
THE **LONDON LINK**

427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
2155 CRUMLIN SIDE ROAD | LONDON, ON N5V 3Z9 | 519-455-0430 | WWW.427WING.COM



Farewell to Flo!

**Flo is retiring. Book your place to celebrate her
26 years of Wing service!**

**Mark Friday June 30, 2023
11:30 a.m. special lunch on your calendar.**

We're sad to lose Flo, but happy to celebrate her retirement.
Make sure you attend to thank her and wish her happy retirement in person.

Special catered lunch by Belmont Catering.

Please phone Wing 519 455-0430 to book before Wed. May 24th.
Price will be announced on Wing Facebook page and on Wing telephone message.



A Message from Flo

I thank members and others who have helped the Wing in many ways.
This includes those who have helped in the kitchen, donated food, and did other chores so
that the Friday lunches ran smoothly.

A special thanks to members and others who worked many hours behind the scenes replacing this or that,
tending to the grounds, printed the Link and forms that I use. You spent many hours fixing,
repairing and often did not request reimbursement for expenses.

I will miss you all. However, I will be coming out for lunch from time to time.
Please don't put me behind the bar or serve in the kitchen.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RCAFA) MISSION STATEMENT

The RCAFA is a national aerospace and community service organization to:

- Commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who served as members of Canada's Air Forces since its inception;
 - Advocate for a proficient and well equipped Air Force; and,
 - Support the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program.

THE LONDON LINK - PURPOSE AND CONTENT

Six editions each year beginning with the Jul/Aug edition.

Articles of interest to all readers including items about all components of the military both of a historic and more recent nature; articles written by Air Cadets of all Squadrons; regular Board articles; items from all readers as space allows.

To promote the Wing to the wider and diverse population with the aim of attracting new members and/or seeking volunteers who may not wish to join as members.

427 (LONDON) WING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Director - Chairperson | Linda Brimson | linda.brimson@yahoo.com |
| Director | Mike Watts | mwatts427wing@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | | |
| Secretary | | |
| Acting Secretary | Chuck Hardy | chuck.hardy@sympatico.c |

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Vacant Positions – Food Services, Bar Officer, Entertainment, Sports, Lottery, Marketing – call Wing for info

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Website | | | |
| Membership Chairperson | Chuck Hardy | 519-452-1379 | chuck.hardy@sympatio.ca |
| Committee Chair - Facility | Tom Pillon | 519 660-8099 | v33hor@gmail.com |
| Wellness/Parkwood Liaison | Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone | 519-657-5759 | fmsmeltzer@rogers.com |
| Fundraising | Linda Brimson | | linda.brimson@yahoo.com |
| Kit Shop | Fred Pettit | 519 451-0467 | arrow105@sympatico.ca |
| Euchre Club | Don Clarke | 519-455-9350 | |
| Air Cadet Liaison | Brent Elgie | 519-539-5956 | lgairs@gmail.com |
| Advisor | Rene McKinnon | 519-471-8003 | renemck@sympatico.ca |
| Advisor | Frank Birch | | fbirch@rogers.com |

Museum, War Graves, Poppy Fund, David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and advising.
Heritage/ History & Veterans'
Memorial, Tours

CLUB SERVICES

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Wing Manager | Flo Douglas | 519-455-0430 |
| Bar Steward/Rentals | Flo Douglas | 519-455-0430 |
| Padre | Frank Mantz | for more info, ask a member of the Executive |
| London Link graphic artist | Cathy Wood | cathyrwood@gmail.com |

Over 1,000sq ft for Rent at 427 (London) Wing – This includes two rooms with a bar, kitchen facilities and lots of parking. This clean, attractive setting is great for business meetings, small weddings, family gatherings, holiday events, musical concerts or any type of event you'd like to have. Holds 125.

- Call for rental rates • Catering IS an option! Call Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.



427 Wing celebrates St. Patrick's Day in style

There was Irish stew, singing by 101-year old veteran Tom Hennessy, lots of green and great fellowship at the Friday March 17th Wing lunch. WWII Spitfire pilot Tom Hennessy attended with his wife, Joyce and provided an enjoyable Irish song. There was a special presentation from M&T Printing personnel to Tom. The M&T Printing team had made eight copies of Tom's original history book, for family members. At the Wing's request, the M&T team also made copies of the portion of the book related to Tom's flying adventures. What a generous gift from M&T! Thank you all so much for your kindness.

Pablo Calcaterra presented Tom with a copy of Vol. 46 No. 4 April 2023 Airforce magazine. Wing members Pablo and David Smith (Wing historian) had earlier interviewed Tom and wrote a wonderful article entitled: Flight Lieutenant Tom Hennessy – A Life of Gratitude. It was submitted and published in the RCAF Association magazine.

