



The Pilot Club of
Oconee County
WWW.OCONEEPILOT.COM

July 2026
Volume 47 Issue 1

Editor: Vickie Hammond vshammond@gmail.com

Oconee Spokes



Rosa Hall
President-Elect
r4hall@yahoo.com
706-769-1009

Judy Marable
President-Elect
judyamable@gmail.com
706-540-4001

Cathy Moorehead
Treasurer
treknell25@gmail.com
706-714-2048

Lisa Backs
Secretary
lisajbb81@gmail.com
706-424-2788

Taylor Bankston
Director
bankston1977@gmail.com
229-224-0842

Vickie Hammond
Past President
Director (2026-2027)
vshammond@gmail.com
706-254-6738

Contact Us

Mailing Address:
PO Box 833
Watkinsville, GA 30677

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



ROSA'S COMPASS

Happy New Pilot Year, Everyone!

The Executive Board and Co-Coordination met in June to review and discuss the new Plan of Work and the proposed budget. It was a very productive meeting filled with thoughtful ideas, enthusiastic participation, and excitement as we planned for the year ahead.

A special thank you to our Treasurer, Cathy, for keeping our finances in order and ensuring that all of our bills are paid promptly. She is also ready to collect 2026-2027 dues, which are \$150 per member. Our Official Visit will be held on August 4. Our Georgia District Governor-Elect, Nancy Miller, will be conducting the visit on behalf of our Lieutenant Governor, Vickie. As is Pilot tradition, please stand when Nancy is introduced. The Projects Division is responsible for providing refreshments for our August meeting. Co-Coordination, please remember to assign a Refreshment Leader for the evening.

We are fortunate that Vickie will once again serve as editor of The Spokes. She does an outstanding job of keeping us informed and showcasing the many ways our club serves the community. However, the newsletter is only as good as the information it receives! When Vickie requests articles, photos, announcements, or other news, please respond as promptly as possible so she can continue producing the excellent newsletter we all enjoy. I look forward to another wonderful year of friendship, service, and making a difference together.

In Pilot Service,

Rosa

PASSING THE GAVEL



With gratitude for the past year and excitement for the one ahead, the Pilot Club of Oconee County officially installed its 2026-2027 officers during our June Installation Banquet. It was an evening of celebration, fellowship, and anticipation of another year of making a difference in our community.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our Fundraising Division for serving as gracious hostesses for the evening and to The Master's Table for preparing a wonderful meal that everyone enjoyed.

Congratulations to our new leadership team: President Rosa Hall, President-Elect Judy Marable, Secretary Lisa Backs, and Treasurer Cathy. Moorehead Taylor Bankston will be installed as a Director at our August club meeting due to a prior commitment. Past President Vickie Hammond will continue to share her experience and leadership while serving as a Director and East Region Lt. Governor. Our club is fortunate to have an outstanding leadership team whose dedication, vision, and enthusiasm will guide us through another successful Pilot year. We are confident they will lead with purpose, teamwork, and a continued commitment to Pilot's mission of service.

To help prepare for the exciting year ahead, club leaders will attend the Georgia District East Region Leadership Workshop on Saturday, August 1. This annual training provides valuable leadership development, networking opportunities, and inspiration for the coming year. Be sure to check out the workshop invitation included in this edition of Spokes—we encourage all members to join us as we begin another year of "Friendship and Service."

REMINDER: ENJOY THE MOMENT. THIS DAY ONLY HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR.

Fundraising:
Tammy Gilland
706-248-7008
Cathy Moorehead
706-714-2048

Projects:
Judy Marable
706-540-4001
Donna MacPherson
706-340-8654

Membership:
Barbara Carter
706-728-0141
Lynn Smith
706-296-7630

Public Relations:
Oconee Enterprise
Lynn Smith
706-296-7630

Social Media
Vickie Hammond
706-254-6738
Judy Marable
706-540-4001

Website
Cathy Moorehead
706-714-2048

Scholarship Committee
Elaine Neal
706-310-9891
Vickie Hammond
706-254-6738
Jane Reese
706-353-3145
Lisa Myers
706-224-2292
Susan Brantley
706-202-1701

Division Reports



FUNDRAISING DIVISION

We are "Off and Running," preparing for our 2027 Pilot Chase. Runners participating in general seem to be down. Please encourage your groups to join us—we want runners, walkers, and baby stroller riders. Remember the date: First Saturday in February—HIGH NOON! OVP—Saturday, February 6, 2027, noon at OVP. T-shirt design will be revealed soon.

