



GOLDEN CONTRAILS

December 2013

..... And oft' the setting sun is pleased to trim the Clouds with molten sails
And lace the way of passing jets with golden condensation trails



40th Anniversary Reunion



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Goodbye from the Retiring Captain

Golden Eagles, Our 40th anniversary convention in Houston was a HUGE success with a great turn-out, a larger than usual turnout for the business meeting, and perfect weather for the golf event with a great show of players including some first timers

Our Host hotel, The Double Tree with their management and staff could not have been more gracious and helpful. They enjoyed us as well and look forward to our return.

We have elected Don Gentry to the Presidency position, Bill Chambers to the President elect position. And Charlie Starr and Tom Doherty agreed to stay on as Sec. and Treasurer for 2 more years. We are very grateful to them as they are the blood force for the Golden Eagles.

The Ladies Auxiliary board will remain intact for another year with Pres. Gail Grover, Vice-Pres. Francina Gentry, and Sec. Pam Meyners. The Ladies are the real foot soldiers of the Golden Eagles. They make the whole convention work smoothly and we can never thank them enough.

Our 2014 convention will be held in Denver under the command of President Don Gentry. Don has been a long time resident in Colorado so I know he will have a great venue that should generate some new interest and participation with our large group of pilots in the area and because of Continental's long time presence there.

It has been an honor for me to have served as your President and looking back at the past several conventions, I can see that there is still a lot of LIFE in the Golden Eagles.

Enjoy your holidays, stay safe, and stay informed.

Paul F. Grover III

Editor's Note:

We would all like to take this time to thank Paul and Gail Grover for the last two years of their work on the behalf of the Golden Eagles—it was truly above and beyond the call of duty.



*Thanks
To Both of You
From
The Golden Eagles*

Thoughts from the Editor:

It appears from all reports that I missed a really great convention this year. My apologies to all, but the wedding of a close family member precluded Linda and I from attending.. Once again Gail and Paul Grover and the the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary put on a great get-together and the turnout was unbelievable. I have to thank the people who took over the picture taking duties as not only was the number of convention photos forwarded to me amazing(293!) but the quality was superb. There were so many good pictures to choose from that I really felt bad about not using them all but our budget only allows for a certain number of color pages. I have therefore fit in as many as I could by making them a little smaller and a lot closer together. This makes adding names to the pictures impossible but if you see one that you think might be you, it probably is.

You may have noticed that the cover has two logos instead of the usual old one. The one on the right is the new logo of the Golden Eagles and is approved by the company which is necessary because of the copyrighted logo on the aircraft tail. You will also notice that the word "eagles" is not capitalized. I have been told that was necessary to get the permission we needed to use this as our logo. What possible difference it makes is beyond me but then I am not a lawyer.

You might also wonder why we are using two logos and the answer is simple—we are the Golden Eagles and there are some 600-700 of us who started and finished our flying careers with Continental Airlines. Our most senior members are actually the people who started Continental and were never part of United Airlines. Then we have the group that was hired around the mid sixties (including myself) who helped with expansion of

the company into the jet age. Those 13 707-320Cs that we bought with the proceeds from the MAC operation were an important part of our growth and my group of new hires had the privilege of flying with these pioneers of Continental and learning from them. As long as all these pilots are members of the Golden Eagles, I think we should honor them with the old logo.

As far as the new logo is concerned, who knows where this group is heading down the road? We may be absorbed into RUPA one day but from what I have heard they are not too excited about that idea. The new logo looks to the needs of the new hire pilots who came into the fold at Continental because of mergers with other airlines or the rapid expansion during the 80's and 90's and do not have the sense of history that the rest of us do. The point of all this is that there is a place for all pilots who flew under the banner of Continental and we want them to feel comfortable in our group. With the two logos on the masthead of the magazine, we honor our history and look forward to the future.

Last but not least, I want to welcome our new president and our new president-elect. Don and Bill are taking over their duties at a very interesting and challenging time and we wish them well and promise our full support.

