



Air Force Sergeants Association

Division 89

Newsletter

Volume 1, Edition 3

Oct 2009 - Dec 2009

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Council Update

President Dale Lutzen:



Happy New Year Division 89 Members!!

I and all the Division 89 Executive Council extend the heartiest greetings to you in this New Year. 2009 was a busy and most productive year, and we look forward to continuing that momentum! Although various plans to reorganize AFSA were studied and rejected, we set an example by successfully merging Divisions 8 and 9. We did enlarge our borders to encompass 10 states as opposed to 5 each, but that was not the purpose. We maximized efficiency by eliminating an entire management level and related duplication, thus realizing a savings of half the cost to operate. We are completing our first year in this new posture and thrilled that our planning, execution and personal relationships have produced such positive results. As expected, it didn't change much of how we operate – business as usual!

Division 89 PAC: Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB, SD will host our Division 89 Professional Airmen's Conference scheduled for April 29-May 1, 2010. I sent a finalized welcome letter containing the details and a registration form to all division officers and chapter presidents December 16, 2009 to disseminate to their members. You can also access this document at <http://www.afsa951.org/2010Con.html>. The conference will be held at the Rapid City Holiday Inn by the Rushmore Civic Center. The telephone number for the hotel is 605-348-4000, or you can go to www.afsa951.org and click on the convention link to make your room reservations. Please mark your calendars to join us.

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Awards: Division Officers/Chapter Presidents should have received a letter, with AFSA Awards Guidelines and Change for 2009 attached, from Division 89 Vice President/Awards Chair Steve Zalesky. Although VP Zalesky will explain the submission process to you, it doesn't hurt to emphasize that AFSA will not accept packages not in the proper format. **ALL formats** have been changed since last year. The same guide will be used for packages submitted this year except for 2 changes: (1) The Chapter of the Year package will be a two page justification package versus having to attach all the reports you did last year, and (2) the Airman/NCO of the Year packages will require an "AFSA Contributions" category added to the 1206. It was decided we want to recognize AFSA achievers and not merely duplicate a similar Air Force award. I encourage you to please review closely the material that VP Zalesky sends you and submit your achievers to be recognized. As VP Zalesky receives award inputs, he will track them on the division website. Please check <http://www.afsativ89.org/index.php/information/2009-division-award-tracker/> and let VP Zalesky know if you have sent a package but do not see it on the tracker.

If you have any questions, please contact Division President Lutzen, VP Zalesky or Coordinator Kolwitz on the Auxiliary side. **All award submissions are due by 15 Mar 10, no late submissions will be accepted.**

International President's Spirit Award: AFSA CEO Doc McCauslin announced this award will be reinstated at the 2010 PAC for Divisions' participation.

"On the Saturday night at Theme social, each Division is encouraged to decorate a table or preferably a cluster of tables. During the evening, the displays will be judged on the spirit of the Division. President Ledoux will present the President's Spirit Award sometime during the PAC to the division displaying the best spirit during the Theme Social event. There can be no open flames nor dangerous chemicals used and everything must be fire retardant since we are displaying inside the hotel. For this purpose, if the Direct Reporting Unit chapters wish to band together and decorate, go for it.

Respectfully, Doc"

Division Website and Facebook: A lot of work goes into designing and maintaining a website that provides information 24/7 at the click of a button. I encourage you to visit ours regularly to check our activities and plans. I and the Webmaster are open to suggestions on how to make it better, visit: <http://www.afsativ89.org> and <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&qid=179797291521>

Scholarships: Division 89 will offer two \$500.00 scholarships again this year to be awarded at our annual confer-

ence/convention in April 2010. Former Trustee Shelia Russell manage this program for us again this year and will be disseminating information containing applications, qualifications and the submission process separately to Chapter Presidents and our Webmaster. The documents will be posted on our website <http://www.afsativ89.org>. Request Chapter Presidents give this program your broadest distribution upon receipt. Shelia's contact information is: 931firstsgt@sbcglobal.net or cell phone 316-208-3141.

Membership: Our Skyhighers and Highfliers are listed on page 6. I want to personally congratulate these individuals as well as ANYONE that recruited or retained a member in 2009. Remember 1+1; if every member recruited one and retained one, we would double our size - thus increasing our standing and representation ability on Capitol Hill.

