

**Air Force Association
Colorado State Convention Business Meeting
Sunday, August 6, 2017
Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, Pueblo, CO**

Attendees: Region: Bob George; Mel Harmon: Mary Ann Blair, Marv Blair, Ray Brown, Bob Cancellieri, Henry Eichman, Margaret Eichman, “Cork” Hayden, Shawn Kirscht, Paul Maye, Josephine Rasmussen, Mike Sumida, Janice Vaerewyck, Gene Vaerewyck Dick Wood; Sijan: Linda Aldrich, Jerry White; Mile High: Steve Gourley, Rich Wendt; Huyser: Rick Peterson. Attendees Calling In: Larry Spencer, Mac MacAloon, Mark Tarpley, Rick Hartle, Mark “Buster” Douglas

The meeting opened with a welcome to attendees by State President Linda Aldrich and the Pledge of Allegiance.

President’s Comments: Linda noted that several different individuals would be calling in so the group would follow the agenda as best as possible around the phone calls and then will return to the agenda in between phone calls (**Summary of Call-ins follows minutes from business meeting.**)

- She thanked the Mel Harmon Chapter for hosting the Convention and Awards Banquet. Everything went well at the Banquet; one participant described the event as “classy” and several of the military award winners came up afterwards to express their appreciation for the recognition and for the event.
- National Convention delegate list due to Nia Reeves on Aug 15. Current delegates are Linda, Steve Gourley, Kristen Christy, and Rick Ragaller. (Bob George will attend as the Wyoming delegate; no others from Wyoming attending) Our Region has nine delegate positions unfilled. No other members known to be attending at this time.
- The next quarterly meeting will be hosted by Mile High in the Oct-Dec time frame.
Action Item: Mile High select a date. The current line-up for quarterly meeting in 2018 is: Jan-Mar--Sijan; Apr-Jun--Huyser; Jul-Sept--Mel Harmon; Oct-Dec--Mile High, however, 2018 Sijan will host the State Convention so this order will need to change for 2018. **Action Item: Chapters respond to suggested change as follows: Jan-Mar—Mel Harmon; Apr-Jun--Huyser; Jul-Sept—Sijan; Oct-Dec—Mile High.** WWII Aircraft Museum at Pikes Peak Regional Airport is interested in being a host location for the State Convention, but there is a fee attached to the location. Rich Wendt will be stepping down as the President of Mile High (Rich was recognized at the Banquet for his outstanding service to the Mile High Chapter.)
- Congressional contacts: **Actions Items: Sijan follow up with Doug Lamborn’s office during the recess. Huyser and Mel Harmon follow up with Scott Tipton’s office.**
- The Suspense/Dates list with updates was distributed (**Copy Attached**).
- Linda thanked all the chapters for submitting quarterly reports in advance of the due date. All reports have been turned in, reviewed, and have been forwarded to Region. Everyone will be receiving their support payments.

Regional President's Comments: Bob George provided information on numerous topics.

- All the candidates for Director at Large have good backgrounds; some have slightly different qualifications.
- Next year in our area Joan Sell's term will end and we will need a nomination for Director for the Western Region.
- Bob's term will be up this September and the new Regional person will be determined at the National Convention.
- The Annual Activity and Financial Plans for 2018 will be due to National by December 15, 2017; if this suspense is not met, the chapters will not receive support payments in 2018. **Action Item: Reports due to Linda by December 1st in order to have time to review and transmit to Region President.** National will pay \$.50 per member to the chapter and \$.25 per member to the state (regardless if all chapters submitted on time). The quarterly Activity and Financial Reports will only be due in January and July.
- There has been discussion about larger chapters not needing the support payments. Some folks have advocated that support payments not needed by some chapters be disbursed to the smaller chapters to help them out. There are also proposals to eliminate all support payments. It is not clear yet, which, if any, proposal will go forward for a vote in September.
- Bob encouraged chapters to put activities on the National AFA Calendar of Events.
- Many chapters handle their Community Partners through "level of participation." A chapter is free to determine if they want to up the cost or amend accordingly to a plan that suits the chapter's community better
- Ideas are being discussed regarding membership retention; potential changes in first year membership dues and subsequent year's dues (60% do not recognize the value of membership and do not re-up). Other ideas include pay-for-services, such as e-mail or hard copy AFA Magazine.
- Encouraged chapters to tell National how much the chapters spend on Field activities; they are often unaware of this information and believe that National is the only entity spending funds. Rich Wendt and Steve Gourley commented that National does want to see expenditures on Aerospace and Education. The discussion included comments on the perceived disconnect between the Field and National; many of the staff at National have never been involved in chapters in the Field.

