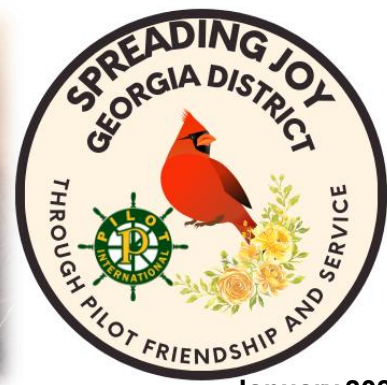




January 2026 - #7

2025 - 2026 DAC/DEC



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Message from the Governor

Happy New Year! The year 2025 has ended, and it was a fantastic year for Georgia Pilots. We are halfway through our Pilot year, and I want to encourage you to stop and look back at what your club has accomplished, and to think about what has worked and what you would like to change for next year. This will help you as you start to make plans for the 2026-2027 Pilot year.

As we enter the last half of the Pilot year let's continue to recruit new members. Remember President Beverly challenged each club to add one new member this year. During the first half of the year, we have added several new members to our district, and I look forward to seeing how many more we can add before my year is up.

Listed below are upcoming district deadlines:

District Officer Nominations - All nominations should be mailed to Cindy Weaver, Nominating Chair and postmarked by January 24, 2026. All positions are open and available. Please consider when being asked or nominated for a leadership role to serve on the Georgia District Executive Council.

Pacesetter, 250 Club and 250 Member contributions deadline for recognition at District convention is February 1, 2026.

Lynda Goodwin Volunteer Scholarship due to Genia Mitchell, GPF Representative by January 24, 2026.

Anchor Convention - February 27 – March 1, 2026 is located at Atlanta Evergreen in Stone Mountain, GA. Our Anchors love being supported by Pilots.

Georgia District Convention - May 1-3, 2026 is located at the Jekyll Island Club. More information for registration and hotel reservations to follow.

Please keep sharing you projects and fundraisers with us.

Mary



Pilot Club of Newnan members volunteered for Silver Bells today. They wrapped Christmas gifts for local seniors





Inspirational Message

"Life I am the New Year"....and with the arrival of 2026...just take a minute and reflect on that quote...Life I am the New Year...this symbolizes a spirit of renewal, hope and the power to create change at any time, rather than waiting for a specific date. I invite each of you to sit back and read these short Happy New Year messages:

- ✿ 12 New Chapters, 365 New Chances
- ✿ Out with the Old, in with the New
- ✿ Happy 2026
- ✿ Best Year Yet!
- ✿ Wishing you a Bright 2026
- ✿ 2026, Let's Go!
- ✿ The best is yet to come
- ✿ And this one is my favorite.... New year, new adventures!

Let our beautiful cardinal fly with each of us as we go into 2026 with renewed hope and goals for not only ourselves, but our clubs and our communities.

May 2026 bring many blessings and joys to each of you.

JoAnn

JoAnn Akers
District Inspirational leader
akersjoann@gmail.com



REMINDER: Our District has a Facebook page, so get your members to sign up.



Avaline Adams

(GA Dist. Treasurer & 2023-24 PG)

January 3

Nancy Henrick

(1990-91 PG & 1998-99 PIP)

January 8

Gwen Yarbrough

(2007-08)

January 10

Sherry McDuffie

(1996-97)

January 29



In Loving Remembrance! The Georgia District extends our deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

Pilot/Family	Club
Missy Belcher (Father-in-law)	Bainbridge

Pilot	Club
Virginia Smith (50-year member/Emeritus)	Toccoa
Althea Rutland Hooker	Jones Co.
Elaine Denham	Bainbridge
Stella Sue Jackson (Charter Member-1977)	Washington Co.



Membership

Happy New Year!

January is a time of reflection. How do you think your Pilot year has gone so far? Has your club meet your goals and/or President Beverly's challenge of each club adding 1 member? If you have, Congratulations.... and if you haven't, there is still more time until our Pilot year is over.

