

The Professional Organization of Choice for Air Force Enlisted



AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION
BUD ANDREWS
 GATEWAY CHAPTER 872



Jan - Mar 07 First Quarter Newsletter

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News From the Council

President: SMSgt Steven Zalesky

First and foremost I want to thank the volunteers and Chapter Executive Council for all their work to make the chapter active in our communities. While our organization is the Air Force Sergeants Association, our common bond goes much deeper. Our mission is to support Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve enlisted members both active and retired. Our chapter has goals to get even more active in the local community and we need your support to make this happen. I ask you to dig deep and find the time to give back to the community and help strengthen our chapter by getting more active in 2007, and together we can achieve even greater successes.

Last year, our association achieved its goal of recruiting 20,000 new members. Our chapter set a goal to recruit 400 new members. We came close and recruited 317 members. I am happy to say that with the power of our recruiting team, led by our Membership Trustee, SMSgt Al Lewis, we can do better and set a new goal to recruit 500 new members. This is where we need your help!! We need every member to recruit one member; with your support we can double the size of our membership. Recruiting does not stop there; our association continues to lose members by not renewing

their memberships before it expires. To renew your membership please wait until our chapter mails you a renew letter. This will ensure our chapter receives credit for your membership.

We have many continuing challenges on Capitol Hill with the 110th Congress. Our Legislative Trustee, SMSgt Gary Swanson, has been keeping our chapter informed with weekly updates on possible changes to our *Quality of Life* benefits. Key things to remember: AFSA is working on bills to enhance our benefits to protect and improve dormitory housing, education programs and making sure our family members are being taken care of.

As your Chapter President, I'd like to thank all of you for this wonderful opportunity to serve you. I look forward to working with all of you to make this the best chapter in AFSA. Thank You for maintaining your membership in AFSA. Because of your membership, AFSA continues to employ full time lobbyists and staff to protect the interests of Air Force enlisted personnel. A strong AFSA membership equates to a strong lobbying voice on the hill.

We challenge you to do more than attend meetings; we challenge you to **get involved!** Become a part of an organization that works for you!

Upcoming Events

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
5th - 1130 Exec Council Meeting 12th - 1130 General Member Meeting 20th - JROTC Chesterfield and O'Fallon HS 26th - 1500 CCAF Graduation 27th - JROTC Lafayette HS 1200 AFSA Spring Bowl-a-thon 28th - JROTC Normandy HS	1st- Ice Cream Social 2nd - JROTC Dupo HS 3rd - 1130 Exec Council Meeting 4th - JROTC U. City HS 10th - General Member Meeting 11th - JROTC St. Louis Univ. 15th - Quarterly Reports Due 17th - ALS Graduation	7th - Exec Council Meeting 14th - General Member Meeting 28th - ALS Graduation

News from the Council

Senior Advisor: SMSgt Kevin D. Moon

Our chapter had a very exciting year in 2006. We recruited over 350 members, won Chapter Website of the Year at the Airman's Professional Conference/ AFSA Convention in Reno, and raised over 6,000 dollars to support local schools and other base private organizations.

However, there is even more to accomplish in 2007. We are privileged to serve a very dynamic and diverse professional community like Scott AFB. Community efforts supporting our troops and local ALS have increased, and we look to do even more with local schools this year.

We look forward to your support as our chapter continues to set the example for private organization community involvement. Check out the next AFSA meeting and get involved!

Membership: SMSgt Albert Lewis

Chapter Recruiting Goals:

- 500 members this year
- Chapter Retention Goals = 200 members this year
- Recognize recruiter of the month at every meeting
- Have at least 3 chapter members recruit 100 or more

- *As of 29 Mar 07 we have 75 new members (16 to be input) and 25 retentions so far this year!*

Upcoming Membership Events:

- Airman Appreciation Ice Cream Social
1 May 07, 1100-1300 located at the Commissary and the Dining Facility

- Chapter will help sponsor a cookout during the Dorm Olympics in May 07!

Legislative: SMSgt Gary Swanson

A career in the Air Force provides opportunities and benefits for each of us that would not be available in the civilian workforce. Many of these benefits were established to offset the rigors of military life and without them, it would be impossible for this country to maintain a high caliber, all volunteer force. At one time or another we have all wondered why the Air Force doesn't offer even better benefits than the ones we currently enjoy. Unfortunately, Air Force leadership doesn't always have a say in what can and cannot be provided in the way of benefits, this responsibility lies with the Congress of the United States IAW the Constitution. Our country is a representative democracy and if your elected officials aren't aware that a piece of legislation is important to you, they will probably not take any action to support that bill. Here are some things that you can do to let your elected officials know what is important to you:

- *Belong to a professional organization that supports your ideals.* Air Force Sergeants Association provides that voice on Capitol Hill to let our elected officials know what is important to the enlisted force.

