



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

“Recruit, Retain, Educate”



Chapter 872 honors MSgt Gregory T. Kuhse who was killed in Afghanistan, October 11, 2015.

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AFSA’s Legislative Update

Did you know that you can view comprehensive lists of our associations legislative accomplishments on the AFSA HQ Webpage? This information is excellent when discussing our association with fellow Airmen, base leadership, and the local population.

I encourage you to give it a look and share this link with your Chapter. The more we know, the better prepared we are to answer the “what’s in it for me” questions when recruiting. Hopefully our HQ Staff will get the 2016 accomplishments listed soon.

<http://www.hqafsa.org/legislative-accomplishments.html>

Mark R. Clark, CMSgt, USAF, Retired (1979-2009)
 Senior Advisor, AFSA Chapter 0804
 Legislative Trustee, AFSA Division 3

Membership Update

Sitting around wondering how you can add membership to your Chapter? Start with your core members and ask if the following are signed up as members?

1. Spouses
2. Kids over 18
3. Immediate Family such as parents, grand parents, aunts, uncles, etc.
4. After family, what about friends, coworkers

Also, AFSA membership makes a great Christmas, birthday, anniversary present. What are you waiting for? Start making your list.



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

Straight Talk, Division 3 President, SMSgt (Ret) Steve Zalesky



Greetings from your Division 3 President,

Every year brings many challenges and this past year was no exception for our Association. WAFSA is looking at ways to improve how we do business and bring AFSA back on sound financial footing and increase membership strength. We need every member's support to make this happen.

Each AFSA membership needs to take a vested interest in AFSA and strive to recruit and retain members. AFSA can no longer rely upon the 150+ members who recruit or retain ten+ members to feed/fuel AFSA, and 50+ who recruit or retain 100 or more members. Those 200 folks need our help and our association needs our help. Dues revenue is a crucial asset our Association relies on, **we must recruit and retain.**

Lastly, it is imperative that divisions and chapters seek out new revenue sources to improve financial stability and provide benefits to the membership. We must work harder to improve membership to make AFSA relevant with the enlisted corps and families. We realize this is a harsh dose of reality which may not set well with some members, but when sequestration hit us we tried to get through operating as we did the past and that simply did not work.

We have many issues to overcome which will need every member's support and understanding. In December I attended the Mid-Year International Executive Council/Budget meeting at AFSA HQs and during this meeting we discussed variety of difficult issues. We attempted to resolve some of these issues, but some could not be resolved overnight. Most importantly our Association is struggling with our financial standing and as a result we passed a budget requiring us to make across the board cuts which will be felt from the HQ Staff down to the chapter level.

The International Executive Council took on some huge initiatives this year that will significantly change how we do business in the future. Much of this is a result of sequestration which tremendously impacted AFSA's finances. Without drastic changes to how we operate our Association may not survive the next few years. Nevertheless, the Executive Council, HQ Staff and the Budget and Finance Committee is diligently working to resolve this. Over the past three years AFSA endured a deficit budget just to make ends meet, and spent more money than we brought in which impact our long-term investment accounts. Our goal is to eliminate discretionary spending and enhance our investments accounts in the near-term.

Another major change will be how our International Conventions are convened until the existing convention contracts expire in 2019. We are looking a number of options to reduce costs, but still provide a memorable experience for all attendees. We are working through the details and once we have an approach we will keep you informed. Unfortunately, we had to pull back funding for gratuitous convention registration for Sky High, High Flyer and Twin Flyer Club Members for the 2017 PAC. We hope this is a temporary measure as we want to recognize our hard working recruiters and retainers.

The Parade of Checks event will change slightly as we are asking that donations be limited to AFA specific charities. Chapters can donate to other charities; however, we will not focus on them during the Parade of Checks. Host Division responsibilities at the convention will increase and each division will assist in all areas, the number of Staff attendees at the convention will be cutback

For Chapters this means some of the awards you were accustomed to will be suspended. Divisions and chapters will suffer from an even lower quarterly Admin Support Payments, recruiting & retention payments will not be credited. As a result chapters need to adjust their budgets requiring more efforts with fund-raising for some chapters or seek support from host wing/unit for nominees to Division and International Conventions.



