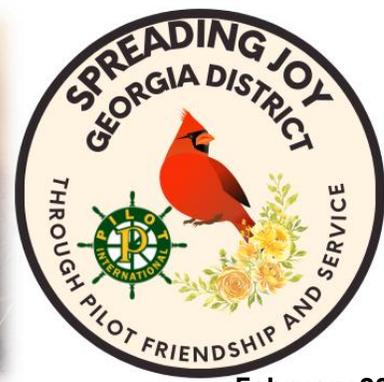


Georgia District Governor's Bulletin



February 2026 - #8

2025 - 2026 DAC/DEC



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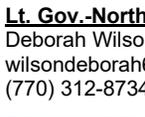
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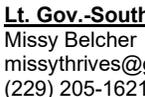
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GOVERNOR'S BULLETIN EDITOR

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Message from the Governor

Welcome to February!

I hope everyone is having a great year so far! If you have not already done so you need to start looking at club officers for the 2026-27 Pilot year.

Your DAC/DEC met in January for mid-year planning. We worked hard on plans for the upcoming year. The convention planning committee met at the Jekyll Island Club Resort to tour the facilities and start planning the upcoming convention. This is a beautiful historic resort. Just a little history behind the resort. The club has been a preferred retreat for influential families since 1888. The resort is now a member of Historic Hotels of America. Come early or stay after convention to see more of the sights in the area.

Please be on the lookout for more information regarding District Convention! I hope everyone is making plans to attend this event. I hope to see you at Jekyll Island in May! Spreading Joy Through Pilot Friendship and Service.

Mary



Making plans for District Convention 2026 at the Jekyll Island Club Resort. Melissa Stephens (SE Lt. Gov.), Jacque Hatcher (Dist. Governor-Elect), Mary Turner (Dist. Governor), Avaline Adams (Dist. Treasurer/PG), Bennie Mattox (DC 2026 Co-Chair) & Durrett Moerman (DC 2026 Chair/PG)



Your Georgia DAC/DEC hard at work!
Mid-year Planning Meeting





Inspirational Message

As we move into February with our bright red cardinal flying before us. Let me share this beautiful message of a "miracle" and a love story that will go on and on....

From the Pilot Club of Hartwell, comes the story of one of their members becoming a grandparent and what a blessing it is.... Teresa Austin's son Michael and his wife Julie ("Jules") after years of infertility and heartbreak, pursued foster care and adoption. On November 26, 2025, they received an unexpected call that a newborn baby had been safely abandoned at a Spartanburg, South Carolina hospital under Daniel's Law. With only ten minutes to decide, Jules immediately said yes! The family quickly rallied to prepare for the baby's arrival. Camden James was born weighing just over five pounds and was named in honor of his late uncle. He has strawberry-blond hair and was born with clubbed feet, requiring weekly treatments at Shriners Hospital to help correct his legs, with hopes of avoiding surgery. Parental rights were terminated in December, and the adoption will soon be finalized, officially making Camden an Austin! Teresa and her husband Gary are proud grandparents, and Teresa lovingly cares for CJ during the day, often sharing him with friends at the Senior Center. What a true blessing and one that will live on and on.....

JoAnn

JoAnn Akers
District Inspirational leader
akersjoann@gmail.com



Georgia District, Pilot International
2025-26 Memorial Forms need to go to:

Mary Turner
GA District Governor
turnerma417@gmail.com

JoAnn Akers
Inspirational Leader

Fellow Pilots, if you wish to be included on the prayer and praise emails that go out periodically from the inspirational leader, do let JoAnn know at akersjoann@gmail.com.

of praise

When sending notices of any Pilot death, please include number of years person has been a pilot; any offices held within the club as well as a PICTURE.

NOTE....please send notice to PI as well.

Links to obituary notice would be helpful as well and where to send cards of caring.

For a Co-Pilot....picture as well and any pertinent information.

For Celebrations.....send those as well with pictures if possible.



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

<u>Pilot/Family</u>	<u>Club</u>
Jennifer Downer (Father-in-law)	Elberton
LaDonna Daughtry (Mother-in-law)	Elberton
Judy Marable (Father-in-law)	Oconee Co.



Projects

February Project Words

I hope everyone stayed warm and safe while enjoying the snow. As we move into the second half of our Pilot year, February is a great time to start thinking about projects for the upcoming year. Although we have more projects to finish out this year, start thinking about what went well during the first half of the Pilot year, what you many want to change, or what you may want to add. New ideas are always welcome.

Don't forget to share your photos. I do enjoy seeing what all the clubs do to Spread Joy through Pilot friendship and service.

Jennifer

Jennifer Downer
District Project Coordinator
jenniferdowner244@gmail.com



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



Grace Crittenden
(2015-2016)
February 8

Melanie Smith
(1997-1998)
February 8

Esther Foster
(2010-2011)
February 20

Mary Turner
(Dist. Governor)
February 6

Ann Lastinger
(Dist. Secretary)
February 26



A \$2,000 check was presented to A Child's Voice from the **Pilot Club of Monroe's** 2025 5K fundraiser. Thanks to our sponsors for making this donation possible. L-R Joy Jackson, Nurse Practitioner; Karen Beall, Pilot Club of Monroe Vice President; Lindsey Jones, Executive Director; Pilot President Ann Fielder; and Desiree Thompson, Client Services Coordinator.





Governor's Scrapbook time again. Please send your club pictures or if you also have pictures of Governor Mary attending your events. It would also be great if you could take a group photo to put in her scrapbook, please send the photos with descriptions to Gerianna Moon, g.moon326@gmail.com. Also, looking for Fall Council, Mary's PI Convention & her installation at District Convention.



