

# AFA Texas News

**The Air Force Assn News of Texas**



Spring 2017



# SERVED LIKE A GIRL

**A documentary film chronicling the lives of female veterans as they compete for the crown of Ms. Veteran America.**



Molly Mae Potter (far left), Ms Veteran America, and a member of the Austin AFA Chapter played a key role in getting this film shown in Austin. This year, during Austin South X South West media festival, the Ms. Veteran America documentary premiered. It highlights the story of 7 women veterans as they return home from war. Each has their own story...their own struggle...and their own success to start over. They form a bond as they compete for Ms. Veteran America to become the united voice of women veterans to raise awareness about the growing demographic of homelessness in America (several of the women were themselves home).

Having served their country in Iraq and Afghanistan, Nichole, Hope, Rachel and Andrea know that, for many, the war isn't over. They are concerned and want to do something for the 55,000 homeless women veterans, whose stories mirror their own. While struggling with PTSD, divorce, serious illness, and military sexual abuse, competing in Ms. Veteran America ignites an emotional roller coaster for the women. Their stories build through riveting drama to the grand finale of the Ms. Veteran America event itself as they transform before our eyes and recover lost parts of self and identity. Leaving us with a deepened understanding of the diverse women who join the military and what happens to them when they return from war.

AFA Texas and the AFA Austin Chapter provided financial support to the project premier .

# Presidents Page



All is going well in the State of Texas for AFA. This is the time of year that I encourage all chapter presidents to recognize those members of your chapter who have helped further your goals and those of the State and National organizations. In addition, we need to find out which of the airmen, NCOs, officers, and civilian employees of our active, Guard, and Reserve units across the State deserve recognition. Awards are about the only means we have of showing our appreciation for the dedication and hard work our members and the members of our US Air Force family provide.

I also want to encourage all chapters to really push AFA e-membership. In case you aren't aware, a couple of years ago, the AFA instituted a new class of membership, called e-membership, which provides all the same benefits as a regular membership, except the great monthly magazine, *Air Force*, can only be viewed on line. For most in the younger generation, where we desperately need to improve our penetration, they would prefer not having the print edition. This membership is regularly \$30/year (versus \$45/year for a full membership); however, for a limited time, to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the US Air Force and the Air Force Association, we are offering the first year of e-membership for only \$15.00. That's about the cost of a couple of lattes at Starbucks, less than you might pay for you and your spouse/child to eat lunch at McDonald's. It is a GREAT value. Chapters can even present complimentary e-memberships under this program, and receive a \$15.00 rebate in your next support payment. A slam dunk!

Finally, I am a member of the Field Council for AFA, and the Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations, Mac Macaloon, has appointed me to chair a subcommittee on revenue generation, or what I call fund raising. Our chapter and State support payments have essentially been cut in half from what they have been, so for many chapters, in order to continue supporting programs at the same level, it is imperative for them to develop fund-raising projects to offset this loss of income. I am soliciting ideas from anyone—within the Association or not, and will publish a list of ideas in the coming months.

Have a great Spring!

Bob Gehbauer

# News From National

## AFA's 2017 Scholarships



**The Air Force Association is pleased to announce the launch of our 2017 Scholarships in continuing support of Air Force excellence!**

**Col Aaron Burgstein Memorial Scholarship:**

The scholarship was established for minor dependents of (officer or enlisted) active duty, retired or prior service members of all branches, reservists or National Guard who are/will be pursuing a four-year degree at an accredited college/university. Priority will be given to those dependents whose parent/guardian served for eight or more years; or has either a parent die while serving on or in can active duty status, or has a parent that has been classified as a wounded warrior. Currently, one recipient will be chosen to receive **\$1,000**. Last year two recipients were awarded since there were not qualified applicants the previous year. Checks are sent to the recipient's school. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/scholarshipsteachers/burgstein>

**Mike and Gail Donley Spouse Scholarship:**

The Air Force Donley Spouse Scholarship program is designed to encourage Air Force spouses worldwide to pursue associate, bachelor, or graduate/post graduate degrees. Two recipients will be selected, each being awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. Last year this program had approx. 190 applicants. Checks are sent directly to the recipient for school related fees. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/scholarshipsteachers/donleypousescholarship>

**Lt Col Romeo and Bass Ferretti Scholarship:**

The Ferretti scholarship was established for minor dependents of Air Force active duty, Reserve or Air National Guard enlisted airmen pursuing an undergraduate degree in the area of science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). The recipients will be selected based upon high academic standards, good character and financial need. One recipient will receive **\$5,000** award. Checks are sent to the recipient's school. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/scholarshipsteachers/lcolromeoandjosephinebassferrettischolarship>

