

Boeing Leadership Association of Southern California

New Horizons

May 2024 – December 2024



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BLASC PRESIDENT'S Message:



As we approach the end of 2024, a year filled with both victories and challenges, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the 2024 BLASC Board of Directors. Your unwavering dedication to the success of our organization and the service of its members has been invaluable and is deeply appreciated.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to our members who volunteered their time to assist at events and serve as alternates for board positions. A warm thank you goes out to Imelda, Brian, Roberta, Jan, Dwayne, and Gina for your contributions this past year. If any member is interested in

getting involved with a committee or serving as an alternate, please feel free to reach out to me at heidi.j.crews@gmail.com.

This year, we experienced a profound loss with the passing of our long-time beloved member, Peter Kurzhals, in July. Peter was a cherished part of the BLASC family, and he leaves behind his loving wife, Trina. He will be greatly missed. We encourage everyone to share memories and notes of support online.

As many of you are aware, The Boeing Company faced several challenges in 2024, which ultimately led to a reduction in force. During this difficult time, BLASC is committed to providing a supportive community for both those who have separated from the company and those who continue their journey with us. We aim to stand by and serve all our members, and in 2025, we will focus on creating meaningful opportunities for connection and support.

This year, we also explored new meeting locations and speakers, and I want to thank those members who provided feedback to help us understand what worked best. Some highlights from the year include our Scholarship Award Dinner at the Knott's Hotel and our Top Leadership Night at the Old Ranch Country Club. We look forward to continuing to offer excellent general member meetings in 2025.

Looking ahead, the Boeing Leadership Association of Southern California relies on our board to bring our members amazing opportunities and events. I am pleased to announce the following board members for 2025, whose service will begin on January 23rd:

- President: Heidi Crews
- VP of Operations: Corine Kumano
- VP of Communications: Imelda Hawkin
- VP of Finance: Tiffany Gazzeny
- VP of Community Service: Daniela Nau
- VP of Membership: Cassidy Rath
- VP of Retirees/Alumni Member Services: Annie Fleury

Thank you, BLASC members, for being a vital part of this incredible organization dedicated to leadership in Southern California. I look forward to seeing you at our February General Membership Meeting!

BLASC General Membership Meetings

June 2024 GMM with Captain Diane Myers (Retired) – Leadership from the Skies



In a captivating and inspiring talk at the Boeing Leadership Association of Southern California June General Member Meeting dinner event, Captain Diane Rumble Myers of Continental Airlines shared her remarkable journey and insights into the world of aviation. As a trailblazer in a traditionally male-dominated field, Captain Myers' story resonates with aspiring pilots and leaders alike.

Captain Myers began her presentation by recounting the unlikely path that led her to aviation. Working near the airport, she found herself captivated by the planes overhead, which sparked a deep-seated passion for aviation. She didn't have any family nor knew anyone who was a pilot when she first got started, but from her very first discovery flight, she knew she didn't want to come down from the skies.

Captain Myers' story starts off in a corporate career much like all of us at Boeing. Determined to pursue her newfound interest, Diane embarked on flight training while continuing her computer programming job. Her dedication was evident as she balanced her work with rigorous flight lessons, eventually earning her Private Pilot certificate, Commercial certificate, and Instructor ratings in quick succession. Her journey from novice to seasoned pilot was marked by perseverance and a relentless pursuit of her dream.

In keeping with her adventurous spirit, Diane soloed a C-182 in the Palms to Pines Air Race to complete her Commercial Cross-Country requirements in 1974. Three years later, she flew a SIAI Marchetti Riviera seaplane solo in the race. Besides flying in several proficiency races, Diane also flew in the Powder Puff Derby twice before the race was discontinued. Soon after acquiring her Commercial rating and her Multi-Engine rating, but with only two hours of Lear Jet time and without ground school instruction, she was offered a position as co-pilot on Lear Jet 35s and 55s. These flights took Teamster Union officials to business meetings across the U.S. and Canada. The Teamsters' chief pilot had been in dire need of a co-pilot, and Diane was highly recommended. "I was at the right place at the right time," she recalls. And finally, there was an end to working nights as a programmer.

