



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

“Recruit, Retain, Educate”



At the social before going into the Annual Awards Banquet, 2017 AFSA International Convention, July 22—27 in Reno, NV.

Want anything put into the Division History, send pictures with dates, names, event, etc. to Charlie Dalzell, cod1996@kc.rr.com

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Membership

“Membership strength continues to be a priority for AFSA. Last year at this time, our division had right around 11,301 members. As if the 1st of October we have just over 11,260 members. “

MFL was a success. 3,045 people took advantage of the Member for Life Campaign. Of those, 381 were from Division 3. Our division has a recruiting handbook posted on our website, please share this link with your Membership POCs: Click [HERE](#) for the link.

Legislative Issues

Since 1947 the common bond of service and selfless sacrifice has held this diverse family together and in the process shaped the world’s most powerful, feared, and respected Air and Space Force.

AFSA has always remained focused on the issues affecting our members and through all the noise on capitol hill we remain so today. If we stay focused on our mission and on each other, together we can survive whatever comes at us from Washington D.C.



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

Straight Talk, Division 3 President, SMSgt (Ret) Steve Zalesky

Greetings fellow AFSA Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. This past summer we wrapped up another successful International Convention and Professional Airmen's Conference in Reno, Nevada. I was extremely excited about the passion displayed by our division members at the convention.

Membership strength continues to be a priority for AFSA. Last year at this time, our division had right around 11,301 members. As if the 1st of October we have just over 11,260 members. A slight decrease of just 51 members!! Membership is the life blood of our Association! Without members our Association and the protection of our "Quality of Life" benefits could be at risk. Our recruiting and retention efforts are rewarded in the form of more members which equates to a stronger voice on Capitol Hill. This is where we need your support in encourage your fellow Airmen or retirees to join.

On the legislative front, your Association has been busy. During the PAC, AFSA's 2017-2018 Legislative Platform was ratified by chapter delegates. The Legislative Platform is used as a "blueprint" for testimony and lobbying efforts, in addition to responses dictated by day-to-day events. For example, in most cases our lobbying team is preparing for Congressional Testimony on matters that fall within the following categories: Healthcare, Veterans & Retirees Benefits, Caring for Survivors, Military Benefits & Programs, and National Guard/Reserve Benefits. They will also look for targets of opportunity that arise during the year as they reach out to our elected representative. Click on this link to review the platform, [http://www.hqafsa.org/uploads/3/8/9/1/38911523/2017-2018 legislative platform approved by afsa delegates on july 25 2017.pdf](http://www.hqafsa.org/uploads/3/8/9/1/38911523/2017-2018%20legislative%20platform%20approved%20by%20afsa%20delegates%20on%20july%2025%202017.pdf).

Over the years AFSA has been extremely successful in fighting for, advocating, and obtaining continued benefits such as improved family separation pay, improved imminent danger pay, the Post 9-11 GI Bill, increases hardship pay, stopping Tricare fee increases numerous times, pay increases, weight allowance increases, Combat Related Special Compensation Pay, Concurrent Receipt Pay, improved maternity leave, blocked new BRAC commission studies, and much more. AFSA was founded to give every Airman a voice, and AFSA continues to be that voice on Capitol Hill. As some people may say, what has AFSA done for me lately? It is easier to state, "What has AFSA prevented from happening?"

Lastly, I want to thank all our chapter volunteers who have taken an active role within their chapter. Volunteers at the chapter-level are critical in giving back to our communities. If you are interested in getting more involved, please make contact with your chapter president. I encourage you to get involved and give back as much as you can. It is an exciting time to be a member AFSA! Thank you for your continued membership in AFSA and Division 3.





AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

Division 3 Executive Council

	President	SMSgt (Ret) Steve Zalesky	president@afsadiv3.org
	Vice-President	SMSgt (Ret) Gary Swanson	vice@afsadiv3.org
	Trustee 1, Communications	MSgt (Ret) David A. Bamburg	trustee1@afsadiv3.org
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	Trustee 4, Retentions	MSgt (ret) Bud Kolwitz	trustee4@afsadiv3.org
	Family Matters Chair	Mrs. Jean Kolwitz	family@afsadiv3.org
	Historian	SMSgt (Ret) Charlie Dalzell	historian@afsadiv3.org
	Senior Advisor	SMSgt (Ret) Dale Lutzen	senior@afsadiv3.org
	Secretary/Treasurer	MSgt Jennifer M. McIntosh	secretary@afsadiv3.org



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

How are you Communicating?

