

AFSA Chapter 872

13 November 2014

General Membership Meeting Minutes



Meeting was called to order at 1131 by SSgt Brown

Preamble was read by SMSgt Ayers

22 members were in attendance; 3 were first time attendees and 0 last time attendees. A quorum was determined.

Presentation: Wounded Warrior Project – Mr. Brent Bergheger

- Chapter 872 voted last month to donate \$1,000 to the Wounded Warrior Project. Mr. Brent Bergheger accepted the donation of \$1,000 to the Wounded Warrior Project at today's meeting. For the last 2 years Mr. Berheger and his daughter host the Hero Run in Mascoutah, and all proceeds are donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Legislative Update: MSgt Timothy Carter

- The newly elected Congress will be taking on their roles on 3 January 2015.
- The promised Veteran's Choice Card, which allows some Veterans to receive care outside of the VA, is being mailed out in three phases, with the first phase beginning 5 November. The final phase of mailing is expected to be completed in January 2015.
- HQ AFSA is fighting for the 1.8% pay raise. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) historically has two versions that eventually merge via a Conference between the two Chambers of Congress. Both versions include a pay raise for the military, but the House version (H.R. 4435) follows existing law by tying it to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) and grants an increase of 1.8%. The Senate version (S. 2289) which only cleared the Armed Services Committee and has yet to pass a full floor vote, actually specifies a 1% raise, as does the President's budget.
- CAPWIZ! CAPWIZ! CAPWIZ! We cannot stress enough how important CAPWIZ is to you and those around you wearing the uniform or retired from wearing the uniform . . . your voice matters! Contact your elected officials about issues important to Airmen, Veterans, and Families via CAPWIZ.
<<http://www.capwiz.com/hqafsa/home/>>

Financial Report: MSgt (Ret) Thyne

- Approximately \$7,906.30 in the account.

Membership: TSgt Cale Hollingsworth

- In September our Chapter recruited 17 new members and 15 retentions. Total membership for our Chapter is 2,105.
- 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

- Upcoming Scott Trade Center opportunities – Hockey season has begun. AFSA has a volunteer opportunity for a game on 11 December, and will have a booth (or two) during the Garth Brooks concert 4-5 Dec
- AFSA can pass event to other private orgs/booster clubs – orgs must have trained stand leads (requires working two events.)

Plans/Programs: SMSgt Lee Ayers

- **Meals on Wheels:** In October we had 26 volunteers and delivered 177 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 October, we had 35 volunteers pack 92 boxes, totaling 31 volunteer hours. Next event will be 22 November at 0815 and members are encouraged to donate plastics bags to the program. 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 October we had 4 events, with a total of 14 volunteers who donated 84 hours of their time. In November we have events scheduled and will need 126 volunteers. Please contact SrA Nikita Hudson if you are interested in volunteering.
- **Mississippi Valley Blood Drives:** The September blood drive collected 21 units, 63 lives saved. Thank you to the 4 volunteers for a total of 12 volunteer hours. The next blood drive will be 20 November at USTC. Please contact MSgt Mary Belt for more information.
- **EFMP Fall Family Festival:** The next scheduled event is the Open House with Santa on 13 December. For more information contact the POC TSgt Devone Cherry. Last month's event was the Fall Family Festival on 4 October. We had 42 volunteers who donated 168 hours of their time, to 18 activities with 184 family members.

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: No new update.

Reserve/Guard Affairs: No new updates.

Retiree Affairs: No new updates.

New Business:

- AFSA's 5th Annual Veteran's Vigil was held 7-8 November at the base track near the James Gym. There were approximately 310 runners/walkers and did 500 laps- that 125 miles ran/walked in 24 hours. Thank you to the POC's that made the event a success, along with the volunteers that contributed. Our Honoree, TSgt William 'Tim' Wymore was more than appreciative of the event that we held that honored ALL Veterans, past and Present.
- The next AFSA Sponsored Professional Development workshop will be held on 9-10 Dec. The seminar covers bullet writing, grading award packages, and the new Comprehensive Airman's Feedback form. The intent is to teach bullet writing and how to grade packages. Class size is limited to 30 students. Contact SMSgt Nicholas Sinnott to sign up.
- TSgt Marianne Deaton, AFSPC CYSS and Meals onWheels volunteer, requested if Chapter 872 could support the Meals on Wheels Program by donating approximately \$60 for new coolers for the program. \$150 was voted upon to assist the Wheels on Meals Program with new coolers.

- Mr. Thyne, Education Center, offered to store all AFSA items from events that we sponsor to be stored in a storage closet at the Education Center, where he works, and we would have availability to those items when needed at one central location.
- MSgt Callahan, 3rd MRS, brought it to the membership's attention that there are some local schools looking for donated coats . . . slightly used/good shape or new. Details to soon follow with more information.
- We have a few POW/MIA coins left for sale. They are \$10 each. See SSgt Brown.
- New AFSA Shirts are now available for \$8 each. Older style shirts are on sale for \$6 each. Golf Shirts will be coming soon; ladies and men sizes will be available. Approximate cost will be at least \$20.

Chief's Group Update: No new updates.

First Sergeant's Update: No new updates.

TOP 3 Update:

- The Top3 has a one-on-one mentoring program similar to the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. The program is 95 members strong, but majority are SNCO mentors. The group is seeking mentees to join the program. Please contact SMSgt Ayers for more information.

NCO Council Update: No new updates

First Four/Dorm Council Update: No new update.

SSgt Brown adjourned the meeting at 1230.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9 DECEMBER 2014.

//SIGNED//

DENNAYE A SIDNEY, A1C, USAF
Secretary, Chapter 872

Approved/~~Disapproved.~~

//SIGNED//

NICHOLE R BROWN, SSgt, USAF
President, Chapter 872