

**Air Force Association (Florida)
2018 Winter Meeting
Hilton Inn, Altamonte Springs, FL
February 23-24**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, Introductions and Roll Call

State President Sharon Branch called the meeting to order at 1310 on February 23, 2018 in the Capital 1 Conference Room of the Altamonte Springs Hilton Inn and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Linda Pugsley gave the invocation.

In lieu of a roll call, the President noted that several members had indicated that they would be late or attend the February 24 session. Seven chapters were present, four were excused and three were absent. Two of the absent chapters (Highlands and McCarthy) are in inactive status.

Chapters Present

Red Tail #136
Martin H. Harris #303
Cape Canaveral #309
Eglin #365
Hurlburt #398
Falcon #399
Bud West #419

Chapters Excused

Waterman-Twining #316
Miami-Homestead #317
Gold Coast #351
Florida West Coast #429

Chapters Absent

Florida Highlands #173
Tyndall #355
James R McCarthy #397

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

Meeting Minutes – Ben Langer

Minutes from the AFA Florida 2017 Winter Meeting in Orlando, Florida March 4, 2017 were distributed electronically before this meeting and the President also distributed copies to each of four tables. A motion by Mark Chapman to accept was seconded by Tim Brock. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Lehmann

A review of 2017 budget activity (Attachment 2) showed income projected at \$12,875; however, actual income was only \$8,906.72, resulting in a loss of \$3,968.28. The largest differences from the budget came from reduced national support payments and the increased cost of the national convention hospitality suite. They were under budget

by \$2,193.17 and \$2,000 respectively. Boeing donated \$1,000 to help support convention suite.

Expenses came in under budget on most line items. The expense line for the 2017 winter meeting, \$2,925.79, looks bad on the surface: \$800 was projected in expenses. However, the winter meeting cost AFA FL only \$617.79 when you consider that expenses were \$2,925.79 and income from registration (food, hotel fees and rooms) was \$2,308. (Two members' cancelled reimbursements were included in the cost.) The other expense that led to a net loss of \$3,900 for the year was the cost (donation) of \$3,587.40 for the 2017 NATCON.

Overall cash on hand as of February 23 was \$14,054.64 in the business checking account. This compares with \$18,054.64 at this time last year.

Cash	\$14,054.64
Money Market	\$13,070.02
CD 1	\$16,375.97
CD 2	\$10,748.25
Total	\$54,248.88

Our money market account stands at \$13,070.02, a slight increase over last year's \$13,066.43.

One of our CDs has a value of \$16,375.97, a gain of \$16.37 over last year; this CD matures on November 11, 2018 and will be automatically renewed at a yearly rate of 1 percent.

Our second CD has a value of \$10,748.25, a gain of \$19.65 over last year. This CD matures on July 28, 2018 and will be automatically renewed for 25 months at an annual interest rate of 2 percent.

AFA Florida funds now total \$54,248.88 compared to \$58,678.73 last year. Bottom line: The AFA state finances are in good shape.

Future State Meetings – Sharon Branch

The 2018 AFA Florida state convention will be hosted by Martin H. Harris Chapter #303 July 13-14 at a location to be determined. Gary Lehmann sought ideas for Friday evening entertainment. He expected hotel rates and convention costs to increase. Red Tail Memorial Chapter #136 will host the 2019 state convention in Ocala July 12-13.

The 2019 winter meeting will be held March 1-2 in Orlando, with Waterman-Twining Chapter #316 providing logistical support.

AFA Field Issues – Sharon Branch

Budget. Russ Lewey, member of the AFA Field Council, asked each region president to look at chapter financial reports to determine funds provided by chapters to the Aerospace Education and Wounded Airman programs. This is because AFA National is continuing to look at cutting support payments to chapters. The Field Council wants to have ammunition to convince National that chapters are supporting National programs and support payments are being put to good use.

Budget continues to be the Number 1 focus at AFA National. This year the AFA budget is expected to break even after previous years in deficit. Membership has increased to 94,358 from just over 92,000.

Membership. National is transitioning to a new information system called “Sales Force” that will show new members and members dropped. Chapters needing an up-to-date membership roster should email field@AFA.org with a request specifying what is needed and the beginning and ending dates; an update should be sent within one to two days. Sharon Branch noted that some phone numbers are wrong on the AFAFlorida.org website and requested that chapters send corrections to Ben Langer. It’s beneficial to list members on the office roster at www.afa.org because those listed on the chapter officers roster will have access to information on the dashboard.

Membership categories and dues have been updated as of January 1, 2018. Chapters should obtain new membership brochures. Membership categories and costs and printed applications also can be accessed by clicking on “Join” at www.AFA.org.