Chapter	Location	Media Type									
	AFSA HQ										
	Division 3										
804	Kansas City, MO										
851	Milwaukee, WI										
858	Minneapolis, MN										
872	Scott AFB, IL										
881	Whiteman AFB, MO										
883	Ft. Leonard-Wood, MO										
951	Ellsworth AFB, SD										
959	Minot AFB, ND										
964	Grand Forks, ND										
972	McConnell AFB, KS										
984	Offutt AFB, NE										
985	Tinker AFB, OK										
988	Altus AFB, OK										
990	Vance AFB, OK										

Click the links above to access the social media sites of D3 Chapters. If you chapter also has a site not listed please email the link to afsadiv3@gmail.com so we can get it added to the next newsletter and in the future our website, www.afsadiv3.org



2016 AFSA International Award Winners



Family Member of the Year

Mrs. Barbara Veach, Chapter 804

Other AFSA Award Winners

Chapter of the Year, < 500		964
Communications:		3/951
Legislative, Chapter:		985
VAVS:	Shirley Anderson	804



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

2017 Division 3's Top 10 of Recruiting

Recruiter	Chapter	YTD	Lifetime
Manuel	985	39	41
Weavers	872	37	38
Kazmir	985	32	33
Zalesky	872	31	904
Depuy	883	25	55
Francis	988	23	2,199
Cantu	964	19	43
Love	964	19	43
Kolwitz	851	15	347
Pitts	959	12	57

**405 People
Recruited!**

There are some great recruiting tools on HQ AFSA website.

<http://www.hqafsa.org/recruiting-tools.html>

<http://www.hqafsa.org/exclusive-afsa-member-benefits.html>



AFSA DIVISION 3

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2017 Division 3's Top 10 of Retaining

Retainer	Chapter	YTD	Lifetime
Kolwitz, Roland	851	120	3,338
Dalzell, Patti	804	68	194
Zalesky, Steven	872	64	1,049
Kolwitz, Jean	851	60	1,475
Cantu, Marquita	964	24	25
Weavers, Ben	872	17	17
Pitts, Jeremy	959	14	15
Love, Amanda	964	12	13
Manuel, Blake	985	11	12
Kashmir, Bobby	985	11	11

**458 People
Retained!**

There are some great recruiting tools on HQ AFSA website.

<http://www.hqafsa.org/recruiting-tools.html>

<http://www.hqafsa.org/exclusive-afsa-member-benefits.html>



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

2017 Recruitment by Chapter

2017 Retention by Chapter

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Yearly Total</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Yearly Total</i>
F0804	18	F0804	78
F0851	21	F0851	181
F0858	0	F0858	0
F0872	94	F0872	86
F0881	8	F0881	5
F0883	26	F0883	0
F0951	20	F0951	17
F0959	25	F0959	18
F0964	56	F0964	38
F0972	11	F0972	0
F0984	16	F0984	1
F0985	78	F0985	0
F0988	30	F0988	4
F0990	2	F0990	3



Family Matters

Fall, 2017



Hello from your Family Matters Chairman

Jean Kolwitz

The following is a sample of what the Chapters in our Division have been doing recently that involve the Family Members.

You may wonder why I include things that are more Community Service. Well, in Chapters 804 and 851 Family members are handling these items.

As always, I welcome any information that involves Family members. We can share ideas. Maybe a Chapter is doing something that you would like to get involved with also.

July 4

Chapter 804, Kansas City, sent 40 pounds to the commissaries in Japan and Korea for the families there.

Chapter 851, Milwaukee, WI Sent 4 boxes of manufacturer's coupons, playing cards and travel size toiletries to Kaiserslautern, Germany. Value: \$254.00; Weight: 38 lbs. 7 oz.; Postage: \$69.40 (6/12/17). One of the members in Illinois always sends manufacturer coupons to the Family Trustee for this project.

