

6th Annual Heartland District Convention

April 25-26, 2025

The convention was held at Keystone State Park in the community building. There were 46 pilots in attendance with a voting strength of 40. The convention was called to order by Denice Fothergill, Convention Chair, from the Pilot Club of Sand Springs, OK.

Joan Williams, District Inspirational Leader, gave words of encouragement and inspiration to begin the convention.

The flag ceremony was presented by the Boy Scout Troop 507 of Sand Springs, OK. Denice Fothergill's son, John Fothergill, led the ceremony. The Boy Scouts were presented with a certificate and a check for \$100 from the district.

Sandra introduced the Pilots at the Dais

From the far left

Ann Knackendoffel, Convention Co-Chair
Cindy Burks, 2024-2025 Treasurer
Marilyn Sidener, 2024-2025 Governor-Elect
Patti Nelson, 2024-2025 Secretary

From the far right

Denice Fothergill, Convention Chair
Kathy Clancy, 2024-2025 Director, ECR
Susan Hoffmann, 2024-2025, Parliamentarian

Marilyn Sidener recognized the first timers to a district convention and presented them with a gift bag. First Timers:

Laurel Austin, Pilot Club of Pratt, KS

Marla Brandon, Pilot Club of Manhattan, KS

Judy Hughey, Little Apple Pilot Club

Rochelle Lemaster, Green Country Pilot Club of Bartlesville was recognized later during convention by Sandra Henry.

Sue Penn was recognized as the longest tenure Pilot in attendance. She reached 50 year membership this year. She was presented with a gift from Sandra Henry.

Susan Hoffmann was recognized by Sandra as a Past International President, 2010-2011.

Past District Governors were recognized and asked to stand

Donna Fisher, Prairie Pilot Club of Wichita, KS. 2000-2001 KS-MO Governor

Susan Hoffmann, Pilot Club of Kansas City, KS. 2004-2005 KS-MO Governor

Jeanie Close, Pilot Club of Shawnee Mission, KS. 2005-2006 KS-MO Governor

Andrea Jones, Pilot Club of Shawnee Mission, KS. 2007-2008 KS-MO & 2023-2024 Heartland Gov.

Lynn Waugh, Little Apple Pilot Club, KS. 2008-2009 KS-MO Governor

Gail Barnett, Green Country Pilot Club of Bartlesville, OK. 2010-2011 AR-OK Governor

Sandra Horn, Pilot Club of Miami, OK. 2011-2012 AR-OK Governor

Marty Louthan, Green Country Pilot Club of Bartlesville, OK. 2012-2013 & 2016-2017 AR-OK Gov.

Sue Penn, Pilot Club of Junction City, KS. 2014-2015 KS-MO Governor

Renee Johnson, Pilot Club of Great Bend, KS. 2016-2017 KS-MO Governor

Patti Nelson, Green Country Pilot Club of Bartlesville, OK. 2017-2018 AR-OK Governor

Joan Williams, Pilot Club of Kansas City, KS. 2017-2018 KS-MO Governor
Melanie Horton, Little Apple Pilot Club, KS. 2018-2019 KS-MO Governor
Faye Kuhn, Pilot Club of Pratt, KS. 2019-2020 Heartland Governor
Barbara Sheffield, Pilot Club of Kansas City, KS. 2021-2022 Heartland Governor
Linda Beyer, Pilot Club of Kansas City, KS. 2022-2023 Heartland Governor

Kathy Clancey, Heartland ECR from the Pilot Club of Harrisonburg, VA, read a letter of greetings from Pilot International president Nicki Dawkins

The roll call was taken by District Secretary Patti Nelson. The Registration Report was given by Cindy Burks District Treasurer

4 District Officers	1 Pilot Internation Officer
31 Club Delegates	5 Other Pilots
5 Past Governors	7 Co-Pilots
Total Voting Strength 40	Total Nov-Voting Attendees 13

A quorum was verified by Susan Hoffmann, Parliamentarian. Total Attendance 53

Donna Fisher, Prairie Pilot Club of Wichita, KS moved to accept the registration report, it was seconded by Andrea Jones, Pilot club of Shawnee Mission, KS. Motion carried.

Susan Hoffmann, Parliamentarian, presented the Convention Rules. Lynn Waugh, Little Apple Pilot Club, moved that we accept the convention rules as published. Sandra Horn, Pilot Club of Miami, OK seconded it. Motion carried.

