

Oconee Spokes

Vickie Hammond, Editor



Greetings Pilots, BY DARLENE ADAMS

Greetings Pilots, as we welcome February and celebrate LOVE...I am reminded of the Dionne Warwick song, "What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love". What a great song and how relevant is this today! I am thankful the Oconee County Pilots show love all year through in so many ways. As we continue our true course ever this month, we will be hosting our Pilot Chase 5K on February 3 with all hands on deck. In addition, we will enjoy a Share Pilot/Projects event on February 13, welcoming guests and making fidget cloths for a local nursing home.

We will be "rocking around the clock" in our March 5 business meeting. Get that 50's outfit ready as we extol the virtues of "rocking"! Speaking of "rocking"... thanks to Judy, our club has been awarded a matching grant for Therapeutic Riding. Kudos to our Scholarship Committee for working diligently to select and submit another worthy scholarship candidate. In addition, our Fundraising Division has met the fundraising goal and has labored faithfully to be ready for our 5K. Our Membership Division and Projects Division are full speed ahead with our "One Heart" Share Pilot event and Brain Minders. You all serve in love and passion and I am proud to serve with you!

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Pilot International's Mission is to influence positive change in communities throughout the world. To do this, we come together in friendship and give people an outlet for service. We focus on preparing youth and young adults for service, encouraging brain safety & health, and supporting those who care for others.

Contact Us
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Email:

pilotclubofoconeecounty@gmail.com

Club Business Meetings:

First Tuesdays, 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
Bishop Baptist Church Social Hall
July, Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., and May

Activity/Project Meetings

Aug., Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr., and June

Dates and Locations vary

Please check Spokes for information

Club Officers

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President Elect

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Treasurer

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Membership Division



The Pilot Membership Division is happy to announce that the "Share Pilot" theme is UNO! Plan on a wonderful, fun-filled, and great fellowship evening on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, beginning at 6 pm with refreshments. Our meeting will be at Sterling Mills Club house. The Membership Division will have games of UNO set up for us to play. This is the second "Share Pilot" for the year. Please invite friends to this meeting who wants to share the Pilot Club goals. We are a growing club, so we want new members who want to join our "boots on the ground" activities. Please let us know the names of your guests if you have any last minute invitees as soon as possible. Amazing door prizes will be given. (Don't know how to play UNO?? Don't worry. The Pilots will make sure you know the rules.) The Pilot Club Project Division will show us how to help make Fidget Quilts for our club to share with many people who need Pick-Me-Ups.

UNO is interpreted as the meaning of One. The Pilot Club of Oconee County share ONE Heart to help the community.



Fundraising Division

The Fundraising Division, after many months of planning, hosted a successful Pilot 5K Chase on Saturday, February 3. Participation of the runner community increased this year with 89 in person and nine virtual runners registered. The weather was perfect. The division looks forward to posting the final fundraising totals soon.

Prior to the actual race it took many hands to prepare. Thank you to Mrs. Tammy Gilland for working with the Oconee Enterprise in the placement of two ads, an article and photo for our race publicity. The Shane Powers Design once again was featured on the race t-shirts. Thank you Ms. Teresa Hayes for working with RubySue for all the race shirts. Mrs. Pam Crawford has taken care addressing and mailing out sponsor letters and thank you letters. Members from other divisions have jumped in and worked their magic-Mrs. Rosa Hall updated and retyped the 5K Pilot Chase information letter, sponsor letter, registration form and thank you letter. Mrs. Anna Gillespie faithfully forwarded Classic Race Services and RunSignUp information update emails to Ms. Donna MacPherson, Chairman.

Many thanks to all members of the Fundraising Division and Club Members for helping make this a successful 2024 5K.



Thank you Mrs. Ginger Giles Randall for your vision 15 years ago. Mrs. Ginger with Charter Member Mrs. Joy T. Elder. Both ladies always supporting our community.



Oconee Pilots always appreciate support from our community. Glass blower artist Loretta Eby, Jack himself with Jack's Cheesecakes and The Walton Family with Fox's Pizza. Thank you all the sponsors that support our projects.



