



"Kittyhawk Flyer"



Air Force Sergeants Association Kittyhawk Chapter 751

Issue No. 60

April 2009

Chapter 751 Celebrates at Annual Awards Banquet

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

Kittyhawk Chapter 751 hosted its annual awards banquet on January 24 at the Wright-Patt Club. Over 160 people enjoyed an entertaining and inspirational speech from the guest speaker, Col Bradley Spacy, 88th Air Base Wing Commander. The banquet was also attended by special guests CMSgt (ret) Kathy Ballard, former Command Chief, Air Force Materiel Command; CMSgt (ret) Brad Denham, former Chapter 751 President; and CMSgt (ret) Ralph Schell, Wright Patterson's Charter Chief with a date of rank of December 1, 1959.

The fun-filled event began with a social hour that reunited many old friends. The banquet traditions of reading the AFSA and AFSA Auxiliary preambles; the introduction of honored guests and the executive councils; and the remembrance of POWs and MIAs were all observed. The dinner was especially enjoyable thanks to the fine guitar music provided by Chapter Treasurer MSgt (ret) Geoff Oliver.

After the dinner, a surprise birthday cake was given to Col Spacy as the audience

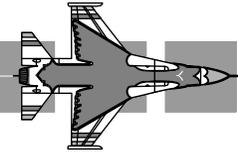


Airmen Activity Coordinators SrA Angela Reffett (left) and SrA Crystal Dean hold on tight to the birthday cake as Col Brad Spacy, 88th Air Base Wing Commander, blows out the candles.

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Above: CMSgts Dennis Earl and Danni Peters discuss chiefly subjects during the social hour. Left: Charter CMSgt (ret) Ralph Schell and CMSgt (ret) Kathy Ballard, former AFMC Command Chief, helped present the Senior NCO and Airman of the Year awards, respectively.



A word from the President...

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

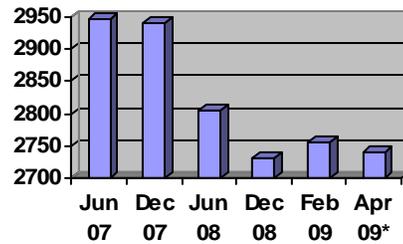


MEMBERSHIP! That is the #1 priority in 2009. The number of members in the Association affects how well AFSA is able to advocate your interests on Capitol Hill. And believe me, whether you're an Airman fresh out of Lackland or a veteran who stored away the uniform decades ago, you want someone watching your back in DC.

Closer to home, the number of Chapter members directly affects our ability to serve Airmen and veterans in our Chapter and in the community around Wright Patterson. AFSA provides Chapter 751 25 cents each quarter for every member on its roster to serve its members. AFSA also provides a dollar to Chapter 751 for each person recruited by a Chapter member in a given quarter. When our numbers go down, so does our revenue and the programs we support our put in jeopardy.

The chart on this page shows the decline in Chapter members over the past year. There are three reasons for this: (1) every month we

Number of AFSA 751 Members



*as of April 19

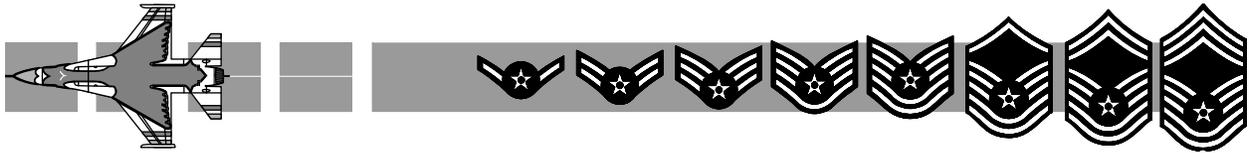
are saddened by the passing of long-time AFSA supporters, (2) recruiting was not emphasized enough which lead to fewer recruits and (3) many Chapter members did not renew their membership.

This last point is a failure in the "retention" of members. When I ask friends why they are no longer a member, they reply that they weren't aware their membership had expired. Obviously, if our retention efforts were better, our Chapter strength would be greater.

