

Air Force Association (Florida)  
2017 Winter Meeting  
Hampton Inn and Suites, Orlando, FL  
March 3 – 4, 2017

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

State President Bill Yucuis called the meeting to order at 1330, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tommy Harrison gave the Invocation.

Susan Ault-Davis conducted the Chapter Roll Call. Seven Chapters present, 4 Chapters absent, and 3 Chapters are in inactive status. Eglin, Miami/Homestead, and Bud West were excused.

Chapters Present

Red Tail #136

Central Florida #303

Cape Canaveral #309

Waterman-Twining #316

Sarasota-Manatee #429

Falcon #399

Hurlburt #398

Chapters Absent

Eglin #365

Miami/Homestead #317

Gold Coast #351

Bud West #419

Chapter Inactive

Florida Highlands #173

James R. McCarthy #397

Loren D. Evenson #355

Two Chapters have changed their names. Chapter #303 has become Martin H. Harris, and Chapter #429 has become Florida West Coast.

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

**Meeting Minutes – Susan Ault-Davis**

Minutes from the 2016 State Convention in Jacksonville, FL, held July 16, 2016, were electronically distributed prior to this meeting. A motion to Accept was requested by Tommy Harrison, and a second motion was placed by Dann Mattiza. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer’s Report – Gary Lehmann**

Reviewed the status of the budget approved at the 2016 State Convention. There was a discussion about adding “State Winter Meeting” under “Income”, to match an existing line under

“Expense.” It was decided that if the State is running the winter meeting, then the State budget will reflect the income and expense. However, several meetings have been funded by the hosting Chapter. When this happens, the State budget will not reflect an income.

State President Yucuis will provide a report on a one-time expense in our State budget going to support NATCOM. The event will be held in April 2017.

A copy of the AFA State budget is at attachment 2.

### **Future State Meetings**

2017 State Convention (July 15): Waterman-Twining Chapter at MacDill AFB –

Planning a Friday social event, with an all-day Saturday meeting

Will most likely be in Billeting on base

Hoping to use Davis Convention Center

May possibly have members who will need access to the base

2018 Winter Meeting (March 23 - 24): Martin H. Harris Chapter hosts in Orlando

2018 State Convention (TBD): Martin H. Harris Chapter hosts in Orlando

Will discuss 2019 meeting plans and locations at the summer State Convention.

### **Florida Suite at National Convention**

Larry and Barbara Belge will host the Florida Suite at the next National Convention. The Suite will be open Friday – Sunday evenings. Donations are needed to purchase items for the Suite.

### **AFA Field Issues – Bill Yucuis**

Pitsenbarger awards – AFA National will support one per graduating class. The cuts were made to balance the AFA National budget. So, while Pitsenbarger awards are a top AFA education priority, it could not be maintained at previous levels.

Membership – declining. AFA National leaders, and the AFA Board, are looking at ways to increase membership. The Every Airman A Member (EVAM) Program, gave away nearly 500 free 1-year memberships to new Airmen. Less than 1% renewed their memberships, so the

program has been cancelled. AFA leadership is discussing alternative ways to increase membership, but no decisions have been made. Options include hiring a full-time National staff member to oversee membership.

AFA Training Modules – The AFA.org website offers much of the training that Chapters in the field have requested. Members should log in to the website to view available training. There are five Training Modules on Recruiting and Retaining AFA members. Each Chapter is encouraged to have their members review them.

Chapter Officer Rosters – All Chapter officers can access, and make changes to the rosters on the AFA.org website. Any Chapter member can be added to the roster, which will allow those individuals to update Chapter Activity and Financial Reports. Any person listed will be able to submit these reports. This is done so if the Chapter President (or Treasurer) is unavailable, someone else in the Chapter can submit the reports. Make sure the Chapter has a plan, so the reports are not submitted inadvertently.

Chapter Reporting – Allocation and distribution. AFA National is planning on removing the requirement for monthly reporting. Chapters can anticipate two reports per year, hopefully in a simpler format. Some of the information in these reports are non-profit requirements, especially the Financial Report and Activity Report. These reports allow the State and Region President, as well as the VCFO, know what the Chapters are doing. In addition, Chapter Newsletters will continue to be a valuable communication tool. The process change for providing Chapter Support payments from AFA National is in the works, and is not fully defined yet. It will most likely include a flat-rate for each member on the Chapter roster. This issue is being worked through the Region Presidents. For the time being, Chapter rebate (from recruiting new members) remains the same.

Meeting adjourned at 1623. Will resume in the morning.

### **State and National Awards – Bill Yucuis, Sharon Branch**

The National website lists the criteria, and deadlines for each award. State President Yucuis stressed the importance of submitting Teacher of the Year (ToY) nomination packages by **April 15<sup>th</sup>** deadline. Larry Belge has volunteered to review State award submissions, along with Sharon Branch and Raymond Bush.

The JROTC Drill Meet Awards presentation will be held March 18<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Florida, at 1330.

### **State President's Report – Bill Yucuis**

Congressional/Legislative Contacts - State President Yucuis stressed the importance of communicating with the Congressional and Legislative staffers. They are instrumental in getting, or providing support for Chapter events. The AFA.org website has information that can be provided to the contacts.

