

Fraternal Order of
Eagles
Aerie Luncheon Club



Programs & Activities
Department
Grand Aerie, F.O.E.
1623 Gateway Circle South
Grove City, Ohio 43123
(614) 883-2200

EAGLES LUNCHEON CLUB

Eating is, or should be, a social experience.

It can be a very delightful experience if the guest is surrounded not only with good things to eat, but congenial companionship, a bit of entertainment perhaps, or a clever stunt, followed by choice words of wisdom (not necessarily profound), presided over by a toastmaster who knows and understands the function of his office.

Many Aeries have luncheon clubs which meet regularly. Thursdays seem to be the favored day of the week.

Tag your luncheon club with a name so that it will stick in the minds of bearers. Eagles Luncheon Club seems to be the traditional name of most of the luncheon groups now in existence. It is not necessary to stick to this name, however. Call your group whatever you will, Eagles Dutch Treat, Eagles Twelve O'clock Club, Hash It Over, Noonday With The Eagles, the important thing is to give it a name.

An Eagle group that meets regularly for lunch is not to be constructed as a club within a club. A luncheon club is rater an activity of the Aerie.

It may be that the luncheon club will want to sponsor some one activity during the year the, Easter Egg Hunt, a Golden Age party, a Talent Night or perhaps donate a book a month to the local library or some institution. Having a pet project helps weld a group together. If such a project is undertaken by a luncheon group, keep it before their attention at all times if only by a verbal reminder as short as "Remember our baby; the -----party." Some clever container for coins ought to be in evidence at every meeting. Don't high pressure for funds; remember that pennies count up too.

Luncheon Club Format

- 12:00 - Come and get it! Line up to music
- 12:12 - Invocation
- 12:15- Eating Time
12:50
- 12:50- Roll Call and Introductions
- 12:58- Introduction of speaker (1 minute)
- 1:00- Speaker
1:15
- 1:15- Singing

- 1:22- Stunt (rehearsed beforehand)
- 1:27- Announcements (limit only to those relating to the luncheon club)
- 1:30- Salute to the Eagle Emblem (The Bald Eagle)
- Drawing for attendance prize



DO

Have the program so arranged that there is no time lag. When the announcement is made the luncheon will last a specified length of time, carry through on the promise.

Make a point of delivering the goods. If for some reason a promised speaker can't appear, substitute someone equally good and let the members know beforehand.

Offer a wide variety of speakers.

Stress at all times the good fellowship of the group.

Compile a list of stunts or little surprises to use. Think up some of your own; keep them simple.

Let everyone know about your luncheon club. Keep an announcement on the bulletin board at all times. Send out an announcement to all members on colored paper. Keep your notice in the Aerie bulletin.

DON' T

Make your luncheon group a political forum.

Use the group as a fund-raising source.

Carry on business that can be taken care of by the committees.

Form cliques. Make a point of eating with other than the same group come meeting day.

Take on too many projects. Limit to one. Pound away at it so that it becomes identified with your group.

The Business of Eating

What will we eat?

How much shall we charge?

Monotony in meals must be avoided like the plague. Tastes vary and must be catered to insofar as is feasible. A buffet, smorgasbord, stand-up, call it what you will.... refers to food. Put cold and hot dishes on one large table for guests to help themselves and sit where they choose.

This method is rapidly coming to the fore as the most popular for luncheon clubs. It insures fast service, people eat what strikes their fancy, they are free to go back for more and there is no hard and fast rule about sitting at an assigned place.

In short, the buffet method makes for the greatest of informality which is a desirable feature of a luncheon club. It also provides a more novel method than the everyday type of lunch we're accustomed to eating.

A buffet lunch is lower in cost since it does away with waitress service to some extent.

Have a little suggestion box in which members can deposit their request of a certain hot dish, etc. These suggestions can be very helpful to those in charge of preparing the lunch. It will also make the guests feel they have some voice in the matter.

A survey of luncheon clubs indicates that charges run from \$1.00 to \$1.50. Anything over that amount will not meet with approval.

You will, of course, have to have a speakers table centrally located. Avoid long tables if possible, this defeats conversational fellowship. Tables for six or eight are desirable. The point is to make your guests comfortable in regard to seating arrangement. An old Indiana character once said: "The tougher the steak the closer the seats at a meal." Remember that!

Cracked china, wobbly chairs and tables are fine for an April Fools Day dinner, postage stamp size napkins may be decorative but not fit some ample laps, so be sure your equipment is in good order.

Make sure, too, that the old piano is tuned because a bit of vocalizing will be in order.

BEND AN EAR

The Speaker

Who speaks and about what makes a mighty difference.

