



Alabama District Governor's Bulletin

"The Power of Pilot"

MAY 2026 ISSUE 11

I'm sure we've all heard, "April Showers bring May flowers!" Personally, I believe that.

I would like for you to think about that in a different context for a moment.



- Every Club that was not represented by at least 3 delegates (excluding Past District Governor's) can be considered a **Show**er. Delegates voice your vote when voting on business items. Failure to attend also hurts the Alabama District. Not meeting our contract numbers results in the District paying attrition charges paid to the facility – another **Show**er! **Flower** would be having your club completely represented at next year's convention.
- Membership! Losing members is a **Show**er. While we can't correct what has already happened, we can look forward to new members in each of our clubs – **Flowers**! New members in our clubs and our district will result in our Alabama District being full of blooms for years to come.
- In your clubs – continuing to recycle officers is a **Show**er. Encouraging and supporting members to grow in Pilot by "stepping up" into a club leadership position is a **Flower**! It helps your members self-esteem, pride and growth when they realize they can do it. Previous officers are always there to help and support, because that's what Pilots do.

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Alabama District Administrative Council:

Carolyn Williams, Governor
Mary Ballard, Governor-Elect
Mollie Riley, Lt. Governor
Joy Wood, Secretary
Ferne Wlodarski, Treasurer

Thank you for being a Pilot and part of the Alabama District!

In Pilot Service & Friendship,

**Lisa Patterson,
Governor**

2025-2026 District Administrative Council

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Governor Elect's Message

The 97th Alabama District Convention has ended but the purpose and mission of Pilot continue. We will return to our communities to serve. We heard from speakers who spoke about communication skills, leadership and self-defense. When we think about self-defense, we think of physical activity, but the speaker talked about being prepared to protect ourselves from individuals who want to drain our finances.

I hope to see you in July in Oklahoma City for the Pilot International Annual Convention and Leadership Conference. It will be a time to learn more about our organization and to renew friendships.

Now for a moment of personal privilege. We lost Past Governor Karene Henson in April. I had a wonderful visit with her and the Pilot Club of Roanoke. I will always remember our eventful trip to the club meeting. She will be deeply missed.

**Carolyn Williams,
Governor Elect**

Secretary's Report

How is it possible that it is May? My grandkids are anxious to go with us to the swimming pool and that certainly means summer. It has been an honor being the district secretary this year. I have learned so much about the good that our Pilot clubs do for the many communities in our state. Please be proud to be an active member of your club. Not only does this give you a purpose in life, but it also makes such an impression on others. Your time spent with others is so precious.

The next opportunity to receive Helmet and Pick Me Up grants has a deadline of June 15. You won't get it if you do not apply for it.

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

Treasurer's Message

As we come to the end of our 2025-2026 year, I encourage Club Treasurers to get all their bills paid for the year and not carry over expenses for 2025-2026 into 2026-2027. Anyone having expenses to turn in, should do so within 30 days.

Incoming Club Officers should be working on the upcoming year and budget. They need input from all their Divisions-Fundraising, Membership, Leadership, and most very important, Projects. This will determine their Plan of Work.

Read your Club's Standing Rules, District Standing Rules and Pilot International By-laws to know what expenses you are responsible to pay. In the Club Manual you will find an example of a Budget. It might not meet your Clubs exact need, but it will be an example you can follow.

Have a Club Voucher that must be signed and completed before paying anyone expenses.

The 2025-2026 Club Treasurer should have her books ready to turn over by July 31 to the Audit Committee.

Just a short update on TBI Camp, which was wonderful, "Best Ever". Our Campers and Caregivers had a wonderful time and so did our Compass Members, Anchors, and Pilots. Next year a Campership will cost \$350.00 (this is the direct cost of Camp ASCCA). We had a full house!! Please include at least one Campership in your budget. Cost of Camp this year was about \$15,000.00. Camp will be April 9-11, 2027. Put this on your Calendar! Come once, you will come forever.

New Members are a must for our District!!! Start working on Prospective Pilots NOW. Grow your Club, which will grow your service, and you will make some amazing new friendships!

**Kay Chandler,
District Treasurer**



Inspirational Message

***“Gratitude bestows reverence,
allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies,
those transcendent moments of awe that change
forever how we experience life and the world.”***

John Milton

Pilot Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

The following Pilots are in our thoughts and prayers:

- **PC of Andalusia:** Past District Governor Benny Jo Cockrell recently received successful treatment for A-fib. She is recovering at home, P.O. Box 696, Wilsonville, AL 35186, where cards may be sent.
- **PC of Cullman:** Julie Burks is mourning the passing of her mother-in-law, Elle Burks. Caring cards may be sent to 193 SR 1249, Vinemont, AL 35179.
- **PC of Roanoke:** Past District Governor Karene Henson passed away on Monday, April 27th, after developing a blood clot in her lung and suffering a massive pulmonary embolism. She fell March 8th breaking her back. The entire Alabama District sends condolences to her family and best friend Past District Governor Glenda Brooks. Condolences may be sent to the Henson family at 243 Guy Street, Roanoke, AL 36274.

