Ninety-Nines Recognized for Aerospace Education Efforts

Arlington, VA - One of aviation’s oldest and most admired organizations, The Ninety-Nines, has been chosen to receive the National Aeronautic Association’s Frank G. Brewer Trophy, an award that recognizes excellence in aerospace education.

Formed in 1929 to represent and support the interests of women pilots, The Ninety-Nines (named after the number of women who were charter members of the organization) was picked as the latest Brewer winner for the group’s long standing efforts to promote aviation to young people and to otherwise contribute to aerospace education both in the United States and around the world.

Throughout its 73-year history, The Ninety-Nines has, as part of its educational outreach, conducted workshops for teachers and school administrators on how to incorporate aviation and related subjects into school curricula, distributed aviation education materials and developed programs to encourage learning and interest in aviation careers.

“The selection committee was impressed with the long-term effort and dedication of The Ninety-Nines to aerospace education,” said Don Koranda, President of NAA. “It’s clear this organization, and its individual members, have made aerospace education one of their primary missions.” The backdrop for the meeting of the Brewer Selection Committee was the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. The Brewer trophy is on display in the museum.

"The Ninety-Nines are proud to be selected as the 2002 recipient of the prestigious Frank G. Brewer Trophy by the National Aeronautic Association,” said Vicki Sherman, President of The Ninety-Nines. “This is welcomed recognition of the dedicated work of our women pilots in involving youth in aviation and promoting aerospace education both in the United States and abroad".
Headquartered today in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, The Ninety-Nines began life on Long Island in October 1929 when four women flyers sent a letter to all 117 licensed female pilots in the United states inviting them to join together for the purpose of getting to know one another, obtaining jobs in aviation, participating in air races and staying informed as to developments in aeronautical research. The Ninety-Nines first president, Amelia Earhart, came up with the idea for the group’s name. One of its founding members, Fay Gillis Wells, was tapped last year to receive another award administered by the National Aeronautic Association, the Katharine B. Wright Award.

The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) awards the Frank G. Brewer Trophy annually to an individual or organization that makes a “contribution of enduring value to aerospace education.” Although usually awarded to an individual, this year’s presentation will mark the second time in as many years that the trophy has been won by an organization. Last year’s award went to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Spacelink Team, a group that provides electronic access to NASA’s space-related educational materials.

The Brewer Trophy will be presented on Thursday, April 4th, in Washington, D.C., at a special evening award ceremony and reception at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum.

NAA is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the general public. The Brewer trophy was established in 1943 and honors the memory of Alabama businessman Frank G. Brewer’s two sons who served in World War II.

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