



33rd FAI World Aerobatic Championships

Batavia, New York, USA

August 23rd – September 2nd, 2026

Bulletin 1

2026 World Aerobatic Championships

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1. General

Welcome to the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships, and welcome to Batavia, New York. It is a tremendous honor for our community to host the world's finest aerobatic pilots and the dedicated teams who support them. We are grateful for the commitment, preparation, and passion that will bring you here from around the globe to be part of this extraordinary event.

Batavia, New York founded in 1801, is the seat of historic Genesee County and has long served as a gateway to Western New York. The region played a significant role in early American transportation and industry, from its proximity to the Erie Canal to its later contributions to manufacturing, engineering, and aviation. For generations, this area has embraced the spirit of precision, determination, and innovation—qualities that resonate strongly with the discipline and artistry of aerobatic flight.

The World Aerobatic Championships stand at the pinnacle of international competition in our sport, uniting nations in a shared pursuit of excellence, discipline, and mastery of the skies. For more than sixty years, the championships have showcased the highest levels of technical skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Each edition adds to a proud legacy, advancing aerobatics while inspiring future pilots and teams worldwide.

We are proud to welcome this storied event to Batavia and to share our community, history, passion, and hospitality with you. We hope you enjoy not only the competition but also the people, culture, and landscapes of Western New York. On behalf of the organizing committee and the entire region, we wish you safe flights and an unforgettable experience both in the air and on the ground.

We look forward to welcoming you to Batavia—and to the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships.

1.1 Location & Dates

The 2026 World Aerobatic Championships will be held in Batavia New York, at Genesee Country Regional Airport from the 23rd of August to the 2nd of September 2026.

1.2 Airport Information

Airport Identifier: KGVQ

Airport Manager: Jason Long, +1 585 344-3532

Airport Address: 4701 E. Saile Dr., Batavia, NY 14020

Field Elevation: 914' (279m)

Runway Length/Width: 5500' x 100' (1676m x 30m)

Hangar: Guaranteed for all competition aircraft

Fuel: Jet A \$5.30 / gal (€4.45), 100LL \$5.76 / gal (€4.84) **Prices are subject to change**

Frequencies:

AWOS: 127.525 / +1 585 3343-6369

CTAF: 122.7

Flight Service: 122.6 / +1 800 992-7433

BATAVIA

GENESEE CO (GVQ)(KGVQ) 2 N UTC-5(-4DT) N43°01.91' W78°10.18'

914 B NOTAM FILE GVQ

DETROIT
H-10H, 11B, L-31E, 32F
IAP

RWY 10-28: H5499X100 (ASPH-GRVD) S-21, D-33 HIRL

RWY 10: REIL. PAPI(P2L)—GA 3.0° TCH 40'. Fence.

RWY 28: MALSR. PAPI(P2L)—GA 3.0° TCH 62'.

SERVICE: S4 FUEL 100LL, JET A1+ OX1 LGT Actvt MALSR Rwy 28;
REIL Rwy 10; PAPI Rwy 10 and 28; HIRL Rwy 10-28—CTAF.

AIRPORT REMARKS: Attended Apr-Oct 1230-0100Z†, Nov-Mar
1230-2330Z†. For aftr hrs atndt, call 585-344-8532 durg atnd hrs.
Call in fee. 5' berm 220' N, 1600-2200' E of Rwy 10 end.

AIRPORT MANAGER: 585-344-8532

WEATHER DATA SOURCES: AWOS-3PT 127.525 (585) 343-6369.

COMMUNICATIONS: CTAF/UNICOM 122.7

® **ROCHESTER APP/DEP CON** 123.7

CLNC DEL 121.8

CLEARANCE DELIVERY PHONE: For CD ctc Cleveland ARTCC at
440-774-0490.

RADIO AIDS TO NAVIGATION: NOTAM FILE BUF.

GENESEO (L) (L) VOR/DME 108.2 GEE Chan 19 N42°50.06'
W77°43.97' 311° 22.6 NM to fld. 990/9W.