Officer Reports:

- **Vice President:** Unavailable.
- **Secretary:** Linda requested that attendees spread the word out to members for help to fill the position of State AFA Secretary.
- **Treasurer** – State Treasurer Jeri Andrews was unable to attend so Linda reported on current finances. The state budget had \$22,005.01 on hand at the end of the second quarter; the Garcia Scholarship Fund is holding \$23,149 with the check to this year's recipient still outstanding. Payment of \$50 each was made to Huyser Chapter for the June 2nd quarter meeting and to Mel Harmon for the State Convention business meeting. Final invoicing for awards for the State Awards Banquet has not yet been paid; \$250 for

the polo shirts has been paid. Margaret report ticket sales of approximately \$8,684; final numbers will be received from Event Brite. The cost of the evening will include payment to the museum for moving three airplanes out of the hanger to accommodate the event. The chapter plans to donate \$500 to the museum for use of the facility. No support payments have been received from National yet.

- **Veterans Affairs** – State VP for Veterans Affairs Steve Gourley reported that the next UVC meeting will be held in September; Chip Deyerle from Mile High is on the Board. Margaret noted that UVC does lobbying at the State level.
 - A Military Day is scheduled to occur in January at the State Capital. Rich Wendt added that Donald Valdez, CO State House of Representatives, District 62, and attendee at the State Banquet, was a strong supporter of the legislative day in January sponsored by UVC.
 - The US House of Representatives has approved seven bills, two are of specific importance to military—one regarding education and the other boosting aid to Purple Heart recipients.
 - The StellarXplorers program is doing great. There were 25 teams registered at this point in 2016, 43 teams for 2017-2018, and registration is ongoing, including newcomer Osan, Korea. Three teams from Pueblo have signed up (Mel Harmon Chapter is paying the sponsorship fees); one team from Grand Junction; many Navy, Army, AFJROTC. Steve is hoping for 250-300 teams this year before registration closes on Oct 15th. Rick Peterson inquired about plotting the growth; plotting is difficult, but appears to be lagging from that of the projected (and sought) CyberPatriot program growth rate. Texas, Florida, California had the most teams last season; 30 states were represented plus two overseas locations, for a total of 131 teams; three 2017 winning teams were from San Pedro, Germany, and Texas.
 - Stellar Xplorers has not been given as much attention by National (example: did not show for end of year events, however, Mac MacAloon and Dick Bundy did come to final competition) Concern is it may make industry less inclined to become involved when National support is not overt. AFSPC CC Gen Raymond and CEO Tony Bruno came to greet all participants and host a pizza party at the Broadmoor for the competitors.
 - Questions on Veterans Affairs or StellarXplorers, contact Steve at stephen.k.gourley@gmail.com.
- **Aerospace Education**– State AEVP Jason Rogers was unable to attend, but provided a handout of provided a summary of recent events and upcoming aerospace education deadlines (**attached**). Linda commented on how diligent Jason Rogers has been as the State AEVP. For information on AE, please contact Jason Rogers at jwrogers470@gmail.com
 - **AFA Educator Grants Submission Period Opens 1 Sept and closes 15 Dec--** Each school year, the AFA awards grants of up to \$500 to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning. The Educator Grant program promotes aerospace education activities in classrooms from kindergarten through twelfth grades. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum. Further details and application can be found at: <https://www.afa.org/informationfor/teachers/k12grants/educatorgrants> .

- **CAP Educator Grants are due on 30 September.** This grant is awarded to educators in the Civil Air Patrol program so they can purchase Aerospace-related educational materials. An applicant can apply for up to \$250 in grant money. Further details and application can be found here, http://ae.capmembers.com/for_educators/educator-grants--scholarship-information/.
- **CyberPatriot Registration Closes Oct 5th.** Make sure interested schools in your area are getting registered. Colorado has over 90 registered teams so far from all over the state! Go to <https://www.uscyberpatriot.org/> to register.
- **StellarXplorers Registration Closes Oct 13th.** Make sure interested schools in your area are getting registered. Colorado has 3 registered teams so far, one from Pueblo, one from Grand Junction, and one from the Denver Area. Go to <http://www.stellarxplorers.org/> to register.
- **Election of Officers** – Steve Gourley represented the nomination committee for the new slate of officers for two year terms. Linda was thanked for stepping in to complete the term vacated by Tim Tichawa. IAW with protocol, Steve asked three times if there were any additions to the current slate for each office. Elected unanimously were Linda as State President; Margaret Eichman as State Vice President and Jeri Andrews as State Treasurer. There were no nominees for State Secretary at the time of the meeting so the position will temporarily remain unfilled.

