



Bright Ideas

Children's Shopping Mart - Auxiliary No. 347, Lafayette, Indiana

On the first Friday in December a special shopping mart is held for children of the Eagle members. This is how it's done. Members are asked to donate items that can be sold to the children as Christmas presents for their parents, grandparents and other family members or friends. No junk items. In addition, several Auxiliary members talented in the various crafts make things for sale.

Donations of wrapping paper, tape, ribbon and bowls, empty boxes are requested. When the children make their purchases there are several ladies lined up behind a long table who gift wrap and tag the purchases for them. Items are priced at \$1.00 or less.

The first year the age limit of the shoppers was set at 14 but this year it has been lowered to 12. Children as young as 2 and 3 have come to the mart. The ladies enjoy this as much as the kids. Try it for getting some real Christmas spirit.

Christmas Cheer for the Needy - Aerie & Auxiliary No. 3078, Lawrenceville, Illinois

This Aerie and Auxiliary starts early on preparations for Christmas baskets for the needy. They have the support of top town officials, the bank, etc. Stores send chases of canned goods. People stop Eagles on the street and give donations. Checks come to the club. The daily paper allots space for the program publicity and the local radio station give the club free time. This club has laid the foundation of club-community cooperation with resultant goodwill. A great deal of a program's success depends on publicity and no stone should be left unturned in publicizing your project. And don't forget the, "Thank You", to those who helped.

Ding-a-Ling Club, Aerie No. 281, Racine Wisconsin

A fun club with a serious purpose to get new members for the Aerie and Auxiliary and the dues are small. There is a Ding-A-Ling party once a month held on a day when there is not much doing at the club. There's a prize too, every month to the biggest Ding-A-Ling. Members must wear their pins. A fun club provides relaxation, a chance to know members better, both selling points for new members.

Family Day, Aerie No. 681, Middletown, Connecticut

The Aerie's Family October Fest starts at 11 a.m. and goes on till 1 a.m. the following morning. The day starts with home made clam chowder, followed by a chicken barbecue, corn on the cob, watermelon, ice cream, beer and soda. Games and races for all ages are held at the park. There's a tug of war for everyone plus an egg throwing contest and plenty of prizes. The fee for all of this is \$2.50 for children and \$6.00 for adults.

Dinner Theatre, Aerie No. 2376, Minot, North Dakota

This program evolved from some Eagles' enjoyment of theatre and interest in generation more activities and business for the club. Thus, the establishment of the Eagles Dinner Theatre. Interest created by an original show written and produced by local talent with content that all could relate to, proved enough to break all ticket sale records for a production sold out for both runs one week before opening without one dollar spent on advertising.

Productions of the Eagle Dinner Theatre offer quality as well as variety of original musical, contemporary comedy and melo-drama at reasonable prices. Dinner shows costs \$11.00 per person. Cocktail shows cost \$6.00 per person; the Eagles Dinner Theatre is totally self-supporting, keeping only \$2.00 from each ticket sold to cover production costs. Productions are scheduled Monday through Thursday to avoid conflict with the traditional dance band entertainment the membership expects on Friday and Saturday nights.

This Bright Idea has offered excellent entertainment to the Aerie membership as well as the community. It has increased profits for the club, helped increase membership and has generated good public relations within the community.

Fund Raising, Aerie No. 58, Topeka, Kansas

This Aerie needed a new carpet. No money. A drawing of the Aerie was laid out in squares. Chances were sold on each square. Winner received a trip to Las Vegas. Money left over more then paid for the carpet. The same can be done with a ceiling or paneling, the Aerie suggests.

Gains, Aerie No. 3760, Syracuse, Indiana

This Aerie took advantage of community sports event to promote Eagledom. Every winter the town holds a Winter Carnival, snow sculpturing, cross-country ski races, snowmobile races. The Eagles introduced a new event orange softball for a Snowball Tourney. Eight teams entered. All players received a coupon good for a free drink or a bowl of chili at the Aerie. A soft sell like this can get good results. The Aerie was also able to make a donation to the Park Department and put some money away to repeat the event the following year.

If you have a youth group, wouldn't this Snowball Tourney be enthusiastically accepted?

Girly Show, Aerie No. 592, Hastings, Nebraska

A member written skit plus 16 assorted Aerie members dressed like ladies, has proved so popular that the group visits other Aeries in the state with their "Act".

Inter-Aerie visits are popular. If you take some entertainment along, that welcome mat will always be out for your group.

Golden Age Eagles, Aerie No. 2803, Grafton, North Dakota

This Aerie provides a free dinner for Golden Age Eagles and Senior Citizens in the area. Despite bad weather, folks come from towns ten to twenty miles away. A capacity crowd stayed for an evening of amusement and dancing.

The event will be an annual one. If you want a truly appreciative group, do something of a social nature for the longer-living.

Gypsy Club, Aerie No. 3, Tacoma, Washington

A club within a club organized as a fun club to promote fellowship and goodwill among the brothers and sisters of the Aerie/Auxiliary. Officers are Head Gypsy, Vice Gypsy, Gypsy Scribbler and Gypsy Money Bags. Vests of many colors are worn and stand out at a dance or gathering. A drawing for a prize for both a man and woman take place at meetings. Surprise visitors such as an Easter Bunny, a spook at Halloween, etc., make appearances at meetings.

