



The Sijan Sentinel

Volume 3 – 2024

March/April 2024

WELCOME TO AFA
SIJAN CHAPTER #125



President: **Caty Rozema**
Vice President: **Aaron Prupas**
Secretary: **Gayle Divine**
Treasurer: **Coen Williams**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy Spring, Everyone!

I recently had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Arthur Brooks, a renowned Harvard professor, and an expert in happiness. Among many wise insights and neuroscience-y facts he shared with the audience, one stuck out to me:

- Giving back makes us happy.

This makes perfect sense! Whether I'm handing out water at a local 5K, ice cream to folks at Peterson SFB, or an award to an outstanding Airman, Guardian or cadet, I feel... HAPPY!

When I volunteer, I smile more than usual; I am less stressed than usual; I'm more energized than usual. And you can be, too!

Want to get in on it? AFA has lots of wonderful opportunities to serve. Please reach out. We'd love to share our happiness with you. Do you have an event that needs volunteers? Let us know! We're here to serve.

Happily,

Caty

ON THE HORIZON

Spring is full of exciting educational happenings followed by our Colorado state meeting and awards this summer. If you'd like to support our next generation military leaders at any of these events or are interested in attending the State AFA activities, email us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com.

- 5/8: Falcon HS JROTC Awards Ceremony
- 5/28: USAFA Awards Ceremony
- 5/30: USAFA graduation
- 6/22 State AFA Meeting, Grand Junction
- 8/24 State Awards Banquet and Business Meeting

Lance P Sijan Chapter Monthly Leadership Meetings

Every 2nd Tuesday of Month, 5:00PM, Visit our [website](#) for in-person location and online link

Please be sure to visit our [website](#) for updated details on upcoming events.

DID YOU KNOW?

2024 AFA Scholarships Available

Many of our nation's Airmen, Guardians, and their families are on missions to complete higher education degrees. For years, the Air & Space Forces Association has funded those efforts as part of its own mission to support and encourage the prosperity of our nation's Air & Space Force community. In 2022, AFA national contributed more than \$230,000 to Airmen, Guardians, their spouses, and their children through 12 unique scholarships. The scholarships help fund college tuition, flight school, dental school, Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings, and even full rides to certain universities. Applications are accepted December 1 to April 30 each year. Selections will be announced in July. [AFA Scholarships - Air & Space Forces Association](#).

The **Lance P. Sijan Chapter** and **Colorado State AFA** awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors who have been accepted for enrollment at a college or university, and to current outstanding college freshman, sophomore, and junior students. Scholarships are open to immediate family members (son, daughter, spouse) of active duty and retired Air and Space Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard members in Colorado Springs; AFJROTC cadets; college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors from the greater Colorado Springs area attending any college or university; Silver Wings members; and Arnold Air Society members. [Sijan Chapter and State Scholarship applications due May 30](#).

SIJAN SPECIAL FEATURE – SEEING OUR FUTURE

Contributed by Linda Aldrich.



Under unexpectedly rainy and cold skies, nearly 700 Arnold Air Society (AAS) and Silver Wings (SW) members, the AAS/SF Board of Trustees, and many distinguished visitors traveled to San Diego, California for San DCON, the annual gathering for these AFROTC affiliated services organizations. The weather didn't dampen enthusiasm for the event, it just changed the scheduled pool party to an indoor dance for cadets and students.

The attendees experienced an amazing array of guest speakers throughout the event, including Joanna Doolittle, granddaughter of General Jimmy Doolittle; Robert Arnold, grandson of General Hap Arnold; General John "Jay" Raymond; Group Captain Pete Warmerdam, Air Attaché, Royal Air Force; Colonel Corey Ramsby, AFROTC/CC; Mr. Larry Litton, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Ms. Vanessa Wyche, NASA Director Johnson Space Center; Ms. Heidi Grant, Boeing CEO for Defense, Space & Security; and General Jackie Van Ovost, US Transportation Command/CC. After each guest speaker, the lines were long at the microphones on each side of the room as the cadets and students asked question after question until time ran out for each session.

