



# Governor's Bulletin

Florida District • December 2025

## District Administrative Council

**Governor**

Claire Mikko  
Pilot Club of Tallahassee  
bikndon@comcast.net

**Governor-Elect**

Leila LeVan  
Pilot Club of Jacksonville  
leila@innovativestrategicalliances.com

**Lt. Governor**

Donna Atkinson  
Space Coast Pilot Club  
gatormom2006@cfl.rr.com

**Lt. Governor**

Sara Hetherington  
Pilot Club of St. Augustine  
lhether3@aol.com

**Secretary**

Charlotte Edenfield  
Pilot Club of Tallahassee  
cedenfield2@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Barbara McKenzie  
Pilot Club of South Brevard  
bmckenzie0624@gmail.com

**Executive Committee Representative (ECR)**

Susan Harbin  
Pilot Club of Lavonia (Georgia Dist.)

## Words from Our Governor

Happy December Pilots,

I cannot believe that 2025 is just about over. Time has just been flying by. Looking at the Florida clubs and District Facebook pages, you have been busy with fundraisers, events, Pick Me Ups, supporting Anchors and having fun. Thank you for all that you are doing.

December 2nd is Giving Tuesday. President Beverly and Executive Director Alison, in one of the Wednesday Widgets, informed us that Pilot International's goal this year is \$20,000 – 75% of the funds raised will be distributed to Youth Development and 25% will go towards PI operations.

December affords us the opportunity to observe fun and/or serious events, along with the holidays. Pearl Harbor Day is December 7th – a day to remember the 2,403 American who were killed on Pearl Harbor. Although, not a holiday, many of our Pilot Clubs honor veterans on December 13th by placing wreaths on their graves for Wreaths Across America. You can find more than one event for each day in the month of December at <https://www.today.com/life/holidays/december-holidays-and-observancesrcna43152>.

The eight-day Jewish "Festival of Lights", Hanukkah, runs from December 14th–22nd; Christmas day is December 25th; and Kwanzaa, a celebration of African American culture honoring family, community and heritage, is from December 26th–January 1st. Mostly, make sure to take time to spend with your family and friends, celebrating what is important to you.

Please read the article submitted by Lisa Weaver – we will be chartering a new club on January 31st – Sun Coast Pilot Club. Hope you can be there.

In Pilot friendship and service,

*Claire*

Governor, 2025-2026



# Dates to Remember

**December 1<sup>st</sup>:** Governor Elect appointees list due to PI Headquarters and ECR

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Giving Tuesday

**December 5<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for pictures to The Wave

Submit to Suzanne Lester at les1612@aol.com

**December 15<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for 2nd quarter Grant Applications

PI Pick Me Up, Helmet and BrainMinders- email to accounting@pilothq.org

**December 15<sup>th</sup>:** Heritage Garden Brick orders due to PI Headquarters

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## New Club to Charter



It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the formation of the Sun Coast Pilot Club as the newest Pilot Club in the Florida District. We are based in Pasco County and are excited to expand our Pilot service and friendship into an area of the state that doesn't currently have any Pilot clubs.

The Charter members are Charley Moses, Lisa Weaver, Kim Thayer, Jan Wrightson and Judy Weaver, with more potential members on the horizon.

We wish to thank the many Pilots that were supportive and offered wisdom and guidance in making this a reality, including leaders from Pilot International, Florida District and the Kentucky-Ohio-West Virginia District among others. We appreciate your support and encouragement on this journey.

**We would like to extend an invitation to our Charter Ceremony on Saturday January 31st at 2pm at the Land 'O Lakes Public Library at 2818 Collier Parkway, Land O Lakes, FL 34639.**

Please RSVP to SunCoastPC1206@gmail.com. We can't wait to share this special day with you.

In Pilot Friendship,

*Lisa Weaver*

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## Welcome New Members!

Crystal Foster

Pensacola

Sherry Brantley

Pensacola

# Message from Our Executive Committee Representative



Dear Pilots,

Best wishes and season's greetings for the holiday season from your Pilot International Executive Committee. May this season bring you love, good health, and peace.

Our Giving Tuesday campaign is December 2 and you can still donate past that date to benefit our Youth Programs and Operations. Our goal is set at \$20,000 and your generosity is amazing! Stay tuned for the total raised!!



December 1 is the deadline for our Governor-Elects to send in to Pilot Headquarters ([clubservices@pilothq.org](mailto:clubservices@pilothq.org)) the names of their Coordinators and Appointees as well as dates and locations for their Fall Council/Workshop and District Convention.