PROJECTS DIVISION

We continue to serve throughout the hot summer months. A donation was made to the Summer Food for Kids Program, as well as packing pantry staples and cooler items for 200 families. Babies need blankets, and when we have a talent, we share. Even in the heat of the day, cleaning has to be done. Years-old outdated materials, as well as, items we could not use were shredded or given away to those who could use them. We've had a busy summer and will present our projects for the upcoming year to the club. We are excited to announce a new group of caregivers we will recognize this year.



"IF WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER, KIDS NEED TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN BE FEELING GOOD ABOUT WHO THEY ARE AND HELPING OTHERS."

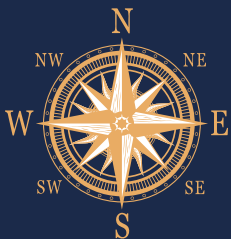
MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

What a great year we had in 2025-2026. We gained 3 new members and learned so much from our Share Pilot adventures. We already have a friend who will be attending one of our fall meetings because she has been looking for us. Isn't that great! She has a Pilot friend in Daytona Beach, so she already knows what a great group we are. Start thinking about your friends, neighbors, and church groups for future members. Our Fall Share Pilot will be October 13, 2026, and the Spring Share Pilot will be Tuesday, February 9, 2027.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The 2025-2026 Scholarship Committee completed the year by being invited to the North Oconee High Senior Honors Night to present Tyson Mathis the 2025-2026 Lynda Goodwin Volunteer Scholarship from the Georgia District and the Oconee Pilot Volunteer Grant from the club. As soon as we hear the applications are ready for the 2026-2027 scholarship, the committee will start their fantastic job again.





Did You Know?

Pilot International was founded in 1921 in Macon, Georgia.

Our motto:
"Friendship and Service"

Youth Leadership

Save Those Pop Tops!

We're partnering with youth leadership in our community by helping Sawyer Mathis with his Oconee 4-H Leadership Project. **Save the tabs from your canned drinks and bring them to our meetings through October for the Ronald McDonald House.** Sawyer is hoping Oconee County wins the statewide collection competition at Junior Conference in November—and we're ready to help make that happen!



July 2026

Oconee Spokes

Page 3

Member Spotlight



VICKIE HAMMOND

LT. GOVERNOR, EAST CENTRAL REGION

I am humbled to serve you this year. Oconee County has been home to my husband, Doug, and me our entire lives. We graduated from high school together, married in 1983, and have built a wonderful life centered around faith, family, and service. We are blessed with two children, four grandchildren, and eagerly await the arrival of another grandbaby this September.

After retiring from a thirty-year career in education with Oconee County Schools in 2014, I have remained active in volunteering and advocating for educators throughout Georgia. Serving others has always been at the heart of who I am. My Pilot journey began in October 2017, when a dear friend (Pam Crawford) invited me to a Share Pilot meeting. Pilot was already familiar to me, as my mother-in-law was a dedicated member of the Pilot Club of Oconee County. It didn't take long for Pilot to become an important part of my life as well. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving as a Division Chairman, club director, club president twice, and completing six months of presidency as president-elect. Each role has strengthened my appreciation for the impact Pilot has on our communities and on one another.

As your 2026-2027 East Central District Lieutenant Governor, I look forward to serving and supporting the clubs throughout our region. I value open communication, active listening, and learning from others as we work together to strengthen Pilot and continue our mission of service. I am honored by this opportunity and excited to build relationships, celebrate successes, and support the incredible Pilots who make such a difference every day.

Vickie Hammond

District & International News

GEORGIA DISTRICT NEWS

(FROM JULY 2027 GOVERNOR'S BULLETIN)

Everybody Can. Do More. Care More. Be More.