GEICO Affiliation Terminating March 1, 2010: Recently CEO McCauslin sent the following message:

"Effective March 1, 2010 AFSA will no longer identify with GEICO products and services. A new contract will be effective that date and details will be briefed to the Executive Council during March meetings. Please distribute the aforementioned to all your chapters/divisions so there can be absolutely no solicitation nor eliciting of GEICO. This is a serious legal concern so your full support will be necessary. Thank You. Doc."

President Ledoux initiated this follow-up in response to some inquiries:

"As you know GEICO lost the contract with AFSA to another title sponsor who we expect will greatly benefit AFSA and our members. While we know some people will be upset, there's nothing AFSA will be able to do if GEICO



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chooses to eliminate their discount after 1 March 2010. AFSA is expected to get a much bigger contribution from the new title sponsor than what GEICO provided...hence the change in sponsors.

After 1 March, we will have to eliminate GEICO from AFSA websites since the new contractor expects we will devote our attention to them. In addition, we should not solicit funds from GEICO or its affiliate offices after 1 March. If you talk to them before 1 March, I expect that would be okay...it's tough to cut the ties off immediately, but we have to do our best to ensure our new title sponsor is treated appropriately.

If you usually got some sponsorship money from GEICO for your conventions, you should probably look for another sponsor for your division convention. You might choose to increase your Ad costs to cover any loses you expect from this decision."

Respectfully, Jeff

Communications, Gary Swanson

If you are a regular reader of the newsletter and website you will most likely notice a few changes to both.

I received some very good feedback from a few folks around the division on the newsletter. There are two changes going into effect with this newsletter, the first is that we moved the text out closer to the margins, this will allow use to put more text on each page and reduce the total number of pages required for each edition.

The second change is that I will push a draft copy out to each of the chapter presidents to give them a couple of days to review to ensure that their input was properly captured. Our goal is to positively present all of our chapters to the entire AFSA community and with continual improvement of our newsletter and website, I think we will easily achieve this goal.

2010 Air Force Sergeants Association Division 89 Professional Airman's Conference Information

GRASS ROOTS EFFORTS	LEGISLATIVE NEWS	DIVISION NEWS
JANUARY 11, 2010 AFSA - Proposed Universal Health Care Plan	JANUARY 11, 2010 Military Pay Rates 3-4% Pay raise authorized for 2010.	JANUARY 11, 2010 AFSA Division 89 2010 Scholarship The application for the 2010 scholarships is now available.
AUGUST 4, 2009 Eight DoD Proposed TRICARE Increase	JANUARY 11, 2010 GI Bill Update The DoD released the 2010 Basic Allowance for Housing charts. This is potentially big news for veterans using the Post-9/11 GI B...	JANUARY 11, 2010 AFSA International Presidents Newsletter AFSA International President Jeff Ledoux release his first International President's Update.
AUGUST 4, 2009 Guard Reserve Age 52 Retirement		

Welcome from Division 89 President Air Force Sergeants Association

NEW NEWS STORIES ON DIVISION 89 WEBSITE

[HTTP://WWW.AFSATIV89.ORG](http://www.afsativ89.org)

The website has seen some major improvements since last quarter. The first thing you will notice is that we have implemented a new template for the site. This not only "jazzed" up the place, but also gave us some new tools to dynamic information out on the front page.

Underneath the header image, you will notice three news blocks for Grassroots Efforts, Legislative News, and Division News. This is where all new news stories will appear as they are added to the site and gives you quick access to new items.

Another item that is being added is designed to get the word out about your chapter. When you pass on a news story to the division, it will also be added to the division webpage site for your chapter. This quarter, all of the chapter inputs for the division newsletter will also be available on your chapter page.

As always, our goal is to provide a website that contains continually updated material throughout the entire year.

DP CHAPTERS LEGISLATION NEWS BLOG INFORMATION

85, Tinker AFB, OK

Home » Chapters » Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, OK

Chapter 985, Tinker AFB, OK

President: IDT Sgt Bryan Thompson, chapter985@afsativ89.org

Chapter Website: <http://www.afsativ89.org>

Meeting Information:

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Jan 18
2010

For the past 20 or so years, chapter 985 at Tinker AFB has focused their main fundraising efforts on one annual event: Christmas...

DIVISION CHAPTER PAGE NEWS STORY

[HTTP://WWW.AFSATIV89.ORG](http://www.afsativ89.org)

Keeping the site updated isn't hard, the hard part is coming up with fresh news stories and blogs. We invite all AFSA Division 89 members that want to take an active role to volunteer and provide new content to the site to let us know. If you want to become a contributor, please get in touch with me or DP Lutzen.