Aim for speakers on subjects of interest to your audience.

Some luncheon clubs go along on the basis of each member being responsible for one speaker during the year. This however might scare some members from ever showing up again so it is probably better to appoint a rotating committee of three to work out the speaker problem.

Every member, however, should keep his eye out for possible speakers as a friend of a friend who knows someone who just got back from Alaska might very well make an interesting speaker.

Your police chief, fire chief, F.B.I. department head, a local sports writer, someone from Alcoholics Anonymous, a local entertainer (the F.O.E. was started by theatrical men, if you remember and stressing this type of entertainment might be quite novel) are only a few examples that come to mind. Watch the newspapers for news of people who have returned from trips to distant place. Industrial plants often have engineers and other personnel, who travel to foreign countries on business and who, for company good-will, would probably consent to talk to your group.

During the football and baseball season perhaps you can get hold of film prints of the local or state university games to show to your group in lieu of a speaker.

The Toastmaster

Select someone who has the qualifications for this position not because he is Mr. so and so. He should be a person of poise, ease of expression, a leader, a good speaking voice. Above all, he should not be one who will take advantage and make the speech of the day under the guise of "opening remarks."

In fact, there won't be much he will say at all. Just keep the programs going in smooth order. And create some opportunity for participation and self-expression on the part of the dinners.

COME ONE COME ALL!!

Group singing offers a splendid opportunity for self-expression. Focus on the main objective. Don't let the "tail wag the dog."

HOW TO SPUR ATTENDANCE

One established Eagles Luncheon Club does the following promotional stunt to spur attendance:

A careful record is kept of the attendance over a specified period (six months to a year). Those with a perfect record are entitled to draw for the year's Grand Prize which consists of a week at some state resort, all expenses paid.

Actually many resorts will donate this prize, plus all the promotional material in return for the good advertising they get out of it. Thus, the luncheon club is not put to any expense.

A list of state resorts can be obtained from the State Chamber of Commerce in every state. The committee in charge can go through the list, concentrate on four or five good resorts and contact the managers and the chances are favorable that a deal can be made.

Any promotional material on such a prize should be displayed prominently at the Aerie quarters.

Stunts

Many luncheons mean nothing more than food and an hour of speeches to a large majority of the guests. It is easy to plan impromptu spontaneous fun for everyone, fun that the guests themselves create and therefore of double value.

The chairman should have aides seated at the various tables, assistants who know when to inject a suggestion and when to withhold it. Without breaking up any conversation and without calling on anyone to participate, the aides start something and let it take its own course. If it is interesting, it draws the participants who want to be interested. The list of suggestions provided each aide includes the following events:

Toss-It

Place a receptacle in the middle of the floor. Give each guest a small cardboard disk on which they write their names. Each guest, in turn, stands up and sales his disk towards the receptacle. The winner is the one who makes a basket or gets closet to it. Since each person's name is on his card you need not worry about mix-ups.

Tops Turvy Table Manners

Prepare in advance a set of cards containing instructions on etiquette, not according to Emily Post-which each person must follow. One of the cards might read, for example: Do not put your napkin on your knees. The management is proud of its fine linen and considers it rude for guests to hide their beautiful napkins under the table. Furthermore, they want to keep their eyes on them so put your napkin around your neck, and drape it gracefully over your chest. Have each person read his etiquette card aloud.

Penny Poison

This is one of the hardy perennials at luncheon clubs. The men are all asked to dig down in their pockets and place all their pennies on the table in front of them. With his back to the group, a pianist starts to play. As he plays, a glass, into which a napkin has been tucked, is passed around the table from one man to the next. When the music stops, whoever is holding the glass drops in a penny. The "ante" is raised to a nickel after three or four times. Finally a hint is dropped that the last time the glass is passed the fine for the person holding the glass will be a quarter. The glass travels rapidly now. When the music stops and the victim is ready to "shell out" the announcement is made that the lucky man who now has the glass may pocket all the money. If there is

only one table and the group is large, use several glasses if you want a little more action in the game.

Around the Alphabet with the Check

A novel way of paying for the luncheon check or of raising money for a worthy cause: the leader writes down a letter of the alphabet, but does not let anyone see it. The letter is "poison". The leader then asks the next person at the table to name any letter in the alphabet. Suppose the person selects "H". The person next to the person who says "H" must then give the letter which follows; in this case it would be "I". This continues around the table until the poison letter selected by the leader is mentioned. The person who is unlucky enough to have to call it out is assessed a quarter. A new letter is then selected and the game continues until the required sum has been raised.

Do you know what you're eating?

