



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

“Recruit, Retain, Educate”



Chapter 951 coordinates Flag Ceremony , 2nd Annual “Honoring Our Patriots.” Over 5,000 attended in Rapid City’s Main Street Square.

Inside this issue:	AFSA’s Legislative Update	AFSA Membership
Z-Talk 2	<p>This is an election year and we have a collective voice to support and elect government officials that will put our priorities first....</p> <p>Educate yourselves on the issues, find the candidate that most closely represents your values (regardless of party affiliation) and vote for them.</p> <p>The worst thing any of us can do is walk into the voting booth and vote for someone based solely on Party because that is what got us in the mess we are today.</p>	<p>After nearly 13 years unchanged, membership dues are going up. Much of this is due to the increased costs of defending our benefits and servicing AFSA’s members. While the increase might seem significant, it is still on par if not cheaper than other organizations such as ours. The new rates are:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1-Year—\$36</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2-Year—\$69</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3 Year—\$89</p>
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Heartland of America

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



Greetings from your Division 3 President, Each New Year comes with renewed challenges and opportunities. As we say goodbye to 2015, I'm optimistic about the prospects of the coming year and am looking forward to achieving new goals for our division. This next year will bring many challenges with membership recruiting, legislative challenges, chapter growth, and development. In case you have not already heard, last month the AFSA International Exec Council had to make some difficult decisions, which resulted in the raising of membership dues.

First off, membership is a critical revenue stream that AFSA relies on, therefore to ensure the survivability of our Association we MUST recruit/retain over 22K members in 2016. We have some work to do if we are going to attain this goal...we need everyone to be all-in! The 5 years for \$25 membership incentive did not achieve the expectations that everyone had hoped it would do. AFSA took a financial risk in offering this incentive. Despite an increasing cost of doing business, dues have remained unchanged since 2003. For 2016, membership dues rates will change to 1-yr-\$36, 2-yrs-\$69, and 3-yrs-\$89. You may be surprised at the dues rate increase, but keep in mind AFSA dues rate is lower than many other military/veteran service organizations. We need every member to do more and get more involved in your chapter recruiting activities.

Do you have a dependent who is about to graduate high school or is currently attending college? If so, the AFSA and the Airmen Memorial Foundation (AMF) joined together to conduct a scholarship program to financially assist the undergraduate studies of eligible, dependent

children of the enlisted AF members. AFSA, AMF (including the CMSAF Scholarship Program), and AFSA International Auxiliary award awards scholarships valued from \$500 to \$3,000 to students attending an accredited academic institution. The grant amount and total number of scholarships awarded are dependent upon funds available. To date, over \$1.9 million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to AF dependent children. Applications for the upcoming academic year are available from Jan. 1 to March 31. For more information to go <http://www.hqafsa.org/scholarships.html> or contact HQ AFSA Member and Field Relations at 301-899-3500.

Our 2016 Annual Division 3 Professional Airmen's Conference is quickly approaching and this year's conference will be hosted by Chapter 964, Grand Forks AFB, ND. The conference site will be at the Canad Inn on April 21-23. Chapter 964 is working hard to make this an enjoyable conference and I hope all our chapters can send as many delegates as possible. See you in Grand Forks!





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Remembering Where we Came From; Knowing Where We Are Going

Prior to the formation of the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), Air Force enlisted personnel did not have an independent voice capable of influencing legislation and governmental policies. This came at a time when Congress was questioning its promises to service members about education benefits, health care, pay, and a fair quality of life—all while we were waging a Cold War.

During the post-Korean War era U.S. Armed Services were cut to the bone and attacks upon the military by members of Congress, the press, and even the American public resulted in promotion freezes, low pay and allowances, inadequate housing, and many other inequities.

Life in the military was rough and much unappreciated. Enlisted life was the roughest. Many enlisted personnel began to talk about starting an association and DOD feared the unions would try to get involved. Of course unionization was not an option; but there remained the needs to educate lawmakers about enlisted life. Four enlisted visionaries from Bolling AFB, DC, decided to accept the challenge.

