

Spotlighting Georgia Pilots





Meet **Lorena Perry**, member of the Pilot Club of Ocilla-Irwin and the GA District Fund Raising Coordinator

"I joined the PC of Ocilla-Irwin County in 2005 when I retired. I relocated to South Georgia in 1996 to care for my Mother and she passed away three months after I relocated. I had no friends only family. The Pilot Club invited me to model in their annual Fashion Show for years and the members of the Pilot Club reached out and became my friends. I admired this special group of women that made such a difference in the community. I was honored when they invited me to join this special organization. My years since joining Pilot has been filled with opportunities to serve our community and Georgia District and has enriched my life with fellowship with wonderful women/men of substance."

Lorena



Meet **Linda Hazinski** from the Pilot Club of Madison County, Club Anchor Coordinator and GA District Membership Co-Coordinator.

"I joined the Pilot Club of Madison County in 2014. My husband and I moved to Colbert and I wanted to get involved with my new community. I was familiar with Pilot from a very dear friend Dottie Adams, maker of the PI Quilt. Tammy Dalton invited me to a Pilot meeting and I was immediately impressed with the club members' friendliness, energy and commitment.

For me the joy of being a Pilot is coming together with other Pilots to support our community. One of my favorite projects is helping setup the Georgia Artists with Disabilities Exhibit at the Madison County Library. I had worked in the field of developmental disabilities for over 40 years and feel that the exhibit is a great way for artists to participate and show their talents. I also thoroughly enjoy working with the Anchors at the high school. Their enthusiasm for service projects and growth in leadership skills is a delight to watch. Pilot Club members have also been very active in supporting the Anchors with their projects."

Linda



Meet **Sheryl Merrey** from the Pilot Club of Atlanta and the Club Anchor Coordinator

"The beauty of Pilot lies in its simplicity...Friendship and Service! I was introduced to Pilot in 2001, following a move to a small town on Florida's west coast, where we knew not a soul. How that would change after a neighbor invited me to that first meeting! I was thrilled to find so many kindred spirits who so warmly welcomed and included newbies like us. I say "us" because Co-Pilots were especially welcomed to lend a hand for an ambitious number of Pilot service projects and fundraising events! And on our meeting nights, the men enjoyed dining around Citrus County.

Forever Friendships for us Both!

The tug of family and grandchildren pulled us North in 2005, where alas, there were no Pilot Clubs! A transfer to Atlanta for our daughter in 2008 resulted in a tandem move to Georgia. As we crossed the state line, my cell phone rang. Dené Dixon welcomed us and invited me to the next Pilot Club of Atlanta meeting! I had encouraged her to join the Crystal River club and now she was returning the favor. Once again, I was blessed with a new group of Forever Friends and the addition of my daughter, Leah to the Pilot roster. I was also awarded a most special gift of working with the Anchors.

What an honor to spend time with these amazing young students; so bright and eager for service to improve their local and global communities. This year is especially sweet as both of my grandsons are officially Anchors.

As we nurture and support Anchors with Scholarships and recommendations, we can be confident our investments will yield a bright future for Pilot.

I am so grateful for Pilot friendship and the opportunities to serve...so simple and so sweet!"

Sheryl



Meet **Janice Lemonds-Elrod** from the Pilot Club of Monroe

"Pilot has been a part of my life since 2006 when I joined the Pilot Club of Monroe. I knew about Pilot as this lady named Katherine sold pecans every year from a little stand in my Marietta beauty shop. She would talk to me about her Pilot Club, but I was teaching in Cobb County Schools at the time and really didn't think I could add another thing to my loaded schedule.. Fast forward to 2006 in Monroe when June Robertson invited me to a dinner meeting. I was looking for a way to develop new friendships as well as service opportunities, so did not hesitate to join. Within a few months I was off to a district meeting and then later an international convention with June as a "newbie" at both! I've met so many wonderful people from so many places through Pilot. There is so much to learn, but Pilot is the most organized club I've ever belonged to.

After joining the Pilot Club of Monroe, I became known as the puppet lady, for I was ripping out the insides of stuffed animals needed for BrainMinders puppet shows, making sleeves attached to them to turn them into puppets. Then using PCV pipes and green knit fabric I sewed the curtain for our puppet theater.. I also enjoy doing safety activities with seniors using Brain-O with members of our club. Another project I really enjoy is heading up the Davis-Briscoe scholarship given each May. by our club. Our club's signature project, United Hope for Children, is another avenue for service opportunities. We keep their freezer full of frozen dinners as well as provide car seats and helmets for foster families. Being a Pilot is one of the best things life has to offer; the Pilot wheel is already on my grave marker!"

