



Pilot History 1940-1950

Speaker 1: As we progress toward the hundredth anniversary of Pilot International, and celebrate Founder's Day once again, we'd like to reflect upon the cherished history of our organization in the decades of the forties and fifties.

Speaker 2: President Ina Clarke Drake presided at the 1940 -1941 Pilot International Convention in Memphis, TN at the Peabody Hotel. Twenty-one clubs were organized during the year bringing the total to 127 Clubs with 3,235 members. Press releases were sent to all clubs, and included pictures and a story of the ambulance given by PI to the Red Cross for use in the war zone. Due to this donation, PI's Executive Director was interviewed with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

The 20th Annual Convention was held in Houston Texas at the Rice Hotel with 353 in attendance. Mrs. Alvie Hill, Athens, Georgia, Governor of District 1 was appointed Chairman for the 20th Anniversary of PI to be celebrated in Macon October 18-19, 1941. The Executive Board recommended that each club set aside a designated hour on October 18 to be known as Pilot hour.

The True Course Ever Fund was established to aid Pilots in distressing circumstances, due to ill health or misfortune.

Speaker 3: As Pilots returned home from the Houston Convention, they were making plans for the year with special emphasis on the 20th Anniversary to be celebrated in Macon. Little did anyone realize that due to the war they would not meet again at an Annual Convention for five years.

The Pilot International Conventions were canceled for 1942, 1943, 1944, and 1945. Because of the war, Clubs voted to cancel the Annual Conventions. Mrs. Etha G. Hall from Greensboro, North Carolina, who was elected as President in Houston, served as President for five years.

Speaker 1: The War ends and plans are made for the 25th Annual Convention in New York City at the Hotel New Yorker. The Executive Committee held 2 meetings in 1946 and a member of the Executive Board visited each district.

“Women’s Responsibilities as World Citizens” was the theme for the 25th Anniversary Convention held June 14-15 1946 with 498 attending. The President announced that 52 clubs had been chartered since the last convention. Qualifications for club presidents were approved....The “Housewife” classification was retained and those members given the privilege to hold office.

Speaker 2: The 1946-1947 Pilot International President was Miss Harriet McSwean from Selma, Alabama. The 25th the Founders Day was celebrated Oct. 19-20, 1946 in Macon with more than 300 Pilots in attendance. A Committee was appointed investigate the possibility of moving Pilot Headquarters from Macon to a city more centrally located.

The first Canadian Club was chartered in 1947. The 26th Annual Convention was held in Columbus, Ohio with 421 in attendance. This was the first convention with delegates from outside the United States. A complete revision of the Pilot International Constitution and Bylaws held priority on the business agenda. Dues and initiation fees were increased to \$6.00. It was approved for future conventions to be three days instead of two. President Laura Albrecht from Davenport, Iowa saw the organization flourish with the chartering of 32 clubs including clubs from Hamilton and Toronto, Canada and Honolulu, Hawaii.

The 27th Annual Convention was held in Daytona Beach, Florida with 746 members in attendance, the largest number to date.

Speaker 3: Mrs. Josie M. Roberts of Houston Texas was the 1948-49 President and the first President to have served as President Elect. Clubs were chartered in France and London as well as 21 clubs in the States. Pilot International had 251 clubs in 29 states of the United States, and also in Mexico, Canada, Hawaii, France and England. The 28th Annual Convention was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago, IL with 615 in attendance. A five year International Project, the restoration of the village of Vimoutiers, France, was approved by the Convention body. The Village had been accidentally bombed by the American Air Force.

PI President Ruby Newhall from Gainesville, Florida passed away on October 18, 1949 and President Elect Susan R C Beter from Albuquerque, NM became President for 1949-1950. The Annual Convention was held in Washington, DC July 27-29, 1950 with 710 in attendance. A special guest was Pearl Sparks who related how she wrote the Code of Ethics. Convention business included a resolution that the Headquarters of Pilot International be removed from

Macon, GA to a more centrally located place in the vicinity of Chicago, Illinois. After considerable discussion, the motion did not pass.

Speaker 1: The 1950-1951 President was Mrs. Mamie K Taylor of Atlanta, Ga. Lea Joiner of Monroe, LA was appointed the first Pilot International Chaplain. The Pilot Club of Tokyo was chartered March 15, 1951. The 30th Annual Convention was held in St Louis, Missouri July 25-28, 1951 with 524 in attendance. It was the first time advanced registration was used. "To Keep Freedom in The World" was adopted as Pilot International's 10 year objective.

During the 1952 Annual Convention in Mackinac Island, Michigan, Pilots approved the formation of Anchor Clubs. In that year, five Anchor Clubs were in existence and one year later there were ten clubs.

The five year project to help rebuild Vimoutiers, France was completed and Pilot now had 346 clubs and 9,800 members.

Speaker 2: Winifred Newman presided at the 1955 convention in Los Angeles, California – the first convention to be held on the west coast. Miss Toshika Morikawa of Tokyo, Japan was present to receive a two year Ruby Newhall scholarship. She was the niece of the charter President of the Pilot Club of Tokoyo, Tsugi Shiraishi.

Pilot's largest annual Convention – to date – was held in Miami Beach, Florida in 1956 with President Edith McBride Cameron presiding. The installation of the 1956-1957 President was a special event at this Convention. Miss Lucy B. Allen, Charter Member and first President of Pilot International installed the first President elected from outside the United States, Jean Conacher of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Jean Conacher and the Executive Director visited our European Clubs. The first Fall Council of European Clubs was held in London, England. President Jean also visited Vimoutiers, France where she presented a check to Mayor Gavin for Friendship Trees.

Speaker 3: Twelve Clubs were organized during the 1957-1958 year when Billye Russell of Houston, Texas was President. Pilot now had 407 Clubs with a membership of almost 12,000 and there were 77 Anchor Clubs with a membership of 2,500.

The 1959 Convention was held in Chicago, Illinois with President Mildred Bradshaw presiding. When the key note speaker left the ballroom with the President's report, several Pilots were sent to hunt him down. The speaker and report were found and the convention continued after a good laugh by all.

Speaker 1: And so, we celebrate our rich heritage of Pilot history through the 40's and 50's and look forward to our grand celebration of 100 years of friendship and service through Pilot in 2021.