St Marys Balances Fraternity and Fundraising

St Marys Eagles #4379 in Saint Marys, Ga., is best described as a nice balance of social fraternalism with a unified sense of community.

With a recently updated kitchen, an expansive outdoor covered patio, and regularly scheduled events and fundraisers, this Aerie and Auxiliary goes above and beyond when it comes to their members having a good time, while helping a good cause.

Now going into his 24th year of membership at St Marys, James “Doc” Burnham has seen the Aerie change a lot over the years.

When he first joined as a charter member of #4379 in July 1996, he didn't get involved right away. The Aerie was having a lot of issues – the secretary at the time was caught embezzling money from the club, and there were no meetings being held.

Burnham and a few other members decided to start the Aerie anew by hosting meetings in garages and backyards. They continued like this until they were able to find space inside a church wedding chapel. From there, they were able to garner more support in their local community and grow membership.

Acquiring the church as the new location was no easy endeavor – Burnham said it took 100 percent of member participation to make it work.

Now in its prime, #4379 has been able to raise more than $250,000 in the past decade, and has over 150 Auxiliary members – which is no easy feat. They have also been able to pay off the mortgage on their building, replace all the flooring, and build a storage shed.

All of the renovations have allowed this club to hold larger events, such as Children’s Day, a darts tournament, and a number of membership drives.

Annually, St Mary’s likes to host a chili cook-off, adult Easter egg hunt, holiday celebrations, sporting events, God, Flag & Country, and more.

“Their is something to do all the time and if it’s successful, it becomes annual right away,” said #4379 member and Grand Auxiliary Officer Annie Taylor.

Taylor has been a member of #4379 for 18 years now and loves being a part of the community. She has seen the club grow and change over the years, and is proud of the work they have done.

The 2020 Bulletin Contest Winner is #2098 "The Beak"

Throughout the year, many Aeries and Auxiliaries distribute bulletins to members informing them of the latest happenings, upcoming events and more. The Grand Aerie Bulletin Contest is held each year to honor our Aeries and Auxiliaries who best make use of this information outlet.

This annual contest is open to all paper and electronic newsletters on the Local and State level from the months of August, September, and October. The winner is ultimately chosen by judging all entries, while looking for design, content, art, timeliness, and spelling and grammar.

“The Beak” from Calgary, Alberta #2098 has taken home the grand prize for the first time ever! The Beak has been competing in the Bulletin Contest for several years and has been improving year after year, finally finding itself atop the competition.

The winners will all receive a plaque and recognition at this year’s International Convention. The Grand prize winner will get a $100 FOE online store gift and a $50 gift card will go to each 1st Prize winners. All participants will also receive personalized feedback from the judges.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year’s Bulletin Contest! We thank all who participated in this year’s contest and look forward to another great competition next year. To see the full list of winners, visit the Bulletin Contest page on foe.com.
Convention Corner

2020 International Convention
Spokane, Washington
July 20-23, 2020

Convention Registration Information
If you are planning on attending the International Convention, we encourage you to Pre-Register. It will cost $45 for Pre-Registration and $60 if you wait to register at the Convention. Pre-registration forms are now available on foe.com.

Convention Scooter Rentals
The Grand Aerie has partnered with Western Medical Specialties Scooters for the 2020 International Convention in Spokane. Rentals are $150 plus-tax for the week and can be reserved at 1-509-489-6879.

Convention Hotel Information
The Hilton Doubletree and the Davenport Grand Hotel no longer have any rooms available for the 2020 Fraternal Order of Eagles International Convention in Spokane, WA. However, you can still book a room at the Centennial Hotel (formerly the Red Lion). The rooms at the Centennial are $123/night. Rooms at the Best Western Plus are $139/night plus-tax and include complimentary parking and breakfast. Reserve your room now before the last two hotels sell out! Learn more about the Convention and reserve your room on foe.com.

Top Producers/ New Leaders
for February 2020

Aerie:
1. #1928 Watertown, MA 65
2. #4123 Fredericksburg, VA 52
3. #4294 Burnham, PA 50
3. #1801 Somerset, PA 50
5. #486 Coeur D’alene, ID 40

Auxiliary:
1. #4089 Port Orange, FL 43
2. #4273 Okahumpka, FL 25
3. #2308 Puyallup, WA 21
4. #4123 Fredericksburg, VA 20
5. #3719 Crystal Beach, TX 18
5. #1387 Buckley, WA 18
5. #302 Zanesville, OH 18

Aerie (Individual):
1. Timothy J. Eaton
Watertown, MA #1928
63

Auxiliary (Individual):
1. Ami R. Hightower
Omaha, NE #3943
13
2. Clara D. Arnold
Hartland, MI #3492
10
3. Tiffany L. Sullivan
Fredericksburg, VA #4123
8
4. Snow Wiech
Wellington, OH #
7
4. Susan E. Robison
Louisville, OH #2374
7
4. Brandy Cheney #4329
7
4. Eleanor Capaul #486
7
We Are People Helping People

British Columbia

- Abbotsford Aerie #2726 President John Scammell presented Grand Worthy President Ron Malz with a $1,000 donation for this charity, Camp Confidence. The Confidence Learning Center is a nonprofit organization which assists developmentally disabled individuals of all ages by providing them a fun and exciting outlet to learn, gain life experience and become more confident in their abilities.