In closing I would like to add that our improvements have had a direct input on increased usage. We are now averaging over 200 unique visitors and 15,000 hits each month. We anticipate this improving even more during 2010.

3rd Trustee, Bud Kolwitz

As Division Trustee, two areas that DP Lutzen assigned me were the Chapters in Minnesota and Wisconsin. I have been working with Chapter 858, Minneapolis, MN and Chapter 859, Duluth, MN. There has been mixed results in that area. Also, I have been in contact with Wausau,



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Chapter 856, and my own Chapter, Chapter 851, Milwaukee, WI.

Minneapolis, Chapter 858, was facing closure, but in working with one of their Chapter officers, it appears they will remain open. This officer got in past reports and they plan to have an election of officers in January or February and get a whole new slate of Chapter officers. Good for them!

But the downside is Duluth, Chapter 859. They are one of the oldest Chapters in the "old" Division 8. The President himself couldn't give AFSA the time he felt he should and letters went out to all the Chapter and Auxiliary members from him and the Auxiliary President asking if anyone would be willing to step up and be an officer or if the Chapter and/or Auxiliary should close. Unfortunately, when the responses came back only one person was willing to step up and be a Chapter officer. So, when they have their January meeting, the official announcement will be made as to whether or not they remain a Chapter. I am sorry to see them have to close.

Chapter 856, Wausau, has been talking to me about whether or not they can stay open due to the Chapter President's health these past few months.

One problem all the chapters have is getting younger members involved whether or not it is the AFSA chapter or the Auxiliary chapter. We have all discussed this and all acknowledge it is a problem. And if all AFSA members would get their spouses and/or family in the Auxiliary and both work together, it would help both sides. That is what has helped Milwaukee and Kansas City all these years.

Another problem is getting the local ANG base active in your Chapter activities. It is not "what you know, but **who** you know". Hit up that Base or Wing Commander, Vice Commander, CC, Chiefs, and 1st Sergeants and get them as members. Milwaukee has a good working relationship with the Guardsmen there. The Vice Commander, CC, and all but one 1st Sergeant are members. The ANGUS President is also a member. A joint AFSA/Angus membership drive was held and another is planned. If you would like to talk to me about what we did, or how we did it, feel free to contact me.

Another responsibility which DP Lutzen gave me and which, admittedly, I dropped the ball on, was retentions. This next year I will do a better job of keeping all informed.

Congratulations to each and every one who retained at least one member this past year. The year isn't over, so the official tally isn't in, but this is as of December 30, 2009.

These are AFSA members, and their Chapter number, who retained at least 5 this past year:

Bud Kolwitz, 851—222
Steve Zalesky, 872—41
Jon Bennett, 985—24
Bryan Thompson, 985—15
Aaron Wright, 959—12
Buddy Gerhardt, 972—8
Steve Francis, 988—6
Teresa Ray, 872—6
Glen Cottrell, 984—5

These are just the individual totals. Not the chapter total.

We always stress recruiting, and I am all for it. But remember, if we don't retain the ones we recruit, it is preverbally "in the front door and out the back". From what I am seeing with the ones who do not renew, it is either the older members who feel they can't afford to renew due to budget limitations or the AMN, A1C, etc. who say "What's in it for me?"

But, Coordinator Kolwitz just informed me that on that listing between myself and Steve Zalesky are three Auxiliary members and two of those are HighFLIERS. She will give the Auxiliary totals in her report.

Auxiliary, Jean Kolwitz

Hope each and every one of you had a wonderful Christmas with your friends and families. I know we did—both Christmas Day and Sunday. Couldn't get all 20 here at the same time this year. Best of the new year to you, too.

As you know, awards submission time is coming and I have already sent to you on the Auxiliary side the new awards guideline with the information for sending in the VSP submission to VP Zalesky. Please read it over carefully and contact me if you have questions. VP Zalesky also informed you AFSA Chapter Presidents to send any VAVS submissions to me. If there is any confusion as to why it is done this way, the VAVS is an award presented by the Auxiliary and the VSP by the AFSA side.

On the retention front, the Division 89 Auxiliaries can be proud of themselves. AFSA Trustee Kolwitz listed the AFSA members who retained at least five. I am doing the same for the Auxiliary side. When I do my Coordinator newsletter next month I will give not only individual numbers, but numbers for your Auxiliary chapters also. The Auxiliary members should be very proud of themselves. Here are the names and Auxiliary numbers for those who



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retained at least five and compare it with the AFSA side from Trustee Kolwitz and you will see why you should be proud. Congratulations to each everyone who retained at least one, too.

