

Virginia District Governor's Bulletin

September 2026

2026-27 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

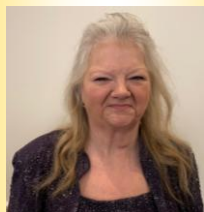


Governor
Anita White

vadistgov26@gmail.com



Governor Elect
Faye Clarke-Kirshon



Secretary
Pat Wallace



Treasurer
Cathy Richards

Send inquiries,
comments, or
questions to
[pilotvadistrict@
gmail.com](mailto:pilotvadistrict@gmail.com)

Embark on a Voyage of Purpose ***Leadership, Fellowship, Mentorship, Stewardship***



Greetings Pilots,

This month, I am reporting on the idea of “Future Proofing” our clubs and giving a brief overview of our “Spill the Tea” Virginia District Joint meeting. Kat Boogaard authored an article entitled, “A manager’s ultimate guide to effective succession planning” on January 22, 2025. She defined “succession planning as the process of identifying the key roles on your team and figuring out how you will fill them when they are left vacant (whether that is because of employee turnover, promotions, restructuring, company growth, or something else).” We must future proof our district and clubs by identifying replacements and adequately preparing pilots to assume leadership roles or fulfilling responsibilities when the time comes, so no one is left feeling like they are thrown to the wolves. Effective succession planning is the development of a roadmap that can be followed because of our annual roll over of positions. Having this roadmap allows the district and club leadership to feel far more prepared to address role gaps without a frantic scramble. However, even with a carefully detailed plan for succession, it does not guarantee smooth sailing, especially with our annual reorganizing, remember the best plans must be flexible. For that very reason one must remember succession planning is not a one-and-done activity, and one needs to adjust as things change. As mentioned during the District Joint meeting, let us begin to identify Pilots who want more responsibility or just want to learn how Pilot works and place them in assistant or mentee positions. Speaking of the August 18, “Spill the Tea” Virginia District Joint meeting, thank you all for attending and participating in the information sharing and discussions. There were over twenty members of the leadership team on the zoom, which included the DAC, Coordinators, Club Presidents, District Committee Chairs and Members. The topics of discussion included developing a 3-year strategic plan, official visits, changing the due dates of the membership report, financial deadlines for grants, international membership programs, awards, adding club news to the governor’s bulletin, and maintaining a calendar for international, district, and club events. Attendees provided comments about a well-conducted meeting, and as requested look for the recording on the webpage.

In Pilot Service, ***Governor Anita***

UPCOMING *Events*

September 5	First Saturday (Wear Pilot Shirts)
September 7	Labor Day
September 15	Brainmindes, Helmet Matching Grants, and Pick-Me-Up Grants deadline
September 27	Fall Council Hotel Registration Deadline
September 30	PI Ambassador forms due to PI
October 1	PC of Suffolk Queen’s Banquet Fundraiser
October 3	First Saturday (Wear Pilot Shirts)
October 9	Registration deadline for Fall Council
October 15	PIFF Matching Grant, Emergency Response Grant Application deadline
October 16-17	84 th VA District Fall Council



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Jean Brown-May
PIFF Representative

Hi Virginia Pilots,

September is upon us and the busy life of Pilot life begins. Governor Anita and the DAC are busy working on our Fall Council for us in Suffolk in October, so I hope you plan on attending and I look forward to seeing you all there.



Pilot International Headquarters is working differently at the moment because of Staff shortages, but be rest assured your calls are being answered by qualified volunteers and life goes on until the positions are filled. Just have a little patience and kindness as we go through this bump in the road. The Founder's Fund Specialist is Neil Barker, and he works 2 days a week. Neil's contact email address is foundersfund@piloithq.org if you have any questions and concerns on anything PIFF.

First Saturdays- Wear your Pilot shirts on the first Saturday of each month, maybe meet for breakfast and celebrate our Pilot friendship. September 5th is our next First Saturday. Please remember to send me pictures so that I can put them up on our social media.

Pick Me Up/Helmet Grants- Applications are due to Pilot International by September 15. Grants are awarded up to \$200. All forms can be found on the PI Website.

Club Ambassador- Who is the one member in your club that has gone above and beyond this year? I would ask you to remember that we all have pilots who work quietly, diligently and sometimes unnoticed and maybe suggest this is the member who should be your Club Ambassador. Submit your contribution form along with a donation for \$25 (or more) to Pilot International Headquarters by September 30th. The donation benefits the Safe Harbor Fund and the International Translation Service.