Thanks to Doris Weir for the great photos.





ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
74th ANNUAL ONTARIO GROUP CONVENTION
“Back Again in 2023” 19-20-21 May 2023

Convention Co-Ordinator
Registration

Michael Cuffe
Brenda Wilson
Bev Cuffe

447chairman@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

Check One: Group Executive

Accredited – Voting

Fraternal – Non-Voting

Companion Program

Name: _____

Name on Tag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, ON

Phone: _____

Wing: _____

Email: _____

Companion Information: Name: _____

Name on Tag: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Bird deadline: **31 March 2023**

Registration deadline: **30 April 2023**

Special Needs: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Full Weekend: Delegate = \$225 + Wing Wind Down (if attending) + Donation (optional)

Companion = \$225 + Wing Wind Down (if attending) + Donation (optional)

Specify donation to 447 Wing or 779 RCAC Sqn.

Saturday Only: Meeting or Tour + Gala Dinner = \$160

Sunday: Wind Down Party: \$25

Payment Information (Cheque or E-Transfer to “447winghamilton@gmail.com)

Make cheques payable to **447 Wing RCAFA**. Receipts will be provided at Registration.

Sending funds via E-transfer:

Question: AGM Where & When? **Answer:** Hamilton2023

Return completed forms & cheques to: 447 Wing RCAFA

Attn: Brenda Wilson

3210 Homestead Drive PO. Box129

Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0

UPON ARRIVAL REGISTER AT:

Courtyard by Marriott Hotel

Friday

19 May 2023

3:00 pm– 7:00 pm

Committee Hospitality Room

Saturday

20 May 2023

7:00 am – 9:00 am

ACCOMMODATION:

Courtyard By Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

1224 Upper James Street, Hamilton ON L9C 3B1 Telephone: 905-383-7772 or 1-800-960-2608

Please specify: **RCAFA ONTARIO GROUP** when making your reservation.

Room Rate: \$179.00 + 17% per night (13% HST + 4% Accommodation Tax)

Travel (Flying) Itinerary (Arrival – Toronto)

Airline Flight No. _____

Date & Time of Arrival _____

Travel (Flying) Itinerary (Departure – Toronto)

Airline Flight No. _____

Date and Time of Departure _____

Events and Registration Fees (Check if attending) Delegate / Companion

Friday - 19 May 2023

Ontario Group Board Meeting (Grp Members Only) - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

All Delegates & Guests Welcome

Opening Ceremonies & Chairman’s Reception - 7:00 to 9:30 PM.
Hors d’oeuvres, Charcuterie Board, desserts, cash bar

Saturday – 20 May 2023 – 8:00AM – 3:30PM

Delegate Meeting – All RCAFA Wing Representatives
Breakfast, two Coffee Breaks, Aviator’s Luncheon **\$160**
followed by RCAFA Gala Dinner – 6:30 to 9:30 PM, 4-course dinner, cash bar

Companion Tour - Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory & Shopping in Historic Dundas
Breakfast, Transportation, Admission & Lunch **\$160**
followed by RCAFA Gala Dinner – 6:30 to 9:30 PM, 4-course dinner, cash bar

Sunday - 21 May 2023 – 0900 – 11:30AM

Breakfast, Business Session Wrap-up (if nec.)
Remembrance & Closing Ceremony

AGM WIND DOWN PARTY – 2 pm at the 447 Wing RCAFA
3210 Homestead Drive, Mount Hope, ON **\$25**
(Corner of Homestead Dr. & Airport Rd.)

Our Theme is “Back Again in 2023”

Membership Report for March and April 2023

by Chuck Hardy

Membership renewals as of mid-April continue well with 22% of all members paid so far. Please renew as soon as you can. After June 30, 2023, there is \$10.00 fee added to the renewal dues as a late fee.

Elsewhere in this edition you will see an article about the retirement as Wing Manager of Flo Douglas as of June 30, 2023. Flo announced her retirement during the April 14th lunch. She has served for 26 years. The search for a replacement is underway. For sure, it will be a challenge to replace Flo.

To all readers of the Link: The Wing needs to be more representative of the wider population of the London region. Please invite friends to the Friday lunches. After a while, they may be interested in becoming members.

It has been said many times that volunteering brings a positive state of mind of serving for a good cause. It simply makes you feel that your talents are welcome and needed.