Please help me and my team (below) by being a part of our year-long membership campaign. Read on for more info. Thanks!



Chapters 751 & A751 Executive Council members: (left to right) CMSgt (ret) Dave Creech, Antonella Moore, Julie Durkee, MSgt Angela Gibson, SrA Crystal Dean, Josie Garcia, CMSgt (ret) Ruben Garcia, SrA Angela Reffett, SMSgt Brian Tobin, Amy Tobin, Eva Hake, MSgt Scott Cruz and MSgt (ret) Geoff Oliver.



Recruiting Emphasis Generates a Request for a Favor

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

If you are reading this newsletter, you're probably already a member of AFSA. So I'd be "preaching to the choir" if I told you the benefits of not only being a member of AFSA, but also a member of Chapter 751.

I would also propose that the less a person visits Wright Patterson, the more likely you are to read this newsletter. I base this solely on the empirical data gathered over years of comments from grateful readers who tell me they enjoy the *Kittyhawk Flyer* and how proud they are of the Chapter for all the good work it accomplishes. Most of these comments come from people who either live a ways from the base or just don't have much interaction with today's Airmen. So if you fit into that category, let me start off by saying thank you for taking the time to read the *Kittyhawk Flyer*. I also have a favor to ask of you.

The Chapter needs to bounce back to the membership numbers it had a couple years ago. We need to accomplish this in order to maintain our strength in the association and to continue our programs on and around Wright Patterson. We, on base, are doing our part to try to get those numbers up:

- An AFSA open house on March 20 provided 17 new members in two hours.
 - We'll provide valuable prizes for recruiters and units who have the most recruits at the end of the year as an incentive.
 - The creation of an Airmen Activity Council to better reach out to younger Airmen
- So how can you help? That's the favor!

I'm starting a membership fund drive. The concept is simple: the Chapter will accept donations to sponsor a person's membership. It costs \$18 to sponsor an AB through SrA for 18 months. Please consider donating to this cause; it doesn't have to be \$18...every bit helps. I know this is a tough time to be asking for money...but I promise you I will put it to good use and you'll be bringing a new Airman onto our great team. This could be an especially nice way for our lifetime AFSA members to make a contribution to their Chapter. To make a donation please send your check, made out to AFSA 751, to:

AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751
c/o Membership Fund
PO Box 33682

Wright Patterson AFB OH 45433-0682

Thanks again. I appreciate your support.

New Airmen Take the Helm

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

Chapter 751 has a new team of Airmen Activities Coordinators ready to serve. SrA Charvell Pee and A1C Jason Salas were appointed as the new AACs after they were interviewed along with eight other volunteers.

The former AACs, SrA Crystal Dean and SrA Angela Reffet resigned their positions due to mission requirements. We thank them for their dedicated service to the Chapter over the last 15 months and we look forward to seeing them at many events.

The AACs are the voice of Wright Patt's E-4s and below. They bring issues to the Chapter as needed and coordinate events targeted at the junior enlisted. They will have the help of a new council made up of the other eight volunteers. What a team!!

AFSA Five Star Club

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

Need more incentive to start recruiting? How about membership into AFSA's 5 Star Club! I'm sure you've heard all the buzz about this club. Rumor has it that being a member of this club will make you more attractive to the opposite sex. You too can be a hot, club member by recruiting or retaining 5 or more AFSA members. You'll receive this cool coin too, courtesy of HQ AFSA. So go recruit!





Banquet

Continued from page 1

provided a strong rendition of the birthday song followed by thunderous applause.

The Chapter was presented with a plaque from SMSgt (ret) Chris Stanley, Executive Director, Fisher Nightingale Houses Inc., in appreciation for year-long efforts in fund raising that resulted in a \$4,500 donation toward construction of a second Fisher House on base.



Auxiliary President, Antonella Moore, addresses the audience.