AFA State Leadership – Sharon Branch has offered to fill the position of State President. Gary Lehmann has agreed to continue as State Treasurer. The positions of Vice President, and Secretary will be open for nomination at the 2017 State Convention. Chapters query your member for interest in filling one of these positions.

Emerging Leaders – Region Presidents can nominate 2 individual's per year. Applications are due to Bill Yucuis by the end of March. Chapter Presidents should check for interested members.

National Leadership Positions for 2017-2018 – The following positions are up for election:

#### 2017

National Secretary  
National Director East  
National Director at Large (2)  
- 4 candidates

#### 2018

Chairman of the Board  
Vice Chairman of the Board  
Vice Chairman Aerospace Education  
National Director (Central)  
National Director at Large (2)

Chapter Health – Evenson Chapter at Tyndall AFB is re-activating. They will be changing their name, possibly to Raptor by the end of March 2017.

Community Partners are a possible source for funding Chapters. Chapters have the option of deciding on the membership rate for these partners. Many Chapters offer additional activities included in the memberships. Another source is the 70 for 70 Program. Chapters can sell \$15 1- year memberships, and once processed through AFA National, a rebate is sent back to the Chapter.

President Yucuis wants Chapters to continue filling out financial and activity reports, at least for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017.

Newsletters may be placed on Chapter website for viewing. Placing them there meets the National requirement. For members not able to access website, one newsletter a year should be mailed.

## **Education Programs**

Civil Air Patrol – Information can be found on AFA.org website. There is also additional information on the website about Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE). The ACE program is for students Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Cyber Patriot – Criteria for this competition can be found on the National website. The National competition is downsized at the State level. The State competition has many level of awards, but only certain ones will be allowed to advance to the National competition. There are summer camps around the nation supporting this activity. Bonnie Callahan is a good source of information on this program.

Stellar Xplorers – Bill Yucuis is working to get support for summer camps. Individuals wanting to sign up for Stellar Xplorers for next school year, should sign up beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

## **Chapter Cross Talk**

### Sarasota Manatee/FL West Coast –

- Chapter has officially changed their name to Florida West Coast Chapter
- They have been financially successful due to a charitable trust contribution
- The Chapter feels that they are struggling to redefine Chapter activities

- They award 2 science fair projects each year, 1 to a high school submission, and 1 to middle school
- The Chapter also sponsors a Cyber Patriot summer camp. Camp participants can have 10 members each, from 7 different schools

#### Cape Canaveral –

- Chapters want to be able to know who from their area is applying for Teacher Scholarships. And, they want national to notify the Chapters, instead of going directly to the teacher.
- Cape Canaveral provided transportation to 44 Patrick AFB members to attend the AFA Air Symposium. There was a discussion on possible AFA National funding.
- The Chapter sponsored a junior enlisted appreciation picnic. All branches of the military were in attendance.

#### Falcon -

- Falcon Chapter has an active Aerospace Education program. Fifteen of the members are teachers.
- Falcon is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. One of the Chapter members serves on the military board.
- Chapter would like to see reminders sent out to AFA members who need to renew their memberships.
- Chapter holds dinners to recognize JROTC cadets. Senator Bean often attends these events.

#### Hurlburt –

- Chapter has an active Aerospace Education program. They send a teacher to space camp each year, have 2 teacher's workshops yearly, provide cash awards for 4 Science Fair contestants, and provide judges for the FIRST Lego League competitions.
- Hurlburt has found several sources for funding. Community Partners fund activities through memberships. In addition, they provide additional sponsorship to activities such as Unsung Heroes. This program recognizes airman for exceptional performance at their work centers.

- The Chapter supports 2 luncheons each year, in collaboration with the Air Commando Association. Members of AFA/ACA are invited to an informative briefing on pertinent base activities.
- The Chapter has supported the Adaptive Sports training, for Wounded Airman, the past 2 years. The Chapter is asking that AFA National keep them informed of activities for this year's upcoming events.

#### Red Tail –

- The Chapter is proud of the relationship it has with the members.
- Red Tail primarily supports JROTC programs, but they are reaching out for more involvement with ROTC. They plan to address this issue at the upcoming state drill meet.
- The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is actively involved with the Chapter, and be counted on to support Chapter activities.
- Red Tail is interested in Congressional/Senatorial support for Chapter events. They are currently working this issue.
- Chapter feels that the AFA is perceived as a veteran's organization. This has affected recruitment of new members. They would like help on changing this attitude.

#### Central FL/Martin H. Harris

- The Chapter has officially changed their name to the Martin H. Harris Chapter.
- The Chapter held a golf tournament and gala. They raised \$5,000 for Airman and Family Programs: Wounded Airman's administrative support function.
- Fifteen JROTC units currently compete for annual awards.
- Martin H. Harris has issues with ECF scholarships. Would like defined criteria.
- Active support by CAP personnel
- Chapter mentorship to Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, CAP, and JROTC members interested in enrolling in the AF Academy.

#### Waterman Twining

- The Chapter has recruited Senior NCOs to help with membership recruitment, and other Chapter activities.

**Adjourn** – 1150

Recorded by:

Susan Ault-Davis, Secretary

March 3 – 4, 2017