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Air Force Sergeants Association

DIVISION 5

The Sunshine News



Pinellas Park - MacDill AFB - Tyndall AFB - Eglin AFB - Orlando - Patrick AFB -

Jan - Mar 2012

Jacksonville - Port St. Lucie - Hurlburt Field - San Juan, PR

Volume XII, Issue I



President Bruce Blodgett's Message

Feliz Navidad Division #5 members! I sincerely hope you all had a wonderful Christmas vacation. Now, we look towards the end of 2011 with both excitement and disappointment. Excitement at the overall success of AFSA as a whole because we are working towards meeting our goal of 22,000 new members this year for our overall organization! This is HUGE. It means, if we actually are able to get about 280 more members before the end of the year, we will end the year with MORE members than we started. Now the disappointing part - - Division 5 could have been a stronger advocate of that recruiting and retention effort. However, we did have some very positive trends in the Division. Chapter #F0567, Hurlburt Field, was very active in their R&R efforts this year, in part due to the leadership of their President and their Executive Council. Individually, we had folks step up their recruiting and retention, but it doesn't look like anyone will meet the threshold for 100 recruits and or retentions. We can all take these lessons to heart as we begin a new year, a year of hope that we can bring our Division numbers back up to where they belong. We have struggled to keep 8K overall members, when we should realistically be upwards of 9-10K members easily for our demographic area. We can put this Division BACK on the map before our merge into Division #2 in 2013;

but, this takes everyone's dedication to recruit and retain. Your Chapter President cannot do it alone; he or she needs a core group/committee of folks who understand that to maintain the benefits and privileges that come with defending the freedom of this country, we must stand together, united, in one voice and let Congress know we will NOT go down without a fight - without them knowing that we ALL stand together to be heard! I am excited about 2012 - we wipe clean the chalkboard and start fresh! Let's go get 'em!

I'm sure by now most of you have seen my accepted Letter of Resignation. It saddened me to have to do this, but my current job does not allow me to devote the time needed to be your Division President. Since President Ledoux has accepted my resignation, VP Pfister will now take over as the Division 5 President until elections can be held at the Division Convention in Savannah. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your Division President and applaud all your volunteer efforts with this Association. I know DP Pfister will need your help as he takes the reins until the Division Convention. Please direct all DP correspondence to DP Pfister now, but send me on your 4th Quarter Reports, as I am still responsible for them, and cc DP Pfister.

See President's Message, page 3





A U X I L I A R Y

Final Edition of Coordinator's Comments

By Carol Waldrop, Past Auxiliary Coordinator

Greetings and Happy New Year!! We are about to start an interesting new year filled with changes and challenge. As you read this, the auxiliary has already merged with the parent AFSA Association and the position of Coordinator has sailed into the sunset along with all auxiliary offices. Our Division Five council has graciously allowed me this final time to comment as Division Five Auxiliary Coordinator.

Aside from the very first time I wrote this column this one is *the most difficult to write*. What to say to all of the wonderful dedicated AFSA auxiliary members that have done so much to improve the life of Air Force families and the communities where they live? The obvious answer is Thank you! Thank you! Thank You! Nobody does it better than all of you have done for all of these years. I have been proud to be a part of your lives and your chapters and honored that you have had faith in me.

I am the last in a line of wonderful strong women that have been elected to this position of trust and leadership. I would like to honor and recall those who have gone before me to build the Division Five Auxiliaries into a strong force within our Association. The first was Audrey Edelman (1978-81), followed by Kleo Selby (1981-83), Peggy Stala (1983-87), Jennye Kulas (1987-91), Nellie Blue (1991-95), Thelma Hamrick (1995-97), Annette Nelson (1997-2000), and Mary Luhn, (2000-03). *Have I really been Coordinator since 2003?* I was the first Assistant Coordinator in our Division. Betty Peace was my assistant for a term and then Ruth Larr was briefly my assistant before moving on to International Trustee. For me Division Five was my home where I wanted to devote my time and effort. Thank you to all chapter Presidents past and present for their dedication and hard work!