Sep - Dec 2016

AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

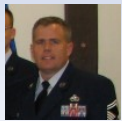
Division 3 Executive Council



President

SMSgt (Ret) Steve Zalesky

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Vice-President

SMSgt (Ret) Gary Swanson

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Trustee 1, Membership

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Trustee 2, Communications

MSgt (Ret) David A. Bamburg

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Trustee 3, Legislation

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Trustee 4, Retentions

MSgt (ret) Bud Kolwitz

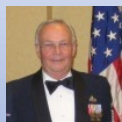
trustee4@afsadiv3.org



Family Matters Chair

Mrs. Jean Kolwitz

family@afsadiv3.org



Historian

SMSgt (Ret) Charlie Dalzell

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Treasurer

MSgt Travis J. Sidel

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Senior Advisor

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Secretary

MSgt Jennifer M. McIntosh

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AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

How are you Communicating?

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Internet</u>
	AFSA HQ	
	Division 3	
804	Kansas City, MO	
851	Milwaukee, WI	
858	Minneapolis, MN	
872	Scott AFB, IL	
881	Whiteman AFB, MO	
951	Ellsworth AFB, SD	
959	Minot AFB, ND	
964	Grand Forks, ND	
972	McConnell AFB, KS	
984	Offutt AFB, NE	
985	Tinker AFB, OK	
988	Altus AFB, OK	
990	Vance AFB, OK	



[Download the Recruiting Handbook here.](#)

AFSA Through the Eyes of Super Dave

A few months ago it hit me that AFSA and Amway have a lot in common. Don't believe me, ask a young person what Amway is and you'll probably get a blank stare but ask an older person with years of experience and it will bring up memories of that person tracking you down, telling you about this great organization that will do so much for you then invite you to a meeting so you can find out more and see "The Plan." Then they tell you to get all your friends, family and coworkers to join Sound familiar?

In order to make it in Amway you have to sponsor people into "the business" while in AFSA you recruit people. Both want you to duplicate the process in order to grow and be successful. Amway wants you to train and motivate the people you bring in. Isn't that what we should do in AFSA.

Besides the monthly meetings, Amway had other functions such as Leadership, Family Reunion and Free Enterprise Day. They pushed that each was important in its own right and encourage you to sell products or use your own money to make it to the event. In AFSA we encourage people to attend the Division Convention, a family-like setting where you can get much needed training and recognize the accomplishments of other Division Chapters/Members.

Then there is the larger functions. Amway had the Free Enterprise Day where you heard from people who had succeeded, meet others such as yourself and hang out with the successful people in your "upline." AFSA has the International Professional Airmen's Conference (PAC). It also is a chance for you to meet others such as yourself, hear from your Air Force Leaders, receive some knowledge others in the field might not know and also see how to make AFSA work.

Beyond that there is a deeper connection if you take time to get to know people such as our past CMSAFs, past AFSA International and Auxiliary Presidents and let them know you and your sincerity to listen. You want to know what the best part is, the next year when you go back to the PAC, they walk up to you, remember your name, and pick up where you left off the previous year. How cool is that?

To succeed in Amway you sell products, sponsor people, teach them to do the same and have them sponsor others who also do the same. I have a friend who did just that. He and his wife sponsored a couple who sponsored another couple who sponsored a guy who went to Australia and sponsored a couple whose group does the majority of Amway's business in Australia and New Zealand.

AFSA's survival depends on the same concept and I've always thought how neat it would be to see the AFSA family tree. Take just our CMSgt (Ret) Steve Francis who as of this newsletter is responsible for 2,176 recruits. What if we could see where all those recruits are, how many they brought into AFSA, what level did they achieve or what impact have they had? Or better yet, what if we could meet the person that told a young Steve Francis about AFSA?



[Download the Recruiting Handbook here.](#)

AFSA Through the Eyes of Super Dave cont...

In Amway not everyone gets in to make money, go to the meetings or conventions, they just get in because they like the products and want to save some money. AFSA is no different. While we'd love it if everyone would "sell AFSA" and bring others in, many just sign up because they believe in what AFSA does and want to be a part of the overall number on Capitol Hill.

