

WMC Crossfeed

Air Force Association – Wright Memorial Chapter 212

Box 33604 • Dayton, Ohio 45433-0604

An information bulletin from the Wright Memorial Chapter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



KEN CURRELL

Does anyone remember who the “Red Stockings” were? If you’re thinking baseball, you’re on the right track. On October 6, 1880, the Red Stockings were kicked out of the National League for renting out their ballpark on Sundays and – dare I say it – selling beer during their games. But the team was adjusting to the changes in the air affecting those attending baseball games. Their

fan base was changing and the Red Stockings were changing with them. In some respects, things have not changed much in the 135 years since the Red Stockings’ departure from the National League; the external environment causes internal changes within organizations. Remarkably, the Red Stockings may have been on the leading edge of adjusting to external environment changes since 9 years after their departure, the Red Stockings were reinstated...still selling beer. Other than the time of Prohibition, beer has been a part of the Red Stockings [and their descendants, the Cincinnati Reds] since.

On October 6, 2015, I was privileged to have been elected President of the Wright Memorial Chapter 212. I assumed that position on the heels of my very successful predecessor, Tom Koogler, and am extremely grateful for all he did advancing the Chapter. There is good news in his departure--he is now the State President for AFA and no doubt will be equally successful.

Getting back to the Red Stockings and their changing...we all know the aphorism that change is the only constant in life. Napoleon once said, “One must change one’s tactic every 10 years if one wishes to maintain one’s superiority.” Suffice to say that change is inevitable and the frequency of our evaluating the impact of change is certainly much more frequent than Napoleon’s 10 years and, in the digital world of today, possibly more frequent than the 2 years Moore’s Law indicates. So, too, AFA finds that it must evaluate the impact of changes in its external environment and introspectively determine impacts on the health of our organization.

For the first time in decades, AFA finds its membership rolls across its 16 reporting regions less than 100,000 members, down from our high of 237,279 members in 1987. As of September 2015, AFA has 91,296 members. That represents a linear decline in AFA membership from our high to our present low. Our chapter is a microcosm of the larger AFA and, thus, we find our chapter losing ~100 members per year for the last 40 years. Total number of members isn’t the only significant change; sexagenarians will find themselves very comfortable with the AFA members on our rolls today, i.e., our membership is getting older. Reduced membership, and other impacts, affect our major sources of revenue, i.e., direct mail, donor giving and advertising, all of which are well off the desired mark. Once again our chapter is not unscathed by the downturns affecting AFA’s bottom line. We, too, have seen a significant decline in the Chapter’s revenue stream. So it’s time for us to take a look around, put our thinking caps on and generate ideas, energy and engagement to help AFA and our Chapter build a larger donor base and continue to build and rejuvenate our membership.

But I don’t believe change is the only constant in life. In my 23,000-plus days on earth, I’ve enjoyed knowing that the sun rises in the East and sets in the West. When I awaken tomorrow morning, I’m 100% assured the sun will once again rise in the East. I enjoy that same assurance from the support the Chapter receives from our Vice Presidents, who are:

Executive Vice President – Breck Woodard

Treasurer – Robert Van Hood

Secretary – Vita Eonta

Vice President Aerospace – Sharon Murner

Vice President AFJROTC/JROTC – Ken Curell

Vice President Communications – Tom Di Nino

Vice President Government Relations – Pam Strickler

Vice President Veteran Affairs – George Simons

Vice President Leadership Development – Ron Goerges

Vice President Membership – Richard Hughes

Vice President Community Partners – Fred Pumroy

Vice President Public Relations – Libby Van Hook

AFA's Team WPAFB Anniversary Ball Held at NMUSAF

Both past and present Air Force leaders were among more than 450 attendees at the Team Wright-Patterson Air Force Anniversary Ball, hosted by Air Force Association Wright Memorial Chapter 212. The ball was held Sept. 10, 2015 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The evening's theme was centered on those who served during the Vietnam conflict.

"There is no better place to celebrate the 68th anniversary of the Air Force than this museum," said Tom Koogler, AFA Wright Memorial Chapter 212 President, who led the festivities. Koogler welcomed AF Leadership, community leaders and elected officials for their continued support of WPAFB and AFA.

The evening kicked off with a social that included a silent auction, raising more than \$3,300 for the Air Force Aid Society. Col. John Devillier, 88th Air Base Wing commander, spoke about the experiences of Vietnam Veterans, including his own father, returning home from the Vietnam.

During the evening, AFA Association annual awards were presented:

Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger (USAF Ret.) and former commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, received the Heritage Award. Wolfenbarger was cited for authorized and directed groundbreaking initiatives, revolutionizing how the USAF and AFMC will conduct business for years to come.

Mr. Phillip L. Parker, president and chief executive officer of the regional Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, received the Ambassador Award. While Parker's personal and professional accomplishments are numerous, his dedication to the men and women who serve at WPAFB is distinguished.