VOR portion unusable:

208°-224° byd 29 NM blo 5,000'

225°-230°

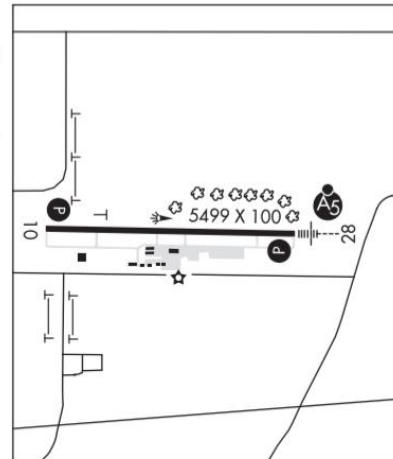
231°-245° byd 29 NM blo 5,000'

DME unusable:

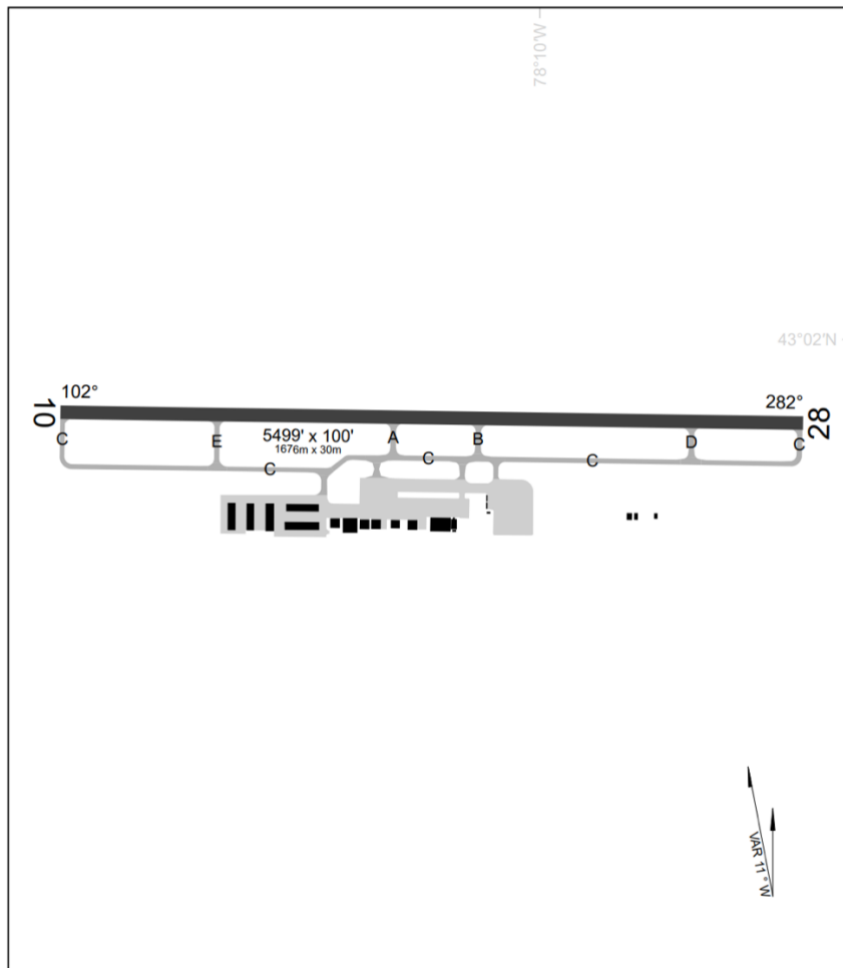
115°-120° byd 29 NM blo 4,000'

140°-155° byd 30 NM blo 5,000'

ILS 108.9 I-GVQ Rwy 28. Glideslope unusable for coupled approaches below 1,433'.



KGVQ: GENESEE COUNTY
BATAVIA, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES



1.3 Practice Dates

Unofficial practice will be held from 8 AM-6 PM on the 18th & 19th of August.

Official practice will be held from 8 AM-6 PM August 20th– 22nd, and 8 AM-1 PM on the 23rd of August.

Registration and entry fee payment are required to reserve a practice slot(s). Sign up for practice slots will be completed online via the WAC 2026 website. The practice schedule will open in approx. 30-60 days (still in development), with notifications of scheduling availability made via the WAC 2026 social medial channels and the official website.