Because of that you need those who don't push people to do something they are not interested in but encourage them each time to renew. That is why we have people such as Bud and Jean Kolwitz who combined have encourage people to renew on 4,633 occasions. In Amway people who are just "wholesale customers" mean points where in AFSA those type members mean numbers on your roster which means income for your chapter. Always take care of people no matter what their level is in the organization.

I've been an lifetime AFSA member since November 1990 but really not active until September 2004 when my sponsor to Buckley talked me into going to a meeting and then to be the webmaster for the Chapter. Over that time I've only recruited 152 people and retained 74. Part of it because the bases were small and also because I believed in letting everyone in the chapter get some of the recruits. I always like having a Recruit/Retain report several pages long because of the multiple recruiters/retainers listed.

During that time I was involved with 2 different chapters/divisions where I was a Chapter/President/Vice-President, Division Trustee for Legislation/Communications and finally my favorite, a chapter Senior Advisor. Anyone who knows mean knows I'm very passionate about AFSA serve because of what it does, not for the recognition. Once, while a retiree, I was Chapter President and a SNCO chastised me for taking the position away from another SNCO who needed it for stratification.

I politely reminded them I would gladly give up the position if the right person came along who did it because of AFSA, not because of an EPR bullet. Take our Chapter 951's Jessica Young. She came to the chapter a few years as a TSgt, wanting to help in anyway needed. A year later the time came for elections and we needed a new president and myself and Kevin Ott encouraged her to run. Ok, so that wasn't true, we told her she was being nominated and would get elected. Fast forward to now and well, anyone who has had the privilege of meeting now MSgt Young knows the impact AFSA has made on her and the impact she has made on AFSA.

AFSA and Amway have a lot of similarities but for each to succeed it depends on the people involved. Make sure when people see you they aren't saying, "here comes that AFSA person again" but rather, "here comes that AFSA person, they can get us the answer on this benefits, pay, legislative issue that just came up. As for me, I'm going to wash some clothes with my SA8, take some of my Double-X victims and wash them down with an XS Energy Drink and get ready to go share the "AFSA Plan" with some young airman or retiree and convince them why it is important to join. See you in Independence for the Convention.

Super Dave



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

2016 Division 3's Top 10 of Recruiting

Recruiter	Chapter	YTD	Lifetime
Hart, Patricia	984	106	106
Francis, Stephan	988	35	2,176
Young, Jessica	951	45	60
Depuy, Ashley	872	30	30
Pitts, Jeremy	959	30	45
Friend, Eva	872	30	30
Zalesky, Steven	872	29	873
Turner, Terry	985	24	867
Baskiewicz, Stephen	872	21	22
Kolwitz, Roland	851	20	332

**646 People
Recruited!**

There are some great recruiting tools on HQ AFSA website.

<http://www.hqafsa.org/recruiting-tools.html>

<http://www.hqafsa.org/exclusive-afsa-member-benefits.html>



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

2016 Recruitment by Chapter

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Yearly Total</i>
F0804	2	1	3	0	12
F0851	5	7	4	2	37
F0858	0	0	0	0	1
F0872	9	7	17	10	170
F0881	0	0	0	0	21
F0951	8	1	0	3	55
F0959	3	1	1	2	58
F0964	1	2	2	1	15
F0972	2	1	2	0	33
F0984	1	8	1	3	141
F0985	22	4	3	6	53
F0988	4	5	3	3	43
F0990	1	0	0	0	7



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

2016 Division 3's Top 10 of Retaining

Retainer	Chapter	YTD	Lifetime
Kolwitz, Roland	851	115	3,218
Kolwitz, Jean	851	85	1,415
Zalesky, Steven	872	32	985
Sidel, Travis	984	9	86
Hart, Patricia	984	5	5
Friend, Eva	872	5	5
Belt, Mary	872	5	6
Bamburg, David	951	4	73
Bradshaw, Arthur	872	3	3

**343 People
Retained!**

There are some great recruiting tools on HQ AFSA website.

<http://www.hqafsa.org/recruiting-tools.html>

<http://www.hqafsa.org/exclusive-afsa-member-benefits.html>



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

2016 Retention by Chapter

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Yearly Total</i>
F0804	0	1	6	3	59
F0851	28	21	17	21	200
F0872	2	1	6	3	46
F0881	0	0	0	0	2
F0951	0	0	0	2	4
F0959	0	1	0	0	2
F0964	0	0	0	0	2
F0972	1	0	0	0	4
F0984	0	0	0	0	15
F0985	2	1	2	1	9
F0988	0	0	0	0	0
F0990	0	0	0	0	0



AFSA Division 3

Family Matters

September—December 2016



Hello from your Family Matters Chairman

I will try to give you an idea of what went on in our Division as far as Family Matters in concerned since the last Division newsletter. Below are reports that I had received from various Chapters.