In 1983, Diane learned that Continental Airlines was looking for pilots. "I called them, and after an interview explaining I had approximately 5,000 hours flying time, many of which were in Lear Jets, I was hired." For three months she flew Boeing 727s as flight engineer out of Honolulu on the Air Micronesia Flight, a 14-hour route from Honolulu to Johnston Island, Majuro, Kwajalein, Ponape, Truk and Guam. She was soon upgraded to co-pilot. In less than two years she earned her Captain's rating, moving on to Boeing 737s.

For a period of time, she was flight instructor to foreign students from France, Korea, China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia in a Contract Flight Training Program. During this same period, she flew ferry flights around the globe for Continental. Diane then became a Check Airman in the Continental Flight Standards Department. She took one year off from that duty to fly the "Queen of the Fleet," the Boeing 777, mostly to Paris, France.

After an incredible and adventurous 22-year career with Continental Airlines, Captain Diane Myers retired and received a water cannon farewell in her final flight from Seattle to Houston. Diane had a remarkable career in aviation, and it continues to this day, as she is currently a CFI, shaping the next generation of pilots.

In closing, Captain Myers provided advice for those aspiring to follow in her footsteps. Her message was clear: passion, determination, and a positive attitude are crucial for success. If she could go back in time to give her younger self advice, she would tell herself to "Go for it". She encouraged aspiring pilots to stay focused on their goals, embrace challenges, and leverage support networks like The Ninety-Nines and Women in Aviation.

Contributed By: Vera Fair

August GMM: Celebrating Academic Success and Future Leaders



On August 13, 2024, BLASC proudly hosted its annual Scholarship Reception, an inspiring evening dedicated to celebrating the academic achievements and leadership journeys of exceptional high school and college students. The event brought together scholarship recipients, their families, and other Boeing leaders to acknowledge the students' hard work and bright futures. Held at Knotts Berry

Farm Hotel in Buena Park, the reception served as both a tribute to the students' accomplishments and a platform for the next generation of leaders to reflect on their journeys and ambitions.

The evening began with a gracious welcome from BLASC President Heidi Crews, whose heartfelt words set the tone for the night. She expressed deep gratitude to all attendees for their presence and support. Following a few announcements about upcoming events, the room was filled with the inviting aura of a carefully curated

dinner, providing a perfect backdrop for meaningful connections as scholarship recipients mingled with each other and the broader BLASC community. After the meal, Nandini Jani, Vice President of Community Services, took the stage to acknowledge the generous 2024 Scholarship Awards sponsors: Financial Partners Credit Union and Diana Mossman. Nandini also took a moment to recognize the scholarship committee volunteers who generously gave their time and effort to support the scholarship contest, especially Kim Talor and Daniela Nau. She eloquently introduced the distinguished scholarship recipients, highlighting their impressive academic records and professional aspirations.

The BLASC 2024 Scholarship Competition was a rigorous and multifaceted process, designed to recognize and reward outstanding talent. It included a timed essay, a professional interview, and an evaluation of academic transcripts. The awards were categorized into high school and college divisions, with the coveted Mossman Award presented to the most exemplary candidate from either group.

In the high school category, three extraordinary students were recognized: Elyse Sotak, Caitlyn Harenburg, and the first-place winner, Diego Fraembs. These young scholars demonstrated remarkable academic prowess and ambitious visions for their future collegiate endeavors.

The college category blazed with five outstanding scholars: Megan Kho, Nicholas Chang, Zoe Severson, Nicole Tarantino, and the overall competition winner, Talmage Cobb. Talmage, a dedicated second-year pre-medical

bioengineering student at University of California Riverside. He is currently conducting pancreatic stem cell research and tissue regeneration research. Talmage took home the 2024 Mossman Award.

