



Dear Members and Friends,

We are now a calendar year membership organization.

Each of our current members have received notice of the balance due to be paid through all of 2026.

If you are on paypal autorenew, please correct your record

Madeleine Monaco, President

April Safety Program

Tom DeJan gave an impactful presentation on March 18, at Harper. The video showing a Stinson 108-3 taking off from a 5000' dirt strip in Idaho was enough to scare most of us back to ground school performance charts. Should be required viewing on a regular basis. Know your airplane, own or rent, it will take you either where you want to go, or where you don't!

It is our privilege to be able to meet at



Harper College

[Learning and Career Center](#)

1375 South Wolf Road, Prospect Heights, 60070

Located on the east side of Wolf Road, one block south of Palatine Road

APRIL 22 PENNY LEVIN CFI, PHD, CAP, 99 AND CEPA

Will present

Don't Let the Plane Outfly your Brain!

WINGS CREDITS AWARDED AT END OF PRESENTATIO

Our upcoming Safety Programs will feature some new presenters. Please bring another pilot or two to the presentation and encouraging them to improve their aviation skills and abilities by earning FAASTeam Safety Wings with us.

May 27	Bob Reynolds	Using AI for Flight Planning
June 24	Aaron Barclay CFI, ATC	Talking to Planes
June 27	100 Year Anniversary	Run the Runway, Anniversary celebration, Rock the Runway
July 28	Annual Scholarship Awards	Hangar Party

(let us know if you would like a Flying Companion presentation that night)

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CALENDAR

**OUR BOARD MEETS MONTHLY 1st Monday 7pm
Atlantic Aviation Conference Room 7:00pm**

Board Meetings

Jul 6		
Aug 3		
Sep 7		Atlantic Aviation Conference Room
Apr 6	Oct 5	
May 4	Nov 2	
June 1	Dec 7	

Safety Programs

Jun 24		
Aug 26		Harper College Prospect Hts
Sep 23		
Apr 22	Oct 28	
May 27	Nov 11	

Social Events

July Member Appreciation Hangar Party
and Scholarship Awards
December Holiday Party

Dates and places tbd

Membership in Chicago Executive Pilots Association is open to any user of Chicago Executive Airport. Dues are \$40.00 annually and include a subscription to our monthly newsletter.

Associate Members (family members, businesses at KPWK, youth aviation organization members-like Aviation Explorers, Civil Air Patrol and others) are \$15.00 per year.

Student Members \$15.00 per year are expected to change to another category upon earning their first certificate.

CEPA has many ways you can maximize your membership
Safety programs Social events Newsletters

Chicago Executive Pilots' Association Newsletter is published monthly This organization was formed in 1986 as a forum for the users of Chicago Executive Airport (formerly Palwaukee) and as a conduit for information from the users to the governing body and from the governing body to the users. Our mission is to promote the safety of operations and continued development of Chicago Executive Airport in a fraternal environment with the pilots, users and community. Membership is open to users of Chicago Executive Airport who support the goals and objectives as stated in the bylaws. Dues are \$40.00 annually and include newsletter.

Letters to the Editor, feedback, concerns or questions and any articles submitted must be received by the 20th of the month. Submissions will be printed on a space available basis and may be edited for style, length and appropriate content. Send text as a Microsoft Word file attached to an email to editor@pwkpilots.org. Please make prior arrangement with the editor for any files not electronically transmitted,

CHICAGO EXECUTIVE PILOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 1005 S WOLF ROAD STE 106 WHEELING, IL 60090-6408

