

A Publication of The Nebraska State Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie & Auxiliary

APRIL 2020



Brothers & Sisters,

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Grand Aerie continues to monitor the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation across the United States and Canada and we hope that all of our members are taking the necessary precautions to remain safe as the issue continues to evolve.

Many of you have asked us questions regarding opening your Aerie homes to members, meetings, etc., upcoming State/Provincial Conventions and our International Convention this summer in Spokane.

Regarding local business, we're asking all of our Aeries to keep a watchful eye on the recommendations of your local government officials and to fully comply with any orders they may issue within your States/Provinces and local communities.

At this time, all State/Provincial Conventions are still scheduled to take place, however these events should remain in compliance with any standing orders issued by your State/Provincial governments, most especially any orders regarding mass gatherings. In the event of any cancellations, we will make sure everyone is made aware as soon as possible.

As for the International Convention in Spokane this July, we still expect to see you all in Washington for another great week of fun, friendship and fraternalism. We will continue to monitor the situation in the coming months and provide any necessary updates as the event approaches. Ultimately, the decision regarding the Convention lies in the hands of the state of Washington and the host venues for this year's Convention.

We will continue to monitor the situation daily and provide any relevant updates regarding any major Eagles events as they become available on foe.com and on the Grand Aerie's official Facebook page.

Once again, we ask you all to exercise proper discretion and take the necessary precautions to keep yourselves, your families and your fellow Brothers & Sisters safe.

Fraternally,

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Grand Board of Trustees

Carl Burnett, Chairman, Grand Board of Trustees

Ron Malz, Grand Worthy President

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STATE PRESIDENT Larry Mattson III

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My brothers:

The Corona virus has affected our State Charities, State charity events as well as our Aeries and Auxiliaries fundraising efforts. Unfortunately, we could be dealing with this situation for a long time. No one knows.

Some Aerie's were forced to close due to mandates. Others chose to protect their membership by following Government recommendations allowing no more than ten patrons in their establishment at any one time. If your Aerie is still open and following these recommendations, please be considerate and rotate your members in and out of your Aerie Home allowing other brothers and sisters to visit the Aerie. Also, on the same note if you are not feeling well please stay home to protect your Eagle brothers and sisters and those in your communities. We have no idea how long this situation will last but we will get through it.

Brothers, membership dues are still due by May 31st, so if you have not paid yet please do so. Help your Aerie out a little and pay early.

Fraternally yours

NSWP

Larry Mattson

Elkhorn Aerie and Auxiliary #3943 hosted the 30th annual Eastern Zone Conference on March 7, 2020.

Grand Representatives were Bill Stotko, Grand Worthy Inside Guard and Tara Florentin, Grand Madam Chaplain.



Officers installed for 2020-2021 were (left to right) Vice-Chairman Barb Romero, Bellevue Auxiliary 3912 Chairman Kenny Hentchel, Papillion Aerie 4029, Secretary Diane Langton, Columbus Auxiliary #1834 Treasurer Max Romero, Bellevue Aerie #3912

