



New England Section



New England Section 99s

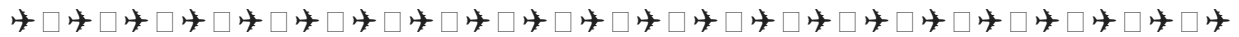
Squawk

International Organization of Women Pilots



It's been a busy Fall with key gatherings. Below are highlights of the Section Meeting in New Bedford, as well as news from my attending the International Board of Directors Meeting (IBOD) - online. There was much enthusiasm, and wonderful ideas were coming up with new and current members. Our Section is growing, and it's exciting to see the participation and meaningful connections that lead to advanced ratings, mentorships, new opportunities to fly, networking, and great camaraderie.

**Margot Cheel
Governor
New England Section
The Ninety-Nines, Inc.**



Recap New England Fall Section Meeting

The New England Fall Section Meeting in New Bedford, MA was a big success.

With the National Parks guides unavailable, **Beth Young** stepped up and took on the role of guide Friday afternoon. She led us to interesting places around the town, having researched stories of colorful local folk and tales.





It was intriguing to learn that besides the whaling & large fishing industry still alive in New Bedford, there is a new burgeoning artists community in the town.



Rooster made with recycled road & car parts by HS Vocational-Tech students.

Following the theme of section members taking “the lead”, two CT 99s were the Friday night speakers. Thank you to **Arianna Strand** for her story of starting a flight school, and to **Morgan Sullivan-Walsh** for her soaring adventures in Australia.



An aviation themed quilt was donated as a door prize and won by **Pat Theberge**.

The winning ticket of the raffle for the 99s scholarship donated by Cape Air was drawn by the **International Rep - Madeleine Monaco**. The winner was Matt Sweeney, a CFI at PYM, who was very excited to win.

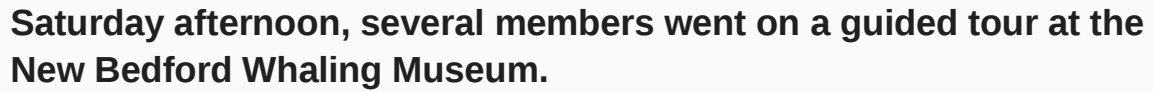
When **Arlene Myers Alexander** called for a **new Membership Committee** during the meeting, there was a wonderful outpouring of response. **Rachel Betlinski** offered to be chair with new and longtime members volunteering to participate: **Georgia Pappas, Glenna Blackwell, Holly Intravia, Arianna Strand, Kate McAuliffe, Julia Stambolis, Eliza Paterson, Amanda Straight, Amanda McWhirk**.

This is exciting! With the enthusiasm of this team many connections can be made and 99s mission of mentorship, education

and fun flying adventures can be turned.

After the meeting, most attendees enjoyed lunch at the Black Whale restaurant.





International Fall Board of Directors Meeting

Interestingly enough, **membership retention** was a key topic. Agreed by all: It's the welcome and the continued follow up that

matter. Always the connection - including new members with opportunities for involvement and learning together, sharing flying stories, and participating in aviation activities were key.

I was reminded of the quote from Maya Angelou “People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but never forget how you made them feel”.

While the international directory is no longer available in print form, you can go online to ninety-nines.org, which will give you any member's info. Here is the code for members positions:

Membership Codes as seen on Monthly Reports			
AE	AE Scholarship Recipient	NS	News Editor – Section
AECH	Chapter AEMSFC Chairman	NC	News Editor – Chapter
AE Chair	Section AEMSFC Chairman	N	Nominating Committee
CC	Chapter Chairman	PPLI	PPLI Graduate
E	Emeritus (Past President)	SC	Secretary – Chapter
F	Student Pilot Member	SS	Secretary – Section
G	Governor – Section	TC	Treasurer – Chapter
IBD	International Board Member	TS	Treasurer – Section
L	Life Member	VC	Vice Chairman – Chapter
LE	Life-Emeritus	VG	Vice Governor – Section
MCC	Membership Chairman – Chapter	WC	Webmaster – Chapter
MCI	Membership Chairman – Int'l	WS	Webmaster – Section
MCS	Membership Chairman – Section	Italics	Preferred/Goes by Name

New Website

A new Ninety-nines.org website is getting close to completion. It looks very clear with good details. Currently, there is the process of checking all links and further entries if needed.

