President’s Message

Our celebration of International Women’s Day made the month of March very exciting. Women in Aerospace celebrated a few days early as many of our aerospace companies organized events on the actual day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. International Women’s Day is about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action…thank you to everyone who acknowledged and celebrated this day.

We have an exciting announcement...Women in Aerospace Canada Maritimes has had a name change to Women in Aerospace Canada Atlantic. Why? To welcome Newfoundland!!! This year we are going to start hosting events in Newfoundland. This is exciting, congratulations Eva Martinez. We would also like to thank ACADA –the Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defense Association for their fantastic support and sponsorship.

I encourage you to share this newsletter with others you know in the aerospace and aviation industry. It doesn’t matter their level of employment – from entry level to senior executives, from administrative to technical to engineering roles and everything in between. We want to reach all women in this field.

Our organization is growing in all provinces. Anyone interested in volunteering or becoming a director, please contact Leigh Kras at leigh.kras@wia-canada.org

I look forward to meeting all you phenomenal women at our future events.

Val Wilson
President, Women in Aerospace Canada

Recent Events

WIA Christmas Party – December 13, 2017

On December 13th, WIA Canada held our Annual Christmas Party at Culinaire Restaurant, located in the historic Elliot House, a renovated farmhouse built in the Georgian style between 1836 and 1850. Once again, it was a spectacular evening of fun and laughter as we learned to cook under the tutelage of Chef Anthony, sampled wine from Colio Winery and marveled at Michael’s magic tricks. It was also a great opportunity to re-acquaint and meet new colleagues in our industry. Thanks to our sponsors, Safran Landing Systems and UTC Aerospace Systems, for their generous support and enthusiasm for this event.

Upcoming Events

WIA Lunch & Learn, Elliott-Matsuura – April 13, 2018

Join WIA Canada at Elliott-Matsuura on April 13th and learn about Levering Change Management to Improve Your Project Success. As a project professional, have you ever asked yourself: What do I say to my team members to help them through times of change?, What do I need to do to plan for the change implementation? You are not alone. Every organization experiences some form of change requiring varying degrees of organizational transformation in order to survive a rapidly shifting environment. Many leaders, project managers and employees struggle to keep up with the pressures to respond to demands of the changing economy. Siobhan Brown will lead the discussion aimed to assist project managers and business analysts to identify and address the typical questions and concerns that employees raise during times of uncertainty, as well as how to use appropriate change strategies and corresponding behaviors to address employee responses to change in order to improve overall project success.

Event is Sold Out.

Workshop, Moncton Flight College – April 26, 2018

What are you doing to Re-Ignite Your Ambition? Are you ready to strive for bigger projects, ask for a seat at the table, and put your hand up for more challenging assignments and bigger positions in your career? Join us April 26th for an interactive workshop with professional coach Andrea Janzen to address the leadership opportunities and challenges that are unique to women and the harm induced when we fail to recognize our own potential.

Tickets
On Thursday, February 1st 2018, Women In Aerospace – Canada & Ryerson University held our 6th Annual Speed Mentoring Event, at Ryerson’s Mattamy Center in downtown Toronto. This year approximately 30 influential Industry Leaders took up the invitation to act as Mentors and generously gave their time to help prepare our future colleagues. Over 80 college and university students from local institutions took advantage of the incredible opportunity presented to them to network, solicit advice and explore possible career paths. Many thanks go out to the Ryerson staff and personnel who have hosted the event for the past 6 years. This year, largely through their tireless efforts, we achieved the largest attendance to the event to date.

A special thank-you goes to our Key Note Speaker, Erin Tsang, who, as a recent graduate landing her first professional position in her chosen field, provided an inspirational and timely outline of her personal “roadmap to success”. Erin also worked on this year’s speed mentoring event organizing committee and participated as a Mentor, offering insights she gained during her job search. The consensus from both Mentees and Mentors was that it was once again, time well spent. As one Mentor put it, “Thanks to WIA-Canada and Ryerson for organizing all this and I can’t wait to come again next year.”

On Wednesday February 28, 2018, Women in Aerospace Canada Maritimes participated in a “Re-Ignite Your Ambition” workshop with professional coach, Andrea Janzen. Sponsored by ACADA (Atlantic Canada Aerospace and Defence Association) and hosted at Jazz Aviation, the sell-out event focused on identifying what women strive for, what drives our ambition, how to deal with self-doubt and how silence our inner critic. Andrea’s workshop helped the over 70 participants address the leadership opportunities and challenges that are unique to women and the harm induced when we fail to recognize our own potential. Andrea’s enthusiasm and relatable approach allowed the participants to acknowledge our capabilities, see the bigger picture, and step outside our comfort zones! The event concluded with tours of the Jazz Aviation maintenance hangar and the Systems Operations Control.

On March 2nd, WIA Canada was excited to host our annual International Women’s Day event at The Country Club in Woodbridge. Guest speaker, Fareen “Far” Samji, is living everyday Smashing the Grass Ceiling. With a personal best drive of 334 yards and only 5’5” tall, she has taken the competitive world of Long Drive by storm, proving that bigger isn’t better... better is better. Following her own path, she has achieved success as an entrepreneur, as an internationally acclaimed athlete, and as a community leader. If you were lucky enough to attend the event, you would also know that Far is a passionate and insightful speaker. She spoke eloquently about breaking out of our norms and gave us some of handy tools we can use next time we are invited to a corporate golf event. All the lucky participants at the event received a free copy of Far’s book “Smashing the Grass Ceiling” which gives an alternative approach to golf, giving women the basic skills and the confidence to get out onto the golf course and realize the unique business advantages that only golf offers.

Thank you to our sponsors for this amazing event: MHI Canada Aerospace, Safran, Tranlingo Business Services Corp., J-Squared Technologies Inc and HWI.

A Free Aviation Event Presented By The First Canadian Ninety-Nines And Durham Flight Centre. This event focuses on encouraging girls to take interest in aviation and aerospace by providing them with information from education specialists. They also organize the opportunity for 200 girls to go for a free flight by pre-registering on their website. www.girlstakeflight.ca

The Ontario Aerospace Council is pleased to be able to offer FOUR scholarships for the 2018-2019 Academic Year for students going into or currently enrolled in an aerospace studies program at a post-secondary institution (college or university) in Ontario. The value of each scholarship is $2,000.00 CAD. OAC Scholarship (3 available) WIA Canada Scholarship (1 available)

Applications must be received no later than Friday, May 4, 2018. Link: Scholarships

The benefits of membership with Women in Aerospace Canada are numerous.

Networking
Programming
Career Resources
Professional Development
Recognition of Contribution to Aerospace

To join or renew your membership, go to: http://wia-canada.org/membership/

To be added or removed from the WIA-Canada distribution list, please send an e-mail to Leigh.Kras@wia-canada.org