Massachusetts

- Hillcrest Aerie #747 donated $1,300 to the Eagles State to House of Piece & Education, and gave an additional grant in the amount of $2,000.
- Hillcrest Aerie #747 made a $2,000 donation to Mount Wachusett Community College to help two students in the medical field.

Oklahoma

- Stillwater Aerie #4277 member Otis Davenport was awarded with Yukon, Ok.’s Chamber Ambassador of the Year for his volunteer work for the organization. This is the Chamber of Commerce’s annual Awards Banquet to recognize the Chambers outstanding businesses and members. Otis and wife Barbara joined their home town Chamber of Commerce while surveying the area for a new charter. Otis was also asked to become a Chamber Ambassador.

Missouri

- Meramec Valley Eagles #3781 was the recipient of the 2019 Public Service Award by the Sullivan Area Chamber of Commerce for the countless efforts put forth by their members and officers helping others. Additionally, #3781’s Aerie president, Brady Vassallie, was awarded with Sullivan’s Man of the Year for 2019.

Alaska

- During a mid-winter conference, Anchorage Auxiliary #4207 presented a $5,000 grant to the Anchorage Search Team (AST) from the Alzheimer’s & Neurological Charity Foundation. The Anchorage Auxiliary #4207 was first introduced to AST when a member who has dementia went missing. During the search of this individual we were informed that AST is made up of volunteers and survives solely on donations.

- The Downtown Soup Kitchen/Hope Center (DSK Hope Center) provides meals, shelter, laundry services, and vocational training to homeless and low-income individuals in Anchorage, AK. They rely on private donations of food and money to meet the needs their guests. At the DSK Hope Center, their mission is to provide a hand up and out of homelessness. Feed Me Hope Bakery, Culinary School, and future Food Truck help their guests gain the skills they need to transform their lives. The Anchorage Aerie Auxiliary #4207 helped their Bakery and Culinary School with a $2,500 donation to buy new commercial ovens.

While all items are published and shared electronically, space is limited in print. In an effort to provide a diverse offering of news items for our members each month, the largest and/or most unique donation from each State/Province we receive news from will be featured in our People Helping People section. As always, we welcome any questions or suggestions you might have. Please see the panel on page 2 for contact information.
involved in the Fraternal Order of Eagles. “I could volunteer anywhere, for any number of causes but it wouldn’t be the same.”

Taylor says that the F.O.E. is its own community – “It’s family, it’s fun, passionate, unrelenting, and challenging. The Eagles really are ordinary people doing extraordinary things and they make a difference every day.”

St Marys and Burnham have also been integral to the success of the God, Flag & Country competition. Burnham currently serves as the GFC Co-Chairperson and has helped this program grow over the years.

“I think it’s the best program in the Eagles, because it’s a way to reach out to the people in the community, and it helps make a favorable impression to younger people,” Burnham said. “It gives each kid the opportunity to become introspective about their relationship with their maker and their patriotism.”

Along with being passionate about the GFC competition, St Marys likes to support certain causes annually, this year focusing on assisting local school systems raise money to bring back art in the classrooms, helping pay for lunches for those children who cannot afford it, and donating food to their local community college food pantry.

They also support the Camden County Crisis Center, which is a women’s shelter; Bronco’s Benevolent Foundation, which supplies comforting items to children transplant patients; and the Kings Bay Naval Sea Cadets.

Compliance Reminder
In order to receive Grand Aerie/Auxiliary representation at your upcoming State/Provincial Convention, please make sure the host Aerie and Auxiliary is in full compliance according to the Grand Aerie's records. Those who aren't in compliance are subject to not receiving a Grand Aerie or Auxiliary representative for their upcoming event. If you have questions about your Compliance status, contact the Grand Aerie Compliance Department at compliance@foe.com or via phone at 614-883-2216.

Program Book ADS
Ads are now available for purchase for the 2020 International Convention Program Book. Early Bird rates are available through March 30 with regular rates continuing until April 30. Don’t miss out on your chance to promote your Aerie or Auxiliary to the jurisdiction!

Dues Renewal Reminder
All members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles are encouraged to renew their dues before May 31, 2020, to avoid the possibility of losing their membership status for the 2020-2021 Fraternal year. Paper dues reminders will be mailed to each expiring member in April, May and June. If you have questions, please contact the Membership Department at membershiphelp@foe.com or via phone at 614-883-2162.