



Alabama District Governor's Bulletin

"The Power of Pilot"

JANUARY 2026 ISSUE 7

January 2026, Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had a wonderful time during the holidays. It is time to put 2025 behind us and look forward with hope to 2026.

Your District Officers wish a Happy New Year to all our Alabama Pilots. The Holiday Season is a joyous event for all of us as we celebrate friends and family. It's also a great opportunity to share the message, vision and joy that being a Pilot brings to Pilots as well as those we serve.

Our District membership needs to continue to grow. Please remember this and promote Pilot to everyone you meet.

Important Dates to Remember!

- ***Anchor Officer Nominations must be postmarked by January 6, 2026!*** This year we will need nominations for President-Elect, Secretary and Director. The Secretary is now an elected position. Send the nominations to Mellisa King, Anchor Coordinator.
- ***Anchor Award entries are to be postmarked by February 5, 2026 and District Award entries have to be postmarked by March 20, 2026.*** All the information and forms are on the Alabama District Website.
- ***District Officer Nominations must be postmarked by February 23, 2026.*** You will be blessed to serve with a Past Governor, Carolyn Williams, 25-26 Governor Elect. See Beverly Wilkerson's article in this Governor's Bulletin for more information.
- ***Anchor Convention is March 7, 2026 in Andalusia, AL*** at the Andalusia Chamber of Commerce. More information can be found on the District Website. Plan to be there!
- ***TBI Camp is April 10-12, 2026, at Camp ASCCA.*** We plan to have a full house! Registrations forms are available at www.alabamadistrictpilot.com under events.
- ***2026 Alabama District Convention is April 24-26, 2026,*** will be held at the Embassy Suites & Convention Center in Montgomery, AL. We are having our first Planning Meeting in January. Our ECR, Stephanie Batton, will enjoy meeting Alabama Pilots.

When Pilots get together, great things happen & anything is possible!

Keep in mind, your DAC is only a phone call or email away and we are here for YOU! Please contact any of us with questions or concerns you may have.

In Pilot Service & Friendship,

**Lisa Patterson,
Governor**



2025-2026 District Administrative Council

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Governor Elect's Message



One of my favorite authors on leadership is James Autry. In his book entitled, The Servant Leader, he offers some insights into leadership. Leadership is about caring for people and being a useful resource for people. Leadership is about creating a place in which people can do good work. Leadership is about bringing your spirit to the work. In my personal opinion, Leadership requires love.

Autry states that leadership is a calling. If you have the calling, then the Alabama District would like you to consider becoming a member of the District Administrative Council. We need nominees for Governor-Elect, Lieutenant Governor, District Treasurer and District Secretary.

The Alabama District of Pilot International is looking for Pilots who are willing to serve the Alabama District.

Take some time to check your Pilot leadership love barometer.

**Carolyn Williams,
Governor Elect**

Secretary's Report

And just like that 2025 has turned into 2026! Wishing each of you all the best in the new year.

The DAC is working hard to prepare for the Anchor Convention, TBI Camp and the District Convention. There is always something happening in Pilot.

Just a reminder that nominations for District office are due to Beverly Wilkerson no later than February 23, 2026.

Also due in February are \$250 Club payment to PI by club check and Pacesetter Payments of \$10 per active member also due to PI by club check. These are due by February 7, 2026. Please do not wait for the last minute for your submissions.

Continue to be active members of your club. Your actions truly do make a difference in the lives of others.

**Mary Ballard,
District Secretary
Pilot International Founders Fund**

Treasurer's Message

It's hard to believe 2026 is here! We have some exciting events coming up and we need everyone to participate. Our Anchors are meeting in March down in Andalusia and they need your help to be successful. We have cut registration to \$25 for them and that just covers food. If you club can help with a donation to Anchor Convention it would be a very good investment for our future.

