



CHAPTER NEWS

UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ON AFA'S ACTIVITIES, OUTREACH, AWARDS, AND ADVOCACY.

By June L. Kim, Associate Editor



Photo courtesy of Frank Luke Chapter

YOUNG PRESIDENT REINVIGORATES FRANK LUKE CHAPTER

Frank Luke Chapter President A1C Adriana Van Wyk (left) chats with A1C Mikyla Ngrairanges (center) and Amn. Reiss Avery, both assigned to the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Luke AFB, Ariz.

A lot can happen in a year. Just ask A1C Adriana Van Wyk, a nondestructive inspection technician with the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Luke AFB, Ariz.

She joined AFA in June 2014 and, within a year, became president of the Frank Luke Chapter at the base. After joining the chapter's leadership as secretary, she became vice president in October 2014. When the then-chapter president left for a new Air Force assignment, she assumed those responsibilities in March.

"It was pretty quick, but I now feel like I can jump right in and get the ball rolling," said Van Wyk, who is just 23. She said she is working to get "AFA back on the map here at Luke."

While Van Wyk's Air Force job requires night shifts, she "has taken on full responsibility of her AFA duties," said Luisa C. Bailey, the chapter's vice president for communications. "As a relative newcomer to AFA, Van Wyk is definitely making a difference."

When Van Wyk was vice president, she coordinated with Bailey's husband, Harry, the chapter's vice president of membership and aerospace education—and former chapter and AFA Arizona state president—to plan a poker/bingo event at a Department of Veterans Affairs-run VA home in Phoenix.

As president, Van Wyk has attended two awards ceremonies representing AFA at local high schools, helped register players in the chapter's annual benefit golf tournament, and was master of ceremonies for the awards lunch at the tournament, said Bailey.

In June, Van Wyk attended the annual AFA Southwest Region conference in Litchfield Park, sang the national anthem at the opening ceremony, and spoke on how to attract younger members to AFA.

Harry Bailey has been a mentor, said Van Wyk. In fact, he and his wife, "have given me lots of great advice," she said. "Honestly, every AFA person who has been involved with me since I started AFA has helped tremendously." ■



USAF photo by Ft. Oniz

RAWLINGS CHAPTER SALUTES AIRMEN, CADETS AT AWARDS BANQUET

The Gen. E. W. Rawlings Chapter in Minneapolis held its annual awards banquet, with retired Col. Charles B. DeBellevue, the top US ace of the Vietnam War, as guest speaker. The dinner took place in mid-April at St. Paul's Town & Country Club, drawing some 145 attendees.

DeBellevue shared with the attendees the importance of being a good member of the team and "surrounding yourself with positive people who excel at their work," said Rawlings Chapter President Lawrence Sagstetter. DeBellevue, who became an ace as a weapon systems officer, "emphasized that everything he was successful at in the Air Force was because of his team," said Sagstetter.

During the event, the chapter recognized members of the Air National Guard's local 133rd Airlift Wing: SrA. Benjamin Terhaar as its Airman of the Year, MSgt. Ryan Hoffman as Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, MSgt. Bradley Trelstad as First Sergeant of the Year, TSgt. Katherine Morsch as NCO of the Year, and SSgt. Alyson Welter as Honor Guardsman of the Year.

Similarly, the chapter honored airmen from Air Force Reserve Command's 934th Airlift Wing: SrA. Max Jelle as its Airman of the Year; Capt. Brendon Schrader as Company Grade Officer of the Year; SMSgt. Devin Heldman as SNCO of the Year; SMSgt. Thomas Schulte as First Sergeant of the Year; and TSgt. David Barrett as NCO of the Year.

The chapter also honored local AFROTC cadets Mark Sex-

ton and Emily Timinski; JROTC cadets Jacob Blume, Allison Inserra, Ian Kunkel, and Dylan Worley; and Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol members Joseph Belina, Mathew Heutmaker, Cynthia McCarthy, Justin Roy, Jay Sliwinski, and Joe Taylor.

Physics teacher Mark Westlake from St. Thomas Academy High School in Mendota

Heights received double recognition as the chapter's Teacher of the Year and AFA's Minnesota State Teacher of the Year. In July, AFA announced his selection as its National Teacher of the Year.

Another highlight of the evening was the display of experimental vehicles that Westlake's students had built. They have fiberglass skin and can operate either on solar power or batteries, said Sagstetter. The students "travel with the vehicles and race them in eco-challenges across the country, winning some races," he said.

Sagstetter reached out to DeBellevue to see if he would speak to the chapter, partly because DeBellevue began his career as an ROTC cadet. "We thought he could speak to ROTC students [and] give them some insight and advice for their upcoming Air Force careers," said Sagstetter.

