

# SOAR

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES GRAND AERIE



Grand Trustee Carl Burnett cuts the ribbon during the opening of the new Mesa Tri-City Aerie on March 9, as Grand Madam Trustee Jacque Marble and Arizona State Worthy President Sean Pearson look on.

## Mesa Tri-City Eagle Helps Build New Aerie Home, Bring In New Members

Among the countless beautiful sights in and around Mesa, Arizona, sits a 10,000 square-foot warehouse. As recently as a year ago, the vacant building was lost amidst the breathtaking scenery of the American Southwest. With its cinderblock walls and bare concrete flooring, the building was a blank canvas, awaiting the attention of an artist determined to use its walls to tell a new story.

Across town, Robert Schmidt tended to his business – a veteran's thrift store. A group of Eagle Riders from Mesa Tri-City #3468 walked through the doorway, eager to obtain donations from Schmidt for an upcoming ride. He gladly offered to donate whatever they'd like to have as conversation turned toward the Aerie's construction needs.

Suddenly the concrete jungle on West Broadway Road had met the artist that

would change Mesa Tri-City forever.

"I grew up in fraternal organizations because of my dad," Schmidt said. "I really wanted to do something in his honor, so I got to work turning this wall-to-wall empty space into the Aerie I knew it could be."

Armed with grand ideas and a pedestrian budget, Robert, affectionately known as "Bob the Builder," spread the word to his construction sources, pinching penny after penny to get the Eagles the best deal possible. The process began in April 2012 and Schmidt convinced peers to help out at half their usual rate. Local businesses he frequented offered items at no charge or at a significantly discounted rate. He estimates the savings at roughly \$150,000.

"I badgered everyone I knew for a deal," Robert said. "I went to my usual

## Eagles Give Back With Soar Envelope

In April, we asked Eagles across the United States and Canada to help us in our quest to find a cure for diabetes by using the giving envelope included in each copy of the semi-annual Soar Report to make a donation to The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center.

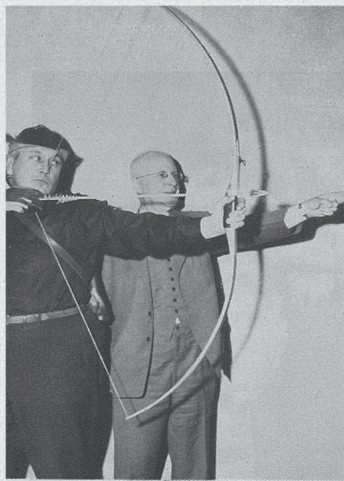
Eagles everywhere responded by making personal donations or passing their envelopes along to a friend or family member eager to give, generating \$16,354.10 in donations to the DRC as of May 31. Combined with donations made via the \$1 add-on box on each Soar Subscription Form, Soar has generated a total of \$24,467.10 in contributions to the DRC since January 2012.

We thank everyone who made great use of the envelope and encourage anyone with an unused envelope to pass it to a friend or neighbor or make a contribution to the cause themselves. While our progress is visible, we still have work to do.

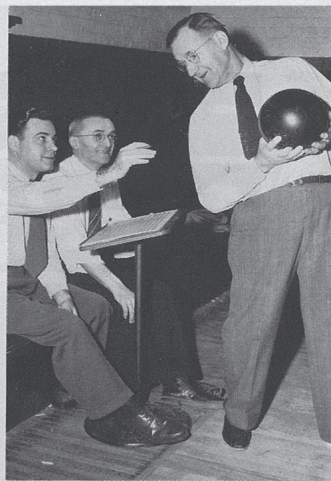
The summer months are perfect for planning and holding a special fundraiser to help continue our momentum toward meeting our \$25 million commitment. If your Aerie/Auxiliary is holding a DRC fundraiser, send the details to the Grand Aerie Marketing & Communications Department and our Local News Program will reach out to the media in your area to give your event an extra kick. Details regarding our Local News Program can be found on the insert included with this edition of Soar.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the DRC, Soar or the giving envelope included in April's issue, contact the Marketing Department at [marketing@foe.com](mailto:marketing@foe.com) or by phone at 614-883-2210.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: JUNE 1949