MSgt Benny W. McGehee, TSgt Virgil Perry, SSgt Donald Ward and TSgt Lee Thompson applied to the District of Columbia for a charter as a non-profit association, which was approved on May 3, 1961. At that time, they applied to the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt status.

The IRS tax exemption was granted under Section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. In 1975, AFSA received a determination from the IRS and the U.S. Postal Service that AFSA was essentially a —war veterans organization within the meaning of Section 170 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As a result of this determination, AFSA applied to the IRS and received approval for tax exemption under Section 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Today, AFSA is a fully recognized professional military organization that is highly respected in White House, on Capitol Hill, and in the Pentagon.





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Heartland of America

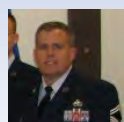
Division 3 Executive Council



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Vice-President

SMSgt (Ret) Gary Swanson

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Trustee 1

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Trustee 2

MSgt (Ret) Terry Turner

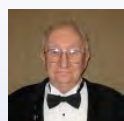
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Trustee 3

CMSgt (Ret) Mark Clark

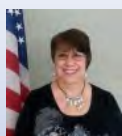
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Trustee 4

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Family Matters Chair

Mrs. Patti Dalzell

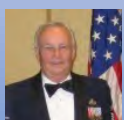
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How are you Communicating?

Cruzing the Web

<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	



AFSA DIVISION 3

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TOP 10 DIV 3 RECRUITERS FOR 2015

NAME	CHP	YTD	LIFETIME
Francis, Stephan	F0988	113	2,141
Hefferon, Mary	F0959	103	154
Mitchell, Donnail	F0984	101	110
Lutzen, Dale	F0984	100	998
Zalesky, Steven	F0872	60	842
Gralewski, Michael	F0872	57	62
Short, Steven	F0872	55	56
Wiggers, David	F0881	54	282
Simes, Shonta	F0881	54	56
Dorsey, Markeisha	F0959	48	54

**1,523 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

2015 Recruits by Chapter

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Yearly Total</i>
F0804	3	1	1		29
F0851	11	1	2	1	66
F0858		3			6
F0872	85	28	2	8	373
F0881	31	13	3	5	202
F0951	18		5	18	103
F0959	32	7	4	1	193
F0964	4	1		2	48
F0972	14	3	2	1	42
F0984	23	42	16	17	254
F0985	10	3	4	1	42
F0988	38	2	9	3	150
F0990	3	3			20



AFSA DIVISION 3

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TOP 10 DIV 3 RETAINERS FOR 2015

NAME	CHP	YTD	LIFETIME
Kolwitz, Roland	F0851	153	3,099
Kolwitz, Jean	F0851	117	1,330
Dalzell, Patricia	F0804	66	68
Zalesky, Steven	F0872	58	951
Rojas, Audrye	F0988	32	46
Bamburg, David	F0951	16	69
Gralewski, Michael	F0872	14	14
Bailey, Courtney	F0984	9	19
Lutzen, Dale	F0984	8	351
Short, Steven	F0872	7	7

**557 People
Retained!**

Message from , MSgt Jared Langenstein, Membership

"Today more than ever it is critical for our membership base to continue growing. We are facing budget cuts that are targeting our benefits, retirement, health care, and other quality of life benefits.

Our division currently stands at only 12K members compared to 13,960 at the end of last year. We have a tough road ahead of us as we enter the last quarter of CY15."



AFSA DIVISION 3

Heartland of America

2015 Retention by Chapter

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Yearly Total</i>
F0804	17	7	2	8	70
F0851	28	14	26	28	278
F0872	31	5	1		104
F0881					3
F0951	6		1	2	22
F0959	1				5
F0964	2				9
F0972		1			2
F0984	1				27
F0985		2		1	6
F0988	9				34
F0990		1			1



AFSA Division 3

Family Matters

September—December 2015



FAMILY MEMBERS are an important part of AFSA and we need more of them! For 2016, I would like to see every member recruit **ONE** Family Member.

In fact, each Chapter should initiate a Family Member Campaign. Here are some ideas to recruit new members and keep them active in the organization:

Host a wine/cheese reception for prospective members

Advertise in newspapers and cable TV

Hand out customized bookmarks

Pass out M&M's at meetings/functions to remind members that

Membership Matters and we need **More Members**

Make some meetings social events – create more fun!