As you reflect on membership, please think about what you have done with new member(s) that have joined your club. Have they been assigned to a division? Have you given them a mentor? Be sure to get them involved and feel a part of your club.

I wish you the very best in 2026, Spreading Joy Through Pilot Friendship and Service!

Beth

Beth Coon
District Membership Coordinator
pbcoon@yahoo.com





Leadership

Lead by Example

Are you proud of your club? If so, show some positive energy! Motivated club members that demonstrate a genuine passion for what they are doing can lead to more productivity within the club. Several strategies are known to make enthusiasm spread and empower clubs to thrive. Whether you are a club leader or a follower, try some of these tips and see if you find a difference within your club.

Demonstrate passion

When club members see their leader excited, they are more likely to feel the same. Participation in projects and fundraisers is a must for the leader. Show your commitment and believe in what you are doing. Encourage others to join in the fun.

Communicate your goals

Nothing slows down the success of a project or fundraiser more than not knowing the purpose, plan of action, and job responsibilities. It is a leader's responsibility to share a clear, compelling vision and explain how individual efforts contribute to the overall objectives. Encourage collaboration by creating a meeting where all views can be expressed in a positive atmosphere. Share the decision-making and assign tasks to those that are capable and positive about the event. Have the plan expressed verbally and written down in a place that gives access to all members. Inclusion is the way to keep members active and feeling like they are part of the club.

Celebrate your wins!

Share successes with positive reinforcement. Praise and recognition go a long way to make a person feel appreciated. Acknowledge member's input with enthusiasm and avoid negativism when volunteers are unable to participate. Listen to feedback from evaluation forms or reactions of your members and reinforce that everyone's voice matters but it is okay to agree to disagree or compromise.

Happy members make a happy club, so make 2026 a positive and enthusiastic year full of successes and good leadership.

Maureen

Maureen Stoy
Leadership Coordinator
mqstoy@gmail.com



Jones Co. Pilots Beth Coon, Kathy Jackson, and Fay Mathews assisted with First Saturday BINGO at Lynn Haven Health & Rehabilitation. There were 14 residents who participated, and everyone enjoyed it.



Anchor News



Happy New Year!!! I can't believe it is already 2026 and Anchor Convention is just around the corner!!! If you have not already marked your calendars, please do!! Convention is Friday February 27th – Sunday March 1st. Registration is \$160 and room reservations can be made by using this link <https://book.passkey.com/e/51067735>. Rooms must be booked by January 28th. We will be at the Beautiful Evergreen Lakeside at Stone Mountain. The Anchor Board has been hard at work planning for the upcoming convention and have a lot of fun things planned!! We will kick off the weekend with a Game Show you don't want to miss.

This year we will be focusing on education and will be packing bag of school supplies for Stone Mountain Elementary School. We have created a wish list if you would like to donate for the bags you can use this link https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/quest-view/1V3KCD5L5ADB9?ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_ggr-subnav-share_JQWKA4N4KJPDEF0HSSV9, or you can reach out to me. We hope you make plans to attend.

Gerianna

Gerianna Moon
District Anchor Coordinator
g.moon326@gmail.com



Pilot International Foundation Fund

Happy New Year Pilots from Pilot International Founders Fund, just a quick reminder for Clubs to send contributions to PIFF by February 1: 2026: 1: Georgia District Pacesetter Contributions - \$10 per active, dues paying member. Certificates are presented at the Georgia District Convention to the clubs supporting PIFF. 2: Goal for Grants and Scholarships - \$250 per Club or individual for '250Club/Member'. Clubs or individuals will be recognized at the Georgia District Convention and at the Pilot International Convention. Did you know or remember that PIFF has 5 different scholarships with different emphasis and criteria to benefit graduate and undergraduate students for our Anchors and other students to apply? You do not have to be an Anchor to apply for some of these. Please have your Anchors and other students in your area to apply for these scholarships. Their applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2026, to Pilot International. Here is the website where they can check for information about each scholarship: [https:// www.pilotinternational.org/founders-fund](https://www.pilotinternational.org/founders-fund).