Shaun



Greetings from your Captain

Don Gentry

A special greeting to all of our Golden Eagle members. We just finished our convention in Houston. The Grover team put on another great outing. It is not easy to put on a barbeque buffet for a largely Texas group, but Gail did a wonderful job. I hope that everyone who attended had as much fun as we did. Many thanks to all who help us with the 2013 convention. I am fortunate to have Bill Chambers as my President Elect. Along with Bill and the rest of your board I pledge to you that we will put in all the work necessary to move the Golden Eagles into the future. I am stealing a slogan from a RV friend of mine and that is "It is all about fun". We have a new membership committee in place. The chairman is Jack Norman and his committee members are Gary Small and Jeff Taylor. We are also working on improving and expanding our local area chapter concept, following up on our Insurance briefing, updating pass travel benefits and much more. It was agreed on at our business meeting to have our 2014 convention in Denver. You can make your plans to be in Denver from October 1-4 at the Double Tree Hotel at 32nd and Quebec. All the information and registration form will be on the web as soon as all the details are available. The information will also be in the spring edition of the Golden Contrails. As a final note I wanted to thank Gail Grover for being kind enough to offer to stay on as Ladies auxiliary President. So as I write this, we are planning your 2014 convention in beautiful Denver, Colorado. So let the fun begin!!

Your President,

Don Gentry



From the Reserve Captain

Bill Chambers

The recent convention was a great success due to the tireless work and attention to detail by Gail Grover and her crew, which includes her roommate, Paul. This team shows a remarkable flair for planning and running our annual gatherings. We are fortunate that Gail and her team have agreed to handle planning of future events. Captain Paul Grover moves to our growing cast of Past Presidents, who serve as valuable resources of wisdom to your Executive Board. We saw lots of challenges during Paul's two years as President-elect and then two years at the helm. He delegated duties a lot since his very sporting sideline of delivering new ocean-going yachts is unforgiving and not a little risky. Paul has juggled his varied duties well, and quietly worked effectively on our topics of interest. Please join us in thanking Paul Grover for his leadership and service.

The Golden Eagles need more members who are willing to devote a bit of time to our retired pilots and our interests during this period of rapid change at United Airlines and in our industry. I decided to lead by example on this by volunteering to stand for election as your next President in two years. I am most pleased to work with Don Gentry on the many issues and challenges that all 66,000 UAL retirees face. Thanks to all of you for your kind words and support.

We have found a few other Golden Eagles members who have stepped up to serve in several ways, helping us do what is needed to remain effective during the future. We all agree that our membership and participation could be better, so we have continued to pursue good ideas from our members such as adopting the new logo for a variety of reasons:

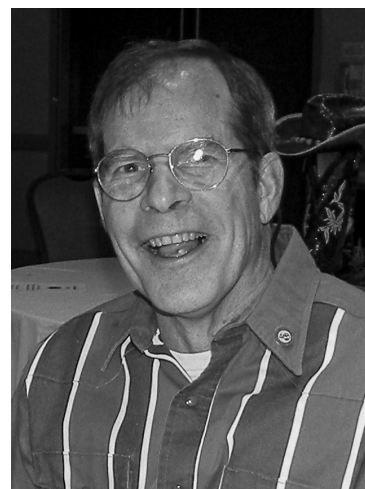
We know that retired or senior working pilots in many present or former crew bases like EWR, CLE or DEN may perceive that they are not recognized by the Golden Eagles, who are seen as a bunch of old guys from CAL and TI who really only care about each other. I may be one of those old ex CAL folks, but I will tell you that we care about all Golden Eagles and other UAL retired and senior working pilots. We were able to corral the leaders of all pre-merger retiree groups from both airlines and speak with a common voice well before the present pass travel policy was announced. Most UAL retirees (from both companies) are quite happy with Family Vacation Passes, Enrolled Friends, myUALdiscount and other parts of our retiree travel benefits that would not have been included without several years of very effective lobbying by the Golden Eagles and our other retiree groups. We must never forget that change will continue, and such change may not be favorable. Someone needs to be vigilant for the need to intervene if needed. We are a social group, but we should defend the interests of our retired and senior working pilots, when issues arise which affect our people.