Contributed By: Nandini Jani

October GMM: Leadership, Service, Sacrifice, Harmony, and Success

On October 15, 2024, BLASC was honored to host guest speaker Jonna Doolittle, granddaughter of the legendary aviator General James "Jimmy" Doolittle. Jonna mesmerized the audience with tales of



courage, resilience, love and the enduring legacy of her grandfather. As with any great story, Jonna started at the beginning where we learned that Jimmy was born in 1896 in Alameda, CA and he was quite the character. He grew up in Nome, Alaska where his father was a carpenter who built houses and panned for gold. Jimmy knew that was not the life for him, so he left for California where he went to community college and then UC Berkeley. In 1917, he enlisted in the Army Signal Corps Reserve where he learned to fly. We learned about his secret first record which was being "officer of the day" more than anyone else. We also learned about a public and well-known record that

he set which is flying cross-country from Pablo Beach, FL to Rockwell Field in San Diego, CA in less than 24 hours. The Army Air Corps sent Jimmy to mechanic school and also engineering school, so he was one of the first to marry those two together. He earned a Masters and a Doctorate degree from MIT in only a couple of years. He was one of the first to receive the Ph.D. in Aeronautics from MIT. His notes, which were typed by his wife, became the first textbook at MIT. Jimmy played a major role in shaping the aerospace industry not only through his heroism in World War II, but he also developed many of the instruments that we use in airplanes today.

In sharing his stories from the war which made him famous, we learned of his humility and dedication to his crew. When he was awarded the Medal of Honor, he didn't want to receive it because he felt that receiving a medal for the raid, cheapened it. He dedicated the medal to every one of the raiders who went out with him. After the famous raid, Jimmy was promoted from Lieutenant Colonel to General, skipping the rank of Colonel. Even as a three-star general, he still waited in line with everyone else to wash out his own mess kit. Not only did she tell us stories about her famous grandfather, Jonna honored the memory of her amazing grandmother, Josephine "Joe" Doolittle who was brilliant in her own right and had a photographic memory. Joe Doolittle nurtured a loving home that became known as the pilot's lounge where everyone would hang out and drink beer that she brewed herself. She was an incredible cook and could make anything. Even when Joe Doolittle had breast cancer and was going through difficult times herself, she was always focused on other people. She was a loving and kind person who would write 25-50 letters every day supporting and uplifting others. Our hearts and emotions were captivated by the love story between Jimmy and Joe. They were high school sweethearts, but her father didn't think Jimmy was good enough for his daughter, so they had to elope. On the day of their wedding at city hall, Joe Doolittle saw a frayed woman on the steps and pressed 50 cents into her palm even though they barely had \$25 between the two of them, and it is believed that this thoughtful act has brought them so much luck throughout their lives. They were in love and married for over 70 years. When Joe suffered a massive stroke in the 1980s, Jimmy came home that day and never left her side again until he had to receive his 4th star as a general. Through Jonna's engaging and vivid storytelling, we felt like we really got to know her grandfather and her grandmother, not only as legends in history, but also on a personal dimension as amazing people who we would want to have as friends to hang out with. When asked about their great grandfather, Jonna's daughters would say that "he was fun, he played with us, and he made us

laugh." Jimmy Doolittle believed that we should all leave the world a better place. Jonna preserves his legacy by encouraging all of us to write detailed letters to our children and grandchildren. I feel so incredibly grateful that we were invited to participate in such an inspirational and educational event.

Contributed By: Vera Fair

December GMM: BLASC 2024 Enchanted Christmas Party

This year, BLASC brought the magic of the holidays to life with an unforgettable Enchanted Christmas party. Held on December 7, 2024, the event was a celebration of the season's joy and our team's hard work throughout the year.

The enchanting theme set the tone for a truly spectacular evening, complete with twinkling lights, festive décor, and an atmosphere of holiday cheer at the Hilton in downtown Long Beach.



The main attractions of the evening were a lively casino night and a festive photo booth. Guests had a blast trying their luck at the tables, enjoying games like blackjack, poker, and roulette. Meanwhile, the photo booth captured memories of the night, complete with themed props and backdrops that added a touch of holiday magic.

