

Aerie News

The Eagles Aerie News of the **USAir**

First Quarter 2025

Soaring Eagles

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Secretary

Judi Todd

Past President

Joe Kernan

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

410-991-6070

Captain Dave Pfaff

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In late December, the board started preparing for the 2025 season. The Tampa Westshore Marriott was contacted to host our convention. Due to a conflict with another corporation on the dates we requested, the convention room was not available at that time. They asked us to be patient, as they believed that the corporation would not commit to those dates. Last week we received notification that those dates we requested are indeed secured for us. Those dates are 10/24 to 10/26. While waiting for this confirmation, we secured a comedian and DJ for the dinner festivities. Also we were able to book the very popular dinner cruise on the Starship touring the Tampa Bay. Transportation to and from the ship has also been booked. For those that have not attended this convention, it is a reunion of dear friends and acquaintances getting together for three days of fun. This Marriott allows us to set up our own bar for drinks, snacks and refreshments that the board supplies through your dues payments. As of this point, only 50% of members have paid their dues which were due 2/28. We would like you to pay them as soon as possible so this convention will continue to be the great event that it is. The hotel is now taking reservations, and we suggest that you book in advance to get the room you want. Book a handicapped room soon, if you require, as not many of these are available. All information is available on the Aerie

website. If anyone has any memorabilia that they can part with, we'll have an auction for those attending. I would like to give Joe Kernan huge gratitude for guiding me along this journey as the new president. He has been invaluable with his help, as have all the board members. Thank you all and we look forward to seeing you at the convention. Dave Pfaff

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(724) 378-7025

Flight Attendant Judy Schmidt
Colbath

schonewalds64@aol.com

Hi Everyone,

Hope everything is going well with you all, I have been getting new members.

We have a Luncheon every 2 months in Pit & I passed out our membership application, response was good. Hopefully we will have several of our friends from Pit joining us. I will keep at it. Please help if you can.

Other than that, I haven't been to many dog shows, it's very slow in winter. Looking forward to spring.

That's all for now, Please stay Healthy & Enjoy Yourself.

Judy Schmidt. Colbath

**SECOND VICE
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Captain Steve Flom

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Hello Members,

I was recently snow skiing in Colorado with my brother Kevin and some friends. We were way back in the resort of Keystone. It was a great day. The sun was shining, the snow was white. I was skiing a challenging hill, going from side to side just enjoying the moment. Some people have called my technique "old man glide" which I fully embrace. The next thing I knew I felt a tremendous collision from behind. It knocked me immediately to the ground. My head hit the snow very hard. (It's funny how fast your mind works because I remember thinking just after I hit a good thing I was wearing my helmet.) Skis went flying every which way. One bounced off the snow and hit my chest and collar bone with such force that it immediately broke my clavicle.

I am lying on the snow, in tremendous pain trying to catch my breath and not move because it hurts worse if I do and very quickly a Ski Patrol person shows up. Meagan was her name. She was very competent. She asked me what happened. I told her and said I think my collar bone is broken. She asked if I had ever broken it before. It was kind of, how do you know that, if you have never broken it before

question. Somehow, I just knew. More help shows up with one of those rescue toboggans. They wanted me to roll over the edge of the toboggan to get into it. It hurt to just breathe and they wanted me to ROLL??. They eventually got me strapped in and Megan took the handles in front of the toboggan, and we started down the slope. I know how steep and bumpy the slope is, and I am strapped down in this thing at the mercy of whatever is going to happen. Every time we hit a bump, I just figured Megan had fallen and I was going to be on a crazy torpedo ride all the way to the bottom.

Next Megan says we are putting you on a chair lift in the toboggan. I figured I have had enough of this ride. I don't want to go back up and do it again. We HAD to go up another mountain, then back down the other side to get to the emergency room. What a process it was. I don't recommend it.

The Emergency room people were great and very professional. My brother was there helping to find my wallet and dig out the credentials and information they needed. (Not sure but I might be missing some cash). I remember standing next to him was Meagan. She might have needed more information. But I was shocked to see how petite she was. The way she manhandled (can you still say that?) that toboggan down the slope I figured she was a lot bigger person. It just points out the training and ski technique and professionalism that she had. Thanks Meagan!