Mr. John Griffin, SES, (USAF Ret.) received the Legacy Award. Griffin served in a diverse spectrum of capacities and special assignments on all types of aircraft, including bombers, fighters, cargo, tankers, helicopters and spacecraft. As an officer, Communications Director, and Member of the subcommittee of the Dayton Development Coalition, partnering volunteers from WPAFB workforce with non-profit organization's Board of Directors, he has dedicated his life and career in service to the mission of WPAFB, the Air Force, the defense industrial base, and the greater Dayton community.

SMSGT (USAF Ret.) Christopher P.Z. Stanley received the Enlisted Award. Stanley served for 24 years before retiring as the First Sergeant for the 74th Medical Operations Squadron. Stanley serves tirelessly as the

face of WPAFB's Fisher/Nightingale Houses, Inc., serving as Executive Director. He has led the efforts of raising in excess of \$4.7M in support of the houses, and recently announced a third house for the Dayton area.

Many AFA Star sponsors were in attendance, representing their corporations that provide financial support for AFA programs. This year many added a True Blue designation paying for airmen who have deployed to attend the ball as honored guests.

"There are three words used to describe the AFA Mission...educate, advocate and support," Koogler said while closing the evening. "Our Chapter is consistently exceeds these goals in all three of these areas."

A few of the programs AFA Chapter 212 supports include Heroes Welcoming Heroes, Hearts Together, WPAFB quarterly and annual awards, CyberPatriot, educator workshops, Veterans Administration activities and the annual Air Force Marathon.

Coffee Contribution to the Veteran's Facility in Dayton



The Wright Memorial Chapter sponsored a very successful coffee collection early in November. The objective was to provide the Veteran's facility in Dayton an inventory of coffee for the veterans frequenting the VA facility. Coffee is a highly-prized element of the VA's customer service experience while visiting or staying at the VA facility. The Chapter managed to collect a large number of coffee cans to include the cadets of the Tecumseh AFJROTC providing approximately 10 large cans of coffee. In the picture, Major Doug Couch, USAF (ret), Cadet Lt Colonel Jack Dague and Cadet Col Caleb Linde (l to r) show off some of their inventory brought to the Chapter for distribution at the VA facility.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TOM KOOGLER

Outgoing Message:

Time seems to fly by and it's hard to believe that my two-year term as the Wright Memorial Chapter 212 president has already ended. It was truly an honor and pleasure to serve in this capacity for your chapter. Shiela Wallace and the previous Chapter Presidents have continued to guide this Chapter and

leave it in great shape for the incoming President. My goal was to continue this tradition and leave your new Chapter President, Ken Curell, Executive Vice President, Breck Woodward, and all the Chapter's leadership with an even better organization. I wish them all the best in the future.

Words can't express how much I appreciate all the support we receive. Whether it was from WPAFB leadership, our sponsors, our elected officials and their staffs, other organizations/associations, community leadership, ROTC and JRTOC units, our Chapter's leadership, our members, and many others, they were always there!!

As I transition to serve as the president of the AF Association State of Ohio, I realize even more how fortunate our Chapter is. The relationship that we have with WPAFB leadership and its workforce is tremendous and is invaluable to the Chapter's success. Thanks to the generosity of our Star Sponsors, Community Partners and members, we are able to provide support to WPAFB, our veterans, ROTC Detachment 643, several AFJROTC in the area and our community that other Chapters can't imagine!

The efforts of your Chapter Vice Presidents, other officers, and volunteers are amazing. I can't thank them enough for guiding me and the Chapter during the last two years and for all the volunteer hours they donated. I want to especially thank our Executive Committee, Ken Curell, Vita Eonta, Bob Van Hook and Ev Odgers, for all their council, recommendations and most importantly their friendship. It truly has been my honor to represent this great organization and I look forward to continuing working with you as the new State of Ohio AF A president.

Recap since last Crossfeed issue:

Here are a few of the highlights that your Chapter was involved with since our last Crossfeed issue. Some are covered in more detail in this issue and you

can also see additional information on the Chapter's website, especially in the minutes of the Chapter's Monthly Meetings.

The Chapter helped recognize all nine categories in the Team Wright Patterson (TWP) Quarterly Awards program where second and third quarter winners were recognized, attended the Dayton Region Military Collaboration Reception, attended and help sponsor VA events, attended TWP's Mayors and Managers Dinner and other events on Wright Patterson AFB, supported the Arnold Air Society's fundraiser and much more.

In August, several members traveled to Indianapolis to attend the AFA Great Lakes Region's Annual meeting. Paul Lyons, the GLR president, did a great job in leading this informational meeting that was hosted by the AFA State of Indiana and Indianapolis Chapter. Next year's GLR Annual Meeting is planned for 26/27 Aug 2016 and will be held here. Watch for additional information on the 2016 AFA Great Lakes Region's Annual Meeting.