Each pilot will select an available slot for training flights between 08:00 – 18:00. In the event of bad weather, both the Flight Director (FD) and the pilot will agree on an alternate practice slot at a future date and time. The FD or the International Jury can modify the order of the training flight, as necessary to ensure all teams/pilots are given fair and free access to practice on the contest site.

Four additional Aerobatic Practice Areas are being coordinated/established at nearby airports and will be available 30 days in advance of the competition, for those teams/pilots wishing to get additional practice or trim aircraft that have been shipped. These practice areas will NOT be marked.

The alternate practice areas will be located at:

- Bethany Airpark (8NK4)
 - o RWY 9/27: Turf, 2800' x 75' (853m x 23m)
 - o 5 NM South of KGVQ
- Geneseo (D52)
 - o RWY 5/23: Turf, 5000' x 90' (1524m x 27m)
 - o 20 NM Southeast of KGVQ
- LeRoy (5G0)
 - o RWY 10/28: Asphalt, 3854' x 60' (1175m x 18m)
 - o 11 NM East of KGVQ
- Perry-Warsaw (01G)
 - o RWY 10/28: Asphalt, 3429' x 60' (1045m x 18m)
 - o 18NM South of KGVQ

1.4 Schedule & Events

The tentative contest schedule provided below is subject to change due to technical, organizational, or weather-related issues.

August 18th-23rd: Arrival, Registration, and Practice (See section 1.2 for more details on practice)

August 23rd:

- 14:30 – General Briefing
- 17:00 – Welcome Reception
- 18:00 – Opening Ceremony

August 24th - September 1st (Programs 1-4)

- 08:00 – Briefing
- 09:00-13:00 – Competition Flights
- 13:00-14:00 – Lunch
- 14:00-20:00 – Competition Flights

September 2nd (Program 5)

09:00 – Briefing
10:00 – 13:00 - Competition Flights
13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch
14:00 – 16:00 – Airshow
18:00 – Awards & Closing Ceremony
19:00 – Gala Dinner

September 3rd: Departures

In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, the event organizers are planning two additional events. The first will be a social event on the evening of August 21st, in place of the standard 'International Night'. The second will be an awards ceremony on the evening of Aug 29th, where the medals for the Free Known and Free Unknown 1 will be awarded.

1.5 Aerobatic Box

The box coordinates and diagram of the box overlayed on Google Earth are provided below. The event organizers have elected to align the box with the roads, tree rows, and section lines that are in the direct vicinity and below the aerobatic box.

This alignment does create a 10-degree deviation between the box orientation and the RWY at KGVQ (RWY 10/28).

