

# AFA Gerrity Chapter

## ***Brag Rag***

*As of 7/21/10*

The Brag Rag is where the Gerrity Chapter documents all of its accomplishment....big and small for the previous 12 months.

(Please submit all inputs to Jerry McMahan at [jerry.mcmahan@emc-inc.com](mailto:jerry.mcmahan@emc-inc.com))

## **KEY DATEs AHEAD—Mark your calendar:**

- ✓ **30 July 2010 -- Annual AFA Golf tournament**
- ✓ **12 Aug 2010- - Lunch – 507th Air Refueling Wing – Mission Brief**

**AFA STATE CONVENTION, 9-10 JULY 2010.** The Oklahoma State Convention was held this year at Altus AFB, OK. Riq Baldwin did an outstanding job as host. Attending from our Gerrity Chapter were, Major General Bowden (USAF Ret), Mark Tarpley, Jerry McMahan, and Jim Diehl (Jim is also the state AFA president). Specific meeting highlights follow:

- ✓ **AFA Oklahoma President's Report.** Jim Diehl, Oklahoma AFA State President, gave a brief report on where we are as part of Texoma Region and compared to AFA National demographics. The good news is an Oklahoma Chapter has won national chapter of the year for 3 of the last 5 years. And further good news is that Altus was the winner for this year's national award for a "medium size chapter". Others receiving National Recognition in 2010 include Riq Baldwin, Altus President and Dr. McMahan, our Gerrity Chapter President who Jim Diehl announced as winning the AFA National Medal of Merit. Enid also received special recognition from Jim as they have 280 community partners—the largest number of community partners based on the chapter's size/local demographics of any chapter in AFA. They have set a blistering standard of excellence.
- ✓ **Chapter Reports:** Dr. McMahan gave a brief rundown of all that was happening with Gerrity Chapter including our work with the Mentors, Cyber Patriot, Phase II of the Tuskegee Airman Statue (now starting), Back The Blue Initiative, and our support to JROTC and the Battle Managers' Award. His counterparts from Enid and Altus gave their reports too. Tulsa President was not able to attend, but Dave Blankenship gave a brief rundown of how they are rebuilding their chapter. A key initiative originating with Tulsa is the Spartan Scholarship which is available to all AFA Chapters/member dependents and CAP Members. It is a rather sizable scholarship that Spartan provides.

**Note: *SPARTAN HAS SET UP THEIR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR AFA NATIONAL TO MAKE THE SELECTIONS***

- ✓ **Build Chapter Report:** Riq Baldwin went over the slides for methods to employ in building a chapter. A productive dialogue among those present followed. Key areas to consider is focus your effort—education is a great place to start, Don't ignore CAP—they have a natural tendency to join AFA if presented properly to their leadership/membership. Involve JROTC and CAP in Cyber Patriot—another means to attract new members. Make your chapter meaningful: Programs to support Veterans, CAP, JROTC, local bases, and other community needs will generate interest in the chapter and help generate new membership.
- ✓ **501 (3) (c) Tax Free:** Riq gave a rundown of the issues in keeping an AFA Chapter's tax exempt status. Basically, it hinges on not becoming a lobby. We advocate, educate, and support airpower—we do not lobby. Nor do we campaign for or endorse a candidate for public office. That takes you over the line if you do. Keeping accurate records. Keep education separate from other items—make sure your financial report matches your chapter report. Anything over \$250 requires a receipt and be sure and deduct "fair

market value” for contributions in kind. Finally, make sure to do your annual filing with IRS—“990-N e.” Those are all keys to success in maintaining your tax exempt status.

✓ **Awards:** Riq Baldwin briefed some pointers on getting more awards for your chapter. Obviously you have to submit. Another key is to organize the award—what is it for; did you answer the mail with your submission? Finally, is to make sure you follow the correct format. According to some of the feedback I got later, this year our Gerrity Chapter awards probably suffered because we had a breakdown in that area, not following the format—a mistake we won’t make in the future. Riq also sent out the call for awards (notional version) for 2011 awards. That will help us get ahead of the process. We as a chapter now have two new Awards leads – Dr Les Nunn and Lt Jaime Samson and we are fully committed to increasing the number of awards we receive to properly recognize the valuable contributions and efforts of our members. This will be an area of special emphasis for 2011.

✓ **Chapter of the Year:** Riq briefed his award package—what won Altus the Chapter of the Year for 2010. Their work in Veterans Affairs was one of their hallmark programs—they collect and distribute about \$6,000 to the veterans in their area. Another one was AES—they stay involved with education and finally, they were involved with Armed Forces Day also which helped quite a bit. Need a good news letter—that helps get the word out about your chapter. And sending them out by anything but email is simply a waste.

✓ **Cyber Patriot:** Mark Tarpley brief the status of the upcoming Cyber Patriot III competition. Cyber Patriot is an AFA organized nationwide Cyber Security competition for High School Students. This competition had grown over the last three year from under 100 teams to this year with over 1,000 teams, hopefully teams with from every state. Oklahoma has not had a team in the competition before and the state AFA Chapters are focused on having competitive Oklahoma teams in the event. Teams can be in two divisions. One from JROTC and Civil Air Patrol units and another division that is open to any high school team. Rose St College in Midwest City, a nationally recognized center of excellence for Cyber Security training, has offered to provide additional training for team coaches and mentors. The teams register, organize, and train in August and September and the competition begins is October. Winners gain trips to Orlando for a Semi-Finals competition and Washington DC for the Finals and designation of the national champion. AFA members and Community Partners can assist through mentoring and coaching and helping teams pay the \$350 registration fee. Brig Gen Dave Wagie (USAF Ret) has the lead in the state for organizing the Cyber Patriot III effort. The good news is that he has made a great deal of progress. The challenge is that we have a very short time to prepare for the competition. I’m sure we’ll all hear more about Cyber Patriot in the weeks ahead. Please get in touch with him at him at [WAGIEDA@AOL.COM](mailto:WAGIEDA@AOL.COM) if you want to help with or have a student who is interested in competing in Cyber Patriot. It is a great opportunity.