If yours in not there, maybe next time?

In September, after becoming International Family Matters Trustee, Patti Dalzell and I worked together to get out to the Chapters the Master Coupon List for those sending coupons to the overseas commissaries.

From Chapter 872

30 September, Movie on the Lawn at Scott AFB's Scott Lake Pavilion 2. We will be hosting this BOY Chair/Blanket event at 6pm - 10pm and will watch 2 movies one of which is PG. We are partnering with the Missouri USO for free food to serve to our members and their family members. This event is free to our membership

15 December, 3 Free Games of bowling and free shoe rental to AFSA members and their family. We plan to have prizes for the highest and lowest score as well as a team prize

November Date TBD, we will be hosting a week-long Scavenger Hunt/Amazing Race for AFSA. This is a 4-man team event with at least 10 teams. The goal is to figure out clues and once you believe you have unlocked those clues, you will take a picture with your 4-man team in front of the item with the "We Are AFSA" sign. This picture will need to be posted on our Facebook page with the following hashtags #WeAreAFSA, #ScottAirForceBase #Chapter872S Amazing Race. All requirements must be met. We will have daily winners of free items, and then the team with the timeliest submissions will win a grand prize. You must be a member to win. We are working with the base FSS to garner sponsorship for this event for the prizes as well as the Saint Louis Blues hockey Teams





Chapter 804

Chapter 804 is having their Christmas Dinner hosted by Family Members on Dec 17. Also, their Family Members will be delivering Christmas gifts to the veterans at the VA Hospital. Another thing going on is delivering shoe boxes of goodies to the women and children of Hope Haven (home for battered women).

Chapter 851

Sent out 2 boxes of coupons and travel size toiletries last week to Germany to their commissary..

∞I asked for more customs forms and when I got home to look at them, I realize that they have been changed. Same information is required, just in different locations and a new look.

From Chapter 951

Had our inaugural Boo Hunt at our base housing community center.

Yours in AFSA,

Jean Kolwitz
Division 3
Family Matters Chair





AFSA Division 3 Electronic Communications

MSgt (Ret) Super Dave Bamburg



Once again we reach the end of another year and while membership hasn't gone as hoped, the use of alternative means of communication has expanded. Using everything from the old-school newsletter to websites and the ever expanding Facebook there is something for everyone out there.

As of now every chapter in Division 3 has a Facebook page and I encourage you to continue using Facebook to get the word out and learn what else can be done through Facebook. It is a way to put your activities on the web in real time, a way to create events with numerous invites and a way to story your Chapter's history in words and photos.

Also I'm seeing more chapters utilizing video to showcase their chapter and events. Whether it is uploading a video after the fact or streaming live through Facebook it is something available to everyone once they learn how. Do a few test runs on your own Facebook page, learning how to add the captions, film a scene and store the video for future viewings.

Just like at the AFSA PAC this summer, have members share the live stream to their Facebook page and see how far it expands. We shared it to the different Division pages and then the many Chapter pages and heard of people who steamed it on their smartphone and watched the CMSAF speak while they were at work.

My next goal is to have every chapter create a website, even if it just has the basic information. If interested, VP Gary Swanson can help to put something together, piggybacking off of the Division's website. We should be able to create something at no charge to the chapter. All we would need is information on your chapter such as date/time place of your meetings, a contact number/email, and your chapter logo if you have one.

Finally I encourage each Chapter to keep post stories to Facebook so I can share them on the Division's Facebook page. You can also email them to me so we can get them on the Website or for use in the next newsletter. Also send your pictures/articles to AFSA HQ so they can use them as well. I look forward to seeing you at the Division 3 PAC and can offer my assistance in anyway needed.