The 23 award recipients each received a custom plaque made by retired Col. Thomas Theis, former chapter vice president, said Sagstetter. ROTC cadets and the Teacher of the Year received \$200 checks. The local ABC news affiliate, Hubbard Broadcasting, was the presenting sponsor for the night; its chairman, Stanley Hubbard, is a longtime AFA member.

The day after the banquet, DeBellevue visited Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station to meet with airmen of the 934th AW. Listening to DeBellevue was "better than any management training session they have had," said Sagstetter, discussing the airmen's feedback. ■

NUCLEAR COMMANDER ADDRESSES CHEYENNE CHAPTER

Lt. Gen. Stephen W. "Seve" Wilson, head of Air Force Global Strike Command, spoke with members of Wyoming's Cheyenne Cowboy Chapter this spring during the group's Armed Forces Day banquet at the local Holiday Inn.

Wilson addressed the crowd of some 200 on the Air Force's core values (integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do) and the service's newly implemented procedures

Lt. Gen. "Seve" Wilson speaks about USAF's reinvigoration of the nuclear force and nuclear career field at Cheyenne Cowboy Chapter's spring banquet.

to reinvigorate the nuclear force and nuclear career field, said Chapter President Irene G. Johnigan. "His speech was very well-received," she said. "He [also] touched on AFA [and] community relations."

Chapter officials also used the May 16 event to recognize their Teachers of the Year: Chelsey Lynch, a kindergarten instructor at Freedom Elementary School in Cheyenne, and Caroline Hickerson, a middle school science teacher.

Wilson also led the audience in singing "Happy Birthday" to Col. Tracey L. Hayes, 90th Missile Wing commander at nearby F. E. Warren Air Force Base.

The chapter used proceeds raised for the banquet to enable 100 airmen to attend. It applied remaining funds to support airmen and spouse programs, said Johnigan. ■



Photo by Richard F. Lorenz

Science teacher Stephen Barner (left) accepts the Teacher of the Year Award from Green Mountain Chapter President Raymond Tanguay (right). Green Mountain VP Dick Strifert is at the podium.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CHAPTER HONORS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Vermont's Green Mountain Chapter presented its 2015 Teacher of the Year award to Stephen Barner, a science teacher at South Burlington High School, during the school's annual teacher's meeting.

Barner received the award from Raymond Tanguay, chapter president, and Dick Strifert, chapter vice president for government affairs, in front of some 80 of his colleagues during the June 10 event in the school's auditorium.

Strifert nominated Barner "for his strong commitment" to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines and for his "pioneering" classroom methods, said Richard F. Lorenz, chapter vice president.

In addition to the award, Barner received an aerospace education membership to the Civil Air Patrol. This includes an orientation flight for him and a guest.

Barner has been a teacher at South Burlington for more than 20 years and has taught computer science, engineering, robotics, computer-aided design, Internet programming, and other related topics. He oversees the school's design technology and business education curricula.

In 2014, he led a group of students from South Burlington High School for the first time in AFA's CyberPatriot national youth cyber education competition. His students won the New England Region round for the Open Division Silver Tier.

For the last six years, Barner has also enrolled students in the Real World Design Challenge, a STEM-focused high school competition. Last year, his students won, and each received a \$50,000 scholarship to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, according to Lorenz.

Barner is an avid cyclist and rides about 10,000 miles every year, said Lorenz. ■

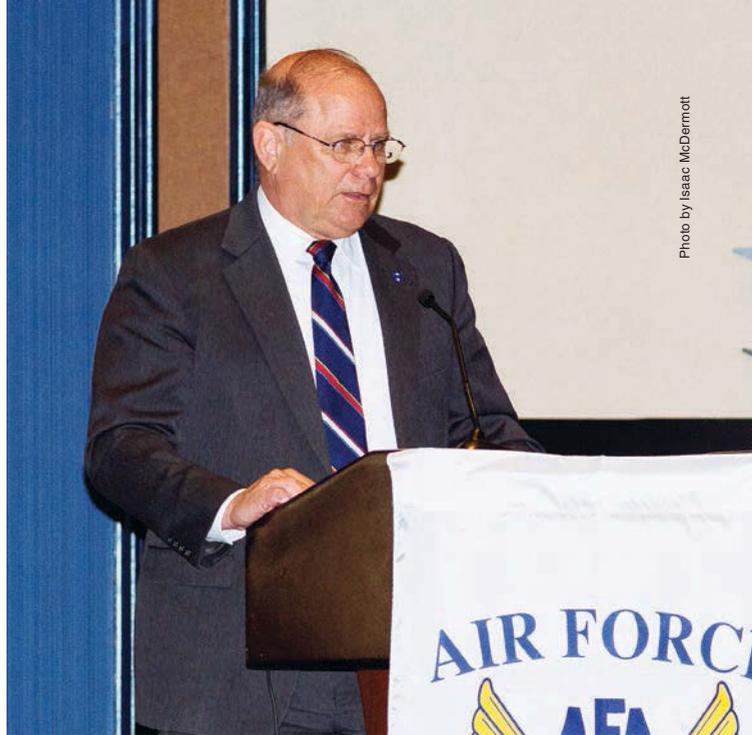


Photo by Isaac McDermott

AFA Chairman of the Board Scott Van Cleef delivers the keynote address at the 2015 Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings National Conclave in Chicago on April 4, 2015.

