



Alabama District Governor's Bulletin

*“Friendship & Service: The
Heart of Pilot”*

September 2026, Issue 3

Governor's Message

September 11, 2001: A Date We Will Never Forget

The date September 11, 2001, will forever be etched into the memories of everyone. It is that date that we remember the nearly 3,000 people who died in an attack at the World Trade Centers in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia, and in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Hundreds of firefighters, police officers and medical workers paid the ultimate sacrifice to save the lives of people that they didn't know.

We must never forget their sacrifice. What better way to commemorate the lives lost on that day than through Pilot service. Service gives us the opportunity to help in our communities.



The 2026 Fall Council will be October 9-11, 2026, in Orange Beach. Our Fall Council hotel is the Hampton Inn & Suites. Please secure your reservation before September 9th by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-426-7866.

If you enjoy shrimp, on Friday night, you will be able to enjoy the 53rd Annual National Shrimp Festival. If shrimp is not for you, then enjoy dinner on your own. We will have guest speakers, a hands-on project, Pilot Dinner and Marketplace.

Please check this Bulletin for important upcoming dates.

Do More, Care More, Be More.

Carolyn Williams

2026-2027

District Administrative Council

Carolyn Williams, Governor

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Governor-Elect's Message

Matching Grant Information

Well, we are entering a wonderful time of year for our families with the start of football season, the promise of cooler temperatures, and lovely natural beauty. For our clubs it is time to consider writing grants for our projects. The PIFF Matching Grant is a wonderful way to earn extra money for our projects. Familiarize yourself with the rules for application to avoid the chance of your Matching Grant being deemed ineligible.

- Projects must benefit more than 5 people.
- Scholarships, tuition, camper's fees or educational or registration fees are not eligible.
- Capital improvements which allow for accessibility for people with disabilities as well as shade or protection from the elements are allowed.
- Grant agreement form must be signed properly.
- Grant may not be used to reimburse a completed project.
- Grants may not be awarded to influence political activity.
- Clubs/Districts with a past due evaluation form on a previous grant will not be given another grant until all evaluations have been submitted.

As the district PIFF representative, I must approve your application before you send it to PI (on or before October 15th). Email your application to me at least 2 weeks prior to the 15th so that I have time to check it over. I will send it back to you for you to submit. If you don't make the effort, you will not receive the help.

In Friendship and Service,

Mary Ballard

Information taken from PI website 2023-2024 Matching Grant Cycle

Lt. Governor's Message

SEPTEMBER IS HERE! Next up is **Fall Council!** I can't wait to see you all on **October 10 & 11, 2026, at the Hampton Inn -- Orange Beach.** Please remember to submit your registration and book your room. **IMPORTANT: Please use the APD code when booking your room.** If you check in at the wrong rate and did not use the code, the hotel will not be able to change the rate. It is not their fault -- the system will not allow them to make the change.



April 9-11, 2027: VIVA LAS VEGAS WEEKEND for TBI Camp! We are still looking for sponsorships and donations to help make this weekend a wonderful experience for our campers. Please review the list below for items we can use at TBI Camp:

- **Personal and Activity Items:** Pens, Notepads, Puzzle books, Puzzles, Lotion, Shower gel, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hand sanitizer, Lip balm (ChapStick), Tissues
- **Snacks:** Crackers, Cookies, Small bags of chips, Little Debbie snacks
- **Bingo Gifts:** Bingo gifts for men and women
- **Bags Needed:** If you have makeup bags, reusable gift bags, or small-to-medium tote bags, we can use them to put the Bingo prizes in.

We learned last year that preparing separate bags for men and women made it easy for our campers—everyone simply picked a bag! If you have other items you think our campers might enjoy or use that aren't on the list, please feel free to donate those as well. **You are welcome to bring any of these donations to Fall Council!**

CLUB ROSTERS: Please don't forget to send me your **club's roster**. So far, I've received only one roster. A big **THANK YOU to Mary Browning** for sending in the Pilot Club of Lee County roster! I still need the rest of our clubs to send theirs in. Please get those rosters to me as soon as possible.

CLUB VISITS: My clubs are **Troy, Huntsville**, and yes...**Tuscaloosa!** I've got to say it: **WAR EAGLE!** I am looking forward to visiting each of you, spending time with your clubs, hearing about the wonderful things you are doing, and sharing some Pilot friendship and service along the way.

Hugs with Pilot Love,
Mollie Riley

Secretary's Message

If you have not turned in your club roster to Mollie Riley, please do so by September 15. We need to update the website. In addition, the DAC is ready to book our club visits. These visits are designed to share district information with your club and answer questions.

The Lighthouse – 2026 Fall Council Project *Faith, Family, Football and Fall Council!!!*

Your DAC has been working hard to make Fall Council relaxing, informative and memorable. Our project will be for The Lighthouse Organization. Imaging being put into a situation where it was a choice between comfort or safety. The Lighthouse Organization works with people who have been victims of Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Violence. We will be preparing bags of non-perishable, non-canned food items. The things they are asking for is a "treat" for them that they may not be able to afford. When is the last time you considered salt or seasonings a treat?

