

NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 12/21/2023

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Hello WeWOT family,

The best time to be grateful is always. First and foremost, thank you for being part of WeWOT family. What a year 2023 has been for us all. When it comes to impacting lives - this is not about instant outcome, it is about what you delivered and its impact on others, planting the seeds of change, creating a movement that is even bigger than us. We have faced challenges head-on, we had a lot of first time experiences. We either won or learned from it, and can be proud of our successes. Your passion, never give up mindset inspire me every day. I am honored to lead such an extraordinary group of individuals. As our organization continues to grow, we will continue moving the needle. As we begin to wind down, I want to wish you and your loved ones joyous and safe holidays filled with warmth, laughter, love and relaxing time. Best wishes and cheers.

Khady Gaye
President WeWOT

WeWOT got a seat at the table in London

I called it the London Trip.

Out of the bat. Have you ever been invited to represent your company or organization where you will accept an award without even fully being ready on how to dress or hold a simple conversation at the event? This is a 24-hour journey after an excellent & successful volunteering STEM and aviation outreach event in Rwanda. I was on my way to London for **the ISTAT EMEA conference held from October 1 till October 3**

I landed at about 7:15 am on October 1, took the train to check in at the hotel, showered very quickly, and walked for a good 20 while breathing good fresh air, helping rehearse mentally and prepare for the unexpected. I arrived at the convention around noon time on the second day.

As I entered the conference, most guests were all dressed up in suits, and ties, and this is me wearing some traditional African outfit felt odd. I received compliments from everyone about my outfit, and I felt welcome and pumped up. I had the pleasure of meeting with **the ISTAT team and the Vice President**, the team initially acknowledged and appreciated that I made an effort to represent WeWOT, and I learned in-depth about their work globally and the type of help they want to provide. I had the chance to present WeWOT's mission & vision, and they were impressed. I spent some time discussing with other Maintenance Repair Overhaul (MRO) organizations and learning about their product. I felt that the conference was more maintenance-oriented.

I truly enjoyed the presentation about sustainability, reduction of gas effect, and decarbonization, it was mind-blowing that more European companies compared to us here in the states are well advanced, and government entities are 100% in support of several initiatives. The discussion panel was well-balanced!

Early that evening, I had dinner and was trying to connect the WeWOT and the financial grant received from ISTAT, to conclude I came up to serve a better bright future and prepare the next generation of leaders to think big and do better.

I am looking forward to the experience and even getting the chance to attend the summit of three days next year. Networking and connecting with people and companies is key to moving forward and positively for a better & brighter world..

Jean Olivier Mbog

Advisory board member - WeWOT



Showing up matters - Symposium in Ontario

Greetings WeWOT family,

Happy December! I cannot believe the end of the year has come this fast. I want to share with you all a fantastic opportunity I had to represent WeWot at **the Shades of Blue Symposium in Ontario** this past November 5!

Similarly, to our organization, SHADES OF BLUE is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to **mentoring, tutoring, counseling, and arranging internship and employment referrals for young people who desire to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Design careers**. Although SHADES primarily focuses on aviation and aerospace, the same level of assistance across all elements of STEM is available to all student members.

During this event, I was so inspired by the multitudes of students that are so eager and yearning to gain knowledge in the aerospace and aviation field. Students from all sorts of backgrounds and nationalities had so many questions for me about being a pilot! It allowed me to take a step back and look back on my career and how I started from humble beginnings just like some of them. Having met these new and upcoming aviators, I know the future of the aerospace industry is bright.

The event itself was held in a large hangar that had a station for everything any student interested in aerospace and aviation could imagine. There was a flight simulator station, a robotics station, aircraft mechanic station, and even aviation university representatives available to guide the students regarding their next paths. Additionally, there were inspiring leaders in aviation all throughout the room, from a Black female astronaut to the Chief Pilot of UPS; there was so much so wisdom and inspiration to fill a stadium!

Lastly, I cannot say enough about the hospitality provided by the founder of the Shades of Blue, Willie Daniels. Willie is a retired United Airlines pilot. His passion for these young future aviators and creating a pathway for them is exemplary. He welcomed me with open arms and asked me to speak to the audience about my path to becoming an aviator. I look forward to working more with **Shades of Blue** and being inspired to do the same work for our youth in Africa and the Caribbean as a part of We Were Once Them!

Nomthandazo Manzira

WeWOT Safety Officer



Wa gwaan Brethren, Sistern - WeWOT in Jamaica

WeWOT never misses an opportunity to give back to the community. On December 7 and 8, WeWOT team went to Jamaica and delivered early Christmas gifts to “the School of Hope”. Some of our volunteers shared their experiences. Enjoy the reading!