The dance floor was alive with energy as attendees danced the night away to a mix of classic hits and recent releases. Live music and a DJ ensured there was something for everyone, keeping the party going well into the night.

Adding an extra layer of excitement, the evening featured a silent auction and raffle prizes. Guests bid on a range of incredible items, with proceeds supporting the BLASC 2025 Scholarship Fund. The silent auction raised \$440.00 to support next year's scholarship contest and raffle winners were delighted to take home an array of fabulous prizes, rounding out the festive celebration with plenty of smiles.

The Christmas party was also an opportunity to give back to the community beyond BLASC. With a goal of making a difference, our team collected a variety of items, including brand-new bedding, kitchen appliances, children's toys, cleaning supplies and other household necessities. Additionally, we raised \$875 in monetary donations to support the vital work of Thomas House Family Shelter. Thomas House Family Shelter is known for its supportive services and educational programs that foster independence and stability for families and children experiencing homelessness. By partnering with this incredible organization, BLASC aims to ensure our contributions bring joy and relief to those in need.

The Enchanted Christmas party was a true highlight of the year, bringing employees together to celebrate the season and each other. Events like this remind us of the importance of community, connection, and a little holiday magic.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who attended and made the evening special. Here's to an incredible year ahead and more magical moments to come!

Contributed By: Nandini Jani

BLASC Spreads Holiday Cheer with Charity Donations

This holiday season, BLASC demonstrated the true spirit of giving at our annual Christmas party. Employees came together to support a meaningful cause, contributing both household items and monetary donations for Thomas House Family Shelter, a homeless shelter in Garden Grove, California.



The Christmas party, held on December 7, 2024, wasn't just a celebration of the year's accomplishments but also an opportunity to give back to the community. With a goal of making a difference, our team collected a variety of items, including brand-new bedding, kitchen appliances, children's toys, cleaning supplies and other household necessities. Additionally, we raised \$875 in monetary donations to support the vital work of Thomas House Family Shelter.

Thomas House Family Shelter is known for its supportive services and educational programs that foster independence and stability for families and

children experiencing homelessness. By partnering with this incredible organization, BLASC aims to ensure our contributions bring joy and relief to those in need.

As the year comes to an end, we're reminded of the importance of community and compassion. BLASC is proud to play a role in supporting those in need and looks forward to continuing these efforts in the future.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all BLASC members and guests who participated in this initiative and to Thomas House Family Shelter for their partnership. Together, we're making the holiday season brighter for many.

Contributed By: Nandini Jani

2024 Annual Golf Tournament



Boeing Leadership Association of Southern California (BLASC) held its 4th annual golf tournament on Monday July 29 at the quaint Riverview Golf Course in Santa Ana. The weather was perfect, and our 5 foursomes were eager to hit the challenging course as it was BLASC's first tournament at Riverview.

At first glance, the course appears to be docile, but our players soon found themselves confronted with twists and turns as the course is narrow!

Box lunches were served mid-way through the course, refreshing our players to finish the final 9 holes. Afterwards, players recharged under the shady trees in the patio area where awards were given for their gallant efforts!

Our teams played best ball and the final standings were:

Team De Pina led by Frank De Pina overall score was 59.

Team Alyce led by Alyce Hullet had 65.

Rocky Lin and team scored a 69.

Team Andersen led by Dave Andersen finished with a score of 72.

Ted Tamba led his team to a finish with a 75.



Congratulations to all our players for coming out and supporting BLASC's scholarship fund where a portion of their purchases from mulligans and opportunity drawing tickets helped. Special thanks to volunteers Tiffany Gazzeny, Corine Kumano and Kim Talor for coordinating this annual event. Lots of free swag was provided and a special thanks to Financial Partners Credit Union for always providing something special for our participants!

Contributed By: Kim Talor

Girl Scouts STEM Expo – October 2024

The Boeing Leadership Association of Southern California (BLASC) was host to nearly 300 young potential engineers, mathematicians, creative thinkers at the 9th annual Girl Scouts of Orange County STEM Expo held on the beautiful grounds of the Orange Coast College on Sunday, October 13.