Overall Winners

1. Tanner Pruitt
2. Gavin Avinger
3. Pi Dorminy

Women's Winners

1. Jennifer Nicholson
2. Kirsten Magee
3. Patty Kennedy

Under Age 10 Winners

1. Bennett Richardson
2. Logan Cash
3. Luke Cash

Projects Division



Team Malcom Bridge



Team Rocky Branch



Team Colham Ferry



Team High Shoals

Oconee Primary and
Dove Creek are
scheduled

Upcoming Events

- **Friday, February 9 :** Brainminders Show at Oconee Primary School Show begins at 8:30 am Pod 1 9:00 am Pod 2
- **Monday, February 12:** Brainminders Show at Dove Creek Elementary Media Center 8:30.
- **Tuesday, February 13:** UNO Share Pilot Event at Sterling Mills Clubhouse. 6:00 pm
- **Tuesday, March 5:** Oconee Pilot Business Meeting 5:30 (Executive Board) 6:30 (Social) 7:00 (Meeting) Bishop Baptist Church Rock around the Clock Theme. Fundraising Division will serve as Hostesses
- **Thursday, March 28:** Oconee County Special Olympics OCHS 9-12 noon
- **Tuesday, April 16:** 2024-2025 Club Plan of Works Meeting Bishop Baptist Church. The gathering we all need to attend. Mark your calendar.
- **Friday, April 19:** Oconee Relay for Life (more information to come)
- **Friday May 3-Sunday May 5:** Georgia District Convention Augusta Marriot Convention Center
- **Tuesday, May 21:** Summer Food for Kids Packing Day. Oconee Area Resource Council 9:00 am
- **Wednesday, July 17- Saturday, July 20 :** Pilot International Convention. Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center. Denver Colorado.

February Birthday



In February we celebrate our newest Oconee Pilot, Lisa Backs. Please help us celebrate her on February 17 . Happy Birthday Lisa and welcome to the Oconee Pilot Family.

From Pilot International Director--

The 2024 Pilot International Convention is in Denver Colorado this July 17-20. It is going to be a fabulous week in beautiful Denver. Our Executive Committee met there for Convention Planning in January. What a beautiful venue we have this year! Come early, as on Monday and Tuesday as there are two levels of excursion trips offered. The Adventurer package includes a tour of the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs and an opportunity to travel on the cog railroad to Pikes Peak. The Explorer Excursion includes a tour of the Gardens of the Gods and a shopping opportunity to Manitou Springs, Colorado. Both of these will be offered on Monday and Tuesday.

This year we will be at the beautiful Hyatt Regency at the Denver Tech Center. There is free parking at the Convention hotel. PIFF fundraisers will include a fun night of Bluejeans and Bling, Bingo and a Designer Purse auction. We will pack sensory packs for our service project. Registration includes our district lunch, the President's Awards breakfast and the Installation banquet. Early bird registration of \$400 opens on February 1 and runs through March 15. Registration will be \$450 after March 15. I can't wait to see you there! Registration links will open on February 1, 2024 on PI Website.

*You Matter in Pilot--
Susan Harbin*

2023-24 Pilot International Director



After weeks of reviewing applications and interviews, The Scholarship Committee has submitted North Oconee High School Senior Mary Webb to move forward and represent The Pilot Club of Oconee County in the Georgia District Lynda Goodwin Volunteer Scholarship Competition. The final selection will not be made until April and be recognized at the Georgia District Spring Conference Saturday, May 4, 2024 in Augusta, Georgia. Thank you Ms. Elaine Neal, Chairman, and all the committee members that represented the club as school liaison, readers, interviewers and writers of the letter of nomination. Our club thanks each of you for your continued service to the Pilot Mission. Miss Webb and her parents will be invited to our May Pilot Club Business Meeting so that all club members might meet her.



