

**Air Force Association (Florida)
2017 State Convention
Bay Palms Golf Course Facility Meeting Room
MacDill AFB, Florida
July 15, 2017**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, Introductions and Roll Call

State President Bill Yucuis called the meeting to order at 0806 on July 15, 2017 in the Bay Palms Golf Course Facility meeting room at MacDill AFB, Florida, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tommy Harrison gave the invocation.

Ben Langer, in place of AFA Florida Secretary Susan Ault-Davis, conducted the chapter roll call. Nine chapters were present, two were excused and three were absent. Two of the absent chapters (Highlands and McCarthy) are in inactive status.

Chapters Present

Red Tail #136
Martin H. Harris #303
Waterman-Twining #316
Gold Coast #351
Tyndall #355
Hurlburt #398
Falcon #399
Bud West #419
Florida West Coast #429

Chapters Excused

Cape Canaveral #309
Eglin #365

Chapters Absent

Miami-Homestead #317
Florida Highlands #173
James R McCarthy #397

Loren D. Evenson Chapter #355 has reconstituted itself as Tyndall Chapter #355, the Central Florida Chapter is renamed Martin H. Harris Chapter, and Sarasota-Manatee is renamed Florida West Coast Chapter 429.

A quorum was present. A list of convention attendees is at Attachment 1.

Meeting Minutes – Ben Langer

Minutes from the AFA Florida 2017 Winter Meeting in Orlando, Florida March 4, 2017 were distributed electronically before this convention. A motion by Tim Brock to accept was seconded by Tommy Harrison. The minutes with no changes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Lehmann

Gary's review of 2017 showed a current deficit of \$3,600.44 because income was less than expenses. Contributing factors were significantly decreased financial support from AFA National and less corporate investment in the AFA Florida hospitality suite during the AFA national convention. Bill Yucuis, however, observed that AFA Florida's financial outlook remained stable because of its reserve funds and because the state organization had done a good job of controlling expenses.

Gary Lehmann presented a proposed budget for 2018. Tim Brock moved and Tommy Harrison seconded a motion to approve the 2018 proposed budget. Throughout the meeting, we discussed several budget issues. For example, beginning this year, the State will no longer receive national allocation payments, so that income category was deleted. The national support payment was reduced to the anticipated amount. It was decided to add an income line item of "From Reserves" which would balance the budget. On the Expense side, various line items were changed to match historical costs. To balance the budget, \$4070 from reserves were required. The 2018 Budget, as revised during the meeting, was approved unanimously at the end of the meeting. A copy of the approved 2018 Budget is Attachment 2.

2018 Scheduling—Bill Yucuis

Members agreed to tie the AFA Florida Winter Meeting to the Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando rather than the State AFJROTC Drill Meet as had been done for several years in the past. Martin H. Harris Chapter #303 will host the winter meeting February 23-24, 2018 in Orlando. The 2019 winter meeting also will be held in Orlando after the Air Warfare Symposium and the Waterman-Twining Chapter #316 will provide logistical support in 2019.

The 2018 AFA Florida state convention will be hosted by the Martin H. Harris Chapter #303 in Orlando. Red Tail Memorial Chapter #136 will to host the 2019 state convention.

No objections were raised when Bill Yucuis said the \$400 stipend would continue for AFA Florida members who attend the national convention for the first time. Others who have already attended can receive a \$100 stipend.

State President's Remarks

Florida is the AFA's 2017 outstanding state organization. Bill Yucuis attributed this recognition by AFA National to chapter and member support throughout the state. He highlighted strong communication with chapters and state leaders as well as the annual winter meeting and state convention; communication that led to imaginative initiatives like "Fresh Look"; and strong representation at the AFA National Convention. He singled out support of AFA education programs like CyberPatriot, StellarXplorers, AFROTC, AFJROTC and its statewide drill meet, and Civil Air Patrol. AFA Florida also prompted two inactive chapters, Bud West and Tyndall, to become active again.

The state president gave multiple examples of chapter contributions to the AFA mission. These included the gala after the Air Warfare Symposium, scholarships and grants, teacher workshops, support for wounded airmen and their caregivers, and assistance to enhance the experience of ROTC cadets.