✓ **Other Matters:** We also had an open forum with discussion on how to attract more under 40-year old membership. The key seems to be to provide a service they want. There is plenty of competition for their time and money. AFA National participation was also discussed with Gerrity sending Maj Gen Bowden (USAF Ret), Mark Tarpley, and Jim Diehl—initially Deborah Bates was going but she has a conflict with the schedule.

✓ **Awards Banquet:** That evening we attended the State Awards Banquet. Colonel Stuart J. Shaw, Vice Commander of the 97<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing was the keynote speaker. His speech on leadership was right on—there is a responsibility with leadership. Tend to that and foremost is taking care of your people. Gerrity Chapter won Civilian Technician of the Year for Oklahoma. Congratulations to Shelly R. Ashworth, Civilian Technician of the year—way to go Shelly; you have an impressive award package!

Remember we have a golf tournament coming up on 30 July—still have time to participate/sponsor a hole. Get in touch with Rick Pena [rick.pena@cox.net](mailto:rick.pena@cox.net) or Sam Anderson [Samuel.anderson@pw.utc.com](mailto:Samuel.anderson@pw.utc.com) if you choose to do so. Hope to see some of you ball strikers out there enjoying the occasion.

**JULY MONTHLY MEETING:** Team, we had our monthly meeting at Santa Fe on Tuesday.

Some highlights follow:

- ✓ **Golf Tournament:** 30 July 11:30 meal, 12:30 shotgun start, Tinker Golf Course: We have just over 100 players signed up and we anticipate filling the rest of the remaining positions. We still need some small prizes for a few of the holes. So if any of you want to sponsor a hole or just provide a prize, please get in touch with either Rick Pena at [rick.pena@cox.net](mailto:rick.pena@cox.net) or Sam Anderson [Samuel.anderson@pw.utc.com](mailto:Samuel.anderson@pw.utc.com) This is your opportunity to support our largest educational fund raiser for the year. And play a round of golf—not bad, not bad at all! Get with Rick or Sam if you are interested—hit'm long and hit'm straight! See you on the course.
- ✓ **New Awards Project Officer:** We now have a replacement for Colonel Keith Weyenberg. Lt Jaime Samson stepped up to the plate to take this one on. I'm sure he will do well. What a great way to serve your fellow airmen, AFA, and the Gerrity Chapter. Lt Samson will take care of the on-base awards and Les Nunn will take care of the others—we now have a great awards team in place: Sic'm bull dog! We're going after some state/national level recognition for 2011. We probably need to do some preliminary work now and to get up to speed on the process, I expect Les will be getting in touch with Riq Baldwin, General Bowden and Shelia Jones and so too will Lt Samson—and add Col Weyenberg to Lt Samson's list.
- ✓ **Latte Lounge:** Col Foote (USAF, Ret) briefed our help with the Latte Lounge. We still need volunteers to assist in staffing the process. The last two months we've had over 500 airmen participate in the lounge each month—another great opportunity to serve.
- ✓ **Air Show:** Great job, team. Marc Howard was our highly successful project office. We put on a good show with our booth. Special thanks for those who manned the booth: Major General Bowden (USAF, Ret), Jim Putnam, Deborah Bates, Lt Erin Fredricks, Mark Tarpley, Les Nunn, Rick Bushelman, Sandra Mayo, Rick Pena, and James Biegler. Lesson learned—next year there will be more push toward AFA awareness/recruiting and less on selling items to defer costs.
- ✓ **Cyber Patriot:** Dr. Dave Wagie (Brig Gen, USAF, Ret) gave us a good run down on the new AFA Initiative. We also had a special guest Stan Griel, Vice President at Rose State College there to also brief Cyber Patriot. The key to winning this will be some up front preparation. With the 3<sup>rd</sup> Herd, 38<sup>th</sup>, DISA, AWACs wing, and host of other IT types—contractors, students, and a robust AFCEA membership—(like me, some of you belong to AFA and AFCEA) in our area we can surely field some high-quality teams. Entry fee for a team is \$350 but that gives you some great software—for your 5 team members (and their backups) also if they win locally they will have a free trip to the next level of competition in Orlando, FL—what an opportunity. Winning this thing out right would be quite an accomplishment—but we do have a strong advantage. Rose State is a premier school for cyber security and they will teach the mentors—what a deal for some who want to polish their cyber skills and mentor our next generation of cyber patriots!
- ✓ **State Convention:** General Bowden (USAF Ret) and Mark Tarpley (Col, USAF Ret) provided an over view of the State Convention. Basically, Riq Baldwin (my counterpart at Altus) did a fantastic job running the convention. It was well thought out and very well run. I'll cover some of the specifics in more detail via a separate email to the membership.
- ✓ **State Award Winner:** Congratulations to Shelly R. Ashworth, Civilian Technician of the year—way to go Shelly; you have an impressive award package! The actual award will be presented to Shelly at an appropriate time/place.
- ✓ **Community Partners – Next Luncheon:** Our next Community Partners luncheon is with the 507<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing at the **Tinker Club 12 Aug 2010**. Hope to see you there.
- ✓ **Monthly Chapter Meeting Location:** With the use of the room, Santa Fe is a great location. We'll try to negotiate with them on the price—right now it is lower than most, but

can still be improved. And we do have the room for our meetings through the rest of the year.  
Hope to see some of you at the upcoming golf tournament and at the Community Partners Luncheon. It is your chapter—let's get involved and support it.

Regards,

*Jerry Mc*



Dr. Jerry McMahan  
President, AFA, Gerrity Chapter

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**JUNE MONTHLY REVIEW:** Team, many of you are aware of our next big events, AFA State Convention, Our Monthly Meeting, 13 July at Santa Fe, and our Gerrity Chapter Golf tournament 30 July—a busy time ahead.

