



AFSA Chapter 872

June 21, 2016

General Membership Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 1134 by SMSgt Mary Belt

Preamble was read by SMSgt Keith Closs

26 members were in attendance; 4 were first time attendees. We farewelled CMSgt Crowder. A quorum was determined.

Innvocation: MSgt Esmeralda Aharon

Financial Report: Mr. Michael Thyne, Treasurer, absent

- \$10,690 is the current account balance
- We also earned \$165.00 from the burrito sell we held with Top 3

Ways and Means: SMSgt Belt (SrA Robert Niebauer III, absent)

- We earned \$649.40 at the Scott Trade Center events. We have made \$6,300 so far from the Scott Trade Center and our goal for the year is \$8,000.
- New dates for events will be sent out as we get them.
- Volunteers must be 21 years old and each event takes approximately 5 hours, if we have enough volunteers we can break that down into shifts. We host 2 booths and each booth needs about 10 volunteers. You also have to accomplish the computer based training (CBT) at <http://levy.restaurant.org/> password is LEVY.

Membership: MSgt Evan Friend, Chair

- If you would like to sign up to co-host a recruitment event or be part of the membership committee please contact MSgt Friend.
- Our overall retention has dropped but USAA has agreed to pay 1 year memberships for all ALS graduates to become AFSA members. All ALS graduates have to sign up on their own, so we don't get recruitment credit. Recruitment credit gives us more back on the membership in a monetary value amount. This money goes towards recruitment events, the Vigil Run, and etc.
- Current recruitment dates are as follows:
 - New Comer's Brief, Airman Family Readiness Center, Every Tuesday, 0700, pamphlet pass out only
 - FTAC Luncheon, 375 WG Basement, 1130, 22 Jun 16
 - ALS Luncheon, ALS Bldg, 1130, 28 Jul, 6 Oct, & 23 NovDates for SNCO, NCO, and Amn Enhancement are TBD and will be published at a later date along with more dates for FTAC, ALS and other recruitment chances.
- If you need to change your AFSA membership, renew or sign up please contact MSgt Friend at DSN: 576-6280, email eva.friend@us.af.mil

Legislative Update: TSgt Joshua Hite & TSgt Ben Weaver

- Please keep in mind that only 16% of representatives are veterans and are voting on our military legislative items.
- TSgt Weaver also asked who had heard of the new bill that proposed cutting BAH by household and nearly every hand went up, however when he asked people who had contacted their representative, only a handful of members said they had. Then TSgt Weaver gave a Voter Voice tutorial. To show how easy it is to use the website. <https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/home>
- TSgt Hite noted that the bill was passed by the Senate with 85 in favor of the bill and only 17 not in favor of the bill.
- MSgt McIntosh brought up that the petition.whitehouse.org was published to the AFSA Facebook page for people to sign and resend out on Facebook as a way to get non-memebers of AFSA involved. She also noted the other bills on floor that members need to be aware of such as the House quietly passing H.R. 3016 which includes a

provision cutting 50 percent of the basic allowance for housing (BAH) to dependent children who had the Post-9/11 GI Bill transferred to them. The money "saved" in these cuts is already being proposed to be used to enhance other Veteran and military family programs. While the bill includes a grandfathering clause for those already transferred as well as for transfers within 180 days of the bill's effective date, benefits transferred beyond the 180 days will be subject to the cut should this bill pass the Senate and eventually become law.

Allowing Congress to take this kind of action sets a very dangerous precedent. If the House and Senate feel free to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill as a piggy bank for other programs, there is nothing stopping them from continuing to whittle away at one of the most important benefits for new veterans...and to repeat the practice in other Quality of Life issues in the future.

Act now by sending a letter to your elected officials telling them how you feel. <https://www.votervoices.net/AFSA/Campaigns/46234/Respond>

➤ **Plans/Programs: MSgt Chad Warner**

- Looking for new programs chairs to replace others. If you have program that is an interest to you, please volunteer.
 - **Meals on Wheels:** We still need members for the 22 June route.
 - **Caring Hearts:** No Updates
 - **Missouri State Veterans Home:** We had 3 volunteers with 20 hours out last month, this month we have 11 volunteers with 46 hours signed up for this month. There is still a Rascal game on the 22nd and a Picnic to sign up for as well. See the AFSA website for more events, dates and times.
 - **Mississippi Valley Blood Drives:** 20 pints/80 lives were saved in our last blood drive at AFNIC. Our next blood drive is Thursday 23 June at the AMC building, bldg. 1600.
 - **Habitat for Humanity:** We have an event on 25 June to tarp the outside of foundation and install insulation on the inside starting at 0800. Please contact TSgt Chaney-Johnson at 779-0055.
 - **The Mission Continues:** No Updates
 - **Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP):** No Updates
 - **Hospice for Vets:** No Updates
 - **Camp Hope:** No Updates