Our business meeting ended with a presentation by Dennis Olden, a retired NWA B747-400 Captain whose Medicare Supplement Plan already provides healthcare coverage to NWA and USAir retirees who do not have any airline-funded plan after becoming Medicare-eligible. As you know, most former CAL, TI, PEX, NYA or FAL retirees have nothing except bridge medical from UAL. If we can convince UAL to cooperate, any former UAL retiree (not just pilots) will have a favorable alternative to AARP or other plans which cost more and /or provide less favorable benefits. We are moving forward on this, with the help of Captain Robert Macaluso. We will offer plan participation by any former CAL or UAL retirees if this promising new benefit keeps looking good in our due diligence review and if UAL cooperates.

We recruited Captain Jack Norman to serve as chair-

man of the new Membership Committee, with (participation) so that we might reverse downward trends through more than just a logo change. We intend to create awareness of the benefits of becoming an active Golden Eagles player, by a variety of tactics, during the next few years. We will likely post our new ideas once or twice via email, followed by adding the ideas to The Golden Eagles website. Please help us succeed in this endeavor by giving us your ideas and by participating. Thanks in advance for helping us.

Bill Chambers



Notes From Your Treasurer

Tom Doherty

Greetings from the Sunshine State. Made the annual pilgrimage from New Hampshire to Florida in mid-November and now getting settled in for the good life in the South.

The 2013 convention in Houston was a smashing success. We had a great turnout for the banquet - in excess of 200 people attended including members, wives, and guests. We had a perfect day for golf on Friday, even though my score was far from perfect. The hospitality suite was the hotspot for food, fun, and fellowship throughout the weekend. The business meeting was well attended and I was able to report that the organization is in good financial shape. Texas style BBQ

and music was enjoyed by everyone on Saturday night. We are all looking forward to another great convention in Denver in October 2014.

Once again we are approaching the new year and membership dues are due and payable January 1, 2014. Regular members are \$35.00 and associate members are \$20.00. Also, any additional donation for the postage fund would be greatly appreciated. A form for payment and any personal information changes will be included in the December issue of the Golden Contrails. Please make checks payable to The Golden Eagles.

The Golden Eagles CARES Program has been reinstated and we are using UAL Cares as the vetting and disbursement agent. Donations to this program go to individuals and families in need and to date almost \$30,000.00 has been dispersed to needy recipients. Please make a separate check payable to "GOLDEN EAGLES CARES PROGRAM" if you would like to make a donation.

Please send all dues, postage fund contributions, Golden Eagles Cares Program donations, and personal information changes to:

THE GOLDEN EAGLES

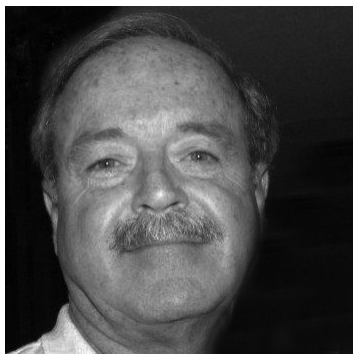
C/O TOM DOHERTY

7 McCORMICK WAY

SALEM, NH 03079-2816

Happy Holidays!

TOM



Ladies' Auxiliary - Gail Grover

WHOO-HOO....WAS THAT A GREAT TIME??

When I said "come for a good time" little did I know of the stampede that would show. I am NOT a "one woman show" and YOU all stepped up to help make this "family reunion" another one for the memory book.

I am hoping to give Shaun Ryan lots of space to fill up with all of the great photo's that will tell the story of convention 2013, so I will make this short but long enough to send my thank you's to my Awesome Team members: the Gentrys, Meryners, McKenzies, the Cloughs, Humphries, Starrs, Dohertys, Newells, Meiers, Shaun Ryan for the help with the "gone west" DVD, Alice Powers for the favors for the ladies' luncheon, and my flight attendant friend Marilyn Lohr who painted all those colorful boots and hats for the banquet centerpieces.

But all of our planning and executing is of no value if no one comes to enjoy all of the efforts, And that is where all of you who attended so deserve our gratitude for your support and participation.

And a HUGE applause to the Double Tree and staff. It is a gem of a spot and I am looking forward to working with Don Gentry and the Denver Double Tree staff to make the 2014 gathering even better.....can that even be possible???? (email me your thoughts and ideas.)

To all of you and your families, I wish you waves of joy and awesome moments to treasure during these holidays.