#### Upcoming Events:

- **AFA State Convention in Altus, OK.** It starts Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> with a golf tournament and also there is an opportunity to fly on a C-17. Need to be there by 12:30 to participate in the flight. The golf t-time is early Friday AM. Suggest you register this week if you can. The cut off for registration though is 5 July. A registration form is attached for your use if you are able to attend. It should be fun to attend and flying on a C-17 should also be an adventure. There is also a wine tasting social and a banquet. Please see the attached registration form for the details. Several of our Chapter leadership is planning to attend. Need to get a head count to Club Altus for the Banquet on 5 July, registration sheets have to be in to [gary.beach@midfirst.com](mailto:gary.beach@midfirst.com) by 0900, 5 Jul. The registration form is attached for your use.
- **July Monthly Meeting—13 July 2010:** We're still working on the agenda for the meeting but some of the areas we will discuss is the need to staff two key positions: someone to build our monthly news letter and someone to run our on-base awards program. So all you budding writers out there or those who like to see top notch talent recognized—step up to the plate: your Gerrity Chapter can use your help! Two other items we intend to discuss include the new Cyber Patriot program and the possibility of moving our monthly meeting to a different location. Hopefully by then we'll have had time to generate some ideas for the members to consider. So plan on being there if you can. Beer, soft drinks, tea, coffee and all the peanuts you could possibly consume will be provided at no cost to you. Hope you can make it!
- **Gerrity Golf Tournament.** Our annual golf tournament is scheduled for 30 Jul. We still need some sponsors and we can always use some more players. Getting out on Friday—chasing that little round ball around Tinker's course, sure

is better than working! We also have some impressive prizes to award. Please let Rick Pena at [rick.pena@cox.net](mailto:rick.pena@cox.net) know if you can play or want to sponsor a hole or one of the prizes. A flyer giving more details on the event is attached.

**Special recognition:**

• **Air Show.** Special thanks to those who helped with the air show. Marc Howard did an excellent job organizing the event—way to go Marc! We also had strong support from Mark Tarpley, Deborah Bates, Jim Putnam, Rick Buschelman, Jim Biegler and Generals Bowden and Wagie. Lieutenants Fredricks and Samson manned the booth and helped increase awareness of our support to the Air Force Community and attract new members. A special thanks to those who really leaned in to helping us get the word out on AFA at our booth and we also were able to sell a few items to defer the costs. The breakfast before the show we sponsored for the Air Crew Briefings was well received—free food usually is even early in the day. And our chapter/AFA got formally recognized for their role in making it happen. Those who braved the heat and staffed our AFA booth include:

- **Maj Gen Bowden (USAF, Ret)**
- **Jim Putnam**
- **Rick Bushelman**
- **Mark Tarpley**
- **Deborah Bates**
- **Lt Erin Fredricks and Lt Jamie Samson**
- **Les Nunn**
- **James Biegler**
- **Rick Pena**
- **Sandra Mayo**

• **Awards Breakfast.** We had a fantastic time presenting AFA awards to the base winners. Col Keith Weyenberg was our project officer for this event. And he did a magnificent job putting a delightful award ceremony together. We are all honored to be among such an outstanding group as those awardees we were able to share the moment with at the breakfast. As Col Weyenberg is about to retire from active duty, we sorely need someone to step up who has that kind of background. Being an active duty member is a key success criteria in running the awards program as they understand the ins and outs of the current award environment along with any subtle mission changes that have occurred since guys like me were on active duty—no, I didn't have a silk scarf flying in the wind off my biplane—I'm not that old, yet!

**Have a great holiday weekend:**

Have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July – a day to celebrate our nation's independence. Please take a moment during the holiday to pause and remember those on active duty and currently deployed

overseas protecting the freedom and independence this holiday celebrates. Be careful and hope to see all of you at the upcoming events we have planned for what looks like a busy July.

***Educate, Advocate, and Support Airpower!***

## **June 2010**

### **Monthly Meeting**

Members, we had a really exciting chapter meeting; wish you could have been there. Some highlights needing action follow:

- (1) 10 June 11:30 Tinker Club. Attendance at the Community Partner's luncheon tomorrow needs a push. If you can possibly attend, please do so. I know it is summer and all that, but this is a really good event to attend. We're going to also recognize some of those who made the key contribution to the mission's success as well as hear an informative briefing from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Herd CC (3<sup>rd</sup> CCG) about their experience doing relief work in Haiti. Nancy is waiting on you to make your reservation. Her email is [nbolinger@nciinc.com](mailto:nbolinger@nciinc.com). Let's make it happen!
- (2) 19-20 June. Air Show—Marc has 8 volunteers to man the AFA booth—we need about 16 to do it well. Please email Mark Tarpley or me if you can volunteer for a shift. Mark's email is [mark.l.tarpley@gmail.com](mailto:mark.l.tarpley@gmail.com). Two hours at the air show—now really is that all that hard to do? Looking to hear from some of you soon.
- (3) Awards breakfast—is scheduled for 07:30 Tinker Club 15 June. Let's get out and support our awardees!
- (4) AFA Golf Tournament. 30 July is not that far away. So if you haven't signed up, please do so. We're all looking for more sponsors and volunteers to help with the event. That money goes to our education fund so help if you can. And playing golf—even in July—now how hard can that be? It will be a fun time. Rick Pena is the point of contact for the tournament; his email is [rick.pena@cox.net](mailto:rick.pena@cox.net). Get with him if you would like to participate. There is plenty to do and I'm sure he can use your help.

General points follow:

- ✓ Chief Rod McKinley was there and gave us some encouragement. He said our push to get more young members is vital. That is also a focus at national and depending upon who the new national leadership is; it will become even more important. Many of you know him; for those who don't he's the former Chief Master Sergeant of the USAF and a current member of AFA National's leadership cadre. His top level experience and insight is awesome. He's also a really nice guy to get to know. See what you missed by not attending!
- ✓ Dr. Les Nunn was there and we introduced him as our new awards action officer. Believe he will do a fine job. Under his fine leadership, I'm sure he can improve that area for our chapter. And his legal training/being a professor makes me think he has some very good writing skills.
- ✓ Gus Mays, Chairman of the Tuskegee Airman Chapter briefed us that Phase II of the statue is about to kick off—more to come on that over the next few months.

Overall, it was a very good meeting—try to make the next one if you can.

We have the registration form now available to register to attend the AFA State Convention 9-11 July at Altus. Please fill it out and get it to Gary Beach (his email address is below). Hope to see many of you there.

