



The _____ **Retrospect** _____ Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 615

Volume 22, Issue 1

The Leon Donnelly Chapter

Apr 06- Jun 06

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION



AFSA Auxiliary Officer Installation



AFSA International President
CMSgt. (Ret.) John R. "Doc"
McCauslin speaks at Banquet.



AFSA Officer Installation

Barksdale Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 615 and Auxiliary hosted the association's international president as their guest speaker at their installation banquet on February 21, 2006. AFSA International President Mr. John McCauslin spoke on several benefit topics the organization is fighting for such as medical, retirement, and education. He said that now, more than ever, people should become active members of AFSA to strengthen the organization's voice on Capital Hill. The event also included the installation of new leaders and recognizing members. Members were also recognized at the event for their dedication to promoting the association's goals. Recognized members were Ms. Pam Miller, Member of the Year; Senior Master Sergeant Elizabeth Melahn, President's Award and Sky High Club Award; and Airman First Class Michael Cox, First Term Airman of the Year. Auxiliary members recognized were Ms. Anne Rouse, Member of the Year; and Ms. Debra Oesterreich and Ms. Elizabeth Swanson, for the President's Award. The evening also saw the installation of new officers. The following people took the oath of office, Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Melahn, President; Master Sgt. Tony Rutherford, Vice President; SMSgt John Thomas, Senior Advisor; MSgt Sgt. Bonnie Paskey, trustee; Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Melahn, trustee; Master Sgt. David Johnson, trustee; Master Sgt. Richard Lee, trustee; Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Jeff Ledoux, trustee; Ms. Pam Miller, Secretary; Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Harold Swanson, treasurer; and Senior Airman Michael Cox, Airman Advisor. Auxiliary leaders installed were Ms. Vicky Thur, President; Ms. Elizabeth Swanson, Vice President; Ms. Debra Oesterreich, Senior Advisor; Ms. Mary Joe Jones, trustee; Ms. Anne Rouse, trustee; Ms. Vicky Krejsa, trustee; Ms. Cassie Byrd, trustee; Ms. Dot Baker, trustee; Ms. Lisa Byrd, trustee; and Ms. Irene Heffern, Treasurer.

NEWS FROM THE TOP !!!!!

SMSgt Elizabeth Melahn, President

Hello, my name is Liz, and I'm your new President. I'm a life time AFSA member and have held several positions including two terms as president at Kadena, Chapter 1553, Membership Trustee, Legislative, and Senior Advisor. I'm also a two time Sky Higher. I have 26 years of service and still going strong. I'm married to Jeff Melahn, a Chief Master Sergeant, with 26 years of service. We have two daughters Danielle 23, and Melissa 26 and two beautiful grandchildren, Gianna 17 months, and Little Jeffrey 13 months.

As your new President, I'd like to begin by thanking you for this wonderful opportunity. I'm looking forward to working with each of you in the coming year. My goals for the chapter is to get more people involved by recruiting and making sure everyone knows what AFSA stands for. We have done some great things in the chapter over the past year, a website up and running thanks to Michael Cox, and a new Chapter Coins, thanks to Rich Lee. We have new people on the Exec Council which is good because they bring new ideas.

Come on out and join the fun working Bingo at the Veterans Bingo Parlor every Friday starting at 1700. I also want to personally invite you to our next meeting 28 March, 1900, at the Stripes Lounge on Barksdale AFB. I ask that you please send me your comments, concerns, or suggestions. We have a new year ahead of us which I'm very excited about. You can reach me at 965-0260 or email jeffreymelahn@bellsouth.net.

AUXILIARY NEWS !!!!

Vicky Thur, Auxiliary President

Hello Everyone,

Hi my name is Vicky Thur and I am the Auxiliary President for 2006. I hope everyone is healthy and doing well. We have moved our general membership meeting from the 1st Wednesday to the last Tuesday of every month. I sure would like to see more members attending. I'd like to have the chance to meet you in person. We still have the Friday night bingos at the Veterans Bingo Parlor at 5:00 P.M. With all the legislative issues that we are facing with the DOD we really need you to contact your representatives and let them know they need to support the military healthcare issues. I wish everyone a Happy Easter and I hope to see you at our next meeting.

