

The Leading Edge

Newsletter for the Ambassador Chapter 99s
<http://www.ambassador99s.org>



Dear Ambassador Chapter members,

The well for the newsletter has gone dry lately, and we need new material for The Leading Edge! If you have anything to contribute to our budding newsletter- whether an article, a comment, or pictures- please submit them by the 20th of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter. Remember, the newsletter is only as good as our members make it!

-Sabrina Riffle, Editor



Contact Us!

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JOIN OUR MONTHLY ONLINE MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

The Ambassador Chapter conducts **monthly online meetings every 9th day of the month at 9pm Eastern Time.** To join in on the fun, you'll need to download a free copy of Yahoo! Messenger at:

(for a PC) <http://messenger.yahoo.com/win.php>

(for a Mac) <http://messenger.yahoo.com/webmessengerpromo.php>

(from the Web) <http://webmessenger.yahoo.com/>



Each day on the 9th members from all over the world log in for about an hour to chat free over the Internet. Join us! And if you have questions, please contact one of the Chapter Officers for help.

If you're an Ambassador Chapter member who hasn't yet signed up for our Yahoo! Groups site, please consider doing so here. It's free and easy:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ambassador99s/join>

We use this site to post the meeting minutes, announcements, member bios and photos. Post yours today!

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Ambassador Chapter

News Flash!! Bear Update!!



Where oh where is the Ambassador Chapter Bear?

We are pleased to announce, that after a few unexpected delays, the bear and her memorabilia are enroute to our travel agent Gwen Davis in Puerto Rico, where she will begin her epic journey.

We are also pleased to announce that we presently have 34 out of our 68 members as participating in this project, 5 confirmed “no”s, and **29 who haven’t responded.**

If you’re sitting on the fence on this one – we really need you! The more members that participate, the more meaningful the end result will be.

If you’ve somehow missed out on the excitement:

We’d like to remind you about our new Charity Bear project, which we hope will help our members get to know each other better, and will bring joy to the end recipient, which we intend to be a terminally ill child in need of cheer.

If we do this project right, not only will it bring our diverse members closer, we hope it will bring joy and happiness to a young person as they learn about our special group, and in time, a memorable keepsake for the child’s family.

Our intention is to send our new friend around to as many members as possible, where we hope she will spend time in each of your lives, and she will be exposed to the type of aviation you participate in, whether it be professional or private.

We hope you will take time to take her flying, introduce her to your family and loved ones, take pictures, contribute to her scrapbook and jot down a journal entry or two.

We've just launched Amelia Bearhart's new website: <http://ameliabearhart.blogspot.com>, where you'll be able to track her progress and ongoing adventures (we hope to have an interactive Google map up soon) and make comments.

If you would like to sign up for "Project Bear", need more information, would like to volunteer your services, make a donation to shipping costs, or have ideas to contribute, we welcome your comments!

Please help us make this a really special gift!

Kirsten Brazier, Chapter Chair kirstenbr@yahoo.com (877) 728-4033

A special Thank You! to:

***Robin Turner**, for her donation of the bear, **Erin Recke** for her donation of a scrapbook for photos and memorabilia, and **Kirsten Brazier** for her donation of the bear's journal.*

Other donations welcome!

AMBASSADOR CHAPTER NEWS

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to introduce the newest members of the Ambassador chapter- Becky Hempel and Karen Rosier!

Welcome to our chapter, ladies! We look forward to your participation in this great chapter!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

These letters reference "Do You Smile At Work?," featured in the February 2009 newsletter.

Your article made some great points, and hopefully like you I'm not one of the pilots with a chip on her shoulder.

Whenever I go to recurrent, it's rare to see another gal at the facility. But when I do, I'm just chompin' at the bit to make eye contact with her so I can make a new friend! Or maybe it's someone (like you) I know from email. Sadly though, unless I'm totally obnoxious and MAKE them say hi to me, I'm met with a lack of interest. Oh well. And I think your article shed some light on why this may be. Thanks for the good reading.

- Wendy Paver

Nice job on your article for the latest issue of The Leading Edge. I think it's good that you experimented with the captain's comment to come up with your own conclusion. And the chip-on-the-shoulder

attitude of some women in the industry is an interesting twist that we can all learn from. I'm a regional captain in Denver and while I've had some conflicts related to my sex, I feel quite respected by everyone around me, but I do think the key to that is that I myself respect everyone around me. What I have found is that if you take the time to interact with the people you work with: the rampers, the fuelers, the dispatchers, the gate agents- everything tends to work much smoother. Anyway, keep smiling. I know that for me a smile is everything and breaks the ice more than anything I can think of. I'll pay attention to that chip and try to brush it off.