Let us come together to show that we mean it when we say Do More, Care More, and Be More!!! Can your club do \$5.00 per member? Or \$50.00 per club? If your club is not attending Fall Council, the DAC is requesting that you send \$50.00 to our Treasurer, Ferne, for the purchase of items for The Lighthouse. Items requested are ground coffee, powdered creamer, tea bags, sugar, salt and pepper, individually wrapped snacks, Sweet & low, cereal, Hamburger Helper, Rice A Roni, brownie mix, individual fruit cups, and oatmeal.

In Pilot Love and Friendship,
Joy Wood



Treasurer's Message

I would like to remind you to send me your club dues. Please send in your 2026-2027 Club Officers and your updated club rosters. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at Fall Council. I am hoping for cooler weather at Orange Beach. Each club will have the opportunity to purchase a table at Market Place to raise funds for your club. You can register by Zeffy or by check. If you are a first timer at Fall Council, please mark the category on your registration form. Get your hotel reservations by September 9th. Please remember any reservations after September 9th will be at the regular hotel rate.

In Pilot Love,
Ferne Wlodarski

Inspirational Leader's Message

Pilot Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Proverbs 16:9

"Sunflower Secrets"

This time of the year I love visiting the sunflower fields. Did you know that even on the darkest days sunflowers will stand tall and find the light? So beautifully they stand tall facing towards the sunlight. What the sunflower wants you to know is, there is light available to you even on the darkest days. You were not created to blend in, you were created to shine. Your kindness, your joy, and your love make the world a more beautiful place. Like the sunflower, bloom in your own time. Here are a few everyday lessons we can learn from the Sunflower; be bright, sunny and positive. Spread seeds of happiness! Stand tall and always turn to the light.

The following Pilots are in our thoughts and prayers:

PC Lee County

Lynn Mott's mother, Mrs. Brenda Breedlove passed away on July 6th. Cards of sympathy made be sent to 914 E. Towne Lake Circle, Opelika, AL 35801.

PC of Heflin

Sandra Kent, Club President, recently underwent a successful heart catheterization and is feeling much better.

Laura Cobb is thankful that her granddaughter Saitor Boyls, is recovering from a golf cart accident that required hospitalization.

Jane Brown and Sue Middleton are excited about their new grandbabies.

Joanne Horton, former PI President and AL District Governor, recently moved and is loving her new home. Her new address is 217 Palatka St., Panama City Beach, FL 32413



PC Andalusia

Please send cards of encouragement to Mellisa King's granddaughter, Hammett Peek, as she recovers. The cards may be sent to her in care of Mellisa King, 3204 Odom Rd. Doier, AL 36028

PC Prattville

Please continue to pray for Lisa Patterson as she recovers. Cards of encouragement may be sent to her at 28929 Canterbury Road, Daphne, AL 35626

PC Decatur

Congratulations! Kay Chandler has become a great grandmother. The precious little one is named Nora Lane.

In Friendship and Service,

Deroma

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Club Presidents: Please appoint someone to report by the 15th of each month your Club's cares, concerns, and celebrations. Please refer to the Club Manual for the paperwork to be sent to the Inspirational Leader.

ECR Message

As summer begins to wind down and the "dog days" bring soaring temperatures of 90 degrees and higher, many of us find ourselves seeking a little relief -- whether at the beach, by the pool, lowering the temperature on the air conditioner, or simply enjoying time with family and friends. I hope you have found moments to rest, recharge, and reflect on the opportunities that lie ahead.

September also gives us the opportunity to recognize the hardworking men and women who keep our communities moving. This year's Labor Day theme, "Solidarity for the Next 250" reminds us that progress is built through unity, dedication, and service -- values that are also at the heart of Pilot International.

As we begin a new Pilot year, I want to leave you with a simple message: "Believe in yourself."

- Believe in yourself when others may doubt your abilities.
- Believe in yourself when you have to be your own greatest cheerleader.
- Believe in yourself when the road becomes challenging and the waters seem rough.

And most importantly, remember that you are never alone. Your Pilot family is here to encourage you, support you, celebrate your successes, and stand beside you through every challenge. Together, we are stronger than any obstacle we may face.

Please keep these important deadlines in mind:

September 15th – Helmet, Pick Me Up, and BrainMinders Grant applications are due to Headquarters.

September 30th – Club Ambassador Donations are due to Headquarters.

October 15th – PIFF Matching Grant and Emergency Response Grant Application due to Headquarters.

These programs reflect the very heart of who we are -- serving our communities, promoting brain safety and health, and making a lasting difference in the lives of others.



As we move through September, let us continue believing in ourselves, believing in one another, and believing in the extraordinary impact we can make when we serve together.

Believe in yourself. Believe in your fellow Pilots. Believe in Pilot International. Together, we will continue to inspire hope, strengthen communities, and leave our organization stronger than we found it.