AFSA Chapter 615 changed its **monthly meeting** from the 1st Wednesday of each month to the **Last Tuesday of each month**. Meetings are held at the BAFB Stripes Club, formally the Enlisted Club. Attend the next meeting to get the most recent benefits information. AFSA is engaging Congress on topics such as medical, pay, education, and retirement. **Refreshments are free.**

Programs

CMSgt Jeff Melahn

First let me tell you a little about myself. Currently assigned as the First Sergeant of the 2 Security Forces Squadron...HUGAH Bayou Warriors! Been in the AF for 26 yrs, married to your new President, two daughter and 2 grand children. I am a lifetime member of AFSA. Have served previously as Chapter President, Senior Advisor, Trustee and Division Trustee. My responsibilities include: continuously studying the operation of the chapter; develop plans and programs supporting local commanders and/or communities in furtherance of the aims of the AFSA membership, the USAF and the American public. Develop an annual plan of operations encompassing fund raisers, division conventions, meetings, picnics, banquets and similar events and perform other duties prescribed by the president. Look forward to your input and suggestions. While membership is important we need more to volunteer and participate, especially on the active duty part of our organization. Our general membership meetings must meet a quorum requirement. I ask each of you to consider making the meetings, giving input and bring the chapter to new levels. I hope to double or even triple the attendance at our general membership meetings and events. I hope to have your support. The Chapter needs your support. You can email me at jeffreymelah@bellsouth.net or call 965-0260. Our annual golf tournament preparations start in May 06 with the tournament in Aug/Sept 06. I will be needing lots of help and look forward to working with you.

Retiree News!!!!

From your VSO, Harold Swanson

VA Claims Assistance Update: The VA recognizes that veterans may develop disabilities years after service that are directly related to military exposure to certain conditions. For a summary of those conditions, go to the VA Web site: www.va.gov and review the 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 3.309 to 3.317. If you feel any of the presumptive conditions listed apply to you, get a doctor's opinion, a diagnosis, your DD-214, and visit your veteran advocate to file a claim. If not for you, then for your wife and children who would be eligible to file for benefits if your death results from any related condition. A small investment in the beginning will pay off for the rest of the veteran's life. Claims can also be filed for secondary conditions. These are disabilities that are proximately due to, or the result of a service-connected disease or injury. Remember, the VA hires highly educated, many legally schooled, rating specialists, so give these VA employees the medical and legal opinions they seek. These VA rating specialists are mostly pro-veteran, but they too, have laws and rules set by Congress that they must adhere to. The best way to work the system is to provide them with the documentation they need to help you, the veteran. If in doubt as to where to obtain claim filing assistance, call the post or see the post veteran service officer.

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website for updates on programs between newsletters at:
<http://www.afsachapter615.org>.

Coordinator's Corner!!!!

Debby Oesterreich, Division 610 Coordinator

Hello Members!

I am getting ready to go to the Division Convention in Little Rock, AR and I hope that you are doing the same. The dates for the convention are March 30th - April 2nd. I know the deadline for your registration and room was Feb. 28th but if anyone decides to go at this late date here is the information because it's never to late to decide to go. The convention is at the Embassy Suites, 11301 Financial Center Parkway, Little Rock, AR 72203 and the late registration fee is \$125.00 (made payable to AFSA Division 610 Convention Fund). You can get a copy of this registration on the website for Chapter 658 at www.AFSA658.NETFIRMS.com. The number to call and book a room is 501-312-9000 and ask for Melanie Huffman. It may be too late to get the full discounted rate but you can try! The theme for the Icebreaker is Sports Night so you can wear your favorite team's T-shirt or colors. I know I will be wearing the Green Bay Packers colors. If you have any other questions feel free to call me at 318-949-5778 and I will be happy to answer them.

On another front, DOD is doing its best to raise our TRICARE rates, co-pays and pharmacy co-pays. We need your help in fighting this. The hardest hit will be the retirees, though they won't be the only ones affected. All it takes is a five minute call to your representatives to change the course of history. One voice does make a difference, you could be the last call the representative needs to change his mind. It's a numbers and percentage game to the politicians, but it's our way of life that they are playing with. It has come to my attention, from the International President of AFSA, that Congressman McCrery is not on the sponsor list for many of the vital bills to support the military. If you only make one call let it be to him and ask him why he is not supporting the Military issues. Thank you for all you help and God Bless You!

Mark your calendars!

The Chapter Picnic is at Cullen Park on Barksdale AFB on 23 April 06, starting at 1200. It's free and we will be having Hamburgers and Hotdogs, beans, chips etc...drinks are provided also. Don't forget to bring some quarters for card games.

MEET THE WEBMASTER!!!

Michael K. Cox, A1C, Airman Advisor / Chapter Webmaster

I have been an AFSA member for a year now. I joined AFSA in the hopes of finding a worthwhile organization that really makes a difference on base. I got all that and more. It is really like having another family. My goals for this year as Airman Advisor are to bring the airman community closer to AFSA and provide some quality events for the airmen to enjoy. As the chapter's webmaster I hope to improve our website all around by incorporating newer technology, increasing its visibility and making it an information hub for all things AFSA.