Honor birthdays at meetings – bring treats!

Give kudos! People will generally do more when they know they are appreciated.

Take care, God Bless, thanks for all you do for AFSA, but most of all

Thank You for Your Service!

Patti Dalzell

AFSA Division 3 Family Matters Chair

prd1996@kc.rr.com



“AFSA takes my concerns and my family's concerns to Capitol Hill. They fight for issues that affect our everyday life. AFSA membership helps me to stay informed, connected and involved. —Jennifer Davis”



AFSA Division 3 Electronic Communications



2016 marks the year that AFSA will not just look at our Chapter/Division websites and newsletters but will score us on all the aspects of Social Media. While most if not all chapters have a website and some put out an occasional newsletter, there is so much more we can do to improve our chapters but also help everyone else in Division 3 catch up.

For the last several years websites have been the main source to communicate what the chapter was doing. You could list the contact information, time/place of the next Membership Meeting, articles, pictures and much more. However, maintaining a website can be time consuming. You have to login to maintain the calendar, any pictures that were added sometimes had to be sized, and all other items refreshed because the latest article remained on top until the next one was written.

Probably the most popular method for chapters and AFSA members to communicate is through Facebook. Things you put on Facebook go out instantaneously. You write an article, post a picture, and it is out there. You can store your chapter pictures in an album on Facebook for all to go back and see.

Yes, like a website there is

some work involved in getting your page started. You had your chapter's AFSA logo, making sure of course it complies with AFSA standards, i.e. the AFSA wings are the ones that are full, not the ones that look like handlebars. Make sure to create a Chapter bio and some basic contact information and now you begin.

Invite people to come and "Like" and/or "Follow" your page and in turn invite others. Within a matter of time you have a large audience. What does this now mean? When you post something to your page it automatically goes out to those people who can then share it on their personal page and it goes out to all their friends. Example, AFSA HQ posts something on their page, Division 3 shares it on their page, Chapter 951 does the same and pretty soon it is AFSA wide.

Also you can publicize your event on Facebook. Create it with all the information/attachments needed and once it is posted it goes out to the public and/or people you invite. Another good thing is every time you make an update or addition to the event it goes out to everyone signed up. Chapter 951 used this last year to publicize the Division 3 Convention.

Twitter is another means to getting your short messages out.



AFSA Division 3

Electronic Communications, Cont.



How many people like to “tweet?” Several people and organizations use Twitter to get the word out. Just go onto twitter, create an account, search for AFSA and see everyone that comes up from AFSA HQ, Division 3, various chapters and much more. You can also simplify things by linking you Facebook account to your twitter account and now you are in 2 places at the same time.

There are so many other things you can use to expand your chapter’s social media output. Some of this can be achieved by utilizing many of the outlets used by AFSA HQ.

You want somewhere to store all your chapter’s pictures besides Facebook, then try Flickr. Do you

want to showcase videos, then use Vimeo or a site we all know, YouTube.

Check out the link below to the video created by Chapter 951 when they took on AFSA’s challenge of “We Are AFSA.”

As we go through 2016, and especially getting closer to the Division 3 Convention, I challenge each Chapter to do something. Remember, what works for one chapter might not work for another.

A first step is to reach out to one another’s Facebook page and “Like” it. You will then receive notifications each time they do something which will give you ideas. Remember, together, “We Are AFSA.”

1/20/2016 We are AFSA Chapter 951 - Episode 1 - YouTube

You Tube

Upload

Analytics Video Manager

We are AFSA Chapter 951 - Episode 1

AFSA 951 Mt. Rushmore Chapter

Channel settings

52 views

Add to Share More

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV3cO46Vrel

Serving the
TOTAL FORCE
and Their Families –
Past, Present, and Future



Established 1961

**AIR FORCE SERGEANTS
ASSOCIATION**



WE ARE AFSA #AFSAGIVESBACK

Courtesy of www.hqafsa.org

Over the past five decades, the Air Force Sergeants Association has built a reputation as a stalwart advocate for Air Force enlisted members, past and present, and their families. We protect those who serve, and have served. AFSA continuously gives back to the military community by advocating for their interest to America's elected and military leaders. AFSA also supports the community globally through our divisions and chapters. These congressional efforts create a beneficial lifestyle for military families and veterans. Your organization dedicates its time and efforts to ensure the enlisted voice is heard loudly. Our work has a powerful impact not only within our membership, but the community as a whole. (I'm having trouble coming up with a transitioning sentence here) The saying *giving is better than receiving* is very popular during this time of the year. During this holiday season AFSA encourages you to give back too.

