

**South Central Section 99s Business Conference**  
**In-Person and Zoom Hybrid Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 16, 2021**  
**McKinney, Texas**  
**The Minutes**

Governor Monica Randolph-Graham called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM, CDT, on October 16, 2021. She welcomed all in-person attendees and those on Zoom. She noted that this was our first in-person meeting since fall 2019 and also our first hybrid. She encouraged everyone to wear a mask as a protection against Covid-19. The Governor stated that the agenda was emailed to all registered Zoom and in-person attendees. For those attending in-person, the printed agenda is in your packet, and handouts of all the important information we will cover today were placed on all the desks. The Governor asked if there were any additions to the agenda. As there were none, the agenda stood as written and could be revised as needed.

**Invocation**

Golden Triangle Chapter Chair Heidi Kim gave the invocation. The Governor asked for a moment of silence for our sisters in the 99s, our community, and all the pilots and people around the world for the things they are going through.

**Introductions**

Vice-Governor Laurie Adams Peake gave the introductions and welcomed all our attendees, with a special welcome to new members, first-time attendees, prior Section Governors, and International members from other Sections.

**Attendance**

Secretary Kathy Clark called the roll of Chapters. Director Becky Smith provided the number of attendees on Zoom.

Ambassador – 0	Lake Charles – 1
Arkansas – 3	Nebraska – 1
Austin Hill Country – 2	Northeast Kansas – 0
Brazos River – 0	Oklahoma – 7
Colorado – 10	Pike’s Peak – 0
Dallas – 9	Rio Grande Norte – 3
El Paso – 0	San Antonio – 2
Ft. Worth – 3	Texas Dogwood – 2
Golden Triangle – 2	Tip of Texas – 1
High Country – 0	Wichita Falls – 0
Houston – 8	Section-At-Large – 0
Kansas – 0	

The Secretary stated we had 54 attendees, representing 14 Chapters. The secretary announced that we had a quorum.

**Minutes of Spring 2021 Business Meeting**

Kathy Clark reported that the minutes of the Spring, March 17, 2021, Business Meeting were reviewed by Becky Smith and Laurie Adams Peake. They were posted on the website and emailed to registered section attendees. A paper copy was provided on the desks for in-person attendees. The Secretary asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. As there were none, the minutes stood approved as written.

**Interim Meetings**

The SCS Board met on April 21, 2021, and voted for the Section to host a “*Let’s Fly Now*” event on June 12, 2021, with the Texas Dogwood Chapter in Atlanta, Texas, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bessie Coleman receiving her pilot’s license. Bessie Coleman was the first African-American woman to receive an International Pilot’s License.

In a second Board Meeting held June 6, 2021, the Board voted for an expenditure of \$260 for 13 Bessie Coleman T-shirts for those participating in the “*Let’s Fly Now*” event in Atlanta, Texas, on June 12, 2021. Both were approved unanimously, and both were approved at the regular board meeting held October 7, 2021.

A Special Board Meeting was held August 31, 2021, to approve our section hosting a “*Let’s Fly Now*” event on April 2-3, 2022, in Texarkana. The second purpose of the Special Board Meeting was to initiate a “reboot” for Section Committees. The goal is to enable new members to volunteer and serve the SCS 99s on our various committees. Both items were approved unanimously. Also, the minutes of the Special Board Meeting were approved unanimously at the Fall Board Meeting on October 7, 2021. The minutes of the Special Board Meeting were emailed to all of today’s Business Meeting attendees, and there is a copy in your meeting packet for those here in person. The Minutes’ Review Committee for today’s Fall Business Meeting are Laurie Adams Peake and Elizabeth Frankowski. The Secretary thanked them for agreeing to review the minutes.