Calendar of Events

**AFSA
General
Membership
And Auxiliary
Meeting**

**Last Tuesday of
each Month
1900 Hrs.
@
Barksdale AFB
Stripes Club**

**Bingo
Every Friday
1700 Hrs.
@
Veteran's Bingo
Parlor
868-4170
Shreveport-
Barksdale Hwy**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The **AIRMEN'S PICNIC** is in the dorm area 10 June 06, starting at 1600.

It's **FREE**, so come out and join the **FUN!!!**

Date	Time	Event	Place
MAR 30- APR 2		DIVISION CONVENTION	LITTLE ROCK, AR
MAR 31	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
APR 1	0845	ROAD CLEAN-UP	ELLIS POTTERY
APR 7	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
APR 10	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS
APR 14	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
APR 18	1900	AFSA EXC. BRD MTG.	STRIPES CLUB
APR 20	1900	AFSA AUX EXC BRD MTG.	DEBBY O'S HOUSE
APR 21	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
APR 23	1200	AFSA CHAPTER PICNIC	CULLEN PARK
APR 25	1900	AFSA MEMBERSHIP MTG.	STRIPES CLUB
APR 27		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
APR 28	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
MAY 5	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
MAY 6	0845	ROAD CLEAN-UP	ELLIS POTTERY
MAY 8	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS
MAY 12	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
MAY 19	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
MAY 23	1900	AFSA EXC. BRD MTG.	STRIPES CLUB
MAY 25	1900	AFSA AUX EXC BRD MTG.	DEBBY O'S HOUSE
MAY 25		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
MAY 26	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
MAY 30	1900	AFSA MEMBERSHIP MTG.	STRIPES CLUB
JUN 2	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
JUN 3	0845	ROAD CLEAN-UP	ELLIS POTTERY
JUN 9	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
JUN 10	1600	AIRMEN'S PICNIC	DORM AREA
JUN 12	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS
JUN 16	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
JUN 20	1900	AFSA EXC. BRD MTG.	STRIPES CLUB
JUN 22	1900	AFSA AUX EXC BRD MTG.	DEBBY O'S HOUSE
JUN 23	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
JUN 27	1900	AFSA MEMBERSHIP MTG.	STRIPES CLUB
JUN 29		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
JUN 30	1700	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR



The Leon Donnelly Chapter

AFSA CHAPTER 615
P.O. BOX 306
Barksdale AFB, LA
71110

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #333
Shreveport, LA

- Application Type**
- New Membership
 - Membership Renewal
- Membership Term**
- One Year \$16
 - Two Years \$30
 - Three Years \$43
 - Life Membership \$200
 - Life Installments \$225
(\$25 now and 8 quarterly payments of \$25 each)
- Membership Type**
- Active
 - Affiliate
- Chapter Assignment**
- Assign to closest AFSA chapter
 - Assign to chapter _____



AFSA Auxiliary Membership Application

Name _____
Last First MI

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. () _____ Date of Birth _____

Social Security No. _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's ID or SSAN _____ Recruiter's Chapter _____

Payment Method: (NOTE: Do not send cash or checks drawn on foreign banks)

Check/Money Order AmEx VISA MasterCard Discover

_____ Exp. Date _____

Return with payment to: AFSA, P.O. Box 50 Temple Hills, MD 20757, or call 1-800-638-0594.

- Application Type**
- New Membership
 - Membership Renewal
- Membership Term**
- One Year \$25
 - Two Years \$44
 - Three Years \$64
 - E-1 - E-4 (18 months for New Members) \$18
 - Life Membership \$350
 - Life Installments \$400
(\$50 now and 14 quarterly payments of \$25 each)
- Component**
- USAF DAF Civilian
 - AFRC Former Enlisted
 - ANG OTHER
 - Retired
- Chapter Assignment**
- Assign to closest AFSA chapter
 - Assign to chapter _____

AFSA Membership Application

Name _____
Last First MI Rank

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. () _____ Date of Birth _____

Social Security No. _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's ID or SSAN _____ Recruiter's Chapter _____

Payment Method: (NOTE: Do not send cash or checks drawn on foreign banks)

Check/Money Order AmEx VISA MasterCard Discover

_____ Exp. Date _____

Return with payment to: AFSA, P.O. Box 50 Temple Hills, MD 20757, or call 1-800-638-0594.