

# Aerie News

The Eagles Aerie News of the **USAir**

First Quarter 2023

**Soaring Eagles**

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Soaring Eagles Write

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1<sup>st</sup> VP

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Treasurer/

Paul Sturpe

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Secretary

Judi Todd

Past President

John Davis

Advisors to the Board – Bill Leefe, Bob Knapp, Butch Schofield, Ron Natalie

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(276) 632-9941

Captain Joe Kernan

[Joekernandc9@yahoo.com](mailto:Joekernandc9@yahoo.com)

As I type this message plans are well under way for the 46th Annual Soaring Eagles Convention/Reunion to be held in Tampa Fl. Oct. 27th through Oct. 29, 2023. As in the past we will be at The Marriott Tampa Westshore. The reservation link is provided below, and I once again urge you to make your reservations early to avoid any problems if the Tampa Bay Bucs play at home that weekend. If The Buc's are at home that weekend the room rates can be more than double what our block rate is. If you take care of it now, it makes our job much easier. Unless you want to come a day early and do nothing, you should make your reservation for Friday Oct. 27th checking out on Monday Oct 30th.

Book your group rate for Soaring Eagles of US Air Oct 2023 on the next page.

You will find the information for your online reservation link on the next page. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your business and look forward to a successful event.

Event Summary:

Soaring Eagles of US Air Oct2023

Start Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023

End Date: Monday, October 30, 2023

Last Day to Book: Thursday, October 5, 2023

Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:

Marriott Tampa Westshore for 130 USD - 180 USD per night

[Click here or copy and paste the following url into your browser.](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1678803422262&key=GRP&app=resvlink)

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1678803422262&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

At the last several reunions there have been a fair number of Allegheny and USAir Soaring Eagles T shirts being worn by members, and only a few Mohawk shirts were seen. I don't have access to the Mohawk, Lake Central, PSA, America West, or Piedmont shirts, but I'm pretty sure they can be found online at several suppliers. Sky Shirts is one supplier that I know of with the Mohawk shirts and believe some of the others. It would be nice to see some of the other airlines that made up USAir represented.

If you are going to be attending the Convention/Reunion and have Airline Memorabilia specific to your airline of origin, bring it so it can be displayed. I also have a bunch of stuff left from last year that I will be bringing to auction off after we return from the dinner cruise. Bring your money, because I don't want to take anything home with me other than Donna.

Good News..... Bad News

A preacher was speaking to his congregation, and he told them that he had good news and bad news. The good news he said, "We have plenty of money as a congregation, the bad news is that it is still in your wallets."

Well, I have a similar problem with the Monday Morning feature which relies on me having stories to publish every Monday. "We have thousands of stories, but unless they are shared with me, no one else can enjoy them." Most of the Thursday Throwbacks are photographs. Although I have quite a collection of those, I can also publish photos that you send me. Help me keep these features going by participating.

Speaking of participation:

Dues were due by the end of February.

- \$40.00 for members younger than age 80 on January 1, 2023.
- \$25.00 if you were age 80 or older on January 1, 2023.
- \$00.00 if you were age 80 before January 1, 2018.
- \$00.00 if you are an Honorary member, Life member or Friend.

Pay via check made out to Soaring Eagles and send to:

Soaring Eagles

8860 Peninsula Dr.

Terrell, NC 28682

As you may be aware the Constitution and By-Laws was recently changed which provides for a member who has not paid dues for three years to be dropped from the roles. If a member is dropped for nonpayment of dues and wishes to be reinstated, they will be required to reapply. If you look at the table above, I don't think you can say the dues are exorbitant. While we would not want to lose any members for nonpayment of dues or any other reason, it just doesn't seem to be fair to those who are paying.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Tampa. Bring a guest, or better yet bring a new member.

If you have any questions regarding anything, don't hesitate to call me. 276-632-9941

Joe

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(724) 378-7025

Flight Attendant Judy Schmidt  
Colbath

[schonewalds64@aol.com](mailto:schonewalds64@aol.com)

If you read Joe Kernan's recent email, you will know that plans are already underway for the 2023 Soaring Eagles Reunion.

I was tasked this year with coordinating with the hotel catering department to come up with a menu for the Friday Meet & Greet, and for the Sunday Banquet. Since we will be going on the dinner cruise again and will be served a sit down dinner at that time, there have been discussions about having the Sunday night meal as a buffet. In the past the buffet dinner was on Saturday night but has been replaced with the dinner cruise.