Here's how you can give back:

1. Money

- No matter how large or small, each donation will benefit the membership tremendously.

2. Membership

- Give the gift of an AFSA membership to share the efforts produced by your organization.

3. Time & Talents

- Participate with one of your local chapters during a community service event, or a general meeting.



As we enter our 55th year of service, we stand firm in our commitment to continue to fulfill its mission to protect and serve our 100,000 members, and the future of our Air Force enlisted members and their families. AFSA is grateful for your generosity, trust, and your commitment to our mission. Thank you for your continued support.



WE ARE AFSA

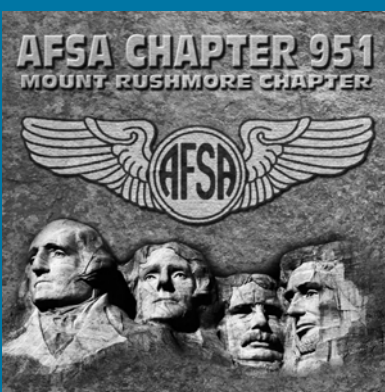
MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER #AFSAGIVESBACK

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR
AFSA MEMBERS... Apply NOW



AFSA
ALTUS
CHAPTER 988

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



Legislative News

The Circus is in Town



Mark R. Clark, CMSgt,
USAF, Retired

President, Chapter 804
Legislative Trustee,
Division 3



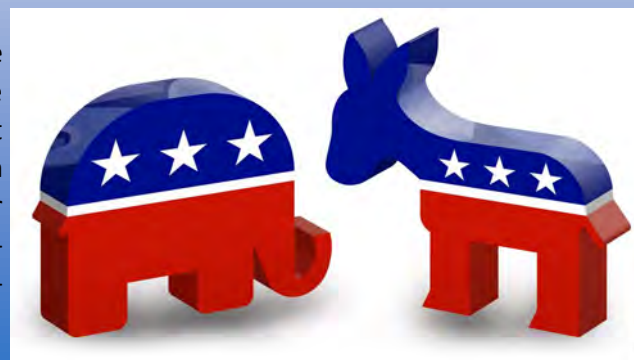
Well presidential politics is in full swing and the craziness in Washington DC will soon take on a whole new momentum as our Congressional Representatives and Senators begin posturing to endorse their favorite flavor of the day candidate. Presidential election years often completely disrupt the function of the Congress but both Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have promised to keep the Congress functioning in regular order. I love those words “regular order” as if there is any order at all in Washington DC. Nonetheless, we must trust these leaders and continue to push our priorities every time we get the chance. If we don’t, then who will?

This year we are up against yet another attempt to increase TRICARE Pharmacy Copays, our Commissary benefit is under attack, and our active duty Airmen and their families are being asked to pay more of their way in virtually every arena. Back to back caps of 1% to annual pay-raises and cuts to BAH have put the squeeze on our young enlisted families so we must keep fighting to reverse these negative trends. Speaking of negative trends, the “modernization” to military retirement included in the NDAA as part of the omnibus spending package is not good for our Airmen or our all-volunteer force. This is just the latest broken promise that erodes the benefits EARNED by members of the armed forces and we cannot simply shrug our shoulders and accept it. At what point does our government get held accountable for this destructive behavior?

This is an election year and we have a collective voice to support and elect government officials that will put our priorities first. If you want to hold the elected officials that are robbing us of our hard earned benefits and passing on more of the cost of living to you accountable, then you have to participate in the electoral process. Educate yourselves on the issues, find the candidate that most closely represents your values (regardless of party affiliation) and vote for them. The worst thing any of us can do is walk into the voting booth and vote for someone based solely on Party because that is what got us in the mess we are today. Getting the right people in office that support the military and veteran community is all that matters so partisanship has nothing to do with it. Get smart on the issues and go vote!!!

