



2014-15

# AFA Nominees



**Van Cleef**



**Vernamonti**



**Dietsch**



**Horlen**



**White**

The Air Force Association Nominating Committee met on May 10 and selected candidates to send forward for five national officer positions and three elective National Director positions on the Board of Directors. The committee comprises three most recent past Chairmen of the Board, one person selected by each of the two Vice Chairmen of the Board, two persons representing each geographic area, and one person each representing the Total Air Force, Air Force veterans, and aerospace industry constituencies. The slate of candidates will be presented to the delegates at the AFA National Convention in National Harbor, Md., in September.

## **Chairman of the Board**

**Scott P. Van Cleef**, Fincastle, Va., nominated for first one-year term. He is a Life Member and is AFA Vice Chairman of the Board for Field Operations. He served as the Central East Region President before assuming his current duties. While President of Virginia's Roanoke Chapter, it was named AFA Medium-size Chapter of the Year for 2005. He was the State President when Virginia was named the Outstanding State Organization of the Year for 2008. He was a member of the AFA Board of Directors, 2008 to 2011. He served on the afa21 Internal Review Group in 2005 and the afa21 Field Structure Team in 2006. He was also a member of the Field Council and Strategic Planning Committee, which he chaired for two years. Van Cleef was Virginia's Member of the Year in 2004 and 2010 and recipient of the Central East Region President's Award, AFA's Medal of Merit, Exceptional Service Award, and Chairman's Citation. Van Cleef served for more than 29 years in USAF. He

commanded an F-16 squadron, was Vice Commander of an F-16 training wing, and Commander of a fighter wing. He is a self-employed maker of fine furniture, a chapter officer in MOAA, and a Civil Air Patrol senior member. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Museum of Transportation and on the Board of Visitors for the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin College. He earned a bachelor's degree in business economics from Purdue University and a master's degree in political science from Auburn University.

**Leonard R. Vernamonti**, Clinton, Miss., nominated for first one-year term. A Life Member since 1984, he serves as the National Treasurer. He formerly served as a State and Region President, a National Director, and Chairman of the Audit Committee. He now chairs the Finance and Presidential Evaluation and Compensation Committees. He led major process reengineering that dramatically improved AFA's financial visibility and viability, and the change from a defined benefit to a defined contribution retirement system for the AFA professional staff. He corrected a 60-year practice in the retirement program that needlessly cost AFA over \$10 million. He is the Financial Trustee for the Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings. He is a Senior Advisor, Government Relations, for the Associated General Contractors of America. While serving in the Executive Office of the President of the United States, he was the architect of the President's Policy Management System. As Director for the National AeroSpace Plane Program, he achieved congressional approval of the largest applied research program in Air Force history. In his last USAF

assignment, he obtained the production decision for a \$22 billion international communications system. He served as President-CEO of a high-tech non-profit, leading it from near bankruptcy to more than \$12 million in cash assets. Vernamonti has a B.S. in economics from the Air Force Academy and an M.S. in systems engineering from the University of Florida. He has received the AFA Exceptional Service Award and two Medals of Merit.

## **Vice Chairman, Field Operations**

**David A. Dietsch**, Arlington, Tex., nominated for first one-year term. He is National Director, Central Area; a Chairman's appointee to the Executive Committee; and AFA Texas Vice President for Industrial Relations and Government Relations. A Life Member active in AFA since 1992, he has served as Executive Vice President of the Lubbock Chapter, President of the Fort Worth Chapter, Texas State President, and Texoma Region President. He co-founded and became the first Board Chairman for the AFA Texas Aerospace Education Foundation. Dietsch has served at the national level on the Constitution, Membership, and the Nominating Committees and on the Field Council. He has been AFA Texas Member of the Year twice and received the AFA Texas Claire Chennault Patriotism Award. He also received the AFA Medal of Merit and three AFA Exceptional Service Awards. Dietsch served for 27 years in USAF in aircraft maintenance and logistics. Afterward, he managed the aircraft maintenance contract workforce at two flying training wings. He has a bachelor's degree in American diplomacy and foreign affairs from Miami University in Ohio and a master's

degree in public administration from Golden Gate University. He serves on the local Salvation Army Management Committee and is a consultant.