Col Spacy and Chapter President, CMSgt (ret) Ruben Garcia, presented the following awards for outstanding contributions both on- and off-duty during 2008: **SrA Crystal**

Dean, 88th Medical Operations Squadron - First Term Airman of the Year; **TSgt Joshua Helfen**, National Air and Space Intelligence Center - NCO of the Year; **MSgt Gerry Sanders**, National Air and Space Intelligence Center - SNCO of the Year; **SrA Carlos Castaneda**, 88th Dental Squadron - Honor Guard Member of the Year; **SrA**



MSgt (ret) Geoff Oliver proves he has many talents beyond being a treasurer by playing the guitar for banquet guests.

Jennifer Kost, Air Force Band of Flight - Band Member of the Year; **TSgt Paul Lindsey**, 338th Recruiting Squadron - Recruiter of the Year; **TSgt Chad Kopf**, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron - Reserve Member of the Year; **Amy Tobin**, wife of SMSgt Brian Tobin, Air Force Institute of Technology - Enlisted Spouse of the Year.

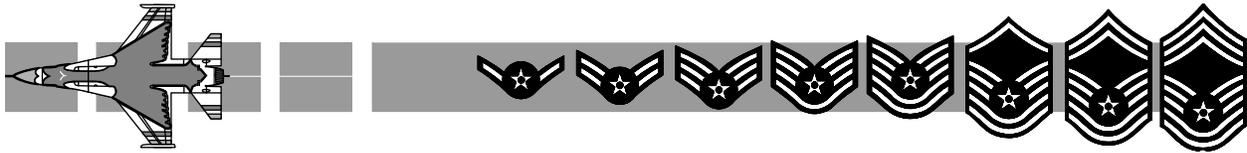
The chapter also recognized members who made significant contributions to the chapter directly: **MSgt Angela Gibson**, 88th Medical Operations Squadron - Chapter Member of the Year; **MSgt (Ret) Geoffrey Oliver** - Chapter President's Award; **Julie Durkee** - Exemplary Service Award; **Josie Garcia** - Auxiliary Member of the Year

Airman Dean, sergeants Helfen, Sanders and Gibson, and Mrs. Garcia will represent Chapter 751 and Wright Patterson at the division level competition in May.

Website and Communications

By TSgt Tom Geier, Chapter Communications Director

Chapter 751 would like to welcome everyone to our new website at www.afsa751.org! Yes, our very own domain name! This also comes with a whole suite of new collaboration tools for the Executive Council. So, what does all that mean to you? The new website will feature a fresh look and feel through the use of Google Apps™. The site alone provides for real-time updates to documents maintained on the site, such as Change of Address forms, links to contact the Chapter and executive council members, a live events and activities calendar, and much more. Everyone in the Chapter will also benefit from the collaborative suite of tools that the council will be using. With improved efficiency and less document clutter in multiple e-mail inboxes, the council will be able to coordinate in a more streamlined manner to provide answers and services to its members and the community. Check out the new web site and don't forget to leave your feedback!



Chapter 1461 from McChord AFB Challenges Chapter

"Bring it on!" That was the response from Kittyhawk Chapter 751 to the challenge made by Chapter 1461, McChord Air Force Base, Washington, to see who could be the largest chapter at the end of 2009.

Chapters 751 and 1461 are the largest chapters in AFSA not associated with a technical school. As of February 27, Wright Patterson held a four person lead over McChord: 2,759 to 2,755 members.

To bring some fun into the challenge, Chapter 751 has introduced a recruiting campaign with incentives for recruiters and their units. Prizes valued at over \$500 are available to recruiters and units can receive \$200 for their morale fund. Details can be found at www.afsa751.org. In addition to these and other incentives to be announced, the Division 7 President, SMSgt (ret) Fred Dembinski, has agreed to have his head shaved if the Chapter recruits 1,000 members or more in 2009.



Division 7 President SMSgt (ret) Fred Dembinski before and after Chapter 751 recruits 1,000 members in 2009.

On February 27, the score was Chapter 751: 2759, Chapter 1461: 2755. However, they jumped into the lead and by April 10 the score was Chapter 751: 2719, Chapter 1461: 2819. With your help we can regain the lead.