- *Contact your elected officials on a regular basis for issues that are important to you and your family.* Let your elected officials know that you are a member of Air Force Sergeants Association so when your congressman talks to the AFSA lobbyist he knows our group is active and attentive to political matters.

- *Let your elected officials know that your vote is tied to their efforts to support what is important to you.*

- *Take the time to thank your elected officials when they support legislation that supports you.*

- *Spread the word on issues that need to be worked through Congress.* Get your coworkers, family, parents, siblings and civilian friends involved. Nothing hits home more than deluging Congress with letters of support for an issue.

- *Don't buy into apathy by thinking you can't make a difference.* Every letter, email, phone call to your elected officials is important and can help pass important legislation. Each month has approximately 720 hours and most of us will spend 50-100 hours of that month watching TV. Do yourself a favor and use one of those TV hours and write your elected officials every month. If you won't do it for yourself, do it for your family.

- **Stay AFSA** and encourage others to join. If every Air Force enlisted member, active, reserve, guard, and retiree were a member of AFSA we would be unstoppable. If you make a career out of the Air Force, your AFSA dues will be repaid many times over through improved benefits.



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News from the Council

(continued)

Ways and Means: *TSgt Christopher Edwards*

2007 looks to be an exciting year for AFSA fundraising. The goal for this year is simple; raise more money than last year. And, we can do it as long as we have the unified support of our members. With more volunteer support, we can raise more money for our chapter. The more money we raise, the more money we will be able to donate to those worthy causes like the SNCO/NCO Induction ceremonies and care packages for those deployed to Iraq.

There are numerous fundraisers already planned for this year. Included are AFSA's standard fundraisers, i.e. bowling tournaments and the Air Show booth. But, plans are in the works for more car washes and the possibility of working concerts at the Scottrade Center, as well as many others. And, these aren't your typical boring fundraisers.

We always make sure our fundraisers are placed with good times and fun. So, if you are looking for a way to make an impact within AFSA, then look no further than volunteering to assist in or even run a fundraising event.

- Next Fundraising Event:

- 2007 AFSA Spring Cleaning Bowling Tournament
- 27 April 07, 1200, SAFB Bowling Center

Chapter Highlights

2006 AFSA Annual Awards:

Airman:

SrA Rendi Everhart , 375th DS

NCO:

SSgt Julie DePreist, 375th AES

SNCO:

MSgt Ty Everson, AMC AIS/A2

Member:

SMSgt Danny Storey, 932 AW

Our award winners will now go on to compete at the AFSA Division 8 Convention in Kansas City. They will compete against chapter award winners from 7 other chapters representing over 8,500 members. Good luck to all the nominees!

Around the Base

Airman Leadership School: *SMSgt Robert Castellano - Flight Chief, CMSAF Bud Andrews ALS*

AFSA now sponsors a 'Chili Luncheon' with each Airman Leadership School Class. This includes providing chili, drinks and all the accouterments needed to enjoy this luncheon that is a 'huge' hit with the students. Our local AFSA chapter's direct involvement with this luncheon, grad day congratulations and evening presentation of the 'Distinguished Graduate' (sponsored by AFSA) provides visible display of the importance AFSA places on enlisted PME and is a great example of the kind of involvement AFSA has within our military community!

AFSA teams up with the ALS quarterly to go visit and thank the veterans at the St Louis Veterans Home. Approximately 60 military personnel and their families attend each visit and the feedback received is rewarding and the Veterans Home residents are visibly most appreciative. Yet another example on the impact our AFSA chapter has within our community. Each visit is scheduled and advertised approximately two weeks prior to each visit.



Photo courtesy of ALS.

Around the Base

(continued)



Photo courtesy of Tony Williams.

**Interservice
Dining Out**

2007

“One Team, One Fight!”



Photo courtesy of Tony Williams.

AFSA Chapter 872 is a proud sponsor of the Annual Interservice Dining Out!

Other News

Overseas Donations

POC: SSgt Andrea Shircliff - Communications Trustee

Thank you for your generous donations from the first collection of toiletry items and Valentines Day. We have received several comments back from the troops thanking us for the donations. The 932nd also donated Easter items that were mailed out by AFSA. Donations for troops in Iraq are still being collected. Please try to bring items to our monthly AFSA meeting. I will be collecting them and coordinating with Mrs. Dearduff to mail the packages.