International Forest of Friendship. (“World Friendship Through Flight”)



2026 marks the 50th Anniversary. Consider attending.

The Forest was established in 1976 as a bicentennial project by the City of Atchison, Kansas and The Ninety-Nines Inc., The International Organization of Women Pilots. Each September, new honorees are inducted into the Forest with a stone in the walkway that winds through trees representing all 50 states and over 35 countries.

International Conferences

Re: the Burlington, VT conference this past July, the final figures were reported. As previously determined, 30% of the proceeds go to the hosting section. As such, the New England Section will receive \$2595 towards its scholarship funds.

Future International Conferences:

- **San Diego - July 8-12, 2026**
- We are very excited to have **Jessica Cox** as a key speaker (born without arms, she is unstoppable, earning her pilot license, along with many other feats). She met a number of 99s several years ago at the New England Air Museum.

As San Diego is very kid friendly (the Zoo, etc.), a child's

registration is being considered for meals and some talks.

- **Sidney, Australia - Sept 9 - 12, 2027**
- **Seattle, WA - July 5-9, 2028.** (Just voted in at this meeting)

Trade Shows for 99s 2026

- **Sun n Fun** - Lakeland, Fl. April 14 - 19, 2026
- **Women in Aviation** - Grapevine, TX. March 19-21, 2026
- **EAA Air Venture** - Oshkosh. July 20-26, 2026

Consider going and also helping out at a booth! The energy is great and learning and connections are wonderful!



A 90th Birthday Party

On Oct 11, 2025, long time ENE member Martha Dunbar celebrated her 90th birthday. Her daughter, Leila Dunbar, an appraiser on Antiques Roadshow, knew just how to welcome everyone and interview her mother. Great stories and many laughs. Ten 99s attended to celebrate Martha's milestone.



RIP, Jean Griffin

Jean Griffin - Long time ENE 99 Jean Griffin of Cape Cod flew to New Horizons Oct 29, 2025. Many remember Jean as very active and supportive of the 99s. She always gave generously with specific donations for 99s events. The Poker Run benefited from her many gifts. She and her husband ran Griffin Avionics at HYA, and in 2000,

nsted the terminus for the Air Race Classic. She was responsible for Arlene Myers Alexander joining the 99s, along with many others she recruited.

Read Jean's obituary

here: <https://www.capecodtimes.com/obituaries/pneo1320042>



BVY Fly By 5K

On October 26, five New England Section members participated in the Beverly Airport Fly By 5K, walking or running the distance on the runways.



**Lori Plourd, Katahdin Wings, and Eastern New England members
Holly Intravia, Mary Parsons, Jann Clark, and Jessie Zuberek**



Amelia Earhart Scholarships

It's Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship time!!

The following categories of scholarships are available for 99's who qualify:

- Flight training up to \$20,000
- Academic training up to \$10,000
- Technical training up to \$20,000 for aviation or aerospace technical training
- Emergency maneuver training
- Research scholar grant

The qualifications and application instructions are available on the international website ninety-nines.org.

Applications are due to your chapter by **January 1, 2026**, but it is best to submit them well in advance so there is adequate time for review and any revisions necessary.

This is one of the most generous scholarships awarded in the pilot community. It is well worth taking the time to apply if you are considering or are involved in training in any of these areas.

For any questions that you have after reading the website information, contact **Arlene Myers Alexander** at amelia1243v@gmail.com



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Knight *ENE Chapter*