

**AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION FLORIDA
WINTER MEETING
CLARION HOTEL ORLANDO AIRPORT
3835 MCCOY ROAD, ORLANDO FLORIDA 32812**

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

AFA Florida State President Sharon Branch called the meeting to order at 0807 on Saturday, March 2, 2019, in the meeting room at the Clarion Hotel and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Bob Hicks gave the invocation.

Chapter Secretary Ben Langer called the chapter roll. Eight chapters were present, three were excused and three were absent. Two of the absent chapters (Highlands and McCarthy) are in inactive status and a third (Cape Canaveral) is without a leadership because the officers chose to resign.

Chapters Present

Red Tail #136
Martin H. Harris #303
Waterman-Twining #316
Tyndall #355
Eglin #365
Hurlburt #398
Falcon #399
Bud West #419

Chapters Excused

Miami-Homestead #317
Gold Coast #351
Florida West Coast #429

Chapters Absent

Florida Highlands #173
Cape Canaveral #309
James R McCarthy #397

A quorum was present. A list of chapters present, absent and excused is at Attachment 1 and a list of convention attendees is at Attachment 2.

Meeting Minutes – Ben Langer

Minutes from the AFA Florida 2018 State Convention in Altamonte Springs, Florida July 13-14 were distributed electronically before this meeting, and the President made known that copies were available on the tables. The minutes as provided were approved by voice vote.

Administrative Notes – Bill Yucuis

Bill Yucuis noted that the venue and time for this winter meeting were selected for the convenience of national officers should they desire to attend while in town for the Air

Force Association's 35th annual Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition that ended March 1. The specific location (Clarion Hotel) also was selected because it was a “good deal,” provided a convenient location, and met the needs for a state meeting. The location was Orlando, but in keeping with procedures agreed upon at previous meetings, logistics were handled by a non-Orlando chapter, in this case, by Waterman-Twining Chapter 316.

Treasurer’s Report – Gary Lehmann

The bottom line: AFA Florida finances are stable and in good shape. AFA Florida has been able to meet expenses with income. State Treasurer Gary Lehmann showed a slide listing AFA Florida funds available and comparing them to figures from the same time last year (See the chart at right and Attachment 3). Business checking and the total amount available were down from last year because of costs associated with the hospitality suite at the National Convention. Sharon reminded the meeting that almost all AFA Florida income derives from support payments from AFA National. Small amounts of funds are recouped from meetings and sometimes from trophy payments.

	2019	2018
Checking	\$11,161.46	\$14,054.64
Money Market	\$13,074.21	\$13,070.02
CD 1	\$16,471.06	\$16,375.97
CD 2	\$10,898.55	\$10,748.25
Total	\$51,605.28	\$54,248.88

State Winter Meetings and Convention Plans

The 2019 State Convention is scheduled for July 12-13 and will be hosted by Red Tail Memorial Chapter 136 in Ocala. The 2020 Winter Meeting is scheduled to follow the Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, the dates of which remain to be announced. The 2020 State Convention is scheduled for July 24-25, 2020, and will be hosted by Falcon Chapter 399 in Jacksonville.

Chapter 136 Vice President Ben Langer explained that the 2019 convention would be held in the Courtyard Marriott in Ocala, the same venue as the 2015 convention. Chapter 399 President Larry Belge provided a proposal for meeting, hotel, and amenities costs for the 2020 convention (Attachment 4).

There followed a discussion of meeting venues and the option of online video teleconferencing. Tim Brock noted that a big advantage of video teleconferencing is the ability to share charts and

diagrams. Bill Yucuis agreed that video teleconferencing is a “great system,” that it works well for StellarXplorers, and that the audio is better than telephones.

Discussion of the date and time for the 2020 Winter Meeting was postponed until the 2019 Convention.

