



THE RETROSPECT

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 615/A615

Volume 25, Issue 3

The Leon Donnelly Chapter

JUL 09-SEPT 09



2009 AIRMAN ACTIVITIES ANNUAL POOL PARTY

Words from the Presidents

**Chapter President
SMSgt David K. Johnson**

Where has the year gone too? The last six months have been such a busy time that I've got to say Thank You for your continued support! The coming months will be just as busier as we work to build a better organization. On September 12, we'll hold our annual AFSA Golf Tournament at the Barksdale Fox Run golf course. Previously, a number of great golfers and aspiring good golfers have enjoyed a round while contributing to uplift the AFSA cause. Much thanks goes to all our local community sponsors who continue to be a strong supporter to the enlisted voice. In October, we'll roll up our sleeves and put some muscle into cleaning the headstones of our fallen veterans at the Greenwood Cemetery. This ritual reminds us of the proud history of military service as we enter November in celebration of Veterans Day.

Finally, let's not forget we must continue to recruit new members and retain existing AFSA member. Our membership numbers provide leverage on Capitol Hill as AFSA continuously strives to improve and expand our benefits such as the recently enacted 9/11 GI Bill. If you want to become involved in one of the best chapters in AFSA, come to one of our meetings and check us out. We meet monthly at Stripes on the last Tuesday @ 6:00 pm.

**AUXILIARY President
Lisa Byrd**

Hi everyone! This year has really flown by and before you realize it the rest of this year will be gone. The International Convention was in Atlanta, GA, during the middle of August.

Some exciting news; the Auxiliary now has there own web-site! The site address is:

<http://www.afsachapter615.org/auxiliary/index.htm>

When you open the site, log on with your first initial and last name (one word) (same thing in the second box) then click on: change password. To the left side of the page you will see the following buttons: Home, About Us, Officers, Awards, Calendar, Minutes, Guestbook and Gallery. These areas are just full of information. The web-site is under the care of Mrs. Rika Hinds. Rika, "Thank you" for all you are doing and "you're" doing an outstanding job! Brian (Rika's husband), "Thank you" for your time in getting this program on the path to "greatness"! If you have any questions or suggestions, email them to: ricah@suddenlink.net

Until next time, stay safe and cool during the rest of the summer.

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website for updates
between newsletters at:

<http://www.afsachapter615.org>.

Retiree News

The VA and the LDVA (LA vets affairs) have some new deals. The War Veterans Homes in Louisiana are now open to all honorably discharged veterans, regardless of their actual dates of service, and in some cases their surviving spouses.

The VA Hospitals have increased the minimum annual salary requirements for non service disabled veterans to utilize the hospital benefits.

The new Post 9-11 GI Bill is going well. Over 35,000 applicants so far, and more going in daily. Apply on-line through the

www.vba.va.gov website and click on the link to "Post 9-11 GI Bill." This program actually starts as of Aug 1, 2009, but if you know you want to go to college, you can apply early to beat the rush.

The Louisiana Veterans Honor medals, available to any service person, active, reserve, guard, retired or veteran. They can be applied for on-line at www.vetaffairs.la.gov or through any louisiana parish veterans office. It will soon be possible for those vets aged 75 and over to request their medal to be mailed to them. The Secretary of the LA Dept of Veterans Affairs and the Governor would like to personally present as many medals as possible though.

CMSgt (Ret.) Harold Swanson – Chapter 615 Treasurer

DID YOU KNOW

When Chapters recruit more members it helps the chapters by providing:

- More volunteers for chapter activities;
- More influence in state and local legislature;
- More support and new ideas for chapters and AFSA;
- More impact for community and charitable programs;
- And, more local publicity because of your group's strength and the ability to get things done as a team.

Challenge is to recruit one member, also don't forget about the Auxiliary! Non-military spouse and family are eligible!!!!

UPDATE

Supporting our enlisted force continues to be a strong part of Chapter 615. During the last few months, we've had the pleasure of attending several events and programs to recognize the best of the best of our enlisted force.

The Barksdale Airman of the month program continues to run strong and AFSA presented a Certificate of Commendation and a \$25.00 check to the following Airmen: A1C Freddy Aybar (Mar), A1C Deven Kirk (Apr), A1C Cody Nichols (May) and SrA Josephine Massingill (Jun). We salute these junior leaders for an awesome job done.

