



## Air Force Sergeants Association

Thunderbird Chapter 985

www.AFSA985.org



### General Membership Meeting Minutes

11 Sep 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: President Zack Merkl
- c. AFSA Preamble Read by: Trustee Richard Porter
- d. Airman's Creed rendered by: President Zack Merkl

#### 2. Members Present:

Don Sullivan	Richard Porter	Shelby Platt
Tom Christopher	Eric Dale	Tyron Taylor
Charity Dice	Edgar Medina	Yamil Roman-Rihan
Nick Pivrnec	Cody Colston	Karl Wasserleben
Kay Pivrnec	Ty Tomison	Christina Wolfe
Dominic Salierno	Joseph Todley	Terry Turner
Jose Magna	Tim Ossinger	Natasha Hannibal
James Michael	Loretta Yabut	Taunya Avery
Joanne Carpenter	Kim Betheleme	Bianca Locust
Stephanie Branscomb		

#### 3. Special welcome:

**Guest:** President Zach Merkl welcomed and introduced Command CMSgt Tom Christopher, Tim Ossinger, and Karl Wasserleben from TFCU. New attendees Cody Colston, and Kim Belteleme stood and introduced themselves.

#### 4. Reports:

- A. Secretary's Report:** AAC Shelby Platt briefed for Secretary Latoya Irving, reported that Aug GM minutes and Sep EC 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 Trustee Richard Porter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Tyron Taylor, motion passed.
- B. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Eric Dale provided a comprehensive briefing of the August 2014 Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept Trustee Richard Porter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Tyron Taylor, motion passed.
- C. Team Tinker/Quarterly:** Historian Don Sullivan briefed on behalf of Vice Pres. Rachael Long that the August 2014 AFSA Team Tinker has been distributed via our list server and will be posted to our website <http://afsa985.org>.
- D. Legislative:** Trustee Richard Porter briefed selected issues from the September's legislative report, primarily pay and letters to senate. 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:** Trustee Charity Dice briefed that several projects are ongoing and currently requesting donations. 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 6 notices via our list server to over 4,636 subscribers offering. Volunteer opportunities for DSACO's Kylee's Kitchen (1) AFSA/ALS Room (1), DSACO's Club (1), AFSA ALS room (3), VA Bingo (9) and the AFSA ALS room (3) s.  
(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).

18 Volunteers for August, 51 Total Hours of Community Service

1 Volunteer for DSACO's Kylee's Kitchen

1 Volunteer for the AFSA/ALS Room

1 Volunteer for DSACO's Club

3 Volunteers for the AFSA/ALS Room

9 Volunteers for Veterans Bingo

3 Volunteers for the AFSA/ALS Room

New events for September

Sooner Stand Down Clothing Room Sort – 8 September

DSACO's Kylee's Kitchen – 12 and 26 September

Veterans Bingo – 15 September

Apraxia Walk- 20 September

DSACO's 2014 Festival 5K- 20 September

HIV/AIDS Walk Mail out – 28 September

Walk to Cure Diabetes- 4 October

Sooner Stand Down Event – 17 October

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

**G. Membership:**

**1. New Members:** Trustee Terry Turner briefed a membership summary for August 2014 as follows: 4 new members recruited resulting in a total of 100 new members recruited in 2014 year-to-date 10 different recruiters; and a total strength of 1,735 total members with (1,634 active members and 101 lapsed members)

**2. Recruiting Opportunities:**

**a. Membership Briefings/Drives:**

(1) The next FTAC opportunities are: September 17, 2014

(2) Other recruiting opportunities are: Trustee Greg Reyes BX Food Court every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday from 1100-1300

(3) Need more members willing to be a part of the briefing teams

**3. Renewal/Retentions:** Trustee Terry Turner reported 1 renewal in August with 5 in 2014 YTD 4 retainers.

**4. Bad Address List:** Trustee Terry Turner reported that we have 9 members on the bad address listing. 6 members were still active and 3 members were lapsed.

**5. SKYhighers & HIGHfliers:** We currently have no SKYhighers & no HIGHfliers.

**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). and Don Sullivan at [ddsullivan@cox.net](mailto:ddsullivan@cox.net) now

Drafting is in progress.

- I. Webmaster/Content:** We had 1,311 unique visitors and a total of 4,636 list server subscribers to our web site in August. Total unique visitors for 2014 YTD are 10,195.

## 5. 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. **(Item Open).**
- B. Chapter Education Grants:** We recently gave our (6) applicants for the chapter's Annual Education Grant Program \$250.00 each. More to come on the announcement of when we will email applications via our list server. **(Item Open)**
- C. Tulsa Quarterly General Membership Meeting & Will Rogers ANG (Date, Time, Place, Etc):** Trustee Richard Porter is working with our Tulsa POC CMSgt (Ret) Lanham to schedule another meeting/booth. Jeremy Long is working for a POC, location, date for a meeting with OKC Will Rogers ANG. **(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. **(Item Open).**
- E. AFSA Chapter 985 ALS Displays:** Every Saturday and next Saturday we will be working in our AFSA sponsored room at the ALS from 9 a.m. To 3 p.m. Even if you can only contribute a few hours of your time we still would really appreciate your help. There is still a lot of work to do. You need to have any room decorating experience, we are just looking to paint, tape, and clean the room up. Please let AAC Shelby Platt know if you have any questions. **(Item Open).**
- F. Quarterly Meetings:** Our off base quarterly meeting will be tonight. The next one will be Dec 11, 2014, 5PM, Santa Fe Cattle Co. on 29<sup>th</sup> Street. President Zach Merkl encouraged more to come and enjoy this festive meeting. **(Item Open).**
- G. 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).**
- H. POW/ MIA Remembrance Coins:** 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).**
- I. 2014 Midwest City Veterans Day Parade:** Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner will be POC and submitted our parade application on July 16, 2014. We are requesting a minimum of fifteen volunteers. We need to order chapter t-shirts to identify our group for this event. If you are interested, please contact Trustee Turner at [terry.turner@cox.net](mailto:terry.turner@cox.net) and give him your t-shirt size. **(Item Open).**
- J. Chapter recruiter/retainer's:** Senior Advisor/ 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. **(Item Open).**