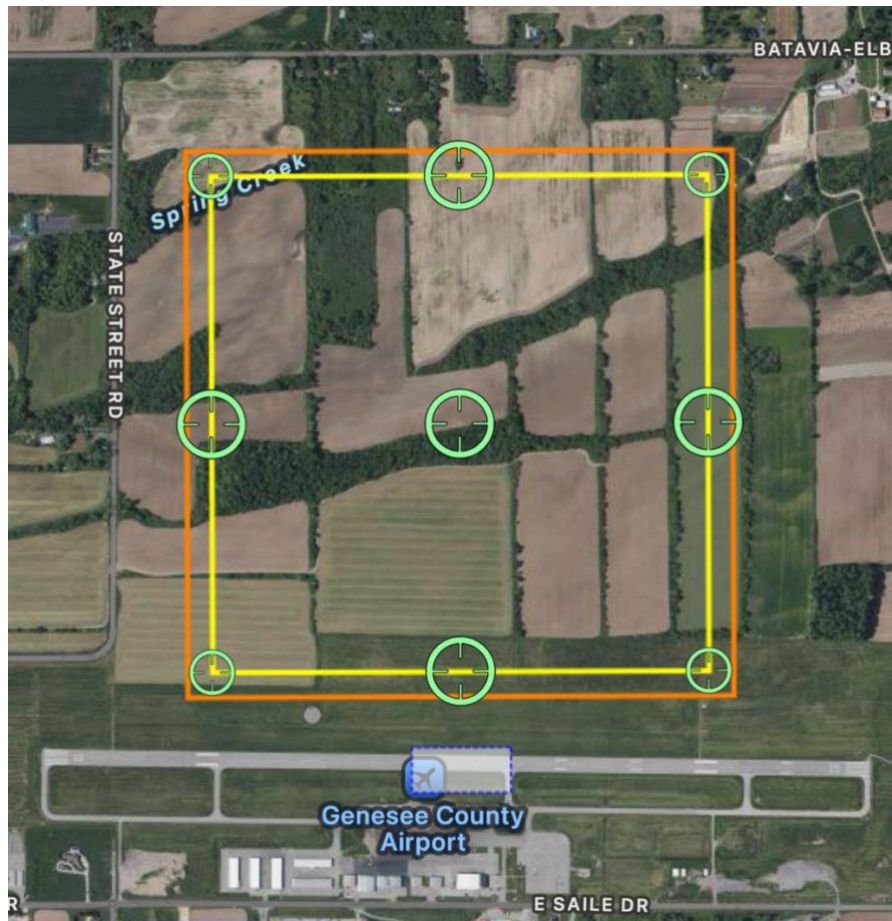
Batavia Aerobatic Box

Box center at: 43.038°N / 78.170°W

This aerobatic box is oriented on a 90° heading.

Marker Coordinates

43.042°N / 78.169°W	Northern Center
43.042°N / 78.163°W	Northeast Corner
43.038°N / 78.163°W	Eastern Center
43.033°N / 78.163°W	Southeast Corner
43.033°N / 78.170°W	Southern Center
43.033°N / 78.176°W	Southwest Corner
43.038°N / 78.176°W	Western Center
43.042°N / 78.176°W	Northwest Corner



2. Registration & Eligibility

2.1 Eligibility

Entries will be accepted in accordance with the FAI Sporting Code, section 6 chapter 1.2.4 and 1.2.5

Entries for competitors are accepted through the National Airsports Control (NACs) according to the FAI Sporting Code, Section 6, 1.2.4., 1.2.5., and 1.2.6.

Entries (including for H/C pilots) may be submitted by the NACs authorized representatives only, except for FAI applicants from countries without a NAC.

The official entry forms must be completed correctly and submitted to the organizing NAC not later than August 1st.

The address for the organizing NAC is below:

National Aeronautic Association
Reagan Washington National Airport
Hangar 7
Washington, DC 20001

Other team members, as defined in the FAI Sporting Code, Section 6 Part 1, and 1.2.6, may enter as National team members. Entries are only accepted through the NAC controls.

Admission of observers of National team is accepted (1.2.6). The entry fee for observers is the same as for non-competitor team members. Entries are only accepted through the NACs (1.2.6).

Event organizers will accept entrants “Hors concours” (H/C) according to Sporting Code, section 6, 1.2.6., so long as they can provide evidence of appropriate and current Unlimited level experience.

The organizers may limit the number of H/C entrants depending on the number of NAC competitors at the Championships. Priority given to H/C will be based on the date of the valid entry form and the fully paid entry fee are received.

Pilots may take part in Program 5 only, according to the Sporting Code, section 6, 1.2.6.

Registration will be valid and complete only after the submitted Official Entry forms are validated, and the full entry fees paid.

Registration will only be accepted online, via the official contest website, which contains other relevant and useful information.

2.2 Pilot

Pilot entry requirements

- Valid pilot certificate for flight in the United States (see examples below).
- Valid pilot medical certificate
- Valid FAI Sporting License
- Valid personal insurance policy

If flying a U.S. registered aircraft, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration does not require aerobatic qualification. (See examples below)

If flying an EU registered aircraft, all requirements needed to validate the pilot certificate for the country of issuance, to include aerobatics qualifications, must be met.

Example 1: A competitor flying (renting) a U.S. registered aircraft who already holds an FAA issued pilot certificate, will be accepted without restriction.

Example 2: A competitor flying (renting) a U.S. registered aircraft who does not hold an FAA issued pilot certificate, must complete the foreign certificate conversion procedure with the FAA, prior to operating a U.S. registered aircraft.

Example 3: A competitor flying an EU registered aircraft can legally operate within the U.S., without the need for an FAA issued pilot certificate, so long as the country of registration for the aircraft and the country of issuance for the pilot certificate are the same.