Rententions

- Willa Hyde, A804—146
- Jean Kolwitz, A851—101
- Donna Peterson, A859—42
- Kathy Oden, A804—13
- Patti Parrish, A804—6

New Recruits

- Jean Kolwitz—5 Recruits
- Helen Hatz—4
- Patti Parrish—3
- Gloria Pinksaw—2
- Willa Hyde—2

This has been a disappointing year for me in a way. A982, Lincoln, NE voted at their September meeting to close their Auxiliary. Health problems and the fact that no one was willing to step up and take office. Letters were sent to the members, but no one offered. They are now returning Change of Chapter Assignment cards to me and they will be transferred to A804, Kansas City, the closest Auxiliary Chapter to them.

As you saw in Trustee Kolwitz's article, Duluth ended up having to make the decision to close after letters sent to them by the AFSA and Auxiliary Chapter Presidents and only one person responded that they were willing to be an AFSA officer. I had been working with them on this.

The good news is A804 (Kansas City, MO), A851 (Milwaukee, WI), A856 (Wausau, WI) and A858 (Minneapolis, MN) are still active. To those of you in AFSA Chapters, if there is any interest of activating, or reactivating, the Auxiliary in your area, all you have to do is let me know and I will work with you however I can. It's a tough job, I know, but the Auxiliaries work with the parent Chapters in so many ways. When both work together, it helps make both successful. I do understand the fact that Active Duty bases have such a change of personnel, but remember you can take your membership with you and join an Auxiliary where you transfer to.

Legislative, Steve Zalesky

TRICARE Coming for Gray Area Reservists The FY2010 Defense Authorization Act provides premium-based TRICARE coverage for "gray area" Guard and Reserve retirees who haven't yet attained age 60. The new program was authorized to begin on Oct. 1, 2009, but new TRICARE benefit changes typically take a year or more to implement because of contracting, system reprogramming and other requirements. A few weeks ago, TRICARE officials announced that they hope to expedite launch of what they've tentatively named "TRICARE Retired Reserve" coverage by late summer or early fall of 2010. Unlike the existing TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) program – in which premiums are 72% subsidized by the government – gray area retirees will be responsible for paying premiums equal to the full cost of coverage. Although we won't know the exact cost of premiums until the program rules are published in the federal register. It will be considerably more expensive than TRS, the new TRICARE Retired Reserve benefit will provide gray area retirees and their families a competitive health care option when compared to the cost of private insurance, and allow for continuity of coverage under the TRICARE system.

H.R.3590, "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" The Senate and House are planning to meet to discuss their versions of the health care reform and merge these bills into one version. Neither bill makes provisions to protect Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense health-care from the provisions of this legislation. Such protection would fulfill President Obama's promise made last August that neither program would "be affected by our efforts at broader health-care reform." Unless Tricare, Tricare for Life, and VA health care programs are exempted from a proposed excise tax, veterans and military retirees face the very real prospect of paying a new tax on so-called "Cadillac" health care plans, which Tricare and VA health-care might easily be considered. VA and TRICARE healthcare programs are earned benefits – earned through sacrifice and service and enacted by Congress that understands that taking care of veterans and military retirees is a cost of defending our nation. Not only would taking away these benefits break a promise made to those who served in the Uniformed Services, it would threaten the viability of the all-volunteer force because it breaks faith with those who serve based in part on the promises that were made to them when they signed up for duty. As has been pointed out by a number of federal employee labor unions, such a tax would "have a discriminatory impact on plans that cover older workers and retirees ..." Such excise tax could result in a tax increase of as much as 1.4% on veterans and military retirees and our widows, many of whom are retired on fixed incomes with no way to offset that additional tax other than by cutting



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back elsewhere in their family budgets. Additional info at http://www.afsativ89.org/index.php/legislation/afsa_grassroots_efforts/afsa-proposed-universal-health-care-plan/.

Military Pay Raise: President Obama has signed both the FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), in October, and the Defense Appropriations Act which authorized and funded a 3.4% pay raise for 2010.