**Capt. Jodi Callahan Memorial Scholarship:**

The Captain Jodi Callahan Memorial Scholarship provides financial assistance and recognition to an active duty Air Force full time guard or reserve (officer or enlisted) person who is pursuing a Master's degree in a non-technical field. One recipient will be chosen to receive **\$1,000** scholarship. Checks are sent to the recipients directly for school related fees. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/scholarshipsteachers/callahanscholarship>

**Col Loren J. and Lawona R. Spencer Scholarship:**

The scholarship provides funds to United States Air Force Personnel (officer or enlisted, Air Force civilian, full time National Guard and full time Reserve) for them to pursue graduate level education in the management and administration fields in preparation for senior level leadership roles. An enlisted, officer and civilian recipient will each be awarded **\$5,000**. If there is not adequate representation for each category, the donor may grant other qualified applicants to receive the award instead. Last year, this program had less than 50 applicants. Checks are sent to the recipient's school. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/scholarshipsteachers/spencer>

**April 30, 2017, 11:59 pm EDT Application Deadline.**

For more information visit AFA's Scholarship webpage at <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/military/scholarships>.

Questions can be emailed to Whitney Distaso at [Scholarships@afa.org](mailto:Scholarships@afa.org)



# AFA TEXAS 2016 FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AFA Texas President Bob Gehbauer called the AFA Texas 2016 Fall Executive Committee Meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Saturday afternoon 22 October 2016 via the GoToMeeting platform.

## President's Report:

Bob reported the State was in great shape and was very proud that the AFA Texas had been named the AFA State Organization of the Year. A picture of the acceptance of the award at the National Convention in September will be in the quarterly State newsletter. He thanked Rachel Samples from the Alamo Chapter for assuming the VP Membership position. He has added two new State VP positions and asked two previous Emerging Leaders to fill the positions: Debbie Landry as VP Association Programs and Paul Weseloh as VP Corporate Affairs. Deb will assist in getting chapters involved with associate units (ROTC, Silver Wings, Arnold Air Society, and Civil Air Patrol) and coordinate State efforts to expand participation with these units and invite them to join in chapter functions. Paul will help expand participation with corporate sponsors perhaps in supporting the State and chapter website and fundraising events in light of the reduction of AFA support payments. He also introduced TSgt Mike Stewart as the AFA Texas Webmaster and his efforts to update the State website and improve communication with AFA Texas members as well as possibly help those chapters who do not have websites by creating websites for them. He also mentioned that Molly Mae Potter had been selected as Miss Veteran America. She asked for a replacement of her duties as VP Government Relations for a year. Bob offered the position to Dave Dietsch and Dave has accepted.

Bob briefed on the current status of AFA and updates from the National Convention. He felt the new leadership elected at the Convention will do a good job. Whit Peters is the new Chairman of the Board and Gavin "Mac" MacAloon as Vice Chairman of the Board Field Operations. Mac attended the Texoma Region Convention in Oklahoma City and expressed his dissatisfaction with the quarterly reporting system. A new AFA National Treasurer Steven Lundgren was also elected. Katie McCool and Len Vernamonti were elected Directors at Large and Terry Cox as National Director for the Central Area.

Website Report: Mike Stewart presented a preview of the new AFA Texas website. He reviewed the current pages and how he planned to expand the website and include links to AFA website. He will add an area to upload documents and chapter newsletters. He wants to add an area Events that will allow chapters to announce their events and provide pictures. Bob asked Mike to add an Executive Log In area so reports can be accessed that wouldn't be available to the general public. Bob asked everyone to provide Mike any feedback on the proposed new website. (OPEN)

Executive Vice President Report: Randy Coggins felt the first virtual meeting had been successful and that there some "bugs" needed to be worked out, i.e., how to sign in and how to mute. Bob stated the posting of the reports ahead of time would help facilitate discussions not only for a virtual meeting but also for an actual face-to-face meeting. (CLOSED)

Essay Contest: Joan reminded everyone that the essays are due to Vance Clarke by 30 January 2017 and that Vance would be asking for judges to review the essays. If you want to volunteer to be a judge, let him know. (CLOSED)

Awards: Mike reminded everyone to start thinking about National awards. He will be asking for inputs in three groups: National, State and Military. He will adjust the suspense times accordingly. Bob urged chapters to submit themselves for chapter of the year. The key is keep track of what the chapter does, take pictures, newspaper articles, etc. It is his goal to have at least one Texas chapter compete for the award next year. (CLOSED)

Treasurer Report: State Treasurer Mike Winslow reviewed the interim quarterly State financial report as of 30 September (See Attachment 2) and Annual Budget Plan status.

