



The Retrospect

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 615/A615

Volume 24, Issue 2

The Leon Donnelly Chapter

JUL 08 – SEP 08



Thank you, AFSA and Auxiliary for helping to make CAMP RAINMAN possible. Each year our chapter and this event grow more precious as the number of diagnosed autism cases grows. With your support, this was our biggest camp yet with 49 campers in attendance. There are few programs in our area to support our local families struggling with this disability and your support helps us continue our tradition. Once again we would like to say, "THANK YOU".

Words from the Presidents

AFSA President Jeff Ledoux

Thank you for your continued support of this great organization. While we focus our attention on how to grow stronger, the Air Force Sergeants Association continues to struggle to recruit new members and retain its current membership. Over the past 10 years, AFSA membership has declined from over 237,000 to about 122,000 today. That's a decline of well over 100,000 members. Even while in this decline AFSA has remained on diligent watch over our benefits. In fact, AFSA has two full time members dedicated to working with congressional leaders on a full time basis. AFSA plays a key role in the continuous struggle to improve and expand our benefits starting from when you enter the military until well after you separate or retire. AFSA recently sponsored legislation with Senator Jim Webb from VA on improving the GI Bill. Although we did not get everything we had hoped for, it appears we'll see improved benefits in the very near future now that the president signed the bill (S. 22) into law. While many of you understand the important role AFSA plays, many others do not. I challenge each of you to spread the word about AFSA. In doing so, we will hopefully recruit new members. If everyone does their small part, the insurmountable doesn't seem so difficult to overcome. Again, thanks for all you do each day to keep our nation free and strong.

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

AUXILIARY President Lisa Byrd

Hello! It sure is hot! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, despite the gas prices. We, the Auxiliary, have been busy since the Installation in March. We prepared 400+ Easter gift baskets for under privileged/sick children. To see the joy in their eyes and the smiles - it is a blessing. During March we attended the Division Convention in Witicha Falls, TX. We won Chapter of the Year (over 125), Community Service Award, and Newsletter of the Year Awards. We all had a great time. Last month some of us attended the Memorial Ceremony at Hillcrest Ceremony; this was a first for me. It was a "great" experience to witness this special event. Also, six ladies attended a Northwest LA Food Bank function, painting bowls! Again, a first for me and some of the other ladies. This month, in conjunction with some chapter members, we attended The Annual NW LA Food Bank Silent Auction. Mary Joe Jones, who passed away earlier this year, always looked forward to this event. The International AFSA Convention will be held in San Antonio, TX the last week of August. We are really looking forward to attending the convention as your delegate, if you have any concerns you would like addressed or looked into, just let myself or one of the other auxiliary member know.

Recruiting is everyone's responsibility! If each member would recruit just one person, that would increase our membership, which garners more power for our Lobbyist on Capitol Hill. NOTICE: New Recruiting Forms included in this newsletter, are also available on the AFSA International Website. Let's get recruiting! Stay cool and safe.

5K FUN RUN

SSgt Chester "Brian" Hinds

There were 413 participants in the 5K fun run held on 22 May 08. Thanks for everyone who came out and helped.



Mens 29 and Below

1st - Adam Walton 2 MUNS
2nd - A1C Bikandoyak Tutlam 2 FSS
3rd - Capt Warren Carroll 2 BS

Womens 29 and Below

1st - Amn Marla Perez 2 AMXS
2nd - Stephen Marino 2 SF
3rd - 1stLt Zalika Mims 2 CS

Mens 30 to 39

1st - LtCol Aaron Ullman 96 BS
2nd - TSgt James Custer 2 Com
3rd - Capt Gerardo Lopez 2 AMDS

Womens 30 to 39

1st TSgt Pamela Marshall 2 FSS
2nd 1stLt Theresa Determan 2 MOS
3rd - Maj Carie Parker 2 BW

Men 40 and Above

1st - LtCol Mark Maryak 8 AF
2nd - Col Mark Ware 8 AF
3rd - LtCol Monte Cannon 8 AF

Chester Hinds, SSgt, USAF
Fuel System Instructor
Comm: 456 - 8519

INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY TRUSTEE

Debby Oesterreich

Hello Members, I hope you are enjoying the lovely summer we are having. If you are traveling on vacations please be careful and have a great time. I've been traveling all over the place so I highly recommend it. It's getting closer to convention time so I just wanted to give you a few details. The dates are Aug. 23-Aug.27. Make sure when you plan your lodging with your arrival date (Aug. 23) and departure date (Aug. 28) is clearly stated at the time you make your reservations. The opening theme party is Fiesta so wear your most colorful and comfortable clothes. Ladies, don't forget your hat for the Auxiliary Breakfast. On the working side we have had a big success on Capitol Hill. There was a bill, HR 6331, to reverse the 10.6% reduction in payments for the doctors taking Medicare that went into practice on July 1, 2008. Because of the overwhelming response of AFSA members to their Senators they have passed HR 6331. It is going to the President for signature and can become immediately effective. This affects you how? If this bill had not passed and the 10.6% reduction in payments of Medicare bills had stood, it would affect TriCare recipients. The payment of TriCare bills is in direct correlation to Medicare. Doctors threatened to stop taking Medicare and TriCare patients if the payment for their services had been reduced even more than they currently are. We would not have been able to get adequate medical care. But we don't have to worry about that anymore; we did it-- Just another reason to be an AFSA member. Take care and enjoy the rest of your summer.