Again this year, our Chapter supported the Team Wright Patterson AF Anniversary Ball. Thanks to our True Blue Star Sponsors, we were able to provide free tickets to members of TWP. We formally presented our four prestigious annual awards and support the AF Aid Society with the proceeds from our Silent Auction. This year annual award winners were: Heritage Award – General (USAF, retired) Janet Wolfenbarger; Ambassador Award – Phil Parker; Legacy Award – John Griffin; Enlisted Award – SMSgt (USAF, retired) Chris Stanley. Plaques recognizing these individuals along with the 12 Outstanding Airmen are on display at the National Museum of the USAF. We'd also like to thank our silent auction donors and the AF ROTC Detachment 643, the Arnold Air Society & Silver Wings members who helped out with the Silent Auction. The proceeds of over \$3500 were presented to the Col (USAF, Ret.) Linda Egentowich, AFAS Chief Operating Officer. The latest issue of AFA's Air Force magazine has a short write up of this event.

Several Chapter members attended AFA National Convention which was held in National Harbor MD on 12/13 Sep. Where they heard from AFA National senior leaders including the new President, General (retired) Larry Spencer, and several committee updates. During this year's election, Scott Van Cleef was re-elected as the Chairman of the Board. Other results were: Vice Chairman, Field Operations – Dave Dietsch; Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education – Richard Bundy; Secretary – Tim Brock; Treasure – Nora Ruebrook; National . . .

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

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This is hardly the whole team who make our Chapter the state leader in carrying out AFA's goals and objectives. We have more volunteers who graciously give of their time and themselves as Chairs and Members on different Chapter Committees. The next time we talk, I'll highlight them.

For now I ask you to join me in our collective efforts to spread the success of our Chapter beyond our Chapter meetings; let those with whom you work or socialize know the value AFA brings to the community and our Air Force. Finally, remember to encourage a friend, family member, or co-worker to join AFA. Our membership is open to all who are interested in supporting the Air Force and aerospace power. On average our Chapter loses 100 members annually and if every member recruits ONE new member, we will end that perennial loss and make AFA a community advocate unrivaled by any other local organization.

Thank you for your service,
Warm Regards, **Ken**

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

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Director at Large – Chuck Helfebower & Gene Santarelli; National Director, Central Area (includes GLR) – Thomas Gwlatnew; National Director, West Area – Joan Sell. The awards dinner on Saturday night was another very well done event and the Wreath Laying Ceremony on Sunday morning at the AF Memorial was very emotional. This is also a good time to recognize the outstanding support we receive from AFA National's staff, especially from the Field Operations organization. AFA National's website has a wealth of information including presentations from the AFA National Convention and State/Region Presidents Meeting in Oct. These presentations are located in the lower right hand corner of the Field Leaders section, which is open to all.

The Chapter sponsored a hydration station at this year AF Marathon. Thanks to Ev and Lynn Odgers who led the effort, along with several TWP Company Grade Officer's Council and over 70 Bellbrook High School JROTC cadets who volunteered and helped out with it. Tecumseh High School JROTC cadets assisted with all the runners' baggage during check in and other Chapter members helped out in various ways.

Nationally, AFA's Cyber Patriot is having a banner year with a record number of teams at both the middle school and high school levels. Thanks to the efforts of some of our local teachers and the TWP Company Grade Officers Council, there are over 30 teams in the local area this year. We wish all of our local teams the best of luck this year. Just a reminder about AFA's new Cyber Patriot Elementary School Cyber

Education Initiative (ESCEI) that offers educational cyber protection discs to elementary schools. Visit the Cyber Patriot home page for additional information including how to order an ECSEI kit.

Closing:

Pat and I wish you and yours a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season!
– V/R, **Tom**



*C/3C Joshua Hefner (left)
C/3C Kevin Scanlan (right)*

On 05 September, Arnold Air Society's Wilbur and Orville Wright Squadron hosted a ruck march in commemoration of World War II veterans. The ruck was called "The Spirit of '45," because this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The cadets rucked seven miles around the outskirts of the Mall at Fairfield Commons, crossing over the new pedestrian bridge, and around the campus of Wright State University. All cadets from Air Force ROTC Detachment 643 were invited to attend the ruck, with an overall outcome of 15 cadets.

Organization and planning for this ruck began back in April, during this year's NATCON. There, it was resolved that the Joint National Project, the project which both Silver Wings and Arnold Air Society strive to dedicate volunteer hours to, would be "Spirit of '45." This was chosen so cadets would have the opportunity to recognize and connect with those from the Greatest Generation. As cadets walked down the streets bearing the American and POW-MIA flags, cars honked and onlookers hooted and hollered. The Wilbur and Orville Wright Deputy Squadron Commander, Sarah Guzowski concludes, "Those who participated in the ruck carried our country's flag knowing that it flies because of those who have fought to protect our country."

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