

# THE GOLDEN EAGLES

The Continental-United Airlines Retired Pilots Association

Founded 1973

Bylaws

## THE GOLDEN EAGLES

Amended October 10, 2015

### ARTICLE I

#### Name and Location

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be “**The Golden Eagles**”.
- Section 2. The Home Office of The Golden Eagles shall be at the home of the current President unless another location is designated by the Executive Committee.

### ARTICLE II

#### Purpose

- Section 1. The purpose of The Golden Eagles shall be to help maintain and continue the close friendships and associations of its members, to promote the general welfare of its members and their families and, when possible, to assist members in resolving retirement related problems.
- Section 2. The Golden Eagles organization has no labor-political position regarding any past events, but exists to maintain friendships from our working years. One of the greatest rewards of an airline flying career is the many friendships that one makes. Upon retirement one of the disappointments is losing contact with so many of these fellow pilots. Joining the Golden Eagles can preserve old friendships while building new ties to be enjoyed during the years ahead.
- Section 3. The Golden Eagles employs five methods to help members maintain personal contact and keep up with the events of their lives. (1) A convention is held each year to provide face to face contact and allow important visiting and human interaction. Additionally, (2) the Golden Eagles publishes a periodical newsmagazine called the *Golden Contrails*. Stories written by and about members tell of the events of their lives. More immediate information is provided to the membership electronically via (3) e-mail and (4) the Web site: [www.thegoldeneagles.org](http://www.thegoldeneagles.org) (5) Golden Eagles Local Area Chapters (LAC's) provide opportunities for members to meet with other Golden Eagles, who live nearby, on a regular basis.

**ARTICLE III**  
**Membership and Dues**

Section 1. **Regular membership** shall be limited to retired or active Continental or United Airlines pilots who are at least 50 years old. Active and retired Continental or United Airlines pilots are defined as follows:

**An active pilot is defined** as one who is currently on the pilot seniority list and payroll and is actively flying for United Airlines, including those in supervisory or training positions. A United Airlines pilot who is on authorized leave of absence or medical leave, medical disability or whose services are being withheld as the result of a strike, is still considered to be an active pilot.

**A retired Continental or United Airlines pilot is defined** as a pilot at least 50 years old who is no longer listed on the active United Airlines pilot seniority list but who was, at any time, on the pilot seniority list and actively flew for United Airlines, Continental Airlines, their predecessor companies, or any airline which was merged into Continental Airlines, United Airlines, or any of their merger partners.

Section 2. **Membership will be divided into five categories**, as follows:

**Regular Membership:** Retired or active Continental or United Airlines pilots, who are age 50 or older, will be granted membership upon application and payment of the annual dues.

**Associate Membership:** Those who have had some (non-pilot) connection to Continental or United Airlines and wish to become members. Must have a member sponsor the request for membership, apply in writing to the Treasurer, and send the annual dues with the application.

**Life Membership:** Must have been a member of The Golden Eagles and must be nominated by a member for their outstanding service to the Association. Life membership requires a majority vote of members at the annual business meeting including proxy votes.

**Honorary Membership:** A non-member deserving special recognition by The Golden Eagles, and must be nominated by a member. Honorary membership requires

a majority vote of the members at the annual business meeting including proxy votes.

Only two Honorary and two Life Memberships may be granted per year. Honorary and Life Members are exempt from all dues. These categories include the former categories of Honorary Life Membership and Hall of Fame Membership.

**Widows/Widowers:** Surviving spouses of deceased members or surviving spouses of deceased pilots who would have become eligible for membership at age fifty. Automatically granted upon the death of a member or upon application by the surviving spouse of a pilot who would have been eligible for membership at age 50; these members are exempt from all dues.

**Pilots seeking membership** are encouraged to use the online application form available on the website [www.thegoldeneagles.org](http://www.thegoldeneagles.org) however they may use the paper form which is available via download from the website. Forms may also be requested from the Treasurer or Secretary.

