



Front row, left to right: Terri Donner, Kalina Milani, Mariko Doskow, Natalie Berman, Chrissy Beattie, Suzie James, Nicole Malherbe, Patty Barrera, Denise VanGrunsvan, Tina Hartlaub. | Back row: McKenzie Emerenciana, Ashlynn Higdon, Nell Justice, Valerie Scott, Shannon Jipsen, Karen Nathan, Kim Bentler, Liana Hart, Suzanne Skeeters, Tracy Leonard, Karen Kahn, Lynn Austin, Thyra Blaom, Jennifer Davis, Judy Lee, Kira Vitale, Heidi Theile, Stefanie Sun, Brooke Rogers, Therese Paul. Not pictured: Laura Savino, Tiana Dougherty, Becky Howell, Felicity Bush, and Kathleen Malone.

WOMEN AIRLINE PILOTS HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

– By Terri Donner, *Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter*

Every year, members of the International Society of Women Airline Pilots (ISA+21) from around the world get together to celebrate being an airline pilot and to encourage women to progress in their aviation careers by offering scholarships. This year they held their annual conference in Anchorage, Alaska, September 12 - 14. In attendance were 107 female airline pilots from 22 airlines and six countries. The welcome night was held at the Alaska Aviation Museum on the south shore of Lake Hood, the busiest seaplane base in the world. The museum presents one of the finest displays of Alaskan aviation history.

The next morning at the annual business meeting, every member arrived decked out in their respective company uniform and roll call was taken; the microphone traveled down every row as they introduced themselves. Their name, airline, aircraft type, flight deck position, domicile, and where they live were shared. This year, three charter members from the 1978 formation of the organization, from 21 original members, were present: Karen Kahn, Jean Harper, and Mary Shipko, all retired. It's so exciting to see the growth in membership and the influx of younger members. I'll never forget my first ISA+21 conference in 1990 in Washington, D.C., (while pregnant with my daughter, Amelia) and thinking to myself that all these women fly big airplanes.

After the annual meeting the group enjoyed a nice luncheon where the Captain's Club Induction is held. Each recipient received an engraved plaque with the date of her first signed flight release as pilot in command of an FAA Part 121 flight by a presenter of her choice. This year there were 17 inductees, of which five are Ninety-Nines members. Then the group walked down the block to a park for the official group photo with the Alaskan mountainous terrain in the background. We split off into other subgroups to document the individual airlines, charter members, life

members, Captain's Club, cargo pilots, etc. This year, The Ninety-Nines photo was taken at the traditional dressy cocktail party that evening. As always, I arrive, glance around the room with goose bumps forming, in awe, as I say to myself, "I can't believe all these gorgeous ladies fly big airplanes." The highlight of the night was the announcement that our auction had raised over \$22,000 for scholarships for female pilots. The final day included a tour of Anchorage, including a stop at the Native Heritage Center and Earthquake Park, which commemorates the 9.2 quake that rocked the area in 1964, last century's most powerful earthquake.

The post-conference side trip had the remaining attendees and guests suited up in wet gear and riding UTVs 25 miles from Palmer, Alaska, to the Knik Glacier and back in beautiful, sunny conditions. The grand finale was a cruise into Prince William Sound from the little town of Whittier in the pouring rain to view as many of the 26 glacier as we could. Who knew Alaska has a rainforest and Whittier experiences rain 360 days a year? In all, there were 36 Ninety-Nines who sought the fellowship of their ISA+21 sisters this year, some cherishing decades of friendship and many brand new acquaintances. The invitation was extended for the 2024 ISA+21 conference to be convened in beautiful Cartagena, Colombia, in South America next September.

Visit ISWAP.org to check out membership information.



Seventeen ISA+21 members were inducted into Captain's Club. The following are 99s: Morgen Reeb (American Airlines), Mariko Doskow (Spirit Airlines), Kristina Huffman (Alaska Airlines) Stefanie Sun (United Airlines), Liana Hart (Allegiant Air).