Legislative News



Well the election season is over and we have a new president and a new administration to work with. While one side celebrates victory and the other licks its wounds there is work to be done, so now is not the time to ignore our obligations as citizens and as members of AFSA. The inauguration of President Trump and a new Congress will allow us to begin anew in fighting for the quality of life benefits that have helped us recruit, retain, and build the most feared and powerful Air Force in the world. The past eight years were not friendly to our Air Force not to our pay and benefits but there is hope that help is on the way.

Today's Air Force is flying the oldest fleet of aircraft in its history and President Trump has vowed to help in that regard. His administration has worked directly with aircraft manufacturers to lower the projected cost of major weapons systems such as the F-35 and the new Air Force One. These are positives signs that perhaps we will have a president that brings fiscal discipline back to the weapons procurement process. What does this mean for our members? It means that perhaps the DoD won't have to make the hard choice between the need to modernize the fleet and the need to take care of those who serve and have served. There is only so much money in the pot and if we can cut back on what it costs to purchase new equipment, then it means more for personnel programs and quality of life initiatives.

Speaking of quality of life initiatives, the new administration has signaled a desire to review recommended changes to our retirement system and our healthcare programs such as TRICARE. Both of these important programs were under constant attack under the last administration so this could potentially be big news. I will certainly monitor the actions of the new administration and keep you all informed if anything significant comes out of it.

Congress has been busy and it looks like this may be the most productive legislative session we have seen in America for quite some time and there are some critical bills pending action by our elected officials. As usual AFSA is working closely with our new Congress so if you haven't visited Voter Voice at <https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/home> now would be a great time to get engaged.

It is a new day and with that new day comes new opportunities to make a difference. I am counting on you to do just that and to stay informed and engaged with your elected officials as critical legislation affecting our members takes form. God bless and thanks for all you do!

Mark R. Clark, CMSgt, USAF, Retired
Legislative Trustee, AFSA Division 3
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"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."



Mark R. Clark, CMSgt,
(Ret), USAF

Legislative Trustee,

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[Download the 2015-2016
Legislative Platform here.](#)

[Download the Legislative
Program Brochure Here](#)



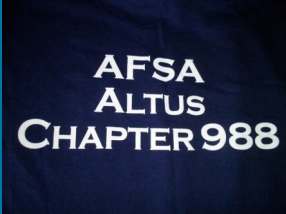
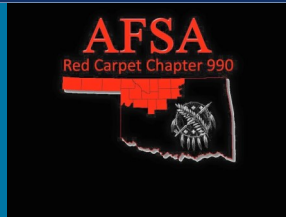


**AFSA
DIVISION
3**
Heartland of America

WE ARE THE AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

UNITED IN STRENGTH | DEFENDING THE ENLISTED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1961

WE ARE 100,000 MEMBERS STRONG | WE REPRESENT OUR MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES IN CONGRESS, the DoD, the VA and More
WE ARE THE NATION'S MOST INFLUENTIAL ASSOCIATION DEVOTED TO THE TOTAL ENLISTED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES
WE ARE INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT & POLITICALLY NON-PARTISAN | WE FIGHT FOR YOUR PROMISED BENEFITS & SERVICES
WE DEFEND THOSE WHO DEFEND US | WE ARE AFSA | JOIN THE FIGHT... JOIN AFSA TODAY!



IS YOUR LOGO ON HERE? IF NOT, LET US HELP YOU BUILD THE DREAM.



**AFSA CHAPTER 951
MOUNT RUSHMORE CHAPTER**



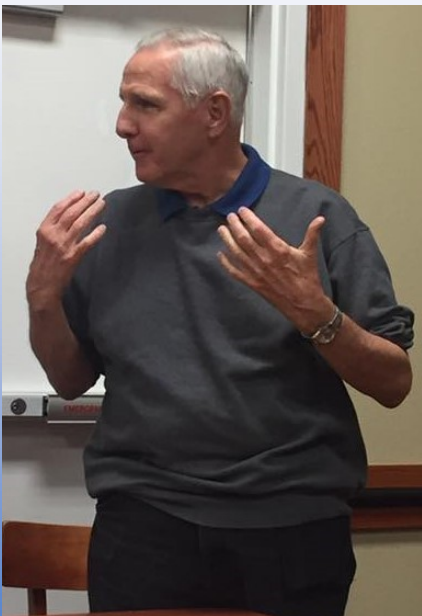
Chapter 804

The Heartbeat of America Chapter



2016 is now in our rear view mirror, 2017 is well underway and Chapter 804 continues to make a difference in the community. From volunteering at the KCVVA Medical Center to assisting homeless veterans at the St. Michaels Homeless Veterans Center, chapter members continue to show the heart of AFSA. No wonder the chapter is called the Heartbeat of America.