Denice Fothergill presented the Business Agenda. Marla Brandon, Pilot Club of Manhattan, KS moved to accept the district agenda. Linda Beyer, Pilot Club of Kansas City, KS seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Barbara Sheffield, Nominating Chair from the Pilot Club of Kansas City, KS presented the list of officers. As there was only one candidate for each office all were elected by acclamation. Each Officer read their vision statement that was in the program. The officers for 2025-2026:

Marilyn Sidener – Heartland Governor	Patti Nelson - Heartland Governor-Elect
Marjorie Devlin - Heartland Secretary	Cindy Burks – Heartland Treasurer

Marilyn introduced her District Appointees for 2025-2026

Membership Coordinator – Denice Fothergill	Parliamentarian – Susan Hoffmann
PIFF Representative – Gail Barnett	Inspirational Leader – Jeanie Close
Leadership Coordinator – Faye Kuhn	Projects Coordinator – Betty Schneider
District Bulletin Editor – Melanie Horton	Convention Chair – Ann Knackendoffel
Audit Committee – Dee Johnson, Therese Miller, and Jan Marks	
Nominating Committee – Barbara Sheffield, Janet Cavin, Sandra Henry, and Sue Penn	
Awards Jury – Diana Harris, Belinda Gimpel, and Jeanette Gaider	
Website Administrator – Jennifer Stewart and Fundraising Coordinator – Rhonda Knudson were not in attendance.	

Proposed Standing Rule Change 1 passed. Barbara Sheffield asked why there was not a second. As this was presented by the DAC, no second was needed. Andrea spoke to make a change, but as this was taken word by word from the Pilot International Bylaws there was no need to make a change. As to why this was added, it states that District Secretary and Treasurers candidates no longer need to have been a club president to move into this position.

The new section will read:

District Leadership

Qualifications.

All nominees will be a dues paying members of the District. A nominee will have the following qualifications:

- a. A nominee for Governor or Governor Elect, will have served as President of a Pilot Club.
- b. A nominee for Secretary or Treasurer will have served on a Pilot Club Executive Board for two (2) years (President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or Director).
- c. A request to waive qualifications in Section 8. b. of Pilot International Bylaws, for Secretary or Treasurer may be requested by the DAC to the ECR for consideration by the Executive Committee if there are no nominees for the position and the nominating committee and the DAC has exhausted all possible candidates within 45 days of District Convention.
- d. A Pilot will not serve as a District officer, International officer and/or Club President at the same time.

Vacancy In Office.

If a District Administrative Council or District Executive Council member becomes unable to perform their duties for three (3) consecutive months or is absent from any two (2) required meetings, except in an emergency, the office will be forfeited.

Governor. A vacancy in the office of Governor will be filled by the Governor Elect. They will complete the year as Governor and serve as Governor the following year.

Other Offices. Vacancies in other elected offices will be filled by an appointment of the Governor with the approval of the District Administrative Council.

Proposed Standing Rule 2 was tabled. It was sent back to committee. Melanie Horton asked what the balance was currently in the fund. It was printed on the green sheet in the registration packet. The current balance is \$13,073.20.

Dee Johnson, LAPC, asked what the fund was for. Susan Hoffmann explained about the cost incurred when a member of the district moves into the highest office of Pilot International as the president.

District Expenses section 6 f.

PROPOSED READING:

f. The District will hold a Contingency Fund in reserve for expenses incurred at Pilot International Convention and Leadership Conference in support of and to honor a Pilot International President from the District. The DAC will establish a maximum level for this fund in the District Policy and Procedures document.

Proposal 3 passed. It will read

5. Pilot International Convention Expenses

b. An allowance may be provided in the District Budget for the District Governor-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary to include registration fees, meals, travel and lodging expenses as determined in the budget. If a District Officer is unable to attend all sessions of the convention, expenses will be reimbursed for only the portion of the convention they attend. When traveling by car, mileage will be paid at the current rate determined by Pilot International. The District Officer will be reimbursed for their share of a carpool expense split between all Pilots traveling in the same car.

The 2025-2026 Budget was approved. Several questions were raised.

