



Air & Space Forces Association Leadership Meeting
Tuesday, 15 April 2025, 5:00 – 6:30pm (Mountain)
Location: Panara Bread, 7344 N. Academy Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO
Second Location: Zoom

Attendees: Caty Rozema, Aaron Prupas, Dave Geuting, Bruce Hall, and Jennifer Hall

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Caty reviewed our mission statement:

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air & Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

OFFICER UPDATES/ACTIVITY RECAP

President – Caty Rozema

- Caty submitted Sijan for the National Aerospace Education award this year. For the award a chapter must do 3 things: submit a Teacher of the Year (TOY), do a JROTC event (we do multiple), plus one other STEM event. Caty chose to submit the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) event that Gayle participated in last April.
- Holiday Party
 - The Doubletree is the likely venue. They are a community partner (CP) and been very responsive. Caty will meet with them next week
 - Focus on bringing in younger active-duty members versus industry. We are considering a “naughty/nice” theme, offering pictures with Santa or the Grinch. Aaron’s volunteered his new dog to be the Grinch’s dog.
 - We can bring in games and start thinking about AFA “fun” Christmas swag
- F2 Grant: Caty will follow-up; Jennifer will look for ideas as well
- Top 3 enlisted ranks association at PSFB: Caty gave her pitch to a full house where almost none of them knew what AFA was. She handed out lots of cards. Mile High was there as well. General Murray was there and very supportive, but we’ve heard nothing back to date. This prompted further discussion about how to get people to respond and engaged:
 - Caty gets emails for new members and responds but they don’t follow-up (0% success getting new members to respond to Caty’s email)
 - Questions need to be multiple choice, not open-ended like “Here are 3 upcoming events, will you sign up to help with one of them?”
 - Use a campaign similar to the 2021 Ball where we got people to sign up at the moment we talked to them
 - New member mixers at The Hub
 - Call each new person and offer a personal invitation; maybe try to get their commander to attend as well (if they are military)
 - Decided on a May new member mixer – May 9, 3:30-5:30pm (come as you are)



-
- Doolittle Raiders Annual Memorial Toast is 17 April 1730 EDT. Aaron is arranging a toast with Sijan and Friends of ISR at Rhino's at 1630 local. Aaron will send information for newsletter.
 - Quarterly Birthday Party: May 8, 4:30-6pm
 - Caty will pick up a Nothing Bundt Cake; Jennifer will provide supplemental cake
 - Back-to-back with Mixer but that will allow people to choose
 - Academy Tours: no update

Vice President – Aaron Prupas

- Attended the Space Symposium last week; it was lightly attended by active duty and Govt civilians; broadly attended by industry and international
 - Gen Saltzman and Gen Whiting spoke; Gen Saltzman highlighted his role as a force provide, his role on the Joint Staff, and his support for Guardians. Gen Whiting emphasized Golden Dome, weaponizing space domain.
- There is a stop movement for guardians. It's not in writing but need to look at whether State and National are tracking. What will happen to those who were supposed to PCS this summer and is there anything we can help support? We don't know if it affects airman right now.
- Aaron is attending National in fall and volunteers as delegate, if needed. Caty affirmed he is needed

VP of Finance – Bruce Hall

- Bruce has checks to reimburse Caty for the storage unit and Secretary of State periodic report. Reimbursement was approved by the Officers last month.
- Forms to complete the bank account transfer from Coen to Bruce are now signed
- 15 May is tax deadline for non-profits; Bruce already called Linda to ask Felipe what he needs
- Bruce wants to switch banks statements to paperless and post where they can be viewed by Board; still getting hard copy from bank
 - Aaron suggested using the SharePoint/OneDrive AFA provides for us. Jennifer agreed and deferred detail to the Communications section of the meeting.

Secretary – Gayle Divine (no updates)

VP of Aerospace Education – Dave Geuting

- Scholarship Recipients
 - We had 2 applicants: 1 college and 1 from Ellicott HS (also a cyber patriot)
 - We have significant funds from IMAGE earmarked for AE; Dave recommend \$1K for each
 - Officers voted unanimously to approve a \$1000 scholarship for each applicant
 - Dave will contact the awardees to arrange presentation of their checks
 - Dave submitted the college applicant for the state Garcia Scholarship
- TOY: We received one nomination for a 7/8 grade science teacher at Lewis-Palmer MS. The submission will be awarded the Sijan TOY and has a good chance to win State; Dave submitted the nomination to State and will get with the principal at Lewis-Palmer about presenting the award.
- Pitsenbarger Awards
 - Dave recommends we cover what National won't cover from IMAGE funds



- We need to find out details of what National is covering and consider a vote of amounts and number of awards at our next meeting, if necessary
- Consider how best to spend the IMAGE funds we raise; sponsoring other STEM events and/or awards (i.e. – award/scholarship at the Science and Engineering Fair, 5th grade rocket day)
- Note: The Space Force Association is participating in IMAGE this year so the split will be less

Veterans'/Government Affairs

- There is a push to move Space Command to Huntsville again. Aaron is working with Govt entities; provided recommendations.
- Although national security is key, the decision is likely to be political and it will move.