Here are some important items to consider for your attendance at AFA-Oklahoma, 2010.

1. The AFA group rate for the hotel expires 25 Jun...please call in your reservation before then. Phone number/location is on the application.
2. Need to get a head count to Club Altus for the Banquet on 5 July, registration sheets have to be in to [gary.beach@midfirst.com](mailto:gary.beach@midfirst.com) by 0900, 5 Jul.

## **Mentoring Program**

Mr. Mark Tarpley, AFA Gerrity Chapter Vice President, and Dr Randy Allford successfully led the sponsorship of the Oklahoma Aerospace mentor recruit effort. Their hands-on leadership ensured an unprecedented mentor recruiting success this year, resulting in a total of 72 mentors being signed-up for the program! Through the AFA team effort, which consisted of people from Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, PDC Productions, Winner's Circle Inc. and Booz Allen Hamilton, 72 mentor volunteers were subsequently matched to teachers all around Oklahoma to thus ensure that lives of hundreds of students will be changed for the better starting this year! Through anticipated subsequent teacher/mentor efforts this next school year, Oklahoma students will indeed be the prime benefactors of Oklahoma aerospace business experience represented by the full spectrum of the industry in every Science, Technology, Engineering and math (STEM) discipline on both the government and commercial side of the business. To get the program off to the right start, 64 of those mentor volunteers were also encouraged by Mr. Tarpley and team to find the time in their busy schedules to personally attend the recently completed Oklahoma Aerospace Summit, Mentor Breakout sessions, Tinker AFB Reception and the Education and Training Day at the Oklahoma School of Science and Math (OSSM). Most importantly, Mr. Tarpley and team facilitated the connection of mentor to teacher for the first time so that they could begin early and essential planning of their strategies for the fall semester. The most important result of this effort is that Oklahoma now has volunteers willing to bring aerospace workforce realities into the classroom and thus help plant the seeds for success in the next generation aerospace workforce.

## **Community Partners Luncheon**

Community Partners Luncheon was held on 10 June at the Tinker Club. The briefing was about our very own relief effort to Haiti which Tinker AFB troops deployed to work. We've had many briefings in the past about combat capability, our efforts in the war on terror and things of that nature. Believe it is time for us to learn more about our humanitarian relief efforts. Some of you may know this, but in case you don't, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere; it ranks 149<sup>th</sup> of the 182 recognized nations. And when a disaster of the a magnitude 7 earth quake with 52 aftershocks hit, you probably cannot imagine the devastation. It affected 3,000,000 people; left 1,000,000 people homeless; and injured 300,000. Joining us at the club on were some of Lt Col (Sel) Kenneth Bratland's best troops. The chapter invited them to attend on the chapter and at the conclusion of their commander's briefing, Chief Master Sergeant of the USAF (Ret) Rod McKinley and Dr. McMahan presented each a Gerrity Chapter coin in honor of their contribution to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Herd Mission. The list of honorees follows:

- ✓ Amn Andrew McLaine
- ✓ AIC Seth Richmond
- ✓ AIC Kelsey Gordon
- ✓ AIC Mark Quinlan
- ✓ AIC Nash
- ✓ SrA Corry McCormick
- ✓ SSgt Justin Brassel

Dr. McMahan also presented Ms Marti Ribeiro a Gerrity Chapter coin and a special gift for her contribution to AFA, our local Chapter, and to the Community Partners since 2007. Unfortunately, Marti has to cut back on her AFA activities as home commitments—she is engaged to soon be married, pursuing a master's degree, and working two full time jobs are taking their toll. We look forward to working with Marti again when things are more manageable in her life. She is a real asset!

## **May 2010**

### **President's Email – Memorial Day**

First, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day. Some of you may be on the road already and I'm sure some are headed out tomorrow to get ahead of the crowd. Just keep in mind what the holiday is all about. We should all pause for a few minutes to recall those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our way of life. Since the civil war, my own family has had loved ones who didn't make it home (great, great, great grandfather and several cousins in the civil war, a great uncle in World War I, and several cousins in World War II—thankfully we didn't lose anyone since Korea). Also watch what you do during the festivities or on your way/to and from them to remain safe—we want all of you back after the big event.

Second, we are still in need of volunteers for the Air Show coming up the 19-20<sup>th</sup> of June. Marc Howard is our project officer for this event. His email is [marc.howard.ctr@tinker.af.mil](mailto:marc.howard.ctr@tinker.af.mil). Please get in touch with him if you can take a shift manning our AFA Gerrity Chapter booth. It should be fun and the Thunderbirds—well it just doesn't get any better than that! Makes me want to break out in song: “*Off we go into the wild blue yonder . . .*” Believe you get the idea.

Finally, congratulations to our own Vice President of Membership, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Cheryl Steiner. She is now a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt! And that's just one of many promotions in her future. Way to go, Lt Steiner!

And to every one -- **be safe!**

Regards,

*Jerry Mc*



Dr. Jerry McMahan  
President, AFA, Gerrity Chapter

### **AFA Community Partner Luncheon**

Community Partners and AFA members are invited to join the Gerrity Chapter June 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 for lunch at the Tinker Club.

Maj Kenneth Bratland, 32 CBCS, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communication Squadron deployment commander, will share information about their recent deployments to Haiti in the humanitarian effort to assist those devastated by the recent earthquakes.

**Pitsenbarger Award:** On 4 May 2010, Dr. McMahan, AFA Gerrity Chapter President, represented the AFA at the local Community College of the Air Force Graduation where he presented three Pitsenbarger award scholarships. AFA was given the place of honor in the graduation ceremony as our scholarships were the highest dollar amount given. There were 299 CCAF graduates.

**Back The Blue:** Team, some of you may recall that when I took over the chapter presidency, one of the goals we developed was to make the chapter bluer. To do that we need to get the word out about our chapter and what we do for today's warfighter. Next week, we will host our first of what I hope will become an annual event to honor those who are serving today.

