

Aerie News

The Eagles Aerie News of the **USAir**

Second 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

pflyer34@gmail.com

It's finally summer. Time for outdoor parties, family, vacation and BBQs.

When Joe Kernan asked me to be president of the Soaring Eagles, he asked if he could still continue with the Monday and Thursday stories. Of course that was my response. His knowledge base of the company is vast, and his storytelling is exemplary.

As the membership of this group is not getting any younger, many stories have been repeated. We've requested many times to the membership to submit new stories regarding their careers, but very few have submitted them.

Just one of the things that make the convention a success is old friends and acquaintances getting together and relating these often hilarious stories.

Because our charter is limited to USAir pilots and flight attendants, our numbers are finite and dwindling. It's called the "Airee" for a reason. It's those of us that endured thousands of hours in the air catering to the flying public. You might call it the "front line". We solved the problems that fell through the cracks and reached the cabin. The wonderful woman that was booked on the Manchester NH flight that somehow made it on the Manchester UK is a perfect example.

We, as a team, solved these problems.

Each year the board works tirelessly to have a convention for members to come together and see old friends, make new ones, and relate these memories. Some are sad, some are recollections of screw-ups that ended up not upsetting the apple cart, and some that are not able to be printed publicly.

We've pleaded with the membership to pay their dues. Far too many have not. Another reason why the convention is such a success is the membership dues paying for so many amenities. The entertainment, cocktails and drinks, morning donuts, pizza, appetizers etc.

Joe asked me to take over the reins of this wonderful group for many reasons including family obligations and age. This year three of our board members have decided to step down for similar reasons. They have been dedicated, wonderful and have stayed on longer than they initially intended to help with the organization.

These positions are treasurer, vice president and secretary. Their role terminates at year's end and needs to be filled.

If anyone, or anyone they know, would like to fill these positions, please let us know. Without them, we won't be able to fulfill our obligation to the membership, and that would be a shame.

We, the board, wishes everyone a healthy and fruitful summer, and hope to see you at the convention in October.

President Dave Pfaff

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(724) 378-7025

Flight Attendant Judy Schmidt
Colbath

schonewalds64@aol.com

Hi everyone,

I'm still showing my dogs and winning!

I worked and finished the menu for the reunion.

I think all will really enjoy themselves! Great plans!

Hope to see you all, try to bring a friend!

Judy Schmidt Colbath

**SECOND VICE
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Captain Steve Flom

stevav8or@aol.com

"Pan-pan" (pronounced pahn-pahn) is an urgency signal used to indicate an urgent situation that is not a life-threatening emergency. It's a step below a "Mayday" call, which indicates a severe, imminent threat to life or the vessel. "Pan-pan," derived from the French word "panne" meaning breakdown or failure, indicates a situation that requires assistance but does not pose an immediate danger.

Dear Members,

This is the situation the Soaring Eagles find themselves in right now.

We are going into this next convention needing to elect a first Vice President and a Secretary. We do have a new candidate for treasurer.

Quite frankly, President Dave and I need your help to keep this organization going. Talking with Dave, he said the reason he took the President's job was because he attended a convention and had so much fun with a great group of people that he wanted to do what he could to help keep it going.

We now need your help to keep it going. We want to keep having conventions to keep in touch with a great group of people and keep communications open to all members. To keep memories alive and share new stories.

We need some members to step up and fill these vacant roles. If you can't do it, think of someone who can and talk to them. We all have busy lives, but it is worth carving a little time out for this great organization.

Thank you to Andy Skiba, Judy Schmidt and Judi Todd for your excellent participation over the years. You have helped make the Soaring Eagles what it is. We look forward to seeing you at many future conventions. Steve Flom

Second Vice President

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

(619) 417-7274

Flight Attendant Judi Todd

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Hello Summer (finally). Again here I am sitting with my kitties on my lap (Bonnie & Clyde) enjoying the first few days of summer. But I am still looking forward to our reunion/convention at the end of October. Hope to see a lot of you joining in the fun. FYI there are a few positions opening up on the Board of Soaring Eagles and this would be a good time to have our Flight Attendants hop on board to help our new President. Great idea. Judi

WEBMASTER'S MESSAGE

(828) 478-1133

Captain Paul Sturpe

sturpe@gmail.com

From your Webmaster

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

There were 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.

After the update of our database, here are some interesting statistics.

We have 861 people listed, of which 465 are not required to pay dues. That leaves 395 who should be paying dues. To date, I show 290 paid for 2025. If you don't know if you are paid up, contact our Treasurer, Andy Skiba.

On another subject, I hear there could be as many as three officers who are not running for re-election. If that proves to be correct, we need volunteers. Let President Pfaff know if you are willing to fill any of the board's positions.

Also, remember to check our website frequently. Here is the link.

<http://usairsoaringeagles.org>

If you want to contact any board member, their contact information is in the Aerie. Current and past Aeries are prominently displayed on the website.

Once again, 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

Dave and Board members,

I will be completing my term of office at the end of this year. When I told Joe Kernan that I would take this position for one term I was firm that it would be for one term only.

My wife and I are in our 80's so now would be the time for some fresh enthusiasm and a new treasurer to take over the position as of January 1, 2026.

Now is also the time to start searching for someone who might be a candidate for the treasurer position.

It had been an honor to serve our members but effective at the end of the year I will not be a candidate for reelection as your treasurer.

Looking forward to this year's conference and seeing friends and meeting new Soaring Eagles this fall.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joekernandc9@yahoo.com

(276) 632-9941

Captain Joe Kernan

When an organization experiences a leadership change, it's crucial to manage the transition effectively to minimize disruption and ensure a smooth transition.

When Dave Pfaff succeeded me as President of the Soaring Eagles, I made a commitment to him to do everything in my power to ensure that he would be successful as your new President. Just as we used to do when turning an airplane over to a new Captain, I have shared all of the relevant information to Dave which should help him as he leads this organization into the future . I recently provided Dave with a written description of what has to be done, and sort of a schedule for certain things to be done, sort of a logbook or schedule if you will. As I write this article Dave is fully engaged with the sales staff at the Tampa Westshore Marriott, the staff at the Yacht Starship Company, and the operator of the charter buses that we use for getting to the cruise vessel. Probably the most important thing that the President does is to make certain that the Annual Convention/Reunion takes place in a manner that affords the member the opportunity to spend quality time with other members that they may not have seen for awhile, maybe a year or even longer. So far the smooth transition continues.

I've done my part in fulfilling my commitment to Dave, but I now ask you for a huge personal favor. It would mean a lot to me if everyone who reads this message were to immediately go to the [Soaring Eagles website](#), The Soaring Eagles of USAir, click on the conventions tab, make your hotel reservations, and register for the 48th Annual Soaring Eagles Convention/Reunion. It's a two part process, hotel reservations, followed by Soaring Eagles registration. Some of you have already made your hotel reservations, but have not yet registered with Treasurer Andy Skiba. You know what to do.

Thanks in advance for the favor,

Joe

Book your group rate for SOARING EAGLES TAMPA OCT 2025

You will find the information for your [online reservation link](#). 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 TAMPA 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 TAMPA OCT 2025