The Wing needs a Secretary, Treasurer, Grant Writers, Fundraisers, Kitchen Help and a Custodian. We need help on committees. If you want the Wing to remain open for years to come, please help us. It is vital that members become involved. Coming to lunches and socializing is appreciated. Please do more than that. You will not regret going that extra mile for the Wing.

Sad news to end this report.

Member Charles (Charlie) Rath passed away on April 12, and his funeral was on April 19th. Obituary was in the London Free Press on April 15th.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.



James O. Poag
WATCHMAKER - JEWELLER

James G. Poag
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST
GOLDSMITH - APPRAISER

Jeffrey R. Poag
GOLDSMITH - DIAMOND SETTER

Jenny Dortmans
GRADUATE GEMOLOGIST

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Hamming it up!



Interested in getting your ham radio license
and becoming part of a great hobby?

From the Saturday after Labour day to early December, the London Amateur Radio Club presents their Basic Ham license course.
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RCAF Ball 2023 June 3, 2023, Ottawa Invitation to WWII veterans and guests

Do you know of a Second World War RCAF veteran who would like to attend the RCAF Ball 2023 as an honoured guest?

The Commander RCAF Lieutenant-General Eric Kenny, CMM, CD, would like to extend invitations to Second World War RCAF veterans and their guests, perhaps to those who may be local to Ottawa or otherwise, where the RCAF Ball 2023 will be held on 03 June 2023.

If you know of any eligible veterans, or you yourself may be interested in attending, please reply to the Executive Director RCAF Association Dean Black, director@rcfassociation.ca at your earliest opportunity. 613-612-7223

Longworth Retirement Residents Visit 427 Wing

In early March, the Wing enjoyed hosting residents from Longworth Retirement Residence for lunch and touring displays. The group was a joy to visit with and we hope they'll come again. The Wing plans to invite other Retirement Home residents to come for lunch and explore the Wing. The new vertical lift installation will make it easy for visitors of all mobilities to also visit the Secrets of Radar Museum.





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REMINDER

April 1st, 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force

There are special fundraising initiatives and celebrations from national level being planned.

Follow 427 (London) Wing on Facebook for updates. There is remarkable history to celebrate and many great veterans to remember, along with wonderful aircraft. A century of service and achievement.



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Masks are currently optional at 427 Wing.

Please respect the personal decision of others.

Updates from Board Chair Linda Brimson

Hi everybody as we roll towards warmer weather. Nature renews itself each Spring and even our ol' 427 Wing faces changes (whether we welcome it or dread it).

Any organization should not rely so heavily on any one employee, or a handful of members, that their retirement or loss due to fatigue or illness causes a seismic shift. The Wing is not alone in this experience. We bid Wing Manager Flo Douglas best retirement wishes and a well-deserved rest. Like a few other members, Flo shouldn't have had to wear so many hats and fill so many roles at the Wing. Currently the Board has detailed job descriptions for 3 hourly employees to fulfil duties. Interviews and training will take place before June 30th.

The harsh reality is 427 Wing is no longer filling Board positions, i.e. the necessary positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Directors, with willing, able volunteer members. Our latest Treasurer has regretfully ended her volunteer Board service. The Wing is grateful to our accountant, Christina at Argyle Tax Service, for her diligent work keeping the books. The Wing receives great value for Christina's modest paid service. Chuck Hardy assists in the roles of Treasurer AND Secretary, plus heading Membership.

We need Wing members to be volunteer Board members to have a voting base to conduct Wing business. Paid workers are not Board members and have no voting privileges and no oath of office. The Board meets via zoom meetings each month. Next Board meeting is Monday May 15 at 6 pm. An invitation and agenda are available from myself or Chuck.

We had set a tentative annual meeting for Friday May 19 after lunch. The Board notes these are poorly attended and not reaching enough members for conducting business. Stay tuned – we'll announce on Friday May 12th lunch IF the annual meeting is scheduled. There may be some financial updates to share.

Looking ahead – I'm excited the Wing is having a retirement party for Flo Friday June 30 at lunch. Please book your spot early so we can determine numbers and ticket price. How wonderful to thank Flo in person and wish her well; time to recount memories of 26 years. It's a special menu lunch, catered by Belmont Town Catering and the price will reflect that (tax and gratuity included). We probably won't have price confirmed for the printing of this newsletter. We'll post details on Wing Facebook page or on Wing telephone message. The Board hopes all members, friends and supporters of the Wing (past & present) will attend this important event.

