

THE GOVERNOR'S BULLETIN



VOL 90 ISSUE 3

**TEXAS DISTRICT
PILOT**

SEPTEMBER 2026

Greetings, Texas Pilots!

I am thrilled to share some exciting news: we have officially chartered the Compass Club of Central Texas! What a

wonderful milestone for our District. A new club means new energy for Pilot. Please join me in giving our newest members a big Texas District welcome. We are so glad you are here!

The Texas DAC recently gathered at beautiful Canyon Lake for a weekend of planning, brainstorming, laughter, and plenty of Pilot friendship. With that gorgeous lake outside our

windows, staying focused took some determination, there were definitely moments when a swim sounded like an excellent strategic decision! We spent our time looking ahead, discussing the needs of our clubs, and planning an exciting year. There were calendars, great conversations and we left energized and ready to grow our membership, support our members, and have some fun along the way.

With the Texas heat working overtime and temperatures that seem determined to test our endurance, I think we are all ready for a little fall weather to go along with Fall Council! Come ready to learn, laugh, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and take fresh ideas back to your club. So, grab your Pilot friends, pack your water bottle, bring your biggest smile, and join us! Every member and every club play an important part in moving our Texas District forward.

Our Pilot family is growing, exciting things are ahead, and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together. Friendship and Service truly are a perfect blend!

Joanne Patterson

**Texas District
Pilot International 2026-2027
District Administrative Council
(DAC)**

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Fall Councils 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

**South
Fall Council**

9/26/26

El Campo, Texas

More details coming soon!

Aloha, Pilots!

Join us for a day of friendship, leadership, and service!

HAWAIIAN THEME

Wear your tropical best and bring your island spirit!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE NOW!

Hampton Inn
2019 FM-102 Wharton, TX
(979) 282-5370

HOTEL COST: \$115

Mark your calendar - we can't wait to see you there!

Registration is
NOW OPEN for
SOUTH Fall Council!
The forms have been
sent to your
PRESIDENT.



SAVE THE DATE!

North Fall Council

**Christmas
in October!**

10/24/26

Waxahachie, Texas

HOTEL: BOOK NOW!

Holiday Inn Express
984 West Hwy 287 Bypass
Waxahachie, TX
(972) 938-3300
\$178 (taxes included)
Breakfast Included

BOOK NOW!

- Fun Theme!
- Great Training!
- Wonderful Memories!

**GOOD FRIENDS
GREAT SERVICE
GNOME LIMITS!**

Join us for a day of friendship, leadership & service!

Wear your **RED or GREEN** & bring your holiday spirit!

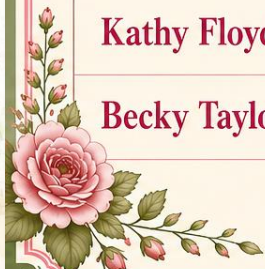
Let's make this a GNOME-TASTIC day together!



2026-2027 Club Assignments



LIAISON	PHONE	CLUB ASSIGNMENTS
Joanne Patterson	(304) 377-0114	Evening Nacogdoches, San Jacinto, Quitman, Winnsboro, Baytown
Brenda Steelman	(979) 541-6524	Wharton, Cuero, Canyon Lake, Gonzales, Brenham
Laura McGinnis	(724) 759-4459	Nacogdoches, Evening Baytown, Shiner, Bay City, El Campo
Jackie Thornton	(936) 715-5861	Dallas, Longview, Mineola, Mt Pleasant, Lake Houston
Kathy Floyd	(214) 212-2711	Hereford, Lubbock, Odessa, LaGrange
Becky Taylor	(832) 452-5183	Dickenson, Lufkin, West Chambers, Wills Point



District Website Information

The Texas District website is:

pitexasdistrict.org





ECR Message:

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 must 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.

Executive Committee Representative
Leslie McLaughlin





Laura McGinnis
Lt. Governor



RECIPE FOR A *Stronger Pilot Club*





Serves:
One thriving Pilot Club
and a stronger community



Prep time:
Ongoing

❖ INGREDIENTS ❖

- ♥ 1 generous measure of community involvement
- ♥ Several dedicated and enthusiastic Pilot Club members
- ♥ A strong sense of purpose and mission
- ♥ A healthy portion of creativity
- ♥ Consistent communication
- ♥ Opportunities for volunteers to participate
- ♥ Plenty of appreciation and recognition
- ♥ A generous helping of teamwork

❖ DIRECTIONS ❖

1. Begin with a clear purpose.
2. Add a generous helping of community involvement.
3. Mix in meaningful service projects.
4. Stir in strong partnerships.
5. Fold in new members and volunteers.
6. Season generously with communication.
7. Add a healthy portion of appreciation.
8. Let the mixture grow through evaluation.