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2019-2020 Nebraska

STATE MADAM PRESIDENT

Pam Beiermann

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A big thank you to each one of you for everything you do for the Fraternal Order of Eagles. This is a great organization to be a part of. Every time we get together to raise money for charity you amaze me! The shuffleboard tournament hosted by Kearney Aerie was a lot of fun and great to be with many of you. Metro Eagle Riders thank you for hosting the Spaghetti feed and all you do. Elkhorn Aerie and Auxiliary, you made me proud to say I belong to Elkhorn Auxiliary. The hospitality, food and games we had at Eastern Zone were top notch! The Hoedowner Dancers were amazing! Our Grand Reps Tara Florentine and Bill Sotko gave excellent talks. Thanks to all for the mini workshops. On Sunday I had the pleasure of picking up GMP Gloria Williams from the airport. We first visited Papillion where they presented a check for over \$4,000 to GMP Gloria for special Olympics. SM Chaplain Diane Wilken presented a check to GMP Gloria for \$950 that had been raised by the state Auxiliary, thank you Diane for being the chairperson for GMP Special Project. We headed to Alliance on Monday where they had the Assistant Mayor come to welcome us and the newspaper to take pictures. They presented GMP Gloria with a check for \$300. We headed to Elkhorn on Tuesday and GMP Gloria received a check from Omaha 38 for \$500 and one from Elkhorn Auxiliary for \$150. SMP Gloria was very excited for all the donations from the Nebraska sisters. GMP Gloria found out how far it is across Nebraska and that it's the same distance going east to West as it is going West to East!! On Wednesday I had the honor of escorting GMP Gloria to Leavenworth Kansas where her visits in Kansas were to begin. Thank you, Kansas Sisters, for your hospitality!

The Coronavirus has not been good to us. As I write this, I am hearing about all the changes and rulings that have taken place. It will be hard on all of the Aeries and Auxiliaries. Since this is new territory the Grand is constantly watching to see what the next step should be. Because of the seriousness of this virus MINK has been cancelled. I know it wasn't easy for the committee to make that decision. State Pool in North Platte has been postponed. The committee is looking for other dates. Bar to Bar putt putt has also been postponed. PWCRP Kelly Davis is working with the bars to find a date to hold this event. Many Aeries homes have closed until it is safe to reopen. I will miss seeing all of you at these events. I would rather miss you at an event than to miss you forever, please take care of YOU. Hopefully this virus gets under control soon and we can complete the year with a big bang



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State Aerie Membership Team

Membership Chairman Jeremiah Bollig, Schuyler 3568

Re-Enrollment Chairman
Todd Bollig, Schuyler 3568

New Aerie Chairman Hoyt Williams, Garden County 4283



Membership Chairman
Cathy Menish, Norfolk 3611

Re-Enrollment Chairman Klara Serl, Alliance 136

New Auxiliary Chairman
Sandy Biery, So Omaha 154





As we sit here with just a few months left in our fraternal year, we ask for your help in reaching NET GAIN – we are so close only 377 reenrollees & new members needed. With your hard work, please continue to sign members, to help us get closer to our Net Gain goal.

A few newsletters back, we talk about EMOAMA (Every Member Owes A Member Annually). If each member signs a member, our Order has the best chance of growing. So if you haven't signed a member, the next two months provide a great opportunity to do so.

Membership - \$100 Monthly Drawing - sign a member each month to enter.

March winner

David A. Bartunek

Omaha #154

Congrats Brother, you will be receiving a check from the NE state secretary.

Membership Chairman Jeremiah Bollig - Schuyler #3568 - jeremiah.iellc@gmail.com

Hello Sisters-

Hope all of you are staying healthy and haven't been sick.

You did a GREAT job of signing up new and reenrolled members for February.

We had 51 new and 18 reenrolled sisters!!!! What a great job all of you did for Nebraska and Pam.

Thank you for your hard work and keep it up! If you keep it going, we could make net gain-

wouldn't that be something?

February winner of the wine bottle holder is Angela Jensen from North Platte. Congrats!!

Until next month--

"Serve one up for Nebraska and Pam"
Cathy and Klara







State Charity Team

Kelly Davis, Beatrice 531 Rhonda Schafer, Omaha 38 Cris Henry, So Omaha 154





In Nebraska, any adult who suspects abuse or neglect is required to report it. The hotline number is 800-652-1999.

Your contact with the hotline is confidential and will not be shared with the family.

On any given day, **over 3,500 children are in foster care** in the state of Nebraska. They range in age from infants to 18 years old. The average age of a child in foster care is between 5-12 years old. The median amount of time that a child is in foster care is just over a year. Nearly 60% of these children will be safely reunified with their parents or primary caregivers. Nearly 25% will be adopted, many by their foster parents when safely returning home is not an option. In 2015, 86 youth had to leave the foster care system because they had not yet been safely reunited with their families or adopted and were too old to remain in state custody. To ease this transition, Nebraska's Bridge to Independence Program offers support for Medicaid coverage, a monthly stipend for living expenses and a caseworker to help these youth emerging from foster care.