Fondly,

Gail

ggskyhag68@cox.net

GG

Grover

See color picture on inside front cover

FROM YOUR BEAN COUNTER (aka: TREASURER'S REPORT)*Tom Doherty* – Treasurer

Report Period 7/26/2013 – 11/21/2013

CHECKING ACCOUNT**Bal. (Checking) from 7/25/2013-----\$ 18,537.66**

Inflows (checking)

Membership Dues-----\$ 590.00
 Banquet/Luncheon deposits----- 5,900.00
 Postage Contribution----- 170.00
 Raffle Proceeds -----510.00
 Auction Proceeds-----300.00
 Hospitality Room Bar Kitty -----360.00
Total Inflows This Period-----\$ 7,830.00

Outflows (checking)

Contrails Printing -----\$ 2,660.02
 Contrails Postage ----- 422.33
 Convention notice printing/signage --- 479.84
 Postage ----- 291.39
 Banquet Cancellation Refunds -----320.00
 Awards -----210.63
 Convention Decorations -----500.00
 Convention Room Rentals-----308.91
 Raffle Items -----58.45
 Hospitality Food ----- 1,477.17
 Hospitality Beverages -----811.83
 Convention Entertainment----- 1,200.00
 Miscl. Office Expenses----- 99.00
 Banquet & Luncheon Paid----- 6,255.04
Remembrance Donations ----- 50.00
Total Outflows This Period ----- \$ 15,144.61

Bal. (checking) 11/21/2013----- \$ 11,223.05**CARE ACCOUNT****Bal. (CARE) from 7/25/2013-----\$ 432.21**

Inflows (CARE)

Contributions ----- \$ 00.00
Interest Earned ----- 00.04
Total Inflows This Period-----\$ 432.25

Outflows (CARE)

None----- \$ 00.00
Total Outflows This Period ----- \$ 00.00

Bal. CARE 11/21/2013 ----- \$ 432.25**SAVINGS ACCOUNT****Bal. (Savings) from 7/25/2013 ----- \$ 18,105.39**

Inflows (Savings)

Interest Earned ----- \$ 2.46
Total Inflows This Period ----- \$ 2.46

Outflows (Savings)

None ----- \$ 00.00
Total Outflows This Period ----- \$ 00.00

Bal. (Savings) 11/21/2013 ----- \$ 18,107.85**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE POSTAGE FUND!**

Barry Borella Dave Clough Ray Combest
 George Davies Virgil Hemphill Ben McKenzie
 Randy Rawls Charlie Starr La Verne Thornberry

*If your name was omitted, please let us know, so
 you can be recognized*



Don't forget – 2014 Dues payable - Jan. 1, 2014

A Special welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

George Mathes Jim Morehead
 Leon Scarbrough John Stegemoller

IMPORTANT NOTE - - - NEW PASSWORD

Effective with the date of this edition, the new
 password to view **GOLDEN CONTRAILS**
 magazine and the **roster** on the website
www.thegoldeneagles.org will be:

checkride

You will want to write this down somewhere

The Golden Eagles CARE Program

With the merger of Continental and United Airlines some months ago, we temporarily suspended our **Golden Eagles CARE Program** (our charitable program that provided help to needy Continental employees and their families during times of disaster or serious illness). The distribution of the benefits of our **Golden Eagles CARE Program** was overseen by "Continental Cares", assuring that our contributions went 100% to those in real need. With the airlines' merger, Continental Cares was also merged into the new corporation. The present United Cares now has taken over this merged endeavor, and thus, we will once again resume our **Golden Eagles Care Program**. Over the period that **Golden Eagles Care Program** has been in

existence, we have been able to raise and donate nearly \$30,000.00 – with our donations going to fellow co-workers who have suffered through disasters and serious illnesses. That's quite an achievement for our organization, and we can be justifiably proud! Please consider making a tax deductible donation to **The Golden Eagles Care Program**. When making a donation, please submit a separate check from your dues or postage fund contributions. Donations should be sent to:

The Golden Eagles CARE Program
C/O Tom Doherty Treasurer
7 McCormick Way
Salem NH 03079-2816