### **Business Work in Progress**

**Item one:** The SCS “*Let’s Fly Now*” first flight event is scheduled for April 2-3, 2022, in Texarkana. We are partnered with a 501c3 group called *The Scholars* that we met in Atlanta, TX. This is an entrepreneurship program focused largely on African-American boys and girls ages 9-16. The Governor and Vice-Governor have been meeting with *The Scholars* to make arrangements for the event. Texas A&M-Texarkana has donated \$5000 for the event which will go towards paying for speakers, presenters, and 99 pilots. Texas A&M-Texarkana also donated two \$1200 scholarships to two young people in *The Scholars* group. *The Scholars* have also arranged for eleven rooms at the Hilton in Texarkana, with five rooms designated for speakers and presenters, and the remaining rooms for 99s who are flying kids or presenting.

### **Speakers & Activities for “*Let’s Fly Now*” Event**

Lt. Col. Marisol Chalas – first Latina National Guard Black Hawk pilot.

Lt. Col. Olga Custodio – first USAF officer who became the first female Hispanic military pilot; inducted into the San Antonio Aviation and Aerospace Hall of Fame.

Dr. Sheila Chamberlain – in 1985, became the first US Army black woman intelligence Black Hawk helicopter pilot; President of the Tuskegee Airmen in LAX & one of the co-founders of *The Sisters of the Sky*, a black women’s professional pilots’ group.

Possible speaker – an original Tuskegee Airman, cousin to Dr. Chamberlain.

Texas A&M Engineers

Pat Keefer – Two-time Around-the-World Gold Medalist

99s and other pilots or aviation enthusiasts

Aviation Ground School Classes (maximum 100 girls)

Flights provided for 50 boys and girls. Twenty-five will be from *The Scholars* program.

10 flights promised to Texas A&M individuals.

### **Item Two: Reboot of South Central Section Committees**

We want to encourage new members and those who have not served on the section level to serve on our various committees. We have been looking for fresh, new faces to become more involved. The Governor thanked the previous committee chairs, members, and advisors for their service, with a special note of gratitude for those on the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Committee. The Governor also recognized the following 99s for their service: Angie Slingluff, Susan Larson, Martha Molina, Mary Latimer, and Melissa Sandstrom.

The new members of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Committee are: Chairman Kaylee Jeffries of Dallas, Jane Link of Colorado, Holly Blunk of Oklahoma, and Heidi Kim of Golden Triangle.

There are openings for the following committees: Aerospace Education, Membership (including mentoring), Aviation Legislation, and Awards Committee. Please contact the Governor after the meeting or by email if you are interested. Previous members of these committees can also rejoin.

### **International Representative Report**

Leslie Prellwitz of Illinois from the North Central Section gave the International Board report. Our goal is to increase membership 5% per year through 2024. We ask you to reach out to corporate and community aviation resources and participate in aviation meetings elsewhere to advertise our organization. Create a social media team if you have not done so already. Mentor new and young pilots. Remember to vote for officers in the spring elections. See the website or check your emails. If you are interested in running for office, contact Leslie or one of the Board. She asked everyone to be thinking of members who need to be recognized for their achievements for awards. These awards can be for contributions to the 99s or to aviation in general. Registration is open and on the website for the International Conference in Charleston, S.C., in July 2022.

## **Reviving Faltering Chapters**

The Governor and Vice-Governor are looking at 501c3 compliance with our chapters who have been inactive, lack officers, and/or need more members. We are reaching out to help chapters, in particular the Tip of Texas, located in Corpus Christi and covering south Texas. The Governor, Vice-Governor, and Mary Helen Dunnam of CRP will be working to revive the chapter and reach out to flight schools, women navy pilots, and other women pilots in the area to plan a social event to recruit new members into the Tip of Texas chapter.

## **Governor's Section Summary Report**

A Chapter transitional check list with folders of forms needed was created to help new officers coming in to fill their positions, particularly to provide a guide for the outgoing Chapter Chair to help transition the incoming Chapter Chair into her new leadership role. This transition packet was emailed to all the Chapter Chairs and is on the SCS website. We held the first "*Let's Fly Now*" event in Atlanta, Texas, June 12, 2021, with the Texas Dogwood Chapter. We provided flights for 50 individuals. We have had Chapter Chair training meetings, and have assisted chapters in rebooting.