So we need some help getting the word out about our Back the Blue social next week. We're scheduled to host current active duty Air Force Airmen at the Tinker Club starting at 5 PM on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. This is a great opportunity for you to tell some active duty person about the event and also a chance to talk up the chapter & AFA. This event is similar to what we do for the community partners at Old Germany in the fall. Our basic purpose is two fold: honor them for what they do supporting airpower and help them get to know about what AFA does for

them/invite them to participate if they wish—it is not a hard sell by any means. It is just the opposite—an opportunity to get to know about the chapter.

So if you know any active duty Air Force Airmen—and I also mean guard and reserve too, please let them know about the upcoming event. Thanks for your help. Let's make this another success story.

**Latte Lounge:** Wayne Foote has really stepped in to help the Chapel keep this program going.

**Community Service:** Our own, Major General William Bowden served as the Parade Marshall/Master of Ceremonies at Del City, Oklahoma's Armed Forces Day Parade 15 May 2010.

**Monthly Meeting:** Team, we had a great monthly meeting at Santa Fe on Tuesday. It was near record attendance. Some of the key things we went over include the latest on our work supporting the Latte Lounge. Wayne Foote has done a great job leading that effort. If you want to get involved then give him a call or just let me know and I'll get you with him. The Air Show planning is progressing nicely. Marc Howard has taken the bull by the horns on this one. We still need some volunteers to man some of the shifts, but he is making progress. Our Mentor program is also working quite well. Mark Tarpley said that we now have 70 volunteer mentors throughout the state—many of them from our chapter—willing to assist teachers in developing information about airpower and science and technology. Jim Putnam is now back in country and has worked the STEM part of that diligently—way to go Jim. We also learned that our golf tournament is on schedule. Play will be 30 July. We still need some corporate sponsorship, but Rick Pena is making good headway with that, assisted by Sam Anderson. We gave a round of applause to Lt Cheryl Steiner, who just returned from Iraq—way to go Cheryl. Special thanks to Col Keith Weyenberg. He has done a fantastic job keeping our awards program on track. Alas, he's retiring soon so we need someone to step up to the plate to take his place. As the focus is active duty awards, we probably need someone wearing the uniform to meet this challenge. Interested, get in touch with Mark Tarpley, Col Weyenberg or just let me know. New initiatives on the horizon are our Back the Blue program to honor current active duty members especially those who have served in combat. That is scheduled for this Thursday 5 PM at the Tinker Club. If you are active duty, please come. It is truly your night and we intend to make it special and have some fun in the process. Very special and hearty thanks to both Nancy Bolinger who in the absence of an Action Officer to lead it, took on this challenge and for Marti Ribeiro who turned out a beautiful graphic to help us promote the event. And she was able to do some last minute edits during a time of "hair-on-fire" hot projects to get out. Way to go Marti. Another new initiative is Cyber Patriot, a cyber security competition for JROTC and CAP. Brigadier Dave Waggle has kept this on the front burner along with Mark Tarpley. This one will need some work as we get closer to the new school year. Thanks guys for the help.

A proposed new initiative is posting of AFA Member (in good standing with our chapter) resumes on our web site. The ground rules are being developed and as soon as this is available we'll let the membership and our community partners know.

## **April 2010**

### **Advocate/Educate SNCO Seminar:**

On Friday 2 April 2010, Jim Diehl, long term Gerrity Chapter member and current State President, spoke to a class for newly selected Master Sergeants about the AFA Gerrity Chapter and the importance of being involved in professional organizations.

**Community Service:** AFA Chapter Members represented the AFA at 6 local high school award banquets/graduations in April. Chris Lunstrum did a really great job organizing our volunteers for each event. Way to go Christine.

**Cyber Eagle/Cyber Patriot:** Mark Tarpley, our Chapter Vice President, attended the briefing on this topic at Rose State College. Brigadier General Waggle and Mark have led the way in keeping us current on this latest opportunity for the chapter. Thanks!

## March 2010

### AFA Community Partners

Oklahoma Honor Flights raises money to transport Oklahoma veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Oklahoma State Representative Gary Banz, leads this initiative to give veterans, who are willing to get on a bus or an airplane, the chance to see the nation's appreciation for their service. Top priority is given to Oklahoma's "Greatest Generation," the men and women who fought in World War II, as well as those whose productivity within the war's home front made a decisive material contribution to the war effort. The Air Force Association Community Partners is hosting Rep. Banz for a breakfast, March 17 at 7:30 am at the Tinker Club.

Rep. Banz presented information about the Oklahoma Honor Flight program and answered questions. We had three World War II Veterans present that we honored during our meeting: Each service was represented—US Army, US Navy, and our ancestral service, US Army Air Corp. One veteran had been a prisoner of war, another was on mine sweepers in one of the toughest sea battles fought during the war and our Air Corp member was a veteran P-51 Fighter Pilot! It was truly an honor to have them as our guests.

### Latte Lounge:

[The Latte Lounge served 393 Airmen and Sailors in Feb 2010. Additionally, this past weekend, the Latte Lounge proved popular by serving 116 Airmen and Sailors. We will see if this is an upward trend as March continues.](#)

### Junior ROTC – Call for Volunteers:

It's that time of year to assist our metro area Air Force JROTC units by presenting the AFA award at their annual ceremony. Chris Lindstrom stepped up to be our chapter JROTC liaison and is looking for AFA members to volunteer to attend the awards ceremony at the schools listed below. The presenter of the AFA award is not required to make a speech...you just announce the cadet's name, look them in the eye, give them a firm handshake, and get your picture taken with the cadet. The events are typically semi-formal with a meal and there are numerous other awards given to the cadets. Active duty chapter members wear

the appropriate uniform for the event which can be found out by contacting the unit. Retired military are encouraged to wear a uniform, otherwise business attire is appropriate. Civilian members wear business attire.

Please get in touch with Chris Lindstrom via email at cconnelly1981@hotmail.com or you can call her at 405-410-2436 to volunteer to present the prestigious AFA award. She'll then get you in touch with the JROTC unit to work out any further details.

As always...thank you for your support. The following is a list of upcoming local awards we really need

to support. This isn't heavy lifting, but it is very important to our next generation of airmen and aviation enthusiasts.

So get involved with our future—someone in your past took the time to help you. I'm sure I can count on you to make it happen!

