

## 2012 WSPA Election Candidates

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### Eastern Region

#### Frauke Elber



I started soaring in 1962 in Germany. After relocating to Virginia in 1970 my husband and I immediately joined Tidewater Soaring Society. In 1972 I responded to Bertha Ryan's survey to find out how many women glider pilots were in the US. I became a charter member of WSPA in 1986. Since 2001 I am the editor of Hangar Soaring. In this capacity I automatically had a berth on the Board but as a non-voting member. With the now proposed change in the by-laws I will be able to put my name on the ballot and when elected will have a voice in the decision making. In 2005 I was awarded the Exceptional Service Award by the SSA. I also was the first woman in Virginia to claim a feminine altitude record and held on to it for 11 years.

Although I am not actively flying anymore I am still devoting a lot of time to soaring, especially in the international arena

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### Lynda LaBerge



Sec'y of WSPA and Eastern representative 2011-2012

First solo in Grob 103, 1999 Florida. 2004 Commercial Glider pilot holding the North Carolina altitude record with Jane Reid (22,400 feet over Mt Mitchell)...significant for the east coast. ASK21.

Pandora Aviation: Meadowlark Farm, GA75. 1999-2012 Co-Owner/operator with Phillip LaBerge . Tow pilot. Charter flight pilot, 300 hours King Air and Beech Jet.

Single/Multiengine land Commercial operator with over 2500 hours. Instrument rated. Typed second in command DC-3.

Tow Pilot for numerous National, Regional and local contests for 11 years.

Banner tow pilot 2006-2007, Maryland, Georgia.

Currently own ASW20, 2- K7's, Blanik L13, Piper Cub, Pawnee 260HP

Additional:

Texas A & M: Masters Degree in Psychology 1993

Ladycliff College, NY: Bachelors of Science in Biology 1970

Certification in Diamond Grading 2006

Faculty, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center 1991-1999, Pain Management, Psychology.  
Private practice, Psychology Dallas, 1993-1999.

Before this I professionally trained Arabian Horses for 25 years in Houston, Texas.

One INCREDIBLE daughter, 41, living in Dallas, Texas.

Married to Phillip LaBerge , Cpt. Delta (retired). Has taught glider flight for 27 years. Taught me to fly

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### Pat Valdata



Pat Valdata is a founding member and past president of the WSPA. She has attended 24 annual Women Soaring Seminars and represented the WSPA at events such as Women Fly It Forward in Frederick, Maryland; Women in Aviation Day at Martin State Airport, Middle River, Maryland; Soaring 100 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; and at SSA Annual Conventions and Women in Aviation International Conventions. She has had numerous articles published about the WSPA in Soaring and Women in Aviation magazines.

Pat is also a founding member, past president and former flight instructor for the Atlantic Soaring Club. She has a commercial glider rating and silver badge # 5414. She currently flies a Pilatus B-4 sailplane

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### Central Region

#### Leah Condon



Hi everyone, my name is Leah Condon and I live in Wichita, KS. My first introduction to soaring was in 2006 when my then boyfriend (now husband) Tony managed to land out on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I had never even towed a U-Haul let alone a 20 foot long glider trailer. That started out my glider crew career. A few years of towing trailers was enough to convince me that I did not want to be left on the ground while Tony had all the fun so in November of 2009 I received my private pilot glider. These days I am slowing working on restoring my Cherokee II sailplane and am active in the Vintage Sailplane Association. The highlight of my summer was flying with Sarah in Chilhowee over Memorial Day weekend followed by achieving the long evasive (for me) SSA B-badge this August.

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### Stephanie Luongo



I began flying in 2008, working on a Private Pilot's license in a Cessna 172. I completed my instrument rating two years later and a glider rating a year later, instructed by WSPA's very own, Neita Montague. I am an electrical engineer by profession and am currently living in Denver-Boulder, Colorado. In addition to flying and all-things aviation, I enjoy sports, fitness and exercise, and travelling. I'm honored to be considered to serve on the board for a great organization like WSPA

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### Anne Wright



I have been a powered-airplane pilot since 1997, and fly a Supercub. In 2009 I added a Seaplane rating in a J3 Cub at Jack Brown Seaplane Base in Florida. I am currently working on adding a glider rating. I attended my first WSPA seminar at Chilhowee Gliderport in June, 2012, and was inspired and impressed by the enthusiasm and skill of the other women.

