



Monthly Update and Reminders October 2017

Message from our new President Captain Tom Doherty

I will be assuming the office of President of the Golden Eagles effective October 22. Typically this transition would have officially taken place at our annual convention. Since the difficult decision was made to cancel this year's event, I would like to take this opportunity to cover some topics that would have been presented at the business meeting and banquet. First, I would like to thank Bill Chambers for his tireless dedication to the Golden Eagles. Bill has worked with the company over the years on pass travel and other retiree benefits. During his presidency, along with Gary Small and Bruce Sprague, he brought about the online operation of record keeping and payments and many improvements have been made to our web site. Many thanks go out to Bill for all he has done for the Golden Eagles. Bill will continue his role as Leader of the IAH LAC.

The election of officers would normally have take place at the business meeting. The Executive Committee unanimously voted to accept the slate of officers that were standing for election.

- Tom Doherty - President
- Gary Small - President-Elect, Editor of The Golden Contrails
- Dave Rossetter - Secretary
- Bruce Sprague - Treasurer/Webmaster
- Dave Newell - Executive Vice-President/Email liaison
- Andy Cassetta - Membership Chairman
- Jim Morehead - Pass Travel Liaison

I believe we have a fine slate of officers and I am looking forward to working with everyone.

Due to the impact of Hurricane Harvey on our members and their families in the Houston area, the EC made the decision to cancel the 2017 convention. We then turned our attention to deciding where and when to have the 2018 convention. We considered many factors including weather, the ease of non-rev travel at various times of the year, attractiveness of the venue including hotel availability, other attractions in the area, entertainment options and golf. **We have chosen LAS in early May 2018.** This decision was made prior to recent events in LAS, but we feel it is still a good decision and will remain **Vegas Strong**. Further details will be announced shortly.

The Golden Eagles made its annual donation to the United We Care Employee Relief Fund. I happen to know some of our own retired members have benefited from our generous contribution. Thanks to all who have supported this great cause.

Tom Doherty
President, The Golden Eagles



Here are the the ever-present reminders that we include in every monthly update:

1. Annual **dues** are due on January 1 of each year. *Please use the website Store to make all Golden Eagles payments.*
2. The current **password** for accessing the Golden Contrails magazine and the member rosters on our website, www.thegoldeneagles.org, is **wing**.
3. Check out the new program for keeping your friends updated on your current status and activities. Details are on our website under the **Contrails** heading and **Crew Room** subheading.
4. Remember, in addition to the Crew Room entries, we always welcome more in depth **interesting stories** related to your airline career or your retirement activities for inclusion in the Golden Contrails magazine. Reach back into your memory bank and see if you can come up with a good war story or interesting activity you have experienced. Share them with your fellow Golden Eagles members by sending them to our President Elect/Golden Contrails Editor Gary

Small at smallgd@outlook.com. [*layover stories will be closely screened and/or censored :)*]



5. Please support our continuing project of building a complete **photo roster** of all Golden Eagles members by sending a passport size JPG photo to Gary Small at smallgd@outlook.com. Complete details are available on our website, www.thegoldeneagles.org, under the Membership section and the Roster Download subsection.



PASS TRAVEL NOTES:

The Golden Eagles Executive Committee is in the process of installing new volunteer officers to assist in the managing of

Golden Eagles affairs. Golden Eagles member Captain **Jim Morehead** has been assisting with the Pass Travel Committee and will assume the duties of the Pass Travel Liaison. Jim has extensive experience working with travel issues with United, ALPA and the other retiree groups. He has expressed a strong desire to assist in the pass travel arena with the Golden Eagles and we welcome his interest and energy in this regard. His email is moreheadjames@aol.com. Please feel free to contact Jim with any pass travel questions you may have that have not been resolved by reference to the flying together website Travel section, or by contacting the Employee Travel Center (ETC).

The [Travel section](#) of the [Golden Eagles website](#), www.thegoldeneagles.org, has been updated. Please check it out and advise us if you have any questions, suggestions or other input.

Thanks,
Dave Newell, Acting Pass Travel Committee Chairman

Note from United's pass travel/HR folks:

If you need immediate assistance related to qualified emergency travel, please email ETC@united.com with subject advising URGENT ETICKET ASSISTANCE, URGENT BUSINESS, or EMERGENCY TRAVEL.

For discrepancies or inquiries regarding pass travel charge deductions please go to **United ServiceAnywhere**. To access, copy and paste this link into your browser ess-usaw.ual.com.