Pilot Walk- The annual Pilot Walk is Saturday, October 3rd. This is a great time to wear your Pilot shirts and invite perspective members to go out in your communities and celebrate! Let's tell Virginia about Pilot and how we serve our community.

Matching Grants/Emergency Response Grants- All Pilot Clubs that contribute to the Founders Fund are eligible to apply. The categories are Brain Safety and Health, Supporting those who Care for others and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math known as STEAM. The deadline to apply is October 15. All forms can be found on the PI Website at <https://www.pilotinternational.org/members/smartbook>

In Pilot Friendship,

Jean

September is National Self-Care Awareness Month, which promotes physical, mental, and emotional well-being through activities that promote self-care. It reminds us that overall happiness and productivity depend on taking care of ourselves. No, self-care is not selfish. In addition to being crucial to your overall well-being, it enables you to interact with others more effectively.



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— MONTHLY —
Focus On

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. This applies to asking friends and relatives to join Pilot. Ask them once and then ask them again. If you enjoy being a Pilot, why wouldn't they. Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they do have the Heart. Volunteering is good for your health.

Remember Lisa's theme – Believe In Yourself! Believe In Pilot!

Let's see what we can make happen this year. Let's grow the Virginia District and take advantage of the Membership Incentive Program.

Membership



Kathy Clancey
District Membership Coordinator

Believe in Yourself!

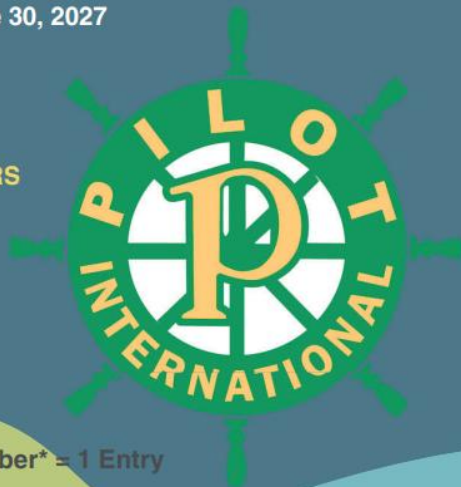
Membership Incentive Program

July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027

PRIZE:

**2028 PI DUES
PAID FOR
FIVE (5) MEMBERS**

Raffle Drawing at
2027 International
Convention in
Grand Rapids, MI
(winner need not be
present)



Sponsor 1 new member* = 1 Entry

Bonus Entries:

Chain Reaction - If a new member recruits a new member* during the incentive period, the original sponsor will also get an entry

Club Booster - If a club holds a Membership Drive/Share Pilot, every club member will receive an entry for each new member* that was recruited from the event

*new member - completed application and dues submitted

*BELIEVE
IN
PILOT!*



District Incentive Program

District membership growth

will be measured by percentage. Total New Members divided by Total Membership. This provides an even playing field for all districts, regardless of the district's size.

Winning Districts will be announced at the 2027 International Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Prize Levels

First Place - \$200

Second Place - \$150

Third Place - \$100

July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027
During the qualifying period, Districts will compete to increase their membership. There will be a first, second, and third place prize, as well as bragging rights.

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Hello Pilots,

Governor Anita chose her mission statement 'Embark on a Voyage of Purpose through the goals of leadership, fellowship, mentorship, and stewardship'. It is depicted by a ship with butterfly wings as sails. When we see the butterfly, we admire its beautiful wings, but we rarely think about the messy and difficult transformation it took to get them.

A butterfly doesn't just wake up with the ability to fly. It has to grow in stages and then has to struggle to break free from its chrysalis.

Our Clubs and Districts are a lot like that! Each of us walked through the doors at different stages of our own lives. Some of us might have started out in the "caterpillar" phase—hungry to learn, grounded, and maybe a little unsure of our club while others found themselves in a "chrysalis" phase—going through a quiet time of hard work and learning behind the scenes, but still making their Club and District shine.

We are here to support each other through those quiet, difficult moments of growth. When we lift each other up, we don't just change ourselves, we bring color, energy, and positive change to our entire Club and District. Thank you all for being part of this journey. Let's keep working together, trusting the process, and helping each other fly to make our clubs and District the amazing community that we love.