Kevin told me that the guys we were skiing with all came down the slope with me. Some were even very protectively getting other skiers out of the way to make Meagan's job easier, He said they were all still at the emergency room but that they would only let him back.

There are two reasons for this long story. One, Friends and Family. Laying in the emergency room I realized the value of friends and family. How important they are. The other is how things can change very suddenly in our lives and the lives of our family and friends. Things that we have no control over or even anticipated. This is the big reason we have our Soaring Eagles convention. To re-connect. Seeing the faces from our past experiences and to hear those familiar voices help us retell and relive those experiences and to make new ones. Please make it a priority to be there for 2025. Also, if you haven't paid your dues, do it now while reading this. It is very easy to do online. Go to the soaring Eagles website. Click on pay dues and there you go. All done! I hope to see you there!

Steve Flom

2nd Vice President

PS..Next quarter why I had to take the ambulance ride.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

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Flight Attendant Judi Todd

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Well! Finally winter is over and it's Springtime Hurrah. Of course I live in San Diego and there isn't much of a change. Working for an Airline gives us the choice and ease of living where we want. Soon it will be October and we will all want to be in Tampa at our annual conference/reunion. Speaking of which I sure could use some help in the Hospitality room during the reunion as most of all our activities happen there.

Please drop me a line and let me know if you would be willing to assist me. It's a fun "job" as you can spend the time meeting and greeting all the guests. Hope to hear from you. Judi

WEBMASTER'S MESSAGE

(828) 478-1133

Captain Paul Sturpe

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From your Webmaster

We are in the process of updating our membership database. Emails and letters have been sent to those who have not paid dues for the last three years. The responses received to date generally show that those who have not been paying dues are no longer interested in being members of the Soaring Eagles.

There have been a few who had just overlooked their dues and were happy to send their dues to our treasurer. Thank you to all who have responded. Although we don't like to drop anyone from membership, we still appreciate it when you tell us so.

Let me know if there is anything new that you would like to see on our website. Also let me know if you see any errors.

So long until next quarter.

Paul Sturpe, Webmaster

webmaster@usairsoaringeagles.org

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

(239) 693-9285

Captain Andy Skiba

aeskiba@cs.com

Andy Skiba, Treasurer, Soaring Eagles

Hello to all the members of the Soaring Eagles.

As of this date I have recorded slightly less than 50 percent of our regular, non-exempt members who have paid their dues for 2025. We are almost exactly at the same level as last year.

We have 452 pilots and 80 flight attendants that fall in the dues paying category for a total of 532 regular or nonexempt members.

Some of our members have been sending in checks for more than their membership fee but still not designating how or where they want the excess payment directed. In some cases I will credit them for next year's dues and drop them an email informing them of how I credited them for the excess. In a few cases, unless directed by the member, I will just deposit the excess to our general treasury and make a note to thank them for their donation.

At the last 3 reunions/conferences our attendance has been around 90 attendees. Spouses or significant others make up a large portion of our attendees. Even with those numbers, your membership dues help defray the cost of our conference.

We still have to supplement the expenses associated with our only event where we have the opportunity to meet old friends and in many cases meet and make new friends. Being new to the Soaring Eagles and having attended just 3 reunion/conferences I had no idea how much fun they are and how much I had missed by not getting involved in the Soaring Eagles much sooner.

When I send an email to someone regarding their dues payments I always add a last line comment telling them that I hope they can make this year's reunion and I hope to meet them there.

When I receive a donation from some of our members I try to remember to thank them for their generosity and support of the Soaring Eagles.

For those members who have not met their dues obligation I can only remind them that dues can be paid any time throughout the year regardless when they are due. Keep those dues coming in and clear your

calendar so you can join your pilots and flight attendants this October for FUN IN TAMPA. Amazingly we still have some members flying the skies as working crew members.

We really do have a great time at the reunion and the hospitality suite is open for free libations, snacks and the occasional surprise menu items anytime we are not in a scheduled event. One of the events we have scheduled for this year's banquet is a live DJ playing great dance music for your dancing and listening pleasure. Come join the fun.

Treasurer's notes and other stuff.

I want to thank all those members who have paid their 2025 annual dues. The checks have been coming in on a regular rate every day.

