



Air & Space Forces Association Leadership Meeting
Tuesday, 12 Aug 2025, 5:00 – 6:00pm (Mountain)
Location: Virtual via TEAMS

Attendees: Caty Rozema, Aaron Prupas, Linda Aldrich, Jennifer Hall and Gayle Divine

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

- Quarterly Birthday Party, Peterson HUB Thursday 14 Aug 4:30-6:00 pm
 - Come out and attend to support our airmen and women.
- Annual Awards Banquet, Saturday 23 Aug in Aurora
 - Confirmed banquet speaker, Rob Devall, Director of Military Affairs for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. The Vindicators as entertainment is confirmed. Sponsor needed. If you haven't registered yet, please do.
- IMAGE Tournament, Tuesday 26 Aug Eisenhower Golf Course at AF Academy
 - Gayle will represent our chapter.
- Holiday Party, Thursday 18 December at the Doubletree
 - The Theme is "Naughty and Nice", and the cost will be \$25. We can check out the band at the awards banquet and possibly use the same one. Gayle volunteered to help with raffle prizes. The MAC will not be a participant this year.
- We need more support for CyberPatriot.

Vice President – Aaron Prupas

- Aaron is attending National in fall and has volunteered as a delegate. Aaron intends to raise the issue with General Bauernfeind and senior active-duty contacts. "The services owe us an answer."

Treasurer – Bruce Hall - No updates



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- 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

- Our Teacher of the Year will be at the awards banquet. Dave will follow up with her about a guest and if her principal will also attend.
- Dave will also reach out to the Garcia scholarship winner to confirm banquet attendance.

Veterans'/Government Affairs

- No report.

Communications – Jennifer Hall

- Jennifer sent personalized thank you notes to all donors for the Wounded Warrior Caregivers Luncheon.
- Newsletter for July. Jennifer needs intro from Caty and anything else that needs to go in by 14 Jul. She intends to publish by 18 Jul. This newsletter will have a lot of content.
 - Content requests for upcoming newsletter: feature on Mariah, deployed Sijan member; Hello Girls article
- Officer elections are this year. Jennifer will check the 2023 process/schedule for reuse as it seemed to work well.

VP of Community Partners

- No report

Other Business

- More on Awards Banquet
 - Most nominations for the Awards Banquet have been received. Although not a great response this year, there are enough to make the event presentable. Aaron volunteered to be the judge from Sijan to rack and stack. Linda has the nominations scanned and ready to send.
 - Nominations for Cadet of the Year have been received from Det 90 and Det 105. A third nomination is needed from the Air Force Academy (10th Air Base Wing) to ensure a competitive selection process. The previous point of contact, Chief Master Sergeant Jeremy C. Schoenboom, and the 10th Air Base Wing commander have both rotated out. Aaron will be at the Academy on Friday and will leverage contacts to secure a nomination.
 - The planning team needs sponsor names to include in the program and any other individuals or groups that need to be recognized in the script.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **14 Aug, 4:30-6:00 pm:** Q3 Birthday Party/New Member Mixer



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- **23 Aug, 5:00-8:30 pm:** AFA Colorado Annual Awards Banquet
 - **26 Aug, 6:30 am registration, 8:00 am shotgun start:** IMAGE – Golf Tournament
 - **21-22 Sep,** National AFA Conference

- party this Thursday and the organization's holiday party at the DoubleTree. The team confirmed logistics for the birthday gathering and reviewed remaining tasks for the holiday celebration, including flyer distribution, registration setup, and potential entertainment or raffle details.
- ## Key Topics
- ### Engagement Roadblocks with USAFA & Space Force
 - - Persistent non-response from senior USAFA and Space Operations Command staff
 - - Multiple emails and calls to the Commandant, Superintendent staff, and 10th Air Base Wing received no reply.
 - - Members suspect an internal directive not to engage specifically with AFA; other organizations (NDIA, INSA, Mitchell Institute) are reportedly unaffected.
 - - Implications and planned escalation
 - - Lack of cooperation jeopardizes honoring guardians/airmen at AFA events.
 - - Aaron intends to raise the issue with General Bauernfeind, AFA National, and senior active-duty contacts: "The services owe us an answer."
 - - Specific policy objections encountered
 - - SPOC legal & PA offices refused a speaker request because AFA could not provide an exact attendee breakdown in advance, citing AFIs and benefit-to-service rules.
 - - Members view this as an unreasonable precedent and inconsistent with past GO participation.
- ### September Awards Banquet ("Horse Banquet")
 - - Speaker & program
 - - Confirmed: retired Command Chief Rob Duvall, now Director of Military Affairs, Aurora Chamber of Commerce.
 - - He requested nominee packages to tailor remarks toward awardees.
 - - Gift secured: "Rescue at River City" book autographed by Medal of Honor recipient Drew Dix (funded by Mel Harmon Chapter).
 - - Entertainment & logistics



