

# Oconee Spokes



December 5, 2017  
Pilot Club of Oconee County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 833  
Watkinsville, Ga. 30677

Meets 1st Tuesday of Month: 7 pm  
Watkinsville First Christian Church  
4 N. Main Street  
Watkinsville, GA, 30677

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[www.pilotinternational.org](http://www.pilotinternational.org)  
[www.pilotgeorgia.org](http://www.pilotgeorgia.org)  
[www.oconeeclub.com](http://www.oconeeclub.com)  
Facebook: Pilot Club of Oconee County



President Judy

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

— Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Shining our light on service during the holiday season can be such a blessing for the individuals we serve. My prayer for you is “to be present in the moment” to see and to experience the blessings of all opportunities this month.

Merry Christmas, Pilots!



## *Membership Division*

*Coordinator  
June McKenzie*

Fun and Food had 11 Pilots attend the trip to eat at Blue Willow in Social Circle on Friday. We all thank Gayle Christopher for arranging the outing. She is working on next quarter and needs any suggestions you might have for food and for flicks.



The Pilot Christmas Dinner will be December 19th at Thrive, 7 PM. Membership is in charge. Each member needs to let the caller for your division know if you will attend and if you plan to bring a guest. Callers please let June McKenzie know by December 14 the names of Pilots and their guests who will be at that dinner. Callers are Lavonne, Sandra, and Gayle. Judy and Jan can let June know if attending and who will bring guests. June will contact the associate members. We will have a gift exchange so bring a gift. Bring a gift for each guest that attends also.

Membership will be host for the January business meeting.

## *Fundraising Division*

*Coordinators  
Joy Elder & Dennise Grayson*

The Fundraising Division THANKS ALL OF OUR MEMBERS who have worked hard and secured Financial Sponsorships for our 2018 Pilot Chase 5K Run/Walk in January. At this time, we have EXCEEDED our financial goal and have over \$14, 500 in Sponsorships. A very heartwarming and encouraging fact in this is that we have 18 NEW (never have sponsored our 5K in the past 8 years of its running) Sponsors, and several who have increased their sponsorship level for our 2018 Race. Cathy M. will provide more details during our Fundraising Division report on Tuesday night, Dec. 5.

Our Club continues to shine in being PILOT STRONG!!



## *Projects Division*

*Coordinators  
Jane Reese & Donna MacPherson*

The Pilot Club of Oconee County was well represented and received at the annual Watkinsville Christmas Parade on Saturday December 2nd. Elaine N. piloted her decorated truck with Jan navigating by her side. Our banner was carried by President Judy and Darlene wearing our green Pilot 5K shirts from this year's 5K, Christmas hats and bells on their shoes... We had four Pilots walking and distributing candy to the eager children along the parade route; Vickie and Rosanne wearing our "Save the Date" t-shirts and Christmas hats and Donna (Chicken) and Lavonne (Bull) as live BrainMinders™ Buddies. We passed out over 1800 pieces of candy and could have used more. We have already started talking plans for next year's parade to include lights on the truck and a utility trailer with hay bales for additional participants. Pilots please mark your calendars now for Saturday, December 1, 2018 for the next annual Watkinsville Christmas Parade.

Pilot participants in the 2017 Watkinsville Christmas Parade on December 2.



Photo by: Hyung Kyoung Yoo



# Pilot Calendar

Dec. 5, 2017	Pilot Meeting
Dec. 19, 2017	Pilot Christmas Party
Jan. 2, 2018	Pilot Meeting
Jan. 13, 2018	Pilot Club Chase 5K
Feb. 6, 2018	Pilot Meeting
Mar. 6, 2018	Pilot Meeting
Mar. 20, 2018	Share Pilot Picnic/Info.
Apr. 3, 2018	Pilot Meeting
April 6-8, 2018	GA District Convention
May 1, 2018	Pilot Meeting
June 5, 2018	Pilot Meeting
June 19, 2018	Installation
6/27/18-7/1/18	PI Convention

Dates for BrainMinders™ Buddies Puppet Shows and another Thrive Tea Party will be announced early next year. Both have been well received and looked forward to.

Our Club's magazine collections and distributions, Pick-Me-Ups, A.C.T.S. (Area Churches Serving Together) collections and distributions, Butterfly Dreams collections and donations, service to Veterans collections and donations, Alzheimer's Walk participation and donation, Georgia Artist's with DisAbilities donation and attendance, Blanket project and upcoming ESP (Extra Special People) donation, Special Olympics Lunch and The Cottage collections and donation all show the Pilot spirit and connection with and commitment to our community, Our Club's Helen Parrish Memorial Scholarship and support of Pilot International Scholarships have been awarded to very deserving local students. We certainly are "Shining the Light of Service", educating and supporting activities that promote brain health and safety, preparing youth for service and showing appreciation and support for caregivers.

On December 5th Thrive will have a "Wreath Stroll" during a holiday open house. Wreaths have been decorated by Thrive partners. The wreaths will be items for their silent auction. One was decorated by Oconee Pilots. If you have a few minutes between 4:30 and 8:00 run by and enjoy time with the residents at Thrive.



**ACTS update...**Area Churches Together Serving was extremely busy the Tuesday before Thanksgiving with 105 client families coming in for the regular groceries plus each family received a fresh turkey from Antioch Christian Church and a bag of Thanksgiving fixings! The Oconee Schools can-a-thon this year was held on Nov. 17th with 35,900 food items plus \$4500 in donations. Gayle and Pam were there to separate the thousands of cans along with many other community volunteers.

Items needed at this time in ACTS clothes closets are warm sweaters and jackets, blankets, comforters and linens as well as good in-season clothing. Good used items are acceptable!