Rising number of children in foster care

According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the number of children in out-of-home foster care in Nebraska has increased since 2015. Out-of-home care includes instances where children are cared for by relatives or other trusted adults they know (kinship care), by foster or adoptive families, receiving psychiatric treatment in a medical facility, living in independently, in a group home, emergency shelter, detention facility or have run away.

Why the increase?

Most government agencies and journalists attribute the rise, in part, to increased parental substance abuse. Of the 15 categories, states can report on the circumstances associated with a child's removal from home and placement into care, drug abuse by a parent had the largest percentage point increase. Neglect as a circumstance around removal has also been increasing. In Nebraska, 83.7% of substantiated maltreatment included physical neglect where parents or caregivers were unable to provide their children with adequate supervision, clothing, nutrition and health care.

More resources needed

Access to substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, safety net supports, and other community resources is on the decline in many communities, making it difficult for families to get the help they need. In addition to the challenges that are driving an increase in demand for child and family services is another growing problem: there is a well-documented national social worker shortage. Particularly in rural areas, this can lead to higher caseloads for child welfare workers, higher burnout, and turnover, and decreased quality of services for children and families.

States are also struggling to recruit, train and retain enough foster families to care for the increasing number of children entering state custody. This shortage of foster families can sometimes result in children having to move homes, change schools, be separated from their family and siblings, and in some cases, live in group care settings which are best reserved for youth psychiatric treatment rather than a living situation.

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HERE ARE MY THOUGHTS:

If we are patient, do what we are told, and most importantly be kind and considerate of our families, friends, and neighbors, life will return to normal.

If we have faith in our officials and the medical community to do what is necessary to take care of us, <u>life will return to normal</u>. Once again, patience is paramount. They are working on medical solutions, as well as trying to take care of us financially as much as possible. Life is going to be difficult, but they are working for us. Certainly, if we can do anything to help, other than doing what we are told, that would be outstanding. One thing I know for sure – second guessing, trying to place blame or find fault, and moaning and groaning will not accomplish anything and will probably just make us more miserable.

We can definitely do things to help our families, friends, and neighbors. Even if it is simply reaching out with a phone call, visiting at a short distance over the backyard fence, using the internet to look for creative ideas such as prayer groups, book clubs, exercise groups, story-telling, sharing funnies, finding fun things to make, looking up recipes, etc. - just keeping that personal connection we all yearn for as human beings. Maybe even plan future Eagle events for when <u>life returns to normal</u>. How about a "WE KICKED COVID-19'S ASS PARTY!" (I'm think pinatas shaped like a virus, beating the hell out of the virus, and then burning the remains in effigy!)

It has occurred to me that all this family time has gifted us the opportunity to reconnect with our families – especially our children. Often, family time falls by the wayside when we are working, cleaning, cooking, laundering, transporting to sports, lessons, and activities. What suffers is close time with our families, especially our children. Take advantage of this "forced" opportunity be with your kids, be with your spouse, be with your parents or grandparents. Talk with them, share with them, do with them, LOVE THEM. It is all so vitally important. Maybe these are things that have been missing from our family life and could be continued when life returns to normal.

Certainly, we are in the midst of a dreadful and difficult time. Instead of dwelling on all the problems, take time to smell the roses, make lemonade, appreciate the wonders of springtime, brighten your life with whatever makes you happy, brighten the lives of others with thoughtfulness. LIVE, LOVE, AND BE HAPPY, and make plans to keep on doing all these things WHEN LIFE RETURNS TO NORMAL.