Picked up travel size toiletries, playing cards, Girl Scout Cookies, and granola bars from Support the Troops in Hartford, WI. (5/31/17)

Their Community Service Projects include working with a Homeless Vet Shelter in Milwaukee and they donated to the USO in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Chapter 984, Offut , AFB reported the following activities that had taken place since she took over in January.

March 3: AFSA Coloring Contest social (approx. 30 attendees)

April 21: Deployed Spouses & AFSA family dinner (approx. 40 attendees)

June 25 (upcoming): Deployed Spouses & AFSA family dinner (attendees TBD)

September 7

Chapter 804, Kansas City, MO

5 Members volunteered 85 hours at VA Hospital.

August 14th 6 Members cut coupons to mail overseas to the commissaries.

Erika VanDyne volunteered 39 hours knitting Baby Caps for Hospital for community service.





Family Matters

Fall, 2017



Hello from your Family Matters Chairman
Jean Kolwitz

August 24th had 12 members and 2 guests at our meeting. \$7.00 was collected for AFEV and \$3.50 on half and half.

Chapter 851, Milwaukee, WI

Member contacted government officials (Governor Scott Walker, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, and Congressman Paul Ryan all of Wisconsin) stating she opposes the closing of two veteran homes. All three emailed back for her to look at their web sites to see their views on various items. Nothing was mentioned on the web sites of the closing of the two homes. Governor Walker did say that she could contact him by postal mail for a further response to her questions.

Member is crocheting plastic bags to be made into a mat for homeless vets. Mat will be put down with sleeping bag on top of it. This will provide a barrier between the ground and sleeping bag.

September 14

Chapter 804 will be having its ceremony on Saturday, September 16. Chapter and Family Members read the names of those POW/MIAs from the states of Missouri, Kansas and Iowa. Pictures will be posted on their Facebook page.





Block Out the Noise



For most of my articles in our Division newsletters I normally try to make you aware of pending legislation that is important to our members. While I will touch on some of that this time, I want to instead put some of my focus on the political discourse happening across our land. Today America is perhaps more divided than any time since the Civil War and that can become a distraction that can cause us to lose our focus on the issues that matter the most. Across our Air Force family, we have every culture, religion, ethnicity, gender, and political affiliation that you can imagine. We do after all recruit from the great melting pot that is America.

Since 1947 the common bond of service and selfless sacrifice has held this diverse family together and in the process shaped the world's most powerful, feared, and respected Air and Space Force. In an ever increasingly dangerous world we simply cannot allow ourselves to be distracted by the political noise on the news or coming from Washington D.C. We have a mission to defend America and that is where our focus should remain.

AFSA has always remained focused on the issues affecting our members and through all the noise on capitol hill we remain so today. We are effective because we don't allow ourselves to be drug into the political fray but instead remain respectful and tolerant of those we disagree with. We are the example that our elected officials could follow, and I encourage you to demand that they stop the childish games and put America first in every decision they make. We have a powerful voice but if we don't use it we cannot affect the change so desperately needed

I promised you a legislative update so here it is. As of this writing the NDAA is headed to committee and our legislative team is working hard to prevent any loss of our hard-earned benefits. The House passed their version in July and the Senate in September so now the two bills must be reconciled. Now is the time to be heard and you can help us by visiting our Legislative Action Center at <https://www.voterveoice.net/AFSA/home> and by contacting your elected officials.

If we stay focused on our mission and on each other, together we can survive whatever comes at us from Washington D.C. I served under 6 presidents during my 30 years in uniform and not every decision made was good for me or my family, but we survived and thrived in the end. If we block out the noise, we will do the same once again and strengthen our Air Force Family in the process.

Thank you for your membership in AFSA and for your selfless service to our nation. Once and Airman, always an Airman, and I am proud to be part of your family. God bless and stay strong because America needs you!

Mark R. Clark, CMSgt, USAF, Retired
Legislative Trustee, AFSA Division 3



**Mark R. Clark, CMSgt,
(Ret), USAF**

Legislative Trustee,

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BAH Inequality



While we're all focused on the continual battle to cut mil-to-mil BAH (aka "dual BAH") and a few of us know about the five percent cut in BAH (along with the elimination of renter's insurance compensation...how many of us know how Basic Allowance for Housing rates are determined?