Charlotte Edenfield

Executive Committee Representative

Dates to Remember

- September 15-Deadline for Brain Minder Helmet Matching and Pick Me Up Grants
- September 30-Select PIFF Ambassadors
- October 10-11-Alabama District Fall Council
- October 15-Deadline for PIFF Matching Grant Application



You Are Cordially Invited
To the Alabama District
October 10-11, 2026
Fall Council
Hampton Inn and Suites
255185 Perdido Beach
Orange Beach, AL

Come to learn and serve with a purpose

Believe in Yourself!

Membership

Incentive Program

July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027

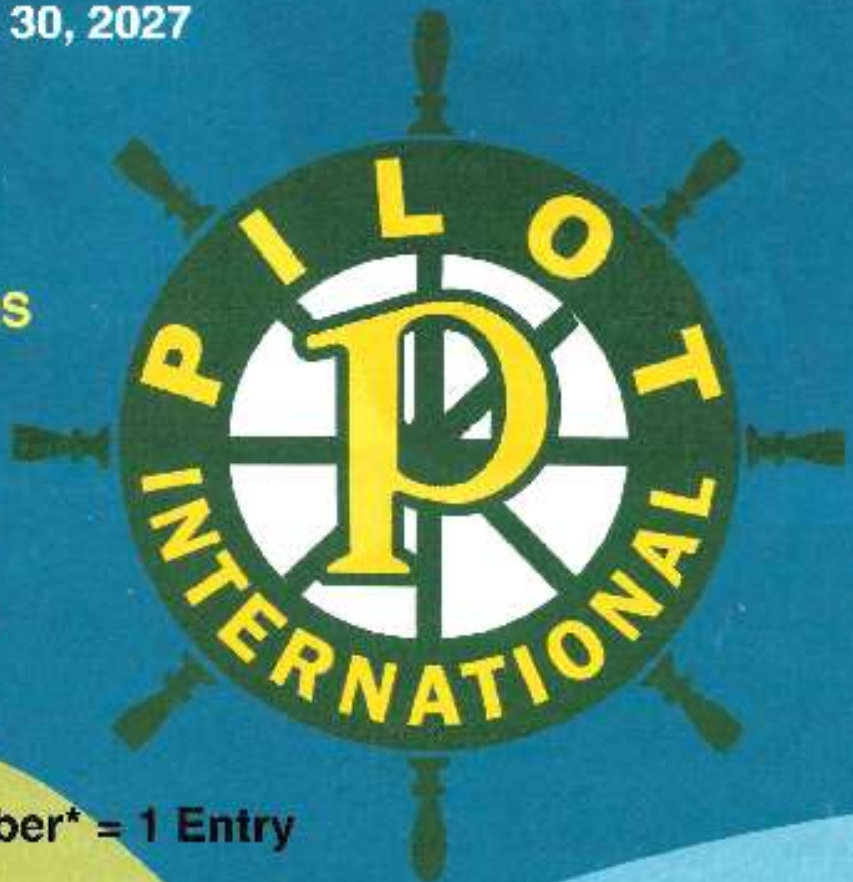
PRIZE:

2028 PI DUES

PAID FOR

FIVE (5) MEMBERS

Raffle Drawing at
2027 International
Convention in
Grand Rapids, MI
(winner need not be
present)



Sponsor 1 new member* = 1 Entry

Bonus Entries:

Chain Reaction - If a new member recruits a new member* during the incentive period, the original sponsor will also get an entry

Club Booster - If a club holds a Membership Drive/Share Pilot, every club member will receive an entry for each new member* that was recruited from the event

*new member - completed application and dues submitted



***BELIEVE
IN
PILOT!***



District Incentive Program

July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027

During the qualifying period, Districts will compete to increase their membership. There will be a first, second, and third place prize, as well as bragging rights.

Prize Levels

First Place - \$200

Second Place - \$150

Third Place - \$100

District membership growth will be measured by percentage. Total New Members divided by Total Membership. This provides an even playing field for all districts, regardless of the district's size.

Winning Districts will be announced at the 2027 International Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



We Are Pilots!



PC Cullman:

Representation of Pilot Emeritus Plaque to Pam Gasser by Brenda Allison and Peggy Harris



PC Prattville:

The Installation of New Officers. From Left is Cheryl Fitzgerald, Treasurer; Jean Sanderson, Social Media; Janice Clark, President. Lisa Patterson, Secretary; Connie Rogers, President Elect; Dalton Keel, Board Member and Inspirational Leader



PC Demopolis & DHS Anchor Club:
Members at the 1st Annual Harold Park-Aubrey Ward 2-Person Scramble





PC Lee County:

Members provided refreshments for the ribbon cutting for the new TBI Center at the Bennie G. Adkins CSI Meeting Center in Opelika, AL. Left to right: Mary Browning, Barbara Brewi, Anne Miller and Star Wray.

Friendship and Service



The Heart of Pilot