

AFSA Chapter 872

12 Nov 2013

General Membership Meeting Minutes



Meeting was called to order at 1132 by MSgt Amber Callahan

Preamble was read by SSgt Jennifer Samson

29 members were in attendance; 3 were first time attendees. A quorum was determined.

Legislative Update: MSgt Terran Jones

- Legislative Awareness Event was a success. Check out the Mega Vote App which sends email notifications for how your congressman votes in Congress.

Financial Report: MSgt Callahan on behalf of MSgt (Ret) Thyne

- Current balance is ~\$7,513.05

Membership: MSgt Arlene Lee & MSgt Chad Lee

- In October our Chapter recruited 46 new members, 6 retainees. For the year so far, we have recruited 388 new members and 167 retained. We are #1 in our Division for recruits. Our goal is 500 recruits for the year. Thank you.

Ways and Means: SSgt William Ruble

- The Scottrade Center events for this month was canceled. The next event will be in December.

Plans/Programs: MSgt Esmeralda Aharon

- **Meals on Wheels:** Next event will be 18-21 Nov. Please visit the AFSA webpage or SharePoint site to sign up. Please contact MSgt Terricka Rush for additional information on the program. Currently looking for a replacement so if you are interested please contact either MSgt Rush or MSgt Aharon if you are interested.
- **Caring Hearts:** We help pack care packages at the O' Fallon Methodist Church on Highway 50. There are usually about 150 boxes per month. Next event will be 23 Nov at 0815. Additionally the program is looking for volunteers to help pick up the food items, 0500 in Mascoutah. We are currently looking for a replacement representative so if you are interested please contact MSgt Daniel Endris at Daniel.Endris@us.af.mil.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** Individuals can volunteer throughout the month at the Habitat Restore. This is on hold for the winter due to the cold weather. Please contact TSgt Brian Pettaway at Brian.Pettaway@us.af.mil for more information.
- **Missouri State Veterans Home:** The next event will be 14 Nov for the Thanksgiving meal.
- **Mississippi Valley Blood Drives:** We collected 24 units of blood in October which was able to save 84 lives. That brings us to 100 units for the quarter. Our next blood drive will be 21 Nov at USTRANSCOM.
- **The Mission Continues:** Last weekend we partnered with Target at St. Louis Walnut Grove Elementary School. We had 33 volunteers from base and 200 volunteers total. The next event will be 23 Nov, 9-12:30 in Madison, IL cleaning up a thrift store. Look for more information to come.
- **Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP):** Our next event will be 15 Dec and it will be a fall festival at the Youth Center for special needs families. Please be on the look out for more information to come.

- **Boots on the lane:** On 20 December there will be a volunteer bowling event where we will pair up with veterans here on base and go bowling.
- **Hospice for Vets:** This is a possible new program where we will visit veterans at the Gentiva Hospice in St Louis. We're looking for a possible POC to coordinate this program..

Communications: MSgt Andrea Cogar

- Please send MSgt Cogar your pictures from AFSA events as well as any ideas on how to make the website better... and like us on Facebook to keep up with chapter happenings. Please send MSgt Cogar any ideas on what improvements could be made to the websites.
- 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 Halloween Party was a success as well as the LARP-A Que. Between both the First Four and Dorm Council there will be a gift wrapping fundraiser at Fairview Heights Mall which will run from Black Friday up until the week before Christmas. Still looking for volunteers. Please contact SrA Matheny and SrA Szymore to volunteer. Also, they are looking for volunteers for the Chaplain Dinner.

Reserve/Guard Affairs:

- 932nd Induction Ceremony is this weekend. Thank you for your support.

Retiree Affairs: SMSgt (Ret) Steve Zaleski:

- 1.5% COLA for retirees. Chained CPI determines how COLA is allotted. It's taking an unusually long time to acquire VA disability benefits once they are applied for, so start on the process while you are still in the service. Congress is well aware of this.

New Business:

- Elections will be held 10 Dec at the next General meeting. We will be voting on and adopting a new stading law for the by-laws which allows the secretary and treasurer to be elected in. However, for the upcoming elections, those positions will be elected in.
- Div 3 PAC (27-30 Mar 14) – We will be hosting next years conference at the Drury Inn off exit 16 on I64. We are looking for volunteers as well as a Chairman for the Hospitality committee and the Banquet committee. The Planning meeting for this event will be Wednesday 20 Nov 1100 in the Enlisted Lounge at the Scott Club. POC is MSgt Callahan.

Chief's Group Update:

- No update

First Sergeant's Update:

- First Sergeants Symposium: This symposium is to recruit/prepare members for First Sergeant duty. It provides insight into what 1st Shirt duty entails.
- USO Baskets: Get with First Sergeant if you know anyone who needs a basket.
- Caring Hearts Food Boxes: There will be approximately 65 boxes for Nov & Dec for members on base who need them. The next Caring Hearts Food Drive is 23 Nov
- Angle Tree: The Angel tree is now set up at the BX. This programs sponsors children in need of assistance

TOP 3 Update: 15 Nov will be the next meeting.

NCO Council Update:

- Vigil run: It was very was successful event. We sold out of shirts and have a waiting list them. 125 miles logged, 450 runners logged.

First Four/Dorm Council Update:

- LARP-A Que was very successful. Airman had a good time with Pugil Sticks, Sumo Wrestling and delicious food.

Other Business:

- MSgt Samson is selling AFSA T-Shirts for \$8 so if you would like to purchase one please see her.

MSgt Callahan adjourned the meeting at 1217.

NEXT MEETING: Membership appreciation and elections is 10 December 2013 at 1130 in the Scott Club Enlisted Lounge. Please come have lunch on us!

//SIGNED//

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

Approved/~~Disapproved.~~

//SIGNED//

Amber J. Callahan, MSgt, USAF
President, Chapter 872