Chapter Reporting. The President asked that chapters continue to complete quarterly reports, although they are no longer a requirement for support payments. Quarterly reports help in recalling activities during the year and are one way for the State President to know what the chapters are doing. Annual financial, activity and officer reports are due by mid-December and they are required in order to receive support

payments. She expected a new chapter dashboard to be available within the next month or thereabouts.

AFA Training. Training modules are available online and all should take the training offered. Once you take a training module, be sure to respond to the survey afterwards; that is the only way national will know that the module has been watched. AFA Florida showed a zero utilization rate for training modules, even though some had taken the training, because no one responded to the surveys.

AFA may move toward more video conferencing. Tim Brock noted that video conferencing, unlike teleconferencing, provides the ability to show, see and review charts.

Rosie the Riveter. Candace Lovell reported that Eglin Chapter 365 is the only Florida chapter to invest in "Rosie the Riveter," a national campaign to build a living memorial to honor women who served on the Home Front during WWII. The campaign will be announced on National Rosie the Riveter Day, March 21, 2018. Chapter 365 planted memorial Rosie the Riveter roses at the Valparaiso Heritage Museum. Candace questioned the value to AFA of supporting the Rosie the Riveter campaign when AFA is so invested in STEM. Although the Bud West Chapter 419 president, John Schmidt, worked diligently to establish a program in Tallahassee, he was informed he did not need to pursue the project further.

Wounded Airman Program. Martin H. Harris Chapter 303 donated \$4,000 to the Wounded Airman Program to pay transportation costs for two participants in the Wounded Airman Trials at Nellis AFB; Hurlburt and Eglin will host a training camp.

AFA is hosting its second annual Wounded Airman Cycling Challenge benefiting AFA's Wounded Airman Program. In partnership with CycleBar, an indoor spin class venue, AFA has a goal to raise \$60,000 by hosting a fun spin class fundraiser to support wounded airmen in need.

Todd Freece reported that chapters can apply to have AFA send AFA merchandise to them if they have an air show or other major event in their area and wish to sell these

products. AFA National keeps a portion of the proceeds. Contact field@afa.org if interested. Utah will be the first to try this program.

GrantStation provides tools to find new grant sources, build a strong grant seeking program and write successful grant proposals. It supports the AFA goal of calling for every program to support itself and be self-sustaining.

Members should subscribe to the monthly Air Force Association Newline, an online update of what is happening throughout the AFA, including field council news, CyberPatriot, StellarXplorer, and aerospace education.

The Doolittle Brick campaign is ongoing. Participants can help continue the Air Force heritage by making a tax-deductible donation of \$125 or \$200 to AFA for personalized bricks. These personalized bricks will be a lasting legacy at AFA's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

Tim Brock briefed on a possible upcoming AFA Constitution change prompted by an instance of AFA leadership terms ending simultaneously. The constitutional change, if approved, would stagger senior officer rotation so that AFA leadership can have continuity.

Members attending the 2018 AFA Florida convention should expect to discuss and vote on issues concerning the hospitality suite, such as its location. AFA Florida and Virginia representatives traditionally have been hosting hospitality suites at the annual national convention.

The winter meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. and a number of participants went to a nearby Olive Garden for dinner.

Saturday, February 24

The winter meeting re-convened at 9 a.m. February 24. President Sharon Branch called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Pugsley said the invocation.

State and National Awards – Mark Chapman

Award nominations, including Teacher of the Year, are due to AFA Florida by April 15. The nomination for State Teacher of the Year should be sent to Mark Chapman. Chapters should send their chapter nominees straight to National. Mark asked for volunteers to help in evaluating and scoring State TOY nominees; Michael Snodgrass and Candace Lovell volunteered.

Nominees for Chapter Member of the Year require no justification, just the submission of a name. Chapters that want more than one Teacher of the Year can name two or more, but National will provide award elements and a check for only one; elements (not including a check) for additional TOYs can be obtained from National for \$15.

Nominees for State TOY should be submitted on the national form. Also, if a chapter wants its TOY to compete for State TOY, it is important to inform the teacher of all the responsibilities that go with being selected AFA Florida Teacher of the Year. The State Teacher of the Year will be honored at the State Convention and will compete at the national level.

Drill Meet and Trophies – Sharon Branch

The AFA Florida State Drill Meet will be at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach on March 31. The number of state drill meet trophies has been reduced from five to three in each category of competition. Funding of the trophies is in the works. Sharon Branch urged chapters to send representatives to the drill meet to present trophies. The time of the awards ceremony after the drill meet cannot be certain; it depends on the number of schools participating in the drill meet.

Discussion centered on possible drill meet locations, ROTC judges and training judges; Michael Snodgrass suggested considering members of Air Force Base honor guards to host and judge the meets; he offered to contact commanders to help make it happen. Gil Perez also volunteered to assist with the drill meet.