If you need assistance with document verification, please go to **United ServiceAnywhere**. To access, copy and paste this link into your browser ess.usaw.ual.com.

If you need qualified emergency travel assistance **AFTER HOURS**, please contact nhc-ops@united.com.

Email from Michelle Pritchett:

There have been a few questions regarding a chart in the 2017 Retiree Joint Pass Travel Announcement displaying taxable pass riders for the use of retirees. Specifically the questions related to the Extended Family Buddies, Buddies and Early outs mentioned in the chart. **Michelle Pritchett** Employee Travel Policy and Procedures Representative, Human Resources has provided a clarification of these items. Her email in response to our query is posted below.

Hello Dave,

Please accept my apologies for not responding sooner. I was out of the office attending the RUAEA conference last week and returned to the office yesterday. I hope this clarifies the questions you have.

Extended Family Buddy and Buddy

The chart displays every type of taxable pass rider. We had to display "extended family buddy" and "buddy" as a reminder to our newly retired employees who have buddy passes valid for 30-days. Effective March 23, 2015, employee's existing buddy passes are only valid for travel for 30-days from their effective date of retirement. For example, I am an active employee and going to retire on November 1 which makes my buddy passes valid until December 1.

Early out

Per the employee's early out agreement or if they will not convert to retiree pass travel, all eligible pass riders are taxed for their travel including the early out participant. For those that are eligible to convert to retiree pass travel at a later date per their early out agreement, their eligible pass riders will be taxed as a retiree. Remember, retirees are taxed for their domestic partner's and enrolled friend's travel.

Thank you,
Michelle
Michelle Pritchett
Employee Travel Policy and Procedures Representative, Human Resources

Try [United ServiceAnywhere](#) to find answers to commonly asked questions and to submit requests to our service centers.

RAFA Pass Travel Update:

Retired Assoc of Flight Attendants Pass Travel Chairman **Kirk Moore** has kindly agreed to share his monthly pass travel updates with our members. Kirk is very knowledgeable on pass travel matters and puts a lot of time and detailed effort into these updates. We thank him for sharing them with us. His October update is posted below. While some of the information has been published previously, we felt that in spite of this redundancy some of the information is important enough to share again, particularly since there may be details mentioned in Kirk's article that provide a better explanation of some of the changes recently announced. It is worth checking out! **Thanks Kirk!**

_ Retiree Association of Flight Attendants

Pass Travel UPDATE October 3, 2017

- 1) Pass Travel improvements
- 2) Changes to Pass Travel Tax Reporting for Retirees
- 3) Update your contact information NOW
- 4) Savvy Traveling: United app, KTN
- 5) More flights!
- 6) Discounts; cars, cruises, hotels
- 7) "Recent News" on Flying Together>News
- 8) RAFA website

It may be easier to read this UPDATE on our website: <http://www.rafa-cwa.org/page-1836169> This is an EXCELLENT resource. Check it out!!

1) Pass Travel Improvements

As promised, United recently contacted the retiree groups via a conference call, responding to the groups' Pass Travel improvement suggestions from the April retiree summit in Chicago. Laura Motelet, Managing Director of the Employee Travel Center & HR Administration, gave us the good news:

"We are excited to announce that beginning in 2018, instead of only being able to change enrolled friend(s) once per year, retirees will have the opportunity to change their enrolled friend(s) twice: midyear and during year-end open enrollment. Retirees will continue to

have up to two active enrolled friends at one time, but this change will allow retirees to register up to four enrolled friends during different time periods within a calendar year. **This enhanced pass travel privilege applies to retirees only;** all other aspects of the Enrolled Friend program remain unchanged".

Note: Open enrollment in December 2017 (Dec. 1 – Dec. 28 until 7:00 p.m. CT) will remain the same as usual. In June 2018 (Jun.1 – Jun. 28 until 7:00 p.m. CT) a second open enrollment will take place only for retirees to either change or keep their Enrolled Friends for the remainder of the year (July-December). Full details are coming soon on Flying Together > Travel > Pass Riders (left column) > Retirees.

The ETC will announce three improvements to the myUAdiscount

program in mid-October: (1) **unaccompanied minor fees will be waived**, (2) **pet in-cabin fees waived** and (3) **we'll be boarded in Group 3** (even when paying Basic Economy fares)! More information will be posted on FlyingTogether > Travel > myUAdiscount Program.

