

AIR NEWS

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

JANUARY 2026



chicagoarea99s.org

After the Holidays, after New Year celebrations,
when the weather is as midwestern miserable as possible, we have a big event to host!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 8AM TO 4PM

IFR/VFR Safety Seminar

Chicago Area Chapter 99s

2026 Aviation Expo

HILTON CHICAGO NORTHBROOK 2855 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062

There will be a full day of IFR Classes, a full day of VFR Classes, and a full day of Flying Companion Classes. You may move between classrooms as you see fit.

There will be an exposition room filled with organizations and businesses related to aviation and you can visit with any or all between classes.

Lunch will be provided on site!



For more information and the list of speakers and classes, see our website
Chicagoarea99s.org



Happy New Year

WHO'S WHO in the Chicago Area Chapter

CHAIR

Victoria S

VICE CHAIR

Larisa K

SECRETARY

Lisa M

TREASURER

Susan R M

Deadline for submission the 20th of the month :

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.



Skywriting Chicago Area Chair, Vickie S

Happy New Year!

I hope your holidays were happy and bright! We had a wonderful time at our Holiday party! A big thank you to Lisa and chef 49.5 Peter! Also, thank you to Madeleine for arranging to have the event at a truly lovely venue. It was fun to talk and catch up and just hang out with everyone. Did I mention the food? I'd describe all of it, but it would take the rest of this column. Needless to say it was delicious!

Last month I looked back to see all the things and people that I am grateful for. This month I am looking ahead. What do I want for 2026? Retirement? Oshkosh? I am planning a trip to Yosemite and working on getting ready to hike the mountains. My plan is to get my IFR rating this year. I want to have my written done by April so that I can concentrate on flying in the spring. I also want to fly to the AirZoo in Kalamazoo, Michigan, go see some cousins in St. Louis and Iowa, and spend several days at AirVenture.

What are your flying goals? Are you planning to get back into the left seat, or get a rating, PPL, IFR, tailwheel, seaplane? How about taking a trip? Fly to the Spring section meeting in Ohio, visit an aviation museum, go see a friend? How about a learning goal? Watch some webinars or come to the Aviation Expo. I'm planning to do a bit of each one of these.

Do you have some 99 goals? Can you get involved more? Maybe help out on one of our committees or host a meeting, help at Girls in Aviation Day. Or just come to a meeting, join us at a section meeting, how about the 99s International Conference in San Diego? We would love to see you!

I hope you set some great goals for 2026 and that you have an amazing 2026!

Vickie



We want to welcome all of the members who joined us in 2025.

Shannon A-S
Rachel B
Kristina B
Emma B
Tina B
Diana C-A
Eliana F
Clara F
Daniela G
Lilly G
Allison G

Anna H
Mia K
Jasleen K
Emily L
Mya L
Angela M
Eva M
Jelisa M
Adeline O
Delani P
Sydney P

Bailey R
Peyton R
Melissa R
Bella R
Maddie S
Eriel S
Judy S
Cheyenne S
Stacy W
Ewelina W

STUDENT PILOT UPDATE REPORTS

Info gathered by Joy R

Greetings of the New Year to each one of you and to your families. We continue to report on our Student Pilot activities and I want to encourage you to respond to the questions you're sent each month. Do not underestimate how interesting your activities and what you're doing, as well as your tips, experiences and advice are to others.

Stacy W: My favorite item of pilot gear would be my new headseta birthday present. Before taking off I always ask my instructor if he is ready and he responds, 'Are you ready?' Then I say let's go Citrus. My goal is to be an inspiration to my middle school students. I also can't wait to fly to Bessie's to get a burger.

Maddie S: My favorite item of pilot equipment is my Bose headset. I put a lot of time and research into this before I pulled the trigger on these and I am so glad I did! While the price destroyed my wallet, I knew the noise cancelling and bluetooth features would be a worthwhile investment. There is nothing better than drowning the roar of the engine with your favorite song on a long XC flight.

I believe every pilot should experience one real spin during their Private Pilot training. While spins are no longer a requirement for your PPL, I think experiencing the sensation of one could be a lifesaving choice. One of my CFIs actually failed his first Private Pilot Checkride because he accidentally got into a spin while performing his power-on stall. He'd never been in a fully developed spin before, completely froze on the controls, and the DPE had to take control. Despite knowing the recovery procedure, there is nothing that can quite prepare you like the real thing.

Note from Joy: I wish you all a Healthy, Happy New Year and an abundance of Blue Skies!

AND UPDATES FROM OTHER MEMBERS!

Info gathered by Kadajah H

Gina S: I have been diligently studying the Socata TBM 700A manual in advance, preparing for my Sim Com training in Orlando, Florida next year. I purchased TBM 442DS this past July! I have always liked the TBM and hoped to one day find one. Well, the day has come. With my busy life, competing in professional and non-professional rodeos and barrel races in Wisconsin, Michigan and now for the winter in Texas, I have had challenges finding the time and focus to learn this aircraft well. I have been flying the TBM back and forth from Aurora Municipal Airport (KARR) to Brenham Municipal Airport (KR11), on a monthly basis. Reading the manual and then getting in the plane for longer rides lets me have the practical experience I will need for my training. I am flying with a wonderful American Airlines Captain, Mr. Mark W. I was able to put him on my insurance and get him the initial training at Sim Com to be up to speed to fly with me. Mark, of course, is a highly qualified CFI-I with numerous ratings. His full-time job is flying the American Dreamliner 787, primarily to South America.