Every other month buses are chartered and visit other lodges and invite them back to theirs. A bowling night, trips to Reno, costume dances, an annual picnic are some of the club's activities.

Largest project to date a hamburger sale on a Saturday afternoon, one half the money went to the Aerie. This club has the largest attendance of any of the clubs within the aerie.

Male Beauty Contest, Aerie No. 2960, Paradise, California

The Aerie gets the Auxiliary's pledge to bring food for a potluck dinner, promising them a lot of fun. The contest entry fee was set at \$1.00. A minimum goal of ten entrants was set. Nineteen men entered the contest. The people turned out in droves, the dining area was filled. The ladies were given ballots to fill out with one vote for the best looking legs and one vote for the ugliest legs. The men, numbered one to nineteen, posed behind a curtain which allowed only the legs to show. Other than the numbers, no identification was made. The final count of votes showed a tie for first place, so the two split the top prize of \$14.00. Second place was given \$4.00 and the ugliest legs had to be content with \$1.00, strictly a fun night.

Increase Meeting Attendance, Aerie No. 2414, Owensboro, Kentucky

A slick idea that could work at your Aerie, a breakfast before a district meeting, at the Aerie it was felt that the crowd from the breakfast would swell the crowd at the district meeting some distance away. A breakfast committee was appointed. This committee cooks one breakfast per month and has been doing this for the past six years. Attendance has been 90 to 170 people. Afterward they pool cars and go the District #3 meeting. As a result, the Aerie has won all the trophies but two in the last six years. The breakfast is set for 9:30 a.m. the club members sponsor the breakfasts.

Breakfasts, on their own, are an excellent way to bring people into the club. Tying them in with another event, the district meeting is a big plus. Try it.

Political Night, Aerie No. 154, South Omaha, Nebraska

All members seeking election to office are invited to come down to the Aerie on an evening to visit with Eagle brothers and sisters. Each candidate is introduced and permitted to pass out campaign material as well as socially. There are no speeches. Questions are welcome.

A mulligan stew is put out at 8:00 p.m.

The program stimulates interest in the Eagle elections as well as providing a social outlet.

Recycling, Aerie No. 1490, Black Diamond, Washington

This Aerie reclaims cedar roofing shingles and shakes and sells them for kindling. The money goes into the youth activities fund. This is a novel idea. Look around. You may be able to find a surplus of a product or leftovers and sell the material for some useful purpose.

Rock Away, Aerie No. 3885, Engelwood, Florida

This Auxiliary has a novel rocking chair marathon. Members got people to pledge a small sum an hour for the time they would rock in rocking chairs. The rocking chairs were placed in the club social room. Lunch was served for a small donation. The marathon eight hours netted \$600.00 and motivated the Aerie to get into the act by challenging the Auxiliary. They did so well that both groups, Aerie and Auxiliary, are planning a contest between the other clubs. So, round up those rocking chairs (very good for the circulation, too) and raise funds the easy way.

Rope Pulling, Aerie No. 2545, Grinnell, Iowa

A fast growing sport in the U.S. and abroad, this Aerie has real know-how in participating and promoting the sport. They keep healthy, have good competition and party afterward. Their very first pull attracted a crowd of 500 and attendance has grown since. The eight-man team and coaches travel to other towns promoting and demonstrating the sport.

The Eagles club brought each puller a uniform and the special boots needed for pulling. Every puller must be a member and the sport has attracted new members. One of the Eagle members even donated a passenger station wagon for the team to travel to and from pulls.

The main interest of the program is to raise money for different charities and in this they have been successful.

Clubs with Under 35 groups might want to form a Rope Pulling team.

Singles Club, Aerie No. 2492, South Sioux City, Nebraska

Another club within a club that fills the social need for singles, the unmarried, widowed and divorced, the club requires that its officers be members of the Aerie/Auxiliary. The program each month holds strictly to a dance program with surprises, raffles, skits, etc. at intermission. The Aerie, incidentally, has a beautiful dance floor. Western music is favored and there are costume dances for which prizes are awarded.

Financially, this is how the club functions with the Aerie. On the night of the dances, it gives to the Aerie the total income, for example, \$300.00. the Aerie gives the club a receipt marked Singles

Fund, then checks are written against the account held within Aerie fund expenses. At the end of each month, the Aerie secretary gives the Singles Club a tabulated account of income and disbursements and balances. The Singles Club carries about \$1500.00 in its account at all times. It is generous with gifts, a piano to the Auxiliary for its ritual work, a base and flag pole plus a flag to the Aerie, \$1000.00 toward the new dance floor, etc. "Our Club", says its secretary, "Is a wonderful way of fellowship for people who are lonely."

Special Olympics Booster Club, Aerie No. 2, Spokane, Washington

The sole purpose of this club within the club is to raise monies for the "Special Olympics". The club is open to all members of Aerie No. 2, who wish to donate their time and energy to a noble cause. Fund raising activities of the club are diversified, spice sales, bake sales, fry sales and Olympic pin sales.