Registration for 2026 TBI Camp will be sent out the first of January. They are already posted on our Web Page. Camp ASCCA had an increase in our contract this year. We now have to pay \$320 for our Campers/Caregivers to attend. Meal cost went up to \$10.00 each. It is very important that you check which meals you plan to be on site for, because once I turn in meal count we have to pay for them. **It's time to send in your Camperships and if you have a camper, get them the registration form.** Our slots are filled on the first come basis. Our most pressing need now is for Bingo prizes. We would like each club to donate 5-10 bingo prizes, something around the \$5-\$10 range. Please be sure they are age appropriate. Our Campers are all adults.



CAMP DATE: APRIL 10-12, 2026 We will see you there!

ALL REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE ON OUR WEB PAGE!

**Kay Chandler,
District Treasurer**

AWARDS...AWARDS

I am sure that all Alabama Pilots have been involved in award-winning projects and activities! Why not enter them in our District Awards program! Remember you can't win if you don't enter!!! Entry forms are available on our district website: www.alabamadistrictpilot.com. The judging criteria is there as well.

Anchor award entries are due February 5, 2026 . Pilot award entries are due March 2, 2026. All entries should be mailed to:

Anchor Awards

Laurie Fraser
12725 Coppertop Lane
Madison, Alabama 35756
256-679-2340
LFraser.Clubs@gmail.com

Pilot Awards

Karene Henson
243 Guy Street
Roanoke, Alabama 36274
334-338-2455
rkhenson@outlook.com

The awards jury looks forward to all the outstanding entries!

**Karene Henson,
Awards Jury Chair**

Our Next District Officers!

Every strong Pilot district is built on the dedication, heart, and steady hands of its leaders. As we look ahead to a new year of service, it's time to lift up the members who are ready to guide us forward. The District Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for the offices of Governor Elect, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, and Treasurer — and your club plays a vital role in shaping that future.

Who Makes a Great District Officer? You Do!

Think of the members who:

- Lead with kindness and integrity
- Communicate clearly and collaborate with ease
- Bring experience from club or district roles
- Show up with reliability, curiosity, and a servant's heart
- Encourage others and strengthen the Pilot mission - who help our district thrive

How the Nomination Process Works!

Each club may submit nominations for any district office. The official Qualification Form for District Office outlines the experience required for each role, along with the information the Nominating Committee needs to evaluate candidates.

Clubs should review the qualifications carefully, talk with potential nominees, and submit completed forms by the district's published deadline, February 23, 2026. The [**Qualification Form**](#) is located on the District Website www.alabamadistrictpilot.com

Duties are stated in the District Manual!

Note: All nominees will be dues paying members of the district in which they have been nominated and have the following qualifications per PI Bylaws SECTION 7 a. A nominee for Governor, Governor Elect or Lt. Governor 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).

Beverly Wilkerson,
Nominating Committee Chair

Say yes to becoming a District Officer, it's a blessing that you will not regret!

Pilot Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

"May you be blessed with joy deeper than any sadness, gratitude happier than any regrets, hopes brighter than the shadows of any discouragement, and the vitality to make of every day what God on Christmas Day made for ALL days."

Dr. Lew Smedes

The following Pilots are in our thoughts and prayers:

PC of Cullman:

Carol Garrett, Charter Member, is healing in rehab after a fall. Lift her spirits with encouraging cards mailed to 1826 Sheila Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055.

PC of Decatur:

Shirley Neill, the last surviving Charter Member of the Pilot Club of Decatur passed away on December 28, 2026. Cards can be sent to the Shirley Neill Family, 2219 Yorkshire SE, Decatur, AL 35603 or to the Pilot Club of Decatur, 104 Jackson Way, Decatur, AL 35639

PC of Demopolis:

Eleanor Park is mourning the passing of her husband Harold. A celebration of life will be held soon. Cards of comforting cards may be sent to 401 South Walnut Street, Demopolis, AL 36732.

Michele Gibson-Dill, Club President, needs prayers in the sudden passing of her nephew. Cards may be sent to 783 Dill Road, Gallion, AL 36742.