Considering that food is so recurrently essential, we Americans are woefully ignorant of just what we are eating. A great many of us regard eating as a nuisance, or at best a necessity and some of us are downright contemptuous of anyone who seems to take more than a passing interest in what he's putting into his mouth.

Thackeray said that a man who is indifferent to what he swallow, who says that one food is like another to him, is bragging of a defect in himself, not a virtue. "It is like boasting that one has no ear for music or no eye for color."

You score 10 points for each correct answer. A grade of 70 is passing; 80 good; and 90 excellent.

1. Corned beef is beef that has been:
 - a) Cooked in corn syrup
 - b) Smoked and cured
 - c) Pickled in brine
 - d) Slow-baked

2. Russian dressing is a mixture of what:
 - a) Mayonnaise and ketchup
 - b) Salad dressing and tomatoes
 - c) Hollandaise sauce and beet juice
 - d) Ketchup and cream sauce

3. Dill, used to make dill pickles, is a:
 - a) Salt preparation
 - b) Oil
 - c) Vegetable
 - d) Vinegar

4. When a Frenchman ask for "Hors d'oeuvres", he is asking for:
 - a) Out of the ordinary
 - b) Out of the kitchen
 - c) Outside of the main dish
 - d) Out of season

5. When a chicken is barbecued, it is:
 - a) Roasted whole on a pit
 - b) Boned and fried
 - c) Stuffed till it squeaks
 - d) Broiled in honey and then baked

6. An egg, placed in a pot of boiling water, will be hard-boiled after:
 - a) Six minutes
 - b) Twelve minutes
 - c) Eight minutes
 - d) Fifteen minutes

7. Oysters are in season:
 - a) Only in water
 - b) Only in spring
 - c) The whole year round
 - d) Only in those months which contain the letter "R"

8. That Mexican extravaganza, Chile Con Carne, chiefly made of:
 - a) Beans and meat
 - b) Chili powder and tomatoes
 - c) Beans and hot tamales
 - d) Red peppers and meat

9. Tripe is cut from a cow's:
- a) Kidneys
 - b) Lungs
 - c) Stomach
 - d) Brains
10. A Welsh rabbit is:
- a) Stewed hare
 - b) Stewed cheese and tomatoes
 - c) A dish made of cheese and beer
 - d) Broiled venison

Answers:

- 1. C
- 2. A
- 3. C
- 4. C
- 5. A
- 6. B
- 7. D
- 8. D
- 9. C
- 10. C

Conversation

If conversation runs low and a stimulant is needed, an enforced silence helps to loosen tongues, particularly if a controversial subject is introduced at that moment. The guest may be asked to use only sign language in discussing the question: "What do you think of women's hate this year?"

Down by the Old Mill Stream

With no rehearsal of the words of a familiar song, the name of the song is announced, and the first guest is given a large sheet of paper on which he writes the first word of the song. Then he passes the paper to his neighbor. They are to write the second word, but if they cannot remember it, they fill in the blank with their last name. Guests are urged to give each other no prompting. When the last word of the song has been written, the words are given to someone at the table who can sing. Without rising and without accompaniment this person sings the words as written:

"Down by the old mill stream, where I first met you,
With your Harrison so Peterson..." Etc.

Salute to the Eagle*

If you do not have a "bird" mounted on a stand,
A picture prominently displayed will do as well.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES...TO TAKE PRIDE IN OUR GOOD APPETITES...TO SHUN ALL QUACK
DIETS...TO WARMLY WELCOM NEW MEMBERS TO OUR LUNCHEON CLUB...AND TO BE EVER
MINDFUL OF OUR OBJECTIVE...TO BE JOLLY GOOD EAGLES

(END ON SINGING REFRAIN)

"FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,
HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW
WHICH NOBODY CAN DENY."

*THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL SALUTE AND IS OFFERED ONLY IN THE SPIRIT OF FUN.

Sample Letter: Something on this order can be sent to the members to solicit membership in the luncheon club.

Dear Brother Eagle:

Do you like to Eat?

Is time of the essence, as they say in corny circles?

Do you have stomach ulcers?

Do you like to talk but have a hard time finding anyone to listen to you?

Do you want to be a man of distinction?

Well, Brother, we have the answer.

Park your lunch bucket home on (day) from now on.

Join the gang at (place), (date) at (time).

Become a member of our Aerie (name of luncheon), (club).

Informality is the keynote. Lunch is served smorgasbord style. The whole works last just on and half hour. (A stunt, a song, a snappy short speech, lots of good fellowship and an attendance prize too!!)

Come see for yourself. Call (committee chairman) for a reservation.

Oh yes, price (amount).

Fraternally Yours,

(Name of luncheon club committee chairman)