Through the years I have read your reports and been in awe all of the activity of the auxiliaries in Division Five. You have sent coupons overseas, supported VA facilities, gathered treats for deployed troops, helped the wounded warriors, supported the Air Force Enlisted village, supported Shop with a Cop, participated in patriotic ceremonies, honored veterans and active duty forces, rewarded first term airman, and volunteered in your communities among other things. When I became Coordinator there were six auxiliary Chapters. A 527 Pinellas

Park; A554 Eglin AFB; A556, Orlando; A557, Patrick AFB; A558. Lake Worth and Chapter A564, Port Saint Lucie. Several years back we added A553 Tyndall AFB with the help of an enthusiastic Sergeant named Kent Kundert! Chapter A558 became the first Auxiliary Chapter ever to operate independently when their parent AFSA chapter folded. They operated quite successfully in that status until six months ago when they decided to close.

Now we are entering a whole new phase of AFSA membership as we merge with the AFSA chapter. New opportunities arise to work together to meet the goals of both groups united into one strong force! The AFSA voice on Capitol Hill will be stronger as we will have a larger number of voices singing our requests in unison. We will have more hands for local projects. Many hands make lighter work!

Please communicate with the AFSA members to let them know the programs that you have carried out in the past and work together to accomplish those as well as AFSA projects. This is a new dawn for AFSA and you are an important element in this transition. In the words of Dr Seuss, "Unless someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to change. It's not." **You have that power!**

You are still needed to recruit and retain members, write to your elected officials and all of the other activities you have done to make AFSA great. Auxiliary members can vote and be appointed to positions of leadership in the new AFSA chapter but they cannot be elected to office. Let the new chapter leaders know what positions you are interested in filling and where your strengths lie.

Auxiliary awards for 2011 will be given to recognize outstanding Auxiliary Chapters and members. Watch for messages from Division President Bruce Blodgett and his awards Chairman, Scott Burk for information and deadlines. You will be submitting all awards to the Division this year. The 2011 Auxiliary President is responsible to submit the award nomination packages. I will still be here, ready and willing to provide any help you may need while creating the awards packages. Please submit awards packets so your auxiliary members are recognized for their accomplishments in this final round of auxiliary awards.

Please see *Coordinator's Comments*, page 4

President's Message continued from page 1

Thank you all very much for your support and God bless you and your families and have a safe and joyous New Year.

Please don't forget you should now be finalizing your Annual Awards packages. Your suspense to get them turned into me and Trustee Burk is NLT 1 Mar 12 (sooner the better!). Any questions on awards or their format for submission can be directed to our Division 5 Awards Trustee, SSgt Scott Burk at Tyndall AFB, FL. He is "ram-rod"ding" our efforts this year and I would like to see more deserving Airmen and Chapters put in for awards this year! We must reward the people working so hard in the field for us all!

Also, Chapter Presidents, please don't forget that our 4Q11 Reports are due to me NLT 10 January 2012!

This is a "drop dead" suspense - - I would hope that many of you will turn them in soon after the end of the year as possible! Further, all Auxiliary Chapter reports must come to me and financial report must show a zero (\$0.00) balance to close out the books. Also, please don't forget all Chapters need to accomplish a new Directory of Officers, Audit, and Budget for the New Year ASAP after the 1st of January as possible (depending on your elections).

To the right are our overall numbers for recruiting and retention since 1 Jan 2011. I will have final numbers for you all after I pull them down on 31 Dec 11, but this is where we stand right now. Also, don't forget the \$200 challenge to all chapters on who gets the most special \$100/5-year memberships by 31 Dec 11! Our top recruiters/retainers (5 or more recruited/retained) in the Division are identified on page 8.

Every Chapter is in the Red, with more losses than gains!! We have 147 retentions + 599 recruits - 1,458 losses = Net growth of -712 in the Division since 1 Jan 2011! ☹

Thanks to you all for your hard work this last quarter. Some of you really took to the challenge and our numbers re much improved! Chapters #F0553 at Tyndall and F0567 at Hurlburt Field are to be commended! *HUA*.

