



## Air Force Sergeants Association

Thunderbird Chapter 985

www.AFSA985.org



### General Membership Meeting Minutes

10 July 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: Historian Don Sullivan
- c. AFSA Preamble Read by: Trustee Richard Porter
- d. Airman's Creed rendered by: Rafe Holmes

#### 2. Members Present:

Zach Merkl	Don Sullivan	Tim Ossinger
Mike Bartels	Terry Turner	Richard Porter
Greg Reyes	Michelle Devinney	Sarah Dron
Gregg Jones	Tom Christopher	Christopher Looney
Nick Pivrnec	Kay Pivrnec	James Wagner
Dominic Salerno	Mary Rokitka	Lowell 'Doug' Bynum
Roger Turnipseed	Ben Jetland	Yamil Roman-Rivera
Rachael Long	Rafe Holmes	Sarah Liza Marie Pante

#### 3. Special welcome:

**Guest:** President Zach Merkl welcomed and introduced Command CMSgts Tom Christopher, Gregg Jones and Tim Ossinger, and Michelle Devinney and Sarah Dron from FNB Community Bank. New attendees stood and introduced themselves.

#### 4. Reports:

- A. Secretary's Report:** President Zach Merkl, for Secretary Latoya Irving, reported that the June GM minutes and July EC MFR minutes are completed and were distributed via our list server. They will also be posted to our website <http://afsa985.org>. Motion to accept by Historian Don Sullivan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lifetime Trustee Tim Ossinger, motion passed.
- B. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Christopher Looney provided a comprehensive briefing of the June 2014 Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept Mary Rokitka, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Richard Porter, motion passed.
- C. Team Tinker/Quarterly:** Historian Don Sullivan briefed on behalf of Vice Pres. Rachael Long that the June 2014 AFSA Team Tinker Newsletter is in the final stages of preparation and will be distributed via our list server and posted to our website <http://afsa985.org> upon completion.
- D. Legislative:** Trustee Richard Porter briefed selected issues from the July's legislative report, primarily pay and compensation legislation. President Merkl and Chief Jones also added to this discussion. Trustee Porter also urged members to use the AFSA CAPWIZ tool to write their legislators. The formal monthly report is being tweaked and will be distributed via our list server and posted to our website <http://afsa985.org> upon completion.

**E. Activities and Programs:** President Zach Merkl briefed for Trustee Charity Dice that several projects are ongoing. The projects and their status are addressed individually later in Old and New Business.

**F. Airman Activities Coordinator:** President Zach Merkl briefed for AAC Shelby Platt that the program distributed 7 notices via our list server to over 4,639 subscribers offering. Volunteer opportunities for the Regional Food Bank (4) Red Shield Kitchen (4), VA Bingo (8), DSACO's Club (1), HIV/AIDS Walk Festival (2), AFSA/TOP 3 Air Show Booth (20), DSACO's Kylee's Kitchen (1), City Rescue Mission (5), and the DSACO EXTREME Independence Camp (1).

46 Volunteers for June, 157 Total Hours of Community Service

4 Volunteers for the Regional Food Bank

4 Volunteers for the Red Shield Kitchen

8 Volunteers for VA Bingo

1 Volunteers for DSACO's Club

20 Volunteers for the AFSA/TOP 3 Air Show Booth

2 Volunteers for the HIV/AIDS Walk Fundraiser

1 Volunteer for DSACO's Kylee's Kitchen

5 Volunteers for the City Rescue Mission

1 Volunteer for DSACO's Extreme Independence Camp

New events for July

Salvation Army, Red Shield Kitchen- 13 July

DSACO's Club at the Bricktown Ballpark – 18 July

City Rescue Mission – 19 July

Veterans Bingo – 21 July

DSACO's Kylee's Kitchen – 25 July

Regional Food Bank – 30 July

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

#### **G. Membership:**

**1. New Members:** President Zach Merkl briefed a membership summary for June 2014 as follow: 21 new members recruited resulting in a total of 94 new members recruited in 2014 year-to-date from 9 different recruiters; as of 30 June 2014 the chapter had a total strength of 1,806 total members (1,734 active and 72 lapsed members. 70 of 72 lapsed members were contacted for retention).

