

Air Force Association (Florida)  
2016 Winter Convention – Tampa, Florida  
February 27, 2016

Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Roll Call

State President Bill Yucuis called the meeting to order at 0850, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tommy Harrison gave the invocation.

Bill asked State Secretary Susan Ault-Davis to call the roll. Eight chapters were present, 6 absent.

Chapters Present

Red Tail #136  
Central Florida #303  
Cape Canaveral #309  
Waterman-Twining #316  
Eglin #365  
Hurlburt #398  
Falcon #399  
Sarasota-Manatee #429

Chapters Absent

Florida Highlands #173  
Miami/Homestead #317  
Gold Coast #351  
Loren D. Evenson #355  
James R. McCarthy #397  
Bud West #419

A quorum was present. A list of convention meeting attendees is at Attachment 1.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the 2015 State Convention in Ocala, Florida, held July 18<sup>th</sup>, were electronically distributed prior to this meeting. They were approved following a motion by Ernie Webster, and seconded by Tommy Harrison.

**Proposal to Fund First Time AFA National Convention Attendees**

A telecom with the State Executive Committee approved a proposal to fund \$400 to State members attending the National Convention for the first time. The proposal was made by Sandy Schlitt, and seconded by Eddie McAllister. The complete proposal is as follows:

“A proposal was made by Sandy Schlitt to Bill Yucuis to provide a stipend for State members attending the National Convention for the first time. Bill passed the proposal to State President Dann Mattiza and made a motion that a stipend of \$400.00 be paid to first time attendees of the National Convention, and, as with the \$100 payment for all attendees, will only be paid after-the-fact to those members requesting reimbursement. Persons desiring to attend and use this stipend should coordinate with their Chapter President and must subsequently be approved by the State President. Since the number of State delegates is limited, first time attendees plus the previously registered delegates cannot exceed the State Maximum number of delegates authorized by AFA Headquarters directives. The State President will make the determination as to how many first timers may attend and be subsidized and which chapters they represent. This motion was seconded by Eddie McAllister. Discussion was conducted using email with 10 EXCOM members participating. Motion passed.

The amount of the stipend and procedures for selecting and approving attendees may be changed as desired in the coming year(s) through action at the State meetings.”

President Bill Yucuis led a discussion on the importance of having attendees fill each available Delegate position. All members present voted to accept the decision of the ExCom, and monitor the progress.

### **Treasurers Report**

State Treasurer reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget. It is available as Attachment 2.

### **Drill Meet and Trophy Presentation**

Some of the AFA National members are attending an Air Symposium/Board Meeting in Orlando, the same day as our State Winter meeting. These members have expressed a desire for us to schedule our State meetings when it doesn't conflict with one of their own. In 2011, the State voted to attempt to align the Winter Meeting with the State AFJROTC Drill Meet to encourage more Chapters to be present to present the trophies at the Drill Meet. After some discussion, it did not appear more Chapter members attended the Drill Meet. **Dann Mattiza made a motion to decouple the Drill Meet from the State Winter meeting. Tommy Harrison seconded it.** After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

For 2017 we will plan to hold the Winter Meeting on March 4th, and considering hotel availability/costs, that will allow for National Leadership members to attend our meeting since this is the Saturday after the AWS.

### **State and National Awards**

State Executive Vice President Sharon Branch is currently attending the National Board meeting, as part of the Emerging Leader program. She has requested that all State awards be sent to her by April 15<sup>th</sup>, except the State Teacher of the Year Award, which is due March 31<sup>st</sup>. National awards will be sent to Bill Yucuis, and a copy sent to Sharon Branch, also due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. President Yucuis asked for 3 volunteers to form a committee to review award submissions. Larry Belge and Gary Lehmann volunteered. President Yucuis plans to ask a member from the Miami/Homestead Chapter to assist with this committee. Additionally, President Yucuis requested that Teacher of the Year (ToY) awards be written to address both National and State requirements/forms.

### **Lunch**

Guest Speaker Monroe Hatch, former Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and former AFA Executive Director, spoke during lunch.

### **State Convention**

Falcon Chapter President Larry Belge briefed that the State Convention will be held in Jacksonville on July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Billeting will be available at The Lexington Hotel, and the rate will include breakfast. For Early Bird arrivals, there will be a wine-tasting at the Peninsula. Friday night plans include a dinner cruise leaving from the South Bank Riverwalk. There will be a Petunia Patch fashion presentation for spouses. President Yucuis will invite members of the National Board, and determine the guest speaker.

## **State President's Report**

State President Yucuis would like to visit each Chapter. He is asking Chapter Presidents to extend an invitation to him.

