



Chapter 851 Newsletter Air Force Sergeants Association



December 2018

Volume 28, Issue 3

FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays AFSA Family - 2018 is closing soon and 2019 is around the corner. As I reflect on 2018, it brings me great memories. Membership drives and award presentations at the 128th, 115th, and Volk Field. Three (3) newsletters published. CAP/JRROTC awards presentations. Eight (8) monthly chapter meetings. Attended 2018 Division 3 Conference/Workshop. Membership donations totaling more than \$400. Volunteer community hours: 1,000+ hours. Last minute fundraiser (Schwan's) raised approx. \$400. Shipment of goods/items to overseas bases and the military communities: (\$\$value): \$1,000+. Overall, the year 2018 was very active and very successful. Our chapter looks forward to another good year (2019). Thank you AFSA family for all your support and involvement in our successful year.

In 2019 our chapter will be focused on growing our association, supporting our programs and increasing our incomes. Our membership chair (Bud Kolwitz) will continue to recruit/retain at record levels. Your recruiting/retaining efforts are greatly appreciated. We will continue to support all the military and family programs currently active (and we might add a few more). Trustee Metzger will once again be as generous and compassionate as always. Rest assured, we will continue to support all our military communities as much as we can. Finally, we will aggressively solicit our business communities for their support and monetary donations. Sponsorship is a very important element to succeed financially. Finally, we will continue to receive donations from our generous members. Those donations are not budgeted but have a positive impact on our balance sheet. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

In Closing, I want to thank YOU for your continued support and membership in AFSA. I hope our chapter is supplying you with valued information and keeps you connected to our Air Force Family. Please contact me if we can assist you further. On behalf of our leadership team, I want to wish you all a very merry and safe holiday season. Forward to 2019!!

Serving You,
Bill Rheingans, Chapter 851 President
wrheingans@gmail.com

262-232-8484



MEMBERSHIP

Again, thank you for renewing thru me this past year. This is what helps keep our organization strong and viable. As I have stated so often, let me, or AFSA, know if your address changes.

As you know, I send out the renewals six months in advance because that is the same time AFSA does. Renewing thru a Chapter member gets the retainer and Chapter credit. Renewing thru AFSA does not give us credit.

As many of you know, our Division has a membership special going on. E-1 to E-4 \$50 for 2 years, everyone 3 years for \$75 or Life for \$200. This ends December 31. If you need the form, let me know. **And sign up your family members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** They are most welcome—spouses, children 18 and older, parents, and siblings.

Roland "Bud" Kolwitz
budjean3@gmail.com

262-673-7503
Chapter 851 Membership Chairman



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

I have been working with a retired US Army colonel in Germany. He is with an ROTC group and is stationed in Weisbaden. He will be my POC and will accept the coupons and care packages as Ramstein is very close to him and is the largest AF base.

Reminder: It costs \$17.35 for each box mailed. It would be greatly appreciated, if you can help offset this cost by donating \$17.35 for the mailing of one box. And on behalf of the troops serviced, thank you.



Thanks!
Sue Metzger, Community Service
Trustee smpsals1@aol.com
414-353-1529

A young AF family with one of
our packages courtesy of Col.
Hensley

DEATHS

AFSA cannot officially recognize a person's death without a copy of the death certificate. Please let someone in the Chapter know. The following passed away:

Paul Abernathy	Ernest Bone
Douglas Caldwell	Hildegard Heegeman
Laverne Hoverman	Thomas Jennerjohn
Kenneth Johnson	Lamont Krebs
John Mayfield	Herbert Miller
Willie Nance	Hazel Novotny
Mary Riodan	Ronald Rutter
George Schemerhorn	Lois Thompson
Tim Tice	John Tomczak
Frank Tyley	Jack Varon

In case of a death, notify a Chapter member whose e-mail you see in the newsletter or AFSA at www.hqafsa.org.



2018 JEOP



Approximately 30 junior enlisted Airmen from Wisconsin Air National Guard units throughout the state participated in the Junior Enlisted Orientation Program that took place at the 115th Fighter Wing, 128th Air Refueling Wing, and Volk Field July 25-27.

The JEOP allows Airmen to familiarize themselves with the ANG units throughout the state and better understand the capabilities of each, while providing them with fun, career developing experiences.