#### **2. Recruiting Opportunities:**

**a. Membership Briefings/Drives:**

(1) The next FTAC opportunities are:

(2) Other recruiting opportunities are: ALS Briefing 29 July at 1500 hours

(3) Membership Drives: Trustee Greg Reyes BX Food Court every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday from 1100-1300

**3. Renewal/Retentions:** President Zach Merkl reported 2 renewals in June, with 9 YTD from 4 retainers.

**4. Bad Address List:** President Merkl reported that we have 28 members on the bad address listing. 26 members were still active and 2 members were lapsed.

**5. SKYhighers & HIGHfliers:** None yet for 2014.

**H. Communications:** 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](mailto:tyron.taylor.1@us.af.mil).

**I. Webmaster/Content:** We had 999 unique visitors and a total of 4,639 list server subscribers to our web site in June. Total unique visitors for 2014 YTD are 5,795.

## 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](http://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 and June as soon as she returns from TDY so all members will be current. **(Item Open).**
- B. Chapter Education Grants:** We received six (6) applications for the chapter's Annual Education Grant Program. All six applicants were selected to receive \$250.00 each. Our co-sponsor Mr. Karl Wasserleben from Tinker Federal Credit Union was unable to attend today, but encourage us to go ahead and present the grants. President Zach Merkl presented checks to the 4 in attendance today; SrA James Wagner, SSgt Domenic Salierno, A1C Rafe Holmes and TSgt Richard Porter. The remaining two recipients SSgt Christopher Norton and SrA Andrew Lowe will be presented at a later date. **(Item Open)**
- C. Tulsa Quarterly General Membership Meeting (Date, Time, Place, Etc):** President Zach Merkl briefed that 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; Trustee Porter will follow-up to try and secure a fixed date. **(Item Open).**
- D. PTSD Program:** Great volunteer opportunity to help our returning deployers. More information will be given out for opportunities to participate. President Zach Merkl and AAC Shelby Platt are the chapter POCs and intend to visit the center to see what their needs are and how we can help. President Merkl advised that legislation was passed and the VA will now pay those so affected. Funds are being made available to build a new, larger facility to house this operation. **(Item Open).**
- E. Chapter Training Meeting:** President Zach Merkl, Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner and Historian Don Sullivan met and discussed various duties, procedures and goals. Training will be provided to Executive Council Members as the need arises to provide the necessary instructions, skills and knowledge for Chapter 985 operations. **(Item Closed).**
- F. Golf Tournament:** President Zach Merkl briefed that Trustee Charity Dice advised only 4 teams had signed up for the Chapter 985 sponsored Golf Tournament scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> and that was not enough teams to proceed with the event. Chiefs Christopher and Jones also added there have probably been too many such events lately is why there is less interest. Thus, this event is cancelled and entry will be closed for now; if rescheduled it can be re-opened. **(Item Closed).**
- 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 President Zach Merkl. A prior motion for \$500 was approved to design, fund, install and adopt an ALS classroom (with AFSA Theme). Our work day is currently scheduled for Saturday, July 19, 2014 from 1000-1400 hours. VP Rachael Long will let us in the building. Come out and help. **(Item Open).**

- H. Quarterly Meetings:** Our first 2014 quarterly general membership meeting was held March 13, 2014 at 5pm at Santé Fe on 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Next quarterly meeting to be today, June 12, 2014, 5PM, Santa Fe Restaurant. President Zach Merkl briefed the meeting format and encouraged more to come and enjoy this festive meeting. **(Item Open)**.
- I. Base Exchange Booth:** Trustee Greg Reyes continues to man a recruiting booth at the Exchange 1 day a month, every 1st Tuesday from 1100-1300. More members are encouraged to help him for these two hours. Remember you must be in civilian clothes to work the booth. **(Item Open)**.
- J. Annual Private Organization (PO) Certification, AFI 34-223:** Past 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. Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner answered some questions from the JAG and provided clarifying documentation on July 9, 2014. Hopefully this will satisfy all concerned and our certification be approved. **(Item Open)**.
- K. POW/MIA Remembrance Coins: Operation Warm Hart Car Show:** Trustee Terry Turner 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. Sale of coins is still ongoing. **(Item Open)**.
- L. Air Show:** On behalf of POC Misty Johnson, a major thanks to each and every one of the volunteers that raised funds at this year's Star spangled Salute Tinker Air show. It was a great time, everyone stayed positive despite the heat, and as a result we raised \$1,240 for AFSA/Top 3, AFSA will get \$620. For the Air Show, we raised \$12,890 and provided support to over 160,000 attendees. Again, great work the support is greatly appreciated. **(Item Closed)**
- M. Command CMSgt Welcome Reception:** A Chapter 985 Sponsored Joint Welcome Reception is planned for CMSgt Gregg Jones, AFSC Command Chief (replacing Chief Vegas) and CMSgt Tom Christopher, 72ABW Command Chief (replacing Chief Lavoie). It is currently scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Tinker Club, time TBA. Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner motioned up to \$1,000.00 to fund this combined event, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Rich Porter, motion carried. **(Item Open)**