Always wanting to stay connected to our association and our legislative agenda, Senior Advisor Harry McLane coordinated a visit by Jim Lokovic to



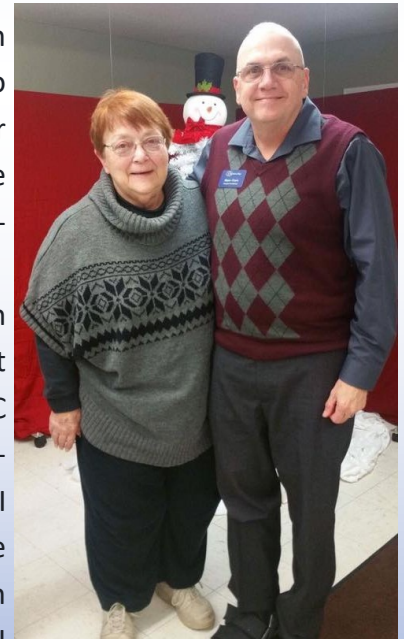
both Chapters 881 and 804. It is always good to see Jim and there is no one in our association that knows the legislative challenges facing our members better than him. He provided a very informative briefing and we enjoyed his visit very much.



Never being a chapter to wait on history Chapter 804 once again has made history. Past International President Kathy Oden has been elected by her peers to serve as the first former Auxiliary member to be elected to lead a Chapter.

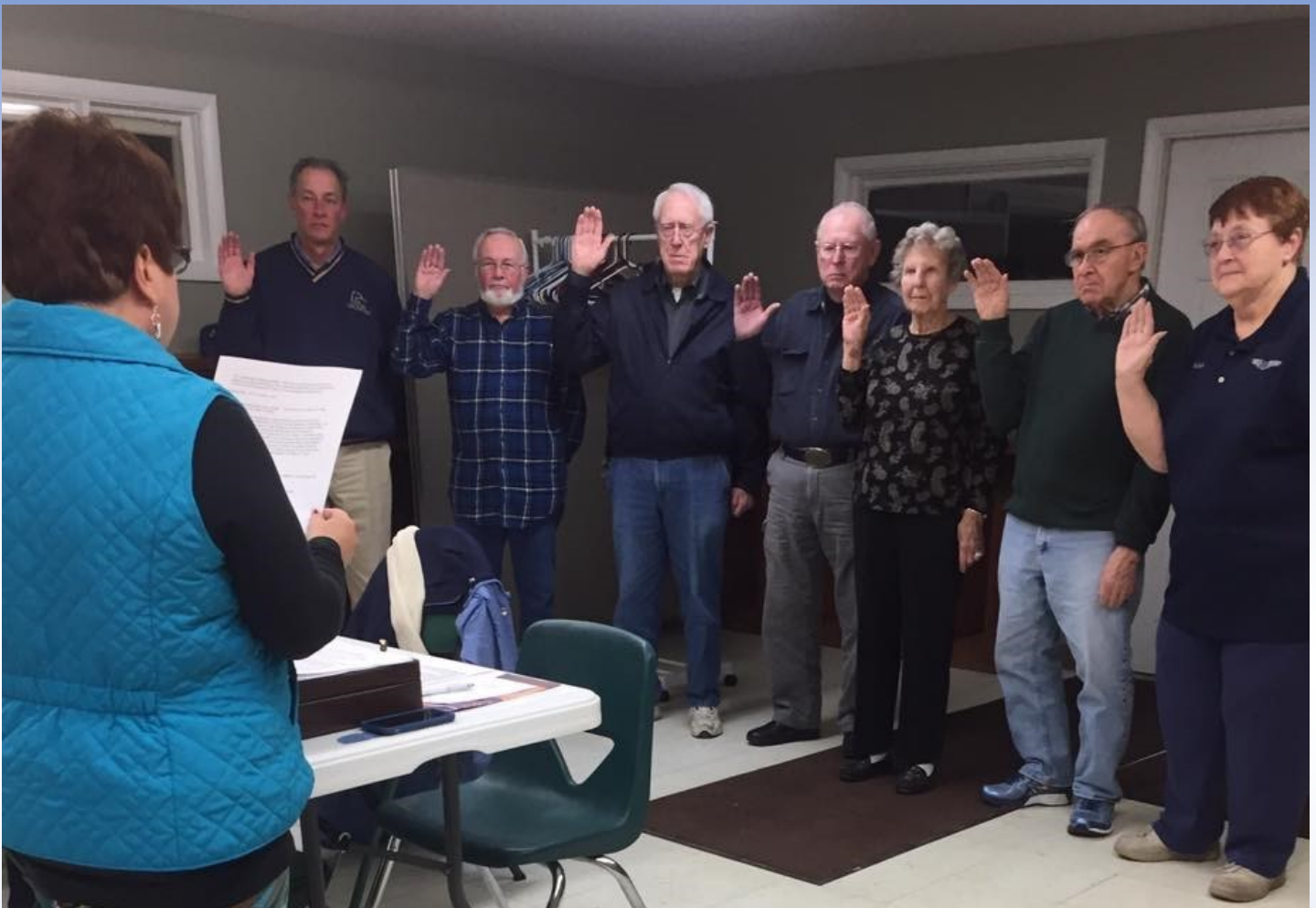
President Oden will welcome you all at this year's Division PAC where you can congratulate her in person. I know of no one more dedicated to AFSA than President Oden and I know she will do a great job leading our chapter.