Janice



Meet **Judy Jackson**, member of the Pilot Club of Carrollton, Past GA District Governor & Past PI Treasurer

"Pilot has been a major part of my life for many years and truly represents friendship and service. I joined Pilot in my twenties, one year after marrying Tom and moving to his hometown. Members have become friends for life and I've enjoyed sharing Pilot with friends in other arenas who are now members. It's an honor to be a part of Pilot International, making a difference for others! The many opportunities I have had in Pilot to work, serve, and lead, alongside dedicated Pilots have been special. Pilot for me means working together to accomplish great things, supporting each other, and making our world a better place, one community at a time. One of my favorite Pilot projects is Pick Me Ups for family and community caregivers. We have been able to recognize and uplift so many deserving and humble individuals and continue to do so through this project!"

Judy





Meet **Jan McNeill** from the Pilot Club of Chatsworth

"I have been a member of the Pilot Club of Chatsworth for 30+ years! I was asked to become a Pilot by several ladies after moving to NW GA in 1983 and finally decided to join in 1987 once I saw all that these ladies did for our county. I enjoy being an active part of a service organization that spreads "Friendship and Service" throughout our community. I have always loved working with the Projects Division – spending money is always more fun! - and I am presently serving as our club's chair after holding the office of president for 8 years off and on. Our club is VERY active in giving back to the community. Last year we collected clothes and other needed items monthly for the local Counselors' Closet for Murray County Schools, gave a \$300 scholarships to a worthy senior at each of our three local high schools, hosted our annual dinner and raffle for the Senior Center, delivered cookies to our six elementary school staffs, participated in the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Around City Park where we also gave out bags of "reindeer food" to children, and donated money to several local philanthropic groups. This October 1 we are sponsoring a bicycle safety event for local foster children we named "Fostering Safety ". We purchased 24 Pilot bike helmets with a matching grant we received from Pilot International and will distribute these to the children along with treats, goodie bags, coloring books and crayons, and a giveaway of bike accessories to all children present. Teenagers from Murray High will present a BrainMinders Puppet show on "Safety" and our local firemen will go over safety tips when biking. I am very proud of our Pilot Club of Chatsworth and what it has accomplished in our community during the past 47 years! I hope to continue being active in it for many years to come!"

Jan



Meet **Angela Gillis**, member of the Peachtree Pilot Club and the GA District GPF Rep.

"I was introduced to Pilot when I volunteered through a Citizens of Georgia Power service project. The project was Georgia Artists with DisAbilities. We volunteered to make the bubble wrap envelopes to protect the winning art which went on a yearlong tour across Georgia. I was invited to a meeting by longtime Pilot member Marcelle Watkins. I was hooked because of the great community projects and welcoming members. I have been a member since 2000. My love for Pilot has grown over the years developing true friendships, helping others in need and making a positive impact in our community."

Angela



Meet **Surelle Pinkston** from the Pilot Club of Macon

"Through BrainMinders and projects, Pilot has opened doors in my community that I wouldn't have gone through alone. Pilot gives our club members the confidence to seek places to care and serve. I was invited to join at a Pilot Club of Macon fundraiser."

Surelle



Meet **Nancy Miller** who is a (MAL) Member at Large. She was a Past GA District Governor & 2004-2005 KY/OH/WV District Governor

"I joined Pilot in 1989 after being invited to the Newnan, GA club. We had only lived in Newnan for about one year as my husband's job transferred him from Ohio. I joined because I wanted to meet some new folks and hope to get to know the area better. By my second year in the club I became an officer, and rose through the ranks. All along the way I was supported and encouraged by several members who saw someone who would work and get the job done.

In 1997, we were transferred back to the Ohio plant, and I sought out the Pilot Club of Dayton to join them and continue the service that was started while in Georgia. I again rose through the ranks and became club President. Our membership was small but we accomplished much, because the members were so committed to service in our community. I also served as Governor of the Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia district. So my range of Pilot friends started to enlarge to most of the US and Japan.

In 2004, for the last time, we were transferred back to GA as my husband's company moved all of their operations to the two plants that were established here. This time we settled in Milledgeville, GA and again I found a Pilot club to serve. After a few years, I again served as the club President, making more wonderful friends in our new community! In 2011 I began my year as Governor of the Georgia District. Friendship and Service is the hallmark of Pilot International and I have enjoyed the hard work, the leadership skills I learned along the way and the many friendships made. Giving back to our communities and learning a lifetime of leadership skills is the best gift you can ever receive."

Nancy



Meet **Esther Foster** from the Pilot Club of Jones County and Past GA District Governor

"I have been a Pilot for 30 years this past June. I had always heard about Pilot because my late friend, Dot Lewis, worked at headquarters in Macon. I often wondered what the organization did until I was at a Lions Club meeting one night and another Pilot was also attending with her husband. We began talking and I began asking her questions about Pilot. Next thing I knew, I had an invitation to visit the Jones County Pilot Club.

Joining Pilot was one of the best things I ever did because it gave me an opportunity to join other Pilots in reaching people through our brain related focus and supporting those who care for others. I am thankful for the leadership training and service opportunities I have been afforded, both on the club and district level. I have learned a lot and feel I am a better person by having this opportunity.