First we need to know that no surveys of CONUS personnel receiving BAH are conducted to help determine actual costs being incurred. Instead for several years the DoD has used a contractor (Robert D. Niehaus, Inc.) to collect data to determine the median housing cost; based upon the DoD-determined housing standard requirements (aka anchor points for each rank). Those standards are apartments, townhomes, and single-family dwelling. It is very important to note that the DoD considers E9 (with dependents) the first enlisted rank equating to a single-family dwelling (O3E for officers). RDN collects two types of data: Rental Housing costs (aka Rent) & Utilities costs (including electricity, heating fuel, water, & sewer. Telephone, Data, Cable/Dish/Satellite is NOT considered).

Rental data per the DoD: "data from multiple sources to provide a "checks and balances" approach. This ensures reliability and accuracy. We obtain current residential vacancies from local newspapers and real estate rental listings. We also contact apartment and real estate management companies to identify units for rental pricing.

We consult with real estate professionals in each Military Housing Area (MHA) to confirm market rental prices and obtain additional data. Where available, we also contact fort/post/base housing referral offices and installation leadership. We tap the local housing office knowledge and gain insights into the concerns of our members. Properties are subjected to additional screening and validation process. We gather enough data to attain a 95% statistical confidence that the estimated median rent is within 10% of the true median rent."

Utilities data per the DoD: "The Bureau of the Census conducts an annual American Community Survey (ACS). We use data from ACS to determine average expenditures for utilities specific to each dwelling type in each MHA. All data is sensitive to local housing conditions, geography, and climate.

"Local Expertise" per the DoD: "Housing referral offices and installation leadership have the opportunity to: Provide local rental housing referrals, excluding any inadequate units; Identify specific geographic areas that contain unacceptable housing; Flag rental properties collected by the contractor that are not adequate or suitable."

Setting the rates per the DoD: "After rental and utility data are collected and median housing costs are calculated, DoD and the Services: Review the local median housing costs for each MHA; Evaluate MHA and profile-specific utility data; Prescribe BAH rates based on data input and DoD housing standards policy."

The timeline for BAH determination starts each March-April with base-level workshops, base-level inputs to RDN in May – July, RDN compiles data in August, DoD begins BAH rate calculation in September, Services review & approve new BAH rates, the new BAH rates are released to public in December, and become effective in January...a nine-month cycle.

That's a lot of information, and I was curious as to how my base inputs are determined.

To find out what "Local Expertise" my base has provided I filed a FOIA request for "Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) survey data collection methods, data collected, base senior leadership "local expertise" inputs, and final report for BAH surveys conducted in 2015, 2016, 2017 by Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. for active duty personnel. I received copies of the briefings presented to the Wg/CC by the CES/Military Housing Office (MHO).

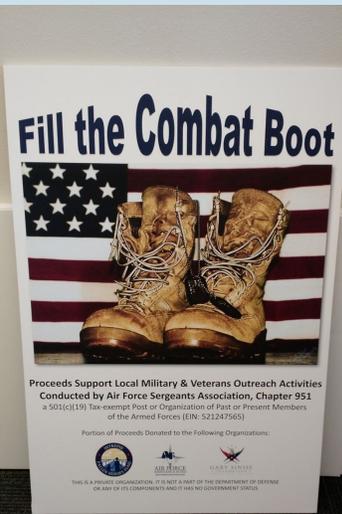
Per the briefing slides provided, in 2015 the MHO responsibility was to "provide points of contacts only (property managers/realtors) and approve/disapprove properties uploaded. The process was unchanged from 2014." Included in the presentation was a map of the BAH coverage area & the local area to be excluded from census data collection. This area would be largely regarded as "low-income with a higher crime rate" than other areas in the BAH coverage area. Disapproved properties were Studios, Efficiency, Lofts, or Furnished units; Restricted income or subsidized housing; Mobile homes and homes in poor physical condition; Safety Issues such as high crime or gang presence; Seasonal/weekly rentals and transient housing.

The 2016 & 2017 briefings given to the Wg/CC. The presentations were identical (other than year changes). No other data was provided to answer my FOIA request. The base Military Housing



Kevin Ott
CMSgt (Ret), USAF,
AFSA Division 3, Trustee

[Click picture for Details](#)



Honoring our Patriots

[Click picture for Details](#)



Office relayed to the base FOIA office that “the BAH Survey data and collection methods were initiated by the Department of Defense and contracted through a third party, Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. Additional information may be requested through the DoD FOIA program or contacting Robert Niehaus, Inc.”