In a previous conference call we learned of **three other Pass Travel improvements**: (1) **better access to the ETC**, (2) **24/7 online support via USAW** and (3) **a new, improved employee RES coming in 2018**.

For the FULL STORY, read the News article on our website:

<http://www.rafa-cwa.org/Retiree-Pass-Travel-Improvements>

2) Changes to Pass Travel Tax Reporting for Retirees

Imputed Taxes on Pass Travel are changing.

For pass travel on or after November 1, 2017, any taxable imputed income will be reported to you on Form W-2 and will no longer be reported to you on Form 1099. As a result of this change, starting on November 1, 2017, United will begin to collect any federal and state withholding taxes that apply to your taxable pass travel income via quarterly invoice. The first invoice will be sent in March 2018 for any travel from November 1, 2017, to January 31, 2018, and invoices will be sent every three months thereafter. The invoices will be mailed via U.S. mail and they are payable by check or money order.

Despite the adjustment in reporting, there is no change to how pass travel is taxed. Pass travel for retirees and their spouses, parents and dependent children under age 26 is still not taxable. Pass travel for a retiree's domestic partner and enrolled friends are taxable.

Note: In January of 2018, you will receive a Form 1099 reporting your taxable pass travel income for travel Nov. 1, 2016 to Oct. 31, 2017, if your taxable pass riders accrued \$600 of imputed taxes (pass tax value) or more in that period. Go to Flying Together > Travel > Pass Travel Report (blue tile) to check on the total "Pass Tax Values" accumulated. No withholding taxes will be collected for travel prior to Nov. 1, 2017.

Read more important W-2 Pass Travel Tax Reporting information on Flying Together [here](#). Or go to Flying Together > Travel > W-2 Pass Travel Tax Reporting (in left column).

NOTE: The online chart shows "Extended Family Buddies" and "Buddies" are subject to tax; this only applies to employees who recently retired in the last 30 days.

NOTE: There have been a few questions about whether myUAdiscount tickets for Enrolled Friends and Domestic Partners are subject to Pass Travel taxes. Here is the short answer:

Yes, myUAdiscount tickets for Enrolled Friends and Domestic Partners are subject to Pass Travel taxes, **but the tickets almost always cost more than the ZED Medium Fare. The tax rules state that if the ZED Medium Fare is less than the cost of the myUAdiscount ticket, there will be no taxes due.**

For example, 3 one-way flights in December were as follows:

Route.....myUAdiscount fare.....ZED Medium Fare

SFO-Vegas.....\$42.....	\$24	No tax due
LONDON-SFO.....\$379.....	\$89	No tax due
ORD-DTW.....\$42.....	\$24	No tax due

3) Update your contact info NOW!

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The ETC sent retirees information via email and U.S. mail about #1 and #2 above, did you receive it? NO? It's important to update your contact information in 3 places:

1) The "Saved employeeRES information" box on your "Employee Travel Profile" in the "Quick Links" tab in "employeeRES" ("Book a Flight" on Flying Together >Travel).

2) In "Personal Information" in "Your Profile" (in top menu bar) in "YBR" (Your Benefits Resources) on Flying Together > Employee Services or go to www.ybr.com/united.

3) Make sure your phone number, email and postal mailing addresses are all up to date in YBR. Stay in touch; update employeeRES with your latest email address and phone number.

4) Savvy Traveling: Use the United app! Get a KTN!

Use the United app for easy booking and flying for both space available and myUAdiscount travel. To learn more, go to Flying Together > Travel > United app & Pass Travel tab (in the left column). Or click this RAFA page link for more info: Use the United app and link with Mileage Plus.

KTN: Join a Trusted Traveler Program to obtain a "Known Traveler Number" to be eligible for TSA PreCheck and expedited customs/immigration entry. Visit Flying Together > Travel > "Preparing for Travel" (left column) > "Trusted Traveler Programs". Links on that page will take you directly to sign up on the GOES system. There are various programs with different pricing.

Once signed up online, you will apply for an interview (the first available interview for me was *4 months later!*). Revisit the webpage often to try and move up your interview date. Some locations have drop-in wait lists for interviews. Take a good book, you may have to wait awhile!

IMPORTANT! After you pass the in-person interview you MUST input your "KTN" (Known Traveler Number) in **two places:**

1) For space available travel go to employeeRES > Quick Links > Employee Travel Profile (click "Add/edit Secure Flight and Travel Contact Information" in the "Saved employeeRES Info" box). If you have more than one Secure Flight Document (i.e. one for passport, one for driver's license) enter your KTN in BOTH documents.