In Pilot friendship and service,

Sherre McGinnis,
Inspirational Leader
sam109@bellsouth.net
256-490-7271

Anchor

The 2026 Anchor Convention will be held on **March 7, 2026**, at the **Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce**. Registration will be **\$25 per person**. Registration form coming soon.

We have an **etiquette lesson tea party** planned, and for our **District Service Project**, we will be packing food items for **Full Tummy of Covington County**. Make plans to join us for a fun and meaningful day of learning, service, and fellowship!

Reminder Alabama District Anchor Officer Nominations are due by January 6, 2026, and Anchor Award Forms are due by February 5, 2026 forms are available at www.alabamadistrictpilot.com.

Mellisa King
Alabama District Anchor Coordinator

Executive Committee Representative

Happy New Year Pilots! It is hard to believe we are halfway through our Pilot year, but we still have so much to accomplish.

It is time for us to begin to think about leadership on our Club, District, and International levels for the upcoming 2026-2027 year. Leadership is not about having all the answers. It is about showing up, working together, and investing in our Pilot communities to find the answers. Even the greatest of leaders had to start at the beginning.

When approached with a possible nomination on any level of our organization's leadership, please pause and truly consider accepting. Someone thinks you are capable, or they would not be asking. Remember, "just because you haven't, doesn't mean you can't!" You can do hard things! That is what a growth mindset is all about.

Pilot International offers many opportunities for scholarships to undergraduates, as well as graduate students, continuing their education in one of Pilot International's focus areas. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2026. Scholarship applications can be found on the Pilot International [website](#).

Applications for Helmet, BrainMinders, and Pick Me Up Grants are also due on March 15. The funds are there just waiting to be given. Download the applications, follow the instructions and be sure to submit to the correct email address by the application deadline:

- pickmeups@pilothq.org
- helmets@pilothq.org
- brainminders@pilothq.org

If you have any questions, your ECR is there, ready and willing to help in any way she can.

Pacesetters, 250 Clubs and 250 Members are recognitions designated by Pilot International for financial contributions given by members, clubs, and districts. To be a Pacesetter, a club must donate \$10 for each club member. To be a 250 District, Club or Member, a donation of at least \$250 must be made to the Grants and Scholarships Fund. You may ask, "why you would want to do that?" The answer is simple. Every dime that our members donate, goes right back to our clubs through Helmet, BrainMinder, Pick Me Up, and Matching Grants and the many scholarships that are awarded each year. The more you donate, the more we give back. To be recognized for these donations at your District Convention, please submit contributions by February 1, 2026.

In all things Pilot, be the good!

Stephanie Batton
Executive Committee Representative

Membership

The Value of New Pilot Members

New members are essential to the strength and success of Pilot. They bring **fresh ideas, renewed energy, and a shared commitment to service** that helps advance our mission of **inspiring communities, impacting lives, and empowering people**. Each new member strengthens our ability to respond to community needs and ensures the continued growth and vitality of our organization.

As Pilot grows, so does our ability to serve. New members bring **diverse skills, perspectives, and experiences** that help us plan and execute meaningful projects, improve programs, and expand our reach. Their involvement encourages **long-term engagement**, strengthens **leadership pipelines**, and fosters a culture of **collaboration and empowerment** among all members.

Becoming a member of Pilot is more than joining a club—it's joining a **movement of people dedicated to creating positive change**. Pilot offers opportunities to:

- Develop **leadership skills**
- Connect with **like-minded women and men**
- Make a **tangible difference** in the community

Whether volunteering for community initiatives, supporting educational programs, or contributing to service projects, new members are vital to helping Pilot fulfill its mission.

In case you would like to use a testimonial quote in your membership recruitment materials, I have included one from the PI website for you:

“Joining Pilot has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I’ve made lifelong friends, taken part in meaningful community projects, and discovered my own leadership potential. I can’t imagine a more supportive and inspiring group of women to serve alongside!”

— Sarah M., Pilot Member

Love in Pilot,

Maria Traylor,
Membership Coordinator, South

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH OF YOU!

May This Be The Best Pilot Year Ever!