

Region Presidents Meeting – 19 April 2008

Comments from AFA Chairman Bob Largent: AFA has been very busy. Bob was invited to the 3rd Blue Summit, a meeting of 793 AF General Officers & SESs, in San Antonio. SecAF & CSAF spoke on AF status. There are clouds over the AF dealing with contracting issues. SecAF – defense needs to 4% of GNP. There will be a fighter gap in about 2015. Russia & China are building 5th generation fighters and are building up their strategic forces.

CSAF feels the AF is in a “crease” in history. We’ve been on a down slope and now transitioning to the upside. We are currently in the same position as Spartz, Dolittle, and Arnold at the end of WWII. AF is suffering from a lack of attention to detail. AF is redefining Air Power. The AF needs our support. Bob suggests taking Mike Dunn’s notes, rewriting them to a local favor and sending them to local newspapers. There’s currently a lot of negative news on the AF.

Pat Condon reported the results from the Nominating Committee. Nominations are as follows:

Chairman of the Board: Joe Sutter

Vice Chair for Field Operations: Craig Allen & Jim Lauducci

Vice Chair for Aerospace Education: Sandy Schlitt

Secretary: Judy Church

Treasurer: Steve Lundgren

National Director At Large (2 positions contested): Max Friedauer, Len Veramonti, Butch Stein, & Louie Edmond.

National Director for the East Area (1 position): Joe Bisognano, Scott Van Cleaf.

AFA field members need to pay attention to leadership development. AFA HQs will establish contact with the AFA leaders in the field to identify up and coming leaders.

Next year the National Director for the West Area will be selected and this will complete the transition to the new National Director structure.

Jim Simpson briefed on the status of the 501 (c) (3) group exemption. The exemption request was sent to IRS. A lot of other organizations came in for group exemptions at about the same time, so IRS has been re-evaluating the group exemption policy. Last week, our AFA POC at IRS was redrafting a letter to approve the group exemption status – good news. AFA HQ is not responsible to fill out chapter tax paperwork. States and Chapters must file with IRS. AFA HQs are not tax advisors.

On IRS 990N filing requirement – it is not directed against AFA because of our group exemption request. All chapters with less than \$25,000 a year budget must file a 990N within the next three years. AFA HQs has been filing for those chapters. There’s no emergency or rush to do this. Chapters will need to have an EIN to file. The new Newsline and the December Newsline explains the situation with the 990N.

Chapters should consider establishing their own 501 (c) (3) organization.

Congressional Morning Reception – The CSAF & SecAF pleased with last year’s event. This year will be a “reception” not a breakfast. There will be a better room set up: more tables, better signs, more chairs. States need to be proactive: invite participants &

schedule follow-up visits. The location is currently TBD. Briefing booklets on the issues to be discussed will be distributed on bus on the way to the reception. States: contact your Congressional delegation and invite them. Send both a letter and a fax. Follow up with a phone call. States can have their own event but it will be their responsibility to fund. After the reception have follow up meetings with the congressional members. Schedule them after 9:00 AM. Encourage state delegates to participate in the reception and visits.

Congressional Visit Opportunity – AFA Congressional Liaison Staff will assist if bases, community, industry leaders from a chapter/state want to come to Washington for their own congressional visit. Individuals would pay for their transportation & lodging. AFA would arrange for and pay for a Breakfast meeting. If interested contact Doug Birkey ext 4871, e-mail: dbirkey@afa.org

Eaker Institute – AFA is transforming the Institute from AFA-staff supported entity into an ad hoc independent research institute focusing on airpower issues. This will be a three-year process. This year they are working on development. Next year, they want to have a Director working 3 days a week, establish the office with administrative staff, and have a research fellows program. Third year have a full-time Director and staff, making outside grants. Dr. Rebecca Grant will be the first director. Several open items: name of organization (is Eaker recognizable by the public, maybe Mitchell or Arnold would be better), determine the studies for 2008.

Strategic Communications – we need to do better job getting our “message” out to Congress, AF members, industry & the press – public. Suggest using the Daily Report and notes from Mike Dunn to spread the word. Must stay out of political activities or could jeopardize our tax status.

AFA Officer Visit to Chapters/States – Submit requests as in the past. However, travel cost up significantly. Look at other opportunities in the area for AFA leaders to get the word out during the visiting. Contract the local media and/or other organization for speaking opportunities.

Midwest “Virtual” Meeting – The Midwest Region held a successful “virtual” are meeting last month. It was supported by Joe Sutter, Sandy Schlitt and Jim Simpson from their locations. AFA HQs will allow use of the AFA Telcon Bridge. It is available for state use on the weekends to support meeting of this kind on a first-come, first-serve basis. The bridge can support up to 20 users at one time. Contract Jim Simpson to schedule the bridge.

Membership Committee – The committee has reviewed current membership recruiting materials. They are looking for best practices around the country. An AFA membership briefing has been developed to be use during TAP briefings. Their current strategy: a total team effort is required, need to develop a long-term view, there is no silver bullet. There are a lot of perceptions on how to do membership and some actual facts. One idea is to partner with other associations. Some recent initiatives to increase AFA Member

include the following: converted non-insurance members, asked AF councils for assistance, offering Around Air Society cadets 3 year membership for ½ price, and AFJROTC units can now join AFA. Chapters can get new member rebates if chapter initiates action with the AFJROTC unit, i.e. convince the unit to join and put chapter number on the application.

Chapter Operations – The new chapter matching grant program is now available. To be eligible for a grant, the chapter must have submitted its officer roster, annual plans, quarterly reports, conduct a program, and published a newsletter. The grant request forms are available on the AFA website at www.afa.org/members/library. The grant can be up to \$1,000 per chapter. Grant money must be used toward a “new” non-educational program.

Field Council – the council has been focusing on strategic planning. Specifically, they’ve been working a process to determine chapter support payments in 2009. The focus will be on mission performance, i.e. achieving activity plan goals, chapter communications (newsletter), membership (recruitment.) The plan is to keep it simple. Build on the activity plan formula from prior years. The basic requirements for support payments will be the same for all chapters, not dependent on chapter size. Each chapter will choose what they want to do as their activity plan goals. But the goals need to be clear. For 2009, support payments will be paid using the following: 25% - conduct a “SUPPORT” program, 25% - any other goal in the activity plan, 25% to publish a newsletter, and 25% for new member recruitment (0.75%). A 25% bonus is available for exceed membership goals (1.5%) or conducted a second activity plan “SUPPORT” goal.

Chapter Health – The revitalization test program is underway at Charleston AFB and Holloman AFB. The basic revitalization plan has been revised and specific plans for Charleston & Holloman were developed. Revitalization at Tyndall is currently on hold. At Charleston, they have 514 members and membership is growing. However, a chapter can not stand when all of the chapter leadership is active duty AF members. Chapters need local members (non-active duty) support as well. The revitalization efforts will transition from a Field Council responsibility to Region-State control in the future.

The Field Leadership Guide is being updated.

National Awards Nominations are due to AFA HQs on 16 May. Proposed Field Resolutions to be placed before the National Convention are due to AFA HQs by 30 July.

Next Region Presidents Meeting will be on Friday afternoon, September 12th. The combined State & Region Presidents meeting will be on October 17-18.