Perhaps most important is to mention all AAS and SW members are Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) members. This event gave these cadets and students an opportunity to interact and spend time with a diverse group of attendees from all over the country, including our own Colorado representatives, Mr. Stephen Gourley and Ms. Linda Aldrich; AFA Vice Chair of the Board (Field Operations), Mr. Chris Canada; and West Area Director Ms. Bobi Oates. Both Mr. Gourley and Ms. Aldrich are on the AAS/SW Board of Trustees, giving them the opportunity to meet individually with our members from Colorado State University and the University of Colorado. Mr. Gourley was key to the AFA sponsored luncheon at which he presented AFA Life Memberships to outstanding AAS and SW members. He was also a featured speaker at the Space Domain Panel along with General Raymond, Ms. Wyche, and astronaut Colonel (ret) Mike Fincke.

Special recognition was given to long-serving AAS and SW Executive Director, Mr. Daniel P. Woodward and Co-Director, Ms. Maggie Woodward. They have devoted a goodly portion of their retirement years after active duty to building the sponsorship and membership of AAS and SW. The incoming Executive Director is newly retired Brig General Jimmy Canlas.

Interacting with these cadets and students was a gift and an inspiration, allowing attendees to meet the future leaders of the military and of our country. Additionally, the doors opened to these young guests through their interaction with AFA leadership is what our mission is all about. What a fantastic opportunity for our AFA members and leadership to share how they advocate, educate, and support our newest generation entering active duty and the civilian community!

See photos on next page.

SIJAN SPECIAL FEATURE – SEEING OUR FUTURE



Photos clockwise from top:

1. Cadets and students at San DCON
2. Recognition of departing Executive Directors
3. Space Panel
4. AAS/SW Board of Trustees



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

A VISIT WITH THE ASTRONAUTS

Thrive Home School Academy and Stratton Meadows Elementary in partnership with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has a goal of increasing student engagement in STEM activities related to space technologies through guest speakers, planetarium visits, classroom lessons, and actual contact with the International Space Station (ISS) through ham radio. On January 29, 2024, these students were treated to a Visit with the Astronauts at Harrison High School where they got to meet former astronauts [General Kevin Chilton](#) and [Lt General Susan Helms](#). Although it was a long wait, the students finally got to contact the ISS on April 22nd! Stay tuned for pictures and more about the student's chat with an astronaut in space in our May newsletter.



Above: Gen Chilton and Lt Gen Helms visit with Thrive Home School Academy students at Harrison HS.

Below: They visit with students at Stratton



Left: Sijan Chapter Secretary, Gayle Divine, attended the event.

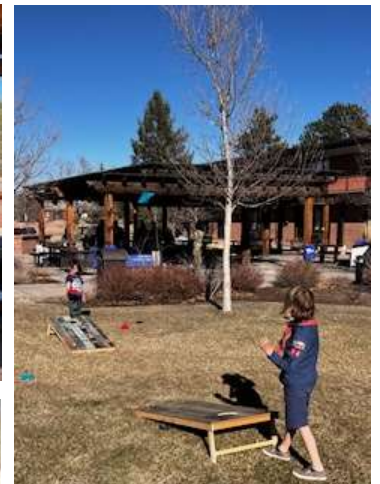
Below: School leaders pictured with the astronauts.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

SPRING ICE CREAM SOCIAL

What a sweet, sweet day we had! The Sijan Community had a great time at The Hub on Peterson Space Force Base during our Spring Ice Cream Social on March 21st! The weather cooperated as our Board members and Volunteers dished out the creamy goodness topped with tasty syrups and fun confections, giving everyone lots of energy to play GIANT Jenga and Corn Hole.



Our event coincided with the Airmen Leadership School awards banquet, so we were fortunate to congratulate many on their way into the ceremonies. In addition, we presented Tom Divine with the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin, a small token of the very large debt of gratitude we owe to Tom and all Vietnam veterans. Thank you for your service!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND YOUR SIJAN COMMUNITY

STEAM NIGHT SHENANNIGANS

Caty was lucky enough to spend a fun-filled Wednesday in March making paper airplanes, petting llamas, and hanging out with bright young students! It was all part of a STEAM night thrown by a local elementary school. A1C Kylie Cook invited AFA to be part of the fun and was it ever a blast!