Likewise, he said that chapters continued to support the mission after AFA National reduced funding for programs such as Pitsenbarger Awards and support of STEM. Chapters continued to identify outstanding teachers of the year and judge science fairs.

National Convention

A number of national officers are up for election at the 2017 national convention. They include Chairman of the Board F. Whitt Peters, who is in his second year; Mac MacAloon, vice chairman for field operations, who is in his second year; Dick Bundy, vice chairman for aerospace education, who is in his third year; Ross Lambert for National Secretary; Steve Lundgren in his second year for national treasurer; Tyler Johnson for national director (east area); and two of the following candidates for at-large national directors: Buster Douglas from Virginia; Rick Hartle from Utah; Blaine Holt from New York; and Mark Tarpley from Oklahoma.

One candidate (Mark Tarpley) attended the AFA Florida Convention meetings and spoke to those attending.

State President Bill Yucuis anticipated that the national convention would address a number of contentious issues such as organization, membership and budget. AFA

Florida is planning to host again a hospitality suite at the 2017 national convention; the hospitality suite will be staffed by Larry and Barbara Belge.

Briefing by the 6th Communications Squadron

During a break in the meeting, members went to the 6th Communications Squadron facility at MacDill AFB. Briefers described how the squadron works efficiently to support MacDill AFB units with effective cyber security measures.

Election of Florida State Officers

A slate of candidates for AFA Florida offices was developed by Past President Dann Mattiza and presented by President Bill Yucuis.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
State/Region President	Sharon Branch	Martin H. Harris #303
Executive Vice President	Mark Chapman	Hurlburt #398
Secretary	Ben Langer	Red Tail Memorial #136
Treasurer	Gary Lehmann	Martin H. Harris #303

No one responded to a call to the floor by the President for additional nominees. The four candidates were elected by unanimous voice vote.

Lunch

During lunch, the State honored the top Florida team in the CyberPatriot Open Division from the Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College, Miami Lakes, FL. The Miami Lakes Educational Center team is coached by Marlon Vernon. The top Florida team in the All Services Division was from Sarasota Military Academy, Sarasota, FL. They are Army JROTC's Sarasota Military Academy Team 3 and are coached by Frederick Farmer. They were unable to attend this convention luncheon but we will present their award at their school later this year.

The State also honored all the individual State Award winners. A complete list is available on State Website (<http://afafloida.org/awards/2017%20AFA%20Florida%20State%20Award%20Winners.pdf>) but we want to identify a few individuals. Marlon Vernon was the Florida State Teacher of the Year, Sharon Branch as the Florida State Member of the Year, and Mark Chapman received the Region President Award.

Denise Hollywood, the AFA National Executive Vice President, was the guest speaker at lunch. She spoke about the current budget challenges and several ways AFA National is attempting to increase revenues. As is the custom in Florida, instead of presenting a plaque, the AFA Florida State organization will donate, in Denise Hollywood's name, \$100 to the AFA's Airman and Family Program, which supports families of Wounded Airmen, among other things.

State of AFA Florida Chapters—Bill Yucuis

Chapters will be getting chapter support payments in July 2017 and January 2018. In order to receive chapter support payments of 50 cents per member, chapters must have completed annual activity and financial reports and a chapter officer roster. For the January 2018 payment, these requirements must be met by December 15, 2017. Meanwhile, chapters should continue to submit quarterly reports and publish newsletters.

Florida chapters are similar to chapters in other states: their levels of activity vary from very active to hanging on. The biggest challenge is developing leaders so that officers are not, for example, president for life.

The McCarthy and Highlands Chapters have been inactive for more than three years with no sign of improvement. The question of closing McCarthy and Highlands Chapters, each with about 250 members, remains open. The decision to close or not to close one or both was tabled. AFA Florida will continue to carry them as inactive chapters. Dann Mattiza recommended that IRS paperwork be filed on their behalf to maintain their 501(c) status.

The Bud West Chapter 419 has restarted and Loren D. Evenson has re-activated as Tyndall Chapter 355.

Field Operations Update – Mac MacAloon, Vice Chairman for Field Operations

Changes are anticipated nationally to make membership more accommodating to today's prospects. These issues are likely to be addressed at the national convention in September.

Mac addressed field health in detail. Topics included budget reductions, chapter health, leadership development, Air Force Magazine, retention, Arnold Air Society (success

stories), chapter aerospace education, CyberPatriot, the Wounded Airman Program, and field council activities such as advocacy, training modules, emerging leaders, e-business and strategic communication.