CHICAGO EXECUTIVE PILOTS

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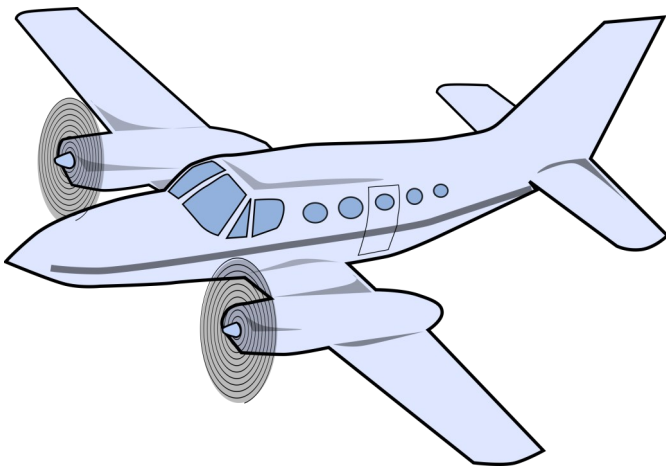
For Flight Training at KPWK

Applicants must train at one of
our participating flight schools

&

For Tuition at an Illinois Higher Education Institution

Applicants must be full time residents of Illinois



*See our CEPA website for
2026 applications*

Pwkpilots.org

CHICAGO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT



1926 • PWK • 2026

Message from Executive Director Jeff Miller

Taxiway Echo/Hotspot mitigation: Targeting mid June start date for new taxiway Kilo 3

EMAS: Reviewing with the FAA if there are items we can do to the fenceline to stop vehicles without risking vehicles or aircraft further

Sky Harbour Project: Sky Harbour is planning construction starting mid-summer/fall

Runway 6/24 closure: The Airport submitted May 1st as the closure date (this is a place holder and the closure will probably be after May 1st, notices will be sent out in advance of the actual closure date)

MWRD: Reviewing project materials and scheduling, will be closures on taxiway Lima near Atlantic (notices will be sent out)

The Board passed the budget last night with no changes from the initial proposal for a raise in rates. We intend to be on the communities calendars for approvals in April.

RUN THE RUNWAY

Chicago Executive Pilots Association will be one of the sponsors for Run The Runway again in 2026, and will have a booth staffed on the display ramp the morning of the race. Some of us will be running, some walking, some witnessing, some holding down the booth. Please join us in any of these activities.

Sign up on the CEA website to enter to Run 5K or Walk 1 mile on the Runway.

New Horizons

One current loss and one remembered officer

Chester Wojnicki flew his last flight March 4, 2026

Aviation was one of the greatest passions of his life. He as a long time member of the aviation community at Chicago Executive Airport and was active with CEPA as well as CAP. We mourn his loss and offer our sympathy to his friends and family. Way back when CEPA was brand new and known as PAPA (Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association) one of the co-founders of our group was Barry Dainas. Barry sent this recollection to us as he remembered Chester.

From Barry:

I met Chester at the outside tiedown area where we both parked our airplanes. His Cessna 172, N738MR, was used in his training for the Instrument Rating. I was his CFII for the entire course starting the first flight lesson on 10/12/96. I signed him off for the Instrument flight exam on 4/9/97 and 11/20/97.

Allan Englehardt, FAA Designee, did not pass him on the first attempt, but Chester really got serious for the second flight test passing with high marks. In fact Allan called me right after the ride claiming Chester had met ATP standards and asked how did I bring about so much change. The answer simply was that Chester was an excellent pilot and had a good feel for safely controlling his airplane.

A few years later he purchased a Cessna T210M, N19FB. In year 2000 and 2001 Chester and I once again took to the air for 3 flights totaling 6.1 hours in instrument training in high performance retractable aircraft in his T210M airplane. He learned the aircraft configurations for IFR and trained on approaches doing extremely well. I've kept in contact once in a while after retiring to Florida in 2007. Chester always had a smile on his face and I've always felt that I learned as much from him as he from me in all our conversations.

If you wish to memorialize any member of our airport community, please send your remembrances to the editor at mjmonaco150@gmail.com

Warren Bruhl flew his last flight November 22, 2023

Warren William Bruhl began life on March 21, 1964 born in Detroit, MI. Life eventually led him to the west coast and South Lake Tahoe, California. Following an early graduation at the age of 16, he completed his associate degree at Sacramento State Junior College, at 18, and decided to pursue chiropractic. At 22, Warren began his career as a Doctor of Chiropractic. In the late 80s Warren met and then married Marka Heller and they welcomed three children Austin, Montana, and Sage into their lives. When they sold their clinic he began a new chapter in his life.