President Yucuis wants State AFA support for the Wounded Airman programs and Invictus Games. Invictus Games is the British version of our DoD Wounded Airman program. President Yucuis is working with the Regional Care Coordinator, and will be putting out more information on these programs. He also is looking into the Wounded Airman Adaptive Sports Camp being held at Eglin AFB in April.

Legislative contacts are instrumental to the success of AFA Chapter recruitment and opportunities. President Yucuis has made this a priority, and wants the Chapters to make an effort to foster Legislator/Staffer relationships. He is also requesting Chapters to make nominations for Legislator/Staffer of the Year program. Point of Contact for nomination submittals is Bruce Fouracker.

Need candidates for Emerging Leader Program. The program gives a potential leader to develop their skills while working on an AFA National program. All Florida applicants were selected this past year, and available slots were not all filled. Need volunteer applications by the end of March.

State President Bill Yucuis discussed the health of several State Chapters. Col Loren Evenson is close to a military base, and for this reason the AFA National does not want to close it;

McCarthy Chapter is being revitalized by Robert Owen; And, Bud West still provides trophies for the State Drill Meet.

Ernie Webster has been our State Treasurer for over 8 years. President Yucuis has requested a volunteer to fill this position for two years. All Chapter Presidents have been tasked to find interested parties.

### **Education Programs**

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a primary education partner with AFA and this year, their programs were emphasized by the AEC, especially to replace the Visions Program. Several Chapters mentioned they have used CAP programs. Sandy Schlitt is a member of the CAP board.

At the State Convention each summer, we have honored the top CyberPatriot teams from Florida in both the Open and All Services Divisions. The Miami Chapter had received a digital certificate from the CyberPatriot saying a school from their area was named #1 in the State (in the Silver tiered Division) and had contacted Bill Yucuis (State President) about being honored this year. Bill Yucuis discovered that CyperPatriot had added three tiers to their competition, the Platinum, Gold, and Silver tiers. After Rounds 1 and 2, teams were assigned to one of these tiers. All three tiers would compete independently in State and Regional Rounds, with winners of each tier receiving certificates. Only the Platinum Tier would compete for the National Finals, however. Florida will again honor the top team from Florida, but they would come from the Platinum Tier.

StellarXplorers is in its second year of development. The competition involves satellite design using software to select orbits and satellite equipment which best meets Design requirements. There are three online competitions, similar to CyberPatriot, which determines the National

Finalists. This year, StellarXplorers plans to send 10 teams to Colorado Springs in April for the Finals.

### **AFA Field Issues**

All AFA sponsored programs must be in the budget!

The following website offers AFA training modules for many topics. For demonstration purposes, we watched a training video for AFA recruiting.

<http://www.afa.org/afafieldleaders/home>

Web-based Reporting was discussed. Chapters can update Chapter Officers. Any Chapter Officer has access to the Chapter's online Reports and can input events in their areas of responsibility, if desired. These officers can also Submit reports, which is helpful if the Chapter president is on vacation or sick. Several Chapters were struggling with this type of reporting. The link provided in the paragraph above, can be used for training on Web-based Reporting. A common problem with this type of reporting is leaving pop-blockers on. Make sure to turn these off. Several members asked about the value in Web-based reporting. It is a requirement of the 501(c)3, non-profit, and it provides data to the State President and AFA National about Chapter accomplishments.

President Yucuis would like Chapters to submit news articles, in a timely manner, to the Wingman staff. He would like a courtesy copy of all article submitted.

### **Membership Issues**

National President Larry Spenser is making AFA recruitment a priority. He is most interested in recruitment of active duty and Air National Guard members, all ranks. AFA is being marketed as the Air Force's "Premier Professional Organization," and should be supported by all members who can benefit from the efforts of the AFA organization. General Welsh, Air Force Chief of Staff, fully supports the AFA, and is allowing Commanders to openly express their support. The Air Force Judge Advocate General has sent a letter expressing General Welsh's intent, to all Air Force Judge Advocates. Due to several issues that were discussed, President

Yucuis asked for names of individuals at bases that were not cooperating with this effort. He plans to address this issue at the State Presidents and Regions meeting.

### **What Program Are You Most Proud Of**

State President Yucuis addressed each Chapter President. He asked them which program they implemented, or participated in, that they are most proud of. Here is an abbreviated version of that discussion:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Program</u>
303	Scholarship Program
429	Reaching 125% membership goals
365	Hosting Wounded Airman Sports Camp/Competition
309	Meet & Greet WWII Honor Flights
136	Flight Simulator tours to 6 - 8 grades
398	Unsung Hero recognition, based on duty performance

### **Adjournment**

Members dismissed at 1530, to support award presentations for the State Drill Meet.

Susan Ault-Davis  
State Secretary

### **Attachments**

1. Attendance Roster
2. Financial Report