"The program shows younger Airmen the big picture of the WIANG," said Master Sgt. Keith Hanse, the 115th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant. "Wisconsin is unique because we have fighter jets, refueling tankers, and a training center that all benefit from each other."

(This is an excerpt of a great article on the JEOP by Airman Cameron Lewis of the 115th Fighter Wing/Public Affairs, WI Air National Guard)

REPORTING A DEATH

Access DFAS' Retired Military & Annuitants webpage by a button just below the Request a duplicate 1099R button; have at hand your identifying info and the retiree's name, SSN, manner and date of death, marital status, names/addresses of beneficiaries or next of kin living and deceased. This procedure replaces DFASW Form 9221. Folks reporting also need to call 1-800-321-1080 to report a Survivor Benefit Plan annuitant, if one was named.



VETERANS IN 116TH CONGRESS

The new Congress will begin on 116th and in the meantime members are electing leadership positions. Additionally, the Democrats as majority in the House and the Republicans as majority in the Senate are deciding on legislative priority issues. The 116th Congress has seven fewer veterans than were in the 115th Congress.

- 95 total veterans in the 116th Congress.
- 30 are Democrats, 65 are Republicans.
- 18 will serve in the Senate, 77 will serve in the House.
- 47 served in the military after 2000.
- 21 served in the military in the 1960s or earlier.
- 19 are first-time lawmakers.
- 6 are women.
- 50 served in the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard.
- 17 served in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve.
- 16 served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard.
- 13 served in the Navy or Naval Reserve.
- 1 served in the Coast Guard.

[table of Veterans](#) is available. The column "In office now?" indicates newly elected Congressional members.

SCHWAN'S FUNDRAISER

As of the writing of this newsletter, our Schwan's Fundraiser is up to \$407 of our \$500 goal. The Fundraiser is going until January 9 and we are receiving 5% now of each sale. If you would like to help and need information, contact me and I will be glad to see to it that you have the information.

Sue Metzger, Community Service Trustee
smpsals1@aol.com 414-353-1529



IT'S OFFICIAL: Disabled Vets to See Biggest Raise Since 2012

"Veterans with the highest ratings will see an almost \$100 bump in [disability pay](#) each month starting in 2019, the largest increase since 2012.

"That 2.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment ([COLA](#)), which kicks in Jan. 1, was made official Monday by the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#). Military retirement, other VA disability benefits, Social Security and federal civilian retirement will see that same increase.

"For veterans with a 10 percent disability rating, that bump brings monthly compensation from \$136.24 to \$140.05 each month, while a veteran entitled to 100 percent disability will go from \$2,973.86 to \$3,057.13 monthly."



NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The National Resource Directory (NRD) is a resource website that connects wounded warriors, service members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers to programs and services that support them. It provides access to services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. Visitors can find information on topics like benefits, compensation, employment, caregiver support, homeless assistance, health, transportation and travel. This [directory](#) is a great site with an abundance of resources so be sure to save the link as a favorite site so you have it when you need it.

AAFES CEO: Serving National Guard, Reserve Must Remain a Top Priority

AAFES Director and CEO Tom Shull highlights some of the many of the contributions of our Guard and Reserve personnel in this [blog post](#) and the importance of AAFES supporting reserve component members and their families. Like him, we agree that it is extremely important to meet the needs of our citizen warriors and that the service they (and AAFES) provides cannot be overestimated.



2020 MILITARY PAY RAISE

Since 1962, Title 37 of the United States Code (USC) has dictated how military pay adjustments will be automatically calculated. U.S.C. Title 37, Chapter 19, § 1009 c reads, "*An adjustment made under this section in a year shall provide all eligible members with an increase in the monthly basic pay that is the percentage (rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent) by which the ECI for the base quarter of the year before the preceding year exceeds the ECI for the base quarter of the second year before the preceding calendar year (if at all).*" On Wednesday October 31, the [United States Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) released the ECI calculation that will be used to determine the 2020 military pay raise. That figure is 3.1 percent which, if Congress and the Administration don't move to reduce, would result in the largest pay raise in 10 years. Paragraph e of section 1009 allows the president to cap the pay raise based on a national emergency or serious economic conditions, but he must also notify Congress in writing by September 1 of the preceding year and lawmakers must approve it. We could know the president's intent regarding the pay raise as early as next February when he presents his annual budget proposal to Congress. In the meantime, AFSA will be working with its Coalition partners to begin laying the groundwork to help secure the full, 3.1 percent pay raise that current law provides for.