On Canada Day, Saturday July 1st, the Wing has a sheltered canopy and table display along Dundas Street in downtown London. This is a first-time event for the Wing, and we'll need volunteers to attend in shifts throughout the day. Not tough duties, just be the friendly face of the Wing to visitors celebrating Canada Day in downtown London. We'll have handouts and spread the word about the Spirit of Flight Museum and the wonderful ambiance of the Wing for Friday lunches and rentals. Please let me know by mid-June if you can offer service that day. We have so much to be grateful for.

Vertical Lift Installation takes place May 1st. Thanks to Rene and others for patience & perseverance and New Horizons Senior Projects for grant money.

SAVE STAMPS. SAVE PAPER:

Sign up to receive the Link online at <http://eepurl.com/dLIqJo>

Benefits Payment Calendar 2023

Below are dates for recurring Government of Canada benefit payments administered by Canada Revenue Agency. If you signed for direct deposit, payments will be made to your bank account.

CANADA PENSION AND OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT and GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT

January 27, February 24, March 29, April 26, May 29, June 28,
July 27, August 29, September 27, October 27, November 28, December 20

GST / HST CREDIT: January 5, April 5, July 5, October 5

ONTARIO TRILLIUM: January 10, February 10, March 10, April 6, May 10, June 9, July 10, August 10,
September 8, October 10, November 10, December 8,

VETERAN DISABILITY CREDIT: January 30, February 27, March 30, April 27, May 30, June 29, July 28,
August 30, September 28, October 30, November 29, December 21

CLIMATE ACTION INCENTIVE: January 13, April 14, July 14, October 13

BIRTHDAY BRATS

MAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Harry Beukeboom, Greg Burnard, Joan Clark, Hazil Malone, Tom Pillon, Wayne Quick, Liyuan Shi and David Smith

JUNE HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Nadine Abi Raad, Wayne Chuter, Mike Desjardins, P. Lloyd, Tammy Newman, Sam Newman, Les Prosser, Terry Rushton and Bob Williamson

“The older the fiddler, the sweeter the tune.”
~English Proverb



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LONDON LINK SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

January/February: December 18th • March/April: February 15th. May/June: April 17th • July/August: June 17th.
September/October: August 18th • November/December: October 18th.

Please forward any articles that you consider of value to the Wing members and we will do our best to get it to print. Sometimes submissions are of such a size that we then make them a two, or three part series.

Looking forward to hearing from you and sharing your photos, stories etc with our members.

(For good reproduction at reasonable size, photos should be fairly high resolution)

Proud to support the 427 Wing



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Past and present reflections – RCAF History to Deep Space by Linda Brimson

427 Wing didn't host its 98th RCAF anniversary luncheon on March 31, 2023 because we didn't meet a minimum number of attendees. In the past, this would be a well-attended event. It is a sign of decreasing Wing membership that sadly, we are not able to gather the number of people needed to host a larger dinner. Wing events must pay for themselves – there is a breaking point if monthly expenses exceed income.

This year was the 98th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Canadian Air Force. In 1924 the Canadian Air Force was renamed the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) when it was granted the royal title by King George V. The RCAF existed as an independent service until 1968. On Feb. 1, 1968 unification of the Canadian Armed Forces took place and the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army, and Royal Canadian Air Force were merged to form the Canadian Armed Forces. The three previously separate armed services were combined and ceased to exist as separate entities. Liberal Minister of Defence Paul Hellyer drove the change amid wide and heated debates. By 2014, many of the changes introduced by unification had been reversed.

The history of the RCAF begins in 1914, with the formation of the Canadian Aviation Corps (CAC) that was attached to the Canadian Expeditionary Force during WWI. It consisted of one aircraft that was never called into service. In 1918, a wing of two Canadian squadrons called the Canadian Air Force (CAF) was formed in England and attached to the Royal Air Force, but it also would never see wartime service. Post-WWI, in 1920, an air militia also known as the Canadian Air Force was formed in Canada.

From humble beginnings, Canadian pilots distinguished themselves in both wars, most often flying as part of a RAF squadron. Let's hope RCAF members, Wing members and all other aviation enthusiasts can celebrate the 100th anniversary of the RCAF in 2024.

Speaking of Air Cadets, congratulations to Jeremy Hansen on his selection as one of four astronauts on the 2024 Artemis II moon mission and the first from Canada to venture into deep space. This announcement continues the tradition of Canadian astronauts on space missions. Colonel Hansen credits Air Cadets with developing the discipline and self-confidence required to be accepted for Officer Training in the Canadian Armed Forces.

In 1988 at the age of 12, Jeremy Hansen joins 614 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron in London, Ontario. His journey into aviation begins. In 1992, he earns his Air Cadet glider pilot wings in Trenton, Ontario. Jeremy earns his private pilot license and wings at the age of 17 in Cornwall, Ontario. This training will lead to his acceptance to Royal Military College Saint-Jean in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. In 1999 Jeremy graduates with a bachelor's degree in honours space science from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario.