-Linda Berlin



HEADQUARTERS DISPATCH

MEMBERSHIP STATUS EXPLANATION

Many members have asked exactly what the Hold and Standby status means when it is shown on a member's listing in the Online Directory as well as on the Monthly reports sent out by Headquarters. Here is an explanation.

A member in essence has four (4) months to renew from the date her first renewal notice is mailed. After that, if she hasn't sent her renewal dues, she will lapse into past member status.

Here is the way the process works:

- One month before the member is due to renew, she is mailed a renewal notice. This gives her two months to send in her dues before her status changes.
- If she has not sent in her dues by the end of this two month period, she will roll into a membership status of Standby. This means her renewal was due the previous month. She is also mailed a Second Renewal Notice printed on goldenrod colored paper.
- At the end of the third month, if she has still forgotten to send in her dues, she will roll into a membership status of Hold. This means her renewal was due two months previously. She is sent a postcard to remind her of this. Her membership will lapse at the end of the fourth month if her dues are still unpaid.

Reports showing the members who are on Standby, Hold or are Past Members are sent by Headquarters to each Chapter Chairman and Membership Chairman.

For Section Members who do not belong to a chapter the reports are sent to the Governor and Section Membership Chairman. The pur-

pose for these reports is to serve as an alert to the Chapter and Section officers to contact these members with a personal reminder to renew and to let them know that their membership is important.

The Staff at Headquarters is willing to be of assistance whenever we can, so please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

-Laura Ohrenberg, Office Manager

SPRING BOARD MEETING

The Spring Board of Directors meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on March 20-21, 2009. The meeting hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn on Meridian Avenue. To make reservations, call 405-942-1400. The cost will be \$89 per night (plus taxes). This rate will extend a couple of days before and after if you are planning on spending some extra time at Headquarters.

Board meetings are open to all who wish to attend. If you are not a Board member, Governor, Trustee or International Committee Chairman and would like to attend, please call Headquarters for more information.

Reports for the Board packet need to be in to Headquarters by March 1, 2009.

**2009 International Conference
Chicago, Illinois, USA
July 22 – 26, 2009
Hosted by the North Central Section**

Registration forms and other information are in the January/February issue of The 99

News and available on the web at chicago2009.ninetynines.net.

2009 SPRING SECTION MEETINGS

New England – April 17-18 (or 24-25)

Contact: Georgia Pappas,
georgia@alongtheway.com

Board Rep: Lisa Cotham, Pat Theberge

New York-New Jersey – none scheduled yet

Contact:

Board Rep:

North Central – March 27-29, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact: Christy Stark

Board Rep: Fran Strubeck

Northwest – March 13, Seattle, Washington

Contact: Marji Leggett, marjyl@charter.net

Board Rep: Joan Kerwin

South Central – May 15-17, Pecan Plantation, Granbury, Texas

Contact: Lana Kraeszig, hiflyn99@charter.net

Board Rep: Joan Kerwin

Southeast – May 1-3, Pensacola Beach, Florida

Contact: Corbi Bulluck, mcbulluck@aol.com

Board Rep: Lisa Cotham

Southwest – May 1-3, Glendale, Arizona

Contact: Traci Leider,
tracileider@earthlink.net

Board Rep: Pat Theberge

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2009

March 1 – Reports due to Headquarters for the Spring Board of Directors meeting

March 13 – Northwest Section Spring meeting, Seattle, Washington

March 20-21 – International Board of Directors Spring meeting, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

March 27-29 – North Central Section Spring meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

April 1 – Due date for 99 News submissions for the May/June 2009 issue

April 17-18 (24-25) – New England Section Spring meeting, to be announced

April 21-26 – Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, Florida

May 1-3 – Southeast Section Spring meeting, Pensacola, Florida

May 1-3 – Southwest Section Spring meeting, Glendale, Arizona

May 15-17 – South Central Section Spring meeting, Pecan Plantation, Granbury, Texas

June 1 – Due date for 99 News submissions for the July/August 2009 issue

June 20-26 – Air Race Classic, Denver, Colorado (Centennial Airport) to Atlantic, Iowa

July 22-26 – International Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA

July 31 – Deadline for submitting Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) application

August 14-15 – 40th Annual Palms to Pines Air Race

Future International Conferences

July 5-9, 2010 – Kona, Hawaii, USA

July 2011 – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA Chapter

Notes From The North

I Smile At Work... Usually!

by Kirsten Brazier

When I first started reading Sabrina's article in last month's Leading Edge, my first thought was 'well, of course airline pilots don't smile... they're AIRLINE PILOTS!'