Post-retirement. Warren frequented Kenya and the Dominican Republic providing free chiropractic care and teaching manual healing techniques to healthcare providers. He recognized that sport could be a means for creating opportunities for overcoming poverty and recognizing self-potential, so he started a non-profit called Gear4Goals to deliver equipment to underserved boys and girls internationally. Gear4Goals has provided over 200,000 pieces of equipment.

Alongside his mother and step-father, Kenny Taylor, he helped institute a school and hospital in Kenya's rural countryside. Warren co-authored the book *Wavers and Beggars*, exploring global poverty and confronting its challenges. Warren was passionate about the betterment of humanity and taking on challenges to "help the needy become the needed". Warren began to take flying lessons in 2015, and earned his pilot's license in 2017. At the time of his passing, he was an instrument-rated commercial single and multi-engine airplane and helicopter pilot. He was a CFI, CFII, and multi-engine instructor; an experienced aerobatic and tailwheel pilot; and co-founder of Gambit aviation.

In his memory we sign off as he would: "Be well."

From Madeleine

I met Warren during his Private Pilot Flight Training and watched as he learned to fly everything in sight. Helicopters, aerobatics, and Tigger, his well-loved Cirrus, were constant topics of conversation. During his training time for certificates and ratings, Warren found himself interested in the work that CEPA does and joined our Board. He was not only generous with his time, but also a very generous donor to the scholarship fund. His contributions to CEPA and to pilots and aircraft owners were many. When Warren passed, we did not post this information, but thinking about and reading about Chester, it seemed fitting to write something now. We lose too many in our aviation family. And that's why we work hard for excellence, constant learning and safety.

Culture of Silence: A Spotlight on Pilot Mental Health

by Paige Kuhn



Left: PMHC volunteers gathered on the steps of Capitol Hill in Washington, DC for Advocacy Day 2026.

Top Right: Paige Kuhn posing with Chairwoman of the NTSB, Jennifer Homendy.



Bottom Right: Legislative Assistant Brigid Ueland stands with a group of PMHC volunteers outside Senator Pete Ricketts' office (left to right: Brigid Ueland, Stephanie Seefried, Krista Simmons, Carlos Diaz, Paige Kuhn, David Block).

Pilot mental health is a subject often ignored, shrouded in stigma and layered with regulatory complexities: Let's change the narrative. The Pilot Mental Health Campaign (PMHC) is a volunteer-based grassroots advocacy group dedicated to modernizing the current aeromedical system. Presently, controllers and pilots are disincentivised from seeking help and live in fear of reporting treatable medical conditions. This has already created an unsafe culture of silence in aviation; from chest pains to grief counseling, pilots are withholding information, deferring or denying treatment, and seeking informal medical care.

The culture of silence and avoidance affects the aviation community from the airlines all the way to general aviation and even aspiring pilots. When I began my pilot journey in 2022, I had no idea it would take me over two years and \$10,000 to get a - Special Issuance FAA medical certificate. Prior to that, I was becoming acquainted with the possibility that I would never fly an airplane solo or progress in my flight training. One day while searching the internet for guidance, I stumbled across PMHC and learned that thousands of others are also experiencing the effects of our broken aeromedical system.

I started volunteering with PMHC in 2025. Since then, I have contributed to social media efforts, worked our booth at AirVenture, been featured in an interview with MzeroA, and spoken to staffers on Capitol Hill. Each year since its founding in 2023, PMHC has coordinated an Advocacy Day in Washington, DC where volunteers come together and speak with representatives and senators about the need for legislative change to improve our aeromedical system.

