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LOCAL NEWS

TOP NEWS

**Fraternal Order of Eagles Must Include Women**

4/30/2005

By Joe Wambach

The Indiana Civil Rights Commission has declared the Fraternal Order of Eagles' exclusion of women illegal.

The commission adopted the findings of Administrative Law Judge Robert D. Lange that the local Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3207 in Plainfield and the national headquarters -- or Grand Aerie -- did not have any legal basis to exclude women as members.

The lodge must now file an annual report showing the number of accepted applications, the number of rejected applications, and the reason for rejecting the application.

Three women were members of the Ladies Auxiliary at the Plainfield Lodge and applied for membership but were rejected so they filed a complaint with the Ethics Commission.

Attorney Amy DeBrotta says her clients faced a lot of hostility from lodge members in Plainfield as a result of the filing of a charge of discrimination with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.

DeBrotta says the women hope this case will have a ripple effect which will help women nationwide.

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