VP Award Report: Mike briefed that he had been disappointed in the quality of the wooden medalion box and proposed switching to mounting it on to an acrylic desktop plaque with the award information on the plaque. He will get a bid from his trophy shop and asked others to check with their trophy shops. He mentioned that the high-quality Wright Flyer and P-40 models for the Chennault and Foulois awards were getting very expensive. He was looking at an acrylic monolith with an internal holograph of the designated aircraft.

# AFA Texas Spring Meeting





# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Texas Air National Guard Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas

### BRIGADIER GENERAL DAWN M. FERRELL



#### Deputy Adjutant General for Air, Texas Military Department

Brigadier General Dawn Marie Ferrell was appointed the Deputy Adjutant General for Air for the Texas Military Department on 13 November 2015. In this position, she serves as the principle advisor to the Adjutant General of Texas for all Air National Guard issues and is responsible for assisting in the planning, direction and administration of over 3,200 Air National Guard personnel within the state of Texas.

In 1983, then Airman Basic Ferrell enlisted in the Texas Air National Guard, 181<sup>st</sup> Aerial Port Flight, 136<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, as an Air Cargo Specialist. General Ferrell received her commission through the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science in 1994. She took command of the 181<sup>st</sup> Aerial Port Flight, until that unit was deactivated in 1995, at which time General Ferrell was reassigned to the 136<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, Hensley Field, Dallas, Texas. She was selected as the Operations Officer when the unit was relocated to Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base. During September and October of 2005, General Ferrell was assigned as the Deployed Aerial Port Commander for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita Relief Efforts at Naval Air Station

Joint Reserve Base (Belle Chase), New Orleans, LA, and Ellington Field, Houston, TX, where her team set up a fully functioning aerial port to handle the influx of aircraft delivering troops and supplies to the hurricane-devastated areas. General Ferrell was appointed Acting Commander of the 136<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron in February 2006, and took full command in August 2006 until the squadron was deactivated in October of 2007. General Ferrell became the Vice Commander for the 136<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group in April 2008 and the Group's Commander in November 2009. From August of 2013-April of 2014, General Ferrell deployed to ISAF HQ, Kabul, Afghanistan in a joint NATO billet as the Director of Plans and Logistics Operations, where she was responsible for strategic level oversight for logistics planning, sustainment, and redeployment of US and NATO forces for the International Security Assistance Force mission. In her last assignment as Commander for the 136<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group, she provided leadership and direction to the Group resulting in mission readiness of the Civil Engineer Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Force Support Squadron, Communications Flight, and a Contracting element.

General Ferrell earned an M.A and a B.A from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX and a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. Prior to working full time with the Texas Air National Guard, General Ferrell was the Director of Institutional Research and Planning and the Accreditation Liaison at Vernon College in Wichita Falls, TX, where she was responsible for the college's quality, planning and assessment processes, ensuring compliance with the standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and overseeing all aspects of administrative research for the college. General Ferrell also served as an adjunct instructor for Vernon College and Wayland Baptist University, teaching political science courses.

# News From The Chapters

## San Jacinto - Chapter 233

Chapter continues to experience limited engagement with AFA membership and Community Partners. New members have been rare. EXCOM meets monthly w/few exceptions and has routine annual events (Ship Channel Tour, Wings over Houston primarily).

Chapter President working to establish relationship with new Lone Star Flight Museum currently slated for Fall 2017 opening. The challenges are similar to what National is experiencing; as are other such organizations (NGAUS, NGAT, etc.).

EXCOM: EVENTS/DETAILS: Oct 2016 Meeting/Event at American Legion Post 490; w/147th MSG/CC guest speaker Hosted AFA members at Wings over Houston practice-show on Fri, 21 Oct, front lawn seating at OG Worked Wings over Houston sales tents (beer/brats and toys) w/AF ROTC; annual fundraiser for both Jan 2017

Chapter President spoke to UH AFROTC cadets, presented check for WoH volunteer work

Mar Meeting discussed 147th RW CoC; new Commander. Began dialogue w/Lt Gen (Ret) Owens, Lone Star Flight Museum CEO Budget.

