



Air Force Sergeants Association

Thunderbird Chapter 985

www.AFSA985.org

General Membership Meeting Minutes

12 Jun 2014



Meeting Convened at 1130 hours with President Zach Merkl presiding, quorum declared.

1. Opening Ceremonies:

- a. Invocation: President Zack Merkl led with the Invocation
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: Trustee Don Sullivan
- c. AFSA Preamble Read by: Trustee Richard Porter
- d. Airman's Creed rendered by: AAC Shelby Platt

2. Members Present:

Zach Merkl	Shelby Platt	Latoya Irving	Don Sullivan
Tim Ossigner	Terry Turner	Eric Dale	James Mitchell
Greg Reyes	Lakatos Jordan	Conner Arvin	Sarah Dron
Joseph Tolley	Greg Jones	Richard Porter	Evan Wilson
Christopher Looney			

3. Special welcome:

Guest: President Zachary Merkl introduced our newest member AFSC Command CMSgt Greg Jones. New attendee Evan Wilson also introduced himself. Senior Advisor Terry Turner welcomed Lakatos Jordan back from deployment. Lakatos helped with recruiting briefings before deploying.

Chief Jones enlightened us with his background and defining the role and importance of each enlisted rank in achieving our total force mission.

4. Reports:

- A. Secretary's Report:** Secretary Latoya Irving reported that the May EC and June EC minutes are completed and posted to our website <http://afsa985.org>. They will be distributed via our list server. Motion to accept Trustee Richard Porter 2nd by Trustee Don Sullivan, motioned passed.
- B. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Christopher Looney provided a comprehensive briefing of the May 2014 Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept Trustee Tim Ossigner 2nd by Trustee Richard Porter.
- C. Team Tinker/Quarterly:** Historian Don Sullivan briefed on behalf of Trustee Rachael Long (TDY) that the May 2014 AFSA Team Tinker has been distributed via our list server and was posted to our website <http://afsa985.org> this morning.
- D. Legislative:** Trustee Richard Porter briefed the June's legislative report has been distributed via our list server and will be posted to our website <http://afsa985.org>.
- E. Activities and Programs:** President Zach Merkl briefed for Trustee Charity Dice that we successfully presented the AFSA certificate, medal and bar ribbon to a deserving cadet at tall 7 AFJROTC High School banquets we support. She is currently working on the chapter sponsored golf tournament (see Old Business).
- F. Airman Activities Coordinator(s):** AAC Shelby Platt briefed that the program distributed 7 notices via our list server to over 4,597 subscribers offering. Volunteer opportunities for Autism's Oklahoma Piece Walk (1), Regional Food Bank (5), City Rescue Mission (2), and VA Bingo (18), Adopt a Veteran (3), Memorial Day Flag Placement (5), and Memorial Day Flag Pick-up (3).

37 Volunteers for May, 90 Total Hours of Community Service
1 Volunteer for the Autism Oklahoma Piece Walk
5 Volunteers for the Regional Food Bank
2 Volunteers for the City Rescue Mission
18 Volunteers for VA Bingo
5 Volunteers for the Memorial Day Flag Placement
3 Volunteers for the Memorial Day Flag Pickup

New events for June

OKC Regional Food Bank Sorting and Packing – 11 June
Salvation Army, Red Shield Kitchen- 15 June
Veterans Bingo – 16 June
AFSA/Top 3 Air Show Booth – 21 & 22 June
AIDS Walk Table at the Pride Festival – 21 & 22 June
City Rescue Mission – 29 June
OK Humane Society - TBD

Volunteer opportunities will start being displayed on Facebook for increased awareness.

G. Membership:

- 1. New Members:** Vice President Zach Merkl briefed a membership summary for May 2014 as follow: 26 new members recruited resulting in a total of 87 new members recruited in 2014 year-to-date from 10 different recruiters; as of 31 May 2014 the chapter had a total strength of 1,884 total members (1,786 active and 98 lapsed members. 88 of 98 lapsed members were contacted for retention).
- 2. Recruiting Opportunities:**
 - a. Membership Briefings/Drives:**
 - (1) The next FTAC opportunities are:.
 - (2) Other recruiting opportunities are:.
 - (3) Membership Drives:.
 - 3. Renewal/Retentions:** 2 members retained in May, with 8 YTD in 2014 from 2 retainers.
 - 4. Bad Address List:** President Merkl advised 30 members are on the Bad Address Listing (BAL), 26 members were still active and 4 members were lapsed.
 - 6. SKYhighers & HIGHfliers:** None yet for 2014.