**ARCHERY** has gained ardent participants. Fred Ahrens displays prize-winning technique.



**CHAMPION BOWLERS** hold a workout. Getting set to spill the pins is Secretary Ray Williams.



**ON THE FAIRWAY**, Eagles like Marion Osborne show prowess.

**Sports for All**

**Teen-Agers, Graybeards Pick Their Fun**

In Elkhart, Indiana, a quiet neighborly town where diversified industry provides an average livelihood for most of its dwellers, leisure hours are transformed into zest and joy for any Eagle, merely for the taking. Here has been initiated by Elkhart Aerie, a program of sports and hobbies that keeps Pa and Ma Eagle, and Junior, too, chin high in chatfest at the supper table.

Don't waste any time lolling around the street corners in Elkhart. Hustle down to the trim Aerie home, and pick yourself a pastime. Ray Williams, the husky Eagle secretary and ex-baseball catcher with the iron handgrip, will gladly accommodate you.

What's your favorite? If it's bowling, fishing, softball, golfing, horseshoe pitching, basketball, rifle and pistol marksmanship, and - shades of Robin Hood - archery, there's fun for you. If this isn't variety enough, boxing, skating and tennis will round out the "sportsorama" in the near future. In fact, there's almost an Olympian games choice.

No. 1 on the Elkhart sports parade - and quite likely the nation over, too - is fishing. Postcards sent to the membership when the program was being planned disclosed this preference. Following in order of popularity are bowling, golf and softball.

The programs are spiced with competitive features. In fishing, anglers vie for the longest catches, and prizes. In softball, the Aerie team competes for honors in a city league. In golfing, an Aerie team matches it's skill in a district tournament with other Aeries. And, in bowling, keglers keep their sights on state tournament honors.

"Elkhart Aerie's sports program," says Secretary Williams, "has created good, wholesome recreation for Eagle members and their families. It was set up to provide some choice of participation for all. It makes for good citizenship, a better community - and better Eagles."



**CRACK EAGLE MARKSMEN** improve their technique. Left to right are Max Wiseman, John Williams and Russ Bowlby.

**HORSESHOE PITCHERS** Earl Brand and Robert Lierwin, like many other Eagles, have taken to an interesting game.



**Top Producers/  
New Leaders**

for May 2013

**Aerie:**

- 1. #486 Coeur D'Alene, ID 63
- #4487 Williamstown, WV 63
- 3. #3468 Mesa, AZ 60
- 4. #2828 Tama, IA 53
- 5. #1325 Greenfield, OH 51

**Auxiliary:**

- 1. #2308 Puyallup, WA 51
- 2. #25 Skagway, AK 41
- 3. #204 Wenatchee, WA 19
- #2371 Adrian, MI 19
- 5. #4123 Fredericksburg, VA 18

**Aerie (Individual):**

- 1. Robert G. Schmidt 58
- #3468 Mesa, AZ
- 2. Allan M. Richards 52
- #2828 Tama, IA
- 3. Michael Duehr 41
- #568 Dubuque, IA
- 4. Robert J. Dennison 38
- #3491 New Carlisle, OH
- 5. Cheryl J. Rhoads 33
- #486 Coeur D'Alene, ID

**Auxiliary (Individual):**

- 1. Monica M. Wilcox 17
- #25 Skagway, AK
- 2. Patricia A. Murney 10
- #3292 Gladwin, MI
- 3. Cynthia Minix 9
- #3752 Zephyrhills, FL
- 4. Lisa A. Miller 8
- #568 Dubuque, IA
- Nancy Ramsey 8
- #2809 Gig Harbor, WA
- Mary M. Hornsby 8
- #711 Norwalk, OH



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Grove City, Ohio 43123  
www.foe.com

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- Marketing Questions - 614-883-2210
- Membership Questions - 614-883-2177

**Email**

marketing@foe.com

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# We Are People Helping People

## California

-Oroville #196 held a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project, generating \$2,000 in donations for wounded heroes. The money was donated in the names of SSgt. Zack Wood and LCpl. Wayne Lackey, both Eagle members.