CHICAGOLAND-O'HARE CHAPTER SUPPORTS NATIONAL CONCLAVE

The Chicagoland-O'Hare Chapter helped support the Arnold Air Society & Silver Wings' 68th National Conclave in Chicago. AFA's Midwest Region and Illinois state organization also helped out, said AAS Executive Director Daniel P. Woodward.

Nearly a thousand AAS & SW members gathered at the Marriott hotel in downtown Chicago for the three-day event in early April. Award ceremonies, distinguished speaker forums, and panel sessions filled the agenda.

AFA Chairman of the Board Scott P. Van Cleef gave the keynote speech and Executive Vice President Mark A. Barrett spoke to the Silver Wings about airpower, said Lyndsey Akers, AFA's public relations manager. Akers spoke to attendees about the importance of public relations and public affairs. Vice Chairman for Field Operations David A. Dietsch also attended.

Speakers included Acting Undersecretary of the Air Force Lisa S. Disbrow; Gen. Paul J. Selva, head of US Transportation Command; Gen. Darren W. McDew, Air Mobility Command commander; Lt. Gen. Stephen W. "Seve" Wilson, head of Air Force Global Strike Command; and James H. Baker, strategist to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman.

As part of the conclave, a reception took place at Chicago's Field Museum where the US Air Force Band of Mid-America from Scott Air Force Base performed a mix of popular and patriotic music. ■

Photo by Deb Hess



Volunteers with the Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter take a break from setting up for the Summer Concert Series at the Air Force Memorial in June, which featured the USAF Band. Left to right: Chris Cordes, Kevin Lewis, Diane Lewis, Mike Connors, Rachel Samples, Jim Hannam, and Carla Porter.

STEELE CHAPTER HELPS WITH MEMORIAL'S SUMMER CONCERT

Volunteers from the Donald W. Steele Sr. Memorial Chapter in Alexandria, Va., came out to help Air Force Memorial staff prepare for one of the US Air Force Band's Summer Concert Series performances at the memorial in nearby Arlington.

They set up chairs, bleachers, and the gift shop table for the Friday evening concert and then sold gifts and helped tear down after the mid-June event, said Chapter President Kevin R. Lewis.

The evening featured the Airmen of Note, a component of the Air Force's premier jazz ensemble. They performed "some really great oldies from the late '30s and '40s," said Lewis.

The chapter volunteers got a treat before the concert when

they met and spoke with actor and writer Benjamin J. "Ben" Stein. He spoke at length with Lewis, along with Vietnam War veterans James Hannam, the chapter's vice president for leadership, and Michael Connors.

Stein later wrote about them in his column, "Ben Stein's Diary," for *The American Spectator*, stating "they were modest and cracking jokes about being hunted down by [surface-to-air missiles]. Wow, they're brave."

Air Force Memorial Managing Director Barbara S. Taylor said she was grateful for the chapter's invaluable assistance. ■

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PAUL REVERE CHAPTER SALUTES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Paul Revere Chapter in Bedford, Mass., held its annual Chief of Staff Scholarship Dinner in June at the Marriott hotel in nearby Burlington.

Chapter members honored five individuals during the evening's festivities. Lt. Gen. Christopher C. Bogdan, program executive officer for the F-35 Lightning II fighter, was guest speaker and helped Chapter President Paul F. Zauner recognize them.

Nicholas Giurleo, an incoming freshman at Tufts University in Medford, Mass., received the CSAF scholarship for \$5,000. He is a graduate of Medford High School and his "excellence is shown in every challenge that he undertakes," said Zauner. Giurleo plans to study pre-law.

The chapter awarded Stephen Brao the Col. "Chuck" Jones scholarship and a \$3,000 check. Brao recently graduated from Wachusett Regional High School, and is dedicated and determined, said Zauner. Brao will attend the Worcester Polytechnic Institute to study aeronautical engineering this fall.

Samuel Pridotkas took home the Brian Sweeney Award and a check for \$2,000. He also graduated from Wachusett Regional and was on the high school's varsity hockey team.