2014 Annual Dues are Payable – January 1st 2014

A quick reminder that 2014 Golden Eagles dues are payable, effective Jan. 1, 2014. Please take a moment to send your check to our treasurer, Tom Doherty. You can look on the mail envelope of this magazine to see what your dues status is. If there is a date (such as 2013) after your name, that indicates that your dues are paid through 2013, and 2014 dues are payable. Other symbols you may see are "W", meaning you are the surviving widow of a member and no dues are required; or "Life", meaning a lifetime member; "Honorary", meaning you are an honorary member. "Associate" (AM) or "Contrails-only" (CT-20xx) indicates that you are an associate member – that is, a non-pilot, not eligible for regular membership. Please help by sending your dues and avoiding the necessity of sending an expensive and time consuming individual reminder notice.

Dues Renewal – Information Update PLEASE PRINT

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Spouse _____ Phone (____) - _____ - _____

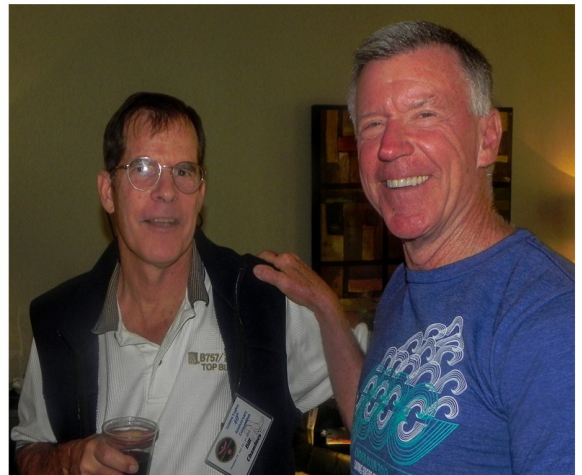
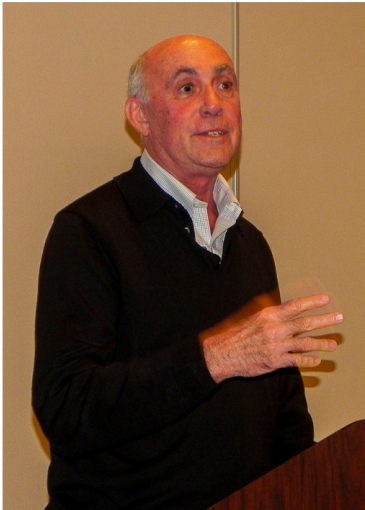
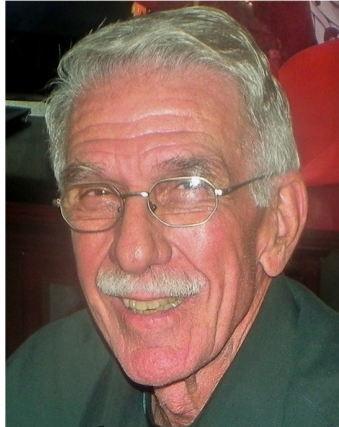
Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip + _____ + _____

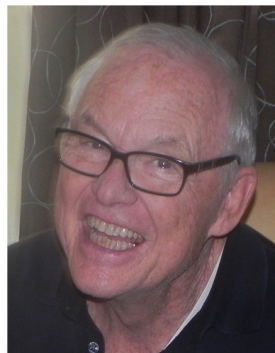
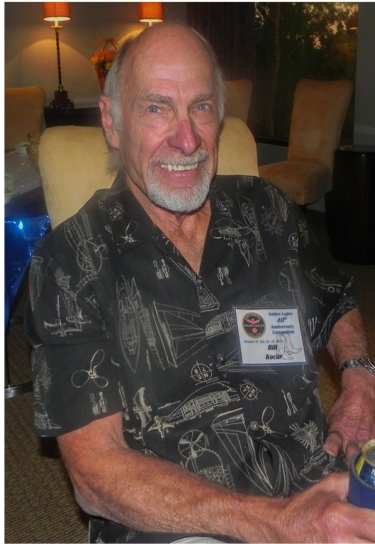
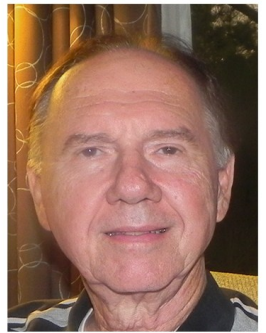
E-Mail _____