The 2d Bomb Wing 1st quarter award recipients were: MSgt Jeffrey Krantz (SNCO), TSgt Howard Church (NCO), SrA Danelle Brown (Airman), and A1C Ciarra Schady (Honor Guard). The 917th 1st Quarter award recipients were TSgt Julie Sullivan (NCO) and SrA Bobby Trichell (Airman). All award recipients received a certificate of Commendation and a \$25.00 check for an outstanding job well done.

AFSA continues to show support to area high school AFJROTC programs as they recognize cadets for their hard work and dedication to the community. The award recipients were: Houghton Cadets John Weaver/Kamarra Washington, Benton High Cadets Ashlyn Brock/Harrison Wallace, West Monroe Cadets Halen Doughty/Bradley Blazier, and Airline High Cadets Ryan Perry/Bradley Proctor. They all received a AFJROTC certificate and medal.

Lastly, the Barksdale Airman Leadership School continues to teach new supervisors the skills they'll need to guide and mentor personnel during the early stages of their career. Our Chapter sponsored the Distinguished Graduate awards at several graduation ceremonies where SrA Gary Demmons, SrA Robin Johnson, SrA Denney Lora, SrA Trudeau Ross, SrA Clark Canfield, SrA Andrew Habecker, SrA Jonathan Rasmussen, SrA Antonia Rivera, and SrA Reuben Dominguez received plaques for their achievement.

Legislative Awareness

Fellow AFSA and Auxiliary Members, myself and Brian Hinds have been actively working to setup and use our website to the maximum extent possible to ensure each of you receive current legislative information and that your voices can be heard in on Capitol Hill the most expedited manner. To ensure this, we ask that each of you send an e-mail to Brian Hinds at communications@afsachapter615.org so we can get you setup to receive automatic e-mail notices of current and hot legislative issues that need your support.

AFSA International and the coalition of military associations continue to work for each of us. If you have anything that you would like to see on the website or in legislation be sure to let us know. My e-mail is legislative@afsachapter615.org. Have a great SUMMER!

Capitol Hill Bills to Watch.

Everyone needs to keep an eye on the following House and Senate bills:

House Bills

- H.R.32 : Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2009
- H.R.33 : Disability Benefit Fairness Act of 2009
- H.R.84 : Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act
- H.R.108 : Disabled Veterans Commissary and Exchange Store Benefits Act
- H.R.198 : Health Care Tax Deduction Act of 2009
- H.R.228 : Visual Impairment VA Scholarship Program
- H.R.236 : Social Security Protection Act
- H.R.237 : Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of
- H.R.247 : Protect Our Veterans Memorials Act of
- H.R.270 : TRICARE Continuity of Coverage for National Guard and Reserve Families Act of 2009
- H.R.294 : Veteran Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2009

House Bills

- H.R.295 : More Jobs for Veterans Act of 2009
- H.R.379 : State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Expansion Act
- H.R.403 : Homes for Heroes Act of 2009
- H.R.466 : Wounded Veteran Job Security Act
- H.R.775 : Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act
- H.R.811 : Retired Pay Restoration Act

Senate Bills

- S.35 : IRS Sales Tax Permanent Deduction
- S.66 : Disabled Vet Space A
- S.67 : Disabled POW Commissary/Exchange Use
- S.263 : Servicemembers Access to Justice Act of 2009
- S.535 : SBP DIC Offset Elimination

To read the text of each Bill and to review other Bills on Capitol Hill, go to the following website - <http://thomas.loc.gov>. More will follow in future issues of the newsletter.

MSgt (Ret) Johnny Byrd, Trustee for Legislation

Volunteers needed

Bill Braidwood, VAVS Representative for AFSA

Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ Snack Attack– Deliver health snacks to in-patients (Snacks are prepared by Nutrition and Food Service)
- ◆ Patient Appointment Reminder Calling
- ◆ Patient Discharge Waiting Lounge
- ◆ Voluntary Service Ambassador: Facilitate group volunteer visits
- ◆ Days and times are flexible to your schedules.