**Buster Horlen**, San Antonio, nominated for first one-year term. Horlen joined AFA in 1976 and became a Life Member in 1985. He has served AFA as a National Director and chaired the Development Committee. He has served as a member of that committee for the last six years. He was President of the Alamo Chapter from 1992 to 1994 and served as Texoma Region President. He was named the AFA Texas Civilian of the Year by AFA Texas. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M Kingsville and a master's degree in management from Webster University. He entered the service in 1968 and served 34.5 years in the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve. His last duty assignment was the individual mobilization augmentee to the Vice Commander of the 37th Training Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas, from 1998 to 2005.

#### **Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education**

**Jerry E. White**, Colorado Springs, Colo., nominated for a third one-year term. Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, he is a Life Member. He served on the Aerospace Education Foundation and AFA boards and was active in combining the two organizations. He has chaired the Aerospace Education Council for the past two years and was Chair and Co-Chair of the Development Committee. He was appointed to the AFA Executive Committee. White served for 37 years, Active and Reserve, in USAF, retiring as a major general after a career in space and development. He co-authored the Air Force Academy's primary text on astrodynamics. A former faculty member, he remains engaged with the academy and technical education. White was CEO and Board Chairman of a 4,500-employee nonprofit for 18 years, and he was Chairman of an association of several hundred nonprofits. He was on the congressionally mandated Reserve Forces Policy Board. He holds degrees from the University of Washington and AFIT and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. White is President Emeritus and Chairman Emeritus of an interdenominational Christian ministry.



**Tooman**

#### **Secretary**

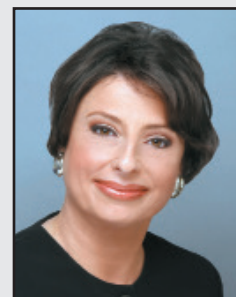
**Marvin L. Tooman**, West Des Moines, Iowa, nominated for a second one-year term. He has been a member of AFA since 1991 and is a Life Member. As an undergraduate, he was an Arnold Air Society member. He has served as Gen. Charles A. Horner Chapter President, Iowa State President, and Midwest Region President. Nationally, he served on the Aerospace Education and Field Councils and Membership Committee. Tooman received AFA's Medal of Merit, Exceptional Service Award, and Midwest Member of the Year 2004 award. Tooman has served as President and CEO of a regional health care corporation providing rehabilitation services. He then became Chief Regulator for Iowa's health care providers. He volunteered as Secretary and then President of the National Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies. Tooman served for five years on Active Duty as an Electronic Combat Countermeasures Officer on a B-52. He served for 22 years in the 132nd Fighter Wing, Iowa Air National Guard. He graduated from Central Michigan University and Drake University and holds an educational doctorate in administration.

#### **Treasurer**

**William R. Grider**, Indianapolis, Ind., nominated for a first one-year term. Grider is a National Director. He serves on the Development Committee and has served on the Field Council and Strategic Planning and Nominating Committees. Grider has been an AFA member since 1994 and a Community Partner for most of that time. He is a Life Member and Wings and Thunderbird Society member. He served as Grissom Memorial Chapter President, 2000-02, and has held that position for the past four years. He served as Indiana State President, 2002-04, and again from 2009 to 2010. He has also served as the Great Lakes Region President. Grider is an AFA Airpower Advocate and has given presentations throughout the Midwest.



**Grider**



**Ruebrook**

He has practiced general dentistry for 32 years and is Owner and President of two dental practices, the net result from eight acquisitions. Grider was honored as a Fellow, International College of Dentists, in 1998. He received his bachelor's degree and D.D.S. from Indiana University. He has served on numerous aviation, civic, and dental nonprofit boards, as well as in several officer positions.

**Nora Ruebrook**, Honolulu, is nominated for a first one-year term. She is an AFA Life Member and serves as National Director, West Area, and Chairwoman of the National Audit Committee. She has received the AFA Medal of Merit and the Exceptional Service Award. Ruebrook has served on the AFA Finance, Strategic, and ad hoc Congressional Committees; was VP, Far West Region for Leadership Development; was AFA Hawaii President; and is an AFA National Mentor. Ruebrook is a member of the Thunderbird Society, Legacy Society, and Gold Wings. She serves on international and national boards, including that of the Navy League of the United States as National Vice President, and is a National Contracting Management Association Fellow. She has been involved with governance of numerous organizations, such as the American Society of Military Comptrollers. Ruebrook is the CEO-Director of a company supporting the ISR and R&D communities. Her industry client list includes Fortune 500 companies. Ruebrook is Honorary Commander of the 692nd ISR Group.

