

AFSA Chapter 872

8 July 2014

General Membership Meeting Minutes



Meeting was called to order at 1132 by SSgt Brown

Preamble was read by SMSgt Holtzmann

27 members were in attendance; 4 were first time attendees and 1 last time attendees. A quorum was determined.

Legislative Update: MSgt Timothy Carter

- The VA Reform Bill was voted overwhelmingly to go forward. Now the funding is just needed to fix the issues. The House wants to find where to make cuts to come up with the funding whereas the Senate looks at it as an emergency and would like to just fund whatever needs to be fixed. Send emails on CapWiz to your local representative to let them know you don't want this issue to be railroaded by other issues, the funding is needed and these issues need to be fixed.
- Law Week will take place in October and MSgt Carter needs a team! If you are interested, please contact MSgt Timothy Carter ASAP to help get the ball rolling.
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Financial Report: MSgt (Ret) Thyne

- Approximately \$15,000 in the account, but that will change as soon as the Division PAC monies are owed to the Division

Membership: TSgt Cale Hollingsworth

- In June our Chapter recruited 11 new members and 12 retentions. Total membership for our Chapter is 2,073.
- 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. We have training tools if you are interested in some material to help you recruit.
- If you need to have your AFSA membership transferred, please see any executive council member.

Ways and Means: SrA Jordan Wentzel

- No new updates

Plans/Programs: SMSgt Lee Ayers

- **Meals on Wheels:** June we had 27 volunteers and delivered 183 meals for a total of 17 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:** For June, we had 37 volunteers pack 124 boxes, totaling 37 volunteer hours. Next event will be 26 July 0815; we help pack care packages at the O' Fallon Methodist Church on Highway 50. every 4th Saturday of the month. We need more volunteers to help sort the food to be put on the truck at the warehouse. Showtime is 0500. The new POC is TSgt Larry Adams and the alternate POC is MSgt Amber Callahan .
- **Missouri State Veterans Home:** For June we had 5 events, with a total of 17 volunteers who donated 102 hours of their time. In July we 11 events. Please contact SrA Nikita Hudson if you are interested in volunteering.

- **Mississippi Valley Blood Drives:** The June blood drive collected 31 units, 93 lives saved. Thank you to the 2 volunteers for a total of 8 volunteer hours. The next blood drive will be 24 July at AMC bldg. 1600.
- **The Mission Continues:** On Saturday, July 12, 2014, from 0800-1300, the Mission Continues and Fox Sports Midwest will bring together veterans, service members, military families and community members for a day of service at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center Kirkwood, Missouri. The event is the fourth annual Summer Service Slam, a partnership between The Mission Continues and Fox Sports Midwest, which brings veterans together with their neighbors to have a have a positive impact in the community. Volunteers will tackle pond reconstruction, wildlife viewing and program area improvements, habitat improvement, fence repair, and gardening.
Where: Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122
To Register: <<https://www.missioncontinues.org/summerserviceslam/>>
- **Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP):** The next event will be a Back to School Carnival on 2 August. We are looking for 60 volunteers for this event.
- If you are interested, please sign up at this link:
- <https://eim.amc.af.mil/org/375amw/afsa/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>
- **Boots on the Lane/ Jefferson Barracks:** “Boots on the Lane” Bowling Tournament will be held 22 August. We are looking for 45 volunteers to bowl and 2 to help with sign up. This is a free event and lunch is included. Please see MSgt Ronald Zokal and MSgt Shawn Housley to volunteer or to get more information on this event.
- **Vets Caring for Vets (Hospice Program):** In June we had a briefing from Mrs. Emily Jokerst .Information packets/Applications are available if you are interested in volunteering with this program. Please see SMSgt Lee Ayers or SrA Peggy Syzemore for more information or an application to become a volunteer for the program.
- **AFSA Relay for Life Team:** Relay for life in O’Fallon was successful; we had 20 volunteers for a total of 20 hours running. We raised \$570 dollars to the cause. There is another one coming up 18 Jul in Belleville. We are looking for a POC to lead a team. If you would like to become a POC, donate, or participate please contact SMSgt Lee Ayers.
- **Fisher House:** In June we had 2 volunteers donate a total of 6 hours. 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 Syzemore.

Communications: MSgt Andrea Cogar/ Stand-in: MSgt Michael Gralewski

- 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/>
- 21 July is the suspense to have all your pictures and information in for the newsletter.

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
- First Four will be having a meeting this Thursday 10 July at 1500, EPEC Bldg.

Reserve/Guard Affairs: No new updates

Retiree Affairs: SMSgt (Ret) Rebecca Gabel:

- Do your VA claims as soon as you can so you don’t have to wait so long.

New Business:

- We have a few POW/MIA coins left for sale. They are \$10 each. See SSgt Brown.
- AFSA Shirts will be on sale soon, they are dri-fit and should be here by next meeting. Golf Shirts will be coming soon; ladies and men sizes will be available. Approximate cost will be at least \$20.
- The Vigil run is coming up in November. We need a POC to run with this event and research local fallen or injured members to honor during the event. The Vigil run is a 24 hour running event where teams volunteer for a time slot to run around the track with the POW/MIA Flag. It's a Joint event so all branches of service are welcome to participate. This event is usually held the weekend before veterans day.

Chief's Group Update:

- Performer of the Month Packages was due by COB 8 July. It's now 5 bullets of work related duties. Winner will receive a certificate and coin from the Chief's Group.
- The Chief's Group Steak Sale was a huge success. Thank you to all who partook in the delicious steak lunches. All the proceeds go right back to families here on base who need it. Pro orgs need to help each other out so if you are in need of monetary assistance for an event, seek out your fellow pro orgs; we are if you need us.
- 22 Aug will be the Chief's Group Golf Tournament. The event is \$50 but we give out free beer and great prizes.
- Go out and socialize AFSA. If you care about your legislation, healthcare benefits, retiree benefits, volunteering, etc. you should be a part of this organization.

First Sergeant's Update: (On base housing residents) If you know you are getting orders, but just haven't received the hard copy yet, you must let housing know because they need notification 30 days in advance.

TOP 3 Update: No new update.

NCO Council Update: Meeting next Thursday the 17th. As of now they are currently discussing plans for the NCO Induction ceremony coming up.

First Four/Dorm Council Update: FALCON is coming up and they are looking for facilitators. They are looking to host Dorm Olympics again this year. It's still in the planning stages so please be on the lookout for more details.

Other Business: No new updates.

SSgt Brown adjourned the meeting at 1226.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 12 August 2014.

//SIGNED//

NATASHA N. THOMAS, SrA, USAF
Secretary, Chapter 872

~~Approved/Disapproved.~~

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NICHOLE R BROWN, SSgt, USAF
President, Chapter 872