Heritage Brick Orders are due December 15 and this is a fabulous way to honor Pilots, clubs, and Districts. These bricks are placed in the Heritage Garden at Pilot International Headquarters. If requested, an acknowledgement letter is sent to the honoree acknowledged.



PMU, BrainMinders and Helmet grant applications are due December 15. Please consider applying for these grants to benefit your communities.

Pilot Headquarters is closed December 24 and 25 so the staff can spend time with family and friends.

**May the Spirit of the Holidays be with you throughout the New Year!**

In Pilot Love and Cheer,

*Susan Harbin*

Executive Committee Representative



# Message from Our Pilot International Founders Fund Representative



Hello Pilots.

This is Linda Petty from the Pilot club of Pensacola, Florida and District Pilot International Founders Fund (PIFF) Representative, reminding you that the December 15th deadline is coming up for you to apply for a Pick Me Up grant, a Helmet grant, or a BrainMinders grant. The applications need to be emailed to [accounting@pilothq.org](mailto:accounting@pilothq.org).

Thanks to all who submitted applications for matching grants. Those are to be awarded in January!

Coming up before long – Goal for Grants and Scholarships contributions to be sent to Pilot International, \$250 per club. Make your check payable to Pilot International and mark check as **Goals for Grants – Florida District**. Remember to mail the completed form to:

**Pilot International Headquarters,  
102 Preston Court, Macon, GA 31210.**

In order to be a \$250 District, all clubs have to send in their \$250 or Pilots may send in a donation for our District. The deadline is February 1st.

Hope everyone is planning a Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas soon after!

Pilot love & friendship,

Linda Petty  
Pilot Club of Pensacola  
Florida District PIFF Representative  
[pilotlindapetty@yahoo.com](mailto:pilotlindapetty@yahoo.com)  
(850) 380-8169

## Cares, Concerns & Celebrations

Please remember to share your club members' cares, concerns and good news with Dorothy Moore, District Inspirational Leader.

Let your fellow Pilots know so they can send uplifting notes or notes of congratulations to our Pilots.

Email cares, concerns and celebrations to Dorothy at:  
[flpilotinspleader@gmail.com](mailto:flpilotinspleader@gmail.com)



# Message from Our Nominating Committee Chair

Happy Fall Ya'll! It's that time of the year again – the leaves are changing color, the temperature is dropping and it's time to nominate our potential District Officers for the 2026-2027 Pilot Club Year. Here is a recap of the information I gave at Fall Council

**1. Our Florida District elects the following offices at our Convention in April:**

- a. Governor Elect
- b. Secretary
- c. Treasurer
- d. 2 Lieutenant Governors

**2. The Qualifications for those offices are the following:**

- a. Governor Elect and Lieutenant Governors will have served as President of a Pilot Club.
- b. Secretary or Treasurer will have served on a board for 2 years as President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer or Director. This qualification may be waived if necessary.
- c. Nominees cannot serve as a District Officer, International Officer and/or Club President at the same time.

**3. The Deadline for the submission of all required documents is February 23, 2026.**

Well, that's good to know but who nominates and how does that happen. The good news is that any Pilot Club can nominate any Pilot for District Office. They do not even have to be a member of their club. All it takes is a vote by that club. The Nominating Club then sends a letter to the President of the Nominee's Club informing them of the nomination. Of course, if you are interested in being nominated, your club can nominate you. All that is left is for the Nominee to accept and do a little paperwork.

Next steps for the Nominee

1. Write a letter of acceptance or refusal
2. Fill out the Qualification Form which includes a small (300 words or less) Vision Statement in which the Nominee explains how they would contribute to Pilot International's mission and goals if elected and 2 Pilot references.
3. Mail or email all of that information gets sent to me, as your Nominating Committee Chair; Claire Mikko, Governor and Susan Harbin, ECR.

So, starting now, the Nominating Committee will be getting down to business. Your District Nominating Committee is Sherill Casey-Bakai, Laurie Kaye, Jo Reid and myself. We will then verify nominations by checking the references listed and notifying the candidate of the status of their nomination. The information regarding the qualifications, the qualification form and the duties of each office is available on the Florida District website ([www.pilotflorida.org](http://www.pilotflorida.org)) under the PILOT tab at District Nomination Information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Nominating Committee. I look forward to receiving all of your nominations!