Dues for members: \$35 per year - associate members (non-pilots not eligible for voting membership: \$20 per year

Mail to: **Golden Eagles C/O Tom Doherty, Treas.; 7 McCormick Way; Salem NH 03079-2816**









Notes From Your Scribe (A.K.A. Your Secretary) - - - Charlie Starr

For those of you who missed the 2013 (the 40th annual) Convention/Reunion in Houston in October, you missed three of the most enjoyable days you could imagine. The hotel venue was great, the food and beverages were delicious and plentiful, the entertainment superb, and the renewing of friendships with your fellow pilots and their spouses was the best. While there were many whose efforts and hard work contributed to the success of the event, I want to especially give recognition to Gail Grover and Don Gentry for their many hours spent on planning and execution. It may be hard to top this year, but I wouldn't bet on it. Next year's reunion will move to Denver, and I'd urge you to start making plans to attend NOW! Oct. 2-5, 2014.

A short reminder that 2014 Golden Eagles' dues are annual – that is, due in January of each year; and January is fast approaching. While the majority of members take care of this promptly, unfortunately each year, special reminder notices have to be sent to a small percentage that seem to forget – sometimes even a second notice is necessary. This is not only a lot of work, but is also a significant expense. Right now would be a good time to send your dues renewal for 2014. Dues (unchanged from the past, are \$35 per year) should be sent to our Treasurer, Tom Doherty; please use the dues renewal form found in this magazine. With the ever-increasing costs of postage, any donations you would care to include in your dues payment are greatly appreciated and help to offset these expenses.

A special committee has been formed (Jack Norman, Gary Small, and Jeff Taylor, along with President-Elect, Bill Chambers) to help increase our membership. Each of our members probably knows a friend who is eligible for Golden Eagle membership; why not ask them to join with us. Membership applications are available on the website. Remember, we are stronger together.

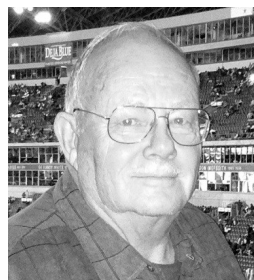
Last year, at the annual business meeting, a decision was made to temporarily suspend our charitable Golden Eagles CARE Program. Disbursements of our charitable donations had been handled through the Continental Cares Department, assuring that our donations went to needy fellow co-workers who had suffered tragic losses due to such things as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, accidents or serious illness. With the airline's merger, the viability of CAL Cares wasn't assured. We have now determined that United Cares will function just the same, and will give us assurance that our donations will reach those most in need. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to this worthy program. A donation form is included in this magazine.

Effective with this December issue of Golden Contrails, a new password will be required to access the protected portions of your web-site www.thegoldeneagles.org (to view current and back issues of Golden Contrails as well as roster information.) You may want to write this new password down someplace for future use.

New Password to access Roster and Contrails: checkride

Finally, with the approach of the Holiday Season, on behalf of all of the officers and committees who work to represent you through The Golden Eagles, let me wish you the best of The Season and a Very Happy 2014.

Charlie Starr



Minutes of the 2013 Business Meeting of The Golden Eagles

Held in the conference room of The Hilton Double Tree Inn, Houston Texas Oct. 26, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM by President Paul Grover. Members attending - - 48

Welcoming remarks from President, Paul Grover, were made and a call for verification of any proxies held by attendees. (10 proxies were presented and approved)

Motion entertained and proposed to accept the minutes from the 2012 meeting as written (minutes were available and distributed, were published previously by e-mail, and were included in the December 2012 edition of Golden Contrails magazine. Motion made to approve, seconded, and approved.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (Tom Doherty): Present balances in accounts (less expenses for convention) were reported as: checking account slightly in excess of \$20,000; savings account approximately \$18,000, and CARE account approximately \$900. A reminder that 2014 dues are payable Jan. 1, 2014, and that a form for payment, and any personal information changes, will be included in the Dec. issue of Golden Contrails. Special reminder notices that are mailed to those who do not send dues are both costly and time consuming.