Since I am sensitive to the wishes of the members. I don't want to do anything in the way of planning that would diminish your ability to fully enjoy yourself. Please respond to [schonewalds64@aol.com](mailto:schonewalds64@aol.com) or to [joekernandc9@yahoo.com](mailto:joekernandc9@yahoo.com) so that we can have your opinion on the matter.

We had a great time last year, and I hope everyone that reads this message will heed Joe's suggestion and make your hotel reservations early. Bring a guest, or better yet get someone who is eligible to join.

Thanks,

Judy

See you in Tampa

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(239) 693-9285

Captain Andy Skiba

[aeskiba@cs.com](mailto:aeskiba@cs.com)

To all our younger and inactive soaring Eagles.

My name is Andy Skiba. I was in the last class that Allegheny Airlines hired in 1966. I was the last FO that got qualified in the piston engine Convair 440. But the rest of the story I'll save for another time,

I attended our most recent convention in Tampa for the very first time. I had just joined the soaring Eagles for the first time in 2020 but as you recall the 2020 and 2021 Reunions were canceled due to the corona virus and its impact on everything.

When my wife and I finally got to go to our first reunion gathering of Soaring Eagles I was amazed by the fun and comradery that we had with the people there. I saw many of my former coworkers that I hadn't seen in over 28 years. Amazingly, once we started to get reacquainted, the stories of past

escapades and adventures started and one story would lead to another and another. Of course the hospitality suite and unlimited adult beverages helped our memories considerably. The Allegheny, Mohawk, Lake Central, and Piedmont shirts and hats were being worn by almost everyone, myself included.

The activities that your officers put together for this reunion were also outstanding in every regard. A dinner cruise on Tampa Bay plus the Sunday Night Banquet were all well received by the Soaring Eagles. Joe Kernan and your officers put together an auction after the dinner of all the donated memorabilia from our former Airlines. Everything from photos, posters, airplane models and of course clothing items. I was outbid on most of the things that I wanted. Those former flight attendants must have married rich guys because they were vicious in their bidding. It was one of the most fun events we had at the reunion. The proceeds from the auction were donated to the restoration program of the Airmail Stinson aircraft.

Our business meeting on Sunday morning was brief since there were no controversial items on the agenda. I was elected as the 2nd VP and the other officers were reelected to their previous positions. As the 2nd VP, Joe Kernan asked me to work on recruiting new members to the Soaring Eagles. Since many of our newer, younger members have not attended our convention and reunion I wanted to talk a little about the fun and activities at our 2022 convention/reunion so that those members who haven't attended can get a sense of what a great event it is.

We all have spent a great portion of our lives working in a unique profession. Only those who have been there can really understand why we gather each year to reunite with the men and women that were a part of that experience. The friendships that we formed during our hours spent aloft serving the traveling public may be forgotten as we moved on with our life after we retired from USAir but this reunion really brings those memories back up front again.

I would ask all our members to make an effort to consider attending our next conference/reunion and try to get a fellow employee still working or retired to become a member of the Soaring Eagles and join us at our next convention in Tampa.

I personally guarantee that you and they will have a great time.

Captain Andy Skiba (Retired USAir)

**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

(619) 417-7274

Flight Attendant Judi Todd

[judiwtodd@gmail.com](mailto:judiwtodd@gmail.com)

We are on the "Halfway" mark. 6 months reminiscing about the last reunion/convention and 6 months looking forward to the next reunion/convention. We had such a great time last October that I can't see how we could ever top that experience EXCEPT that we are going to do that this coming October. Plans are well in advance mode so mark your calendar and plan on joining your fellow pilots and Flight Attendants for a fun and busy weekend 10/27-30.

As you know I'm in charge of the Hospitality Suite and would love to have your input on anything you think would/ could be added to make it more enjoyable for you. Thanks!!! Judi

**TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

(828) 478-1133

Captain Paul Sturpe

[sturpe@gmail.com](mailto:sturpe@gmail.com)

Your 2023 dues were due by the end of February. If it has slipped your mind then this should serve as a reminder. If you are not sure if you are up to date, just drop me an email [SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com](mailto:SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com) and I'll let you know your status.