By learning to fly gliders my piloting skills have vastly improved, which was my original goal. Now I'm discovering the joy and challenge of soaring for its own sake.

For a ground school, I attended a two-day FIRC for glider instructors at the Ann Arbor Airport. I joined the Adrian Soaring Club in March, 2012. I soloed a Blanik L23 at Chilhowee, and am currently flying an ASK-13 with the club.

The challenge for me right now is the takeoff.

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### Western Region

#### Maja Djurisc



I am running for the second term on the Board of WSPA, for the years 2013-2014. My main objective for that period would be to streamline organization of the Annual Women Soaring Seminars, bring the organization's by-laws more in line with current practices and modernize everyday operations like membership and seminar applications. Hope is that some, or all, of these changes in how WSPA runs will further enhance the support from WSPA to women's glider pilot community.

For the past two years I have volunteered on the WSPA Board as the Vice-President and the Seminar Coordinator. During this first tenure on the Board, I helped organize two Seminars, one in Tucson Soaring Club in 2011, and this year's in Chilhowee, TN. Both of these Seminars were hugely successful. Currently, preparations for the 2013 Annual Women Soaring Seminar in Moriarty, NM, are briskly underway, and the site for 2014 Seminar is soon to be announced. Furthermore, my plans by the end of this 2-year period on the Board is to achieve the SSA Sanctioned status for the WSPA Seminars, as this will greatly alleviate insurance issues for clubs willing to host our events.

My soaring "career" started about three years ago when I joined Northern California Soaring Association (NCSA) as an ab initio student. Since then, I got my private rating, all the SSA badges and have started working through the FAI badge ladder. This coming winter, my plan is to train for the commercial glider rating. I am serving as a member on the NCSA Board, as well.

It has been great experience to witness true teamwork on our Board in the last couple of years. I especially enjoyed working with the Executive Board: Neita Montague, WSPA President, Mary Rust, our treasurer pro-tem who did some fabulous work in the time of great need for WSPA, and Lynda Lee, our current Secretary. I hope that I will continue to work with this team for the next two years, as we strive to make our growing organization even more a part of modern and competitive soaring community.

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### Neita Montague



Neita Montague began flying in those planes with engines in 1985 but thinks of her "real" flying as beginning in 1995 when she took her first glider ride in Estrella, AZ. Since then she got her Commercial Glider and in 2010, three months before the Reno Seminar, was "awarded" her CFIG. One of her goals is to encourage women to consider expanding their gliding skills by getting advanced ratings. As Mark, her husband, says, "If life were fair, the CFIG would pay their students the first years!" Being a CFIG is an incredible way of expanding your skills. And what better resource is there to earn a rating or move up in ratings than through the WSPA and its scholarships?

Neita became involved in the WSPA after attending the 2000 and 2005 Reno Seminars. She then attended the first Chilhowee Seminar in 2006, co-chaired the Avenal Seminar in 2007, facilitated the 2008 Indiana Seminar, coordinated the Slovenia Seminar and ran the Air Sailing 2010 Seminar. She participated in Tucson which Seminar was co-ordinated by Maja Djuriscic, WSPA Vice President and is looking forward to being in Moriarity in July 2013.

Neita is pleased to run for the office of President of the WSPA to continue the work of expanding the leadership of this energizing women's pilot group and of making the WSPA wider known in the soaring and aviation community. Under her leadership a new scholarship was offered through the Women in Aviation International.

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### International Region

#### Dani Cerne



Danica Volcansek Cerne has been a member of the WSPA since 2005. She was in the team who organized a WSPA seminar in 2009, the first time to take place in Europe.

In Slovenia she is active in the women pilots association and she is also a member of the FEWP in Europe. She became a glider instructor in 1995. In her club AK ALC Lesce she mostly flies a DG 100. She has a gold badge. She enjoys flying cross country and taking photos when she is flying in two seater. She likes to fly old gliders like KA -6, Weiche or SG-38 in Wasserkuppe.