E-mail coordinator (Dave Newell): A reminder that members making e-mail provider changes (Address changes) need to advise of those changes in order to receive notices. It's a very time consuming and expensive process to track down members who fail to do so.

Magazine Editor (Shaun Ryan): While there are a few articles submitted for future publications, please continue to send articles, notes photos or stories that would be of interest to the members. One future issue will be dedicated to the Air-Mic operation and Shaun would like to receive stories and photos that members may have. Photos in electronic format (JPEG, GIF, etc.) can be sent by e-mail; Shaun promises to return all actual photos that are sent.

Web Site: (Birdie Bertram): Numerous improvements have been made to the site during the year and will continue to be made. Site and domain renewals for the coming years have been made. Officers and committee heads please indicate to Birdie any updates or changes that are needed.

From the Secretary (Charlie Starr): Please inform our Treasurer or e-mail coordinator anytime you have a change of vital info (address, phone, e-mail, etc.). It is a frustrating, time consuming and expensive procedure to track you down.

Old Business:

Several years ago, the Golden Eagles CARE program was suspended since we used Continental CARES to act as our vetting and disbursement agent for our donations (relieving us of this burdensome task and assuring that our donations went to truly needy people and families). With the UAL/CAL merger, Continental CARES would no longer exist. With the merger, there is a UAL CARES that can and will be able to function for the same purpose. A motion was made to resume our Golden Eagles CARES Program, using UAL Cares as the vetting and disbursement agent. Motion was seconded and approved. As an aside, it was

pointed out that the Golden Eagles CARE Program has raised and disbursed almost \$30,000.00 to needy recipients during the program's existence in just a few short years – a pretty remarkable record. Donations should be in a separate check payable to “GOLDEN EAGLES CARES PROGRAM”

New Business:

A discussion of plans for the 2014 Convention indicated that investigation and talks had produced a very attractive package with the Double Tree in Denver. With Denver as a United travel hub, and the area also home to many members, it was proposed to go ahead with this site. A motion was made and seconded to use Denver as the 2014 site. Motion passed. Stay tuned for more information.

A lengthy discussion was held on the issue of attracting members – both those who have retired in past years as well as those Continental-heritage pilots who will retire (not to exclude any pilots of any airline who make up the present United Airlines). The officers will take steps to reach out and contact ALL past-retirees as well as future retirees and seek their membership. (Sec. note: A membership committee headed by Gary Small, Jeff Taylor, and Jack Norman was subsequently appointed and will coordinate this project). All members are asked to help in this by encouraging any of their eligible friends to become Golden Eagle members. Discussions were also held on any possible “melding” or joint activities with the retired UAL pilot group at some time in the future. It was pointed out by several that, while this is a possibility, we still need to keep our own form of identity and break down the many barriers that seem to exist with any merger – past or future. It was also pointed out that a number of Golden Eagle members are already RUPA members and some RUPA members have joined The Golden Eagles.

A discussion was held on changing our logo to a newer one that includes the CAL/UAL tail logo. Pending approval from UAL branding, this was approved.

Election of officers for 2014:

Per the by-laws, Don Gentry (president elect) will assume the presidency in 2014

Bill Chambers was nominated as the 2014 President-Elect; motion seconded and approved

Tom Doherty was nominated to again serve as Treasurer; motion seconded and approved

Charlie Starr was nominated to again serve as Secretary; motion seconded and approved

Note: the position of Executive VP will be vacant at this time

Motion made to award Dave Newell a Lifetime Membership in honor of his tireless work as e-mail coordinator over the past years. Motion seconded and approved.

The Executive Board had approved the request of, and invited, Dennis Olden to speak to the membership about a new Medical supplement plan that may be of benefit to our members. The plan is presently offered to several airline groups. While The Golden Eagles neither promotes nor endorses commercial offers, it was felt that this information should be made available. As the details emerge, our membership will be advised. A question and answer session with Mr. Olden followed our meeting.

Motion to adjourn made; seconded and passed.

Submitted by Charlie Starr - Secretary

Editor's Note:

The following is written by our Golden Eagles Poet Laureate and founder of *Golden Contrails*, Dick Grigsby. Webster's Dictionary describes the animal we know as the opossum as a "nocturnal, quadruped, Prehensile tail and fetid breath. Unchanged since pre-history." Named by American Indians, her name means "White Beast."