GI Bill Update: The DoD released the 2010 Basic Allowance for Housing charts. This is potentially big news for veterans using the Post-9/11 GI Bill because the housing stipend is directly tied to the BAH for an E-5 with dependents. Although some may see their GI Bill Living stipend increase by as much as 13.6% in 2010, the average increase will be more like 2.5%. Some may see no increase at all because the rates for 43% of the military housing areas covered by BAH will actually drop in 2010. The first question is, when will this new BAH rate go into effect for the GI Bill? Will it be increased in January or will they wait until July and increase it with the annual tuition and fee rate adjustment? Also, what will the VA do in cases where the local BAH has dropped? The DoD has a grandfathering policy that prevents the decrease of a BAH rate as long as the status of a servicemember remains unchanged. In the case of a veteran student this should mean that a current student will not see a decrease in their living stipend. Only new students or those changing their status would see the lower rate. As always, it seems there are more questions with the Post-9/11 GI Bill than there are answers.

War-zone Pay Now Pro-Rated The 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) changed how special war zone pay is calculated and disbursed. Instead of servicemembers receiving full monthly payments for even one day's service in a combat or other danger zone, the Services now pro-rate these pays based on actual days of qualifying service each month. The special compensations include hostile fire pay, imminent danger pay, hazardous duty pay, assignment pay, and skill incentive pay, as well as associated tax breaks. The change was enacted to curb abuses, with allegations of servicemembers manipulating the system - even arranging mission schedules for personal benefit - reaching the ears of several lawmakers according to a Capitol Hill source.

Membership, Terry Turner, It was a great year for recruiting within Division 89. Our Division had 11% of the Sky-highers and 75% of the Highfliers for the entire AFSA organization. Additionally, Division 89 accounted for 9% of all new AFSA recruits and 35% of all retained AFSA members. These are outstanding numbers for one Division, keep up the great work in 2010.

Name	Type	Chapter	Recruit/Retain	Lifetime
Terry Turner	Skyhighier	985	135	385
Michael Parente	Skyhighier	984	128	1,627
Buddy Gerhardt	Skyhighier	972	107	510
Jonathan Bennett	Skyhighier	985	104	819
Bryan Thompson	Skyhighier	985	103	317
Candace Desa	Skyhighier	984	103	117
Stephen Francis	Skyhighier	988	102	1,498
Kimberly Widener	Skyhighier	988	102	102
Bridget Sleppy	Skyhighier	959	101	104
Lawrence Bach	Skyhighier	985	100	101
Bob Young	Skyhighier	872	100	202
Bud Kolwitz	Highflier	851	222	2,019
Willa Hyde	Highflier	A804	146	1,335
Jean Kolwitz	Highflier	A851	103	729



Chocolate for the Troops

SMSGt Kimberlee Keller, AFSA Division 89, Chapter 872, passed on the great success of the Chocolate for Troops campaign from this last Christmas. In all over 21,000 pounds of chocolate was donated by 825 organizations and people from 38 states and Europe. AFSA Division 89 was part of this outstanding operation. In all the program distributed over 22,000 Christmas candy and gift bags to service members serving in Afghanistan. The gift bags also contained items such as socks, toiletry items, hand/foot warmers, gloves, beef jerky, stationary and Christmas cards.

SMSGt Keller organized a small army of 329 volunteers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines stationed at Bagram to build out the 22,000 gift bags. One of the individuals that received a gift bag was quoted as saying "this Christmas has restored my faith in humanity, that so many people would support us like this".

SMSGt Keller wanted all members of Division 89 to know that all their contributions brought smiles and happiness to the men and women of our armed forces that could not spend Christmas with their families.



Around The Division

Chapter 804/A804



CHAPTER/AUXILIARY 804 GATHER TO CLEAN UP THE HIGHWAY THEY SPONSOR NEAR KANSAS CITY



CHAPTER 804 PARTICIPATING IN A POW/MIA CEREMONY

Chapter 851

Chapter 851 was on the spot to assist the 128 Air Refueling Wing with their annual Christmas party in December. Pictured are Chapter 851 member 128th ANG Chief Parlato ("Chief P"), Chapter 851 member, 128th ANG Vice Commander Col. Puttre and Chapter 851 President Rheingans setting up the presents for Santa to give out at the party.

Additionally, both the Chapter and Auxiliary donated items for the Christmas Party including hats, gloves, scarves and



CHAPTER A804 AUXILIARY MEMBER BARBARA VEACH VOLUNTEERING TIME AT THE KANSAS CITY VA HOSPITAL

THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CHOICE FOR AIR FORCE ENLISTED



Around The Division



CHAPTER 851 MEMBERS ASSIST WITH THE 128TH ARW CHRISTMAS PARTY, L TO R, CHIEF PARLATO, COL PUTTRE, AND CHAPTER PRESIDENT BILL RHEINGANS



CHAPTER 872 PRESIDENT MSGT SCOTT GREEN OPENS THE 21ST SCOTT AFB ENLISTED INTER-SERVICE DINING OUT

socks. Much needed items for those cold Wisconsin winters.