I contacted RDN and received a reply within two days. The program manager for the DoD collection stated “I appreciate your association’s commitment to ensuring that your members’ BAH rates are fair and accurate. However, we do not release data to unauthorized parties. Information requests must be made through DOD and approved by the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO). Please note that RDN assists installations with data collection but we do not set the BAH rates—that is accomplished internally by DOD.” I have since submitted a DoD FOIA request for the survey data collection methods, data collected, base senior leadership “local expertise” inputs, and final report for BAH surveys conducted in 2015, 2016, 2017 by Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. for active duty personnel assigned to this local military housing area.

So, pending the data collected by RDN and whatever reviews conducted by the Service and or DoD what I have seen so far has raised the following questions and concerns:

1: Is it realistic that the "Local Expertise" input has not changed in 3+ years? Also it is unknown if the briefing was actually presented to the Wg/CC or perhaps taken by CV or perhaps even MSG/CC as there were no notes or any follow-on data provided. Also it is unknown if Wg/CCC was attended.

2: In looking at the BAH coverage area it makes little to no "common sense". It is not a simple "mileage radius area of the base" nor is it inclusive of all cities/municipalities within a reasonable commuting distance. 60+ miles into true rural farmland in one direction yet only 30 miles in the other direction and NOT including three other cities with available housing. Why include farmland, but not three cities (closer to base) that actually have apartments, etc.??

3: No mention of how base privatized housing is factored into the data collection (if at all).

4: No evidence provided (feedback from RDN and/or DoD) that the "Local Expertise" inputs were accepted and used. If CES/Military Family Housing is the OPR for BAH, then I believe that they should receive feedback that the process is in fact working.

Finally I see several inequities in the DoD BAH process.

1: The type of housing considered as the acceptable standard or “anchor point” by the Department of Defense for all enlisted up to the rank of E-9 are Apartments or Townhomes. This is simply not an acceptable housing standard (size, privacy, security) for military members with a family or for those in a career status. Military members (and especially their families) sacrifice in service to the Nation and deserve a housing allowance based upon realistic needs and standards.

2: The continued cuts in BAH itself. In 2000, the Secretary of Defense committed to reducing the out-of-pocket expense to zero by 2005. In 2015, this changed. Based on the Fiscal Year 2015 and 2016 National Defense Authorization Acts, a member cost-sharing element (out-of-pocket expense) of one percent was introduced into the housing allowance rates starting in 2015. This out-of-pocket expense increases by one percent annually until it is capped at 5%. Additionally the cost of renter’s insurance was removed from the BAH program, thus the actual reduction (cut) is (will be) greater than 5%.

To see how close (or far off) BAH rates are from reality I polled the 20,300 members of the “Ask a Chief...Virtual CMSgt Panel” group on Facebook to determine how much of their current housing expenses (rent and utilities) were covered by BAH. Here are the results: All housing types: 81%, Single Family Home: 78% Apartment/Townhome/Privatized Base Housing: 90%. The average monthly out of pocket expense was \$378; or approximated 12% of the monthly salary of an E-5. Of those who rent a home, 75% did so due to the lack of suitable apartments or townhomes in the area (size, availability, school district, crime rate, etc).

I think it is very important that a survey of all military members be conducted to truly determine the actual housing costs members are incurring and that all cuts to the BAH program (to include mil-to-mil) be halted immediately and permanent legislation be passed to prevent cuts in the future.

Also the Air Force (and all Services) should provide a much more “open book” to the BAH determination process by providing open opportunities for member’s to provide feedback/inputs into the “Local Expertise” process.

To Learn about RDN: <http://www.rdniehaus.com/rdn/>

To Learn about BAH: <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>



At the top of next year there will be a big change to the TRICARE benefit.

TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra will be replaced w/ TRICARE Select. TRICARE Select merges the features of Standard and Extra in a single plan. TRICARE Select participants may obtain care from TRICARE authorized providers without a referral; enrollees who use TRICARE-network providers will now pay a lower cost-share amount for in-network care.