Gail Barnett – Asked why the budget has 90 attendees for convention, when we have not ever met that goal. With the convention being held in Manhattan, KS which has 1/3 of the entire district in the one city, Marilyn expects a higher attendance from her hometown Pilots.

Lynn Waugh – Asked how many members we have in the district at present? Approximately 330

Melanie Horton – Advised that the K State homecoming is the weekend of the fall workshop, so attendance will be down due to this. Response-the budget is an estimate, we will spend what we have coming in, not what we budgeted if the numbers are not there.

The 2023-2024 Audit Committee reported all months balanced back to the bank statements and the financial reports were correct.

Kathy Clancey, Heartland ECR, presented the Pilot International Report.

*Donor Perfect to replace Memberclicks

- *Online store up and running online soon, before convention
- *AI to manage phone system at PI Headquarters
- *Ronald McDonald house will be the project in Charlotte at the PI convention
- *Speaker from St Jude Research Hospital at the International Convention in Charlotte
- *Zeffy is 100% free for non-profits, PI has saved \$10,000 by using this service
- *PI is looking to have a golf tournament as a fundraiser
- *PI audits are up to date.
- *New clubs and a new district are coming to PI

Governor Sandra presented a report on the Heartland District. We began this year with 321 members compared to last year's beginning count of 344. We have added 20 new members this year. The District fundraiser brought in over \$1800. Of these funds, \$500 has been donated to the Safe Harbor fund, \$200 to support Anchors, and a donation will be made to the Hugs Project. Clubs and Individuals donated \$2000 to help cover the cost of mailing Hugs boxes to military personnel. Plus a car load of items that are packed into the boxes for soldiers was brought to convention for Sandra to take to the Hugs Project on Wednesday when she goes to volunteer like she does every Wednesday.

Gail Barnett reported that \$868.77 was raised for Pilot International Founder Fund during the convention. There is also 250 club donations, individuals that donated to the 250 fund, and Pacesetters. Certificates were presented to all donors. All clubs received a certificate for being a 250 club, all clubs except Sunflower received Pacesetter certificates. Individuals that received a certificate for donating to the 250 fund include Joan William, Susan Hoffmann, Linda Beyer, Barbara Sheffield, Ina Kane, Sandra Henry, Rhonda Knudson, Sheila Evans and Andrea Jones. Several Clubs received grants.

The Pilot Club of Great Bend, KS - \$5000 for Autism Workshop and the Pilot Club of Shawnee Mission, KS - \$3000 Deanna Rose Safety Day

The following clubs all received Pick Me Up Grants for \$200 the Prairie Pilot Club of Wichita, KS the Sunflower Pilot Club, Manhattan, KS, the Green Country Pilot Club of Bartlesville, the Little Apple Pilot Club, and the Pilot Club of Great Bend, KS

The Pilot Club of Pratt, Kansas presented a skit on leadership.

Belinda Gimpel, Awards Jury member, presented the District awards.

Club Newsletter Award

1. Pilot Club of Junction City, KS
2. Pilot Club of Sand Springs, OK
3. Little Apple Pilot Club

Club Yearbook Award

1. Pilot Club of Junction City, KS
2. Pilot Club of Manhattan, KS
3. Pilot Club of Great Bend, KS

Service Hours Award:

1. Green Country Pilot Club of Bartlesville, OK.
2. Pilot Club of Manhattan, KS
3. Pilot Club of Pratt, KS

Membership Award

1. Pilot Club of Miami, OK and Pilot Club of Kansas City, KS
2. Prairie Pilot Club of Wichita, KS
3. Little Apple Pilot Club

Club Heart Award :

1. Green Country Pilot Club of Bartleville, Ok
2. No submission
3. Pilot Club of Great Bend, KS

Individual Heart Award:

1. Florence Whitebread, Pilot Club of Junction City, KS
2. Carolyn Fellows, Pilot Club of Manhattan, KS
3. Tammy Killough, Pilot Club of Pratt, KS

Saturday evening Installation included:

The installation of the 2025-2026 Heartland DAC.

The passing of the gavel involved all past governors in attendance at the convention.

The passing of the Governor's Home Club banner was passed from Lisa Morrill, Pilot Club of Miami, OK to Judy Hughey, Little Apple Pilot Club in Manhattan, KS

Susan Hoffman was the installation Officer and 4 members of the LAPC club read the Pilot Code of Ethics.

There was a reception with cake following the installation.