## Dakota

-Sunshine #2421 hosted Grand Worthy President Ron Stine and Grand Madam President Sally Villalva. The Aerie donated \$1,000 to Ron and \$250 to Sally for their charity, The F.O.E. Diabetes Research Center. The Auxiliary donated \$250 to Sally and \$250 to Ron.

## Florida

-Sebastian Eagle Riders #4067 raised \$7,200 for SunUp ARC and \$5,800 for the DRC.

## Indiana

-Huntingburg #3335 held a benefit for Ken Mathies, who was suffering from State 4 lung and brain cancer. On April 13, they served food and sides and raffled off prizes which were donated. A total of \$10,230 was raised to help Ken and his family offset some of the high costs associated with cancer treatment. Sadly, Ken passed away shortly after the benefit was held. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Mathies family.

## Kentucky

-Paducah Eagle Riders #3135 had a special DRC benefit moved indoors due to rain, but Eagles still managed to raise \$1,410 despite the weather.

## Maine

-Gray-New Gloucester #4131 held its 5th Annual All-Girl Twist & Shoot dart tournament, raising more than \$7,800 for the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition.

## Michigan

-St. Clair Shores #3619 presented a check for \$3,200 to Homes of Our Troops to purchase a riding lawn mower for a wounded female veteran.

## Missouri

-Nevada #3770 donated \$7,000 to CMH to assist children battling cancer.

## Montana

-Laurel #2564 teamed up with the Laurel Jaycees for a community cleaning project, picking up trash along two large stretches of road and filling approximately 75 30-gallon bags.

## Nebraska

-McCook #2769 donated \$500 to help fund the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall.

## New Mexico

-El Valle #4308 presented checks for \$700 to the Sierra Joint Officers on Aging and \$2,000 to the Rio Grande Valley C.A.S.A.

## Ohio

-Chagrin Falls #2436 raised \$15,000 for the

## West Virginia



Elm Grove #1891 presented \$15,000 in donations during an event on April 20. Elm Grove donated \$1,000 to four local schools to purchase coats for underprivileged children; \$2,000 to Relay For Life; \$1,000 to Ohio County Animal Shelter and WATCH; \$800 to disabled vets, Easter Seals and Family Violence Prevention Program and \$600 to Whispered Wishes – Liza's Place, Adult Day Care, a local soup kitchen, Seeing Hand, Victims of Crime, House of Carpenters and Gabriel.

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation during its annual "Beast Feast" dinner.

## Pennsylvania

-Stroudsburg #1106 donated \$1,300 to the Stroud Township Volunteer Fire Department.

## Tennessee

-Scenic City #945 held its annual Cancer Fund "Funraiser" raising \$2,400 for the Memorial Hospital Cancer Support Center.

## Utah

-Tooele #164 held a special Mexican Dinner fundraiser, bringing in \$526 to benefit Children's AIDS Awareness Medical Research.

## Virginia

-New Market Auxiliary #4264 held an event for Autism Awareness Month, raising \$416 for the local school system's Autism program.

## Washington

-Daffodil #2308 held a week long 75th Anniversary Celebration which included a special Open House event May 18 with dinner specials, dancing, a 50/50 raffle, free billiards and discounted membership deals for prospective members who sign up during the event. Daffodil promoted the event on its Facebook page, purchased ad space in a local newspaper and encouraged members to spread the word to friends and family. By the end of the event, 81 new members had signed to join.