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- - Vindicator band booked; payment to be delivered onsite by check.
 - - Backup entertainment lined up in case of last-minute cancellations.
 - - Music, flag protocol, and Pledge of Allegiance covered.
 - - Sponsorship & registration status
 - - Ticket price confirmed at \$70 per person.
 - - Jennifer will send a final sponsor push via Constant Contact; payment accepted even after the event.
 - - All nominees except Starcom have registered; Linda emailed individual reminders to Starcom today.
 - - Awards ordered; program draft circulated for review.
 - - Outstanding program review
 - - Katie to verify sponsor acknowledgments and awardee names before the file goes to print on 18 September 2025.
 - #### Chapter Officer Elections
 - - Current nominations
 - - Two president nominees: Dave (last name unstated) and Kristen Christie (later ruled ineligible due to changing state affiliation).
 - - No nominees yet for VP, Secretary, or Treasurer; Bruce undecided on continuing.
 - - Existing officers (Gail, Bruce) asked to submit self-nominations if willing to remain.
 - - Timeline & compliance
 - - Voting for officers concluded on September 5, 2025, with nominations having opened around August 22, 2025. The nomination form for new officers will remain open through September 20, 2025.
 - - New officer roster must be reported to AFA National by 01 October 2025.
 - - Leadership changes
 - - Aaron announced relocation to D.C. to become a company CEO starting 01 October 2025 and will step down from chapter roles once he moves.
 - #### Administrative Notes
 - - Meeting was recorded by Aaron.
 - - Standard AFA mission statement and flag salute conducted at start.
 - - Casual conversation acknowledged overcommitments and travel schedules (e.g., Aaron driving daughter to University of Alabama).
 - #### Quarterly Birthday Party (21 September 2025)
 - - Date & time: 21 September 2025, flexible 4:00–6:00 PM window.
 - - Attendees: Jennifer, Gail, and at least two other team members committed to being present.
 - - Logistics
 - - Tablecloth has been washed, and a cake will be provided (may not match Jennifer's usual standard).



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- - Root-beer floats proposed as a cost-effective addition; feasibility to be checked.
 - - Team members traveling will be celebrated in absentia with cake and a beer.
 - ### Holiday Party Planning (December 2025)
 - - Venue & stakeholders
 - - Location: DoubleTree hotel; venue representative is “chill,” and no major concerns were raised.
 - - MAC will not participate despite earlier interest; event proceeds with usual partners.
 - - Flyer & registration
 - - A draft flyer exists but has not yet been circulated; feedback is requested once sent.
 - - A QR code for easy registration worked well for a prior ball and will be added to the flyer.
 - - Entertainment & raffle
 - - Current plan is to observe how entertainment at the upcoming awards banquet performs before finalizing for the holiday party.
 - - Backup entertainers have already agreed to participate if needed.
 - - A raffle is possible; assistance is required for organizing and sourcing prizes. Donations need not be extravagant.
 - ## Open Issues & Risks
 - - USAFA and SPOC refusal to engage with the local AFA chapter remains unresolved; rationale and path forward unclear.
 - - Starcom nominees have not confirmed banquet attendance, potentially impacting award presentations.
 - - Officer slate is incomplete for VP, Secretary, and Treasurer positions; risk of non-compliance with 01 October 2025 national deadline.
 - - Aaron’s impending departure will create a leadership and advocacy gap if successors are not lined up promptly.
 - - Unclear who will take ownership of the holiday-party raffle planning and prize acquisition.
 - - Final entertainment choice for the holiday party depends on feedback from the awards banquet, leaving a potential gap if alternatives are not secured in time.
 - ## Action Items
 - - [] Jennifer: Issue final Constant Contact email soliciting \$70 sponsorships for awardees.
 - - [] Katie: Review banquet program for sponsor and awardee accuracy; return edits to Linda by 18 September 2025.
 - - [] Jennifer: Reopen and distribute the officer-nomination form link immediately; keep link active through 20 September 2025.
 - - [] Aaron: Forward the nomination link to Lizanne for distribution to the Military Affairs Council (MAC).



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- - [] Linda: Continue direct follow-up with Starcom nominees to secure their event registrations.
 - - [] Send the proposed holiday-party flyer to the team for feedback.
 - - [] Generate and embed a QR code on the flyer for attendee registration.
 - - [] Identify volunteer(s) to coordinate the holiday-party raffle and collect prizes.
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 - > ****AI Suggestion****
 - > AI has identified the following issues that were not concluded in the meeting or lack clear action items; please pay attention:
 - > 1. Officer vacancies threaten chapter compliance: The 1 Oct national-report deadline is approaching, yet there are still no confirmed candidates for Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, and even the presidential race is uncertain. No owner, recruitment strategy, or timeline has been established, putting the chapter's charter and future operations at immediate risk.
 - > 2. Awards banquet at risk of failure: STARCOM awardees have not registered, no follow-up cadence or single point of contact exists, and sponsor/awardee lists must be finalized before the 18 Sep print cut-off. Without urgent action, on-stage presentations, printed materials, and sponsor obligations will be compromised.
 - > 3. Escalation needed for external engagement freeze: USAFA/SPOC continue to ignore all AFA-chapter outreach with no known reason. An escalation plan (Gen Bauernfeind, AFA National, active-duty contacts) has not been executed, jeopardizing future guardian/airman recognition events and broader institutional relationships.
 - > 4. Imminent leadership continuity gap: Aaron departs on 1 Oct, and there is no documented succession or hand-off plan for his advocacy roles and chapter-level duties, endangering ongoing external negotiations and major event coordination.