On a final note, the 851 Auxiliary President Sue Metzger received an email from SSgt Ronan Siefring who is deployed from AFSA Chapter 872. SSgt Siefring received several packages of playing cards, Christmas Cards, and toiletry items that were sent to deployed Air Force members at Bagram AB, Afganistan. Great job A851!!



CHAPTER A851 PRESIDENT SUE METZGER AND CHAPTER MEMBER ANGIE GENTRY WITH SOME OF THE ITEMS DONATED FOR GIFTS FOR THE 128TH ARW CHRISTMAS PARTY

what makes the Dining In/Out a special affair. It is what separates us as military members from people that work in the civilian workforce. It is important that we continue to have these ceremonies on a regular basis so we can teach their importance to the junior Airmen of today's Air Force. If we do not instill these traditions, the Dining In/Out could disappear forever.



MEMBERS OF THE HEAD TABLE VISIT THE GROG.

Chapter 872

On September 16th, Chapter 872 hosted the 21st Scott AFB Enlisted Inter-Service Dining Out. This year's event was another resounding success with over 225 in attendance from all five services.

The roots of the dining out can be traced back to the middle ages but are more closely associated with Hap Arnold's "Wing Dings" of the 1940s. Our heritage as Airmen is

The Dining Out was led by President of the Mess, CMSgt Jim Suttles, Command Chief, 375 Air Mobility Wing. CSM Tomas Hawkins was the guest speaker and discussed the importance of one mission being performed by five key components and that no one services job was any more important than the others; we can only win the fight as one team!

Besides members of all five services from the Scott AFB and St. Louis area, the event was attended by five former POWs who took part in the POW/MIA Ceremony. Also in attendance were Division 89 Officers Jean Kolwitz, Bud Kolwitz, and Charlie Dalzell.



Around The Division

Chapter 951

On Friday, 4 December 2009, AFSA Chapter 951 visited the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home. 36 Chapter members visited, helped decorate, and sing Christmas carols with the residents. The Veteran's home currently has 135 residents.



MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 951 TALK WITH A VETERAN AT THE MICHAEL J. FITZMAURICE SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS HOME

raiser ends, Chapter 985 normally nets between \$7,000 and \$8,000 to fund all of their programs for the year.

Chapter 984



CHAPTER 984 THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Leading up to Thanksgiving, Chapter 984 took the lead and assisted feeding over 300 families in the Offutt AFB area. In all, the chapter collected over \$3000 and 302 turkeys that helped to make a special Thanksgiving holiday for many deserving people.

Chapter 985

For the past 22 or so years, chapter 985 at Tinker AFB has focused their main fundraising efforts on one annual event; Christmas Wrap. Rather than bombarding its members with volunteer request after volunteer request, each member knows that by early November we will ask them to wrap gifts for at least one 3-hour shift. Starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving, each day is broken up into four 3-hour shifts from 0900-2100. Each shift early in the season has two volunteers, and the closer it gets to Christmas the number of volunteers climbs to a minimum of three and maximum of five. During each of those shifts, they may wrap 1 gift, or 100. By Christmas Eve when the fund-



SSgt Jennifer Hemen & SMSgt Brian Rogers
2009 Holiday Gift Wrap

MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 985 AT THEIR GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER

Website Hosting Survey

Website Hosting

I know that many of the chapters have their own websites hosted through a variety of companies. During the upcoming Division 89 PAC, I would like to meet with the chapters that currently have websites and those that are interested in developing websites and see if we can work out a hosting deal with one company to reduce hosting costs for everyone involved.

If you are interested in this, it would help if you could bring the following information.

- If you are running a static site or use a content managements system to include the CMS name/version
- Average bandwidth usage for a typical month

This is just to explore the potential use of a reseller account to reduce hosting costs for any chapters that would like to participate. If you are currently happy with your hosting services and cost, there is no need to participate.



Air Force Enlisted Heritage Spotlight

Editor's Note: This month's spotlight is on CMSgt (ret) Dorothy Seidle, Chapter 804 President. I first met Dorothy during the Division PAC in Kansas City and it has been my pleasure to see her each year at our conventions. I find Dorothy's story very interesting since she attained our highest enlisted rank during a time when not that many females were able to do so. This article is in her own words and covers her service to our country, a 36 year journey. I hope you enjoy her story as much as I did.