Our focus this Advocacy Day was to garner more co-sponsors and support for the bipartisan Mental Health in Aviation Act (which passed unanimously under suspension in the House), as well as the Aviation Medication Transparency Act (introduced in the House). Please refer to the links below to read about the bills:

[H.R.2591 - Mental Health in Aviation Act of 2025](#)

[H.R.2592 -Aviation Medication Transparency Act of 2025](#)

Both of these bills aim to increase transparency, efficiency, and safety, while reducing costs, wait times, and stress. These bills will not lower the standards airmen and controllers adhere to; rather, they will break down barriers that have for too long fostered a culture of silence in our vulnerable community. Each member of the flying public will be safer if we address these known issues within our aeromedical system.

So, you're thinking: What can I do to help effect change? Consider...

- Contacting your local representatives & senators.
- Talking about it! Bring it up at your next pancake breakfast, visit to the local FBO, EAA Chapter, Ninety-Nines meeting, the list goes on!
- Familiarizing yourself with current proposed legislation.
- Posting about pilot mental health on social media.
- Joining our advocacy efforts by signing up through our website.

Please check out our website pmhc.org to learn more, find us on social media, and volunteer for/donate to our organization. Let's work together to break the culture of silence and keep the blue side up!

OUR MISSION SINCE 1986

- Promoting and preserving safe and efficient operation of the general aviation airport system to the benefit of the community and to advance public understanding and interest in the beneficial use and utilization of aviation through educational and charitable means.
- Unifying the interests of all supporters and users of the Chicago Executive Airport and through unity, creating a voice more readily heard in all forums.
- Organizing the activities of the members as a group in establishing and maintaining good relationships with the community, the Airport Authorities representing the Village of Wheeling and City of Prospect Heights, as well as favorable and accurate aviation reports and reviews by the press, radio and television.
- Furthering the cause of aviation safety, utility and enjoyment through a corporate participation in the opportunities to comment on issues, on proposed regulations, and on pending legislation.
- Providing, through mutual action, functions and activities which present the Airport and aviation as a valuable resource to the local municipalities and to the county and state. OUR PAST AND FUTURE WORK
- Grew from the grass roots reactions to the purchase of our airport by Prospect Heights/Wheeling in 1985. Initial meeting netted approximately 80 members and grew to over 300 members in a few short years.
- Attended almost every meeting of the controlling government body for more than 30 years. Had pilots/ members sitting on that body for many years.
- Provided monthly newsletters to KPWK users keeping them informed consistently for more than 30 years.
- Worked with city/village governments including presenting requests and information at city/village council meetings. Had members serving in municipal government.
- Won the praise of the AOPA for organizing efforts.
- Won an award presented by the FAA for Outstanding Airport Action Group.
- Won the Spirit of Flight Award given by the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame.
- Interceded with Com Ed to mark and then bury the wires at the south east corner approach to RWY 6.
- Succeeded in keeping the owning municipalities from closing one of our runways.
- Convinced the FAA to support keeping TWY Lima open full length of 16/34.
- Presented more than 170 FAA approved educational safety seminars open to ALL for free
- Lobbied successfully for a 2nd FBO on the field and kept communications open with all FBOs since.
- Lobbied successfully for affordable T Hangars and lobbied for marketing the empty tiedowns unsuccessfully.
- Still lobbying for affordable, municipal, non-FBO based fuel supply provided by our landlord.
- Provided programs of benefit to the neighboring communities: children's aviation education, any age first flights, outreach to local schools, participation in career fairs, Master Plan meetings, airport tours, charity events and countless other "good citizen" activities.
- Provided a highly successful and enduring college aviation scholarship program. Many thousands of dollars given in more than 45 scholarships to Illinois students in Illinois institutions of higher learning, and to flight students at KPWK, all the while growing a 501 fund that will eventually be self sustaining.
- Continuing to fund CAP Cadets with financial need for attendance at Johnson Flight Academy
- Adding flight time mini scholarships for Aviation Explorer Post members and D214/Lewis U High school students
- Our members should be very proud.