### PLANNED FUNCTIONS/GOALS

147th AW (as of 1 Apr) Family Day on 2 Apr □Support UH ROTC 'field training' on 9 Apr\*

Host UH ROTC Dining Out on 22 Apr

Present AFA JROTC awards at ~10-15 local high schools (did 9 of 11 last year)

Support UH ROTC Field Training & NATCON

Support 147th AW deployment returns

Annual Ship Channel Event

Fall event at Lone Star Flight Museum

Wings over Houston in Oct CHALLENGES

'Aging' fleet of EXCOM; successors

Community support □AFA member involvement

Social outreach (FB, website 'sun setting')

□National level challenges

## The Alamo Chapter

Very busy with a variety of activities. Some of the highlights since our last state meeting: - We support every Gaylor NCOA Graduation and Airman Leadership School Graduation by sponsoring their Distinguished Graduate awards and the Levitow Awards. We also give free memberships to the DGs. - We held the Combat Breakfast in November. This annual event is part of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Celebrate America's Military activities. This year's guest speaker was MSgt Michael Maroney, the Katrina Girl hero.

Attendance was up from previous years and we received lots of good feedback on some changes we made to the program. - We joined efforts with the African American Cultural Association and the Air Force Personnel Center to serve lunch to the wounded warriors and families at Ft. Sam's Warrior Family Support Center. –

Upcoming events include a float in the Flambeau Parade, presenting scholarships to the winning Cyber Patriot team at the Mayor's Cup Luncheon, providing a hydration station at the Texas AFROTC Field Day, a booth at the Retiree Appreciation Day, and joining AFA National's Cycle Bar Challenge Fundraiser on May 20. –

AFA-e is doing well at Lackland and we are trying to start a group at Randolph. We have at least 7 interested at Randolph. - The Lackland AFA-e group put all of the Alamo Chapter historical documents on a disk for safe-keeping. The documents are stored in the Stinson hangar, but having them stored digitally ensures our history is preserved. We anticipate the rest of 2017 to be just as productive and fulfilling as this first quarter. We are interested in hosting a state meeting in 2018 if there are any openings

## Donnelly Chapter

Is a member of the Wichita Falls Veteran's Community Assistance Program (VCAP). This is a coalition of Veteran Service organizations that combines objectives and resources into a unified approach to serving Veterans in need. We are contemplating hosting a Veteran's Services Seminar later this fall. This initial concept is to have a keynote speaker (Cong Thornberry's Military Liaison, Wash DC), a panel/roundtable discussion from area experts on veteran services, Breakout sessions for specific issues, and small group "Tell your story" sessions for the Sheppard Heritage Center, Local Museum archives, TV and Newspapers.

Pres Winslow, met with the AFROTC Cadets from Midwestern State Univ. in Wichita Falls who attend their unit training at Univ. of N. Texas in Denton. They commute twice a week (1 1/2 hr. one way). The chapter offered to provide a small subsidy for transportation cost. Also, the chapter is planning to sponsor a table at the AFROTC Graduation and Commissioning Banquet to be held sometime in May. Table sponsorship = \$100.

Mitzi Morrison – VP STEM/Aero Ed – took her robotics team to District Competition in January...they took 2nd place. They will be going to State Competition in May. The robotics team is comprised of students from 10 -15 years old. As a reward for their achievement, the Chapter Treasurer, Zeke Giglio, arranged for the students to get briefed and fly the T-6 simulators at the 80th Flying Training Wing. (ENJJPT)

The chapter was a sponsor of the 80th FTW Annual Awards Banquet held on Feb 4th. Pres Winslow met with members from AFSA to discuss potential joint programs and initiatives. Pres Winslow had the honor of joining Cong. Thornberry's District Director to attend the 72nd Anniversary and Reunion of Iwo Jima Veterans. There were about 10-12 surviving local veterans of this battle in attendance, including Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last surviving Iwo Jima Medal of Honor recipient

Sheppard will have new commanders for both wings. We will make an effort to meet with the new commanders as soon as feasible.

## **FORT WORTH CHAPTER 272**

Continued communication with the base and TCU AFROTC leadership.

Supported the 457FS Family Day In the 1st Quarter 2017 the chapter:

Donated \$500 to the 301 Chiefs Group in support of the annual Awards Banquet.

Selected 2017 ENP winner. 3) Continue communication with the base leadership.

In the 2nd Quarter the chapter will:

- 1) Support the 136AW Family readiness center with a \$500 donation.
- 2) Present the ENP Scholastic Award.
- 3) Present AFROTC and AFJROTC medals.
- 4) Communicate with the new NASJRB skipper at the change of command ceremony.

## **The Seidel Chapter**

Goal in 2017 is to grow the active participation of our membership. The chapter has 739 members but a membership meeting attendance has been dwindling to 5% or less over the last year. To this end, we are focusing engagement and growing participation of our membership. We believe increasing our membership active participation will also increase the overall chapter membership, overtime.