I also cherish the friendships I have made through the years. I have always said," when you make a Pilot friend, you have a friend for life!"

Esther





Meet **Becky Wall**,
President of the Pilot
Club of Eatonton

"Pilot to me means sharing and caring! I love our small town and the people in it. Pilot gives me the chance to give back to my community. I became a member after being invited to a meeting by a friend. I have since made many new friends that I will forever be grateful for."

Becky



Meet **Ann Brooks** from
the Pilot Club of
Covington

"November 2020 will mark 61 years of being a member of the Pilot Club of Covington. When I was asked to attend a dinner meeting, I quickly responded that this was a service organization I wanted to join. During my years in the club, I have served President for 5 different years and other capacities on the executive board and divisions. I have volunteered with club fundraising events and projects. One project was establishing the BrainMinder puppet shows. The pre-k children really enjoyed them. Christmas was always a fun time when I decorated Santa's area for the children to whisper their wish list to Santa and Mrs. Claus assisted him.

On the district level, I was Lt. Governor, East Central Region, for one year. Prior to that and in the early 1960's, I was appointed by the Governor to be Chairman of all divisions in the Georgia District for one year. Sometimes after that, the district regions were established.

Georgia Artists with DisAbilities is one service project I have truly followed for several years. I served as Chairman for a two-year tenure and have many fond memories of the beautiful art work as well as friendships with artists.

So, you can see that since 1959, my shoes have traveled many miles and years by being of service to others while is has always been my main goal. In those travels, there are other Pilot members throughout who have been an inspiration to me and I call each and every one a precious and dear Pilot friend."

Ann



Meet **Dr. Cyndee Moore** from
the Pilot Club of Oconee County

"Both my mother and mother-in-law suffered from Alzheimer's. Just after they passed from this dreadful disease I moved to Georgia and began to notice the great work being done by the Pilot Club of Oconee County. It didn't take me long to realize that where there was a need, there was a Pilot! When I learned of Pilot's commitment to issues surrounding brain health and brain-related illnesses and injuries I was hooked! I'm thrilled to be part of this amazing group of women who serve tirelessly to make our community stronger!"

Cyndee



Meet **Dene' Dixon**
from the Pilot Club of
Atlanta, GA District
Awards Jury Chair and
Past Governor of the
FL District

"Pilot has always been a part of my life. The Pilot friendships and service are so much a part of who I am. I grew up in Florida and my mother always had me helping with service projects and fundraising with her Club. I was an Anchor in high school and we worked with my mother's Club on many service activities. When I was in graduate school I was selected to serve as the Head Resident of the FSU Pilot House which afforded me no-rent housing. The Pilot Scholarship House Foundation is the Florida District's version of our Georgia Pilot Foundation because it provides assistance to students furthering their post-secondary education. Twelve years ago when I moved to Georgia, I joined the Pilot Club of Atlanta and immediately gained friends in a new city!"

Dene'



Meet **Gary Jarvis**, member of the
Pilot Club of Elberton and also Pat
Jarvis' Co-Pilot

"Membership in Pilot came years after I was first active in Pilot! Pat and I have always worked together in the organization and we have traveled together for many years to the International Conventions and usually celebrated our wedding anniversaries in early July with Pilots!

I joined Pilot about 2006 to help charter the Pilot Club of Cherokee County in Canton, Georgia. The meetings were 2 hours each way! Later, I transferred to the Pilot Club of Elberton prior to Pat becoming the International President.

As a Pilot/Co-Pilot, I have had many opportunities to be a part of the Pilot family!

Amusement abounds around Pilots: I have enjoyed urging Pilots to invest their money in Calcutta tickets...writing songs for International Presidents (I even wrote Pat's song in 2009)...leading the Co-Pilots in "PRAISE" songs to our Pilot Presidents...and, in general, teasing those in charge!

Pilot allows us to serve, to help others in so many ways and to love each other. Truly we can do more, care more and be more as we work together."

Gary



Meet **Terry Massey**, member of the
Pilot Club of Jefferson

"I became a Pilot after being invited to a Share Pilot event in 2005. I was new to the Jefferson area and after sharing in that event I thought what a wonderful way to get to know people in my new community and serve that community at the same time. The amount of personal time invested by our members in our community projects has impressed me so much more than a simple monetary contribution by other civic organizations. Building relationships with our club members and those we serve has been a rewarding experience. Pilots truly Do More and Care More in this service organization. I have been honored to serve our club over the years as Recording Secretary, President Elect, 3 time President and Director."

Terry



Meet **Grace Moore**, the President of the Pilot Club of Johnson
County

"Grace shared her love of being a Pilot Club member. She joined Pilot in 1989. Her mom passed away that year and was a member of the Dublin Pilot Club. She loves to serve and Pilot Club gives her an opportunity to serve."

Grace