Communications: MSgt Jennifer McIntosh (TSgt Don Morrell & SSgt Joshua Zahner, absent)

- The next newsletter will be out in September, please send stories and pictures for the chapter newsletter to MSgt Jennifer McIntosh, jennifer.mcintosh@us.af.mil and MSgt Esmeralda Aharon, esmeralda.aharon@us.af.mil
- Please submit any photos of all AFSA events, you can upload them directly to the AFSA Facebook account listed above. So they can all be posted to the AFSA 872 Website.
- Our AFSA website has been updated and our main focus since we can reach retirees, veterans, and other members of the community. If you have any feedback, please let us know so we can work on making all the sites better.
- 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/>

Family Matters: SMSgt Belt (TSgt Erin Clark, Absent)

- We are looking into providing a free pool party, or a movie night to members and their families as a way to say thank you to our members. We will publish those dates as soon as we can, but you have any other ideas or want to see a certain movie please let TSgt Erin Clark know. Thank you!

TOP 3 Update: MSgt Brian Castillo, Vice President

- Next meeting will be on 15 July at 1500 for SNCOs and MSgt selects. Guest speaker will be there to discuss the new deployment process using the PDPT link.
- Top 3 has held mentorship sessions and if you would like to participate in other ones please contact MSgt Davie at AMC.

NCO Council: SSgt Meyers

- On 22 July the NCO council will hold a Golf Tournament and cost will be \$50 per person.
- Storytellers will be held on 26 July at 1500 with food. Please contact SSgt Monroe if you would like to be a storyteller, if you would like to attend please be on the look out for the RSVP to sign up.
- Next meeting is 23 June at 1530 in Scott Club with half price membership (regularly \$10 for the year, only \$5 at this meeting).

Chief's Group Update: CMSgt Derrick Crowder

- Chief's Group is selling tickets for the steak dinner this weekend, if you need a ticket please call CMSgt Crowder.
- This is CMSgt Crowder's last meeting so he imparted on us to become educated on AFSA in order to speak about AFSA at different events. There are 4 things you should talk about at recruitment because they relate to almost everyone in the Air Force: pay, free education, retirement benefits, and health care. If you do some light research on these you can tailor them to any audience and get more people interested in AFSA.

New Business:

SMSgt Belt opened the floor for discussion:

- SMSgt Belt updated us that Ft Leonard Wood, our satellite chapter has garnered 50 members and are hosting a 5K during 4th of July weekend. If you are out that way, you might want to sign up.
- SSgt Ransom would like to see if there are volunteers to keep score for shooters. Please contact him for event details. Expected to have about \$500 raised for AFSA.
- MSgt Aharon from the chaplain's office brought up the idea of AFSA hosting a dorm dinner. The chapel gives us \$250 to host the dinner. MSgt Warner will take this back to Plans and Programs and see if we can host one towards the end of July. If you would like to see if your unit would like to host one, please contact the chaplain's office to sign up. Dinners are scheduled for every Wednesday in the Mascoutah Day Room for 50-70 Airmen.
- AFSA might have a name change to incorporate all members in the DoD. This is because the AFSA numbers are at 100,000 total and we can do much better with Congress if we have more numbers and the entire DoD. We would be renamed to Armed Forces Services Association. The name change will be voted on in August at the PAC and if agreed to, the new name will be effective 1 January 2017.
- If you have never been to a Professional Airman's Conference (PAC), please consider attending it. It has good leadership seminars and the members that you rub elbows with are on the top echelons of our community. This is a PTDY so you will need approval from your Commander to attend. The link is also posted to the AFSA Facebook account. Dates are 20-24 August 2016, to register or for more information, see the site below:
https://members.hqafsa.org/Shared_Content/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=16FCONVN
- A free raffle was held for members. Members won AFSA shirts. The committee intends to hold raffles at their meetings with different prizes for members and possible one for non-members.

Absent with no updates:

- **Awards and Recognition:** Absent SMSgt (Ret) Suzie Signore-Hayes
- **Retiree Affairs:** Absent (SMSgt (Ret.) Larry Miller & Mr. Steven Zalesky
- **First Sergeant's Update:** Absent
- **First Four/Dorm Council Update/Airman's Activities Coordinator:** SrA Cardwell
- **Reserve/Guard Affairs:** Absent (TSgt Christopher Gaines, Chair)
- **CGO Council:** Absent

SMSgt Belt adjourned the meeting at 1233.

NEXT MEETING scheduled for July 12, 2016 at 1130 in the Dining Facility POW/MIA Room.

JENNIFER M. McINTOSH, MSgt, USAF
Secretary, Chapter 872

Approved/~~Disapproved.~~

MARY C. BELT, SMSgt, USAF
President, Chapter 872