BLASC was among 30 other supporting organizations to participate on a delightful Sunday afternoon. Each sponsor has activities to engage, encourage and entertain these young minds, and BLASC was no different. Our table activity was to build a parachute from colorful tissue paper, string, and CANDY CORN (for a weight, of course!) And then test it by throwing it up in the air "launching" the parachute. The youngsters changed out the candy for nuts and bolts as counterweights to test how the different "loads" made the parachutes perform. They learned how parachutes are used, like delivering relief supplies to victims of a hurricane or washed out roads where no

vehicles are permitted to transport supplies.

Taught and demonstrating their craft and engineering skills were our wonderful volunteers David Bloyer, Heidi Crews, Bonnie Gorsic, Sandra Marzola, Brian Metran, Cassidy Rath and Kim Talor. They made this fun and exciting! A special thanks to Nandini Jani for the simple but effective activity for these budding engineers to take home and show their friends and family what they learned at the 9th Annual STEM Expo!

Contributed By: Kim Talor

Space Tech Expo USA 2024 - Space Tech Expo USA, is a two-day event, BLASC was there!!!



The Focus is on providing an exhibition and conference for space technology, innovation and networking. This show is good for engineering, production, purchasing, material managers, design, test and more.

It was interesting to go to a place to meet suppliers across the supply chain and speakers come together to talk about the latest trends, and new directions within the aerospace and space industries.



BLASC/Boeing members were able to meet with some existing suppliers and technical exhibitors to discuss new products, new trends, lead times, and pricing, including chips, components, and parts, to large assemblies and builds. Click below to learn about the conference proceedings:

Day 1 Conference Proceedings | Space Tech Expo USA
 Day 2 Conference Proceedings | Space Tech Expo USA

BLASC will be organizing another group to attend, with free registration when the next Space Expo returns to Long Beach, CA in 2025. We will also join in at hosted opening reception with lots of food and drinks! Look for more details to come!

Contributed By: Corine Kumano

UPCOMING BLASC EVENTS

General Membership Meetings:

- February – Date/Location TBD

Check our Web Site regularly for new and exciting events throughout the year at <https://blasc.us/>

BLASC VISION AND MISSION

Vision: *Building organizational partnerships that accelerate leadership development in our workplace and our communities*

Mission: *Inspire, develop and connect leaders by providing growth opportunities for our members and contributing to our community through:*

- *Hosting motivational and entertaining social events to foster unity*
- *Providing accelerated training and development opportunities to drive business and professional success*
- *Partnering to provide and enhance talent development for our Boeing sponsors*
- *Investing in charitable causes and exceptional students*

2024 Board of Directors

BLASC Board of Directors constitutes the governing body of BLASC and is responsible to the its members.



Heidi Crews
President

Vacant

Past President



Vera Fair
VP Programs



Veronica Vasquez
VP Membership



Corine Kumano
VP Operations



Tiffany Gazzeny
VP Finance & Budgets



Cassidy Rath
VP Professional Development



Daniela Nau
VP Communications



Nandini Jani
VP Community Service



Kim Talor
VP Special Events



Annie Fleury
VP Retiree
Alumni Member Services

2024 Executive Advisors

BLASC Executive Advisors counsel and mentor BLASC Board members. Thank you for your support and encouragement.



John Kremer
Executive Advisor to
President



Brian Keene
Executive Advisor to
Past President



Jill Erps
Executive Advisor to
VP Finance and Budgets



Ellen Tarantino
Executive Advisor to
VP Communications



Li-Chen (Gemini) Chang
Executive Advisor to
VP Operations



Robert Bergeron
Executive Advisor to
VP Special Events



Lydia De Pillis-Lindheim
Executive Advisor to
VP Community Services



Per Beith
Executive Advisor to
VP Programs



Tracey Espero
Executive Advisor to
VP of Membership