- ✓ John Marshall High School  
29 Apr 10, 1830, Thursday, JMHS cafeteria
  
- ✓ Southeast High School  
22 Apr 10, 1800, Thursday, Tinker Club
  
- ✓ Choctaw High School  
7 May 10, 1800, Friday, activity center behind school.

### **Education/Training Day:**

FYI here is the report for the Education and Training Day planning meeting I attended yesterday. Robin Michel reported that her count is 20 mentors officially registered. I reported on our count of 31 commitments. Next step for us is to emphasize again at all Community Partners opportunities and then push again toward the other AFA Chapters. Also a direct outreach to large companies like Boeing, ARINC, and Northrop in OKC and Nordam, American Airlines, Flight Safety, Spirit, and Spartan in Tulsa. Any other suggestions are appreciated.

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### **Webmaster/Website:**

Team, the Vice & I had a great meeting with our Webmaster today. Looks like we have some big updates ahead for our site. Joel is doing a major site revision to remove some of the areas we never use and to make it more user friendly to those who access it. Some highlights follow:

- As many websites do, our primary flaw is our site suffers from dated information. We all need to lean into that more to make sure our area is up to date with the latest for our area or responsibility. I'm guilty—need to repent; and I will—we need for some of you to do likewise.

- We are going to add the teacher mentoring information to the site—we're doing it so we need to let others know about the program/process
- Beef up the membership narrative on our Gerrity experience—when someone looks at our site we want them to know why they should move their membership here or join us as a new member—create some excitement about our chapter!
- Feature “whose who” in the chapter—naturally we'll cover the officers, but let's face it troops we are not always the most colorful or perhaps the most photogenic members we have. So this will be expanded to those members we think who can “create some buzz” among those who want to join us. This goes hand in hand with our “more blue” initiative which came out in our strategic planning session. Some of you know some of our member's achievements and they are quite impressive. Let's get the word out on our web site.
- Face Book and Twitter—the AFA National site has quite a bit about these two vehicles we can use to get the word out on AFA. For those born after 1970 you probably know what they are already; for some of us who are less computer-inclined, you may need to ask a 9-year old—just teasing!

Joel will be giving us the highlights of his labor at the next AFA Chapter Monthly Meeting in April—be there! He can tell you all about it. We have an awesome resource—we just need to use it!

## February 2010

Chapter Update:

The executive committee met this morning to go over upcoming chapter challenges and some of the exciting times ahead. Highlights follow:

- ✓ Air Show Planning—we need to get ahead of this. The Air Show this year is scheduled for 19-20 June. The Air Force demonstration team, the Thunderbirds will be the featured event. If you are interested in representing the chapter, please get with either Mark Tarpley or Jerry McMahan. There will be plenty of opportunities in our support to the Air Show.
- ✓ Strategy Planning Session scheduled for Saturday, 6 Feb 2010. Key members of the executive board and those leading key programs will gather this Saturday morning to go over some of the challenges we see for our area in 2010. If you have a key program or are interested in what the New Year offers our chapter, get in touch with Mark Tarpley and he can add you to the list of attendees. Attendance is limited so call him now if you are interested in participating.
- ✓ Chapter Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, 9 Feb 2010 at the Santa Fe Restaurant off SE 29<sup>th</sup> St and Air Depot in Midwest City. The Chapter provides soft drinks and beer and the restaurant provides peanuts. The Community Partners core leadership will brief what's ahead for 2010. Be there for this time of fellowship with your fellow AFA members. Bring a guest! Hope to see you there.

**Community Partners Luncheon—don't forget we have a community partners luncheon--**Date: Feb 11, 2010, Time: 11:30, Place: Tinker Club, Guest Speaker: Col Kelly Larson, commander of the Defense Logistics Agency-Oklahoma City at Tinker AFB. The site is managed by Defense Supply Center Richmond, which is DLA's aviation demand and supply chain manager. DSCR is the primary source of supply for more than 1.3 million repair parts and operating supply items supporting 1,300 major weapons systems. Col Larson plans to give an overview presentation on the many DLA units on base and their role and function. Lunch is \$13.00 and consists of Chicken Picatta, which is a breaded chicken breast served with capers in a white wine and lemon sauce served on a bed of tri-color pasta and accompanied with julienne vegetables. Contact Nancy Bolinger at (405) 732-6988 or [nbolinger@nciinc.com](mailto:nbolinger@nciinc.com) to reserve your place.

**CAP Liaison—call for volunteers:** Members, we have a real opportunity ahead. During our State President's meeting on Tuesday, it was announced that one of our local Civil Air Patrol Squadrons has just won a national award grant. They deserve recognition and it would be worth our time to engage with the Civil Air Patrol as we share many goals and they play an important mission with our aerospace industry. I recall enjoying my own time with the CAP. I learned a great deal about the Air Force, Search & Rescue procedures and the CAP Mission—yes, I tramped around the mountains of NC on cold rainy days looking for a lost aircraft, lived in a tent—and to this day I have fond memories of that experience. The CAP like the BSA plays an invaluable role in youth development.

To cement a more beneficial and cooperative relationship, we need a volunteer to work with the CAP as our AFA Liaison. Principal criteria for this position: desire to serve. Other criterion that may help, but that are not essential, includes: former CAP member, active duty military—they really like to see the uniform, and/or any aircrew member. Flying is their passion. So if you are inclined to give back as someone did when you were a youth, get in touch with our AE organization, Vice President, Jim Putnam at [jim.putnam@ngc.com](mailto:jim.putnam@ngc.com). As Jim Putnam is out of the country on a mission, you can also get in touch with Mark Tarpley in his absence. Mark's email is [mark.l.tarpley@gmail.com](mailto:mark.l.tarpley@gmail.com). The duties of a Liaison are really simple—just be willing to contact the local CAP organizations on a periodic basis, perhaps share some “war stories” as you tell them about AFA, and celebrate with them their adventure in learning about airpower. And what a great way to get started as a Liaison—celebrating their win of a grant! I know I can count on our membership to lean into this. The youth are our future! Let's make their adventure in airpower a reality. We owe it to them and to ourselves to carry on the tradition.