# Pilot Birthdays

Joan Mann—December 3  
 Judy Murrow—December 17  
 Mildred Bell—December 20

# Georgia District

Pilots, please bring your dimes to each meeting and place them in the GA District water bottle. A full bottle holds \$90.00. The money will be used for PIFF Grants & Scholarships. We will donate the money at the District Convention in April.



# Pilot International

Dear Pilot friends,

Thank you for rallying around our Fall Membership Drive and first-ever Giving Tuesday Campaign! Pilots are amazing! We happily report that **110** new members joined Pilot between September 5 and November 10! It may be a week or two before we know our Giving Tuesday totals, as some gifts are still trickling in and we are waiting to learn about our match from Facebook. What a kick-start to a jolly month these successful campaigns are - we have much to celebrate!

We're pleased to introduce our new Communications Director Michael Lopez, whose first day was November 27<sup>th</sup>. Michael was previously Senior Marketing Analyst with KaMin of Macon. He holds an MBA from Mercer University. Please join us in welcoming him and add him to your monthly club newsletter distribution list ([michael@pilothonq.org](mailto:michael@pilothonq.org)). We are hugely appreciative to Kerry Freeman for serving as Interim Communications Director. She produced an outstanding Fall Pilot Log, has the Winter Log drafted, and kept our weekly Membership Drive and Giving Tuesday Constant Contact blasts fresh and timely. And much more!



## Member's News

Joan Mann's grandson, Chandler Mann, will be marching with the Red Coat Band in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Pam and Doc, along with about a dozen Oconee County friends, enjoyed a bus trip to Christmas in the Smokies. The shows, the food and fellowship we're all a much needed get away!

Watkinsville First Christian Church made it through another chicken mull. Members really stepped up to make this one of the best!

Pam and Doc's Thanksgiving was different this year! First of many things without Mother. She always had to taste and feel the dressing before it went in oven. Still we are thankful!

Jane and Justin Reese had a wonderful week "down on the farm" with grandchildren, both boys and daughters-in-law.

April has some wonderful news to share: My husband is a member of the Georgia No Regrets Truck Club. For the past 7 years we have hosted a Car and Truck Show and Toy Drive in Barrow County. This past Saturday we held the 8th annual No Regrets Toy Drive. In 6 hours we raised over \$2500 and the most toys ever. I'm so proud of what my husband started and blessed to be a part of something that helps so many families and children. 100% of the money raised and all the toys go to the Barrow County Family Connection to help families with Christmas.



Jan and Mary had lunch at Bone Island Grill with Nancy Watkins. She is doing well and is missing being part of our Pilot activities.

Jan and Jimmy enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with Gayle and Jimmy Christopher and several other guests.

June and Dennis had a quiet Thanksgiving with Allan(brother) and Diane(sister-in-law) Hardigree. Allan was more alert that day. Allan's daughter works on weekends and all holidays so she came later and spent a few days in Oconee Co.

Herbert and Darlene joined family in St. Augustine for a delightful three-day visit during the Nights of Light. They stayed on the bay at the Westcott Bed and Breakfast.

Joy has thoroughly enjoyed cheering on the UGA Lady Dogs Basketball team in the preseason. They were 7-0 until BIG TEXAS - # 2 in the nation right now- blew in with many, many players over 6 ft. tall, and beat us good on Sunday

afternoon.7-1 is still something to brag about!!

Joy celebrated her 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday with lots of cards, email greetings, and 3 celebratory meals with close friends—thanks for all the wishes!

Judy Marable attended the "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" silent auction, luncheon and fashion show held at the Athens Country Club on November 3 for the American Cancer Society.

Donna's sister Sheila's son (try saying that fast a few times) Nick and Lauren welcomed Asher Allen Long into the family on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Former Pilot Kate Bergen and Donna took a road trip to Cherokee, NC. The scenery along the way was beautiful. We stopped at a thrift shop and bought a cute cement Christmas bear and a huge floral painting in a very ornate wood frame. Also, at Goats on A Roof where we fed the goats and bought pecan fudge (to sustain us on the trip). And yes, we went to Harrah's but no big wins this time.

It's looking more and more like Christmas as Donna's brother Alan adds something new each day. It was put in the tree early and it took niece Bella quite a while to locate the famous Christmas pickle. She is so excited this year and using her creativity to make gifts and decorations.

Donna took niece Bella to see niece Sydney at North Forsyth High School's production



of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas". All the students' performances were great. They even had a special guest there; yes, Santa. Afterwards we enjoyed gathering at Applebee's for a quick late meal before heading home on a very foggy night.

Rosa, Freeman, and daughter, Alison, enjoyed a week at Destin Beach. They had lots of seafood to eat, and geocaches to find along with beach time.

Vickie's son, Adam, and his family were home for a week for Thanksgiving from Denver, CO. He working in the news media business and has not been home for seven years when we are all together on Thanksgiving Day.

Jack spent two weeks here. Highlights of his visit included lunch at Hot Thomas' BBQ, watching the Watkinsville parade followed a black-tie party on his birthday, and celebrating Thanksgiving at the Ritz Carlton-Lake Oconee. I enjoyed having a house spouse and the dogs are completely spoiled.

Dennise enjoyed a weekend at longtime favorite spa, The Doral, followed by 8 days exploring Cuba!

## Helen Parrish Scholarship



Joy Elder, scholarship committee, and Vanessa Garcia

Vanessa Garcia is the recipient of the Helen Parrish Scholarship from the Pilot Club of Oconee. She is a graduate of North Oconee High School and is persuing a degree in art from the University of North Georgia.