## **Vice-Governor's Report**

Laurie Adams Peake complimented the members of the Dallas Chapter for all their hard work the past few years to organize this South Central Section Meeting and its theme of "*Wild Wings of the West*" after dealing with many delays caused by Covid-19. The Dallas Chapter included Shelby King of Colorado in their planning. She is the chairman of the next SCS conference to be held in Boulder, Colorado, March 25-27, 2022.

The Vice-Governor assisted the Governor at the June 12, 2021, "*Let's Fly Now*" event in Atlanta, Texas. All the 99s who volunteered helped to make it a big success. She is also assisting the Governor with the upcoming "*Let's Fly Now*" event April 2-3, 2022, in Texarkana. She invited all 99s to volunteer to assist in Texarkana.

## **Conference Schedule**

- March 25-27, 2022, Colorado Chapter, Boulder, Colorado
- October 14-16, 2022, Tip of Texas Chapter, Corpus Christi, Texas
- Spring 2023, El Paso Chapter, date TBD
- Fall 2023, Ft. Worth Chapter, date TBD

## **Director's Report**

Director Becky Smith has been working with Chapter Chairs and has asked chapters to let her attend some of their meetings in person, by Zoom, or by phone call. She helped fly some of the children at the Atlanta, Texas, June 12, 2021, "*Let's Fly Now*" event.

- Membership – 9 new members since Thursday, October 14, 2021
- 972 total members
- 934 current
- 176 student pilots
- 244 new members from 18 chapters
- 3 – 50-year members
- 1 – 63-year member: Wally Funk

## **Nominating Committee**

As Chair Jo Cunningham was not present, previous Governor and Nominating Committee member Gretchen Jahn gave the report. She reported that they are finding well-qualified 99s to run for Section offices this spring. They have some areas where they could use more nominees, particularly on the Nominating Committee itself. It is a wonderful opportunity to encourage others to run for Section office and serve our Section. If you are interested, please contact her or Kaylee Jeffries. They will be happy to give you more information.

## **15-minute Break**

The Governor called the meeting back to order at 10:05 AM. The Secretary asked all attendees to sign the orange attendance sheet being passed around the room.

## **Financial and Budget Report**

As Treasurer Aileen Hummel could not be present, Assistant Treasurer Elizabeth Frankowski gave the financial report. All attendees had copies of the financial and budget reports at their desks. On June 1, 2021, our balance was \$5,218.61. We received \$1401 from International for dues rebates, a donation of \$300 from Boeing, and \$50 for a miscellaneous donation. Adding receipts of \$1751, the total was \$6969.61. We had expenditures of \$254.82 for the Fly Now T-shirts and \$38.22 for Awards, bringing our balance to \$6676.57. Donations will be determined at the Spring 2022 meeting. We have not had some of the expenses we normally incur because of Covid. Elizabeth asked if there were any questions; there were none.

## **Newsletter and Website**

Heather Hodge is the webmaster and chief editor of our newsletter, *The Approach*. If you would like to assist Heather with the website or with *The Approach*, please contact her or the Governor.

## **501c3 Compliance**

As Kris Irvin-Herron could not attend, the Governor reminded everyone that the 990N forms were due Friday, October 15. Most chapters have had Kris complete the 990Ns; some have done it themselves. There are two chapters (not named here) that have not completed those. Please get them in as soon as possible.

## **Endowment Fund**

Stephenie Roberts, one of the elected members of the Endowment Fund, explained that the Endowment Fund is an investment account that provides future operating capital for the International 99s. The 99s only use the interest earned each year and let the principal remain intact. The Endowment Fund provides funds for many aviation projects and will allow the International Board to move into the new building. She asked members to make a small monthly recurring donation to the Endowment Fund to support our organization.