Let's show McChord why 751's the best.

Bagging Groceries in Support of Enlisted Programs

By MSgt James "Fig" Fuenfgeld, Chapter Trustee

Kittyhawk Chapter 751 is always looking for new ways to raise money to help support the many programs it provides for the enlisted here at Wright-Patterson AFB. Rumor had that a member of Chapter A751, Auxiliary Secretary Amy (the bread crusher) Tobin, was a highly decorated bagger back in high school. On January 3, we put this rumor to the test by bagging groceries at the commissary. With our ace up our sleeve, we knew this would be another successful fundraising event.



MSgt (Ret) Lorry Creech (left) & Amy Tobin (right) bag groceries while SMSgt Brian Tobin holds cart and supervises.

The weather was perfect and the AFSA volunteers all gathered around to be led by our exuberant Chapter Senior Advisor, CMSgt (Ret) Chuck (don't call me senior) Worm. After a few pointers from our world-class bagger we were off and running.

We had a total of nine volunteers come out to support this event. After 6 hours of bagging the chapter raised \$350.

This turned out to be a fun event and we look forward to repeating our success throughout the year. If you *think* you've got bagging skills, please contact the Chapter and let us know you want to join the team.

5 Then Amy will "school" you like she did me.



Christmas Joy Comes to Veterans... A7SA Style

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

Chapter 751 is always trying to add new touches to old traditions. On December 6, the annual holiday party at the Dayton VA Medical Center's Community Living Center was a prime example of what people can do when they're willing to venture away from the scripted event.

Of course the party didn't happen without weeks of planning. Thanks again this year to the Chapter Senior Advisor, CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm for working through the logistics to make sure the event was a success. He even invited volunteers to his home the night before the party to prepare the sandwich spreads. A pot-licking good time was had!

When the day of the event finally arrived, Chapter A751 proved they had also been planning for this celebration. Dressed in camouflage and custom Auxiliary t-shirts, the ladies put on a song and dance show that honored all branches of the military. The show even had a conga line that brought many smiles as the ladies paraded past the vets.

Another new touch to the party was a visit from Santa Claus, courtesy of chapter member Frank Gulasa. He made his way through the crowd and provided gifts to vets and volunteers alike. What a nice touch!

When it was all over, the vets had nothing but praise for the Chapter but the volunteers made sure the praise was returned tenfold.

We look forward to returning in June.



Auxiliary ladies of Chapter A751 show off their uniforms before their USO-like show. Left to right: Josie Garcia, Tracie Gurney, Heather Merillat, Larissa Merillat, Antonella Moore & Eva Hake.



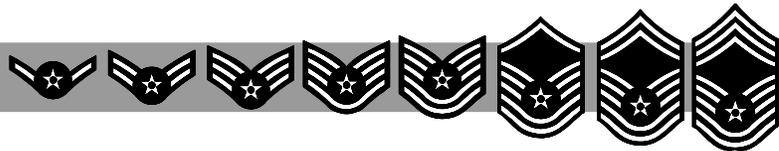
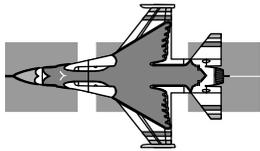
Santa Claus greets a veteran with wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Chapter Election Results Bring Back Familiar Names

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

The chapter elections held in December kept a solid team in place while adding a new trustee with a familiar face. President Garcia was re-elected to a third term. Not too surprising since he ran unopposed. There were three trustee positions also up for election. MSgt Scotty Cruz and MSgt Angela Gibson, who were appointed as trustees earlier in 2008, were elected to another two-year term. The third trustee elected was CMSgt (ret) David Creech. Chief Creech was the Chapter President in 2000. His recent return to the Dayton area was welcomed news for the Chapter. President Garcia also made many Chapter appointments. The entire list can be found on page 8.

Chapter A751 also held elections. Antonella Moore was elected president, Heather Merillat as vice-president, with Karol Worm, Tracie Gurney and Josie Garcia elected as trustees.