Speaking of the PAC, Chapter Treasurer Charlie Dalzell is lining up a fantastic Division 3 PAC for May 4-6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO. Please plan to join us and let's make this year's PAC the best ever!



Chapter 804

The Heartbeat of America Chapter



But wait...that is not the only history our Chapter is making. Our very own Patti Dalzell was named the first ever Family Matters Trustee to the AFSA Executive Committee and here she is installing President Oden and her officers for the 2017 year.

We know that this is election time for our Chapters and I would like to introduce Chapter 804 Officers for the 2017 AFSA Year. They are as follows:

President -- Kathy Oden
Vice President -- Harry McLane
1st Trustee -- Barbara Veach
2nd Trustee -- Curtis Gist
3rd Trustee -- Hershell Spurlock
Secretary -- Tony Berter
Treasurer -- Charlie Dalzell
Mark Clark, Senior Advisor



We look forward to see you all at the PAC. We will see you all in May!

Mark R. Clark, CMSgt, USAF, Retired



Chapter 872 The Gateway Chapter



Held on October 11, 2016, this 24-hour run/walk fits because we believe it is better for our members. At honors Veterans past and present. Each year, we honor times, it is about giving monetary contributions to those an individual that has made a significant impact to our in need, and other times it is about giving our time to community and paid the ultimate sacrifice. This year's those that need it most honoree was MSgt Gregory T. Kuhse. MSgt Kuhse lost his around our base and life in support of Operation FREEDOM's SENTINEL in Af- community.

Chapter 872 recognizes that our members give all year

Being in AFSA means doing a little bit extra. round, not only to their Sometimes it is voting for legislation to keep or cut bene- primary job, not just to





Chapter 872

The Gateway Chapter, Cont....

their families and self-development, but also to our community. Our chapter alone has contributed over 45 hours this year to gate guard duty, over 235 pints of blood to our blood drives, and countless hours to Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Exceptional Family Member Program, and Missouri Veterans Home. Without the drive of every individual, our chapter could not help others and give back to its members.



Chapter 872 held a free bowling night for their members and families. Nearly 40 personnel attended this Family Matters and Member Appreciation Night. Chapter 872 spent roughly \$400 on 3 free games and food. SSgt Joshua Zahner raised nearly \$700 in door prizes to include the winning and "most to learn" teams for the night. The night was truly enjoyed by the chapter and their family members. We look forward to the next Family Matters night with all of our dedicated members

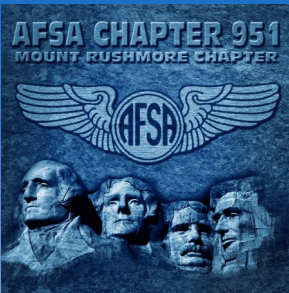
Chapter 872's main source of funds is working concession stands at the Scottrade Center where we sell hotdogs, pretzels, nachos, and drinks. During the hockey season we usually average 2 games a month but



do work other events hosted there such as basketball tournaments and concerts.