Lastly, if you are not actively logging into the AFSA Legislative Center and communicating with your elected officials and local media through VoterVoice then you are hurting our cause. It is as simple as clicking on <https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/home> and clicking on the current campaigns. One of our strengths as a Division is our activism but we are still represented by a minority of our members. AFSA has made this as easy as possible so I encourage you ALL to visit this site often and make your voice heard.

The political circus may be in town but we don’t have to follow the clowns. Now is the time to stay focused and engaged. There is too much at stake not to get in the game and I’m counting on you to do your part. As always, thank you for your continued leadership and for your support of Division 3. I hope to see you all at the Division Conference.





Building Bridges

By CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott

For an association such as AFSA to be as effective as possible, the local chapter must be engaged with the various private organizations on base (Airman's Council, NCO Council, Top-III, Chiefs Group, First Sergeants Council, Company Grade Officers Council, and of course the Enlisted, Officer, & Civilian Spouses Councils). What we often overlook is connecting with the base leadership (Commander, Command Chief, Executive Officer, Protocol, Public Affairs, & Judge Advocate) as well. Building that bridge can be as simple as sprucing up the existing bridge, or starting from scratch as we've recently had to do here at Ellsworth.

For various reasons our chapter became nearly ostracized over the past four years or so. The lack of support for November 2014 visit by the International President provides a window into our environment then. Initial inquiries and requests for an office call with base leadership and approval for an informational briefing went ignored until we were finally granted permission to use the closed base theater for a 4:00PM Friday briefing that was attended by one person. Follow that with the 2015 Division 3 Convention (that we hosted) featuring CMSAF (retired) Campanale as the guest speaker where not a single CMSgt or commander attended. That was then, let's look at now.



Within two weeks of assuming command in June, the chapter executive council met with the new wing commander to brief him on what the chapter was doing and to hopefully get him to join AFSA. The 2-year cyber membership was available at the time and we pitched it to him; he declined...and we all

felt the breath leave our bodies. But what he said next gave us hope: "I want to get the AFSA magazine, I want it on my coffee table in the front office so everyone who visits know that I believe in organizations such as AFSA and that I am a member!" Wow, what a positive feeling that was!

At the time we were in the midst of our first big community events, the second annual Honoring Our Patriots concert and first annual POW/MIA 5K Run/Walk. After zero base support for an "AFSA-led" POW/MIA event the previous year we seized the opportunity to commemorate and honor our POW/MIA comrades in downtown Rapid City. The concert started in out in 2014 with a simple combined honor guard lowering and folding the colors during an existing concert; that event raised \$1000 which we donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. For the second concert we expanded our fundraising to include raffles, food sales, and once again a combined honor guard. Initially we had interest from all the private organizations on base, but lacking any advocacy from the base leadership it soon became just a small core of engaged volunteers; most from the Chapter.



We did not let this stop us we pressed on, raising over \$9300 for The Gary Sinise Foundation, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, Air Force Assistance Fund and with over one-fourth split (fair-shared) between all the participating organizations. Doing the largest burden the Chapter earned over \$1200, while two private orgs who quit each received a check for \$10.



We've built a bridge with the new wing commander, now it was time to do the same with the new wing command chief. The first thing we did when we got the name was to look her up to see if she was an AFSA member...and YES she was! (unlike the last two). Even better, in her biography it was noted she was a former AFSA First Term Airman of the Year! (things are looking up). We sent her a welcoming email, a copy of our chapter informational tri-fold with an invitation to looking forward to working with to support the Airmen of Team Ellsworth.

Next came a quick meeting with the Chief to layout our upcoming concert and 5K events, unfortunately she already had TDYs scheduled for both days but she was impressed and wanted to hear the results. Well, here is where patience and letting things happen on their own can pay off...I met with her, showed her all the financials to include how much each of the private orgs participated (time and raffle tickets sold) along with each org's fair-share of the proceeds. It was easy to see that we did not have a "team" working together.