Communications – Jennifer Hall

- Jennifer requested approval for website domain renewal for 2025 due 6/5/25. It's \$17.84/yr plus additional \$10.10 for private registration which masks name/phone of POC (currently Jennifer) in public "WhoIs" database. Officers voted unanimously to approve.
- We received a sponsorship request/email from COS Hispanic Chamber for a Veteran's event they're holding this fall. All agreed it's something we can put in our newsletter as an opportunity.
- Jennifer ran across a website where veterans can create an account and request discounted tickets to sporting events. Vets only, not family members, except Gold Star. VetTix.com. This is also something that can be put in the newsletter as information for our membership.
- Facebook account.
 - After more research, Jennifer found non-profits and businesses cannot have an independent FB account, only a page which must be associated with a POC from the organization.
 - Currently, Bill Houth is the page owner. He must go to the page from his personal FB account and give Jennifer full control. Then she can remove him and will have authorization to add others with full control and/or admins. She emailed him but hasn't received a response. Bill owns a remodeling company in town so we may be able to pay him a visit there.
 - Without authorization from Bill, the page cannot be shutdown and Jennifer is the only one with admin permissions. The Admin still cannot manage followers and cannot add other admins for support, Duplicating the page would cause confusion and getting to speak with a human at FB to fix the situation is nearly impossible.
- We really need some CP feature write-ups for our newsletters. We could pull stuff from their web pages if we have a current list of our CPs. Allie has reached out and Caty will follow up with her.
- AFA Sharepoint/Onedrive: Those with official AFA addresses plus Allie and Sharla should have received one or more sharepoint email invites to "Sijan Board" site. Check it out and see if the link works. There are already folders set up for meeting minutes, TOY, and scholarships and it's easy to create others. Jennifer can provide training and/or access tips if anyone would like. Mobile access is an issue. It's much easier from a laptop/desktop.
- Newsletter for April. I will get something out by Thursday so the Doolittle Toast and 5th grade rocket challenge can be included.



- Caty mentioned her trip to DC for the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony at the Women's War Memorial. This is an interesting story that would be good for a feature in our next newsletter. Caty will provide the article.

VP of Community Partners (no updates)

Miscellaneous

Caty's term comes up in September. She indicated although she is willing to help with anything, she may not be available to continue as Sijan president.

ACTION ITEMS

- ☐ Caty & Aaron: Invite General Burt Field to the state awards banquet and state meeting.
- ☐ Linda: Gather information on timing and volunteer opportunities for Stellar Explorer and Cyber Patriot camps.
- ☐ Caty: Reach out to JROTC for ceremony schedules and distribute details to volunteers. (In progress – see Upcoming Events)
- ☐ Caty: Follow up with Tom Walker re: Doubletree venue for holiday party (scheduled for 4/21).
- ☐ Caty: Schedule additional academy tours and send invitations.
- ☐ Caty: Follow up with Chief Simmons on BRAC and F2 grant.
- ✓ Caty: Contact Mariah Hayden regarding her deployment.
 - Deploying to Kuwait (Al Salim) Saturday, Caty would like to send a care pkg on behalf of the chapter
- ☐ Caty: Coordinate participation in Honor Flights,
 - Jen: add save the date to newsletter 8-10 May, Colorado Springs honor flight
- ☐ Allie: Confirm responsibilities and sponsorships with community partners.
- ☐ All: Propose speakers and entertainment for upcoming events.
- ☐ Caty: Find out about and ensure participation in Memorial Day events.
 - Wreath laying at Memorial was coordinated by the Veteran's Council. We are no longer members (they charged us \$ 0.10/member). Check with MAC, Morty, Willie Kalaskie.
- ☐ Aaron: Reach out to Bob McLaughlin at Mt. Carmel for veteran engagement.
- ☐ Aaron: Engage James Chappelier for further involvement.
- ☐ Caty: Explore collaboration opportunities with Keith Watts and SFA.
- ☐ Caty: Reach out to Jean Eisenhut for potential partnership.
- ☐ Allie: Organize a resume' review event in collaboration with potential partners.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- TBD: Multiple JROTC awards ceremonies
- **28 April – 1 May: 5th** Grade Rocket Launch, Memorial Park, 0830-100
- **30 April:** Mitchell HS JROTC Awards Ceremony, Mitchell HS Auditorium, 0945-1100, Caty
- **30 April:** Sand Creek JROTC Awards Ceremony, 1800, Caty and Dave
- **1 May:** Harrison HS JROTC Awards Ceremony, 1800, Bruce
- **26 May:** Memorial Day event support (Cemeteries)
- **26 Aug:** IMAGE – Golf Tournament