

AFSA Chapter 872

10 June 2014

General Membership Meeting Minutes



Meeting was called to order at 1135 by SSgt Brown

Preamble was read by SMSgt Holtzman

22 members were in attendance; 2 were first time attendees and 0 last time attendees. A quorum was determined.

We had a guest speaker: Ms. Emily Jokerst, from Vets Caring for Vets Program, St Louis.

Ms. Emily shared what the 'Vets Caring for Vets' Program is all about. It is a hospice program that needs volunteers who are willing to share some of their time and talents to help patients and their families who are dealing with end-life issues. Volunteers will work directly with patients and families to provide services such as: Compassion, Emotional Support, Socialization, and Respite for Caregivers. There are currently 82 patients in this federal, nation-wide program. ***Please contact SrA Peggy Syzmore if you are interested in volunteering or want more information***

Legislative Update: MSgt Terry Carter, 436 SCOS/GWO

- MSgt Carter introduced himself, as he will be taking over as our Legislative Trustee; SMSgt Sanabia has left for a short-notice deployment.
- As each and (almost) every one of us depends on our SmartPhones, download the MegaVote App on your phone, as it is another tool, along with CapWiz, to receive updates as to what is being voted upon on Capitol Hill, along with what your state representatives are for or against. This App will send you updates on action items that you are interested in to keep you up to date with the latest movements or votes.
- Let MSgt Carter know if you are interested in assisting with Law Week that will take place in October

Financial Report: MSgt (Ret) Michael Thyne

- Current balance: \$15,092. This balance will change as soon as Mr. Thyne closes out the PAC and the Inter-Service Dining Out monies.

Membership: MSgt Lincoln Ratliff

- In May our Chapter recruited 25 new members and retained 13 members; our totals for the year so far is 2,029 members.
- Since March, we have lost 80 members (meaning 80 people have not renewed their membership since last year)
- We are always recruiting so if you'd like us to come out to your Commander's Calls or squadrons to speak, please let us know.
- MSgt Hyman Hendrix was drawn out of the hat for our 2nd quarter \$100 drawing for recruiting/retaining at least 10 members.
- If you need to have your AFSA membership transferred, please see either MSgt Lincoln Ratliff or MSgt Bernie Ratliff.
- The Ratliff's have received orders to Andrews AFB, so if you are interested in becoming a membership trustee, please let MSgt Lincoln Ratliff, MSgt Bernie Ratliff, or SSgt Brown know, and they will get you spun up as to what is expected of you.

Ways and Means: SrA Jordan Wentzel

- No new updates

Plans/Programs: SMSgt Lee Ayers

- **Meals on Wheels:** In May, we had 21 volunteers and delivered 165 meals for a total of 14 volunteer hours. Please visit the AFSA webpage or SharePoint site to sign up. We deliver meals the first and third week each month. Please contact MSgt Hyman Hendrix for additional information on the program.
- **Caring Hearts:** In May, we had 25 volunteers pack 116 boxes, totaling 33 volunteer hours. Next event will be 28 June at 0730; we help pack care packages at the O' Fallon Methodist Church on Highway 50. every 4th Saturday of the month. The POC is TSgt Larry Adams and the alternate POC is MSgt Amber Callahan.
- **Missouri State Veterans Home:** In May, we had no events. For June, there are 9 events scheduled, and a total of 116 volunteers are needed. Please contact MSgt Nicholas Conner or SrA Nikita Hudson if interested in volunteering for any of the upcoming events.
- **Mississippi Valley Blood Drives:** The May blood drive collected 41 units collected (123 lives saved). Thank you to the 1 volunteer for a total of 6 volunteer hours. The next blood drive will be 26 June at AMC. We are looking for an alternate POC; if interested contact MSgt Thomas Ricketson
- **The Mission Continues:** The fourth Annual Summer Slam event will take place on 12 July in Kirkwood, MO. More details from SSgt Brown to follow.
- **Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP):** No new updates
- <https://eim.amc.af.mil/org/375amw/afsa/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>
- **Boots on the Green/ Jefferson Barracks:** "Boots on the Green" Golf Tournament that was held 9 May was very successful. We had 90 volunteers for a total of 720 volunteer hours. The 80+ vets who attended were very pleased. There will be another Boots on the Lane event this summer . . . more details to follow as soon as a date is set.