After reading a little further, I was thinking there might be some truth in what her captain had to say... or was there?

Not so long ago when I was partner in an air taxi floatplane business, my partner (a male) and I would get into the most bizarre arguments. It was almost as though we were speaking separate languages. I would say one thing, and he would hear something completely different – and not at all what I had said, or intended to say. I'm sure he felt the same way. Later, when calmer heads prevailed, we would try to decipher the other person's "language." It was completely amazing how things could get so turned around!

Now I have worked with men all my adult life - in fact, until about 6 years ago, most of my friends had been men. Even though it took me a long time to admit that discrimination does exist, I never recalled having such miscommunication issues with other men – was I blind? I was bound and determined to get to the bottom of it. A fellow 99 recommended a book by Deborah Tannen, called "You Just Don't Understand – Women and Men in Conversation."

There were a few flakey concepts in the book that I didn't agree with, but for the most part, the book was spot on. In a nutshell, the book is all about perceptions. Not only do we have to contend with the body language we might unknowingly be communicating, the person receiving the message is interpreting it based on their own perceptions, perspectives and background. And like it or not, males and females think differently - of course we do, we have different perspectives!

Anyway, turned out my partner and I had more than just communication issues, but in reading the book, it did provide some really great insight into why we sometimes have such great miscommunication between the sexes. Of course, it would be better if everyone read the book – what is the point of only one side understanding the issue... but I digress...

So now that we know there are some potential communication pitfalls between males and females, let's take a look at our job demographics. Like it or not, your experience or not, we

really aren't "there" yet in terms of equality. Women are still an incredibly tiny percentage of the professional work force, even in North America.

From a survey of Fortune 500 companies in 2008, here are a few interesting statistics:

- Women held 15.2 percent of board of director positions, compared to 14.8 percent in 2007;
- Women held 15.7 percent of corporate officer positions, compared to 15.4 percent in 2007;
- Women held 6.2 percent of top earner positions, compared to 6.7 percent in 2007.

From Transport Canada Civil Aviation, Quarterly Licensing Statistics, December 2008:

- Out of 12,004 total Fixed-Wing Airline Transport Pilots, only 5% are women;
- Out of 8,364 total Fixed-Wing Commercial Pilots, only 7% are women;
- Out of 996 total Rotary-Wing Airline Transport Pilots, only 2% are women;
- Out of 3,234 total Rotary-Wing Commercial Pilots, only 4% are women.

From the 2007 U.S. Civil Airmen Statistics (Fixed-Wing and Rotary Wing combined):

- Out of a total of 143,953 total Airline Transport Pilot Licenses, only 4% are women;
- Out of a total of 115, 127 total Commercial Pilots, only 6% are women.

So why aren't we smiling?

1. We are smiling, and the people that think we aren't, are out to lunch.
2. We are smiling, but those male idiots just can't read our language.
3. We're not smiling, because we're trudging an uphill battle for equality, alone, in a really poor economy.
4. We're not smiling because those of us in the top percentile are a bunch of power-hungry, over-achievers and we don't want the rank and file to know how much fun we're really having.
5. We're airline pilots (ok, c'mon – I'm a Bush Pilot and it's way more fun!)

It is my belief, that when we love our jobs; when we're healthy and happy, surrounded by friends and family who are loving and supportive; then we transmit that happiness to those around us. All that positive energy makes us smile.

But what if you don't love your job, you lost it, or you're in danger of the dreaded furlough? What if you're your only peer? What if getting to where you are has taken you to opposite ends of the country as you work your way up the proverbial ladder, and in the process, you have lost touch with your friends and family? What if you don't have a spouse, or you do and things aren't going so well?

If any or all of the above are true, and you're a guy, maybe people don't notice so much, because there are 85 – 95% more of you out there. If you're a woman – people notice!

So what's the answer?

I don't know for sure, but here are a few thoughts:

- Love what you do. If you don't, figure out what you need to do to change it, and change it!
- If unemployment, threat of furlough, bum check ride or other setback is getting you down, ask for help! There is a huge network of women out there that can help you help yourself, and support you while you do it.
- If your family or loved ones aren't giving you the support you need – reach out to that big network of 99's! Whether private pilots, future woman pilots or professional pilots, you will be amazed just how much we have in common.
- Reach out to those you see around you that don't seem to be smiling! Maybe nobody ever thinks to just walk over and say hi! It can be pretty lonely at the "top" sometimes.

We'd love to hear from you! When you look around you, do you find your female counterparts smiling? Do you smile? Do you help people smile? Send us your perspective!