You want to get up to date, especially if you have not paid since 2020 because I will be purging our members' database for those who have not paid in the last three years. You don't have to pay all those back years to become current (at least this time!) Just pay for 2023. You don't want to miss the emails showing what your former associates are up to.

If you get dropped from the database you will have to fill out a new application form if you want to rejoin in the future. No one likes that paperwork, including me!

Also, there is a new way to pay those dues. Just go to our web site <https://usairsoaringeagles.org/> and click on the "Pay Dues" button. Clicking on that button will show you the option to pay your dues via PayPal or credit card. We hope this will make it more convenient for you to pay dues. Of course, you can still send a check if you prefer, made out to "Soaring Eagles" at:

Soaring Eagles  
8860 Peninsula Dr.  
Terrell, NC 28682

So long until next quarter.  
Paul Sturpe, Treasurer/Web Master

## **“SOARING EAGLES WRITE”**

William G. Kingston  
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81 Mainmast Circle  
New Castle, NH 03854  
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[DC9guy@comcast.net](mailto:DC9guy@comcast.net)

February 6, 2023

Soaring Eagles  
8860 Peninsula Dr.  
Terrell, NC 28682

Enclosed is my check for annual dues.  
My DOB is Jan.3, 1940

I am doing much better than I deserve. Some people cannot believe I am 83. That is an easy mistake because I just turned 83 so people still think I look 82.  
I left my summer job running boats. It was a great job. It paid well, and conditions were wonderful. However, for the last 20 years I was running the same boat over the same route and listening to the same narration. I consider that a recipe for dementia.  
Fortunately, boat captains are in demand now and I will likely get a job with better pay.  
Sometimes, you get lucky...

Stay well everyone!

*Bill Kingston*

2-17-23

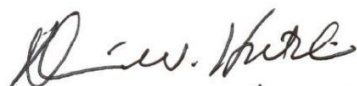
CAPT DENNIS W. HUTCHINS  
DENNY  
7011 STANICH AVE.  
GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

SOARING EAGLES  
8860 PENINSULA DR.  
TERRELL, NC 28682

Dear SOARING EAGLES,

Thank you so much for your years  
of service for all of us. I really appreciate  
you all for letting me see so much terrific  
information about those who were with us  
on our special career.

Sincerely,  
DENNY

  
DENNIS W. HUTCHINS



I am the happy owner of a brand new titanium left hip. It's so wonderful to be able to walk without pain now. I appreciate the miracle of modern medicine, and am once again able to keep up with my 96-year-old mother who still lives on her own. Life is good in sunny Florida, especially now that the pandemic is well over. Yay!

I'm enjoying my full-time author career and am close to finishing my 12th published novel. This one will be the third in my new mystery-suspense series. I also have several novels in my action-thriller series featuring a woman airline pilot. All my books are published under the author name S.L. Menear, and I'm pleased to report both men and women enjoy reading them. Sadly, I probably won't be able to attend the reunion in October because the timing always conflicts with an important writers conference, but it was good to see all the happy faces in the photos from the 2022 reunion.

Warm regards,

Sharon L. Menear, Retired 737 Captain

FROM KEN CHRISTENSEN:

How are you doing? What have you been doing? We would love to hear from you

**USAir Soaring Eagles** [via mail.robly.com](mailto:via.mail.robly.com)  
to me

As the First Quarter issue of the Aerie is being prepared for publication later this month, there is still time to submit comments for inclusion. We welcome the lookout for the Aerie to show up in your mailbox, as there will be important information regarding the 2022 Convention.

If you haven't paid your 2022 dues yet, now would be a good time to take care of that chore. If you were (80) eighty years old prior to Jan. 2017 you (40.00) forty dollars per year.

The two methods for payment are listed below

By mail to:

Soaring Eagles  
8860 Peninsula Dr  
Terrell, NC 28682

Via PayPal to:

[SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com](mailto:SoaringEaglesTreas@gmail.com)

Make checks out to "Soaring Eagles".

It behooves all to get dues paid because there will be some free amenities this year at the annual convention for all members whose dues are up 1

Please do it now so we can stop bugging you, and Thank you to those that have already paid for 2022.

Joe

*Had a carotid artery cleaned last yr.  
left side of neck to brain.*

*Today I go again for an ultrasound  
for the right side to take a look-see  
if it needs to be scraped -  
getting old is no fun - Hope I  
survive this one too*

*Ken*