CMSgt Dorothy Seidle

It was 1952. I had just graduated from high school and had been a telephone operator at the local telephone company (part-time) since 11th grade. Family wanted me to go to college, but I had other unannounced plans for a career. However to compromise, I attended business college for 6 months, although I didn't like typing or shorthand as high school grades proved. In 1953, I went down to the Recruiting Station in Green Bay and applied for enlistment. Holy war broke out at home. Mom had had three sons to serve in WWII and Dad said girls in service didn't have a good reputation. (How would he know? We lived in a small town of 1200, and I didn't know of any girl who enlisted.) Persistence (and tears) won out and my folks went down to the Notary Public at the Post Office and signed papers so I could join the Army.

Another problem arose. I had to lose weight. I TRIED, but thank goodness the recruiters were desperate, I guess, and my weight was waived. In October 1953, reported to Milwaukee, had a physical, etc., and was put on a train to Fort Lee, VA for 8 weeks of basic training. (I still believe every kid should go through this training.)

Following Christmas leave, I met a fellow WAC from basic in DC and we traveled by train to our first assignment -- Fort Ritchie MD. Shortly after arriving, she and I were shown the switchboard since we had the experience of being telephone operators in prior life. The OIC asked if either of us could type and from then on, I was a typist for the rest of my career.

Fort Ritchie was a neat place. It was a very small post and served as an alternate Pentagon in case of

an attack on Washington. I remember a time, during an exercise, that President Eisenhower arrived in the "mountain," and while everyone else was standing at attention and saluting, I stood there with my mouth open. Our uniforms were starched cotton dresses and I thought a crinoline slip (remember those, ladies?) would minimize wrinkles. It was noticed and disapproved of when we fell out for formation the first time. Then, I bought a pair of snake-skin pumps, which didn't need polishing. They also were frowned upon and had to be removed. Then there was a little joke three of us played on our First Sergeant (who was up in years), but that's another story. A year or so later, I hurried back to the barracks from work to get to town and purchase airline tickets for a surprise trip home. In my haste to avoid standing Retreat, I fell on the orderly room steps and broke my elbow, Spent the next week at Carlisle Barracks and another post hospital that I can't remember.

Doesn't this all figure that I got a call at work one day from the WAC commander asking if I'd be interested in going to OCS. By that time, I had met the "love of my life" and wanted an overseas assignment since he was being reassigned to Formosa/Taiwan. About that time, a "freeze" was placed on all personnel actions. When requested again, I got orders to Okinawa and was on my way - driving my first car across country to Seattle WA. Stopped at home in WI and promised my uncle that I would not pick up any hitchhikers. There were stories of bad men dressing up in uniform and hitchhiking. Sure enough, somewhere I drove by a soldier and felt guilty for not stopping. Even stopped up the road a piece and flipped a coin. Two out of three times indicated that I should not. Never forgot and still feel badly about passing up possibly a fellow soldier in need of a ride.

In 1957, having been on the Island of Okinawa several months, two other girls and I hopped a ride on the Soldier of the Month flight to Hong Kong, stopping in Taiwan on the way. Boyfriend met us. We three gals had a great time in Hong Kong, having jewelry and clothes made. When we ran out of money, we shared a meal three ways and called Mom (collect) for a loan. The returning flight was cancelled because of a flu epidemic and we used the



Air Force Enlisted Heritage

last of the money to wire our NCOIC for a leave extension. The reply came back and read disappointed." We turned ourselves in to the American Consulate and they arranged for us to fly back on a commercial plane and pay for the ticket on payday. Upon return, we met our NCOIC who asked what we were doing back already. He laughed and said he had us covered and just didn't want us to spend all of our money. We could have clobbered him.

When my boyfriend came to Okinawa on leave, we made plans to get married. I applied for curtailment of Foreign Service and return to the US with my husband. That was disapproved. I requested a transfer to Taiwan and he was going to extend there. That, too, was disapproved. I requested a compassionate transfer, but at that time, the military only granted those to men. When I requested discharge on grounds of marriage, it was approved. By the way, we were married by the mayor of Naha. Thanks to my friend who worked in Transportation, arrangements were made for my husband and me to share a cabin on the Army transport ship to Oakland.