Needs List for the VA Medical Center

- ◆ Need storage for household furnishings donated for vets.
- ◆ Home furnishings, clothing, etc.
- ◆ Money to secure documents, birth certificates, ID, cards
- ◆ Television fund (replace T.V.'s in waiting rooms)
- ◆ Games for Wii systems
- ◆ Adopt-A-Waiting room (Magazine subscriptions)

Contact Esther Comb or Bob Frasier at the Voluntary Service Office for more information concerning volunteering:
(318) 221-8411, Ext. 6701

HAPPENINGS

Charity Golf Tournament – We will be hosting our 20th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on 12 Sept 2009 (0800 Shotgun Start) at Fox Run Golf course on BAFB. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, door prizes, closest to the pin/longest drive, meal and drinks (before/during/after) are all included. All proceeds to Santa's in Blue and Operation Warm Heart. We will be looking for volunteers for the event. In addition we need volunteers to visit their local establishments for donation support. If would like to assist in obtaining donations email me at jeffreymelahn@bellouth.net and I will send you our letter of request. These letters will also be available at all General Membership meetings up to the event. For more information call Harold Swanson 949-1937, Don Beasley 868-4170, Wenzel Oesterreich 949-5778, or Jeff Melahn 456-6908.

Fall Picnic—We will be hosting our Annual Fall Picnic on 10 October 2009 (1000-until) at Cullen Park on BAFB. Bring your family and join us for some food and fun!!! We look forward to seeing you there.

CMSgt (Ret.) Jeff Melahn, Trustee of Activities

Calendar of Events



AFSA & AUX Monthly Membership Meeting

Last Tuesday of each Month
1800 Hrs.
@
Barksdale AFB
Stripes Lounge

**AFSA
Weekly Bingo**
Every Friday
1730 Hrs.
@
Veteran's Bingo Parlor
(318) 868-4170
Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
9/15	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVERVIEW NH
9/18	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
9/19	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
9/22	1700	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	BAFB STRIPES CLUB
9/24	1700	AUX EXC BRD MTG	TBA
9/25		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
9/25	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
9/29	1800	AFSA/AUX MEMBERSHIP MTG	BAFB STRIPES CLUB
10/2	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
10/3	0830	ROAD CLEAN-UP	ELLIS POTTERY-AIRLINE DRIVE
10/9	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
10/13	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS NH
10/16	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
10/17	1700	BIRTHDAY DINNER	TBA
10/20	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVERVIEW NH
10/20	1700	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	BAFB STRIPES CLUB
10/22	1700	AUX EXC BRD MTG	TBA
10/23		VA CAKES	VA HOSPITAL
10/23	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
10/27	1800	AFSA/AUX MEMBERSHIP MTG	BAFB STRIPES CLUB
11/1	0830	ROAD CLEAN-UP	ELLIS POTTERY-AIRLINE DRIVE
11/6	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
11/10	1400	COLONIAL OAKS BINGO	COLONIAL OAKS NH
11/13	1730	BINGO	VETERAN'S BINGO PARLOR
11/17	1400	RIVERVIEW BINGO	RIVERVIEW NH
11/17	1700	AFSA EXC BRD MTG	BAFB STRIPES CLUB



The Leon Donnelly Chapter

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

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AFSA Membership Application

Application Type
Membership Term
Membership Type
Component Status
Chapter Assignment

Name Rank
Address City
State/Zip E-mail Address
I prefer to be contacted via e-mail.
I am a War Veteran
Date of Birth Telephone No
Member's ID Cell Phone No
Payment Method: (NOTE: Do not send checks drawn on foreign banks, or send cash by mail) Overpayments may be applied to the Airmen Memorial Building Fund.
Check/Money Order AmEx VISA MasterCard Discover
Credit Card No. Exp. Date
Cardholder's Signature
Recruiter's Name
Recruiter's Member ID # Recruiter's Chapter

Stock #2000002 SEP09

AFSA Auxiliary Membership Application

Application Type
Membership Term
Life Membership
Membership Type
Chapter Assignment

Name
Address City/State/Zip
E-mail Address I prefer to be contacted via e-mail.
Date of Birth Telephone No
Membership ID Cell Phone No
Payment Method: (NOTE: Do not send checks drawn on foreign banks, or send cash by mail.) Overpayments may be applied to the Auxiliary General Fund.
Check/Money Order AmEx VISA MasterCard Discover
Credit Card No. Exp. Date
Cardholder's Signature
Recruiter's Name
Recruiter's Member ID# Recruiter's Chapter
JAN09: All previous editions of Auxiliary Applications are obsolete.

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