Efforts to grow our membership participation include updating the Chapter Webpage and developing an active presence on Facebook. Two of our members have been identified that have skills to update and actively manage both the web and Facebook pages. The theme will be to highlight membership opportunities and identify the outreach that the chapter is currently performing to support the community. We will also be actively soliciting feedback for recommendations on how to best engage our membership through community involvement, meeting topics and venues.

The Seidel Chapter 232 General membership meeting was held on 13 March 2017. The guest speaker was Congressman Pete Sessions, District 32. Congressman Sessions provided a short overview of his assessment of the military strength and support for Veterans. Clearly, he is hawkish on support for force structure strength and weapon systems to maintain a strong military force. He is also very concerned about support for Veterans and believes increased emphasis and resources need to be made available to assist our Veterans, independent of age.

The chapter has been active with other elected officials at the National and Texas State levels with the goal to ensure officials are aware of the mission of the Air Force Association and support programs for active duty as well as Veterans. Topics for National elected officials include End of Sequestration and elimination of the offset of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

## **Austin Chapter**

Donated \$500 to Support "Served Like a Girl" documentary chronicling the lives of female veterans. Movie was premiered at South by South West Media Festival in Austin.

Contacted and supplied three Cyber Patriot Awards packages to Austin area national team winners.

Hosted the 1st Quarter AFA Texas Executive Committee Meeting in Austin.

Donated \$800 to Texas Wing CAP Cadet Flight Encampment Program

## The Abilene Chapter

Is also determining how we can assist with the Dyess Airman Memorial ((dyessmemorialpark.org) click on video)) to be built this summer at Dyess. We funded a Community Partnership for the Abilene Chamber of Commerce. We also funded a membership for our new Texas Congressman, Stan Lambert, and arranged for our new US Congressman, Jody Arrington's membership. We are working with the AISD to attempt to garner interest in our TOY program. I am working with the Abilene Education Foundation to make that happen. We are also in conversation with the local EAA and Big Country Airpower Association to sponsor some flying time for the "Young Eagle" program later this spring

## Northeast Chapter

Vance Clarke, 416 President Chapter 416 has been busy as always ... even though resources are scarcer and workers are fewer.

10 Jan – Commerce Independent School District (CISD) held a recognized the Chapter \$5000 donation at a school board meeting on 10 Jan 2017. Terry Thomas - VP Community Partners, Larry Ratliff – VP Veterans Affairs, and Tom Bailey – VP Leadership Development, all attended and accepted the recognition. Earvin Larry – CISD teacher was there was also recognized for his work with the robotics program the chapter donated to.

13 Jan – Received results from Bruce Charbonneau on four of our Rockwall teams. All made it to Regionals. Following up to see how they finished as well as how our Rockwall- Heath teams did.

20 Jan – The City of Greenville recognized Terry Thomas, VP Community Partners a Worthy Greenville Citizen at a dinner on 20 Jan 2017. Terry's work for AFA as well his numerous other community support has made him a key figure in the community for many years. This recognition was noteworthy for Terry.

25 Jan – Chapter meeting held at Two Senioritas – Community Partner.

2 Feb – Chapter President - Vance Clarke, and VP Civil Air Patrol (CAP) – Chuck Meador, attended a meeting hosted by the 645th AESS and the Commander local CAP area CAP Major Choya Shanahan. 416 donated \$1000 as startup monies to support pilot flying hours to support our local CAP efforts. Vance solicited 50% off on memberships for anyone supporting the program. To date, 1 pilot responded and purchased a 3-year membership with chapter covering \$55 of the \$110.

2 Feb – Commerce newspaper ran story in Herald Banner with mention of 416 donation to Robotics program.

27 Feb – Greenville Christian School (GCS) contacted President – Vance Clarke, for funds to support their annual Rocket Launch. Go ahead was given and Jennifer Simpson began work on getting required supplies to support the planned 15 April launch.

27 Feb – 416 again supported Italy, TX CAP efforts. Though not in our area, no other chapters are supporting. 416 supported the school with CAP Classroom support and thereby was solicited to support the other events. \$100 was sent to be sponsor the event.

1 Mar – MSgt Bode – 416 VP, was notified of promotion to SMSgt! We are pleased to have been some small part of his recognition and continued success. We will hate to see him leave this summer – July 2017 – due to PCS.

15 Mar – Chapter meeting held again at Two Senioritas. Four members in attendance. Discussions and planning for future officers, our 15 April Spring Thing banquet, and more all discussed.