DONATION

As you all know, Hurricane Michael did catastrophic damage to Florida and Tyndall AFB was affected as well. Because of their request for help, AFSA sent word to the Chapters and Chapter 851 donated \$200 toward their relief effort.



RECOGNIZING WisconsinVision

Chapter 851 President, Bill Rheingans and Chapter 851 Trustee Mike Gordon presented a plaque and Certificate of Appreciation to Wisconsin Vision for their contributions toward the printing and mailing of the Chapter newsletter.



(L) Trustee Mike Gordon, Andy (Owner), Darren Horndasch (President & CEO) and President Bill Rheingans) with the presentation



VA VOWS TO PAY FULL GI BILL HOUSING BENEFITS

Despite a flurry of news stories, tweets and the like this week suggesting otherwise, VA is promising to pay beneficiaries using the Forever GI Bill the exact benefits to which they are entitled under that law. It just may take a little more time than Congress projected to do that. VA officials offering this assurance include, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, [Robert Wilke](#) and VA Under Secretary for Benefits, [Paul](#)

[Lawrence](#). VA says the confusion stems from a misleading news report based on an earlier VA [announcement](#) regarding these payments.



AGENT ORANGE CONNECTION TO HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE REVEALED

Research showing a stronger connection between exposure to Agent Orange and high blood pressure could lead to additional benefits for tens of thousands of Vietnam-era troops. The study by the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine](#) found, "sufficient evidence of an association between exposure to at least one of the chemicals of interest and hypertension." The panel recommended that VA add the condition to its list of presumptive diseases associated with Agent Orange.



ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE NOTES

Don't forget about the manufacturers' coupons that are sent to the overseas commissaries. They can use them 6-months expired, but I prefer you get them to me no more than 2 months expired due to mailing time, etc. And please sort them by the month.

Cancelled stamps for the Stamps for the Wounded are most welcome. No sorting needed. These are used for therapy for the veterans.

Also, the Box Tops for Education are certainly welcomed. Again, no sorting necessary.

Sue Metzger, Community Service Trustee

smpsalm1@aol.com

414-353-1529

Happy
Holidays!

VETERANS ONLINE SHOPPING **BENEFITS**

200,000 orders have been placed and an estimated \$3.4 million dollars have been saved through the Exchange's [online shopping benefit](#) since it was launched a little more than a year ago. If you are a Veteran and you're not familiar with this benefit, you should go to the link above to learn more. All the information is there for you.



Air Force Sergeants Association
N24W24210 Saddle Brook Dr. Unit A
Pewaukee, WI 53072

DATED MATERIAL

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Thanks to Ken Ubert of Hometown Publications Express News
for printing our Chapter 851 Newsletter

CHAPTER ITEMS

We have Chapter Coins in now. They are \$7.00 plus S&H. Chapter bottles are \$5.00 plus S&H and Chapter polo shirts at \$10.00 plus S&H. There are 2 M, 1 L and 3 XL. If you are interested, contact Chapter President Bill Rheingans at 262-232-8484 or wrheingans@gmail.com

Thanks to LouAnn & Bob Rogowski, Mike Gordon, Sonya Janicki, Shane & Cheryl Morris, Sonya's mother Linda Villwock, and Sonya's sister Melissa Olson and Bill & Jackie Rheingans for helping put the previous newsletter together for mailing and to Sonya Janicki for providing her home for the meeting
Jean Kolwitz, Newsletter Editor

2019 Schedule

January—TBD
February 9, 2019—128th ANG
March 1, 2019—128th ANG
April 6, 2019—128th ANG
May 4, 2019—128th ANG
June 1, 2019—128th ANG
July—TBD
August 16, 2019—128th ANG
September 7, 2019—128th ANG
October 5, 2019—128th ANG
November 2, 2019—128th ANG
December--TBD

This is a tentative schedule. Meeting location subject to change.

Watch this section for changes.
Meetings are at the 128th HQ Building in the Senior Staff Meeting Room.

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