## **AIR BATTLE MANAGER RECOGNITION**

Jimmy Patterson presented the Air Battle Manager DV Grads award

**Mr. Mark D. Johnson, Executive Director OO-ALC**, will speak to an AFA Community Partners breakfast on **22 Feb 2010**. His presentation will cover the Command Partnership Council program. This effort covers such things as the Wellness

and Safety Campaign, the Voluntary Protection Program, alternative dispute resolution and program budget decisions. The program will start at 0730 at the Tinker Club.

A breakfast buffet of freshly scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, crisp bacon and sausages, warm biscuits, chilled orange juice, water and freshly brewed coffee will be served. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

Please RSVP by **19 Feb** to Nancy Bolinger at (405) 732-6988 or [nbolinger@nciinc.com](mailto:nbolinger@nciinc.com).

The Community Partners Leadership (Ulrik, Marti & Nancy) have worked diligently to get this arranged. So let's see a good turn out for this event—we will learn a great deal about some key areas of interest to the Center Leadership. See you there!

## January 2010

- Monthly Meeting: [Members, we had a good – make that an exciting time at Santa Fe on Tuesday. Jim Putman briefed about all the challenges and opportunities of your very own Aerospace Education Foundation \(AEF\). 2010 will be another exciting year for AEF. Some highlights follow:](#)

### Highlights:

- ✓ [Visions – this year AEF is working with local schools in our chapter area to help them with scientific and technical educational material. Some of you may know that Senator John Glen, former astronaut, has made this his personal mission to get the word out that the United States cannot afford to fall behind in this critical area of academic excellence. We have to be the nation with the scientific and technical capacity to excel or we become much less on the world stage. This is especially important with airpower. And we can all be proud that AEF is leaning into the challenge.](#)
- ✓ [STARBASE with its focus on local AF ROTC assistance is another AEF program that has exciting challenges ahead.](#)

[Opportunities: AEF will need some help with their ROTC work. In fact, we're now looking for an AF ROTC Liaison. If you have been an ROTC cadet, you may be who we're looking for. Get in touch with Col Marcia Walker or Jim Putman. It's an exciting time for AFA in 2010.](#)

[You will be missed! SSGT Misty Givens is going PCS to Kunsan, Korea. She will be missed. Her work with the local unaccompanied Team Tinker Airman, Soldiers and Sailors during the Christmas holiday season; her work on the signage, and tremendous assistance during the last three Air Force Balls and the State Convention were all impressive! She is a stand up professional. We are all proud of you.](#)

[Next Months Meeting: Our community Partners program will be our key topic of focus in the February meeting. Come on out so you won't miss out. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 17:00 at the Santa Fe Restaurant on Air](#)

[Depot and SE 29<sup>th</sup> in Midwest City. Your chapter provides the drinks and Santa Fe provides the peanuts. Hope to see you there!](#)

## ***December 2009***

- **Tinker Holiday Dinner:** The Gerrity Chapter donated \$200.00 in support of a Holiday Dinner at the Tinker Chapel for unaccompanied “Team Tinker” Airmen and Sailors.
- **AFA National Financial Board:** Gerrity Chapter member Jim Diehl, a AFA National Financial Board member, participated in a Financial Board meeting held at AFA HQ.

## ***November 2009***

- **AFA Community Partner Luncheon:** Navy Captain Dwight D. Shepherd, Commander of Strategic Communications Wing ONE and Task Force 124, Tinker AFB, was our guest speaker for this quarter’s luncheon. Capt. Shepherd’s were very interesting and served to remain everyone in attendance on the important and diverse role of “Team Tinker” in our nation’s defense.
- **Arnold Air Society:** Donated \$100 to OSU and OU Arnold Air Society members to help cover their gas expenses to the National Conclave in Texas.
- **Gerrity Strategy Sessions:** The newly elected chapter leadership held two planning sessions at Don’s Alley in order to layout a strategic plan for 2010. With the unanticipated transfer of George Rhame, former Chapter President, our very own Jerry McMahan offered to replace George. Mark Tarpley also offered his leadership, replacing Jerry as our Vice President.
- **Pitsenbarger Scholarship Winners:** The Gerrity Chapter mailed letters to each of the three “Team Tinker” winners of AFA Pitsenbarger Scholarships congratulating them on their academic achievements and offering them a free one-year AFA members

## ***October 2009***

- **Visions of Exploration Program:** The Gerrity Chapter donated \$1,890 so over 2,000 local students can participate in the “Visions of Exploration” program. This program is a partnership between AFA and the USA Today to provide educators (grades 4 through 12) with a curriculum designed to enhance students understanding of math, science, engineering, technology and aerospace education. This is achieved through the delivery of USA Today newspapers over a period of 18 weeks, with companion lesson plans to assist in the teaching of math, science, engineering and aerospace. This list of participating schools includes:
  - John Marshall High School
  - Capitol Hill High School
  - Crooked Oak High School

- Shawnee Jim Thorpe Academy (alternative school)
- Bodine elementary

Special thanks go to the Gerrity Chapter Aerospace Education Committee:

- Mark Tarpley, Boeing (Committee Chair)
  - Colonel Marcia Walker, OC-ALC (Vision Program Manager)
  - Jim Putnam, Northrop Grumman
  - Rick Buschelman, OC-ALC
- **Major Charles B. Hall Memorial (Brazil, IN):** The Gerrity Chapter donated \$200.00 for food and beverages in support of the Major Charles B. Hall Memorial Dedication Ceremony held in his home town of Brazil, IN. Major Hall was the first Tuskegee Airmen to score an arial victory during World War II. Following the war, he worked at Tinker Air Force Base for 31 years. A statue of Major Hall is on display in the Tinker AFB Major Hall Air Park.
  - **Team Tinker Latte Lounge:** Thanks to the generous donations of Chapter members and their friends, the Gerrity chapter was able to donate a commercial-grade espresso machine. The Lounge provides Airmen an alternative social setting away from negative influences, providing refuge in a non-threatening, professional environment. In short, it's a free coffee shop that's open to Airmen on Friday and Saturday nights. Special thanks to Wayne Foote for orchestrating our support of this vital program.