I purchased a ranch this year, as well, in Brenham, Texas so I could train on my horses and race year-round. I will be residing in Texas November through April each year. Owning a ranch has its challenges and a learning curve, to say the least. But it is fun work, and long days. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. I wish I could have attended the Christmas event and see everyone but know you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Diane H-S: Hi to all my old friends, and those unknown but hope to be in the future. Am happily retired here in Cape Coral Florida for several years now. Looking at pictures, I have kept through the years, some of which were fly-ins when I lived at C-22, Brookridge, in Downers Grove. Also pictures of when Sue N and Faith H were in the air race around the world. I was the one receiving reports, as able. They were flying a Piper Tripacer. I'm looking at a picture of when they were standing next to the king of Jordan, who allowed them to fly through his country, and even flew alongside them in his own plane for a while. Be sure to ask Sue N, if you can catch up with her. Parenthetically, Sue stood up to my wedding in 1992.



AVIATION EXPO 2026 JANUARY 31, 2026 CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER 99S

Volunteers Requested Responded

Intros—VFR	Larisa K
Intros—VFR	Vickie S
Welcome Desk Manager	Megan M
Greeter	Ana A
Greeter	Gabby F
Greeter	Angela M
Greeter	
Flying Companion Manager	Jen M
	Jamie S
50/50 Raffle Sales	Ellen O
Sales Assistant	Eve W
Photos	Corie W
99s Member Booth	Mona K
	Megan M
Helper	Eva K
Helper	
Vendor sales/Treasurer	Susan R M
Public Relations Outreach	Krista C

Interested in volunteering to help?

You can be a long time member or a brand new member. Many hands make light work and this is a great way to meet people in aviation and/or see old friends.

Contact the Lead person in the category you might enjoy.

Megan, Jen, Ellen, Susan or Madeleine can help you find a spot.

Aviation
2026
Expo

And you can come and learn, enjoy the day with aviation friends
and be important members of the AUDIENCE too!

99s Nominating Committees are working on two levels right now.

Our North Central **Section** will be sending out ballots to elect a new Governor, Vice Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Directors and 5 new Nominating Committee Members. The forms have all been submitted and you will receive a ballot via email (unless you have opted out and get USPS mail instead) Please read the bios and learn what you can, AND VOTE!

VOTE

Our **International** will be electing a new President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Directors and a 5 person Nominating Committee at pretty much the same time. As a member of this organization you get a voice and a vote, please use it. Any questions about any of the candidates, just ask a trusted 99 friend or officer to help.

TWO DIFFERENT BALLOTS—PLEASE VOTE IN EACH ELECTION

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

Kathy F, Chair, Election Procedures Committee

The next election for Officers, International Directors, Nominating Committee members, and Trustees will be held from March 15 - May 1, 2026. Voting online is easy, efficient, secure, and cost effective. Make sure that you have opted for online voting (which is much less expensive than voting by mail). If you aren't sure of your status, please log in to The Ninety-Nines website and go to "Update Information."

Look for this section (below) and select "yes."

Online Voting

Online Voting:

*Would you like to vote online (versus physical mail)? (X) Yes () No

Voting online, rather than requesting a paper ballot, can really lower the voting costs for your organization.

Make sure your contact information is up to date!

New in 2026! Voters who have chosen to vote online can now receive their ballot by both email AND text. Make sure that your member profile includes both a current email address AND a current phone number for a device that can receive text/SMS messages. You can access your ballot via the link in either the email or the text message, but you can only vote once. We are also looking at the possibility of sending voter notifications via WhatsApp. More to follow.

Of course, should you still prefer to receive a paper ballot, please make sure that you have updated your correct mailing address on file.

The choice is yours! Thank you.

If you have any questions, you may contact us at electionprocedures@ninety-nines.org.

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



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CHICAGO AREA 99S 2026 CALENDAR

JAN 31	AVIATION EXPO HILTON CHICAGO NORTHBROOK	MADELEINE & CHAPTER TEAM
FEB 22	CHAPTER MEETING DEKALB 12 NOON	CORIE
MAR 27-29	NCS MEETING OHIO SPORTY'S	ALL OHIO HOSTS
APR 18	CHAPTER MEETING CAMPBELL AIRPORT	KATY
MAY TBD	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 ONE OF TWO 99 BOOTHS FOR A DAY GREAT CONTACTS	
AUG 15	CHAPTER MEETING HAINESVILLE	ANA
SEPT 11-12	INTL FOREST OF FRIENDSHIP 50TH ANN REUNION	HONORING ONE OF OUR MEMBERS
SEPT 19 or 20	CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER AIR MEET LANSING	VICKIE & CYNTHIA
OCT 2-4	NCS MEETING—INDIANA	INDIANA CHAPTER
OCT 22	CHAPTER MEETING PILOT PETES DINNER	MADELEINE
NOV 12	FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN	LISA
DEC 13	HOLIDAY PARTY	SUSAN