Pilot Club of Toccoa donated to PruittHealth for their memory support busy station!!! Pictured is Pilot Darlene Johnson making presentation



Pilot Club of Jones Co. members Beth Coon, Kathy Jackson, and Fay Mathews delivered school supplies to Mattie Wells Elementary today. The school supplies were donated by members, and they were bought to our January meeting. Pictured with Pilot members are Principal Gwen Hudson and Jessica Sills, School Counselor



Lunch + Friends = a perfect day!
Pilot Club of Washington Co's friendship lunch hosted today by Pilot Susan Hill was all about sweet friendship, good food and friendly faces.



Call to Georgia District Convention

WHEN: MAY 1-3, 2026
WHERE: JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB RESORT
371 RIVERVIEW DRIVE, JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
TIME: 7:00PM

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE BEAUTIFUL HISTORICAL JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB RESORT

ROOM RESERVATION CUTOFF IS MARCH 31, 2026.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 6



Welcome
New Members



New GA District Pilots

Northwest Region
Cynthia Shontz (Carrollton)

Southeast Region
Savannah Perkins (Washington Co.)
Julia Lucas-Reinstated (Dublin)





Pilot Club of Bainbridge participated in CASA Awareness Day

CASA Awareness Day is observed on **January 22, 2026**, to raise awareness about the needs of children in foster care and the advocacy work done by CASA volunteers.

Purpose and Significance: CASA Awareness Day aims to highlight the mission of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) programs across the country, which is to advocate for the best interests of children in foster care. The day encourages community engagement and aims to recruit more volunteers to support these children, who often face challenges in finding stable and loving homes.

Activities and Participation: Wear Red Shoes: Participants are encouraged to wear red shoes or socks as a symbol of support. This gesture is inspired by Dorothy's red slippers in "The Wizard of Oz," representing the journey home for children in foster care.



It's already been a busy and exciting start to the new year for the **Pilot Club of Hartwell!**

We're having so much fun serving our community and getting right to work. Recently, our members had a cleaning day at the Friendship House to help better serve those in need. We also hosted a fun BINGO event at the Senior Center, which is always a great time connecting with our community! We're thrilled to welcome two new members to our club, **Lane Burnett** and **Mary Alice Mercer**. We're so excited to have you both!

At our January meeting, we were honored to hear from an incredible speaker, Steve Burton, CEO of the College and Career Academy at Hart County High School. Steve gave an amazing presentation about their programs and shared ways we can continue to give back through scholarships to support local students.

Thank you to everyone who helps make Pilot Club such a positive force in our community!





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

February 7, 2026 (EXTENDED) 2026 GPF Anchor Scholarship Due to: Genia Mitchell (GPF Representative)

February 7, 2026 (EXTENDED) Lynda Goodwin Volunteer Scholarship Due to: Genia Mitchell (GPF Representative)

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.

April 1, 2026 GA Secretary of State Corporate Registration for ALL clubs

May 1-3, 2026 District Convention Jekyll Island Club Resort Jekyll Island, GA (Registration & Marketplace Forms attached with the GB)

June 26, 2026 Q4. Club Reports Due to: Governor, Governor-Elect & Region Lt. Governor

July 15-18, 2026 PI Convention The Omni Oklahoma City. OK

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



Georgia ECR Message

February is often called the month of love since Valentine's Day is on the 14th - it is a celebration of romance, affection and heartfelt connections. It is a time when people exchange cards, flowers, chocolates and other tokens of love to express their feelings. February's shorter days and cozy winter atmosphere make it a time for intimate moments and warm gatherings. Time to get cozy by the fireplace and read a good book.

However, there are some important events that need attention in February! It is time to consider next year's Club Officers and to nominate next year's District Officers. Per PI ByLaws, Club Officer elections are decided by a ballot vote no later than one month prior to your District Convention. When the nominating committee member asks you to serve your Club or District as an Officer, please consider saying "yes." It is a great way to gain leadership skills and confidence. Also, it is time to make nominations for PI officers. Submit a letter to the nominee of your choice and send a copy to Joanna Kotlarski, PIHQ Membership Specialist, at nominations@pihq.org. This is a NEW email to assist with the nomination submission process. We need nominees for President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors, so please look at the leadership in your District and nominate your strong leaders for a place on the Executive Committee.

Outstanding Anchor club entries are due to the District Awards Jury no later than March 15. You can mail your award entries can be to youthdevelopment@pihq.org.

March 15 is also the quarterly deadline for Pick Me-Up, Helmet, and BrainMinders grants. Now is the time to begin planning to complete the grant applications. Reading the instructions carefully and paying close attention to the date, signature, and budget requirements are all important steps of submitting your application. March is membership month and there is no better time to plan a Share Pilot than now!



Enjoy the snowy weather as you sit by the fire or sunny weather sitting on the beach eating your Valentine's Day chocolates while planning that awesome membership drive!

In Pilot Friendship, Leslie

Leslie McLaughlin GA District ECR lmclaughin98@gmail.com



Members of the Pilot Club of Chatsworth presented a donation check to the Murray County Sheriff's Office C.H.A.M.P.S Program for the year 2025-2026. C.H.A.M.P.S (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) is a drug and safety education course that is geared towards 5th grade students within the school year. Accepting the donation is Deputy Ethan Roberts one of the instructors at a local elementary school along with Major Tim Bell. They believe that CHAMPS plays a crucial role in bettering our community and future generations to come