Yours in Pilot Friendship

Jean

"Life is short; fly gracefully." – Anonymous

Please let me know of any concerns, cares, accomplishments, good news, etc. We all care so much about each other and hope to share the joys as well as the sorrows in each other's lives. My email address is jeanbrownmay@gmail.com



Jean Brown-May
Inspirational Leader



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*Julie Fallin
San Jacinto Pilot Club
Texas District*



Dear Pilots, as summer begins to wind down and the "dog days" bring soaring temperatures of 90 degrees and higher, many of us find ourselves seeking a little relief—whether at the beach, by the pool, lowering the temperature on the air conditioner or simply enjoying time with family and friends. I hope you have found moments to rest, recharge, and reflect on the opportunities that lie ahead.

September also gives us the opportunity to recognize the hardworking men and women who keep our communities moving. This year's Labor Day theme, "Solidarity for the Next 250," reminds us that progress is built through unity, dedication, and service—values that are also at the heart of Pilot International.

As we begin a new Pilot year, I want to leave you with a simple message: "Believe in yourself."

- Believe in yourself when others may doubt your abilities.
- Believe in yourself when you have to be your own greatest cheerleader.
- Believe in yourself when the road becomes challenging and the waters seem rough.

And most importantly, remember that you are never alone. Your Pilot family is here to encourage you, support you, celebrate your successes, and stand beside you through every challenge. Together, we are stronger than any obstacle we may face.

Please keep these important deadlines in mind:

September 15th – Helmet, Pick Me Up, and BrainMinders Grant applications are due to Headquarters.

September 30th – Club Ambassador Donations are due to Headquarters.

October 15th – PIFF Matching Grant and Emergency Response Grant Application due to Headquarters.

These programs reflect the very heart of who we are—serving our communities, promoting brain safety and health, and making a lasting difference in the lives of others.

As we move through September, let us continue believing in ourselves, believing in one another, and believing in the extraordinary impact we can make when we serve together.

Believe in yourself. Believe in your fellow Pilots. Believe in Pilot International. Together, we will continue to inspire hope, strengthen communities, and leave our organization stronger than we found it.

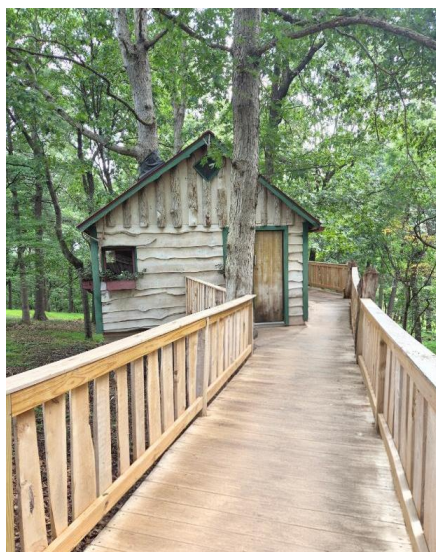


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The Pilot Club of Harrisonburg held its annual picnic at Still Meadows Enrichment Center and Camp on August 10. Stormy weather kept some members at home, but those who attended enjoyed good food and fellowship. Still Meadows is a nonprofit facility that serves children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities through programs such as therapeutic horseback riding and summer day camps. Pilot Club member Janet Maasch founded the Camp in 1997. Since then, the Club has supported its programs and facilities through service projects and fundraising. Members have helped with summer camps, presented BrainMinders puppet shows, and supported Camp fundraisers. The Club has also helped to fund a wheelchair-accessible swing, special safety helmets for the riding program, and, most recently, a \$5,000 matching grant to replace wood on the ramp and railings leading to the wheelchair-accessible treehouse. Pilot Club members are proud of their longstanding partnership with Still Meadows and look forward to many more picnics, projects and shared events.