State and National Awards (Mark Chapman)

AFA Florida Vice President Mark Chapman re-wrote all the awards SOPs (standard operating procedures) and, for convenience sake, posted all award forms on the state website (AFAFlorida.org). There the awards are all spelled out. He explained that suspenses for submissions mainly are driven by National. However, the suspense for the State Teacher of the Year is April 15. He regretted that so few chapters nominate a Chapter Member of the Year. About one-third of the Florida chapters do not submit a Chapter Member of the Year Award even though requirements are for a name only. Sharon also urged chapters to submit nominees for awards. “There’s no reason AFA chapters in Florida can’t received lots of awards,” she said. Chapter Teachers of the Year receive from National a check, pin, portfolio, certificate and AFA sticker for their school’s window. When a chapter names a second Teacher of the Year, the chapter assumes responsibility for the cost of award elements. National provides the elements to the chapter for \$15, but the chapter must cut its own check if money is provided to the second TOY. It also was noted that chapters can reward their Teachers of the Year by providing them a complimentary Aerospace Education Membership (AEM) in the Civil Air Patrol at no cost to the chapters. Teachers in grades K through 12 are eligible for Teacher of the Year awards. Winners of the AFA Florida State Teacher of the Year Award are expected to attend the state convention where the award is presented. Sharon strongly urged chapters to reach out to give awards.

Field Operations Update (AFA Vice Chairman of the Board, Field Operations, F. Gavin MacAloon)

AFA National reported a surplus of income over expenses last year. Field support payments went out this week. Thirty chapters are inactive and 147 are active. Payments went out to 120 because they did what National asked.

You can access the field resources website without signing in. Mac went on to discuss changes and improvements to the AFA website and the field leaders page.

The new AFA President (retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright) will work with the field. He wants to find out what the field really wants to do, wants to talk to members and chapter presidents. Six candidates are running for national director positions.

Discussion continues regarding moving the annual AFA National Convention away from the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, but the convention will stay there through the 2020 convention. Among the options and questions for the future are how to make the convention more attractive, should it be moved around the USA, and should there be a memorial service at the National Cathedral for the upcoming convention to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day?

The staff priority at National is not necessarily field priorities when it comes to the field portal. Consequently, the field council will use a system to track suggestions for changes to the portal and prioritize them. He reminded about is a recruiting/retention rebate to chapters. This involves a rebate of a portion of annual dues to the chapter if the chapter retains a new member a second year (the member chooses to rejoin after their first membership).

If you have a problem with the field portal, report it. Our biggest problem is communication. It seems that we try something 10 times but need to do it the 11th time.

Senior field leaders in a chapter presidents' survey are trying to find out what we are doing right and what wrong. If you've got a good idea, share it (with Mac) so he can communicate it.

Among comments following the Vice Chairman for Field Operations presentation, Tyndall Chapter President Edward Hood suggested notification of new chapter members and wondered how he could find out which members in his chapter area are unaffiliated with his chapter.

Waterman-Twining Chapter's Bill Yucuis explained that Wounded Warrior games will be conducted June 21-30 at MacDill AFB and the surrounding area. The AFA is looking for volunteers and sponsors. Specifically, they are looking for sponsors for a hospitality area to be held at the Long Aquatic Center on 22 June. Bill (yucuisb1@gmail.com) is the point of contact if you want to sponsor or if you have volunteers. Volunteers also may be needed at other times.

Lunch

Stan Goldstein, an electronic warfare officer in F-105F Thunderchiefs, presented the history and success of Wild Weasels flying Thuds beginning in 1968. Wild Weasels were a band of daring aircrews who teamed up in an initially classified program to take out the radars guiding the biggest threat, Soviet SA-2 Guideline missiles, to U.S. air during bombing runs over North Vietnam. At the conclusion of his presentation, AFA Florida President Sharon Branch presented Stan a certificate and noted the State will provide \$100 to the Wounded Airman Program in Stan's name.

Field Issues (Sharon Branch)

Sharon emphasized that activity and financial reports must be completed by July 31 (or by the deadline announced) if chapters want to receive their support payments. Chapters vary in size and ability, so each should "do what you can do" she said, referring what each chapter is able to accomplish. She reminded presidents that in the new portal they must "submit" their reports (i.e., don't leave them in "draft) before she can review their report.

Every chapter president has an email address in the field portal. They should look at messages received there. For example, support payment notifications are received there. Sharon also recommended that presidents go to their chapter roster and find new and renewing members. Chapters now receive 50 percent of a first-year renewing member's dues payment.

Aerospace Education (Sharon Branch)

The AFA Florida State AFJROTC Drill Meet will be on Saturday, March 30 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Twelve teams are competing. Competition will begin at 8:30 a.m. and trophy presentations should begin at about 2:45 p.m. A trophy order has been distributed showing chapters associated in the past with each trophy. If your chapter hasn't paid for the trophies you have paid for in the past, you should send your payment to State Treasurer Gary Lehmann. If you cannot support a trophy payment, Sharon needs to know as soon as possible so the state AFA can try to get them funded. Sharon asked chapters to consider sending a representative to present the chapter's trophies.