Fresh Look Update: National AEVP Emeritus Jerry White provided updates (the question was posed to Larry Spencer; Larry Spencer deferred to Jerry).

- Resistance to governance changes; Larry Spencer only has authority over the National staff; Whit Peters is Chairman; George Muellner directed Fresh Look efforts. Whit Peters and George Muellner are the only two previously connected to AFA. Terms are only two years—not long enough to accomplish much. Delegates attending the Convention are involved but still need that membership input.
- An association cannot stay financially viable on membership dues. Life memberships are part of the problem; those memberships use resources but no longer contribute monetarily. There is a need for gifted development individuals to go out and broaden the reach of AFA. Would be helpful to find people who would commit to donating \$5000 for three years; not happening from the AF community. Paul Maye suggested encouraging people to leave endowments in their wills. Larry Spencer came into his position facing a \$2M deficit. The Development input is on hold until Larry Spencer hires a development lead.
 - Paul suggested there was an issue of perception and Rich Wendt suggested the issue could be the responsibility without authority of the National staff.
 - Gene Vaerewyck questioned pensions at the National level; Steve Gourley explained that no one new is being added to the old system; new hires are under a 401K plan into which National contributes.
- Steve Gourley asked if there would be anything for the delegates to vote on at the National Convention; yet to be determined after a board meeting at the end of the month of August. Bottom line per Jerry: Fresh Look is a good initiative, but not getting much traction. Unsure if suggestions might be tabled until 2018; problem of

authority turning over too quickly. When the AF Education Foundation and AFA became one, there was a power shift; went from 40 to 20 in positions on the Board. This was a more workable size.

Chapter Reports (all Chapter Reports are attached and provide much greater detail):

- **Mel Harmon Chapter** – Summary of comments by President Margaret Eichman: Chapter EVP Ray Brown featured speaker at Memorial Day Veteran's Ceremony at the Veteran's Bridge on Pueblo Riverwalk; conducted annual Luau for Veterans at the McCandless Veterans Home in Florence with estimated 75 veterans and attendance of 125; ran canteen and rummage sale fundraiser during Blitz at the Museum; spent many hours planning State Convention
- **Sijan Chapter** -- Summary of comments by Linda Aldrich: Primary focus on Multi-Domain Command and Control Symposium planned for 23-24 Aug—Confirmed attendees include Gen Raymond, BGens Saltzman and Shaw, Ret Gens Martin, and Moorhead plus many Chiefs. After MDC2 Craft Brew and Spirits Festival 24 Aug and Image Gold Tournament on 25 August--proceeds to STEM scholarships
- **Mile High Chapter** – Summary of comments by President Rich Wendt: 12th Annual Charitable Gold Tournament held on 19 June at Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course, Aurora. WAP was beneficiary with \$1000 donation. Net to Chapter \$2,668. Still seeking replacements for chapter leadership positions.
- **Huyser Chapter** – Summary of comments by President Rick Peterson: Grand Junction Air Show Sept 30-Oct 1 with Thunderbirds—Rick serving on Board of Directors; still heavy involvement and support for CAP, CyberPatriot and Stellar Xplorers; met with many potential cadets and parents at Western Slope Academy Information Day at Colorado Mesa University.

Other Items: Larry Spencer scheduled to visit Peterson AFB in October, 2017; In the future chapters should always think about inviting National staff members to chapter events. A huge thank you to Mary Ann Blair for taking such extensive notes for us during the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Aldrich, Colorado AFA President

Summary of Call-Ins:

Larry Spencer: Provided about 20 minutes of information followed by questions from the attendees.