That is my theme for the 2026-2027 Pilot year, and you will be seeing it quite often during the upcoming months. First, I wish to thank every Georgia District Pilot for all they have done in the name of Pilot throughout the years in every community of Pilot. You all are such a wonderful asset to the Pilot organization – we are Georgia District, and we are No. 1! I am excited to be serving as your Governor during this year and hope to be able to meet with each of your clubs at least once during this year. Also, I am looking forward to seeing several of you at Pilot International Convention July 15-18, 2026, in beautiful Oklahoma City, OK. There are no pre-Convention excursions this year since there are many exciting activities planned plus meetings to conduct the business of Pilot. On Friday, July 17, there will be a 'Live Bingo' PIFF Fundraiser Blooming with Excitement. Also, President Beverly is having a 'Scratch to Bloom' fundraiser for PIFF. On Saturday, July 18, 'A Pilot Blooming Experience – Bound to Bloom' – President Beverly's Breakfast. Saturday night, July 18, Lisa Palmquist will be installed as our Pilot International President. The theme of the evening is "Daisies and Diamonds" – wear your formal dress of sparkle! And we are told to keep our cowboy boots handy! Believe in Yourself! Believe in Pilot!

Jacque

PILOT INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

(FROM JULY 2027 GOVERNOR'S BULLETIN)

AS WE BEGIN THIS NEW PILOT YEAR, I INVITE EACH OF YOU TO EMBRACE THE THEME: "BELIEVE IN YOURSELF! BELIEVE IN PILOT!"

- BELIEVE IN YOURSELF—BECAUSE EACH OF YOU BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS, TALENTS, AND IDEAS THAT MAKE PILOT INTERNATIONAL STRONGER. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPACT OF A KIND WORD, A HELPING HAND, OR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO STEP FORWARD AND SERVE.
- BELIEVE IN PILOT—BECAUSE TOGETHER WE ARE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER THAN OURSELVES. FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, PILOT MEMBERS HAVE CHANGED LIVES THROUGH FRIENDSHIP AND SERVICE. OUR COMMITMENT TO CARING FOR OTHERS CONTINUES TO CREATE RIPPLES OF HOPE THAT REACH FAR BEYOND WHAT WE CAN SEE.

AS WE TRANSITION INTO THIS NEW YEAR, LET US HONOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST WHILE LOOKING FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE AND ENTHUSIASM. PLEASE WELCOME YOUR NEW ECR AND BEGIN TO FORM YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HER. SHE WILL APPRECIATE THE WARM GREETINGS. LET US ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, PREPARE FOR AND WELCOME NEW OPPORTUNITIES, AND CONTINUE BUILDING PILOT INTERNATIONAL WHERE EVERY MEMBER FEELS VALUED, EMPOWERED, AND INSPIRED. THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR MISSION, IN PILOT INTERNATIONAL, AND IN ONE ANOTHER. I AM EXCITED ABOUT WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE TOGETHER IN THE COMING YEAR. HERE'S TO A YEAR FILLED WITH PURPOSE, FRIENDSHIP, SERVICE, AND THE CONFIDENCE TO BELIEVE IN OURSELVES AND IN PILOT.

IN PILOT FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE,

Lisa

Pilot International: Do More. Care More. Be More.

Important Reminders

Dues are due!

July 2026

Oconee Spokes

Page 4

Submit articles from divisions for Spokes by the 25th of each month to vshammond@gmail.com

Contact Vickie Hammond (email or text) with news or photos. to vshammond@gmail.com or 706-254-6738

On the Horizon

Saturday, Aug 1, 2026-9:00-noon: Leadership Workshop-Pilot International, Macon, GA

Tuesday, Aug 4, 2026: Executive Board-5:30, Club Social Time-6:30 Business Meeting-7:00 Hostesses: Projects

Saturday, August 29, 2026: Oconee Therapeutic 5K. Volunteers needed morning and day of race as well as Friday Evening, August 28. Times will be announced at August 4 Business Meeting.