Melissa Forehand  
Florida District Nominating Committee Chair

## Addresses for All Required Documents

Melissa Forehand Florida District Nominating Committee Chair 5238 Sharp Lane Graceville, FL 32440 (850) 693-1161 melissalforehand@gmail.com	Claire Mikko Florida District Governor 1993 Vineland Drive Tallahassee, FL 32317 (850) 294-1188 bikndon@comcast.net	Susan Harbin Executive Committee Representative P.O. Box 421 Lavonia, GA 30553 (706) 491-3575 susanharbin59@gmail.com
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# Message from Our Leadership Coordinator



Now that we have the membership taken care of next, we work on building up the officer's positions.

## From Mentored to Mended for Leadership

- **Skill Assessment:** Identify each member's strengths (organization, communication, creativity, outreach) and match them with officer roles that fit.
- **Leadership Shadowing:** Pair members with current officers so they can observe responsibilities firsthand—like running meetings, managing projects, or handling finances.
- **Gradual Responsibility:** Start with small tasks (chairing a committee, leading a project) before moving into officer positions. This builds confidence without overwhelming them.
- **Training & Resources:** Offer workshops or guides on parliamentary procedure, budgeting, event planning, and community outreach—so they feel equipped for higher office.
- **Encouragement & Recognition:** Publicly acknowledge their growth. Recognition motivates members to step into leadership roles.
- **Pathway to Higher Roles:** Once they succeed locally, encourage them to consider district or international positions, showing how their impact can expand beyond the club.

## Why This Matters

By “mending” members into officer positions, you’re not just filling roles—you’re creating a sustainable leadership pipeline. It ensures continuity, revitalization, and keeps the club vibrant with fresh ideas while honoring tradition.

Carole Allums  
Leadership Coordinator, 2025-2026  
[Siaralf1951@outlook.com](mailto:Siaralf1951@outlook.com)  
954-562-8485



# Message from Our Membership Coordinator

One of our Governor's goals for this year is to improve **COMMUNICATION**:  
**Respond to needs and concerns of others quickly and efficiently, answering emails and text messages by the end of the day.**

How does your club rank in keeping all your members aware of the activities and events happening in your club?

## Does your club:

- Email the Business Meeting Agenda several days – a week before meeting?
- Email the Business Meeting Minutes to all members within a week of meeting to keep all informed and updated? . . . AND highlight important reminders about upcoming activities?
- Project Coordinator and Fundraiser Coordinator keep the members updated as needed on future events, deadlines, details, etc.?
- Text timely reminders to members (close deadlines, upcoming event date, etc.)?
- Contact prospective members? It can certainly take more than one call to encourage someone to attend your meeting.
- Follow-up on guests who have attended? Did they have questions? Are they interested in attending another meeting?
- MENTOR new members? Review your recent meeting's discussion to answer questions? There is a lot for a new member to learn.

All members – not just Officers and Appointees -- should make a habit of reviewing emails and texts daily and responding. Stay involved in YOUR club!

I would love to hear from you.... What methods of communication do you use that are effective? What has worked well for your club? Please let me know – it would be great to share with other clubs in Florida... what works well for one club can certainly help another. It's great to learn something new.

Yours in Pilot Friendship and Service,  
Tish Gressang, Pilot Club of the Halifax Area  
Membership Coordinator  
[pilotclubtish@gmail.com](mailto:pilotclubtish@gmail.com)



# Message from Our Compass Coordinator



project

As Compass Coordinator, I'm absolutely thrilled to celebrate the launch of two new clubs!

You may have seen the announcements in other Pilot communications, but just in case you missed them: we welcomed the Compass Club of Gainesville at University of Florida, sponsored by the Pilot Club of Ocala, and shortly after, we chartered the Halifax Compass Club at Bethune Cookman sponsored by the Halifax Club. Both ceremonies were filled with true Pilot spirit—some joyful tears and plenty of cheers!

The UNF Compass Club has remained actively engaged in the community.

Their newest event is making dog toys out of t-shirts for K-9 for Warriors. It's a fun that youthful hands can do with much more ease than Pilot hands.

The new clubs are already making a meaningful impact in their communities, serving with love and compassion. Both started serving even before they were officially chartered. What a beautiful reminder of the power of friendship and service.

I challenge every Pilot Club to sponsor a Compass Club.

The rewards go far beyond what you give. You'll witness new energy, fresh ideas, and the joy of mentoring future leaders. These young Pilots will inspire you with their passion for service—and in turn, they'll carry our mission forward with heart and purpose.

In Pilot Friendship,

Leila LeVan  
Governor Elect & District Compass Coordinator



**"Pilot International is dedicated to building better communities through friendship and service. We promote brain health, safety, and support for caregivers, creating lasting, positive change worldwide."**



Donate  
Giving Tuesday  
*Help Us Make Positive Changes*

**GIVING**  
**TUESDAY**