THE OPOSSUM

The opossum, white beast immemorial,
Prefers living in quarters Arboreal.
She can hang from a rail
By her prehensile tail,
And she carries her kiddies corporeal.

She belongs of the genus marsupial,
And in slow locomotion quadrupedal.
She walks with a slouch,
For the weight in her pouch
Hurts her back, though her smile is inscrutable.

Enigmatically still as a sphinx,
She dozes inverted, and thinks.
Then emerges by night,
For by day she's a fright,
And her breath is so fetid it stinks!

R. S. Grigsby

Words that are difficult for a pilot to say when drunk:

1. Innovative
2. Preliminary
3. Proliferation
4. Cinnamon

Words that are very difficult for a pilot to say when drunk:

1. Specificity
2. Anti-constitutionally
3. Passive-aggressive disorder
4. Transubstantiate

Words that are downright impossible for a pilot to say when drunk:

1. No thanks, I'm married
2. Nope, no more booze for me
3. Sorry but you're not my type
4. No thanks, I'm not hungry
5. I'm not interested in fighting you
6. Thank you, but I won't make any attempt to dance. I have no coordination and would hate to look like a real fool.
7. Oh no, I must be going home now as I have to work in the morning.

But you knew that!

Thanks to Roger Neff for this insightful article!

A Reminder to all you Air Mike

Pilots:

I am planning to make the April issue of *Golden Contrails* the special Air Mike edition and have been getting a lot of input in the form of photos, memorabilia and a very good description of how Air Mike came about and who was involved (this last item courtesy of Gary Wilsey who participated in the founding and startup).

I was lucky enough to be the F/O on our beginning service on the DC-10 from HNL to GUM and then on to Taipei. Our crew was based in GUM for a month and flew the turn into Taipei and back to GUM. To get to GUM, I deadheaded on the "island hopper" and got to see Air Mike when they still had crushed coral runways and parked on the grass in front of the thatched roof "terminal". Riding on the jump seat of "JuJu" was an experience I totally enjoyed. Years later when I was a 727 Captain in IAH, a temporary bid was posted for Air Mike and I was lucky enough to hold it. I flew Captain for 2 months out of GUM and never enjoyed airline flying so much. Of course, by then, all the runways were paved and buildings were permanent but the flying was still the same.

What this rambling is building up to is that in that short time span, I remember several stories that would be interesting so the folks that were based on GUM for longer periods of time must have many more stories. I can always use more photos but I need some written history also. If you have a good story but feel it might be self-incriminating, just write and send it with no names.

I would appreciate it if you could get your submissions to me prior to the end of February. Let's make this a great tribute to Air Mike.

Shaun

A different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,

I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.

My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,

My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,

Transforming the yard to a winter delight. The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,

Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,

Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.

In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,

So slumbered I, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,

But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.

Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,

Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,

And I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,

A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight. A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,

Perhaps a Trooper, huddled here in the cold.

Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,

Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,

"Come in this moment. It's freezing out here!

Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,

You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,

Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.

To the window that danced with a warm fire's light

Then he sighed and he said, "It's really all right,

I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."

"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,

That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,

I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.

My Gramps died in Europe on a day in December,"

, Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and Blue American Flag.

I can live through the cold and the being alone,

Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,

Or lay down my life with my sister and brother.
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures. He's sure got her
smile.

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a
feast?

To fight for our rights back at home while we're
gone,

To stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home, either standing or
dead,

To know you remember we fought and we bled.

Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

It seems all too little for all that you've done,

For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,

"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.

Editor's Note:

I wish I could remember who sent this poem to me—
I think it was a Golden Eagle or maybe one of my
fellow F-100 Super Sabre pilot friends but no matter
the source, this is so appropriate I had to include it.

Please take a little time out during your Holiday cele-
brating to remember the young men and women who
are away from their families and putting their lives at
risk for the rest of us.

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Golden Contrails

C/O Charlie Starr

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In the third grade, our teacher, said,
"Quit staring out the window, because
when you grow up, no one will pay
you to sit there and just look out the
window"..

Guess I showed her!!!!



Editors note:

This bit of wisdom comes to us
courtesy of our
good friend,

Coop Cooper