### 3. New Business:

- A. Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS):** AFSA is looking for sponsors for the 1st Annual Walk for Apraxia taking place in September. The mission is to improve support systems, in the children lives with Apraxia. The financial goal is to receive sponsorship of \$100 or greater. Any level of contribution will support this program. Any questions or concerns contact POC Trustee Greg Reyes [Greg.Reyes@us.af.mil](mailto:Greg.Reyes@us.af.mil). Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner motioned \$100.00 to sponsor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lifetime Trustee Tim Ossinger, motioned carried. **(Item Open)**
- B. 2014 Career Development Fair, July 30, 2014.** Our chapter wants to set up a table for 9 hours at this event. The chapter POC will be Greg Reyes, but he'll need help. Please contact Greg if you can assist in this [Greg.Reyes@us.af.mil](mailto:Greg.Reyes@us.af.mil). (Project contact is SCHMIDT, JEFFREY A GS-11 USAF AFSPC 38 CONS/LGCC (405) 736-8734).
- C. 2014 AFSA International Professional Airman's Conference (PAC), Jacksonville, FL, August 16-20, 2014 - Chapter 985 Delegates:** Historian Don Sullivan motioned that Miroslav (Nick) Pivr nec serve as our Chief Delegate with Latoya Irving our Alternate Chief Delegate, and Kaylon Pivr nec as a Delegate dividing the votes between them evenly with any odd votes going to the Chief Delegate at the 2014 AFSA Intl. Professional Airmen's Conference (PAC). We know of no others attending at this time. Chapter 985 has 72 votes, the Chief Delegate will have the authority to add delegates and reassign number of votes at the conference site if appropriate. Any

remaining surplus numbers will go to the Chief Delegate. Further, the Chief Delegate will cast the votes of any absentee delegate. The Alternate will have and cast the votes in the same manner as stated above in the Chief Delegate's absence. Motion seconded by Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner. Motion passed. **(Item Open)**.

**D. Webmaster:** President Zach Merkl advised he had found a computer guru in website design who was interested in enhancing our site. After some discussion, President Zach Merkl motioned to appoint SSgt Cody Colson Chapter 985 Webmaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner, motion approved. **(Item Closed)**

**E. 2014 Midwest City Veterans Day Parade:** Michelle Devinney advised that FNB Community Bank was preparing for this year's parade, which is expected to be bigger and better. Therefore, a lot of entries are expected. Even though the parade will be in November, we need to start planning now if we're going to participate again. Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner will be POC and secure us a spot. **(Item Open)**

**F. Lifetime Trusteeship:** Historian Don Sullivan advised this was MSgt Mary Rokitka's last meeting before a PCS to Korea, but she may be coming back after the one year assignment. Mary was a great asset as our chapter treasurer for 4 years and a consummate volunteer for many outreach needs and chapter projects, especially our annual giftwrap fundraiser. Don suggested Mary be made a chapter lifetime trustee. President Merkl asked and the attending members agreed. He therefore named Mary Rokitka, a Chapter 985 Lifetime Trustee. **(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:** \$5.00 cash gift cards presented to: Nick Pivrnec, Rich Porter, Kay Pivrnec and Yamil Ramon Rivera

6. President Zach Merkl asked for comments around the room:

A. Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner advised if you're contacted from outside the chapter about a membership/renewal application to contact the President, (405) 512-4457. We need a chapter recruiter/retainer's membership number on the application so we can get credit.

**B. Congratulations to Michelle Devinney and Sarah Dron.** FNB Community Bank was named the 2013 Military Bank of the Year (again). Michelle and Sarah will travel to Washington, D.C. in August to receive this prestigious award.

There being no further comments, Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner motioned to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Rich Porter, adjourned at: 12:30PM.

///signed Don Sullivan for ///  
Latoya Irving, Secretary

///signed///  
Zach Merkl, President