Select row, click little pencil icon, input your KTN in the field that says "Global Entry/Known Traveler", then hit "submit".

2) For revenue travel (including use of myUAdiscount) go to your MileagePlus account (united.com > [MileagePlus](#) > [My Account](#) > [Profile](#) > [Edit Traveler Details](#) > [Known Traveler Number](#))

For both space-available and revenue (myUAdiscount) travel: use the United app linked with your Mileage Plus number AND join a Trusted Traveler Program; you will fly like the wind!

5) More flights! Enhance your Pass Riding bucket list Starting October 2017:

Daily LAX-SIN (Singapore)

Daily EWR-EZE (Buenos Aires)

More frequency begins December 20th to Hawaii:

DEN-KOA, DEN-LIH and DEN-OGG will become daily, year round.
LAX-ITO will increase to daily. LAX-KOA & LAX LIH increase to 2x daily. LAX-OGG increases to 3x daily.

ORD-OGG will increase to daily (except Tue/Wed)

SFO-KOA increases to 3x daily. SFO-LIH to 2x daily. SFO-OGG to 5x daily.

Current flights to HNL will continue from DEN & ORD (daily), LAX & SFO (5x daily).

UA also connects to HNL daily from IAH, EWR, IAD, GUM & NRT.

Starting January 2018 (subject to govt approval)

Daily IAH-SYD (Sydney)

New flights to Europe for summer 2018:

Daily EWR-OPO (Oporto) 757 May 4th -Oct 4th

Daily EWR-KEF (Reykjavik) 757 May 23rd - Oct 4th

Daily SFO-ZRH (Zurich) 787-8 Jun 7th - Oct 27th

Daily IAH-EDI (Edinburgh) 757 May 23rd - Oct 4th

6) Discounts on cars, cruises, hotels

The **ID90Travel.com** website offers discounts for employees and retirees on hotels, cruises, resorts, and rental cars when you travel for leisure. It's easy to book and to save as much as 60 percent off! Simply click on the ID90 Travel banner in employeeRES (you may have already noticed it under 'My ePass Balances') when you make your space available travel plans to see what discounts are available at your destination or search for exclusive rates at more than 380,000 destinations worldwide.

7) "[Recent News](#)" on Flying Together>News

Click the dark blue "Recent News" link above to see other stories.

Here's a 7/18/2017 Airwise article about \$10 billion renovation of JFK:

<http://news.airwise.com/story/jfk-airport-on-track-for-10-billion-dollar-renovation>

8) Have you seen our RAFA website?

Check out the Travel Benefits tab here: <http://www.rafa-cwa.org>

Read the Pass Travel Program Summary, helpful links, phone numbers & more.

For other Pass Travel Topics: [Previous Travel UPDATES](#)

Compiled by Kirk Moore, RAFA Travel Benefits Committee October 3, 2017

RETIREE ID BADGES

The following notice was recently sent to all retiree groups by Joan Smith, Manager Benefits, Pilot Retirement Plans, regarding an overview of the Retiree ID badges that retirees can obtain.

The layout and information of the badge was approved by our branding and our legal department. There was a clear directive for us to make certain that retiree badges would not be confused with an active employee badge. Thus, the horizontal layout, general design, lack of a mag stripe and no Employee/Retiree ID.

- The \$50 replacement fee mirrors that of our active employee population.
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- The \$35 fee includes the cost of badge stock, cost of ribbon and laminate, labor, cost of FedEx/USPS Certified Mail and PayPal transactional costs.

The Retiree badge is a voluntary purchase. It is not necessary for travel. However, we do understand to receive discounts sometimes it's required. Remember you can print a retiree verification letter for cruises and such by going to employeeRES > Quick Links.

Joan Smith

Manager Benefits, Pilot Retirement Plans
United | Corporate Support Center
[600 Jefferson Street, 11th Floor](#) HQJBP | Houston, TX 77002
Direct: [713-324-8413](tel:713-324-8413) | Fax: [713-324-3130](tel:713-324-3130)
Joan.smith1@united.com | united.com

NOTE: THE PROMPT IN EMPLOYEEERES, QUICK LINKS, EMPLOYEE PROFILE FOR OBTAINING A RETIREE ID BADGE APPEARS TO BE CURRENTLY INOP. WE WILL HAVE UPDATED INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. THE PROMPT FOR OBTAINING A VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY LETTER IS OPERATING NORMALLY.