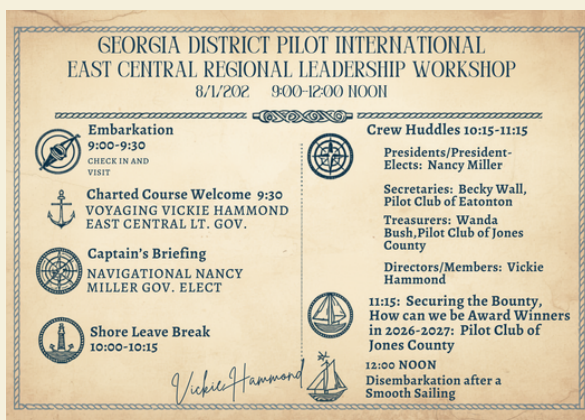
Tuesday, September 1, 2026: Executive Board-5:30, Club Social Time-6:30 Business Meeting-7:00 Hostesses: Membership

Announcements

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Saturday, August 1, 2026

All club leaders and interested members are encouraged to attend the Georgia District East Region Leadership Workshop. This annual training provides valuable leadership development, networking opportunities, and inspiration for the coming year. See the invitation and agenda.



AUGUST CLUB MEETING



Tuesday, August 4, 2026 | 6:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM Meeting
Bishop Baptist Church Social Hall

Join us for our first business meeting of the new Pilot year! President Rosa Hall will share her vision and goals for 2026-2027. Governor-Elect Nancy Miller will attend and deliver a message from the district. Taylor Bankston will be officially installed as Director. Light refreshments will be provided. **BE SURE TO START BRINGING IN YOUR POP-TABS** for our partnership with Oconee 4-H and Youth Leadership for the Ronald McDonald House.

DUES REMINDER

Annual dues for the 2026-2027 Pilot year are now due. Please submit payment to Treasurer Cathy Moorehead at your earliest convenience. Contact Cathy with any questions regarding your membership status. Dues are \$150 for the year. You can choose to pay quarterly (\$ 37.50 for August, November, March, May) or semi-annual \$75.00 (August and January). **Treasurer Cathy will contact you if you still have a balance for 2025- 2026. Please be prepared to take care of it at the August Business Meeting.**





Celebrating Our Pilot Family



BIRTHDAYS

July 4 - America 250th
July 8 - Deborah Kinnard
July 15 - Taylor Bankston

PILOT ANNIVERSARIES

Barbara Carter: 5 years of service (July 15, 2021)
Donna MacPherson: 20 years of service (Transferred July 1, 2006)

SUNSHINE REPORT

Thinking of You

Cards can be sent to Emeritus Member June McKenzie, 3131 Rocky Branch Road, Unit 250, Watkinsville, GA 30677, wishing her a speedy recovery. Also to members Joy Elder, Orchard Senior Living, 2750 Atlanta Highway #144, Athens, GA 30606, and Emeritus Member Sandra Glass, 343 Price Street, Statham, GA 30666 to let them know we are thinking of them.

Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with former Oconee Commission Chairman Wendell Dawson and his daughter Jennifer during this difficult time of losing Mrs. Betty. A sympathy card was sent on behalf of the club. If you would like to send a card: Wendell and Jennifer Dawson, 1330 New High Shoals Road, Watkinsville, GA 30677

Congratulations

Congratulations to Darlene Adams on the arrival of a new great-grandchild, that's number 5! We celebrate with you! Thomas Mercer Padgett!



*"The greatest gift
of life is
friendship, and
I have received it."*

- Hubert H.
Humphrey

*"Caring about
others, running
the risk of feeling,
and leaving an
impact on people
brings happiness."*

- Harold Kushner





Pilot Planner



MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS 2026-2027

August 4, 2026 - Hostess Team: Projects
September 1, 2026 - Hostess Team: Membership
November 3, 2026 - Hostess Team: Fundraising
January 5, 2027 - Hostess Team: Projects
March 2, 2027 - Hostess Team: Membership
May 4, 2027 - Hostess Team: Projects

*"Commitment is
what transforms
a promise into
reality."*

- Abraham Lincoln

*"Unless commitment
is made, there are
only promises
and hopes;
but no plans."*

- Peter F. Drucker

DISTRICT & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Pilot International Convention and Leadership Conference 2026
July 15-18, 2026
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2026- 2027 Georgia District East Region Leadership Workshop
August 1, 2026
Pilot International Headquarters, 102 Preston Ct. Macon, GA
Hostess Club: Pilot Club of Macon



2026 Georgia District Fall Council
October 2-4, 2026
Lanier Island Legacy Lodge
Buford, Georgia

2027 Georgia District Convention
April 30-May 1, 2027
Hilton Peachtree City
Peachtree City, Georgia