So, where are we at now as we're planning the 3rd annual concert and 2nd annual run/walk? We've received assurances from each private org that they will be involved and engaged. Sometimes you have let folks "make their own bed and lie in it" to make a point. While raising over \$9300 was a success it was a third of what could have been raised; had we gotten the full support and engagement from each organization.

To build that bridge chapter members need to be visual, vocal, and pro-active. If you're at a Top-III or Airman's Council meeting take a minute and inform your fellow member what the AFSA chapter is doing. Drinking your coffee out of an AFSA coffee cup is one way to start a dialogue in the work center. Will you encounter a nay-sayer...YES! Smile and move forward; if that person is truly open-minded and a true Airman they'll come on board later.

To build that bridge with your base leadership you will need to walk carefully. It is much easier for some on base to say "No" rather than say "Sounds interesting, let me look into it." During the staffing process for our raffles I was told by JA that state law limited our raffle to a prize not to exceed \$2000...I found this funny since we were raffling off a \$12,000 motorcycle and had already received approval from both the city and county attorney's office. A quick check of the state statutes (Google is good!) found me the answer: the \$2000 limit applies to a single Bingo game. A simple follow up email (no gloating!) with the JA and our raffles were all approved.

Quite a long story, I know. But a year ago our situation looked hopeless. But that situation did not occur overnight, nor will it be overturned overnight. Patience, persistence, resolution, and most of all optimism will be your guide. If anyone wants to hear more details or to share their lessons learned please feel free to email me (chief_KO@hotmail.com) or we can chat at the 2016 Division 3 convention



Chapter 804

Kansas City, MO

AFSA Chapter 804 in Kansas City, MO continues to make a difference in the community by volunteering and spreading cheer to veterans and their families. Recently Chapter 804 members have been volunteering at the St Michael Homeless Veterans Center in Kansas City and have put on two outstanding events.



On November 14th, Chapter 804 hosted a Veterans Appreciation Dinner at St Michaels which was a huge success. Family Members Helen Hatz, Patti Dalzell, Cathy Parsley, Gloria Pinksaw, Willa Hyde and Susan Keipp fixed and served lasagna, Caesar Salad, garlic bread and a variety of desserts baked by the above members. Helen's lasagna was so good in fact that she received a marriage proposal from one of the residents. It just goes to show that the quickest way to man's heart is through his stomach... lol! No worries though, Helen is still available if you're interested.

On December 21st Chapter 804 again hosted an event at the St Michaels Homeless Veterans Center and this time it was a quarterly birthday party. Chapter members Helen Hatz, Patti Champagne Dalzell, Charlie Dalzell and Mark Clark all joined in the fun. A special thanks to Tony Champagne and Colleen Champagne for providing wonderful entertainment and leading us in holiday songs. It was a fun night had by all!

From volunteering at the KCVA Medical Center to helping out at St Michaels Veterans Center, Chapter 804 members



are making a difference in the lives of Veterans in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. This is something we are very proud of.



Helen Hatz and Patti Dalzell serving up cake and punch at the Birthday Party

The last few months of 2015 turned out to be our best. In September we saw months worth of hard work pay off with "Honoring Our Patriots" an event the Chapter helped coordinate with Rapid City's Main Street Square. It was part of their downtown concert series with over 5,000 in attendance and numerous Veterans' Groups sitting up information tables to educate the public.



Also during this event our chapter, working with several of the local and Ellsworth Private Military Organizations, continued to sell raffle tickets for the Victory Motorcycle and Cabela's donated shotgun. We had close to 50 people from all the groups working the event doing everything from running the chapter booth, selling hamburgers, a bouncy house for the kids and walking through the crowd passing out information.



During one of the intermissions there was a retreat/flag folding ceremony with an Honor Guard made up of members from Ellsworth AFB, the local VFW, Air Force/Army JROTC units from local high schools, School of Mines ROTC, local law enforcement and the SD Army National Guard. Reading the meaning of the Flag Folding was SMSgt Killkelly, a member of Chapter 951 and also the local president for the Air Force Association.