- National Convention expected to be larger than usual. They have sold over 100% of exhibit space this year, but are locked into current venue until 2019.
- Cyber Patriot planning two additions—one for primary grades and one for senior citizens.
- Stellar Xplorers is a success story.
- Mitchell Institute has become the go-to organization.
- Financial situation and solving those problems had been his focus for these first two years of his tenure. (Follow-up in open discussion—he spoke of his time being consumed by

financial concerns and making money for the organization; attendees commented on organization structure as being top heavy and not interactive with field chapters; He added that he was an advocate to “the Hill” and with major industry leaders to obtain their support/dollars) Successes have been “Breakfast on the Hill” and the Wounded Airmen Bike Ride

- New Secretary of the AF is very supportive of the AFA and many folks from Beltway signed up to attend National Conference this year.
- Would like to have better access to Air Bases and will continue to refine methods of make this happen. Waiting for approval to have rally at Charleston. Suggestion—what about AFA rally on Peterson?
- Open discussion topics:
 - Linda told Gen Spencer about small, but mighty Mel Harmon Chapter.
 - Margaret spoke of National not understanding small chapters; response--“Where you stand depends on where you sit.”
 - Paul asked if President Bush was an AFA member and how many commanders in the field are members; response—unsure about President Bush, by many Wing Commanders are not.
 - Linda praised Christine Brown and Nia Reeves for their responsiveness.
 - Jerry asked Gen Spencer for his perspective on Fresh Look; Gen Spencer deferred to Jerry for comment and said he was unsure what would be reported at National Convention. See Fresh Look comments above.
 - Paul encourage Gen Spencer to be more of an advocate for and get more involved with the Field operations, try to understand how proposed cuts to the Field will affect the chapters. Gen Spencer spoke of division of labor and HQ does not drive the Field ops. Comments from attendees—differing opinions on necessity of HQ involvement in the Field ops. Uncertainty over some proposed radical board/Field structure proposed changes.
 - Presented issues of short manning/heavy influx of students to Doss Aviation. Gen Spencer was unaware of situation. Doss Aviation is the initial flight screening facility for the AF and other military services. Pilot-instructors are “burning-out” from the workload and being drawn away by the airlines paying \$50K+ per year. More to follow in info to be sent to Gen Spencer. **Action Item: Paul and Yak Maryak follow up with summary of information to send to Gen Spencer with the question of how AFA could help.**

Candidates for Director at Large: All attendees received handout from AFA Magazine with summary of candidate qualifications. Margaret asked each one to comment on impression in the field that National does not hear what is being said in the Field. All candidates summarized their qualifications.

- Mark Tarpley—Oklahoma AFA State President; spoke of understanding marketing and relationships, cause and affect; he is the right person to be part of the solution and the path forward
- Rick Hartle—has been Director at Large, on 3 nat’l committees, and Utah State President; spoke of mentoring Denise Hollywood (she worked for him in the past) to expand her understanding of Field activities; has observed that there’s little recognition to using the resources allowed as a 501(c)3 organization

- Mark “Buster” Douglas—Chapter President and Emerging Leader; spoke of his experience on the Fresh Look team; running to have a voice so some ideas don’t get passed by. Voiced his objection to proposal of having National Convention every two years with issues voted on by membership, not delegates; membership likely not aware of issues; needs to remain as delegate vote.

F. Gavin. “Mac” MacAloon, Vice Chairman Field Operations: Provided about 20 minutes of information

- Dues do not cover the cost of supporting new members, “Life members” are a problem for the financial issues. At one time Life member payments were put into a separate account and earned interest paid for “servicing” those members. At some point the monies were put in the general fund; not a positive move
- Would like to automate the reports
- Wants National to NOT be allowed to make a decision without Field input.
- Spoke of possible membership categories; membership and chapter rebates; members becoming inactive but listed for life; 94K current active members, but the Hill pays more attention to orgs with 100K+ membership. E-members not successful because no one tracked where the members went; primarily active duty but could not track to new assignments.
- Suggestions for Community Partner activities—no more plaques, but continue medallions or let the chapters buy them; offer opt-out on receiving the AFA Magazine, which costs \$12.00 per year to mail to members. Barnes & Noble is selling the AFA Magazine for \$8/copy and the Almanac for \$20/copy.
- Linda requested a run-down on what to expect at National; he will do so and send to Bob George for distro
- Daily Report is sent via e-mail to 65K addresses; question is are all these people members? UNK.
- The National staff is young and inexperienced; please do not vent your frustrations out on them.