In Pilot Friendship and Service,

Sherre

Sherre McGinnis, Inspirational Leader
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109 Tuckahoe Circle
Gadsden, AL 35904





Executive Committee Representative

Spring Into Service- It's our time to Blossom!

Spring is a wonderful reminder that this is the season to blossom.

Across our districts, clubs are growing, serving, and making a meaningful difference in their communities. The seeds of service you planted throughout the year are beginning to bloom!

May is also Bicycle Safety Month, a perfect opportunity for clubs to promote safety awareness in their communities through bicycle safety education and helmet programs. Your efforts help keep children and families safe while demonstrating Pilot International's commitment to service.

Act this May by raising your voice and help change the conversation around mental health! Since 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a driving force in addressing the challenges faced by millions living with mental health conditions. Now, more than ever, the National Alliance on Mental Illness needs you to be part of this movement. Whether by sharing your story, spreading awareness, or advocating for change, every action helps break the stigma and build a more supportive world for all. The week of May 11-17 wear something green, a ribbon, clothing or your Pilot pin in support of Mental Health Awareness.

Excitement is building for the Pilot International Convention in Oklahoma City! If you have not already registered, now is the time. Convention is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Pilots, celebrate our accomplishments, and be inspired for the year ahead.

Following your District Convention, please remember that delegates should share a brief report at your club meeting to keep members informed about district highlights and important updates from the district and Pilot International.

A few important deadlines are approaching:

- Scholarship applications due to PI Headquarters by May 15
- Pacesetter Clubs, 250 Clubs, 250 Members, President's Circle and Special Giving Level Contributions – Due June 1 to be recognized at PI Convention
- Pick Me Up & Helmet Grants – Applications due to PI Headquarters June 15
- Heritage Garden Bricks – Orders due June 15
- Pilot International Dues and Fees – Due to Headquarters July 1

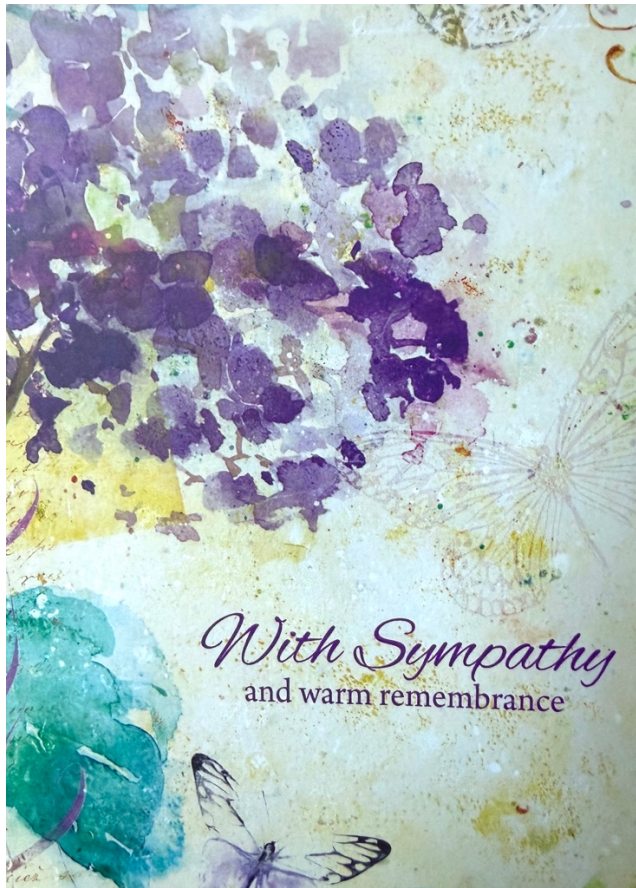
Thank you for the energy, passion, and dedication you bring to Pilot International. As the season changes, may your clubs continue to grow, blossom, and serve where you are planted.

In Pilot Friendship and Love,

Lisa

Lisa Palmquist
Pilot International President-Elect

A card from our Executive Committee Representative, Lisa Palmquist in remembrance of Past District Governor, Karene!



*Dear Governor Lisa
and Alabama Pilots,

Hoping it helps to know
that others share your sorrow.*

*Love,
Lisa Palmquist
PI CCR- Alabama*