A week later Chapter 951 hosted the first ever



Chapter 951 The Mt. Rushmore Chapter



downtown POW/MIA 5-K. There were over 150 participants who braved a chilly morning to come out and support the event and many of the Veterans Organizations. It was followed by a lunch event at the VFW where the drawing was finally held for the Victory Motorcycle and shotgun/gift card. Rapid City Honda, who also helped us sell raffle tickets, furnished additional gift cards during the drawing.



After all the expenses were paid out, over \$9,316 was raised. Donations of \$1,838 was made to each of the following, The Gary Sinise Foundations, The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and the Air Force Association. Local Veterans/Military organizations who participated in the event split the rest with Chapter 951 getting over \$2,000 added to its



Team 951

The Mt. Rushmore Chapter, Cont...



budget for next years projects.

Already we are working on next year's event but we want to point out some of the positives that other chapters can use for similar events. We coordinated with all the base private organizations to give them a chance to use this as their fundraiser. Everyone knows how hard it can be to raise money so we proved how effective we can be working together.

Next we worked with Rapid City leaders and businesses to get the word out and obtain sponsors to bring down the cost. Taking advantage of communication opportunities we got the word out through TV, radio and Rapid City itself.



Mayor Allender declare it "Honoring Our Patriots" Day with a proclamation. Over 148 radio ads went out, a value of \$3,700 which was donated, no cost to us.

In November the Chapter put together its first

ever Legislative Forum. Local staff members from Senators Thune and Round (Kristi Noem's office was unable to attend) came out to brief members of Team Ellsworth and other retirees on what was transpiring on Capitol Hill. They also took questions from the crowd which ranged from the dual BAH issue, increasing the cost of Tricare and the local issue dealing with the VA Hospital in Hot Springs, SD. After the success of this event we hope to hold one every quarter.

In December we again took a group from Ellsworth AFB to the SD State Veterans Home where we decorated the auditorium with Christmas decorations. This year's trip held a special meaning as it will be the last time we decorate in the older 137 year old facility. Next year we'll decorate their common area of their brand new facility.

During these last few months we continued to do our regular projects such as briefing ALS, FTAC, the Military Affairs Council and any group on base we can share the message of AFSA. The chapter also continues its partnership with the VFW where we volunteer to serve the Monday meal the 4th Monday of the month.

We also have greater support from the base leadership as the new Command Chief has pushed many of our events and attended most meetings.

In additions, the Chapter held elections for its new Executive Council, choosing as President, TSgt Jessica Young; Vice-President, SrA Danielle Gregg; Trustee #1, MSgt Erlinda Schommer; Trustee #2, TSgt Jeffery Porter; Trustee #3, CMSgt (Ret) Kevin Ott and anchoring the team once again as Senior Advisor, MSgt (Ret) "Super Dave" Bamburg.



Team 964 Grand Forks, ND



AFSA Chapter 964 put on the first Lip Sync Battle at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Our event had a total of 15 individual and group acts that night. The solo performers competed for prizes and the coveted Lip Sync Battle Championship Belt. The group performers competed against each other for team awards and prizes. Contestants from both categories competed for the custom Peoples Champion belt. This event was truly unique, the price of admission was one non-perishable item and the chapter was able to raise 213 items. We donated these items to the Director of the North Land Rescue Mission who was also one of our guest judges. The community really loved our event and our leadership requested that we host this on a quarterly basis. As a chapter we are happy to announce that our next event will be the "March Madness" Lip Sync Battle that will take place 25 March 2016. This event was truly a win for all members of the Grand Forks Community





Team 985

The Thunderbird Chapter



11 Nov. 2015 - Midwest City, OK Veterans Parade

11 volunteers represented Chapter 985 in the Midwest City Veterans Parade. Volunteers met up at a local Denny's for breakfast before walking the parade route waving flags and passing out candy to bystanders.



21 Dec. 2015 - Norman Veterans Bingo Night

Every 3rd Monday of the month chapter volunteers travel to the Norman Veterans Center to assist the elderly in playing bingo.

Team 985

The Thunderbird Chapter, Cont...