Matching Grant Update

Anna Kate had a busy year and many positive changes. She started 2023 recovering from spinal surgery. Part of her rehabilitation included robotic rehabilitation at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta for two weeks this summer. She was able to participate in the robotic rehab again over Christmas break. She sits up straight and tall now and is working towards baring her own weight during transfers in and out of her chair. Additionally, she was having several seizures and/or "Rett Episodes" per day before her spinal surgery BUT HAS NOT HAD ONE SINCE! Her surgeon was surprised by this development, but correcting her twisted spine must have been what she needed in more ways than one! She is completely off seizure medication as a result. Keeping her strong and healthy is my top priority as we embrace the new year. I am more hopeful than ever for her future as 2023 saw the start of two gene therapy trials for Rett Syndrome (many years in the making). We also owe so much to the Pilot Club of Oconee for what they have done for her. The gifts provided to her by them allow her to engage in more family events than ever before (all-terrain stroller, wheelchair carriers, and portable ramp) and helped keep her safe during swimming and bathing (special life jacket and bath chair). Knowing our community cares about her needs is a huge moral booster. Thank you so much for proving we are not alone on this journey.

April Sims



Congratulations!

The Matching Grants Committee and the Executive Committee of Pilot International want to congratulate your Pilot Club for being awarded the matching grant you applied for during the 2023-2024 club year.

We know that these funds will be used to Do, Care, and Be More for your community.

You Matter In Pilot



It is always a great day to go to visit the horses, trainers, clients and leaders at Oconee Therapeutic Riding! It was an extra special because Mrs. Rosa and Mrs. Judy were able to deliver the good news that the matching grant we wrote for them was awarded! We appreciate the work of Pilot International Founders Fund to offer matching grants with local Pilot Clubs!! We can't wait to get the equipment for the program!!

Artist with Disabilities Art Show



The Pilot Club of Oconee County has envisioned for years the ability for us to host the Georgia Artist with Disabilities Art Tour in our home, Watkinsville. Through the hard work of many, the 2024 Art Show was in Oconee County January 13-February 6. Pilots under the lead of Mrs. Judy Marable, worked together with the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation to host in the historical school building in Watkinsville. The tour was attended by many community members as well as local artists in the area. Thank you to Mrs. Susan Harbin and Mrs. Eleanor Ragsdale, Lavonia Pilots, for attending the opening day reception. While on tour local visitors found items in which they were interested and were able to purchase. Such a special activity for the Oconee Pilots. Oconee County was proud to be a stop on the 2024 Tour.



Oconee Pilot Business Meetings

March 5

Theme:
Rock around the
Clock
Refreshments:
Fundraising

May 7

Theme:
May Daze
Refreshments:
Membership



Please revise and note her contact information below. If you are her way, I am sure she would enjoy your company or a card.

Mrs. Joy T. Elder
Orchard Senior Living
2750 Atlanta Highway #144
Athens, GA 30606
(706) 540-3320
jtfrogcreek@charter.net



Help us welcome our newest Oconee Pilot. Mrs. Lisa Backs. Lisa is a talented retired art teacher for the Oconee County Schools. Lisa is a worker. You can find her helping at OARC with Food for Kids, OCAF with the Artists with Disabilities Show and her latest she joined the Brainminders Puppeteers for the High Shoals Elementary Show. Welcome Lisa! We are so happy that you chose us! Please add Lisa's contact information to your yearbooks.

Lisa Backs
1040 Acorn Creek Ct.
Bishop, GA 30621
706-424-2788
lisajbb81@gmail.com
Birthday: February 17
Joined: January 2, 2024



Please remember in your thoughts and prayers our Mrs. Cathy Moorehead in the recent death of her mother. Cards and notes may be sent to Cathy at the address below.

Mrs. Cathy Moorehead
1280 Northwoods Road
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

SAVE THE DATES

Spring District Convention
May 3-5, 2024
Augusta Marriott

PI Convention
July 17-20, 2024
Hyatt Denver Tech Center
Denver, CO

2024 Fall Council
October 4-5, 2024
Epworth by the Sea
St, Simons Island, GA

