

AFSA Chapter 872

14 May 2014

General Membership Meeting Minutes



Meeting was called to order at 1132 by SSgt Brown

Preamble was read by MSgt Samson

36 members were in attendance; 8 were first time attendees and 0 last time attendees. A quorum was determined.

We had a guest speaker: BG (ret) Mike Callan. He had these words to say:

Thank you for the invite. I'd like to talk to you about how our AF has changed from the youngest airmen to the oldest. Voting for a Democratic President means we are refocusing attention to national security. Refocusing on domestic programs takes money away for national security. The DoD budget is going from 600B to 525B which equals a reduced force. We want to learn our lesson from Vietnam and not be reduced to a hollow force. The stats are: About 25,000 Airmen, 9,000 civilian, 75,000 Army, 30,000 Navy, 13,000 Marines will be cut. The National Security (NS) document says how we approach national security. The NMS (National Military Security) document says how we will execute National Security. We will have more of a diminished presence in Europe. As far as Putin, are we really deterring him from going into Ukraine?! The Pacific will always be more of a focus than Europe. There's a continued interest in China/Korea (PACAF), more so now than in the past China will be big because they are behind the cyber-attacks. They want to mimic us so they create planes/ships etc. just like us.

Preserve Core Competencies:

Air Power: Air superiority because that what we do

Rapid Global Mobility: Global Reach because our nation depends on it.

Med Evac/Air Refueling: Tankers are needed crucially from delivering supplies to fueling the planes going into the fight.

Cyber: It's going to get increased attention in the future. 1B4 AFSC is looking to increase.

Strategy to make a career in the AF: Make yourself marketable and remain competitive. Know your job and remember job performance. Education and Involvement are also necessary. Feel good about yourself by what you give rather than what you take.

Legislative Update: SMSgt Jacob Sanabia

- The top Generals and Chief said it was OK if they cut our benefits but the House has made the decision that BAH/COLA/Pay will not be cut. Good job contacting your representatives and getting your voice heard.
- There will be a legislative committee put together. So far there are 4 division POCs so if you're interested in a particular topic of legislation, and would like to be a part of the committee, please contact SMSgt Jacob Sanabia.

Financial Report: MSgt (Ret) Thyne

- Current balance is TBD, waiting on updates from recent Dining Out

Membership: MSgt Lincoln Ratliff & MSgt Bernie Ratliff

- In April our Chapter recruited 26 new members and 16 retentions. In April Mr. Zalesky had 12 recruits.

- 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.
- If you need to have your AFSA membership transferred, please see the MSgt Ratliff.

Ways and Means: SrA Jordan Wentzel

- No new updates

Plans/Programs: SMSgt Lee Ayers

- **Meals on Wheels:** April we had 22 volunteers and delivered 167 meals for a total of 16 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 April, we had 24 volunteers pack 100 boxes, totaling 34 volunteer hours. Next event will be 17 May 0815; We help pack care packages at the O' Fallon Methodist Church on Highway 50. every 4th Saturday of the month. The new POC is TSgt Larry Adams and the alternate POC is MSgt Amber Callahan .
- **Missouri State Veterans Home:** For April we had 10 events, with a total of 27 volunteers who donated 265 hours of their time. In May we have one event on 26 May, Memorial Day Tribute, several volunteers and attendees needed. Please contact SrA Nikita Hudson if you are interested in any of the upcoming events for March to plan ahead.
- **Mississippi Valley Blood Drives:** The April blood drive collected 30 units collected. Thank you to the 2 volunteers for a total of 6 volunteer hours. The next blood drive will be 22 May at AFNIC. We are looking for an alternate POC, if interested contact MSgt Thomas Ricketson
- **The Mission Continues:** No updates
- **Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP):** The Easter Egg Hunt and Dinner held 16 April was very successful and fun for all. We had 32 volunteers for a total of 126 volunteer hours. Thanks to the 41 children and 170 total family members for coming out... We are looking for 30 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 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.
- **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 Syzemore.
- **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 Syzemore.

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

- 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

Reserve/Guard Affairs:

- No Update

Retiree Affairs: SMSgt (Ret) Rebecca Gable:

- VA benefits: up to \$100 reimbursed for tutoring.

New Business:

- Big thanks to MSgt Gates and everyone who helped with the Inter Service Dining out. It was a great success. Nothing but good things was heard about it.

Chief's Group Update: Performer of the Month Packages was due by COB 8 April. It's now 5 bullets of work related duties. Winner will receive a certificate and coin from the Chief's Group. The new 375th Command Chief is Command Chief Master Sergeant Wesley Mathias, so if you see him in passing make him feel welcomed.

First Sergeant's Update: In May there will be a First Shirt Symposium held. Please be on the lookout for more details.

TOP 3 Update: The executive committee for Top 3 will be changing. Elections will be held 18 April.

NCO Council Update: Meeting March 20th. Elections will be taking place. Please inquire with TSgt Eads for more details.

First Four/Dorm Council Update: 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 Samson adjourned the meeting at 1235.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 10 June 2014 at 1130 in the Dining Facility POW/MIA Room.

//SIGNED//

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

Approved/~~Disapproved:~~

//SIGNED//

JENNIFER D. SAMSON, MSgt, USAF
Vice President, Chapter 872