

Aerie News

The Eagles Aerie News of the Third Quarter 2026

USAir Soaring Eagles

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Secretary	Patti Nagy
Past President	Joe Kernan

Advisor to the Board – Butch Schofield

Dear Fellow Soaring Eagles, please share your latest news, photos, and memorable moments with Secretary Patti Nagy at pattinagy65@gmail.com so we can include them in upcoming Aerie editions. Your stories help keep our community strong, connected, and soaring together.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

410-991-6070

Captain Dave Pfaff

pflyer34@gmail.com

Fall is here and the trees are turning and the weather is starting to get cooler. It's a perfect time to go south and enjoy the warmth.

The annual convention of the soaring eagles is October 23-25 this year. Once again, it should be a blast. Each year we have a beverage room with free drinks starting on Friday, ending Sunday afternoon. The Westshore Marriott has quite a facility, where many meet at the pool reminiscing about their careers, family, post-employment etc. It's always great to catch up with old friends.

This year we'll have a DJ again at the Sunday evening buffet, along with a renowned comedian Dave Dugan. Most get dressed up for the occasion. Great

food, drinks, and dancing. Friday afternoon we'll have free pizza to accompany the games and memorabilia auction, again with free drinks and snacks. On Saturday there is an international dinner, with courses from around the world. Most of Saturday is free till dinner, and the hotel has transportation to sites close by. Personally, I may take in a local go-cart track nearby.

The hotel is offering a reduced rate for the group. The cutoff date is October 2 for our special rate. For many years we've had a great turnout of about 75 people. This year it looks like there won't be that many, so if you haven't registered for either the hotel or the convention, act quickly, time's running out. Contact some friends that may be interested. All the information's on the USAirsoaringeagles website. Go to usairsoaringeagles.org.

We hope to see you there, and may your health and wellbeing be with you.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(813) 892-4725

Captain John Nagy

John.n1944@gmail.com

The time for the USAir Soaring Eagles annual reunion is rapidly approaching. Please submit your registration forms as soon as possible so that we can approximate what we'll need for supplies. Also, volunteers are needed to help with the signing in of guests and help with the hospitality room and bar. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and hoping for a memorable reunion.

Safe travels!

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Captain Steve Flom

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Hello Members, I hope that everyone had a great summer. We had more days over 100 than I ever thought I would see. It set records!

It would be nice if we could set some records at this years convention. Plan to attend to help set some records. Maybe most peperoni pieces on a slice of pizza eaten or most hot dogs in 2 minutes. Okay.... maybe we don't want to go the eating route but there may be some firsts.

I found some sayings that I will end with: **Richard Reid forced us to remove our shoes in the TSA line. Thank goodness he wasn't the "underwear bomber". The older I get, the better pilot I was.**

See you at the convention to hear your stories

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

(813) 892-4757

Patti Nagy

pattinagy65@gmail.com

It is almost time for our Annual convention. Hopefully everyone is planning to attend!

WEBMASTER'S MESSAGE

(828) 478-1133

Captain Paul Sturpe

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Time flies when you're having fun, or as the frogs say, "Times fun when you're having flies." Well, whichever it is, the convention/reunion is right around the corner.

The group is getting older. Is that why we are seeing a lack of interest this year? Is it too much of the same old thing year after year? The board would certainly like to hear from you. If you are not coming to Tampa this year, let us know why. Is it the cost? Has the routine become too monotonous? Is it something else?

Do you have an idea that would be more appealing to you? Let us know. This is your organization.

For those of you who ARE coming, I'm looking forward to seeing you and to participate in some hangar flying.

Remember to check our website frequently. Here is the link.

[The Soaring Eagles of USAir](#)

Contacting a board member is easy if you just look up their contact information. From the website click on the latest Aerie. Then scroll through the messages from your officers. Telephone numbers and emails are included in the header for each officer.

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.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Captain Eric Litt

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The job of the treasurer is to collect money from dues, conventions, and sales and pay expenses.

We have a website that has a cost, supplies for recognition of new members, and office supplies to keep things going are paid out of the dues we receive. Affairs such as the annual convention are self-supporting. We have a condolence fund from donations by members that are separate from our general funds. A gift is made in memory of a deceased Soaring Eagle.

We have a buffer to tide us over if there is a short fall. The object is to try to break even year to year.

When we do not receive dues from members this buffer makes up the difference. It's our Reserve Fuel. If we start to use too much, we had better find a place to land. Several years ago, dues were due on your birthday, we tried to use this as a reminder then we went to all dues were due at the beginning of the year.

There are too many members of the Soaring Eagles to send individual notices. So, what I am saying is that if you have paid this year's dues, Thanks. If you are in doubt, look back to see if you had and send it in. We don't keep score. NO FOQA. All I do is put a check in a column on a spreadsheet.

Anyway, as a fellow used to tell me many years age, "Keep It in the Middle of the Runway Nuten Fancy."

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Captain Joe Kernan

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If you are reading this after Oct. 2, 2026, you have missed the opportunity to get the discounted room rate for the upcoming convention/reunion. That being said, you still have time to register with Treasurer Eric Litt. At the time of this writing registrations have been somewhat sluggish. and we still need maximum effort to make the number that we guaranteed to the hotel to avoid paying damages.

I have attended every convention/reunion since 2010 when Fred Bettis was President and had a hand in planning many of them. It is very disappointing when the board exerts all the effort to make the event a success, and then only getting such a tepid response from the members. Of course, there are times when members have issues that prevent their attendance. Case in point I am very disappointed that I will miss my first convention/reunion in sixteen years due to left knee replacement surgery scheduled for Oct 12, 2026 just eleven days prior to the start of the convention. Bummer!

When I send out bulk emails to the membership they go to 711 recipients. I consider it a good day when 56% of that number actually open their emails. Of those approximately 520 members obligated to pay dues we only get between 50% and 55% that actually pay. We guaranteed the hotel that we would book 35 rooms, and as of this writing we are barely at 54% of that number. President Pfaff didn't pluck the number 35 out of thin air but based the selection on last year's number....a reasonable assumption, I think.

I was really looking forward to the convention/reunion in 2027, as it marks the fiftieth year since our founding in 1977. My enthusiasm for 2027 is somewhat dampened by our inability to generate much interest among a sizeable portion of the membership for many of the things I've already mentioned. I didn't even mention how difficult it is to get members to submit stories for the Monday Morning Story, or Thursday Throwback feature. An outsider looking in might conclude that we're running on fumes. It would be hard to convince them otherwise.

With all of this as background, I intend to make the following recommendation to President Pfaff and the Board. That no contract be signed with the hotel for the 2027 convention/reunion until the Soaring Eagles receives a written commitment from at least seventy members stating their intention to attend. Of course, if a member is bringing a guest that guest would count against the total number. In this way the planning for 2027 is much easier for the planners and would avoid us overestimating our room needs.

The commitment would be obtained by emailing every member in the database where they can check a box on the form and return it to President Pfaff and when he has seventy commitments, he can then execute the contract. Obviously, no one has crystal ball, and if a member has a legitimate reason that arises after making the commitment, so be it.

I'm sorry I can't be with you this year, but I look forward to seeing at least seventy of you in 2027 for The Soaring Eagles 50th Birthday Bash.