#### **National Director at Large**

The Nominating Committee submits three names for National Director at Large. Two will be elected for a three-year term.

**Robert J. Elder Jr.**, Shreveport, La. He has been a Life Member since 1976. Since retiring as a lieutenant general commanding 8th Air Force, Elder has been active with AFA's Airpower Ad-



**Elder**



**Greenawalt**

vocates Group and Airpower Working Group. He was the Commandant of the Air War College, Air Operations Center Commander, Deputy Air Component Commander for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the first commander of Air Force Network Operations. He is past President of the Association of Old Crows electronic warfare organization and is a National Association of Corporate Directors Governance Fellow. He holds a doctorate in engineering from the University of Detroit and is currently a Research Professor at George Mason University's School of Engineering, researching command and control, strategic deterrence, cyber risk management, and national security decision-making.

**Gary L. North**, Fort Worth, Texas. He has been a Life Member since 1989. North entered the Air Force in September 1976 and retired as a four-star general after 36 years of service. His leadership positions in USAF included Commander, Pacific Air Forces, and from 2006 to 2009 he served as the Commander of US Air Forces Central. He also served as the US Pacific Command Director of Operations. He works for an aerospace corporation as Vice President for Customer Requirements. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from East Carolina University and a master's degree in public administration and human resource management from Golden University, as well as a master's degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

**Kent D. Owsley**, Dayton, Ohio. He joined AFA in 1998 and is a Life Member. He has been Great Lakes Region President since 2012. He has held numerous field positions, starting as Community Partners



**North**



**Jackson**

VP for the Wright Memorial Chapter, and several other appointed and elected offices in the chapter. Owsley served as Chapter President from 2007 to 2009 and as Ohio State President from 2009 to 2012. He is a member of the Field Council and the Finance Committee; previously, he served on the Audit Committee. His AFA awards include the Medal of Merit and the Exceptional Service Award. He was named the Ohio AFA Member of the Year. Owsley is the Business Development Manager for a technology company. He received a bachelor's degree in communication studies from University of Iowa and has attended the Defense Systems Management College at Fort Belvoir, Va.

#### **National Director**

The Nominating Committee submits three names for National Director, East Area.

**Rodgers K. Greenawalt**, Sumter, S.C. Greenawalt has been a Life Member since 1994. He serves as AFA South Carolina Secretary. He has been South Carolina State President and the Southeast Region President. He has served on AFA's Constitution Committee and the Field Council. His AFA awards include the Medal of Merit, Exceptional Service Award, and President's Citation. He was also named the South Carolina Member of the Year. Greenawalt spent 24 years on Active Duty and has been a tactical reconnaissance pilot, an AFJROTC Senior Instructor, and Director of Marketing and Recruiting for the Air Force Academy. He received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in counseling from Pepperdine University.



**Owsley**



**Yucuis**

**Kevin L. Jackson**, Washington, D.C. Jackson has been a member of AFA since 1994 and is a Life Member. He has served as VP of the Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter and is the past President of the Nation's Capitol Chapter. His AFA awards include the Medal of Merit and two Exceptional Service awards. Jackson has served on the AFA Nominating Committee and currently serves on the AFA Audit and Membership Committees. Jackson is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing Air Domain for an international defense and security corporation. He is an Associate Fellow at AIAA and the former Vice Chairman of the NGAUS Corporate Advisory Panel. Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in business and economics from Lehigh University.

**William A. Yucuis**, Orlando, Fla. Yucuis has been a Life Member since 1974, upon graduating from the Air Force Academy. He is the Florida State Vice President. At the state level, Yucuis has been a Florida State Area VP and Aerospace Education VP for the past three years. Nationally, he has served on the Aerospace Education Council. In the Central Florida Chapter, he has served as President, Vice President, and Aerospace Education Chairman. His AFA awards include the Medal of Merit and Chairman's Citation. His state awards include Teacher of the Year, Member of the Year, and the Region President's Award. He earned a bachelor's degree from the academy and a master's degree from Purdue, both in aeronautical engineering. Yucuis retired after 20 years of service, primarily as an F-4 and F-16 pilot. He recently retired from 20 years in science, technology, engineering, and math education. ■