AFSA CHAPTERS		
F0527	0	0
F0552	72	2
F0553	138	45
F0554	103	9
F0556	22	18
F0557	87	8
F0559	5	0
F0564	1	18
F0567	151	21
F0570	10	1
AUXILIARY CHAPTERS		
X0527	0	2
X0553	0	0
X0554	4	3
X0556	1	2
X0557	5	0
X0558	0	0
X0564	0	18
Total:	599	147



Division Financial Report

By Shannon Banks, TSgt, Treasurer

As of January 1, 2012 here are our Division 5 bank balances:

Checking	2,136.95
Savings	8,194.87
Total	\$10,331.82



Membership Growth & Sustainability: Heartbeat of AFSA!

But where's the Action?

By Thomas Pfister, SMSgt, Vice President

As the Division Membership Chairman I accept full responsibility for our Division's lack to significantly accomplish positive Growth (recruit) and Sustainability (retentions).

This past year I've been asked for training, briefings, slideshows, etc., for recruiting from many chapters; but, as I've always stated nothing can beat talking to prospective members about the accomplishments and consider joining the associations' struggle keeping military benefits intact. Word of mouth is more powerful than briefs and slides...think about it. When was the last time you recommended an outing or movie to friends that you thought they'd enjoy? Or, you were told of such event and enjoyed the experience. It is the exact same with recruiting....talk and share information about the association and people with listen and before you know it you're a recruiter.

Our past year's performance has been dismal with 9% loss in membership just ahead of ONE other Division (9.46% loss) within all of AFSA.

Our current strength is 7,593 (AFSA) and 1,082 (AUX) totaling 8,675 members; we recruited 599 and retained 147 for the year but lost more members than gained.

It was brought to my attention that I've failed to recognize

our members working to keep the *Heartbeat* of the association strong recruiting and retaining. So, I wish to rectify that now by identifying individual recruit and



retention efforts. Please turn to page 8 of this newsletter for the listing of all members who recruited/retained for 2011.

Big thanks to everyone mentioned. Please consider how we can improve our efforts for the coming year membership growth. I'm at a loss what to suggest or how to motivate members to consider the important significance of the Association's membership growth to protect all the benefits we enjoy.

Your friend in AFSA

Coordinator's Comments continued from page 2

Bruce and Scott are both available to answer questions regarding awards too.

Do not forget that there are fourth quarter calendar year 2011 financial and activity reports to be written and turned in along with your final audit. All auxiliaries need to have a zero balance in their bank accounts as the chapters merge on January first 2012. Reports are to be sent to Division President Blodgett by January 10, 2012. Your reports and audit

must be in on time to qualify for 2011 auxiliary awards. If you do not know how to contact President Blodgett let me know and I will give you that information.

Thank you again for electing me to be your Coordinator all these years. I truly love my AFSA Family and hope that we will all keep in touch. I will always be here for you as a friend.

Have a wonderful, healthy, happy, prosperous and safe year in 2012!

IMPORTANT: QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE

PLEASE READ: AFSA and Auxiliary Activity & Americanism and Financial reports, for the 4th quarter CY2011, Oct 1 - Dec 31 are **due January 10**. **Please send your reports to PDP Blodgett and cc DP Pfister**. Further, all Auxiliary Chapter must complete an audit and the financial report must show a zero (\$0.00) balance to close out the books. Also, please don't forget all Chapters need to accomplish a new Directory of Officers, Audit, and Budget for the New Year ASAP after the 1st of January as possible (depending on your elections). As always, if you need assistance please contact President Pfister. Thank you for all you do for AFSA!

Young Airman Can Get Involved

by Sara Gauthier, AIC, AAC

Hello Airman Activity Coordinators!

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season and were able to get out and help your communities in some way. Now that the holidays have wrapped up, it's time to start thinking of new ways to get involved with the junior enlisted. We are all in Florida; spring will be coming up soon. A few outdoor ideas are to have an AFSA 5K, a ruck march, or maybe a fitness completion. Also, look in your local news papers for an organization that is looking for some help. Adopt a project or yearly event that AFSA can be known for putting on every year. Get our name out there!

