

Screaming Eagles Annual Meeting 2006

Is Freddy staying with the team? What's the word on the new stadium? How do the rookies look? These and other questions were answered by guest of honor and DC United Senior Vice President Stephen Zack on March 6 as the Screaming Eagles held their annual meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in Arlington. The SEs splurged on two birthday cakes – one as thanks to Stephen for spending part of his birthday with us, and the other as thanks to Lisa Black for her work as part of the tailgate crew.

President Kim Klyberg announced that the SEs would sponsor a private meet-the-team event this year, although without the belly dancing that was a highlight of last year's party at the Casablanca restaurant. The SEs are in good financial shape and will contribute \$3000 to Kicks for Kids again this year.

David Goodwin, who has volunteered to handle SE merchandise, announced that all profits from the sale of SE gear and clothing would be used to support our charitable efforts. There are black hooded sweatshirts and scarves available for chilly spring matches and the ever-popular pint glasses and mugs are being sold (4 for \$35). Go to <http://www.screaming-eagles.com/store.html> for more information. Orders can also be placed at the tailgates.

The new membership coordinator, Chris Spoor, announced a change in the SE membership card for 2006. A distinctive and useful gift will be sent to all renewing members. All new and renewing membership materials will be distributed by mail this year.

Ticket Mistress Nicole Gara reported that there were a record high 199 season ticket holders in the Nest last year, a number that could be reached again this year. For the second year in a row, the SEs made over \$13,000 in day-of-game ticket sales. There are a few new procedures for season ticket exchanges and COD orders, and Flex vouchers will no longer be accepted at the SE ticket booth.

The first SE road trip of the MLS season is scheduled for April 22, a bus trip to the Meadowlands. Tickets are also available for the Carolina Cup challenge in Charleston in late March. Queen of the Road Jessica Howard asked for member feedback on destinations. Chicago, Columbus, and MLS Cup are among the possibilities.

Dave Lifton talked briefly about the launch of the Screaming Eagles podcast and how people can download to listen to it. Dave also announced that Part 2 of the interview with Mark Simpson would soon be uploaded. Many more exciting shows are planned for this year.

Paul Sotoudeh, in charge of tailgates and game day activities, told members about plans to make the Nest and pre-game socializing bigger, better, and more fun. In a dialogue with attendees, he discussed blow-up dolls, balloons, music, beer, videos, sound systems, banners, flags, security, menus, World Cup viewing parties, and other ideas.

Volunteers are needed for all of the activities described above, especially for tailgates and game day fun. Please help out with a day or an hour of volunteer time. E-mail addresses for all the committee chairs can be found at www.screaming-eagles.com.