❖ THE FINISHED PRODUCT ❖

 A stronger Pilot Club is not created by one large project or one successful fundraiser. It develops through **consistent community involvement, meaningful relationships, engaged members, and a clear commitment to service.**

 Like any good recipe, strengthening a Pilot Club requires the right ingredients and patience. When members work together, listen to their community, welcome new volunteers, build partnerships, and celebrate their successes, a Pilot Club becomes more than a group that meets regularly—it becomes a **trusted and active part of the community.**

 The goal is not simply to make a Pilot Club bigger. The goal is to make it **stronger, more connected, and more effective in making a difference.**





BrainMinders

Let's Put BrainMinders to Work!

Texas District members, did you know that BrainMinders has resources for both children and seniors? Our clubs can use these materials to educate children about injury prevention and visit assisted living or nursing facilities to promote brain health and safety among older adults. We challenge every club to find at least one new way to use BrainMinders in their community this year!

**In Pilot Friendship,
Destiny Wilson & Debra Molnar
BrainMinders Co-Chairs**



Compass

Pilot Club of Gonzales charter member presents the gavel to the incoming Compass President Nicholas Gonzales during the recent Charter ceremony of the Compass club of Central Texas. Congratulations!





Reminders:

*Pilot Ambassador
Due by September 30!!*

DEADLINE!!

**IDEAS
NEEDED**

*Please share your Club's
favorite projects with the
District Projects
Coordinator at
suzeeque@gmail.com*

Submissions for Governor's Bulletin

*DUE: 20th of the month
EMAIL TO: TxGovernorsbulletin@gmail.com
LIMITS: One or two pictures from Club.
Include short description explaining picture.
(may be edited for space). Please submit
Photos in jpg format and text in .docx format*

*Spill the
TEA!!*





Spill the Tea

This section of the newsletter is for Clubs to share their most inspiring events, moments or community successes. The idea is to encourage each other to try new things and brag a little bit when something works. So, submit a picture or two and "spill some tea" with us!



Kathy Floyd, Lori Raso, and Mary Jane Woods represented Pilot Club of Dallas at Make It Count Kicks For Kids Celebration. Kids earn points to earn a pair of school shoes.

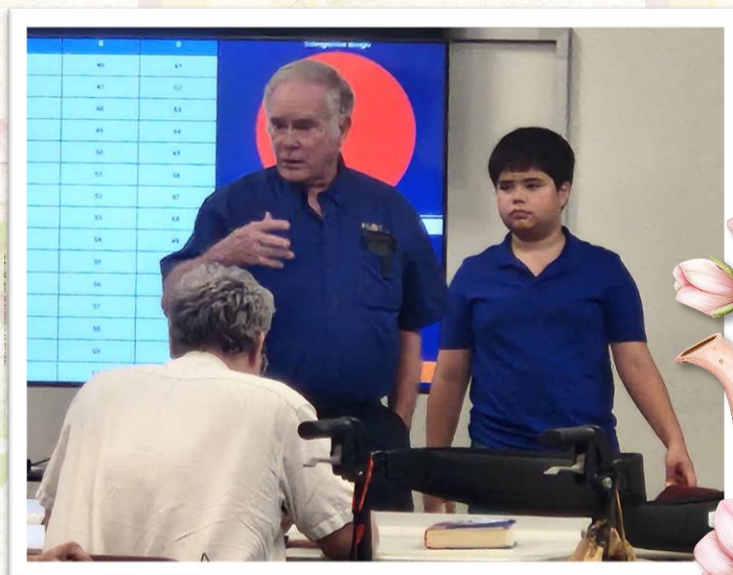


Pilot Club of Baytown prepares for the Alzheimer's Walk





Spill the Tea (Continued)



On August 1, Pilot Club of Dallas members, Chris Floyd, and grandson, Ethan Eslao (above) Lori Raso and Mary Jane Woods (right) played Bingo and had pizza with 36 veterans at Veteran's Hospital in Dallas.





Spill the Tea (Continued)



**West Chambers County
collected and donated back
to school supplies.**



**El Campo pilots held a
successful fundraiser for the
Alzheimer's Association**



Spill the Tea (Continued)



El Campo Pilots donated snacks, juice boxes, water bottles, and HEB Gift cards to ASAP (After School Activities Program).



El Campo Pilots donated Spirit Shirts and paper towels to a local elementary school.



The Pilot Club of Cuero attended the Miss Sparkle Special Needs Pageant in Cuero to support the pageant we help sponsor. Several Anchors assisted with the pageant as well.



Spill the Tea (Continued)

Pilot clubs of El Campo and Evening Nacogdoches gathered to create cards and letters for the upcoming Mountain High TBI camp in Red River, New Mexico.





Health, Healing & Remembrance

Inspirational Leader, Karen Hettich

karenhettich@gmail.com

What a great example of Governor Joanne's theme, "Friendship and Service"! As Pilots, we never know what opportunity to serve may come to us. Let us all have open eyes and ears to be an example of this. Becky Meriweither, Mt. Pleasant Pilot, shared this story. What a blessing that someone took the time to assist these fellow Pilots and Anchors.