H. Communications: Historian Don Sullivan reports that President Michael Mooney sent our Thunderbird News for January-April 2014 via our list server on May 19, 2014 and to be posted on our website. If you have any ideas, articles for the May- Aug 2014 edition please submit to Trustee Tyron Taylor at tyron.taylor.1@us.af.mil.

I. Webmaster/Content: We had 503 unique visitors and a total 4,597 list server subscribers to our website in May. Total unique visitors for 2014 YTD are 4,769.

2. Old Business

- A. Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA).** Chapter 985 was accepted as a certifying organization. Our volunteers need to register at www.presidentialserviceawards.gov and use Record of Service Key **BHH-51436** to track volunteer activities. Once hourly milestones are reached, volunteer will be recognized at appropriate time with letter from President, certificate, and lapel pin according to achievement level. Volunteers need to log in to track volunteer hours for the Chapter. Keep tracking volunteer hours; the Chapter will report them at the end of the year.

Volunteer hours need to be input NLT 31 Dec 2014. Trustee Rachael Long has logged volunteer hours for chapter members through March 2014. She will update April & May as soon as she returns from TDY so all members will be current. **(Item Open)**.

- B. Chapter Education Grants:** Trustee Rachael Long has updated the Grant application and instructions for 2014, including converting the PDF file to a form-typer format. Past President Michael Mooney sent via our list server on May 24, 2014 with a package suspense date of June 9, 2014. Only 3 or 4 applications have been received, therefore President Zach Merkl is extending the deadline to July 8, 2014. Historian Don Sullivan will update the package dates, convert to PDF FormTyper and send to Past President Mooney to resend via the list server. **(Item Open)**
- C. Tulsa Quarterly General Membership Meeting (Date, Time, Place, Etc):** President Zach Merkl briefed 3 chapter members traveled to Tulsa to meet with and have an AFSA table at the ANG Family Day on 1 March 2014. Recruited 14 ANG members. Trustee Richard Porter is working with our Tulsa POC CMSgt (Ret) Lanham to schedule another meeting/booth for mid-summer. Tentative date is August 2014, more to come. **(Item Open)**.
- D. PTSD Program:** Great volunteer opportunity to help our returning deployers. More information will be given out for opportunities to participate. VP Zach Merkl and AAC Shelby Platt are POCs and will visit the center the week of July 8th to see where their needs are and how we can help. **(Item Open)**.
- E. Chapter Training Meeting:** The chapter will decide on available dates to meet for new council members to discuss the necessary instructions, skills, and knowledge for chapter 985. **(Item Open)**.
- F. Golf Tournament:** VP Zach Merkl advised the Chapter 985 sponsored Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 11th. The POC has changed to trustee Charity Dice. **(Item Open)**.
- G. AFSA Chapter 985 ALS Displays:** Displays for the AFSA building ALS Classroom will be created, and placed on the walls to attract new members. If interested in helping with displays contact VP Zach Merkl. VP Zach Merkl motioned for up to \$500 to design, fund, install and adopt an ALS classroom (with AFSA Theme), Trustee Rich Porter seconded and motion passed. Hope to work on/finish the weekend of July 12-13, 2014. **(Item Open)**.
- H. Quarterly Meetings:** Our first quarterly general membership meeting was held March 13, 2014 at 5pm at Santé Fe on 29th Street. Next quarterly meeting to be today, June 12, 2014, 5PM, Santa Fe Restaurant. **(Item Open)**.
- I. Base Exchange Booth:** Trustee Greg Reyes has reserved space for an Exchange Recruiting 1 day a month, every 1st Tuesday from 1100-1300. **(Item Open)**.
- J. Annual Private Organization (PO) Certification, AFI 34-223:** President Michael Mooney submitted package to 72FSS/FSRO on April 28, 2014. Annual certification is necessary for our chapter to operate on Tinker AFB as a Private Organization. Will follow up if not approval not received soon. **(Item Open)**.
- K. POW/MIA Remembrance Coins: Operation Warm Hart Car Show:** Trustee Terry motioned at the April general membership meeting to buy 100 2014 POW/MIA coins that can be sold as a fundraiser, VP Zachary Merkl seconded, motion carried. Trustee Terry Turner received the coins and is distributing to other council members to sell. Sale of coins is still ongoing. **(Item Open)**.

