
“Help us save the eagle from extinction”
Hicksville Historical Society Fundraiser
for the restoration of Hicksville’s majestic
PENNSYLVANIA STATION EAGLE

For the last forty-five years the stone Eagle guards the north entrance to the Long Island Rail Road's Hicksville station.

Our eagle is one of many assorted eagles that were perched on top of the once monumental Pennsylvania Station. A 1910 Beaux-Arts masterpiece of architects McKim, Mead and White, was leveled in 1963, and replaced with the fourth incarnation of Madison Square Garden. The statuary was carved in 1910 by sculptor Adolph A. Weinman, one eagle weighs in at 5,700 pounds. Of the twenty-two that were produced only eighteen are known to have survived. Two eagles are located on the Seventh Avenue side of a station building and one is at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in downtown Manhattan.



One can see the eagle’s original perch above the main entrance Pennsylvania Station circa 1959.

Adolph A. Weinman (1870-1952) was a renowned artist and sculptor. Many people may not be familiar with his work and are impressed to find out that Weinman designed the Mercury dime and Walking Liberty half-dollar along with various medals for the Armed Services especially during World War II.

Hicksville High School teacher comes to the rescue.

Samuel A. Goldberg, a Latin teacher at Hicksville High School, learned that the eagles were available and requested one for our town. The 5,700-pound sculpture was dedicated in May 15 1965, when its toga-like drapes were removed to reveal an inscription in Latin and English (composed by the high school's Latin Club) that reads, *“A Roman eagle once urban is now in Hicksville quite suburban.”*



Hoisting the eagle down to a flatbed for transport

Your help is needed!

Now after forty-five years our one hundred year old eagle needs restoration work, namely its beak. It has been damaged over the years by elements. She was amateurishly repaired years back but now needs a professional restoration.



Close up view of the deteriorated beak - summer 2009

The sculptor who will most likely perform the restoration work is Steve Tatti. Steve is a Conservator of Fine Arts and he has impeccable credentials. Additionally, Steve has experience with the restoration of Pennsylvania Station statuary, having in recent years restored a full statuary group for New Jersey Transit. That statuary group is in storage in Newark, New Jersey pending permanent placement at a yet decided location. In short, Steve has been vetted by New Jersey Transit and that should be sufficient to choose him for the restoration work on our eagle.

We are asking for your help to raise the funds for this much needed restoration. The Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society has pledged \$1,000.00 toward the restoration. That means that we have to raise an additional \$4,000.00. To duplicate the type of marble that was used when the eagle was originally carved requires the work of a master sculptor. The texture and color of the stone has to be a near-perfect match and, of course, the shape of the bill has to look authentic.

With your assistance we plan to unveil the restored eagle by May 15 2010. This date will mark the forty-fifth year our one hundred year old eagle has been guarding the Hicksville train station.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">o \$45 Eaglet Sponsor (45 years in Hicksville)o \$100 Pennsylvania Station & Eagle Sponsor (100 years old)o \$250 Adolph A. Weinmann Sponsoro \$500 Raptor Sponsoro \$750 Soaring Eagle Sponsoro \$1000 Symbol of the United States of America Sponsoro Other _____ |
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Make checks payable and send to:
Hicksville Historical Society
P.O. Box 443 Hicksville, NY 11802

The Hicksville-Pennsylvania Station Eagle Restoration Committee

graciously appreciates your worthy contribution in restoring one of Hicksville's historic icons.

~Richard Althaus

Dave Morrison - Railroad Historian (516) 935-3145
Richard Althaus - Hicksville Historical Society
Robert Koenig - Hicksville Historical Society
James Pavone - Hicksville Chamber of Commerce

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The Eagle has been the symbol of the United States of America since 1782.