- K. Web Design:** Contact Cody Colson, [cody.colston@us.af.mil](mailto:cody.colston@us.af.mil) or cell phone 937-414-2985 if you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer to help, design, or even create AFSA chapter 985 website. We are currently looking for four or more volunteer to form a team to help create the different aspects, and a layout for the chapter's web design. No experience required. **(Item Open)**.
- L. Airmen Team Tinker Coalition:** If you are passionate about empowering groups, and providing teams with awareness about our chapter, look for more information to come for the Team Tinker Private Organization Coalition. This event will take place in the month of October; we want to have an ongoing engaged team to address Chapter 985's role/contributions to the coalition. **(Item Open)**
- M. 2014 Annual Giftwrap Fundraiser:** POCs for the Chapter 985's month-long giftwrap fundraiser at the BX, Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, will be Trustee Brian Brewer and Senior Advisor/Trustee Terry Turner. Trustee Brewer has prepared and coordinated the approval request through the BX and submitted to 72FSS/FSRO Debra Kirby. JAG has reviewed and approval granted/received. More details and calls for volunteers to come. **(Item Open)**.
- N. Chapter Annual Traveling Roadshow:** Historian Don Sullivan advised that our prime time players, the clown and accomplice Crazy Bob have retired after doing this several years. We are looking for a POC and replacement for a couple of similar costumed characters to visit 4 facilities that houses mentally challenged adults. It's usually held the first week of December. Trustee Charity Dice will be our POC and AAC Shelby Platt will assist. Target date for roadshow is December 6<sup>th</sup>, more to come. **(Item Open)**.
- O. Elections:** Elections for 2015 will be conducted at the general membership meeting, November 13th, all positions are open and for one year terms, except the Vice President, which runs until 2016. Trustee/ Senior Advisor Terry Turner ([terry.turner@cox.net](mailto:terry.turner@cox.net)) and Historian Don Sullivan ([ddsullivan@cox.net](mailto:ddsullivan@cox.net)) will be the nominating committee. If you are interested in an elected or appointed position please let them know (including current executive council members). **(Item Open)**.
- P. Chapter 985 Recognition Program:** Certificates/Letters of appreciation will be presented to hardworking AFSA members during Commander's Calls to recognize their volunteer and involvement within AFSA. This program begins in the month of September. POC will be VP Rachael Long. **(Item Open)**.

## 6. New Business:

- A. 2014 AFSA International Professional Airman Conference (PAC), Jacksonville, FL, August 16-20, 2014:** Chief Delegate/Lifetime Trustee Nick Pivnec briefed members on events of the conference and reminded us we won the AFSA Community Service Award and AFSA Legislative (Field) Award for 203. He also lauded Secretary Latoya Irving for her attendance and outstanding, energetic representation. Latoya had expressed at the Executive Council Meeting that it was a phenomenal experience and she thoroughly enjoyed all the events, but especially the senior leadership forums and professional development briefings.
1. The Air Force again held various military conferences in conjunction with the AFSA International Convention. Tinker AFB Career Assistance Advisors (CAA) MSgt Joseph Tolley and MSgt Loretta Yabut attended the CAA conference held this year. Sergeant Tolley told us he and Sergeant yabut were honored to be able to attend the conference and hear the strategic vision that our Air Force Senior Leaders were imparting. Secretary James, General Welch, CMSAF Cody, and

others were truly inspirational to hear in-person.

**2.** President Zachary Merkl advised a new award was created at this year's PAC, a "HERO" Exemplary Achievement Award to be selected by the International President and each Division President. The first AFSA/Div 3 Exemplary Achievement Award recipient was our own Historian Don Sullivan for his lifetime contributions to AFSA, Division 3 and Chapter 985. The award was accepted at the PAC in Jacksonville, Florida in Don's absence by Division 3 President Dale Lutzen. President Zachary Merkl presented this prestigious award to Don at today's meeting with accompanying remarks of appreciation for his devoted long-time contributions and our esteemed congratulations. **(Item Closed)**

President Zach Merkl reminded to please make sure you sign in on the sheet at the back of the room before you leave.

**Door Prize Winners:** Natasha Hannibal, Christina Wolfe, Kim Bethelmie Cody Colston, and Shelby Platt.  
Base Exchange Gift Card: Kim Bethelmie, Shelby Platt  
iTunes Gift Card: Cody Colston  
Warren Theater Tickets: Natasha Hannibal, Christina Wolfe

President Zach Merkl asked for comments around the room:

Chief Christopher, Command CMSgt, 72ABW, shared the following:

- A. He announced the return of the Tinker Spouse's Club.
- B. Air Force vs. Navy Hawk Run Who is the Fastest will take place 24 Sep 2014.
- C. NCO Academy. Legacy course for those over 12 years, new course for those with 7-12 years in service. First Sergeants will choose attendees for ALS, and NCO Academy in-residence.
- D. Tinker's Chapel provides free meals every Wednesday night (optional bible study).
- E. Navy Open House 27 Sep 2014.
- F. 9/11 Retreat ceremony today at 1700 hours.

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

/// signed Shelby Platt for ///  
Latoya Irving, Secretary

///signed///  
Zach Merkl, President