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS EDUCATION

SSgt Chester "Brian" Hinds

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 would amend Part III of Title 38, United States Code, to expand the educational benefits for military veterans who have served since September 11, 2001. The bill is an attempt to pay for veterans' college expenses to a similar extent that the original G.I. Bill did after World War II.

On June 19, 2008 the veteran education assistance benefits, along with 13-week unemployment benefit extension, passed as an amendment with a vote of 416-12. On June 26, 2008 the Senate voted 92-6 in favor of the final version of the bill. The bill now heads to President Bush, who is expected to sign the bill.

Overview The bill is an attempt to give returning war veterans the same benefits of the original G.I. Bill. The current Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) has been a source of debate over the last decade as it falls far short of the cost of a 4-year college education. The new bill would pay full college tuition for the most expensive in-state public college for qualifying service members. As an incentive to attract more co-sponsors, provisions were added where the government would provide matching funds to private colleges that agree to pay half the difference between their tuition and the amount covered by the new GI Bill. The bill would also include a monthly living stipend equal to that of a married E-5 in the active duty military.

Bill summary The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 would improve educational benefits for certain individuals who began serving on active duty in the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001.

VETERAN'S VIEW

CMSGT Harold Swanson (RET)

Some good news from your Veterans Service Officer, for those receiving VA disability, but did not have a full 20 years for retirement.

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act that was signed into law on Jan 8, 2008 expanded the CRSC (Combat Related Service Connected) to include ANYONE receiving military retirement pay. This includes: Medical Chapter 61, TERA Temporary Early Retirement Act, and TDRL Temporary Disabled Retirement List retirees. These new eligible components for CRSC went into effect January 1, 2008. Medical and TERA retirees must still provide documentation that shows a causal link between the current VA disability and a combat related event.

MEMORIAL DAY



MSgt Todd Albert and Lisa Byrd place a wreath at the Memorial Day Service at Ceremony at Hill Crest Cemetery



**AFSA & AUX
Monthly Membership
Meeting**

Last Tuesday of each Month
1800 Hrs.

@
Barksdale AFB
Stripes Club

**AFSA
Weekly Bingo
Every Friday
1730 Hrs.**

@
Veteran's Bingo Parlor
(318) 868-4170
Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS !!!**

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11 OCT 08
CHAPTER FALL PICNIC
(CULLEN PARK BAFB)

**CALLING ALL
GOLFERS:**



13 SEPT 08
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
AUG 1	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
AUG 2	0845	ROAD CLEAN-UP	ELLIS POTTERY, AIRLINE DR.
AUG 8	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
AUG 11	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAK NH
AUG 15	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
AUG 16	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
AUG 19	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVERVIEW NH
AUG 21	1700	AUX EXC BRD MTG	TBA
AUG 22	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
AUG 23-27		INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION	SAN ANTONIO, TX
AUG 26	1800	AFSA/ AUX MEMBERSHIP MGT	STRIPES CLUB
AUG 28		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
SEPT 1		MDA TELETHON	KTBS CHANNEL 3
SEPT 5	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
SEPT 8	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS NH
SEPT 12	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
SEPT 13		GOLF TOURNAMENT	FOX RUN GOLF COURSE
SEPT 16	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVERVIEW NH
SEPT 18	1700	AUX EXC BRD MTG	TBA
SEPT 19	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
SEPT 20	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
SEPT 23	1700	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	STRIPES CLUB
SEPT 25		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
SEPT 26	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
SEPT 30	1800	AFSA/ AUX MEMBERSHIP MTG	STRIPES CLUB
OCT 3	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 4	0845	ROAD CLEAN-UP	ELLIS POTTERY, AIRLINE DR.
OCT 10	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 11	1300	FALL PICNIC	CULLEN PARK, BAFB
OCT 13	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS NH
OCT 17	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 18	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
OCT 21	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVERVIEW NH
OCT 21	1700	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	STRIPES CLUB
OCT 23	1700	AUX EXC BRD MTG	TBA
OCT 24	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
OCT 28	1800	AFSA/ AUX MEMBERSHIP MTG	STIPES CLUB
OCT 30		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
OCT 31	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR

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