

# How It Began

On February 6, 1898, six of Seattle's most prominent theater owners gathered to discuss how to handle an ongoing musicians' strike. John Cort, brothers John W. and Thomas J. Considine, H.L. Leavitt, Mose Goldsmith and Arthur G. Williams headed down to the Moran Brothers' shipyard on South Charles Street to make a plan. According to most popular accounts, after deciding to work together to settle the strike by using piano players to replace the musicians, the men began to discuss life. At that moment, the Order of Good Things was born.



As their numbers grew, the Order chose the Bald Eagles as their official emblem and changed the name of the organization to "The Fraternal Order of Eagles, with a goal to "make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope."

Touring theater troupes are credited with much of the Eagles' early growth. Most members were actors, stagehands and playwrights who carried the Eagles story from town to town as they traversed the United States and Canada. The group's early motto, "Skin'em," became the secret password to identify members while the official motto was changed to "Liberty, Truth, Justice and Equality."

Within 10 years of its inception, the organization boasted more than 1,800 Aeries scattered throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico with a membership exceeding 350,000. Members received free medical attention for themselves and their families, weekly payments in case of sickness and a funeral benefit - all valuable services before the widespread availability of medical, disability and life insurance.

The organization quickly became a leader in influencing national politics, pushing to create Mother's Day and eventually Social Security, Medicare and more. The Eagles' growing membership, comprised of many prominent local figures, held a position of great influence in communities everywhere.

## The Birth Of An Auxiliary

For years, women were accompanying male members of the Order to social events. As early as 1914, women were in attendance for the organization's Grand Aerie Convention, eventually inspiring them to being their own wing of the Eagles - the Ladies' Auxiliary.



Pressure increased to formally recognize the Auxiliary and in January 1926, sitting Grand Worthy President Charles C. Guenther issued an Official Circular explaining that the time had come for definite action in regard to the formal creation of the Auxiliary.

When the Eagles assembled for the 28th annual Grand Aerie Convention in August 1926, delegates formally approved the formation of the Ladies' Auxiliary. On August 14, 1952, Past Grand Worthy President Lester Loble of Montana served as the instituting deputy for the Grand Auxiliary. Because Alta Browning Smith was a primary contributor in the organizing and instituting of the Grand Auxiliary, she was appointed the first Grand Madam President.

## Making A Difference

Since the beginning, the F.O.E. has maintained a strong dedication to giving back to the communities housing our Aeries and Auxiliaries. Armed with a strong Grand Aerie and Grand Auxilliary, the organization reached its full potential. In 1954, nearly 10,000 Ten Commandments plaques were distributed by the Order, promoting its foundation of faith and encouraging citizens to use the Commandments as a guideline for treating others and building a stronger community.



Eagles continued their commitment to helping their own through the Memorial Foundation, which was designed to provide aid to the children of members who lost their lives in World War II. In 1967, the Jimmy Durante Children's Fund was established, providing financial aid to institutions aiming to help youth through medical research and prevention programs.

The Charity Foundation continued to grow, establishing separate funds for a variety of causes as they became more prominent, ensuring all brothers and sisters facing illness could have hope for care and a cure.

In 1985, blooming from a strong relationship with member and entertainer Danny Thomas, the Eagles became the first organization to top \$1 million in donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

The Eagles took on their biggest fundraising challenge in 2008, committing \$25 million to the University of Iowa to fund The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center, which opened in August 2014 inside the John and Mary Pappajohn Biomedical Discovery Building in Iowa City, Iowa. The 20,000-square-foot facility hosts a team of more than 100 researchers working on ways to prevent, treat and ultimately cure diabetes.

# Timeline

1898

Order of Good Things is established, later becoming The Fraternal Order of Eagles

1904

Eagles make the first public plea for Mother's Day

1927

Creation and formation of the first Ladies' Auxiliary

1935

Eagles played prominent role in the passing of the Social Security Act

1944

Eagles' Memorial Foundation established

1952

Eagles' Grand Auxiliary formally instituted

1954

Eagles distribute nearly 10,000 Ten Commandments plaques

1957

Nationwide Jobs After 40 program enacted with help of Eagles

1961

Eagles create Eagle Village - a living community for senior members of the Order in Bradenton, Fla.

1985

Eagles become first organization to top \$1 million in donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

1991

Members start Eagle Drive to support troops serving in Operation Desert Storm with mail and food packages

1995

Eagles donated \$50,000 for the Eagle Alcove of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C.

2002

F.O.E. Grand Aerie Headquarters opens in Grove City, Ohio

2006

Members work with local government leaders to keep "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance

2008

Eagles pledge \$25 million to create The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa

2014

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center officially opens