As usual, I have not heard from ANY activity coordinators over the last quarter. If you honestly cannot commit to this position, please allow someone who WILL do their job to fill the AAC position. This is an important job – it would be

difficult to recruit and get the junior enlisted involved without you. Please take your job seriously.

With that being said, please keep in contact with me. I have tried sending out emails to everyone with ideas about getting airmen involved. If you have not been receiving these emails please let me know (Sarah.Gauthier@Eglin.af.mil). I would like to hear from all of you about what you have been working on and what is working or is not working in recruiting and retaining our airmen. Thank you all for being a part of AFSA and I look forward to hearing from you!



SA Resler's Note: Chapter President's, let me remind you that as the president of your chapter you are responsible for your young Airman Activities Coordinator to get involved with their program. That includes contacting our Division Five AAC so that she is aware of what your chapter is doing for your AAC program. So, please remind your AAC to contact Division AAC Gauthier with any news about your AAC program. Thank you!

From the Awards Chairman

by Scott Burk, SSgt, 1st Trustee

Hello Division 5!!!

The Holidays are over and its time to get back in the swing of things. All of 2011 business is old news as we look forward to 2012. But wait! All of 2011 business ISN'T complete. We still need to recognize people within our chapters by submitting them for awards. DP Blodgett and myself have sent out all of the award criteria and manuals to all of the chapters. Please nominate people from within your AFSA and Auxiliary chapters for the various awards eligible, and please remember the March 1, 2012 deadline to get those packages to me. Please feel free to email me at burkafsa@gmail.com with any award questions you may have.



**Awards are
Due March 1, 2012**



DIVISION FIVE WEBSITE: www.afsadivision5.org

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/AFSADivision5



Division 3/4/5 Convention

By Thomas Resler, TSgt (Ret.), Division 3/4/5 Convention Chairman

No changes since the last newsletter. We are still looking for a vendor to rent scooters for our convention. The registration package is about ready to be released to each division and should be found on the division website to download and print. Please ensure you read to informational sheet thoroughly because it provides a lot of information that will make your convention experience enjoyable. Please contact me if you do not have access to a computer and need to have the registration package mailed to you. I will be happy to assist.

On the right is the current brief information about our Division 3/4/5 Convention. We hope that you will be able to make this historic convention.



Division 3/4/5 2012 Convention

DATES: April 19 - 22, 2012

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Express - Savannah North, Port Wentworth, GA

HOTEL ROOM RATES: \$89.00 plus tax

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE: \$85.00

REGISTRATION FEE COVERS:

- Opening Ceremony - Thu., April 19, 1900
- Luncheon, Fri., April 20, 1215
- Honors Banquet, Sat., April 21, 1900

ADDITIONAL INFO:

All three divisions will have joint and breakout sessions throughout the convention. We will vote for executive councils for each division and the new Division 2 that will take over on January 1, 2013.

More information will be coming out by early 2012.



Let's Share Ideas to Advertise

By Robert Dixon, MSgt, Plans and Programs Trustee

The 4th quarter proved to be a very busy time in my life with several official Air Force duty related tasks to accomplish. This left an insufficient amount of time to devote to some AFSA business that I preferred to have accomplished. Besides participating in the division's mid-year meeting, I contributed little to division level business. However, as President, Chapter F0559, I was able to oversee dedicated chapter members participating in parades, a military salute during an NFL football game, hospice support at Ronald McDonald house and a very lucrative golf tournament fundraising event. I also procured the chapter a customized "instant-shelter" type pop-up type canopy and table cover along with some large banners. These items will help us market the chapter, raise community awareness and hopefully lead to increased recruiting!

In the coming months, I plan to increase our chapter's advertising efforts with community newspapers and launch a Facebook website. Along with an increased emphasis on recruiting efforts, an increase in legislative activities is needed within my chapter. Therefore, I plan to seek out tools and techniques to help us improve in that area also.

I would like to see more cross-feed between chapters in this division and plan on researching ways for us to accomplish that and share any ideas and processes with division members.



