



# 99s: Women Pilots of Eastern New England

## **99s 2018 International Conference Philadelphia, PA Special Report by Arlene Myers Alexander**

(Editor's Note: Arlene won the \$500 First-Timer Scholarship, given by the New England Section, to attend this year's International Convention in Philadelphia in July.)

### **Philadelphia, City of SISTERLY Love**

With the generous help of the New England Section, my husband, Jack, and I were able to be "first-timers" at the 99s international convention in Philadelphia. Our glorious flight over Long Island ended at northeast Philadelphia airport. where it was 101 degrees. Record high temperatures dominated our week, but we managed well and had the time of our life!

The hospitality of the Mid Atlantic 99s was so warm and accommodating. We were met at the airport by a lovely 99 who had taken the whole afternoon off work to drive us into the city. Along the way, she told stories about her fascinating tailwheel flying. Thank you, Nancy McCurry! With each day, the hostesses went out of their way to get to know everyone and help us in every way. By the end of the convention. I was on a first name basis with some of them. Thank you, Beth, for trying to find us

a ride back to the airport last minute! Uber did the trick.

We loved the seminars, and I felt so privileged to be able to hear such high quality speakers, some of the best in our flying world. My favorite seminar was the round table discussions. I learned so much in the three 20 minute sessions I attended! There was a group that focused on how to enliven my involvement in my Chapter, which was very inspiring. Another was given by a retired FAA education facilitator who spoke about available tools for programs for prospective or student pilots. And I was very excited to hear about the new 99s sponsored program Let's Fly Now that our local Chapter or Section could present. This is an event oriented program that engages women (men and boys are not turned away) of eligible flying age to offer them a first flight. I am especially excited about this program because it can give an older woman the opportunity to experience piloting when, perhaps, her children are grown, and she is looking for a new interest. I was in my mid-forties when I learned to fly and can relate to the need and the excitement.

The Convention meant many things to me, but mostly, it can be summed up in a conversation I had with another 99. She said "If you look around the room, it just looks like a group of regular ladies, but then you hear the stories!" And what stories there were! I met several people I'd like to know forever. My husband had a wonderful time and was very happy when I was asked if my husband also flew. "Yes, he does!" Next year, we plan to go to Oshkosh, but on the way, we will stop in Dayton, Ohio, for the next 99s international Convention, where I will no longer be a first-timer.

Thank you to the New England Section for making this possible for us.

Arlene Myers Alexander



Jack and Arlene Alexander, Rae Willis, Margot Cheel



## Reminder - Next Meeting - Aug. 25

Lawrence Municipal Airport (KLWM)  
Eagle East Aviation  
492 Sutton St.  
North Andover, MA

Coffee: 9:30

Meeting: 10:00

Lunch at airport following meeting

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