2003 – Colonel Hansen completes CF-18 Fighter Pilot training at 410 Tactical Fighter Operational Training Squadron.

2004-2009 – Serves as a CF-18 fighter pilot with 441 Tactical Fighter Squadron and 409 Fighter Squadron as well as

combat operations Officer at 4 Wing Operations where his responsibilities include effectiveness of NORAD Operations, Deployed Exercises and Arctic Flying Operations.

2009 – Colonel Hansen is one of two recruits selected by the CSA through the third Canadian Astronaut Recruitment Campaign.

2011 – He graduates from Astronaut Candidate Training and starts working at the Mission Control Center as capcom – the voice between the ground and the International Space Station.

2013 – Jeremy participates in the European Space Agency's CAVES program in Sardinia, Italy, during which he lives underground for six days. He has the privilege of inspiring young Canadians by flying the historical Hawk One F-86 Sabre Jet.

2014 – He is a crewmember of NEEMO 19, where he lives and works on the ocean floor off Key Largo, Florida, for seven days simulating deep-space exploration.

2017 – Jeremy becomes the first Canadian to be entrusted with leading a NASA astronaut class, which means that he is in charge of the training astronaut candidates from the United States and Canada.

2023 – Jeremy Hansen is assigned to the Artemis II mission.

Personal info: Jeremy Hansen grew up in Southwestern Ontario. Born Jan. 27, 1976 in London, Ontario and raised on a farm near Ailsa Craig, Ontario, until moving to Ingersoll for his high school years. Lieutenant-Colonel Hansen is married with three children and recently based in Dallas, Texas.

Can you name some other Canadian astronauts who have been to space?

Roberta Lynn Bondar: Space Shuttle Discovery Jan. 1992

Marc Garneau: Space Shuttle Challenger Oct. 1984 & Space Shuttle Endeavour to ISS Dec. 2020

Chris Hadfield: Joint US-Russian mission - Only Canadian to fly to the Russian Mir space station, first Canadian spacewalker, first Canadian commander of the ISS

Steve MacLean: Space Shuttle Columbia Oct. 1992

Julie Payette: Space Shuttle Discovery, first to dock at ISS, May 1999. Julie was first Cdn to visit ISS

Robert Thirsk: Space Shuttle Columbia June 1996, May 2009 – lived 6 months on ISS with Soyuz crew

Bjarni Tryggvason: Aug. 1997 – 11 day mission as payload specialist for space science and hardware testing.



MAY 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 RAA | 3 | 4 LARC EUCHRE | 5 LUNCH | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 BCC | 11 WOOD- TURNERS EUCHRE | 12 LUNCH | 13 |
| 14 MOTHERS DAY | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 EUCHRE ONTARIO GROUP AGM, HAMILTON | 19 LUNCH ONTARIO GROUP AGM, HAMILTON | 20 ONTARIO GROUP AGM, HAMILTON |
| 21 ONTARIO GROUP AGM, HAMILTON | 22 VICTORIA DAY | 23 | 24 | 25 EUCHRE | 26 LUNCH | 27 MEMORIAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE |
| 28 | 29 INTERNATION- AL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS | 30 | 31 | Diamond Flight Centre London has booked the Wing for the month of May for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and possibly Thursday. Call the Wing to inquire if space is available for other booking requests. | | |

JUNE 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|---|---------------------------------|
| Diamond Flight Centre London has booked the Wing for the month of June for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and possibly Thursday. Call the Wing to inquire if space is available for other booking requests. | | | | 1 LARC | 2 LUNCH | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 WT | 9 LUNCH SORM RENTAL | 10 |
| 11 Decoration Day. 614 Graduation Celebration | 12 | 13 | 14 BCC | 15 | 16 LUNCH | 17 |
| 18 FATHERS DAY | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 LUNCH | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Flo Douglas Retirement Lunch (reserva- tions required) | NO FRIDAY LUNCHES IN JULY |

AGM Annual General Meeting
BBQ BBQ lunch
BCC British Car Club
COM Retired Commissionaires
FO Fanshawe Optimist's Club
GM General Meeting
GS Guest Speaker

LFC London Flying Club Reunion
LVRC London Vintage Radio Club
MAC Model Aircraft Club
OAGM Ontario Group Annual General Meeting
RAA Recreational Aircraft Association
WD The Women's Division

WDP Wind Down Party for OAGM
WEC Wing Executive Council
WT Wood Turners, meeting