

2016 Delegate Profile

Name: Barbara McLean-Stollery

Personal Motto: “I ask myself ‘what is the worst thing that can happen.’ The answer is fail. If failure is the worst thing, it needs to be done.”

Location: Calgary, Alberta

Twitter: [@barbmcln](https://twitter.com/@barbmcln)

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/barbara-mclean-stollery-05359426>



My Company

Name: Executive Airways Grooming

Founded: 1980

Website: www.executiveairwaysgrooming.com

Life as an Entrepreneur

The Trigger: Why did you become an entrepreneur? What prompted you to take that first step? How did you develop the concept for your business?

I never planned on being an entrepreneur. Looking back at my early years, I realize that I always have been an entrepreneur, I just didn't realize it until the opportunity presented itself.

My first business was actually when I was 13 years old. I developed a small company that employed only myself and my younger sister Bridget. We would hire ourselves out to our community to clean up our neighbours' yards of their pet waste. I walked pets, babysat when their owners would go on vacation, and do a weekly yard cleaning of all pet waste. I managed to keep myself employed with ample spending money until I finished high school.

However, Executive Airways Grooming Services is the company that really launched me into entrepreneurship. I was working part-time at Calgary's Executive Airways Grooming Services while studying Aircraft Engineering at SAIT. As a commercial and private pilot, it was clear that I knew my way around an airplane, and my work ethic impressed my then boss. Ready to retire, and looking for someone who could continue to build the business he started 25 years prior, owner Wayne Kaut offered me the opportunity to buy the innovative grooming service and become my own boss.

I haven't looked back since accepting that offer and I realize you can't hesitate when opportunity comes knocking. I love the freedom of owning my own companies. With entrepreneurship come long hours, but the extra time is rewarding both personally and financially. I have expanded the markets originally developed by my predecessor moving into new markets and following opportunity as they present themselves.

Describe your greatest accomplishment/most rewarding moment of your career as an entrepreneur?

My greatest accomplishment was when I paid off all of business loans for the original purchase of Executive Airways Grooming Services.

Please describe your next challenge or plans for your business or for yourself as an entrepreneur:

I am working with a group currently proposing a Corporate Flight Business Operation (FBO) in China. In addition, I planning to purchase an additional rental property as well as two additional existing aircraft detailing companies.