Getting Info Direct to You

By CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia, Chapter President

While the Chapter uses the *Kittyhawk Flyer* to keep you informed on its activities, the primary means of communicating with its members is through email. Several are sent out every month to solicit support for events or to release time-sensitive information.

Many Chapter members have provided their email addresses to us for inclusion in the distribution list. They receive information directly rather than relying on a supervisor or word of mouth for news to get to them.

If you would like information delivered to you directly, please send a request to AFSA751@yahoo.com.

Golf Tournament Date Set

By MSgt Angela Gibson, Chapter Trustee

Mark your calendars! The 2nd Annual AFSA Golf Tournament will take place on June 5 at Wright Patt's Twin Base Golf Course. This event will be a major fundraiser for projects benefiting veterans and Airmen in the Wright Patterson community.

A key to the success of the tourney is the sponsorship we receive. Individuals and groups can sponsor a hole for as little as \$100. Sponsors are then publicized throughout the tournament. Other high-profile sponsorship opportunities are also available.

How can you help? We need people to help in the planning of the tournament as well as people to assist us in set-up and registration on the day of the event. Another way to help is by asking your employer if they would consider sponsorship for this worthy cause.

Of course another way to contribute to our success is to simply join us for a day of golf and fun. To get more information on the tournament, contact MSgt Angela Gibson at (937) 522-4774.

Did You Know...

Chapter 751 now has a group page on Facebook? Search for "AFSA Chapter 751."

Relay for Life

By MSgt James "Fig" Fuenfgeld, Chapter Trustee

Join us for another year of supporting the American Cancer Society at the Wright Patt Area Relay for Life on May 8-9. You can join the team at: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=16489&team_id=401106

For more info, contact MSgt James Fuenfgeld at (937) 255-6884.

Division 7 PAC

By SMSgt (Ret) Fred Dembinski, Div. 7 President

The Division 7 Professional Airmen's Conference is scheduled for May 15-16 at the Wright Patterson Club. Registration information can be obtained by contacting Fred Dembinski at (937) 257-7829. A good time will be had by all!



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Chapter 751 Officers

President
CMSgt (Ret) Ruben Garcia
Vice President
TSgt Stacie Parsons
Secretary
A1C Natalie Sliver
Treasurer
MSgt (Ret) Geoffrey Oliver
Trustees
1) MSgt Scotty Cruz
2) SMSgt Brian Tobin
3) CMSgt (Ret) David Creech
4) MSgt James Fuenfgeld
5) MSgt Angela Gibson
Airman Activities Coordinators
SrA Charvell Pee
A1C Jason Salas
Chaplain
SMSgt Dale McGavran
Senior Advisor
CMSgt (Ret) Chuck Worm

Chapter A751 Officers

President
Ms. Antonella Moore
Vice President
Ms. Heather Merillat
Secretary
Ms. Amy Tobin
Treasurer
Ms. Josie Garcia
Trustees
1) Ms. Karol Worm
2) Ms. Tracie Gurney
3) Ms. Josie Garcia
Chaplain
Ms. Eva Hake
Senior Advisor
Ms. Julie Durkee

Upcoming Chapter Events

Apr 25 - Fisher House All American Evening
May 5 - General Membership Meeting
May 8-9 - American Cancer Society Relay for Life
May 15-16 - AFSA Division 7 Convention
May 15-17 - Commissary Case Sale fundraiser
May 20 - Fairborn Chamber Chat
June 5 - 2nd Annual AFSA Golf Tourney
June 6 - Picnic at the Dayton VA Medical Center
June 12 - 4th Annual Dorm Pizza Party

Please contact the Chapter for more info.

Email us at: AFSA751@yahoo.com

Visit the AFSA Kittyhawk Chapter 751 web page:
www.hcst.net/afsa751.

The *Kittyhawk Flyer* is a publication of:
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Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-0682

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Legislative Chairman
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MSgt Patricia Yelverton
Healthcare Consumers Advisory Council
MSgt (Ret) Mecca Brzeczek
**Community Action Information Board/
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TSgt Thomas Geier
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