On Friday morning at PI convention, a young man and an older woman stepped onto the elevator. There was a Pilot already on the elevator. The woman noticed the Texas stamp on the Pilot's nametag. "Where do you live in Texas?" she asked. "Near Dallas," was the response. (near is relative in Texas) "Oh! My grandson is looking for a ride to Dallas after the convention. And I am interested in joining Pilot", the woman said. "Are you an Anchor?" the Pilot asked. "Yes," he replied, "but not from Texas". "Write down your contact info, your Anchor Club and advisor. I know some Dallas Pilots. I'll see what I can do."

Grandma was leaving the convention that day, taking the bus to Las Colinas. If the Anchor could not find a ride, he would take the bus to Irving from OKC after convention. The Pilot contacted a couple of Dallas Pilots; connections were made and the Anchor had a ride to Dallas. Timeliness and better safety for the Anchor and perhaps a new Pilot member.

After the installation banquet Saturday night, a PIP approached a Texas Pilot saying a Milwaukee Pilot needed a ride to DFW airport on Sunday, as her flight had been cancelled. If she couldn't get to Dallas, she would wait until her son got back to Dallas and could drive up to OKC to get her. Well, more phone calls and more Pilot connections, and the Milwaukee Pilot made it to Dallas Sunday morning. Timeliness and a wealth of Pilot knowledge was shared I'm sure.

Let's consider a few things here. **One**, connections are lifelines. You never know when you will need one. You can never have too many. **Two**, Pilots are held in high esteem. The Anchor's grandmother felt comfortable leaving him with Pilots. Of course, his advisor was a Pilot in attendance and probably gave the final okay. **Three**, we all need a hand now and then.

What a relief to have your needs met. What a joy to be able to pass on a kindness. Remember the starfish? Even a small kindness makes a difference to that person.

Please remember to share your stories, club information, and celebrations with me. As Pilots, we want to share with our sister Pilots all our struggles and victories!





Health, Healing & Remembrance

Condolences to Patsy Coblentz, of the Pilot Club of El Campo, who lost her father, Manuel Munoz, Sr. July 26, 2026.

Wishing Kathy Floyd a successful surgery and a smooth, comfortable recovery.

Sending heartfelt thoughts and prayers for Carol Hutchens husband, Rick, as he continues to recover from surgery and throughout his rehabilitation.

Welcome New Pilots!

Odessa:
Debbie Clay

Friendship & Service Opportunities

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

BAYTOWN

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Bayland Marina
300 Convention Center Way
Baytown, TX

- Free
- Abilities Friendly
- Family Friendly
- Pet Friendly

Join the The Pilot Clubs of Baytown in the Baytown Walk to End Alzheimer's!

Contribute to care, support, and research by making a donation

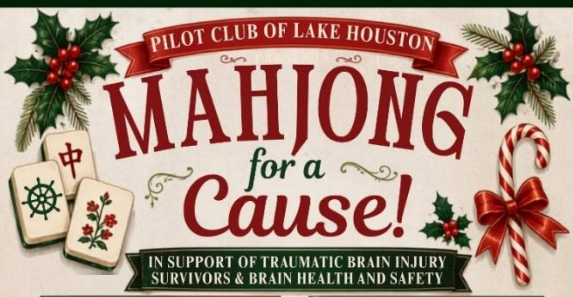
Start a team and join the fight to #EndALZ

MAKE A DONATION OR START A TEAM





Friendship & Service Opportunities



PILOT CLUB OF LAKE HOUSTON

MAHJONG for a Cause!

IN SUPPORT OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SURVIVORS & BRAIN HEALTH AND SAFETY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Merry Mahjamas

SOCIAL PLAY

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Light Refreshments Available
Light snacks
Donations appreciated

\$20

SOCIAL

- * FUN, FRIENDLY COMPETITION
- * MEET & PLAY WITH NEW FRIENDS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Holly Jolly

MAHJONG TOURNAMENT

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

LIGHT BREAKFAST
Coffee, Tea, Water, Pastries
LUNCH PROVIDED

\$100

TOURNAMENT

DOORS OPEN AT 8AM
PLAY BEGINS AT 9AM

5 ONE HOUR ROUNDS
EACH ROUND IS 4 HANDS

**Payout to
TOP 5
Scores**

LOCATION

McGivney Hall, St.
Mary Magdalene Catholic Church 116 Isaacks Rd
Humble, Texas 77338
Text 281-989-0726

REGISTER HERE



14th Annual Quilt Raffle Mountain High Camp

Thanks to generous donations, we have more than four quilts this year! Quilts will be awarded in drawing order – 1st drawing wins Quilt 1, 2nd drawing wins Quilt 2, etc. Quilt choices will not be available this year.
Thank you for your support!



QUILT 1



QUILT 2



QUILT 3



QUILT 4



QUILT 5

TICKETS

1 for \$1
6 for \$5
13 for \$10
28 for \$20
150 for \$100

Drawing to be held
Tue, Sep 15, 2026

ALL proceeds go towards
camp costs and camper scholarships

SCAN TO PAY



venmo

Make checks payable to
Mountain High Camp