## Wyoming

-Sweetwater #2350 donated \$5,000 to the KD Foundation for Juvenile Diabetes. The Aerie also received a \$1,000 grant from the Jimmy Durante Children's Fund, bringing its total donation to the Foundation to \$5,000.

## British Columbia

-Hope #2690 held its annual Donation Day, presenting \$27,500 worth of donations to 29 various local organizations.

## Fort Madison, Iowa

Less than a year removed from the possibility of seeing the Aerie doors close for good, Fort Madison #1287 blew the door to opportunity wide open May 18, with its first State Charity Event, raising \$18,180 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Iowa State Presidents Joe Roe and Judy Wheeler chose Make-A-Wish as their charity for the 2012-2013 year and each received a check for \$9,090 from Fort Madison to benefit the cause.

The Eagles of #1287 held a bingo jump, selling 750 tickets at \$20 each. Local member Mike Reid, a skydiver, jumped out of a plane. The individual with the ticket matching the number Reid landed on received \$750. The winner was a local member who had a family member that had been granted a wish through the foundation.

A Poker Run was also held, bringing in 55 motorcycles at \$5 each. The group's live auction found similar success, raising \$750 from a Jack Daniels print, \$700 for a Hawkeye Party Bus package and more from various other items.

Local bands donated their time to the cause and members sold food throughout the day to make the first ever Fort Madison State Charity Event a tremendous success!

**BUILDER** from page 1

suppliers and said 'I've been coming here for years and I've never asked for a discount or a handout. All I'm asking is a little help for an organization that gives plenty back to the community.' Thankfully people were eager to listen."

Through summer temperatures well above 100 degrees, workers were building frames and hammering in dry wall, pushing through intense temperatures to turn the warehouse into a home. Schmidt and his group took care of the electrical and plumbing work, getting everything possible accomplished in the most cost-effective manner possible.

On March 9, 2013, the hard work was unveiled during a members-only Grand Opening. Schmidt contacted countless local organizations, putting together a lineup of guests including a local honor guard, fire guard and police honor guard to present colors, a group of veterans to serve as color guard, a state champion ROTC team, a bald eagle, a golden eagle and Grand Trustee Carl Burnett.

"Everyone seemed flabbergasted by the scale of the event," Schmidt said. "If you're going to build a great Aerie, you better open it with a great event. People loved it."

Last month, a public Grand Opening weekend was held in conjunction with Mother's Day, inviting members of the community to see what the F.O.E. was all about and tour the near-complete facility. The building is currently 85% finished with work continuing on the Eagles' banquet hall.

Throughout the process, Schmidt, who joined the Eagles in June 2012, was spending his free time giving back to the organization in another way – by signing members. When construction stopped, Schmidt hopped on his motorcycle and made his way to local rides frequented by veterans.

At each ride he handed out "Those Who Serve" brochures and membership applications, encouraging riders to join the Eagles closest to them, whether it be Mesa Tri-City or any of the other Aeries/Auxiliaries in the Phoenix/Mesa area. By the end of the 2012-13 term, Schmidt had signed more than 300 members.

"I realized that most of the people I was meeting on the road are just like us," Schmidt said. "They live their lives around the same values we hold close to us and they're good people. It just made

sense to show them what the Eagles has to offer and encourage them to be a part of it."

Among the many signed up by Schmidt was his father George, who became the oldest member of the Aerie at 90 years old, his two sons and his future son-in-law. In typical Schmidt fashion, George rolled up his sleeves and got to work, signing new members of his own to join the Order and help fill Mesa Tri-City's new home with fresh and exciting faces ready to help carry on the spirit of "People Helping People."

"Everything about this experience was made worth it the second I saw everyone coming into the new Aerie and having a great time," Robert said, "but nothing was better than watching my dad get involved. I told him I was proud of him and he told me he was proud of me, too. That's what it's all about."