Example 4: If an EU (EASA) competitor flies with an EU (EASA) registered AC, but the issuer of the pilot and aircraft documents are from different countries within the EU, the competitor can legally operate the aircraft within the U.S., without the need for an FAA issued pilot certificate, so long as the competitor meets all requirements to legally operate the aircraft in accordance with laws and

regulations of the country in which the aircraft is registered. Competitors are responsible for the completion of any paperwork and payment of any fees to ensure compliance.

Detailed information for converting a foreign pilot certificate to a U.S. pilot certificate will be provided in the next bulletin and on the official website.

2.3 Aircraft

All participating aircraft in the competition must have a valid Certificate of Airworthiness for aerobatics. A valid aerobatic certificate of airworthiness or equivalent document issued by the appropriate aviation authority (FAA/EASA/Etc.) for the participant's country must be provided to the event organizers for each contest aircraft. (FAI Sporting Code 1.2.7)

Aircraft not holding a valid Certificate of Airworthiness issued pursuant to the ICAO Convention or an FAA permit to fly, cannot operate within the United States until validation of the airworthiness documents can be conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration.

2.4 Insurance

All aircraft using the Batavia aerobatic box must be insured for the liability of damages caused by operation of the aircraft to third parties covering a minimum amount of \$1,000,000 USD in liability insurance. All insurances policies must list Zelf Properties Inc. & Genesee County, as additionally insured parties.

Pilots and teams renting aircraft may be required to purchase additional hull insurance. Specific coverage requirements for hull insurance should be coordinated directly with the aircraft owner.

2.5 Entry Fee's

COMPETITORS	Before 1 May, 2026	Before 1 July, 2026	After 1 July, 2026
Single Room	\$3,600	\$3,800	\$4,000
Shared Room	\$3,000	\$3,200	\$3,400
No Room	\$2,400	\$2,600	\$2,800

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

Single Room	\$2,800	\$3,000	\$3,200
Shared Room	\$2,200	\$2,400	\$2,600
No Room	\$1,600	\$1,800	\$2,000

The entry fee covers:

- Accommodation from 23rd of August till 3rd of September (11 nights)
- 3 meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- AVGAS 100LL – For competition flights
- Engine Oil – For competition flights
- Smoke Oil – For program 5
- Transfers between hotel and airfield
- Opening and Closing ceremonies (including meals)
- Entertainment provided by the organizer
- Laundry

2.6 Payment Options

Entry fee payment can be made via wire transfer or by credit card via the 2026 WAC website.

Please see the website for details and instructions.

2.7 Cancellation & Refund Policy

Event organizers will offer 100% refunds until May 31st, 75% refunds until Jun 30th, 50% refunds until Jul 31st, and no refund after Jul 31st. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. The closer we get to the contest, the more expenses are incurred and our ability to provide refunds becomes more limited.

If the event organizers cancel WAC 2026 before May 31st, 100% of the entry fee will be refunded. After June 30th, all remaining unused funds will be used to repay as much of the entry fee(s) as possible, with priority given to participants and team members in the order they registered and paid their entry fees.

If a registered pilot or official must cancel their participation, their NAC can substitute another pilot or official with no financial penalty. If a participant cancels their entry, through the NAC information, the proportion of the fee will be refunded as explained above.

3. Free Sequence Submissions

According to the FAI Sporting Code, Section 6, Part 1, 2.2.1.9 a), the event organizers respectfully request the Free Known sequence for each competitor be submitted not earlier than **July 20th** and not later than 12:00L on **August 20th** at 14:00L on the contest site.

Competitors must submit their free sequence via e-mail to registrar@2026wac.com for review and confirmation of validation.

Free sequences are submitted using OpenAero drawing software (seq format). Sequences must be drawn using the latest available software version. The computer file must contain completed pages for the three forms (A, B and C).

Hard copies alone, or hand drawings will not be accepted. The computer file must contain completed pages for the five Forms described in Section 6, Part 1, 2.2.1.9, in a format declared acceptable by the Bureau of CIVA.

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure the software used has been updated to comply with the Aresti System (Condensed) and Section 6, Part 1, regulations as currently amended by CIVA. If any pilot submits their Free Known sequence after the registration deadline, they will not be allowed to take part in Program 1.