United acknowledgement of We Care Employee Relief Fund contribution by the Golden Eagles.

October 4, 2017

To the Golden Eagles:

On behalf of the United We Care Employee Relief Fund, I would like to thank you for your gift of \$3,000.00* in 2017. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

United We Care is a charitable 501(c)(3) fund that provides confidential, timely, short-term crisis relief to those in the United family needing basic assistance unavailable through other resources. Employees, retirees and eligible family members who have no other means of financial assistance may apply to the fund in the case of natural disaster, medical illness, home fire, theft, accident, domestic violence, or any other crisis beyond the individual's control. United We Care is funded through employee payroll deductions and fundraisers throughout the year.

Thank you again for your generous support and commitment to helping those in need.

With kindest regards,

Cynthia Allen
Senior Manager – United We Care

Message for all veterans re [online exchange shopping](#):

We have recently been made aware of information regarding [online exchange shopping privileges](#) for all veterans. It is being presented below for the benefit of our members who are veterans.

Hey Veteran! The Department of Defense will soon grant online exchange shopping privileges to Veterans of all United States Armed Forces - including you, when you get out!

For more information:

go to shopmyexchange.com/veterans or vetverify.org today. You don't have to be retired military to participate.

No Sales Tax | [Find a Store](#) | [Customer Service 1-800-527-2345](#) | [view images](#)



Veterans can shop online with the Exchange.

The Department of Defense will soon grant online exchange shopping privileges to Veterans of all United States Armed Forces—including you, when you get out!

These privileges allow access to exclusive military pricing on name-brand products, exclusive credit opportunities and more!

The first step is to get verified—send Veterans to VetVerify.org today!

**Millions of
Veterans are
unaware of this
benefit.**

Stay Connected

Please

add email@shopmyexchange.com to your address book.

Availability and prices are subject to change and may vary online and by store.
Offer dates and times are based on USA Central Time (CT).

To update your email preferences, [click here](#). To unsubscribe, [click here](#).

HQ AAFES, eCommerce Department, [3911 S. Walton Walker Blvd., Dallas, TX 75236-1598](#).
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Posting of a correction to an LAC meeting schedule to assure delivery to the affected persons and notice of Bill Chambers` back surgery:

This email is being resent to correct the last two dates listed for the [North Houston LAC's QUARTERLY MEETING DATES](#). The correct dates are highlighted in red and have been corrected on the Golden Eagles website. Sorry for the inconvenience.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bill Chambers** <bbob7045@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 9:43 PM

Subject: Chambers back surgery

-RESEND

Ladies and gents, this is to inform my friends and associates that I will not attend our luncheon on next Tuesday Oct 17 and perhaps several subsequent luncheons, due to my back surgery on that day. The [Quarterly meetings](#) of the larger Houston area North Houston LAC Chapter will be held at the Wings `n More on [16580 I-45](#) South, Conroe, TX, phone [936-321-0600](#) on the schedule that follows below. For map and details see their website by clicking on the link below:
[wingsnmore.com](#)

North Houston LAC's QUARTERLY MEETING DATES:

MONDAY DEC 4TH 2017

MONDAY MAR 5TH 2018

MONDAY JUN 4TH 2018

MONDAY SEP 3RD 2018

MONDAY DEC 3rd 2018

MONDAY MAR 5TH 2019

For the Kingwood LAC: We lost our La Madeleine venue but so far we have had successful meetings in a couple of new temporary venues. We have settled upon Skeeter's for lunch on Lake Houston Parkway just west of Northpark Drive as our tentative new luncheon spot at 1130 pm every Tuesday. We meet in a back room that should easily accommodate 30-40 loud, deaf pilots. Once the management gets rid of the fly problem, we must decide upon a permanent venue. We should include La Madeleine as a contender for their superior location, good food, consistent good service, etc. Skeeter's, La Madeleine and Spring Creek Barbecue are favorites in my view, but it will be a careful, considered choice when we have a vote since we have compelling choices.

Thanks for staying fluid (sorry, those are stress words now.)