‘I had the opportunity to join We WOT (We Were Once Them) on a recent mission to Jamaica. Being Jamaican by birth and a proud graduate of Montego Bay High School for Girls, I could not pass up the opportunity to engage the youth of my homeland. My mission was simple; give back, teach and share my story. What I expected to be a trip filled with pouring into youth ended up being the most fulfilling endeavor of recent years. I met and befriended a wonderful group of like-minded Aviation Professionals with a similar mission and vision. Few words exist to describe the energy we received from the students as we shared our path. Our itinerary covered 8 schools in 2 days with half of those schools experiencing the expertise and knowledge of our entire group of volunteers. From the very first morning at Buff Bay High School it was clear that I was right where I needed to be, the impact was overwhelmingly positive with so many students seeking out various volunteers afterwards to learn more and gain personal insight. Witnessing the passion of my colleagues was great fuel as we navigated campus after campus. Particularly heartwarming was delivering the Christmas gifts to the School of Hope where we were greeted with warm smiles and even some dance moves. Jamaica was a great start to my partnership with We WOT and I truly cannot wait for the next opportunity to serve in this capacity.’

Lisandra Green
ATC Atlanta Center



Wa gwaan Brethren, Sistern - WeWOT in Jamaica

The memories of my trip to Portland will last a lifetime. Upon hearing of this initiative, I immediately wanted to be part of a journey back to the country of my birth. Giving back to Jamaica means so much to me and I knew the group would make a positive impact.

The early planning, set the stage for a well-organized week where I would engage with aviation professionals I have met throughout the years as well as make new friends. I had the honor of inviting my friend and colleague Lisandra Green, ATC Atlanta Center, as we both cherish the island, we affectionately call home. Upon arrival to Jamaica, we met others from the group who greeted us with warmth. We then set off on our journey to Portland, enjoying the scenery and beauty of Jamaica.

The team came together, working into the early morning to fill swag bags for each school. With only a few hours sleep, we set off on our journey.

The rain could not dampen the light that was the shining students at Buff Bay High School. Buff Bay High was my first stop, and we were blessed to attend morning devotion with the students before we presented on aviation careers. What a great start to the day! We continued to a primary school where our youngest learners overwhelmed us in the best possible way with immense energy. The team then concluded the day at a school for the disabled, where we showered our brothers and sisters with love, and friendship and presented Christmas presents to bring Holiday cheer to their smiling faces.

Day two took me and my group to Port Antonio High School, where we began the day with a packed house of students enthused about aviation careers. We presented on the life of a Pilot, Air Traffic Controllers, and Customer Service Representatives. Our team then headed to Titchfield High School to join the remainder of the group. Not only does Titchfield High boast spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea, but it also boasts spectacular students who we engaged in both the auditorium and individual classrooms. We ended the day at Fair Prospect Primary, where I had the opportunity to support Brittany Pink, teaching Air Traffic Control.

This experience was beyond what I can even articulate. The interaction with the students is a memory that I will cherish for a lifetime. I believe we made a positive impact on the lives of our young people. Over 20 professionals came together, many meeting for the first time, and our bond was that of a team that has been together for years.

That is what this is all about, coming together for our future, together towards tomorrow!

Freddie Green
Air Traffic Manager - MIA Tower Tracon



Wa gwaan Brethren, Sistern - WeWOT in Jamaica

I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do and organising the event so perfectly. The passion and dedication blew my mind, my highlight was watching each one of you stand in front of those children and share your stories, encouraging them to be who they want to become and as black children dream big. The love all of you have to change lives of these children is truly incredible, I have gained a bit of confidence to stand in front of an audience which before I couldn't. I was overwhelmed by all of your enthusiasm, brotherly and sisterly love. May all your pockets never run dry, God bless you all

Natalie Neighbour
UA CSR LHR



Snapshot of Jamaica

A big shoutout and thank you to our team who volunteered for bringing hope and amazing holiday surprise to the kids in Jamaica. Check out the snapshots.





Our member spotlight

Freddie Green



What is your superpower?

I love photography. Organized. Punctual. Passion for STEM.

Your country of birth

Kingston - Jamaica

Describe yourself in three words

Traveller - timely -loyal

Something people don't know about you

Always wanted to be a pilot

Air Traffic Manager - MIA Tower/Tracon

What motivated you to join WeWOT and how do you want to contribute to the cause

I have a passion for STEM and aviation. I have been doing ACE Camps for the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees, NBCFAE (FAA employee association) for over 20 years. We also conduct ACE Camps yearly in Lagos, Nigeria and have done an ACE Camp in Senegal.

What is your favorite quote

"If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving."



2024 Outlook

Onward we will offer more connection moments, while we can travel around the world to make impact, let's get to know each other more and better;

Be on the lookout for diverse **all member meetings** via Zoom, FB live events, in person events, ... in January, March, June, October.

Our project managers are already working on our **outreach program 2024**, more details on the dates, sign-up process will be shared shortly. Are you ready to make the difference in someone's life? Are you ready to be on the ground and do the work? **The flags below** will tell you where we are heading.

You want to get more involved, we have options you can choose from, either as **Volunteer Associate, Ambassador or Champion**, Responsibilities and time commitment are clearly outlined. For more information, connect with Lisa Young, our Membership Officer.

Our second **fundraising Golf Tournament event** is a work in progress - Mark your calendar - **June 17th** in Houston. Our goal is BIG and we need everyone's support!

We keep solidifying **our Board structure** and are finalizing our selection process to onboard new members shortly. Excited!

We will increase **our networking activities** to represent WeWOT as best as possible.

You have ideas, we want to hear from you. Feel free to reach out to **Lisa**.

WeWOT Board