Congressional Contacts – Sharon Branch

One of the current focal points for the Field Council is congressional contacts. The new chairman of the advocacy committee is Randy Witt. He recommends looking at the training module that Mark Tarpley and the training committee produced. Bruce Fouraker, AFA Florida Vice President for Government Relations, will re-do the list of Florida legislators so chapters can reach out to their Members of Congress.

State President's Report – Sharon Branch

Active members must be innovative in order to accomplish all that needs to be done. Leaders should mentor newcomers at meetings so that they will continue to attend and take on responsibilities. There followed a discussion of the need for better attendance, of the need for and timing of winter meetings, and of its association with the Air Warfare Symposium. The discussion was inconclusive.

Education Programs.

Civil Air Patrol. (Sharon Branch) The AFA connects to CAP. If you interact with teachers, tell them that they can get free merchandise, such as tee shirts, from CAP. Schools can get an emblem for their windows that indicates their support of STEM. Members of AFA can become members of CAP also or by becoming a "Friend of CAP." Chapters should encourage teachers to become members of CAP. There are many upcoming CAP events throughout Florida in the coming months. Todd Freece provided an update that Christina English forwarded to him.

CyberPatriot. (Sharon Branch) CyberPatriot is looking for coaches and mentors, especially experts in information and cyber security. Graduates of CyberPatriot who become cyber warriors show that the program pays off and gains industry support. Chapters should encourage teachers to get involved. A Winter Park team was among the winners last year. AFJROTC participation is free.

StellarXplorers. (Tim Brock) StellarXplorers is in its fourth year and Mark Chapman is managing the website. One hundred eighty teams are registered this year, a 32

percent increase; 19 of them are from Florida. Teams are from all over the world including a DoD team from Kaiserslautern, Germany; others are from Hawaii, Guam and Korea. Competition reduced contestants from 180 in the first round to 54. Thirty teams, including three from Florida, are in the semi-finals next weekend. The national finals will be April 16-21 in conjunction with the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs. The target for next year is 300 teams. Tim noted that “the kids are incredible” and wished that corporations would come to see them in action and render support which thus far is lacking.

Prototype training for teachers (team directors) will be provided at the Houston Space Center. Participants, at a cost of \$59.95 each, will sleep at the visitors’ center.

The fifth year of StellarXplorers begins with registration on May 1. The program is run by eight volunteers and is still seeking a corporate sponsor. A professional staff also is needed.

AAS/SW. (Sharon Branch) AFROTC, Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings provide opportunities for leadership and mentoring young cadets. Chapters can connect with Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings for synergy. Members of AAS and Silver Wings are members of AFA automatically. The Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings NATCON (BigEZCon 2018) will be in New Orleans from March 30 to April 2.

Leadership Development. (Sharon Branch reported for Bill Yucuis) Traditionally, the executive vice president (Mark Chapman) becomes the next state president. Mark Chapman and Ben Langer desire to continue as executive vice president and secretary, respectively, elections will be held at the state convention. We need to talk to all the chapters and seek more state level involvement.

Lunch

The West Orange High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps color guard from Winter Garden presented the colors and all assembled said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda Feld was the guest speaker. Accompanied by her husband, Ed, and her Golden Labrador, Keith, Linda spoke on behalf of Canine Companions for Independence about the importance of service dogs for people with disabilities. Linda suffers from a progressive degenerative disease and is in a wheelchair. Canine Companions provides service dogs, hearing dogs, facility dogs and skilled companion dogs. Most recently, Canine Companions has begun providing dogs to veterans with disabilities and now trains dogs to assist people with PTSD.

Chapter Cross Talk

The President said that AFA Florida has before it two requests for funds. First, the Silver Wings/Arnold Air Society group in Puerto Rico is raising funds for disaster relief there following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Second, the Aerospace Education Council is seeking donations of \$500 from each region to make a video that will showcase AEC programs. Michael Snodgrass asked if the AEC had a plan for distribution of such a video, and hearing none, recommended that AFA FL see a plan before making a donation. There was no motion to respond to either request. Chapters wishing to respond to the request for Puerto Rico disaster relief funds can find more information at the AAS/SW Puerto Rico website (<https://www.gofundme.com/aas-sw-united-for-puerto-rico>) .

Jim Connors said that Hurlburt Chapter 398 is nominating Gil Perez for the Emerging Leaders program.

Candace Lovell, Eglin Chapter 365, discussed the fourth year of supporting the Air Force Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports Camp hosted at Eglin, the annual golf tournament which focuses on sending good kids to college and the AFA purpose of supporting CyberPatriot, StellarExplorer and K-12 STEM activities. All bring opportunity to go out of the Eglin Community for additional funds for educating youth who will hopefully go to college and receive scholarships.

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 1410.

*Recorded by
Ben Langer, Secretary
February 24, 2018*

DRAFT