The Jones and Sweeney scholarships are named after two members of the Hanscom community who lost their lives in

the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Senior Airman Ashley E. Petrolini and TSgt. Orville J. Toller received the Louis Emond Scholarship. Petrolini is assigned to the 66th Medical Squadron at Hanscom Air Force Base and is pursuing a doctorate degree in clinical psychology while working full-time. Toller is a member of Hanscom's 319th Recruiting Squadron and recently got into a master's program in leadership and secondary education. Petrolini and Toller both received \$1,000.

Emond was a former AFA state president in both New Hampshire and North Carolina. He was a supportive member of the Paul Revere Chapter and constant advocate for female veterans and for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, said Zauner.

Chapter Vice President Jeff Katz, who was Bogdan's boss when they both worked at Hanscom in the late 1990s, reached out to the general, said Zauner. The chapter was looking "for innovative speakers to educate our audience," he said. Bogdan spoke about leading in the acquisition world. ■



Paul Revere Chapter VP Jeff Katz (left) laughs with his longtime pal, Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan, at the chapter's annual CSAF Scholarship Dinner.

USAF photo by Walter Santos

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CAPE FEAR CHAPTER RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING TEACHER



Photo by Sheila Lasley

Cape Fear Chapter President John Lasley presents Michael Kelly with his Certificate of Recognition as the Chapter's STEM Teacher of the Year.

Members of North Carolina's Cape Fear Chapter honored Michael Kelly, a local high school chemistry teacher, during the chapter's quarterly dinner in Wilmington.

The chapter presented Kelly, who teaches at Isaac Bear Early College High School, with its Teacher of the Year award and also recognized him as AFA's North Carolina State Teacher of the Year. North Carolina State President Lawrence L. Wells and his wife, Kathy, attended the event in early June.

In his acceptance speech, Kelly told the crowd of more than 30 of his love of teaching and thanked the people who have made an impact in his own life, said Chapter President John Lasley.

Kelly's "powerful instruction and deliberate personalization make him an elite teacher," said Isaac Bear Principal Philip Sutton in nominating him as the chapter's Teacher of the Year. "Our students want to learn from him. They want to please him because he believes in them. He treats students as if they are working on their degree in chemistry. He empowers them to think of themselves as scientists."

The chapter is "proud to be able to recognize the accomplishments of this outstanding teacher," said Lasley. ★

Index to Advertisers

Budget	30
High-G Technologies	27
Mercer	Cover II
MetLife	Cover III
USAA	Cover IV
AFA Benefits	3
AFA Membership	40
CyberPatriot	29
AFA Holiday Cards and Gifts	33
AFA Salutes MSgt. Kyle Bennett	21
AFA Planned Giving	28



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HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF AN AWARDS PRESENTATION

When Polly Morrisey presents an AFA award, she doesn't just hand it over and go home. Instead, she uses the event as an opportunity to promote AFA and the Gen. Bruce K. Holloway Chapter in Tennessee.

Morrisey, who's the chapter treasurer, recently attended four ceremonies in the space of a month. Here's what she can teach us about presenting AFA honors:

She steps up to the plate. There are many awards and often too few presenters. Morrisey volunteers to stand in for other AFA officials.

She has a contingency plan. At one ceremony, Morrisey learned at the last minute that the formal AFA award was actually slated for presentation at a later date. Unfazed, she pulled from her blazer pocket a medallion created by the Tennessee state AFA organization. This gave her the opening to talk about the association and to offer something in the absence of the usual certificate, plaque, or check.

She takes along AFA membership forms. Morrisey said that after presenting awards—including AFA applications that she personally paid for—she tells the AFJROTC cadets, "If you fill this out before I leave, you'll be the newest and youngest member at the chapter level." She said, "They just eat it up."

She follows through. Morrisey notes where recipients of prepaid memberships are seated and later makes her way over to them to ensure they complete the application.

She's also been known to keep in touch with awardees long after the ceremony. For example, she remains in contact with Emily Easterling, a high school junior when Morrisey presented her with an AFA AFJROTC cadet award and now a University of Tennessee AFROTC cadet. (See "Yes, I Know Polly,"



Photo by Nathan B. Weinbaum

See the AFA application Evan Roberts is holding? Morrisey presented it, along with Roberts' AFA AFJROTC award, at William Blount High School's dining-in in April. Roberts had no excuse for not joining AFA: Morrisey attached a pen to the application.

in "AFA National Report," *Air Force Magazine*, September 2012.)

Finally, Morrisey wears a blazer and AFA nametag to these events, giving a business look, a formal touch, as she represents the association.

Morrisey joined AFA in the mid-1970s and says she was probably the first female to serve as AFA Tennessee state president before she took a hiatus to travel. She returned to AFA activities in 2004 and has been working tirelessly at them ever since.

Her final bit of advice for awards presentations? "I always try to put a little humor in it," she said.

—Frances McKenney

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