Making a Difference

By Karen Ainsley, SSgt, Active Duty Affairs Trustee

Hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and set a New Year's resolution. Maybe your resolution consists of taking a college class, getting out and visiting folks or volunteering. I recently volunteered at the Hawthorne House (Air Force Enlisted Village) for their Christmas Gala. It was a time enjoyed by all and I would highly encourage anyone to take advantage of volunteer opportunities such as this one when they come your way. We definitely learn from our elders and in the end we both take care of each other.

Realize that the decisions made by folks twenty years ago not only affect us, but directly affect the people/person that

made the decision also. The same goes for our organization. The things we fight for today will affect us and our future generation. Let's continue to build time into our busy schedules to make a difference. We can make things happen as a team. Build the plan, discuss/compromise, and follow through.

Let's face those big challenges. Some of our challenges are working as a team. It's just like a sports team. Sometimes, getting out there and playing is the only way to learn. Let's follow the path paved from the past, perfecting it for the future!



RECRUITERS for 2011 (As of December 27)



Here is the top recruiters and retainers. These recruiters have recruited/retained more than one member. Thank you for your "Give a Hoot, Recruit" attitude!

Recruiter Name	Recruit/Retain	Recruiter Name	Recruit/Retain
Mari Quiroga	59/5	Jamison Warrick	53/11
Scott Marshall	51/1	Brad Robbins	38/2
David Rodriquez	34/0	Timothy Burk	29/0
Jayly Jackson	26/0	Demika Hunter	24/3
Thomas Pfister	19/12	Dustin Tatem	18/0
William Ross	17/0	Katrina Blanchard	15/0
Rebekah Morris	12/9	Jen Spaulding	11/1
Edward Puttbrese	11/3	Marcie Iceland	11/0
Keith Snyder	10/0	Brandon Peterson	9/0
Bruce Blodgett	9/5	Rachel Davis	7/0
Jacquelyn Robinson	7/0	Timothy Otterman	7/0
Amanda Strickland	6/2	Hector Mejia-Velazco	6/0
Sylvia Morris	5/0	Joseph Mojica	5/0
Paige Skinner	5/0	Daniel Jaminson	4/0
Marcus Watson	3/0	Kevin Hitt	3/0
Christopher Decorte	3/1	Chrisen Abner	3/0
Oscar Guzman	3/1	Jacqueline Ilhan	3/0
Christi Skiles	3/0	Jason Chambers	3/0
Stephen James	2/0	Dedric Jackson	2/0
Christopher Alamo	2/0	Christopher Wilbur	2/0
Dale Goods	2/0	David Amidon	2/1
John Howorth	2/0	Matthew Howard	2/0
Sarah McCabe	2/0	Terri Watkins	2/0
Derrain Cole	2/0	Vincent Lewis	2/0
Matthew Brown	2/0	Jaimie Miller	2/0
Elizabeth Alicea	2/1	Ruth Larr	1/1
Donna Forget	1/1	Teresita Griffith	1/1
Jack Eisenlohr	1/18	Thomas Resler	1/2
Michael Waller	1/1	Gerald Walter	1/5
Leanne Phillips	1/1	Emily Eisenlohr	0/15
Carol Waldrop	0/3	Matthew Grengs	0/2
Jessie Austin	0/2	Charles Britto	0/2

The following individuals recruited or retained ONE member:

Cody Willis, Sujan Martin, Tom Huerth, Richard Conkright, Annemarie Doblek, Henry Lyons, Betty Sheehan, Sedric Roberson, Lance Vabdervoort, James Encke, Jacob Shonkwiler, John Williams, Robert Dixon, Cedric Morris, Tommie Tracey, Lishey Brown, Timothy Krisko, Tyler Strickland, Philip Cook, Hytham Elsaleh, Michael Cleveland, Richard Page, Neil Puttbrese, James Gates, Kristy Zimmerman, Carlos Pierce Estruche, Scott Sendtko, Randy Aikens, George Sherman, Bryan Osborne, Patricia Larr, Dale Goods, Dorothy McCullars, Scott Marshall, Jeffrey Fletcher, Islam Levister and Valentine Caldera.