

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1 · JANUARY 2024

# EYES ON THE HORIZON

Official Newsletter of Aurora PPG, Inc.



## New Year, New Goals

### AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Can you believe that it is 2024? With the New Year, we are excited to announce three additions to our Board of Directors: Jade Lear, Dewese Milstead, and Ghada Baz.

As an all-volunteer organization in which no one is compensated, board recruitment, retention, and engagement are a big part of what would typically be behind the scenes. For us, the people that make up our board are our number one resource and are forward-facing. From community engagement to event organization, our directors do so much and make the organization possible.

Ghada Baz, our new VP of Strategy, is a powered paragliding pilot with a passion for learning and adventures. In her new role as Vice President of Strategy, Ghada will share her experience as a management consultant and instructor, focusing on strategy and project management. Having grown up in Egypt in a family of aviators, she is determined to help create a community for female pilots where they can feel empowered and independent.



Ghada Baz

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## Our Current Board of Directors:

GHADA BAZ  
VP OF STRATEGY

RACHEL BLOCKER  
TREASURER

JADE LEAR  
VP OF SOCIAL MEDIA

JAMIE MABE  
SECRETARY

DEWESE MILSTEAD  
VP OF COMMUNITY

SUSAN RAY  
PRESIDENT & CEO

RAIN VELA  
DIRECTOR

WENDY WEAVER  
SR. VICE PRESIDENT



We are excited to share that Jade Lear, the host of the YouTube Show “Just Wanna Fly,” is our new VP of Social Media. She is one of the best ambassadors of our sport and has a gift for bringing people together. With a background in education and public safety, her skills are as varied as her hobbies. We can’t wait to have her help and expertise in growing the Aurora PPG community.



Jade Lear (left) and Wendy Weaver (right)



Dewese Milstead

We are also thrilled to announce that Dewese Milstead is joining our team as the new VP of Community. Dewese is a retired BSN prepared RN and an incredible artist, who co-hosts the YouTube show "Just Wanna Fly." As the first recipient of our Milstead Friendship Award, which was named in her honor, we are confident that Dewese's abilities to serve the female paramotor community will be invaluable.

We are pleased to announce that Wendy Weaver will serve as our Senior Vice President and Rachel Blocker as our Treasurer, effective 2024. Susan Ray will continue serving as President and CEO, and Jamie Mabe will remain in the position of Secretary. Last but not least, Rain Vela continues as a Director. We are confident that we will have the best year yet.





## Kicking Off Fly-In Season

While we are just beginning to plan the next Aurora PPG Fly-In we are excited to share that we will be a first time exhibitor at this year's Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo April 9-14. Sun 'n Fun is celebrating it's 50th year and this is a year you won't want to miss. Find us over in the Light Plane Exhibition/Paradise Island area in space LP-052. Stop by just to say hi, get out of the sun, and grab some water. We will try to have plenty of extra water on hand.

Before making it to Sun 'n Fun we will be warming up and attending the second annual Fly It For Gaige fly-in at Hardee Lakes County Park in Bowling Green, FL, March 21-24. No better way to start our fly-in schedule than supporting The Gaige Robbins Good Citizenship Scholarship. We hope to see you there!

After Sun 'n Fun we will be eagerly awaiting the Bad Apples Hodges Field Fly-In May 9-12. We are proud to continue to sponsor this fly-in and look forward to seeing everyone there.

That gets our spring off to a great start and we will be adding stops to our schedule as the summer continues. We wish we could make it everywhere.

Be sure to follow our Instagram and Facebook accounts/pages as well as SUBSCRIBE to the newsletter to be the first to know when we announce dates for the Second Annual Aurora PPG Fly-In.



## Where will we see you next?

[USPPA EVENT CALENDAR](#)

### OUR TENTATIVE 2024 FLY-IN STOPS:

FLY IT FOR GAIGE

SUN 'N FUN

BAD APPLES

NORTHERN LIGHTS

MOONSHINERS

AURORA PPG

PURDIN'S





## 2024 Fundraising

While we work to get our first funded scholarship recipient in the air we can't wait to move another applicant or two off of our waitlist!

We have just changed to a donation platform that doesn't hit nonprofits with transaction fees. You can [donate now](#) and help us jump start our 2024 goals.

## 1st Sundays

3 PM EASTERN, 2 PM CENTRAL,  
1 PM MOUNTAIN, AND 12 PACIFIC

With the New Year in full swing we are back on schedule for hosting 1st Sundays.

We are looking forward to creating a environment where women paramotor pilots and future pilots can connect. If you are a woman pilot or interested in getting into the sport and would like the login information just reach out to us at [info@aurorappg.org](mailto:info@aurorappg.org) and we will be happy to share it with you. We ask that you be kind and courteous, don't engage in hate speech or bullying, respect everyone's privacy, and promote safety.

Our virtual chat is just an open forum for us to ask questions, talk through challenges, and support one another.

## About Us

Aurora PPG, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID Number: 88-0559258

Our mission is to increase the participation of women and girls in the sport of powered paragliding through experiences, education, training, and community with a focus on its use in overcoming past trauma.

Outdoor sports and recreation undoubtedly have a positive power to strengthen confidence and resilience but there is something unique about flight and its ability to foster change and growth in individuals. The goal of our scholarship program is to provide financial assistance to women to train and progress in the sport. Priority is given to those using training as a way to foster post-traumatic growth.

We are so grateful for all of our current supporters!