SSgt Brown presented a President's coin to MSgt Zokal for running three successful events with Jefferson Barracks, and the Chapter looks forward to continuing keeping the rapport and supporting the Vets

- **Hospice for Vets:** No updates
- **Camp Hope:** No updates
- **AFSA Relay for Life Team:** Relay for life will be held 21 June in O'Fallon. If you would like to donate or participate in The Relay for Life Team, please contact SrA Kevin Syzmore or SrA Peggy Syzmore.
- **Fisher House:** Basic landscaping and yard work for the Fisher House occurs every 3rd Saturday of the month. If you are interested in volunteering to help beautify the Fisher House, contact SrA Kevin Syzmore.

8th Annual Dragon Boat Race: Please see the attached flyer. Event will be held 28 June. It's a 22 man canoe with paddlers, a drummer, and steersman. There will be 4 races, sprints, 2 minutes per race and 3 boats. Our team name is Water Warriors.. It's a free, joint environment; there will be live entertainment, food and a kids zone.

Communications: MSgt Andrea Cogar and MSgt Michael Gralewsky (assisting while MSgt Cogar is TDY)

- AFSA Chapter 872 Website: <http://www.AFSA872.org>
- AFSA Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AFSA872>
- AFSA EIM Site: <https://eim.amc.af.mil/org/375amw/afsa>
- Scott AFB Retiree Activities Office: <http://www.raolibrary.org>
- AFSA Capwiz: <http://www.capwiz.com/hqafsa/home/>

Awards and Recognition: SMSgt (Ret) Signore-Hayes:

- Please be sure you continue to keep track of all of your volunteer hours and input them onto the tracker on our website at <http://www.afsa872.org/index.php/information/volunteer-hours/>. These hours and awards are provided to the district quarterly to show what Chapter 872 members are involved in. Remember, these activities do not have to be AFSA activities- it can be anything you are volunteering in or with.

Airman's Activities Coordinator:

- The FALCON conference will be held 6-7 August. In need of facilitators: Chiefs, SNCOs, NCOs
- Dorm Olympics will be Friday, 27 August

Reserve/Guard Affairs:

- No Update

Retiree Affairs: SMSgt (Ret) Rebecca Gabel:

- There is no longer a Retiree Newsletter for the 27,000 retirees they used to track. The base Retiree Office will now put info in the Command Post periodically, with an occasional insert with more news. If Retirees want to continue to receive news from the Retiree Affairs Office, they can subscribe to the Command Post for \$10 a year!

New Business:

- POW coins available for \$10; see any Executive Council member for your coin
- SMSgt Holtzmann will be ordering new AFSA t-shirts/polos; be on the lookout to pre-order
- Vigil Run to take place the first weekend in November . . . more details to follow as soon as there is a POC
- CMSgt (ret) Rob Frank is the new CEO of HQ AFSA; his top priority is getting the VA back in order

Chief's Group Update: CMSgt Patricia Hickey, 436 SCOS/CCM

Performer of the Month Packages are due the 1st Tuesday of each month to any Chief; the package includes a 1206 with 5 work bullets. The winner will receive a certificate and coin from the Chief's Group.

Annual Chief's Steak Sale will be Thursday, 19 June at the PAX Terminal; tickets are \$10- see any Chief for your ticket

First Sergeant's Update: MSgt Jon Malone, 375 CSPTS/CCF

Top Priorities of the 375th CC and CCC

1. There will be several upcoming court martials; those that are 'stratted', will be looked at to serve as jury members
2. EPR lateness . . . the Wing CC is very displeased . . . allow yourself plenty of time to provide a product ON TIME
3. There was a new electric bill that has been set in place since January; briefings were given in regards to this back in January, but members of base housing are contacting the First Sergeants to argue the bill . . . members were told of the change in January, but not all chose to attend the town hall meetings . . .
4. Per the 375 AMW/CCC, CMSgt Mathias, "Document EVERYTHING!!!"

The First Sergeant Symposium will take place on 18-20 June at the 906th ARS; TSgts and MSgts are highly encouraged to attend

TOP 3 Update: No new updates

NCO Council Update: No new updates

First Four/Dorm Council Update:

First Four Meetings take place on the 1st Thursday of each month at 1530 at the EPEC

The Dorm Council Meetings take place on the last Tuesday of each month in the Belleville Dayroom

Encourage your Airmen to participate

SSgt Brown adjourned the meeting at 1235.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 8 July 2014 at 1130 in the Dining Facility POW/MIA Room

Approved/~~Disapproved.~~

//SIGNED//

NICHOLE R. BROWN, SSgt, USAF

President, Chapter 872