SSgt Platt



SrA Brown

These members were all awarded between \$150 and \$250 between October and January (Dec. winners were postponed due to meeting reschedule). SSgt Moore, SSgt Brown, and Michael Bartels were winners that received their grant prior to January (if you don't want to include the others). The AFSA Chapter 985 education grants offer between \$50 and \$500 not to exceed \$2,500 of Chapter 985's funds. This is Chapter 985's way of relieving a portion of it's member's financial burden that comes along with pursuing a degree/ certification. This is a grant only eligible to active AFSA members.



Michael Bartels



SSgt Trevino



TSgt Terriault

Team 985

The Thunderbird Chapter, Cont...



The following is some information about our annual chapter fundraiser. It goes from Nov. 28th - Dec. 24th at our Main Base Exchange.

The chapter wraps presents for a month and only accepts donations. Different organizations from around Tinker A.F.B. all pitch in to help volunteer during the gift wrap event.

This year the chapter had 481 volunteers work a grand total of 1,476.25 hours manning the booth 11 hours a day, 7 days a week. The volunteers helped the chapter raise a little over \$10k.



AFSA ALTUS CHAPTER 988

The Twister Chapter

Starting in Oct we established a POC, SMSgt Harley McCurter. He then assembled a 12 person committee that covered all aspects to make the WAA ceremony happen. On Dec 12 2015 @ 0900 they conducted a perfect ceremony.

35 volunteers ensured that the community and attendees could place wreaths on those who have served. Over 1,351 veterans were respected! Awesome work done by awesome family and friends in the Altus community.

In December our chapter donated 100 care packages to Clinton OK, Veterans Hospital. Members convoyed 1hr to meet these wonderful people and presented them with a heartfelt care package before Christmas.

In November we place 1,351 flags on veteran graves for Veterans Days. Our small AFSA chapter pooled together their families and showed up in force. What usually take two hours to do took 30 mins to respect our past veterans. We collaborated with the local VFW to arrange this activity.



Team 988

The Twister Chapter, cont....



12 January 2016

Dear Wreaths across America committee member,

I'd like to thank you for your hard work and dedication in honoring Altus veterans. With your help, we were able to raise over \$13,700 and place 1,351 wreaths on our fallen heroes' graves. Additionally, you were an integral part of a national effort to lay over 900,000 wreaths at 1,100 different cemeteries.

Your dedication to this year's program ensured that our community understood how much we appreciate those you came before us. I'm proud to serve with you on this committee!

SrA Kaneshia Boone
SrA Brooke Byerley
A1C Colin Davis
TSgt Patrick Dermandy
A1C Casey Gochenour
SrA Monica Howard
TSgt Raymond Johnson
MSgt Heath Krogmann
SrA Anthony McCowan
TSgt Amanda Noble
SSgt Erica Sickmeier
TSgt Herbert Williams

A1C Matthew Boyles
Mr. Steve Francis
MSgt Lizette Delapaz
Ms. Edna Dodson
MSgt Eric Helms
TSgt Jason Howland
MSgt Kristi Jordan
MSgt Julius Lett
TSgt Robert McCutcheon
TSgt Jessica Packard
MSgt Jacob Wall
MSgt Mary Williams

SrA Carl Brantingham
A1C Deaires Cox
A1C Seth Denlinger
SMSgt Kristy Frost
MSgt Roderick Hill
TSgt Matthew Hunsinger
SrA Joseph Kieley
MSgt David Lyons
Ms. Marianne Nagy
TSgt Audrye Rojas
TSgt Charissa Williams


HARLEY L. MCCURTER, SMSgt, USAF
Director, Altus Wreaths across America



2016 DIVISION 3 CONVENTION

GRAND FORKS, ND

APRIL 21—23, 2016

CANADA INNS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance</u>
804	Kansas City, MO	677 mi
851	Milwaukee, WI	653 mi
858	Minneapolis, MN	316 mi
872	Scott AFB, IL	949 mi
881	Whiteman AFB,	750 mi
951	Ellsworth AFB, SD	653 mi
959	Minot AFB, ND	211 mi
964	Grand Forks, ND	_____
972	McConnell AFB, KS	798 mi
984	Offutt AFB, NE	509 mi
985	Tinker AFB, OK	966 mi
988	Altus AFB, OK	1,090 mi
990	Vance AFB, OK	920 mi