Aerospace Education—Bill Yucuis

The 2018 state drill meet will be on March 31, 2018 at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

StellarXplorers competition has grown from an initial 5 to 131 teams. Participants are diverse. One StellarXplorer characterized their diversity like this: “These are kids at school I would not even talk to” if they were not doing StellarXplorers.

CyberPatriot IX (2016-2017) had 4,404 registered teams from middle and high schools across the 50 states and overseas. During last summer, 161 cyber camps were conducted. The elementary school initiative was delivered to 5,000 sites, and the new Children’s Reader program will be available this fall.

Most chapters support AFROTC, AFJROTC and CAP through awards and other activities. Likewise most chapters name AFA Teachers of the Year and nominate competitive candidates for state recognition. Chapters should continue to support, advertise and recruit for all AFA education programs.

Government Relations—Bill Yucuis

Bruce Fouraker, vice president for government relations, earlier provided contact information for all Florida Members of Congress. This will soon be available on the State Website. Chapters should reach out to their Members through their local staff. AFA National provides monthly legislative updates and top issue information. No one nominated a Legislator or Legislative Staff Member of the Year so there is no reason to present the award to anyone this year.

Cross Talk *(limited by the president to either a “success or concern”)*

- **Larry Belge, Falcon Chapter:** The Falcon chapter has been industriously working the aerospace education issue with JROTC units. Three of seven units in the chapter area are chapter members and a fourth is in progress.

- **John Schmidt, Bud West #419:** John brought the chapter back to active status and noted that “we will not let Bud West die.” They are focusing on fellowship, aerospace education, and liaison with schools enhanced by the participation of retired Maj. Gen. Michael Snodgrass.
- **Sandy Schlitt, Florida West Coast #429, former Chairman of the Board—**
Perspective: The national organization works for all AFA members and the Vice Chairman for Field Operations primarily represents the field.
- **Virginia Montalvo and Virginia Knudsen, Gold Coast #351—**Gold Coast works hard to support aerospace education and would like to work together with other chapters in support of AE efforts. Virginia Knudsen stressed the importance of aviation in Florida and its historic importance in the state as illustrated by the Florida Air Museum. She urged that study of Florida aviation history be encouraged and that it be encouraged as a source of pride for Floridians.
- **Mike Richardson, Florida West Coast #429—**In five years, Chapter 429 has posted 20 quarters at 125 percent. But in spite of this success, motivation now is an issue because budget discussion (at the national level) has “taken the wind out of our sails.” We need stability, he said.
- **Ned Hance, Waterman-Twining #316—**Inspired by the AFA’s 70 for 70 campaign, Chapter 316 conducted its first membership drive in five years and recruited 20 new members.
- **Gary Lehmann and Todd Freece, Martin H. Harris #303—**With its strong revenue picture, Gary said the Martin H. Harris Chapter was able to devote \$6,000 to aerospace education. Todd described the chapter’s Scholarship Opportunity Program through which it puts high school students (on the first Sunday of the Air Force Academy’s spring break) in contact with the academy’s liaison officer, the AFROTC, and an expert on dealing with unsuccessful applications to the academy. The program is a “recipe for success for students and parents.”
- **Howard Burke, Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136—**The chapter enjoyed a good first six months. Its Civil Air Patrol unit placed first among CAP units in CyberPatriot, its AFJROTC unit at Belleview High School was the drill meet

champion, two additional AFJROTC units joined the chapter and 10 new members joined the AFA.

- **Mac MacAloon, Vice Chairman for Field Operations** observed that Outback Steakhouse restaurants at certain times are sharing up to \$13 per meal with non-profits. He offered to put the state organization in contact with the Arizona chapter that is benefiting from this practice by Outback Steakhouse restaurants.

Closing Statement—AFA President Bill Yucuis

Bill acknowledged that he enjoyed his term as State/Region President and again affirmed that AFA Florida's selection as the 2017 AFA Outstanding State was an achievement by the chapters and their members – not him. He asserted that Florida does as much as any region to support the AFA mission and thanked those present at the convention for their support.

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 1545.

*Recorded by
Ben Langer, Secretary
July 15, 2017*