**Annual dues are payable each January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.** Dues for the current year will be delinquent if not paid by April 30<sup>th</sup> of that dues year; and, except for extenuating circumstances as determined by the Executive Committee, the member will be dropped from membership and from all Golden Eagles services and communications. The amount of the annual dues may be changed by a majority vote (including proxies) of those present at the annual business meeting.

#### ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. **The Officers of The Golden Eagles** shall be: the **President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Vice President.** These five officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. The immediate Past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, but shall vote only to break a tie.

Section 2. **The Executive Committee**, by majority vote, shall have the power to transact the general business of The Golden Eagles, and shall arrange, supervise, and control its

current affairs and functions. The Executive Committee shall incur no indebtedness beyond the existing funds of the Association.

Section 3. **The President shall** exercise supervision over all affairs of The Golden Eagles; he or she shall call all meetings of the Executive Committee and preside over such meetings. He or she shall be the Presiding Officer at all business meetings and the annual banquet held at the convention. The final official public act of the outgoing President will be to present the incoming President and his or her Staff to the organization, as part of the conclusion of the banquet program.

Section 4. **The President-Elect shall** act in the capacity of vice-president during his or her term as president-elect, and shall execute such duties as are assigned to him or her by the President. He or she shall work closely with the President and be able to conduct the business of the organization if necessary. In this case, either the President or the Executive Committee will authorize him or her to act for the President.

Section 5. **The Secretary shall** be primarily responsible for recording the minutes of the business meeting. If requested, the Secretary shall assist the Treasurer in maintaining the membership records or reservations and records relating to the annual convention. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall work together to support the address lists required for mailing the *Golden Contrails*. He or she shall also execute such other duties as directed by the President.

Section 6. **The Treasurer shall** handle the financial affairs of The Golden Eagles. He or she shall be the custodian of the separate accounts necessary to conduct the business of The Golden Eagles and he shall provide accurate records of dues or other monies received and all expenditures made. The Treasurer shall provide a report of the organization's financial status at the business meeting at each annual convention. He or she shall notify the Executive Committee when new membership applications are received, and he or she will be continuously able to provide financial data to the President and the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall maintain and publish membership rosters, including the current dues status of each member. At his or her discretion, he or she may call on the Secretary for help in maintaining membership

records and records and reservations for the annual convention. He or she shall also execute such other duties as directed by the President.

**Either the President or the Treasurer** shall be authorized to sign checks for The Golden Eagles.

Section 7. **The Executive Vice President** will represent the Association in such matters as shall be determined and directed by the President with the concurrence of a majority of the and Executive Committee

Section 8. Not constituting a part of the Executive Committee, The Golden Eagles shall have an appointed Officer known as the “**Magazine Editor**”. The duties of the Editor shall be: To edit and publish the Golden Eagles news magazine known as the *Golden Contrails*. In his editorial duties, the Editor shall gather and disseminate personal stories and data about the members and about the past history of Continental Airlines. He or she may also include other material he or she believes will be of interest to the members. If necessary, the Editor will also assist in any public relations program of The Golden Eagles.

Section 8a Not constituting a part of the Executive Committee, The Golden Eagles shall have an appointed Officer known as the “**Historian**”. The duties of the Historian shall be: to gather, archive and preserve items, articles or memorabilia relating to the proud history of Continental Airlines and its predecessors.

Section 9. In addition to the elected officers, the Executive Committee may appoint members to serve as “**Key Volunteer Officers**” in the following positions: **E-Mail Liaison, Survivor’s Aid, , and Webmaster**. The Executive Committee may appoint additional volunteer officers as needs arise. These appointments shall be for an indefinite term. They shall continue in force until the appointed member is no longer able or willing to serve, or until the appointee is replaced by the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE V

### NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS

Section 1. All candidates for elective offices of the Golden Eagles shall be nominated and elected as provided in this Article.

- Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee and one or more members appointed by the President. The President shall be the Chairman of this committee. The work of this committee shall continue until the business meeting at the next annual convention, at which time nominations for officer vacancies shall be presented to the members attending. No nomination for any office shall be considered without the consent of the nominee. Additional nominations may be made by any member present at the annual business meeting.
- Section 3. Election of Officers shall be by ballot or by hand vote and shall be the last item of business during the business meeting on the final day of the convention. A simple majority vote of members present or voting by proxy shall rule. If a majority is not gained by any candidate on the initial ballot, there shall be a runoff vote between the two top vote getters for that vacancy.
- Section 4. The voting body shall consist of only those members whose dues are paid to the date of the business meeting and those Life members who may be dues exempt.
- Section 5. The term for each of these offices (President, President-Elect, Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be two years. As the outgoing President completes his or her term, the President-Elect shall automatically become the President for the following two year term, and elections will be held for a new President-Elect. The Secretary, the Treasurer, and Executive Vice President may serve beyond their two year term, if they wish to continue in the position and their continued service is approved by the Executive Committee.
- Section 6. Should an Officer become unable to serve during his term of office, that Officer shall be replaced by vote of the Executive Committee, and the replacement Officer shall serve until the next convention.

#### **ARTICLE VI** **Conventions**

- Section 1. The Golden Eagles shall hold an annual convention. Currently, the convention location alternates between Houston, Texas in years ending in odd numbers, and Las Vegas, Nevada in years ending in even numbers. The place and date of future conventions may be changed by a majority vote of those present at the annual business meeting preceding the planned change, without officially amending these bylaws. A change in location and/or date may also be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- Section 2. Each convention shall consist of, at a minimum, an annual business meeting and an annual retirement banquet. The Executive Committee shall endeavor to arrange for an appropriate speaker or other suitable entertainment to be a part of the banquet program. Each function shall be under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Although it is a separate and independent organization, the Golden Eagles Ladies Auxiliary will normally also conduct their annual business meeting in conjunction with the Golden Eagles convention

Section 4. In coordination with the Golden Eagles Executive Committee, the Auxiliary will normally plan the theme and decorate the banquet room for the annual Golden Eagles banquet. The Auxiliary will also normally plan, organize, and supply the Hospitality Suite. Volunteers to act as hosts/hostesses and bartenders will come from both groups.

Section 5. The Golden Eagles shall provide appropriate financial support for the Golden Eagles Ladies Auxiliary. Budget plans for the banquet decorations and the Hospitality Suite will be approved by the Golden Eagles Executive Committee, and those approved expenses will be reimbursed by the Golden Eagles.

Section 6. The annual retirement banquet shall be open to all interested parties, and shall spotlight retiring pilots and their families. A suitable certificate or other award from the Golden Eagles shall be presented if the retiring pilot is a member of the Golden Eagles. Those persons receiving Honorary or Life Memberships shall also be honored at the retirement banquet.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Miscellaneous**

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws shall require a 75% majority by those eligible members present and voting at the annual business meeting, including allowed proxies.

Section 2. Written proxies from dues current eligible members may be used in all Golden Eagle voting, but there shall be a maximum of five (5) proxy votes allowed per eligible attending regular member. Proxies must be in writing and name the member authorized to vote.

Section 3. United Airlines pilots and former Continental Airline pilots of all ages are welcome to attend the social functions of the Golden Eagles, and may bring guests if proper reservations are made for both.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Local Area Chapters**

- Section 1. The Golden Eagles shall support the organization of its members into Local Area Chapters that may be established within geographical areas that each chapter's members may select.
- Section 2. The goal of this provision for Local Area Chapters is to expand the opportunity for Golden Eagles members to meet with other members living within a geographical area on a regular basis. The benefits of meeting more frequently would create lasting ties and new friendships with other Golden Eagles, providing a more active forum for members who choose to participate.
- Section 3. The Golden Eagles Executive Committee may from time to time suggest modifications in the organization or business conduct of the Local Area Chapters. The intent is for a loose confederation of like-minded groups that are free to conduct their local events in any reasonable means they may choose. The expected result will be much more contact, support and fellowship among members of the Golden Eagles who choose to meet within Local Area Chapters as well as encouraging other eligible persons to become Golden Eagle members .

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Conclusion**

This unnumbered section of Article IX is the final portion of these bylaws, last amended at the 42nd anniversary convention of The Golden Eagles, held at The Airport DoubleTree Hotel in Houston TX, October 10, 2015