SMSgt Promotion

(Below) - Sijan volunteer, Bruce Hall, joined the upbeat celebration at the Peterson Space Force Base Hub, recognizing those members of the Air Force and Space Force selected for promotion to Senior Master

Sergeant, notably the most difficult enlisted promotion in the Forces. Master Sergeants eligible for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant must be selected by a Promotion Board. On March 22nd, selectees were called to the stage one-by-one to receive a symbolic set of SMSgt stripes from their commanders to the applause of their colleagues, families, and supporters, including AFA. Afterward, those supporting their selectee gathered on stage for photographs. Snacks, beverages, and music rounded-out the party.



COMMUNITY PARTNER PAGE



Zivaro is a Colorado based vendor-agnostic IT product reseller, AWS Advanced Tier Consulting partner, and mission engineering service provider focused on providing customers with a mature technology ecosystem to meet their evolving mission and business needs to address the changing threat landscape.

Zivaro brings 20+ years of Air, Missile and Space Warning engineering domain experience supporting Space Systems Command (SSC) North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Cheyenne Mountain Complex (NCMC) Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment (ITW/AA) system and Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Command and Control Battle Management Communication (C2BMC) system. Zivaro provides complete lifecycle engineering experience, including system engineering, analysis, hardware architecture and deployment, software development, integration, test, and operational fielding of mission-critical, specific capabilities.



Allie Darling, VP of Community Partnerships, presented the AFA Community Partner Plaque to the DoubleTree Hotel.

Become a Community Partner!

“Becoming a Community Partner is a great way to get your business involved with your local Air Force and Space Force community! For more than 40 years, businesses have been joining the Air & Space Forces Association to support both AFA National and local AFA chapters.

Not only does a Community Partner receive all the benefits of an AFA membership, such as a variety of product and service discounts, insurance programs, and much more, but the partner will also receive a wooden plaque with a date medallion and a window decal. These will show customers and clients that your business supports our troops!”

Category One (CP I) \$90.00 annually - Business can designate one person to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Category Two (CP II) \$180.00 annually - Business can designate two people to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Want to know more? Check out <https://www.afa.org/membership/community-partners>

CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- *To contact us or to be added to the Lance P Sijan chapter distribution list, please email us at: lancepsijanafa@gmail.org*
- *To update your contact information, email National AFA at membership@afa.org. Note that the chapter cannot change your email, mailing address, or other contact information. It must be done on your National membership profile.*
- *To join or renew your AFA membership, visit www.afa.org*
- *For details on your AFA member benefits, visit <http://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>*

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

- Your AFA Sijan Chapter has opportunities for involvement in multiple areas, as little or as much as you would like. Areas of most need are in support of education and programming.

CONTACT US!

Sijan Chapter

Website:

www.lancepsijanafa.org



AFA National

Website:

www.afa.org

Email

lancepsijanafa@gmail.com

Mailing Address

Air & Space Forces Association
Lance P Sijan Chapter #125
PO Box 77322
Colorado Springs, CO 80970

Make sure you continue to receive our communications. You don't want to miss out on \$1 ice cream sundaes or any of the other exciting events we have in the works. Update your contact information today. Email National at Membership@afa.org.

While we can update our mailing list, Sijan representatives cannot update your official AFA contact information. You must contact National.

Do you know someone who would like to know about our events but isn't a member yet? We're happy to add them to our mailing list. Have them send a request to us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com.

The AFA is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA publishes Air Force Magazine, conducts national symposia and disseminates information through outreach programs. It sponsors professional development seminars and recognizes excellence in the education and aerospace fields through national awards programs. AFA presents scholarships and grants to Air Force active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members and their dependents, and AFA awards educator grants to promote science and math education at the elementary, secondary, and high school level. Nationally, AFA has more than 100,000 active members. The AFA National Website is WWW.AFA.ORG

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter is one of the largest, most active chapters in AFA, with more than 1600 members. The Sijan Chapter, one of four AFA Chapters in Colorado, primarily focuses on support to the Colorado Springs area, including Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and the USAFA. The AFA Sijan Chapter is proud of our rich heritage and strong support for the Colorado Springs Air Force community. We pride ourselves on active support to the local Colorado Springs "Air Force Family," providing approximately \$40,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in support annually!