Current TRICARE recipients will be automatically enrolled in their active plan on January 1, 2018. TRICARE Prime participants will remain in Prime, while Standard and Extra participants will be enrolled into Select.

Click [here](#) to learn more about how these changes affect you.



AFSA Division 3

Electronic Communications



MSgt (Ret) Super Dave Bamburg



We had an awesome time at the 2017 AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference in Reno, NV and Division 3 came away with several awards to include 2 I'm proud of, sweeping the Communications Awards winning both the Division and Chapter Award Categories.

Once again a great showing in the Social Media realm as AFSA was live streaming the guest speakers, chapters and Divisions were communicating on Facebook and those not in attendance could get all the latest information in real time. If you missed some of the action, go back and check out some of the feeds on our [Facebook](#) page, the [AFSA page](#) and check out many of the pictures on our [Flickr page](#).

Probably the best example of maximizing our social media outlets was the "Member for Life" campaign. Many of us got the word out by posting on our Division/Chapter/Personal Facebook pages and then getting our members to do the same. Then, since only those in attendance could submit the applications we had to rely on every means necessary to get the applications back. Don't know how many times I went down to the hotel's business center and saw other attendees printing them out. Based on the numbers I'd say it worked pretty well.

At this year's PAC Andrea Sanford, AFSA's Communications, Marketing & Business Center Manager, gave a great presentation on the importance of Social Media and focused on how Divisions/Chapters could maximize their use of Facebook. While websites may have been our main focus of communication in the past, it is hard to top what Facebook can do in real-time.

With Facebook you can add upcoming events and share with all your members, add pictures and information of an event you just attended or even live feed the event as it is happening and store photos from all your past gatherings. Just like with your website you can list important information about your chapter such as a mission statement, when the meetings are held, and email/phone contact information.

As for Division 3 I'm currently showing every chapter with a Facebook page. Now the goal is for every chapter to have a current banner, updated information and start using your page as much as possible. If you don't have a current banner then nothing to worry about, AFSA has already created one for your page. Just go to [Communications](#) page on the AFSA HQ website and there is a tab at the bottom of the page. Also while on that page check out the downloads they have for logos, wallpapers and a price lists for AFSA newest adventure, their Business Center.

Even though you now have an updated Facebook page, website or other forms of social media don't forget the basics, staying in touch with your current members. For some of our chapters it may mean just using the simple forms of communications such as a newsletter, touching base via email or even more similar means such as a letter in the mail or the occasional phone call.



AFSA
DIVISION

3

Heartland of America

WE ARE AFSA

UNITED IN STRENGTH | DEFENDING THE ENLISTED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1961

WE ARE 100,000 MEMBERS STRONG | WE REPRESENT OUR MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES IN CONGRESS, the DoD, the VA and More
WE ARE THE NATION'S MOST INFLUENTIAL ASSOCIATION DEVOTED TO THE TOTAL ENLISTED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES
WE ARE INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT & POLITICALLY NON-PARTISAN | WE FIGHT FOR YOUR PROMISED BENEFITS & SERVICES
WE DEFEND THOSE WHO DEFEND US | WE ARE AFSA | JOIN THE FIGHT... JOIN AFSA TODAY!

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IS YOUR LOGO ON HERE? IF NOT, LET US HELP YOU BUILD THE



BADGER CHAPTER 851
Milwaukee, WI

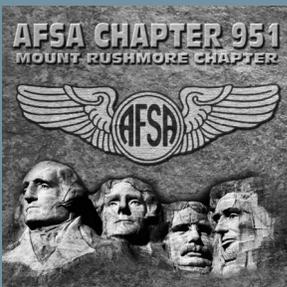
IS YOUR LOGO ON HERE? IF NOT, LET US HELP YOU BUILD THE



SCOTT AFB
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
Bud Andrews
Gateway Chapter 872



SPIRIT CHAPTER 881
WHITEMAN AFB, MO



Chapter 804

The Heartbeat of America Chapter

Kathy Oden, President

How fast this year is passing. It does not seem possible we are about to start the last quarter of the year. We here at Chapter 804 continue to keep our Membership updated on all vital areas of AFSA and our local happenings such as legislative issues vital to our Air Force Family and encouraging them to stay in contact with their Legislative Leaders. We do this through our monthly meetings and our quarterly newsletter.