Many of those checks have included small personal notes thanking me for taking on this job for the Soaring Eagles. While I haven't replied to those notes I really do appreciate them and many of those notes are from pilots and flight attendants that I have flown with during my flying years with Allegheny Airlines (My initial employer June 1966) and my subsequent airline USAir (the airline that I retired from on June 1st 1998) 28 years later.

During my years with Allegheny and USAir I was very active with our pilot union ALPA, (Air Line Pilots Association). I first served as the F/O representatives and in later years as the Capt. Rep. and council chairman when we first opened up the PHL crew base. After serving as the council reps in PHL I served as the negotiating committee chairman during our first concession contract. (Not a fun time).

I saw the handwriting on the wall and decided to take an early retirement and bailed out in 1994 after 28 years flying for the airline. Not my smartest move because I missed out on the international flying as the company greatly expanded beyond London, Frankfurt and Paris.

During both my airline flying and later years I was always active in many different volunteer activities and usually in a senior leadership position. I had my first airplane ride as a 13 year old cadet in Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary). When I returned to civilian life after 4 years active duty in the USAF I became a senior member in CAP and served in many capacities including National Comptroller and National Finance Officer. I had the responsibility for a \$4,000,000 budget. I also served as the treasurer of my local Elks lodge and QB hangar. Somehow I couldn't stay away from the money.

When I became active in the Soaring Eagles Joe Kernan asked me to volunteer to run for the 2nd vice

president position and he promised that I wouldn't have to do any work. Since there wasn't anyone else interested in the position, there I was, 2ndVP.

After a short year in that position Joe told me that Paul Sturpe wanted to no longer be the treasurer and just serve as our webmaster. Guess what? Here I am as your Soaring Eagles treasurer.

As your treasurer I see a decline in our dues paying membership. I have pointed this out to your elected officers and we are taking steps to explore incentives to recruit new members to our organization. We are starting to see the second generation of retiring pilots and flight attendants become members in the Soaring Eagles and Dave Pfaff, our newly elected president, is one of the "NEW GUYS".

Joe Kernan is still around as our most recent president and is giving guidance to Dave when requested as he gets acclimated to the job as your president. Dave is a fast learner and already is seeking input from the officers on ways to keep our numbers from declining and adding new members to the Soaring Eagles organization.

If you have any suggestions to help keep our organization alive and healthy don't hesitate to drop any of your officers an email with your ideas.

I guess my short comments have gotten a little long winded so I'll just close by saying "keep those cards, letters, and DUES coming".

Andy Skiba

Treasurer, Soaring Eagles

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Captain Joe Kernan

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When President Dave Pfaff agreed to succeed me as Soaring Eagles President, I committed to help him in any way that I could. Upon his election President Pfaff was surprised to find out how few of the members actually pay their dues. To that end I hope most of you have taken care of paying your dues

which were due on February 28, 2025. As with any organization, having every member paying their share is vital to the life of that organization. I am aware that your board is going to be making a concerted effort to ensure that every member has paid their dues, so that removal from the roster under the provisions of the Constitution & By-laws will be unnecessary. President Pfaff is going to be plenty busy planning for a successful 48th Convention/Reunion than to be dunning folks for their dues.

Speaking of the 48th Convention/Reunion, the hotel reservation link is available now. Get your reservation done now, and you won't have to worry about deadlines, and it will be of tremendous help to Dave, and the others involved in the Convention/Reunion planning.

[Book your group rate for SOARING EAGLES OF USAIR OCT 2025](#)

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. 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 USAIR OCT 2025

Start Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025

End Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:

- **Marriott Tampa Westshore for 137.00 USD - 187.00 USD per night - Last Day to Book :
Friday, October 03, 2025**

[Book your group rate for SOARING EAGLES OF USAIR OCT 2025](#)

Although the board arrives on Oct.23rd to put the finishing touches on the Convention/Reunion, the members would be expected to check in on Friday Oct. 24th, and check out on Monday Oct. 27, so keep that in mind when making your reservation.

President Pfaff will soon begin sending out reminders about the Convention/Reunion, and Andy Skiba will announce when he will be ready to accept Convention/Reunion fees.

President Pfaff also requests that if anyone has airline memorabilia to display, or donate for the auction that they bring it to Tamps.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Tampa,

Joe