StellarXplorers (Tim Brock)

Tim Brock said that StellarXplorers is growing. This year's competition is in its final round. Twenty teams from Florida have signed up, but none has done very well. No Florida teams made it to the finals. Ten of Florida's 20 teams represent 10 different organizations. Five are in for the first time; four are Junior ROTC and four represent public schools. Finals will be in Colorado Springs during the third week of April (same week as CyberPatriot). It looks like the Johnson Space Center will be the site of the 2020 finals. The strongest supporters of StellarXplorers are Air Force STEM and Harris Corporation. Bill Yucuis attended a conference at the Houston Space Center and heard the question from teachers referring to the StellarXplorers Space Camp: "Why didn't we know about this?" Tim said that the biggest challenge for StellarXplorers in terms of growth is to "Take the fear of the program from the teachers."

CyberPatriot (Sharon Branch)

Reporting on CyberPatriot, Sharon noted that CyberCamps for 2018 are still listed at uscypatriot.org and suggested that members continue to scour the website for CyberCamps in Florida in 2019. Falcon Chapter President Larry Belge observed that St. Augustine Civil Air Patrol Squadron team "Just Doughnuts" had been named the 2018-2019 Florida CyberPatriot - All Service State Champions.

CyberPatriot is beginning to field CyberGenerations for seniors. This project covers basic topics about cyber safety and provides additional resources to help seniors identify potential cyberattacks directed at them.

Chapters that have candidates for the Emerging Leader program should put them in for it. When selected, Emerging Leaders are required to attend three meetings at National, serve on a committee, etc.

You can update your subscription preference for AFA Newline and other communication tools by logging into afa.org with your personal account information and then updating your preferences.

Air Warfare Symposium Chairman and National Director Mike Liquori re-affirmed that AFA National ended last year with a \$700,000 surplus; he said that this level of income would not

continue. AFA will continue to pay down the mortgage on the building it occupies in Arlington and should be done in 8 to 10 years. Attendance and exhibitor trends at the Air Warfare Symposium are increasing.

Government Relations

Eglin Chapter 355 President Edward Hood nominated Congressman (Dr.) Neal Dunn (FL-02) AFA Florida Legislator of the Year. The nomination was approved by voice vote. Congressman Dunn has been an active supporter of re-naming naming the new Pensacola Bay “3-Mile Bridge” the “Gen. Daniel ‘Chappie’ James Memorial Bridge.” Mark said that Florida DOT will make the final decision.

Florida AFA State of Health / Chapter Closures / Chapter Cross Talk

Inactive Highlands Chapter 173 and James R. McCarthy Chapter 397 are not in communication with AFA Florida. There is some indication that a member is willing to take on reviving McCarthy Chapter (according to Mac MacAloon). AFA Florida will begin steps to de-activate Highlands Chapter 173 by attempting to contact all its members, either by email or snail mail and work through the issues of closing the chapter. Depending on their residences, members would be transferred to either Falcon Chapter 399 (Jacksonville) or West Coast Chapter 429 (Sarasota).

Sharon sent an email to Cape Canaveral chapter members asking someone to come forward and assume chapter leadership. Depending on the response, decisions will have to be made as to how to continue the chapter and serve its members.

Hurlburt Chapter 398 President Jim Connors made a motion that AFA Florida make available \$1,000 to Waterman-Twining Chapter 316 if it needs help in covering expenses associated with putting on the annual All-Service AFA Warrior sports event on June 22. Falcon Chapter 399 Treasurer Ernie Webster seconded, and the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment The president adjourned the meeting at 1605.

Attachments

1. Chapter Attendance
2. Member Attendance
3. Financial Report
4. Falcon Chapter Convention Proposal

*2019 Florida State AFA Winter Meeting
Minutes -- Draft*

*Minutes taken by
Ben Langer, Secretary
March 2, 2019
Attachment 1*



Winter 19-Chapter
Attendance.docx

Attachment 2



Winter
Mtg-Attendance-Mem

Attachment 3



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Attachment 4



Falcon Convention
Proposal.pdf

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