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for charity. Some of my visits have had to be postponed or cancelled due to the virus. Let's show them we are strong, and we will survive this! Our state Charity Team has not given up! PWCRP Kelly Davis, PSMP Rhonda Shafer and PSMP Cris Henry are hard at work to keep the State Charity from suffering. As many of you know we have 2 sets of firearms, many baskets and tickets for the Show me the Money that we were hoping to move at State Pool and Bar to Bar Putt Putt. Rhonda has thought outside of the box this time! She has a link on the Facebook page Nebraska State FOE Aerie & Auxiliary 2019/2020 to sell chances. Please check it out for more details as the baskets and etc. will be changing as the tickets for that item are sold. Thank you for your support and not letting our State Charities down!

April 18th is to be my day at Elkhorn please watch the website for updates. At this time, we have not changed the date. May 30th is Show me the money in Central City. Tickets are on sale for \$5.00 each or 4 for \$20. We will have 10 drawings for \$200 each, you do not need to be present to win but would love to have you there.

Ladies as we are on the final quarter of this year it's time to think about your state auxiliary. Have you thought about being a State officer? WE NEED YOU. JPSMP Cheri has sent an application to all secretaries. If you would like one, please check with your secretary or contact me and I will be sure you get one. The Auxiliary is yours and we need you to keep it strong. I know there are many out there that would be a fantastic officer for your state auxiliary.

Everyone please be safe and be careful when you go out. I am sending virtual hugs to everyone until we can be together again!! I know many of our members are in the "at risk" group. Please check on each other and be sure to follow the CDC guidelines.

Until we see you down the Eagle Trail. SMP Pam

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Get involved

Families experiencing crisis need our help. You can help strengthen families, support children who have experienced trauma and make a positive impact in your community in the following ways:

· Become a foster parent

Foster parents play an important role in supporting children and families during a difficult time in their lives. If you can provide care and unconditional love to children and teens, work in partnership with birth family members and child welfare professionals, and complete ongoing education requirements, you could be a great foster parent.

Pursue a career in social work Social work is a helping profession and a very diverse field encompassing many different kinds of

Donate or sponsor a fundraising event
 Some children enter foster care with few or no
 belongings. Donations of clothing, activity
 books, toys, stuffed animals and personal
 hygiene items to place in welcome boxes for
 children to take to their new foster home or
 occupy their time while waiting to be matched
 with a family are always appreciated.

Educate and advocate

Stay informed about what's happening with the Nebraska child welfare system and advocate for prevention efforts that strengthen families in your local community. Inform others about the challenge's families are facing and rally them to get involved and make a positive impact in their community.

Dear Brothers and Sisters--

From the bottom of my heart-THANK YOU- you have no idea how much your visits, words of comfort, cards, and all the messages I received at Dan's passing. It was a shock to all the family when it happened but I'm thankful that he didn't suffer.

Dan loved to hear anything about the Eagles, how much money we could raise for a cause, how we helped someone with a benefit, maybe seeing some of you only once or twice a year, and last but not least the potlucks!! He loved being an Eagle and that's one reason I loved him. They don't make them like him anymore-if you do have one make sure to tell them how much they are loved.

Again, Thank You and we will see you along the Eagle trail.

Cathy Menish



#4 Arbor Court York, NE 68467 STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID YORK NE PERMIT NO. 8

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Save the Date......

April 18th Pam's Day Elkhorn June 10-13 Nebraska State Eagles Convention Norfolk July 18-23 International Eagles Convention Spokane WA

For up to date State President's scheduled visits, check out the Nebraska State Aerie and Auxiliary website @ nestatefoe.org.

Deadline for submissions to be included in the bulletin is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Send items to:

Liz Scott ● 4 Arbor Court ●York NE 68467

Phone 402-363-2102 ● Email: <u>lizscott68467@yahoo.com</u> or

News@nestatefoe.org



All members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles are encouraged to renew their dues before May 31, 2020.

Paper dues reminders will be mailed to each expiring member in April, May and June.

Those who have not paid by May 31 will have 30 days to renew.

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