



**Air Force Sergeants Association**  
Thunderbird Chapter 985  
<http://afsa985.org/>  
**General Membership Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
June 13, 2013



1. Our 2nd Quarterly General Membership Meeting for 2013 (6<sup>th</sup> total) convened at 1720 hours at the Midwest City Santa Fe Steakhouse with President Terry Turner presiding.
2. The purpose of a quarterly general membership (GM) meeting is to attract members that are unable to attend our monthly meetings, yet want to engage in/meet other members for possible future involvement. Therefore, this meeting is conducted in a more social/informational setting that permits more visitations while attendees eat dinner. Thus, no voting will be accomplished and a quorum is not necessary. Any issues requiring a vote will be addressed to the next Executive Council and General Membership meetings.
3. 20 Attendees (counting the children).

President Terry Turner, MSgt (Ret)  
Vice President Michael Mooney and his son  
Trustee Don Sullivan, SMSgt (Ret)  
Historian/Senior Advisor Timothy Ossinger, CMSgt (Ret) and spouse Kathy  
Lifetime Trustee Michael Devenitch, SMSgt (Ret) and daughter Chintalah  
Member Jose Magana, SMSgt with his spouse and 2 children  
Member's Bruce and Latonya Reno MSgt's  
Member Christopher Looney TSgt  
Member Michelle S. Wilkes TSgt  
Member Rich Porter TSgt  
Member Eleni Varoumas A1C  
Member Shelby Platt, A1C and guest

4. Introductions: President Terry Turner welcomed everyone.

5. Meeting:

A. President Terry Turner began the meeting by giving a comprehensive briefing of our Treasurer's Report ending May 31, 2013.

B. President Terry Turner briefed attendees about:

1. Our humanitarian/outreach. Programs and the chapter's total 2012 accomplishments; including monies spent number of volunteers and hours volunteered on these projects. The Airmen Activities Coordinator administers our outreach program helping those in our communities less fortunate than ourselves.

2. That SSgt Rachael Long, Chapter 985's 2012 NCO of the Year, won Division 89

NCO of the Year at its annual conference in Council Bluffs, IA in April 2013 and will compete for international honors at the 2013 International AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference (PAC) in San Antonio, TX in August 2013. The chapter will also compete for international honors for the AFSA Community Service Award, Chapter Newsletter of the Year and Chapter Legislative Chapter of the Year Award won at the 2013 division conference.

3. Hot legislative initiatives, how they affect our quality of life and how we can help reverse or lessen their impact on us. Terry explained AFSA's CAPWIZ tool which simplifies the letter writing process in contacting our congressional leaders was lauded by those using it. All were encouraged to use it. Terry explained it's a quick and most effective tool to contact all of one's appropriate Senators or Representatives by merely inserting the writer's zip code. Letters are already prepared on various issues and just need your mailing information inserted. The letters can be edited to add personal comments to these letters if preferred. Several present discussed how easy and productive it was because responses are so much faster than the old mail system. The recent Tuition Assistance reinstatement is evidence of the effectiveness of a mass letter writing campaign.

4. Our Thunderbird News newsletter, Jan-Apr 2013 issue, has been published via the list server; an informative and outstanding job writing and assembling by Trustee Don Sullivan. Everyone should have it by now. A printed copy is being passed around the room for review.

5. The Membership Appreciation night March 27, 2013 at the OKC Thunder NBA game was a huge success. 85 Members and family attended and a great time had by all.

6. Reminded us that 3d Combat Communications Group (3<sup>rd</sup> Herd) will deactivate September 30, 2013 after 60 years at Tinker.

7. Announced that the chapter's website is currently being revamped by A1C Douglas Ash and SRA Michelle Herrera. In a few weeks you will be able to see the great changes that are being made.

8. Also announced that the Airman Activities Coordinator is being passed down from TSgt Rachel Long to A1C Shelby Platt.

C. Michael Devenitch, past Chapter 985 Vice President and more recent past State of Oklahoma VFW Commander, briefed about traveling to and placing Oklahoma flags on WW2 veterans graves at the American Military Cemetery near Margraten, Netherlands over the Memorial Day weekend. He and two Dutch placed 120 Oklahoma flags out of a total of 8,301 head stones. A man started this tradition 50 years ago and passed away which afterwards a lady continued for 14 years until she was diagnosed with cancer. She asked for help and Mike responded. Look for a feature article in our Thunderbird News newsletter, May-August 2013 issue, on this great service Mike Devenitch provided.

D. Trustee Don Sullivan briefed the proposed AFSA Bylaw changes contained in the AFSA Magazine, May/June 2013 issue, which will be voted on by the membership at the 2013 AFSA International PAC in August 2013. It's mostly cosmetic to reflect changes caused by the AFSA Reorganization January 1, 2013 to combine and reduce divisions from 13 to 7. AFSA is asking for an additional Trustee to represent Active Air Force, ANG and AFRC.

E. President Terry Turner held drawings for door prizes of NBA Thunder memorabilia, Base Exchange gift cards, Denny's gift card, iTunes gift cards, and a toy truck from Feed the Children.

F. Dinner was served and visitation between all continued.  
AFSA Chapter 985 Quarterly General Membership Meeting – June 13, 2013  
Santa Fe Steakhouse, Midwest City, OK



G. President Terry Turner asked for comments or questions from around the room.

1. Lifetime Trustee Michael Devenitch advised that Coca Cola is giving \$100,000 to rebuild the Oklahoma Moore Veterans Park that was damaged by a tornado, if 100,000 people vote for this to happen. You can vote on the website once a day, as many days as you like.

2. Trustee Richard Porter advised about 185 active duty members went to Honor Flight last week to honor the World War 2 veterans. This took place at the Rose State College. Oklahoma State Representative Gary Banz (District 101) is the Executive Director of the Honor Flights. He fundraises and insures WWII veterans are afforded the opportunity to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC expenses paid. Rep. Banz is also the State Chair of the Military & Veterans Committee. His website is: <http://www.garybanz.com/>

The meeting was adjourned at 18:04 hours.

///Signed///  
Shelby Platt, Acting Secretary  
And Don Sullivan

///Signed///  
Terry L. Turner, President