Chapter 872 receives 10% profit from the stand they work which can be up to \$600. Volunteers range from 4 to 10 people dependent on the size of the stand. All volunteers must be at least 21 years old as there is alcohol service in the stands. We can work other events outside of the Scottrade Center to provide funds for our chapters' various events. Some examples include, working as a Trap Shooting Scorer at the World Shooting Complex and selling t-shirts for the Chapter and for the Vigil Run. These funds go to support our chapters' various on and off base events as well as donations to other on base organizations/events.





Chapter 951

The Mt. Rushmore Chapter

2016 ended the same as it began, with Chapter 951 leading the way on Ellsworth and in the Black Hills. September saw us once again host the Annual POW-MIA 5-K Run/Walk in downtown Rapid City.



Over 150 people participated in this year's event and the proceeds from this and Salute our Patriots was combined, over

\$2,000 was donated to Air Force and Veterans Organizations.

In October, Family Matter's Trustee, Mrs. Chasity Mitchell put together one of our many Family activities, a Boo Hunt on Ellsworth AFB. Several AFSA volunteers took charge on various booths where the kids could play games, get candy and win prizes. The evening ended with a mass candy filled Boo Hunt outside in the community center's common area.

November saw a change in Leadership as newly pinned MSgt Jessica Young turned the reigns over to incoming President, SSgt Jordan Neuharth and TSgt Ryan Mitchell was elected Vice-President because the current VP will PCS.

people doing to follow-up. Buddy Check 22 is a time for people to get together and actually see how others are doing. People can share their stories, some of their experiences and how they overcame their issues as the result of multiple deployments, family or trips to the combat zones.

In addition to all the other activities, Chapter 951 worked with the Feeding South Dakota Organization to collect food items for the needy. Put together by Trustee #3, TSgt Jeffrey Porter, bins were placed throughout Rapid City and several 100 pounds



and a few thousand items were collected.

We ended the year with even more activities both on base and in the Black Hills. December began with a trip to the South Dakota Veterans Home in Hot Springs to once again decorate for Christmas. What made this trip so special is it was the first Christmas in their new facility.

Numerous volunteers from the chapter and Team Ellsworth help set up multiple Christmas trees and other decorations while visiting with some of the residents. New decorations were made possible by the help of Senior Advisor, MSgt (Ret) "Super Dave" Bamburg working with Lowes and the generosity of a few AF retirees.



Once again the chapter showcased another Family event, by hosting a pajama movie night featuring The Polar Express, Kids got to sit around watching the movie with their friends while enjoying some snacks and hot chocolate.



Buddy Check 22 Rapid City

A gathering of GWOT-era veterans & Active Duty, Guard, Reserve personnel

22nd Day of each Month at 6PM
La Quinta Inn & Suites*
1416 N. Elk Vale Rd @I-90 exit 61

Share a story, share a laugh, share a tear, share a hug

Help your fellow Battle Buddy, Wingman, or Shipmate...
You are not alone

We will grow stronger...together!



BC22RC@gmail.com



THIS IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. IT IS NOT A PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENTS AND IT HAS NO GOVERNMENT STATUS.

Buddy Check 22, a concept created by CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott took hold with its first meeting, which will be the 22nd of every month. This idea came about because of conversations going back to people who did the ice bucket challenges and those currently doing push-ups to recognize the growing number of military suicides.

While the thoughts were a good start, what were



Chapter 988 The Twister Chapter



Wreaths Across America (WAA) is an organization whose mission is to "...Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

SMSGt Kristy Frost led Altus' WAA efforts, assembling a 12-person committee made up of Airmen, NCOs, SNCOs and civilian volunteers. A ceremony was conducted on Dec 17th with AMW and Wing Leadership in attendance. 1,380 were given



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Hilton Garden Inn, 19677 Jackson Drive
Independence, MO 64057



Registration—\$85

Room Rate—\$107 + \$15.10 tax

Call hotel at (816) 350-3000 or (800) 445-8667

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