## **NIFA**

Sue Osborne said that NIFA (National Intercollegiate Flying Association) is looking for more 99s to help judge in regional and national competitions. She invited 99s to become involved in the Women's Achievement Award next year at Ohio State University, May 9-14, 2022. Thirty teams from across the US will participate in the NIFA Nationals competition. She thanked the South Central Section for their financial contributions and for members serving as judges in the past. In 2021, the Women's Achievement Award went to a woman of the Air Force Academy. Encourage your local university to start a NIFA team if they don't have one.

## **Chapter Chair Share**

The Vice-Governor asked the Chapter Chairs or their representatives to speak about their activities and membership. Each chapter had 2 minutes of speaking time.

## **New Business**

None.

## **Special Thanks**

The Governor thanked Linda Bush, Cathy Prudhomme, and any others who donated their registrations to other 99s when they discovered they would be unable to be here in person. We send our thanks to those members.

The Governor asked the Dallas Chapter members to stand as the entire conference honored the work of the Chapter with their applause. The continued efforts of the Dallas Chapter over the past 3 to 4 years to plan the successful Fall SCS Conference of the 99s in 2021 in McKinney, Texas after many delays caused by Covid-19 are much appreciated. A special mention was given to Laurie Adams Peake, Holly Barr, Janny Strickland, Kay Alley, Beth Polcari, Carol Levine, Lynnette Bascom, Susan Doyle, Cindy Weber, Kaylee Jeffries, Karen Zolka, Michelle Hovey, and Chris Hettenbach for their work and service in planning the convention.

## **Announcements**

Shelby King of the Colorado Chapter invited everyone to come to the Spring 2022 Meeting in Boulder, Colorado, March 25-27, 2022.

Rose Lepore announced that 49-1/2 Gene Hightower passed away September 11, 2021. He was the husband of Delle Hightower. Delle is presently the longest-serving member of the Houston Chapter and a Lifetime Member of the International 99s. Unfortunately, Delle suffered an accident and injured herself. She is currently in rehab at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Katy, a suburb in southwest Houston. Rose wanted everyone to be aware of what had happened to Delle and to be thinking of her.

The Vice-Governor announced that lunch was being brought in for the Chapter Chair Meeting from 11:45 to 12:45, following the Business Meeting. The Hospitality Room would also be open.

Kaylee Jeffries explained the silent auction and raffle tickets were available from her, Holly Barr, or Cindy Weber until 6:30 PM. Winners would be announced at the banquet tonight.

The Vice-Governor announced that the “*Bad Boys*” tours would meet in the hall outside the meeting room near the 99s registration desk. The banquet hall would open at 6 PM, with the banquet starting at 6:30 PM. Kevin Lacey of the TV show “*Airplane Repo*” will be the speaker.

The Governor announced that she just received a sad text message. Unfortunately, El Paso Chapter member Linda Pecotte lost her life in an airplane accident yesterday. There is no more information, and we send our condolences to her family.

A member of the Northeast Kansas Chapter thanked the Governor for her hard work in putting forth a great meeting that included the online Zoom feature along with the in-person attendance, as it was difficult for her to attend the meetings in person.

### **Closing Remarks**

Governor Monica Randolph-Graham thanked everyone for their patience as we held our first combined in-person and Zoom (“hybrid”) meeting since she became Governor. She also thanked Laurie Adams Peake for obtaining the electronics for the meeting. The hotel’s charge for electronics was \$5,000 which the Section could not afford. The speakers, projectors, screens, and electronics were provided by the McKinney Visitors Center. A special thanks goes to the McKinney Visitors Center and to the Vice-Governor for obtaining them. We will also pay an IT tech person for the setup and \$250 for a private-line high-speed internet. The hotel internet was for the whole hotel and was not adequate for our meeting this morning and banquet tonight. She thanked everyone for their attendance in-person or online, and for their support of the 99s. The Governor adjourned the meeting at 11:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary Kathy Clark  
South Central Section of the 99s