## News & Notes

### Let Your Talents Soar

Have a unique talent you'd like to show off? Entertain a crowd of Eagle peers at the annual Eagle Talent Show, held July 31, at the Grand Sierra Resort as part of the 2013 International Convention. Members in good standing, their children and/or their grandchildren are eligible to participate (minors must be accompanied by an adult). Each act will be no longer than four (4) minutes with a penalties for exceeding the time limit. Props and/or music must be provided by the entrant. Categories include Male Vocal, Female Vocal, Variety, Comedy, Instrument and Group in both adult and youth divisions. Entry forms are available on the Members-Only website and must be submitted by July 15 to participate.

### Banquet Tickets On Sale Now

If you're making your way to Reno this summer, be sure to reserve a spot at one of our great banquet events. Mr. & Mrs. Banquet tickets are \$35 each and include a meal and performances by legendary music group Blood, Sweat & Tears and comedian/mentalists Jon Stetson. Auxiliary Banquet tickets are \$30 each including dinner and entertainment provided by Midnight Riders. Prayer Breakfast and Internal Unit Luncheon tickets are also available for \$20 each. To order, call 614-883-2200.

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Fraternal Order of Eagles  
1623 Gateway Circle S.  
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# Make It A Three-Race Weekend With the Fraternal Order of Eagles!

3 Big Races, 1 Big Weekend • June 27-29 • Kentucky Speedway

Thursday, June 27: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series UNOH 225 at 8 p.m.  
Friday, June 28: NASCAR Nationwide Series Feed The Children 300 at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, June 29: NASCAR Sprint Cup Quaker State 400 at 7:30 p.m.

**Package 1 - \$135**  
Truck Series &  
Nationwide Series  
Tickets

**Package 3 - \$195**  
Truck Series,  
Nationwide Series &  
Sprint Cup Tickets

**Package 2 - \$159**  
Nationwide Series &  
Sprint Cup  
Tickets

## Each Package Includes:

Access to Friday's Membership Drive Chalet (burgers, subs, chips, beverages & cash bar)  
• One (1) Fan Zone Pass granting access to Infield Fan Zone & Pits • Guided Pit Tour

## Individual Tickets

Camping World Truck Series: \$23

Nationwide Series: \$36

Sprint Cup Series: \$60

Contact the Grand Aerie Membership Department at 614-883-2177 or [membership@foe.com](mailto:membership@foe.com) by June 21 to purchase tickets!



Come out Thursday night and cheer on the No. 31 F.O.E. Chevy Silverado of James Buescher - winner of last fall's Kentucky Truck Series Race!!



# 2013 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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- AND MORE...

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KEEP YOUR AERIE/AUXILIARY AT FULL STRENGTH BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR GREAT CLASSES AND DROP-IN SESSIONS IN RENO COVERING AN ARRAY OF TOPICS INCLUDING:

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- LEGAL GUIDANCE
- MEMBERSHIP
- MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
- FINANCIAL FITNESS
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## GET CONNECTED

ONCE AGAIN, THE GRAND AERIE HAS LINED UP A TERRIFIC SLATE OF SPONSORS EAGER TO GIVE YOUR AERIE/AUXILIARY NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SAVE AND/OR RAISE MONEY. THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS INCLUDE :

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GRAND WORTHY PRESIDENT  
RON STINE

GRAND MADAM PRESIDENT  
SALLY VILLALVA

## GREAT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!

SUNDAY, JULY 28

COUNTRY MUSIC STAR  
NEAL MCCOY

COMEDIAN/HYPNOTIST  
RUSS MERLIN

MONDAY, JULY 29

COUNTRY/ROCK BAND  
MIDNIGHT RIDERS

CLASSIC ROCK TUNES BY  
VINNIE & THE MOOCHERS

TUESDAY, JULY 30

LEGENDARY MUSIC GROUP  
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MENTALIST/ENTERTAINER  
JON STETSON

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