If your Club doesn't have the Georgia District Pacesetter Contribution and the \$250 per Club/Member in your budget, please consider adding it for next year's Plan of Work. In the meantime, you can have a simple fundraising event to donate to the Founders Fund. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Karen

Karen Fitzpatrick
PIFF Representative
busy_blondie_68@hotmail.com





Happy New Year!! Pilot Club of Covington members at their January meeting. Enjoying a delicious lunch and donating food items to the local food bank.



Pilot Club of Hartwell was proud to donate toys to the Hartwell Police Department for Toys for Tots! We are incredibly thankful for everyone who donated and helped make this possible. Your generosity will help bring joy to so many children this holiday season.

Pictured L-R: Officer Darin Rucker, Chiquita Clark, Brenda Spears, Joylynn Wilson, Kim Motes, Takia Wakefield



NE Region Platter chatter met tonight with 24 Pilots present. These are winners of the raffle. Proceeds from the raffle are donated to GPF. \$100 was raised tonight. Winners were Wanda Beard and Chandra Leard from Hartwell, Michelle Capell and Gerianna Moon from Elberton and PI Treas./PG Susan Harbin from Lavonia.



Welcome New Members

New GA District Pilots

Northeast Region

Tabitha Downer (Elberton)

Southeast Region

Danielle Cowart (Washington Co.)



Another successful Pilot Club of Hogansville Empty Stocking Fund delivery!!

Thank you to all the amazing, generous Pilots, and Pilot helpers who shopped, bagged toys, loaded toys, took applications and contributed to this effort to bring joy to all the children in our community.



LiteALite was a success at the Lighting of the Chamber of Commerce Tree and the Christmas Parade. Thanks to Mrs. Shell and the BCES Chorus for providing the gift of music. Thanks for all who contributed to LiteALite Scholarship fund! 100% of money raised goes to Scholarship for Bleckley County High School Seniors. Stacy Leverette represented Pilot Club of Cochran as their Community Ambassador this year.





THE MISSION OF PILOT INTERNATIONAL IS: Pilot International's mission is to influence positive change in communities throughout the world. To do this, we come together in friendship and service, focusing on encouraging brain safety and health and supporting those who care for others.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 22, 2026

2026 GPF Anchor Scholarship

Due to: Genia Mitchell (GPF Representative)

January 22, 2026

2026 GA Dist. Anchor Scholarship

Due to: Gerianna Moon (Anchor Coordinator)

January 24, 2026

District Officer Nominations

Due to: Cindy Weaver (District Nominating Chair)

January 24, 2026

Lynda Goodwin Volunteer Scholarship

Due to: Genia Mitchell (GPF Representative)

February 1, 2026

Pacesetters, 250 Clubs & 250 Members

See ECR Leslie's article to the right for more info.

February 1, 2026

2025-26 Anchor Club of the Year

Due to: Esther Foster (Awards Jury Chair)

February 1, 2026

2025-26 Community Service Award

Due to: Esther Foster (Awards Jury Chair)

February 27-March 1, 2026

2026 Anchor Convention

Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Resort (Stone Mountain)

March 15, 2026

Pick-Me-Up Grants

See ECR Leslie's article to the right for more info.

All Forms are on the GA District Website under Forms Members Only Password: Pilotjoy
www.pilotgeorgia.org



Georgia ECR Message

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@pilothonq.org
- helmets@pilothonq.org
- brainminders@pilothonq.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!

Leslie

Leslie McLaughlin
GA District ECR
lmclaughin98@gmail.com



Pilot Club of Brunswick's first "Under the Helmet 5K and Fun Run" through old town Brunswick. This is to support bike helmets, especially for children. It also supports brain health. We had fun. We worked hard. The day started early with cold but turned out to be a spectacular day. We received some very nice compliments on our fundraiser. Pilots Mary Rocha and Debra Bragdon checking the registration table