Call to the 84th Virginia District Fall Council



October 16-17, 2026
Suffolk Christian Church
216 North Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

Pilots, Peanuts, Pumpkins, and Purpose

Call to Council, Registration Form, and Service Project details are posted on the District website: pivadistrict.org

Registration Information

- Registration is \$45 per person and includes all registration materials, Saturday continental breakfast, Saturday lunch and coffee/water all day. Registration and Marketplace will be open from 8:30-9:15 a.m. on Saturday October 17, 2026.
- You can register by using the attached PDF form. **Registration deadline is October 9, 2026.** After the deadline a \$10 late fee will be added.
- Registration materials will be available to pick up on Friday, October 16, 2026, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Group dinner location. The group dinner location is at Plaza Azteca, 1467 North Main Street, Suffolk, VA. 23434. Please sign up on the registration form and a reservation will be made for you. The cost of dinner is on each person.
- Any changes to registration, please contact Cathy H. Richards, District Treasurer

Hotel Information

- The hotel is Hampton Inn Suffolk Centerbrook, 1017 Centerbrook Lane, VA 23435, (757) 935-5880. The hotel room rate is \$140 per night (\$160.60 inclusive of taxes and other rates).
- **Hotel registration deadline is September 27, 2026.**

Attire

- Friday evening – Pilot attire- Group Dinner
- Saturday – Business Casual

First -Timers

Club Presidents will introduce their First time attendees to the group.

Classes

The line up for training is planned as follows:

- Fundraising: The Art of Zeffy
- Secretarial Responsibilities
- Treasurer Responsibilities
- Nominating Committee - skit
- Art of Leadership
- How to win Awards at Club and International levels?
- What is PIFF?
- Believe in Membership

Marketplace

Marketplace will open at 8:00 a.m. for set up and open for business at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The marketplace tables are \$10. The Marketplace will be open during breaks and lunch.

Project

The service project is Forkids. The Flyer with the details is a bulletin attachment.

REGISTRATION FORM

2026 Virginia District Pilot International Fall Council October 16-17, 2026

"Pilots - Peanuts, Pumpkins, and Purpose"

Hosted by the Pilot Club of Suffolk

Suffolk Christian Church
216 North Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

Please return this form with payment to:

Cathy Richards
731 Babbtown Road
Suffolk, VA 23434

Please make checks payable to Virginia District Pilot International.



Pilot Club of _____ Phone: _____

(Enter President's phone number if registering for group of club members; otherwise enter your phone number)

NAME	FIRST TIMER	SANDWICH/SALAD CHOICES					Friday Night Dinner Reservation at Plaza Azteca
		CHICKEN SALAD	HAM & CHEESE	TURKEY & CHEESE	COBB SALAD	SALAD (MEATLESS)	

_____ Full Registration (includes lunch) @ 45.00 = _____

_____ Market Place table(s) @ 10.00 ea. = _____

_____ Late fee (after October 9) @ \$10.00 = _____

Total enclosed _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is October 9, 2026. After the deadline a \$10 late fee will be added.

HOTEL CUTOFF DATE is September 27, 2026

Hampton Inn - 1017 Centerbrooke Lane, Suffolk, VA 23435 (757) 935-5880

ROOM RATE \$140.00 PLUS TAX UNTIL CUTOFF DATE ONLY

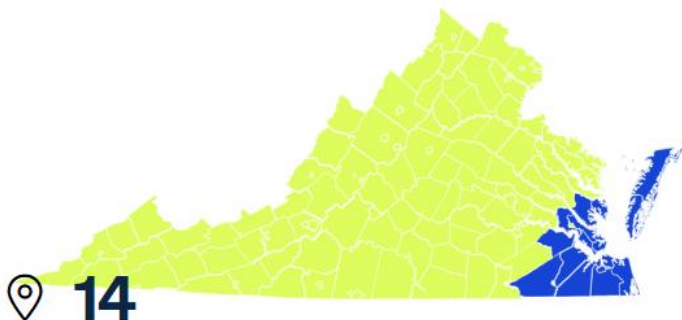
Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness and Poverty

We are working toward a future where all families have a place to call home – because when families are secure, communities are stronger.

ForKids is one of the largest year-round providers of homeless services for families in Virginia. We provide housing solutions, education, and critical services to thousands of individuals each year.

Serving more than 70,000 individuals every year.

90% of students enrolled in ForKids Education programs advance to the next grade level



cities and counties in Southeastern Virginia receive critical services to help families overcome poverty

ForKids assists nearly 400 families with over 850 children each day.

ForKids is in need of cleaning supplies for our families currently in shelters and families transitioning to their own homes.

Paper Towels
Multipurpose Cleaners
Toilet Paper
Laundry Pods
Tall Kitchen trash bags
Dish Soap
Disinfectant Wipes
Broom/Dust Pan Sets
Bleach

30 Gallon Trash Bags
Sponges
Dusters
Dishwasher Detergent
Mops/Swiffers
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Air Fresheners
Disinfectant Sprays
Gloves