

AFA Florida President Goals for 2015-2016

On October 1, 2015, as I begin my first year as AFA State President, here are the goals I have set for myself and for AFA Florida. Florida has been recognized as the Outstanding State several times and that is due to the efforts of the individual Florida Chapters and members. As Dann Mattiza said this past year, the State President is the person who accepts the award but it is an award recognizing all Florida State members.

1. During the first year, I will make every effort to **meet with each Chapter one time**. If a Chapter has an upcoming event, please invite me and I will see if it is possible to attend. Also let me know when you have Chapter meetings and if I cannot attend an "event" I will try to make a meeting. When I visit, I will ask to talk about the goals listed below.
2. The #1 goal of all AFA is to increase membership. At the National Convention, the big focus was to **increase the membership of Total Force Airmen**, which encompasses Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, DOD Civilians, and Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Larry Spencer, the new AFA President, has made this his #1 priority and is firmly committed to this goal. He recently sent his recruitment message to all AFA members. He has stated that if anyone received push back from base JAGs, we need to notify him ASAP and he will weigh in to remove that obstacle. I am asking each Chapter, as best they can, to look for innovative ways to achieve this goal. I will personally be doing my part with the Waterman Chapter. I have scheduled a briefing with the MacDill AFB Wing Commander and Senior Enlisted the end of October to begin the process of convincing MacDill airmen that AFA is relevant to them and warrants becoming an AFA member.
3. I would like to see AFA Florida as a whole and individual Chapters **support AFA's Wounded Airman Program**. At the National Convention, Tom Gwaltney gave an excellent Briefing on Wounded Airman. The PowerPoint can be found on the AFA Website. At the top of the AFA Home Page, select Field Leaders. Scroll down and on the far left are all the PowerPoints for briefings given at the National Convention. I found out at the National Convention that Invictus (British version of Wounded Warrior) will be holding their **Invictus Games** at Disney's Wide World of Sports from May 8-12, 2016. The Invictus Games are Prince Harry's chief charitable project. I have already told the AFA National staff working Wounded Airman that AFA Florida wants to play a major role in supporting this event. There are no details yet but I hope Chapters and AAS/SW units will support this effort.
4. I would like to see Florida as the leader with **interaction with Government Officials** and their staffs. In the past, Florida has led AFA with this type of activity and I would like to see Florida be the AFA showcase again. Bruce Fouraker has agreed to be the State VP for Government Relations and we plan to work together to come up with some kind of plan.
5. Each Chapter should start looking at their active membership to identify individuals who are candidates for the **Emerging Leader Program**. My personal experience is that I did not really understand the Air Force Association until I began to attend the National Convention. It allowed me to see how the local Chapter activities fit into the overall AFA objectives. As the very least, given that AFA Florida partially subsidizes Convention Registration for all attendees and approved a larger subsidy for Chapter members attending the **National Convention** for the first time, I would like to see Florida have 100% of allocated delegates in attendance in September 2016.

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6. AFA Florida is recognized for their outstanding efforts in **support of AFA Education Programs** and I have no doubt that will continue. Two areas I would like to try and expand. First, I would like to have **CyberPatriot CyberCamps** in Florida. AFA is looking to expand to 100 camps this year so if you applied last year and were not selected, please try again this year. These camps are usually tied to school, often Community Colleges, which awards degrees in the cyber area. The key is for a Chapter to find such a school and convince them that holding a CyberCamp becomes a recruiting tool for them. AFA National provides all the curriculum, or if they are willing to pay for it, AFA CyberPatriot staff can occasionally come teach the camp. Second, I would like Chapters to expand into the **StellarXplorers** area. Even if you cannot find a school for this year's competition, you could lay the groundwork for next year. Previously, I sent out a list of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) schools in Florida. I ask for Chapters to do a little research and find out if PLTW schools in your area teach the Aerospace elective course. If they do, the course had a block which teaches space and uses the same software used in the competition, which means they have a teacher and students at least familiar with the software. Also, CAP has an education lesson on satellites which also uses the same software.