File Naming Example:

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown.pdf

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown_FormA.pdf

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown_FormB.pdf

First Name_Last Name_FreeKnown_FormC.pdf

A confirmation email will be provided acknowledging receipt of your program files. Please contact Mary Beth Rudd at registrar@2026wac.com with any questions or concerns regarding your sequence submissions.

4. Regulations

The FAI and CIVA Regulations for this event are:

- FAI Sporting Code – General Section
- FAI Sporting Code – Section 6 Part 1– 2026 Edition
- FAI Anti-Doping Rules
- U.S. Federal Aviation Administration Regulations
- Local airfield Regulations

The official language of the contest will be English.

Participants are responsible for obtaining, as necessary, all authorizations to enter the United States (passport, visa, etc.).

4.1 Anti-Doping Policy

All pilots participating to the contest may be subject to an anti-doping control instructed by the world anti-doping agency.

All information and prohibited substances and methods can be found on the web site <https://www.wada-ama.org>

4.2 Protests

Protests will be accepted from individual competitors and teams only. All protests must be submitted to the President of the International Jury in writing, either directly or through the Contest Director, with a deposit, not later than two (2) hours after the occurrence, decision or publication of results which causes the protest to be made. "Non-working" hours, as defined in local regulations for the specific championships or competitions will not be counted. Every protest must refer to the rule or rules to which it relates. The amount of the deposit shall be US\$100.

All protests will be dealt with in compliance with the FAI General Section of the Sporting Code, Chapter 6. They will be dealt with by the International Jury, in cooperation with the Chief Judge if his assistance is required and his duties permit. Decisions taken by the International Jury are final and must not be changed later.

The deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld.

5. Accommodations & Logistics

5.1 Hotels

Accommodations will be booked for all registered pilots, team managers, coaches, mechanics, observers, or other official team personnel at hotels in Batavia, NY (in all cases less than a 5-minute drive from the airfield).

Entry fee includes 11 nights of lodging, from August 23rd (check-in) until September 3rd (check out). Teams or pilots arriving earlier will have to pay their accommodation from the first day of arrival until August 23rd.

Shuttles between hotels and airfield will be provided.

Accommodation:

Fairfield Inn & Suites – Pilots and Team Members

Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Pilots and Team Members

Hampton Inn – Pilots and Team Members

Batavia Downs - Judges and officials

5.2 Aircraft Shipping

For support with aircraft shipment please connect directly with our preferred logistics company, [Imperative Logistics](#). Additional information is available on the 2026 WAC website.

6. Fundraising

We welcome and encourage anyone interested in supporting the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships to join our fundraising efforts. Whether you are able to contribute directly or can connect us with a company or individual interested in donating or sponsoring part of the event, your support makes a meaningful difference.

A strong, collective fundraising effort helps ensure the success of the championships while bringing significant enhancements to the overall atmosphere, community, and pride to our sport. Together, we can create an event that benefits not only those in attendance, but the entire community of aerobatic and aviation enthusiasts.

Please contact our fundraising director at fundraising@2026wac.com for more information.

7. Website & Social Media

Social media will play a key role in promoting the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships by building global awareness and driving spectator engagement. Official event accounts will share pilot profiles, aircraft highlights, and behind-the-scenes preparation content leading up to the event.

During the competition, live updates, short video clips, and near real-time scoring highlights will help fans follow the action. Interactive content such as contests, fan polls, and user-generated posts will help grow the audience and create a sense of community around the championships.

Official Website: www.2026wac.com

Instagram: @2026wac

Facebook: World Aerobatic Championships 2026

YouTube: @WAC2026USA

8. Contest Officials

8.1 International Jury

President – Tamas Abranyi

Member – Pierre Varloteaux

Member – Steve Todd

8.2 Judges

Chief Judge – Quintin Hawthorne

Judges – To Be Announced

9. Contact Information

Please feel free to contact the event organizing staff with questions or concerns.

CONTEST DIRECTOR

Shad Coulson

Cell: (719) 650-6686

E-mail: contact@2026wac.com

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR

Jennifer Vukovic

E-mail: fundraising@2026wac.com

REGISTRAR

MaryBeth Rudd

E-mail: registrar@2026wac.com