Shortly after arriving in St. Louis for our next assignment, I inquired about getting into the Reserves and was told that they were not accepting women. So I got a typing job as GS-3 in Internal Revenue. When I applied for promotion in the Army contracting office, was told that they didn't hire dependents because we wouldn't be there very long. Since we hadn't been there even a year, I assured them I'd be there for sometime and got the job. Three months later, my husband had orders for Hawaii. After 3 years there, 2 years at Fort Detrick MD, and 9 or so months in Japan, we were stationed at Scott AFB and I worked in EMO (supply). Newly divorced with four children to support, I accepted the position in the AFCS History Office with the understanding that the Service was moving to Richards-Gebaur AFB MO.

In August 1970 (on the hottest day of the year), the children, pets, and I drove in a non-airconditioned car to our new home in Missouri. The kitten barely

made it; the fish died. R-G AFB was a small base and soon we got to know most everyone. A civilian personnel newsletter was distributed to our office and an article said that the Air Force Reserve wants "you." We talked about it and I said they didn't want me. I was too old and had four children. My boss suggested I try, which I did, and was accepted at the same rank (E-5) that I left active duty with 15 years earlier. Had a family meeting and explained to the kids what being in the Reserves would mean -- UTAs, annual tours, extra income, etc. They approved. When I went home for lunch during the first UTA, they were lined up in the driveway and saluted, and I knew I had it made.

In 1976, I was recruited into AFSA and was now in a very active and respected chapter -- Chapter 504, later Chapter 804. In 1985, I was honored to be elected President of the chapter -- the first Reservist and the first woman to do so in this chapter.

The time following the news that AFCC was going to move back to Scott AFB was very traumatic. The family and I wanted to stay in Belton and fortunately I got an Air Reserve Technician (ART) position with the 442 Tactical Airlift Wing. When the dust settled, the Reserves acquired another base -- Richards-Gebaur. In 1980, I got the job as Chief, Base Administration; responsible for mail, PDO, Master Library, special orders, performing staff assist visits to our subordinate units in other states, training of administrative reservists, etc. It was the best, most diversified and challenging job (outside of motherhood) that I ever had. I retired from the reserves and civil service in March 1989. I had been truly blessed.

To be continued ...

Dorothy Seidle, CMSgt, USAFR (Ret)

President, AFSA Chapter 804



Division 89 PAC Program Ad Letter



Air Force Sergeants Association Division 89 "Heartland of America"



January 19, 2010

TO: All Division 89 Chapter Presidents, Division Officers

SUBJECT: Division 89 Convention Program Ads

Chapter 951 will host our annual conference/convention in Rapid City, SD on April 29 - May 1, 2010. As you know, conventions have to be funded. This is accomplished by attendee (delegates and guests) registration fees and program ads. The goal is to break even. Registration fees basically cover all the meals. Program ad sales to local businesses and divisions/chapters/members help offset other cost; awards, programs, etc.

The cost of goods and services in our economy continue to increase, so it's no surprise that all expenses associated with putting on a decent convention does likewise. Therefore, you can see why we need every chapter to submit a convention advertisement (samples provided). I urge you to plan on as big an ad as you can. The prices remain the same as last year; full page-\$100, half page-\$50, quarter page-\$25, and business card-\$15.00. Your ad must be ready to go to the printer. Ads will be printed in black and white.

Please make your checks payable to AFSA Division 89 Convention and mail with your ads by 1 April 2009 to:

David A. Bamberg
4710 Charmwood Dr
Rapid City, SD 57701

DALE C. LUTZEN, President
AFSA Division 89



Division 89 PAC Program Ad Prices

<p>Half Page \$50.00</p>	<p>Business Card \$15.00</p> <p>Quarter Page \$25.00</p>
<p>Full Page \$100.00</p>	



Division Leadership Directory

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Internet Directory

AFSA Websites

AFSA Homepage	http://www.hqafsa.org
Division 89, Heartland of America	http://www.afsadiv89.org
Chapter 858, Minneapolis, MN	http://afsa858.home.att.net
Chapter 872, Scott AFB	http://www.afsa872.net
Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB	http://www.afsa951.org
Chapter 984, Offutt AFB	http://www.afsa984.org/
Chapter 985, Tinker AFB	http://afsa985.org/

Legislative Websites

- Legislative Information from the Library of Congress: <http://www.thomas.gov>
- Legislative Information from MOAA.org: <http://www.moaa.org>
- U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov>
- U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>

AFSA International President's Newsletter

- http://www.hqafsa.org/am/src/aldrs/9e_0110.pdf

