indicated on the form.

Funds will be paid from receipts which document the training. Receipts must be signed by both the student and instructor and include copies of the logbook if applicable.

Funds are to be used within two years of the award date. Prior applicants and recipients may re-apply in future years.

The winning candidate and all candidates who did not qualify will be notified within one month after the receipt deadline.

2026

**Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship Application**

**\$2,000 to a Ninety-Nine for Advanced Certificate or Rating**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (                    ) Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Application for which certificate or rating? \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach an essay (essay may not exceed one page, one side only) and include at least the following elements:

1. Tell us about yourself, your activities in aviation, and participation in The Ninety-Nines. Be specific.
2. Describe your goals in aviation or aerospace, and opportunities. Tell us what you have already accomplished in pursuit of these goals, pertinent to specific certificate/rating sought. Why are you seeking this specific training? How will it help you to qualify for or to advance in an aviation-related profession or charitable cause?
3. Tell us how you have financed your training and education so far. Make a statement of financial need for completion of this training.
4. How will awarding you this scholarship benefit The Ninety-Nines and the aviation community?
5. If applicable, clearly explain any training request that might be considered unusual.

The completed application must include:

1. This form and attached essay.
2. Proof of certificates, ratings, knowledge test taken (with score) and medical held.
3. A copy of the last page(s) of your logbook showing current hours flown.
4. A letter of reference from someone not a family member and outside of the aviation community.
5. A letter of recommendation from your chapter chair.
6. The signed and dated Signature Form.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SIGNATURE FORM**

Print full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Return three (3) copies of the Application and attachments to:**

Chicago Area Chapter of The Ninety-Nines

Cynthia M

(see Ninety-Nines Directory for address)

Completed Application and Attachments Must Be Postmarked by **March 1, 2026**

2026

**Richard J. Santori Memorial Scholarship Application**  
**\$1,000 to a Student Pilot Member Ninety-Nines, Inc.**  
**For Initial Pilot License**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach an essay (essay may not exceed one page, one side only) and include at least the following elements:

1. Tell us about yourself, your activities in aviation, and participation in The Ninety-Nines. Be specific.
2. Tell us how you have financed your training and education so far. Make a statement of financial need for completion of this training.
3. How will awarding you this scholarship benefit The Ninety-Nines and the aviation community?
4. If applicable, clearly explain any training request that might be considered unusual.

The completed application must include:

1. This form and attached essay.
2. Proof of student medical certificate held, knowledge test taken (with score), and solo.
3. A copy of the last page(s) of your logbook showing current hours flown.
4. A letter of reference from someone not a family member and outside of the aviation community.
5. A letter of recommendation from your chapter chair.
6. The signed and dated Signature Form.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SIGNATURE FORM

**Print full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Applicant** **Date**

**Return three (3) copies of the Application and attachments to:**

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Cynthia M

(see Ninety-Nines Directory for address)

Completed Application and Attachments Must Be Postmarked by **March 1, 2026**

## **ARE YOU READY TO VOTE IN THE NEXT NINETY-NINES INTERNATIONAL ELECTION?**

Kathy F, Chair, Election Procedures Committee

International election will be held from March 15-May 1, 2026.

To those who participated in the recent survey on voting processes, thank you very much for your thoughtful input. We are now analyzing the results and will share key messages in the coming weeks.

On March 15, 2026, members will receive an invitation to vote in the international election for Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Nominating Committee members via email and text message (if you are registered for electronic voting), or via a printed ballot if you requested one. We are also looking at possible distribution of voting notifications using WhatsApp. We will update you when that is confirmed.

Choosing an electronic ballot helps The Ninety-Nines save on printing, mailing, and processing costs. If you are one of the members who still need to switch to electronic voting, please consider that every dollar saved can be reinvested in our various programs and outreach initiatives. Electronic voting is fast, secure, and convenient, making it easier than ever to have your voice heard in shaping our organization's future.

Make the switch today and be part of this positive change! You can check your voting status on our website in the Members Area. On the right-hand side list, select Update Information. The Membership Update form is opened, with your name on the top. Scroll down, and you will see Online Voting. Make sure you have "Yes" checked off. If you require assistance to update your preference for electronic voting, please contact Laura Ohrenberg, [hqmanager@ninety-nines.org](mailto:hqmanager@ninety-nines.org).

All members should please verify that your email address and/or text/SMS number (or mailing address for printed ballots) are up to date. Thank you.

Clarification regarding the application of international Standing Rule VIII 1 concerning campaigning activities was published in the Jan-Feb issue of The 99 News.

The North Central Section Election for  
Governor, Vice Governor, Treasurer, Secretary,  
Board Members, and Nominating Committee Members  
will be held from February 9-27, 2026.  
The International Election will follow in mid-March.

**AIR NEWS**

Madeleine M



Chicago Area Chapter Ninety-Nines, Inc. International Organization of Women Pilots

**CHICAGO AREA 99S 2026 CALENDAR**

FEB 13	CHAPTER MEETING SCHAUMBURG AIRPORT 7PM	VICKIE + MADELEINE <b>NEW DAY TIME PLACE</b>
MAR 27-29	NCS MEETING OHIO SPORTY'S	ALL OHIO HOSTS
APR 18	CHAPTER MEETING	T.B.D.
MAY 23	AVIATION FOR GIRLS DAY LEWIS UNIVERSITY	CORIE + MEGAN
JUNE 13	ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING SKY SOARING	ELIZABETH
JULY 8-12	INTERNATIONAL—SAN DIEGO	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
JULY 20-26	EAA AIRVENTURE VOLUNTEER AT A 99 BOOTH	99S PRES/VP IN CHARGE
AUG 15	CHAPTER MEETING HAINESVILLE	ANA
SEPT 11-12	INTL FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP 50TH ANN REUNION	HONORING ONE OF OUR MEMBERS
SEPT 24	CHAPTER MEETING PILOT PETES DINNER	MADELEINE
OCT 2-4	NCS MEETING—INDIANA	INDIANA CHAPTER
OCT 17	CHAPTER AIR MEET (RAIN DATE 18) LANSING	VICKIE & CYNTHIA
NOV 12	FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN	LISA
DEC 13	HOLIDAY PARTY	SUSAN