We presented our POW/MIA Ceremony on Saturday, September 16th at the Belton Memorial Park. We had over fifty people in attendance. We were very fortunate to have a World

War II POW as a speaker as well as the Mayor of Belton. Members of the different Veterans organizations read the list of MIA names from Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa. It was a very stirring ceremony.

Another important issue is stressing recruitment of new members and retention of our present membership. Our yearly total so far is 77 retentions and 18 recruited. We want to congratulate Patti Dalzell for her hard work in this area as well as being in third place for retentions in all of AFSA. I also want to thank those individuals who except-



ed the International President's challenge to recruit new members and present membership to join the Life Membership Team. This was available during two short windows of time. Our total for these campaigns were 10.

What a fantastic time we had at International Convention at the Peppercorn Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. Our Chapter would like to send along congratulations to all our Division 3

International Award winners. What a great showing. We would also like to congratulate our

own Barbara Veach, selected the AFSA International Family Member of the Year and Patti Dalzell, reappointed as the International Family Matters Trustee. We would be remiss if we did not send out congratulations to Dale Lutzen who was reelected as AFSA's Trustee of Retired and Veterans Affairs.



Our Family Matters continues to be an important part of our chapter. Four members volunteered a total of 735 hours since the beginning of the year. We have had two members appointed to the newly formed Council at St. Michael's Homeless Veterans Center. One hundred and thirty pounds of coupons have been mailed to our military families overseas. Our bi-annual card party fundraiser is taking place in October.



Chapter 872



Americanism:

July On 8 July, AFSA Chapter 872 hosted the 4th annual Zac Cuddeback Memorial 5k. Pictured to the left is Zac's family and runners. We had over 175 runners registered and raised over \$2500 to donate the USO and Fisher House in Zac Cuddeback's honor.



Legislative: Daily

AFSA briefed 250 retirees during LAW on legislative accomplishments from the previous year as well as the current legislative platform, and how to use voter voice. We also brief legislation at all monthly meetings.



Chapter 872



Membership

Held Member for Life drive at shoppette, recruited 15 life members! and monthly ALS and FTAC membership luncheons



Family Matters

Hosted AFSA Whiffle Ball Home Run Derby, provided entertainment for over 300 families that attended the Scott AFB Spring Fling. Funded the Suicide Prevention Bowl-A-Thon, provided free food and bowling for 35 Amn/family members.

#951



THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER

Once again 951 is pressing forward and not looking back. A lot of time was planning for our big yearly event, the Saluting our Patriots in Rapid City, although on the day of the event it was rained out.. Despite that, we with help from many groups on base, raised over \$4K for charities.

In addition to this event, CMSgt (Ret) Ott continued to expand the influence of Buddy Check 22. This is an organization that gets together once a month and offers those with similar experiences in combat or the military a chance to share or even listen to stories they can relate . He even took part in a 3.1 mile walk, "Out of the Darkness" to raise awareness and funds for suicide prevention in the Black Hills.

During the month of July, Senior Advisor "Super Dave" Bamburg, his wife Marny and the Savages attended the AFSA PAC in Reno, NV. Unknown to us, one of the squadrons on base funded about 8 enlisted members to attend the PAC, stating it was important for them to see what it was about.

Not only did they get to listen to CMSAF Wright and many of the other AF leaders the group got to meet personally with the new Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson who was also the Dean of the School of



Mines in Rapid City, SD. In addition to giving the Secretary a Chapter 951 coin, she was made an Honorary Member for Life of the Chapter. And speaking of the Member for Life Program, our chapter had 35 people take advantage of the campaigns.

Also at the PAC Super Dave was asked to brief the attendees of how 951 became the first chapter to be recognized by the local base as a National Military Association. In addition to this briefing he also went down to Buckley AFB to brief NMA and has been asked by other Divisions and chapters to provide his information. If you are willing to wait long enough, victory will come.



In closing I'd like to commend the great work that Chasity Mitchell, wife of Chapter VP Ryan Mitchell, has done with our Family Matters program. She has strived to bring AFSA sponsored activities to the people living on base and get the chapter more involved with all the age groups. Her dedication has not gone unnoticed as she was recognized for her Volunteer Excellence on Ellsworth AFB.



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