

Morris, MN 620's "Eagle Observer" judged top winner of 2005 Grand Aerie Bulletin Contest

The "Eagle Observer" of Morris, Minnesota Aerie/Auxiliary 620, is the Grand Prize winner of the Fraternal Order of Eagles' 2005 Grand Aerie Bulletin Contest.

Entered in Class B Joint, for Aeries/Auxiliaries with 251-500 members, the "Eagle Observer" is "an attractive, informative newsletter that very effectively and

professionally communicates Aerie/Auxiliary news to its members," according to the contest judge, a professional journalist with no affiliation with the F.O.E.

The "Eagle Observer" is edited by Mike Cihak, Aerie Secretary.

"In January, 2005, we reformatted our newsletter to a one-sheet tabloid," Mike said. "Included are columns from the Worthy President and Madam President, news, and a tear-off event calendar for members to hang on their refrigerators."

The winners of the 2005 Bulletin Contest were announced by

then-Grand Worthy Presidents

Sonny Crawford and Pat Lazenby.

"Our local and State/Provincial Eagle editors are doing an outstanding job of letting their members know why the F.O.E. has been successful for 107 years, and how to build on that success," said the 2004-05 international Eagle presidents. "We're very proud of all our editors."

Here are the winners by individual category:

■ STATE/PROVINCIAL AERIE

1. British Columbia Eagle News
2. New Mexico State Aerie Bulletin

■ STATE/PROVINCIAL AUXILIARY

1. Nebraska State Auxiliary Bulletin
2. "The Seashell Eagle," Florida State Auxiliary
3. "The Tell-All Bulletin," Maryland State Auxiliary

4. Indiana State Auxiliary Bulletin

Honorable Mention: "The California Hi-Lites," California State Auxiliary

■ JOINT STATE/PROVINCIAL

1. "Missouri State F.O.E. Freedom Racer"

■ CLASS A, JOINT (UP TO 250 MEMBERS)

1. "Eagle Talon," Longview, TX 4125
 2. "The All-American Almanac," Delray Beach, FL 4476
 3. "Eagle Flyer," West Palm Beach, FL 4219
 4. "The Eagle Gazette," Green Bay, WI 401
- Honorable mention: "Eagles Newsletter," Crystal River, FL 4272

■ CLASS B, JOINT (251-500 MEMBERS)

1. "The Eagle Eye," Owensboro, KY 4168
 2. "Monthly Camera," Springfield, MO 3934
 3. "Aerie/Auxiliary News," Mt. Pleasant, MI 4463
 4. "Words On Wings," Waukesha, WI 453.
- Honorable mention: Abbotsford, BC 2726 Newsletter; "Centennial Newsletter," Dade City, FL 4399; "Nest News," Rock Island, IL 956; "Bayview Bullet," El Cerrito, CA 2323; Alameda, CA 1076 Newsletter; Joplin, MO 2410 Newsletter; Superior, WI 80 Newsletter

■ CLASS C, AERIE (501-1,000 MEMBERS)

1. "Member Newsletter," Rockland, MA 841
2. Manitowoc, WI 706 Newsletter

■ CLASS C, JOINT (501-1,000 MEMBERS)

1. "Mississippi River Eagle News," Crystal City, MO 4341
 2. "Eagle Eye," Madison Heights, MI 3206
 3. Little Rock, AR 60 Newsletter
 4. "Call of the Eagle," Federal Heights, CO 4019
- Honorable Mention: "The Double Eagle," Inverness, FL 3992; Hobbs, NM 3189 Newsletter; "Eagle Courier," Longview, WA 2116

■ CLASS D, JOINT (OVER 1,000 MEMBERS)

1. "Eagleye Report," Columbus, NE 1834
 2. "Sandscript," Sarasota, FL 2756
 3. "Eagle Lantern," Albert Lea, MN 2258
 4. "Harbor Happenings," Gig Harbor, WA 2809
- Honorable Mention: Seattle, WA 1 Newsletter; Toledo, OH 197 Newsletter

TIPS FOR EDITORS

☞ PUT YOUR MOST important news – announcements of upcoming events, awards won or given – right up front. Too many bulletins lead off with a calendar for the whole month or rambling messages from the Aerie/Auxiliary Presidents, and shunt the actual news off to an inside page.

☞ USE PHOTOS AND artwork to spruce up your bulletin. A newsletter isn't a book filled with unending verbiage. Break up blocks of copy with good, clear photos and illustrations.

☞ WRITE YOUR STORIES concisely. Follow that hoary old Journalism School formula for getting all the necessary information into a story: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How! And proofread your work -- don't just rely on "Spell Check!"