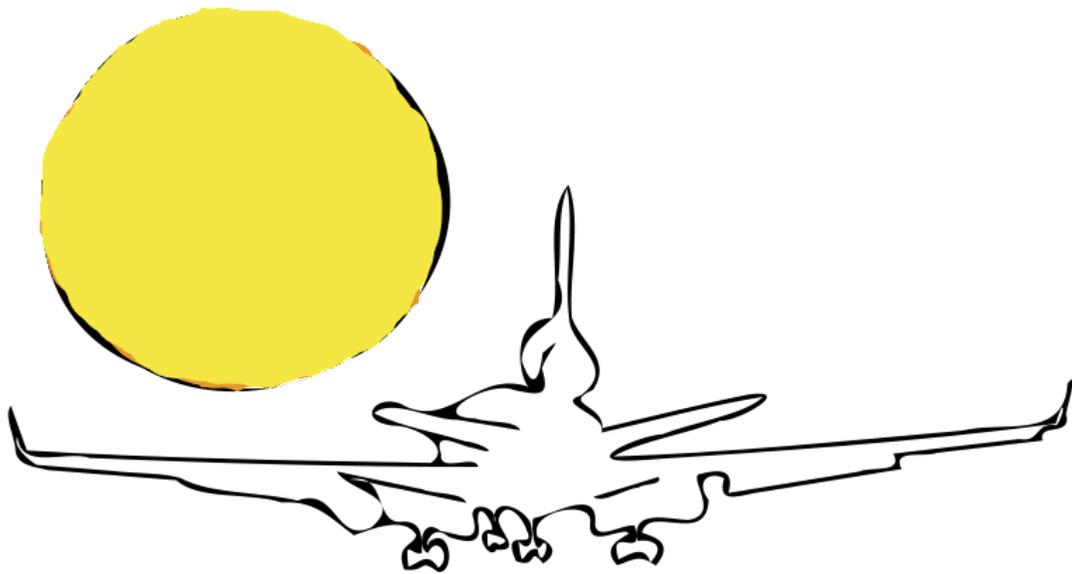
BILL CHAMBERS BACK SURGERY:

I have been tolerating a cross between pain and "charlie horse" discomfort for over a year, during which time it causes enough pain or discomfort that driving a car, riding in an airline seat or sitting in a restricted space for two hours or more makes it necessary to get up, stop the car and walk around for relief. I have just ignored the problem like any old fighter pilot would. It simply got worse as I went through denial. A CAT SCAN revealed several slipped or bulging discs and other bad things that did not improve with a trip that involved six hours in a car and 4 hours in a couple of flight legs to Bakersfield, with awful pain that finally responded to a barrage of pain medications that I have been on since the weekend. The long term fix is scheduled for next Tuesday, October 17th, that has a centerpiece of a Laminectomy with fusion and arthritis removal. The surgeon says that he does hundreds of this procedure each year, making it as "minimally invasive" as it can be when discussing fusion.

It may be a while before I am back to the demanding rigors of life as a retired airline pilot. I hesitated to say anything about this trouble, but Linda has her own issues after her July fall from a ladder broke five ribs, an event in our household that will not be forgotten. So many of you have assisted us in so many acts of kindness that Linda and I may not get back to all of

you with our thanks. Be assured, however, that we deeply appreciate all of the help from every quarter.

Bill Chambers, Leader
Kingwood TX LAC, The Golden Eagles



GONE WEST



GOLDEN EAGLES GONE WEST, OCTOBER 2016-PRESENT

Jim Steinmetz, Dec 7, 2016
Andy Arthur, Feb 1, 2016
Ted Herbert, April 6, 2017
Denis Duffy, April 10, 2017
Wayne Fischer, April 10, 2017
Gary Wilsey, July 31, 2017
Bill Knowles, Sept 1, 2017
Stan Poyner, Sept 10, 2017
Jim Waters, Sept 23, 2017

NON GOLDEN EAGLES GONE WEST, OCTOBER 2016-PRESENT

Bruce Tessmer, Nov, 2016
Joe Hegidio, Jan 27, 2017
Jerry Huerta, Feb 18, 2017
Jocko Harris, Mar 5, 2017
Dale Haas, April 5, 2017
Glenn Fox, April 22, 2017
Daniel James, Aug 1, 2017
Ted Rutherford, Aug 6, 2017

Submitted on behalf of the Golden Eagles Executive Committee and Volunteer Officers

Tom Doherty, President

Gary Small, President Elect/Golden Contrails Editor

Bruce Sprague, Treasurer/Webmaster

Dave Rossetter, Secretary

Jim Morehead, Pass Travel Liaison

Andy Cashetta, Membership Chairman

Bill Chambers, Past President/LAC Leader

Dave Newell

Golden Eagles Executive Vice President/Email Liaison

davebnewell@gmail.com



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MailChimp