- L. Tinker's SMSgt Retired, "Pete" Piazza Installation Gate Dedication:** In an event to honor a local hero, Midwest Boulevard Gate will be named in his honor. This event was held 15 May 2014, at 10am. Midwest Boulevard Gate, Building 9203 TAFB, OK 73145. approx. 200 attended. Vice President Zachary Merkl represented Chapter 985 and said Sergeant Piazza was very humbled by this honor. If you know him, congratulate him when you next see him. He is on base a lot helping Tinker's enlisted. **(Item Closed)**.
- M. Air Show:** AFSA and Top 3 will be working together to raise funds at this year's Star spangled Salute Tinker Air show. Volunteer opportunities include working the Air Show concession booth (Ice Cream & Beverages) on 21 & 22 Jun 2014 from 0800-1700, lunch will be provided. Sign up link: <https://cs4.eis.afmc.af.mil/sites/1467/2014%20Tinker%20Airshow/Forms/AllItems.aspx> if no accesses to the server please email MSgt Misty Johnson, or MSgt Derrick Cunningham. Our Activities Coordinator Shelby Platt sent an announcement for volunteers to the list server on May 27, 2014 on behalf of Misty. President Zach Merkl said we are still about 12 people short to cover all shifts. If you can help, please call MSgt Misty Johnson and schedule. **(Item Open)**.
- N. July Executive Council Meeting:** Mission requirements and the 4th of July holiday will prevent us from having a quorum on July 3, 2014; therefore the EC meeting for July 2014 is cancelled. **(Item Closed)**

3. New Business:

- A. ALS Dinner:** The ALS Dinner will take place on July, 3 2014. Trustee Charity Dice will attend to represent the chapter 985. Changed from Trustee Charity Dice to Trustee Tyron Taylor by email 10 June 2014. **(Item Open)**.
- B. Welcome Reception:** : A Chapter 985 Sponsored Joint Welcome Reception is being planned for CMSgt Gregg Jones AFSC Command Chief (replacing Chief Vegas) and CMSgt Christopher, 72ABW Command Chief (replacing Chief Lavoie). It is currently scheduled for July 22nd at the Tinker Club, time TBA. **(Item Open)**
- C. Chapter Leadership Update, President Zachary Merkl Briefed:**
1. President Michael Mooney resigned as President at our June 5, 2014 Executive Council meeting because he is going PCS to Seymour-Johnson AFB. As Vice President, I moved up to President as prescribed by AFSA Manual 100-2, Section 12b. That left the Vice President position Vacant. By the same authority I appointed, with the Executive Council's approval, Trustee Rachael Long to serve the unexpired VP's term until we could convene this meeting and you approve this appointment or to hold an election to fill this position. Trustee Long is TDY until the end of the month, but has indicated her willingness to serve as Vice President.
 2. Don Sullivan motioned to approve the appointment of Rachael Long to serve the unexpired term of Vice President. Lifetime Trustee Tim Ossinger seconded, motion approved. **(Item Closed)**
4. President Zach Merkl reminded to please make sure you sign in on the sheet at the back of the room before you leave.
5. **Door Prize Winners:** Terry Turner, Joseph Tolley, and Evan Wilson.

\$5 Logan's Roadhouse gift card: to Terry Turner, Joseph Tolley, and Evan Wilson.

6. President Zach Merkl asked for comments around the room, there being none, President Zach Merkl motioned to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Terry Turner adjourned at: 1216 hours.

///signed ///
Latoya Irving, Secretary

///signed///
Zach Merkl, President