## ***September 2009***

- **AFA Golf Tournament:** Rick Pena and his committee orchestrated another outstanding golf tournament that raised over \$1,000 for the Folds of Honor Foundation, a foundation designed to provide scholarships for dependents and spouses of service members killed or disable in combat. As special “thanks” to the following sponsors:
  - **ARINC**
  - **TFCU**
  - **Parker-Hannifin Aerospace**
  - **Chromalloy**
  - **Pratt & Whitney**
  - **Boeing**
  - **Danny Cochran – CPA/Financial Planning**
  - **HEBCO**
  - **DRS C3 & Aviation Group**
- **Team Tinker 62<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Air Force Ball:** The Gerrity Chapter was a co-sponsor of this event through its raising of the \$13,000 needed to defray the event’s expenses. Over 750 “Team Tinker” personnel attended this event. Special thanks for the following sponsors:
  - **Northrop-Grumman** (Platinum Sponsor)
  - **Tinker Federal Credit Union** (Gold Sponsor)
  - **Rockwell Collins** (Gold Sponsor)
  - **General Dynamics** (Silver Sponsor)

- **Boeing** (Silver Sponsor)
- **Chromalloy** (Silver Sponsor)
- **AFA Gerrity Chapter** (Event Sponsor)
- **Tinker Heritage Foundation** (Event Sponsor)
- **Community Partner Luncheon:** Kelly Butler, OC-ALC/IT Deputy Director, gave a presentation on the Expeditionary Combat Support System (ECSS) at a Community Partner luncheon attend by over 45 people.
- **SNCO Seminar:** Debra Bates spoke to a class for newly selected Master Sergeants about the AFA Gerrity Chapter and the importance of being involved in professional organizations.
- **AFA National Convention:** During this year's convention in Washington D.C., the following recognition was given during the awards banquet:
  - Aerospace Education Achievement Award – Gerrity Chapter
  - Chairman's Citation – Jim Diehl (former Chapter president)

## ***August 2009***

- **AFA "Team Tinker" Annual Awards Breakfast:** Over 100 members of "Team Tinker" attended this event to honor the following award winners:
  - **Outstanding Military Unit:** 72d Force Support Squadron
  - **CGO of the year:** Capt James A. Sabol, 76 CMXG/CCX
  - **Senior NCO of the Year:** SMSgt Charles C. Clark, 639 ACSG
  - **NCO of the Year:** SSgt Shanda D. Rader, 3 CCG
  - **Airman of the Year:** SrA Jason Henry, 966 AACS
  - **Civil Service Manager of the Year:** Lisa Shimkus, OC-ALC/CS
  - **Civilian Service Technician of the Year:** Erik P. Jones, 551 CMMXS/MXDPBC
  - **"Team Tinker" Joan Orr Spouse of the Year:** Mrs. Laura Fulton spouse of Col James Fulton, 727 ACSG/CC)
  - **Aerospace Education Foundation Teacher of the Year:** Ms. Donna Haworth, Moore West Junior High School

Our many guests and award winners were privileged hear the remarks of our guest speaker, Lt. Gen. (r) Donald J. Wetekam, former Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.

Special "thanks" goes to Lee Curtis and his committee for their highly successful planning and execution of our annual awards breakfast. Their efforts made sure every award winners was properly recognized for their exceptional performance.

- **STARBASE Oklahoma:** The Gerrity Chapter donated \$1,000 to "STARBASE Oklahoma Inc" to assist in their efforts to teach and inspire students concerning aerospace.

- **Major Charles B. Hall Memorial:** The Gerrity Chapter made a \$200.00 donation for refreshments at the dedication ceremony of a memorial in honor of Major Hall in his hometown of Brazil, Indiana.
- **72<sup>nd</sup> Medical Group:** Jim Diehl made a presentation to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Medical Group about AFA and the importance of professional organizations.

## **July 2009**

- **B/Gen Bruce Litchfield**, Commander, 76 Maintenance Wing, was our guest speaker at our Community Partner Luncheon, with about 50 people in attendance.
- **AFA Colonel 'Jeep' Dunleavy ABM DG Award:** the Gerrity Chapter presented this award to 2Lt Joshua York during the 552 ACW Air Battle Manager Graduation ceremonies.
- **Gerrity Chapter Elections:** A new Gerrity Chapter Leadership team was elected. Congratulations go to:
  - **George Rhame** – President
  - **Jerry McMahan** – Vice Present
  - **Debra Bates** – Treasurer
  - **Sam Anderson** - Secretary

## **June 2009**

- **Team Tinker Latte Lounge:** The Gerrity Chapter donated \$523.00 for the purchase of a freezer for the Latte Lounge. The Lounge provides Airmen an alternative social setting away from negative influences, providing refuge in a non-threatening, professional environment. In short, it's a free coffee shop that's open to Airmen on Friday and Saturday nights
- **Aerospace Education – Pitsenberger Scholarships:** Gerrity Chapter member Marcia Walker presented five Pitsenberger Scholarships at the Team Tinker Community College of the Air Force graduation ceremony.
- **AFA Oklahoma Awards**
  - Congratulations to **TSgt Wesley Girven (373 TRS, Det 9)** on his award of the AFA State Medal of Merit. This was given in recognition of TSgt Girven's professionalism and perseverance in his single-handed running of our Health & Wellness program.
  - The Gerrity Chapter is also to be congratulated for the following awards:
 

▪ Outstanding Extra Large Chapter	Gerrity
▪ Chapter of the Year	Gerrity
▪ Aerospace Ed Achievement	Gerrity
▪ Aerospace Ed Excellence	Gerrity
▪ Outstanding Community Partner	ICG International (Gerrity Chapter)

- **AFA National Awards**
  - **Aerospace Education Achievement Award for 2009 (Gerrity Chapter):** Awarded to multiple chapters based on sustained excellence in their education programs. Special thanks goes to: Mark Tarpley, Marcia Walker, Jim Putnam, Rick Buschelman, and Jennifer Condon-Pracht (recently transferred to a new duty assignment)
  - **Chairman's Citation:** Jim Diehl, Gerrity Chapter President
  - **Medal of Merit:** Debra Bates, Gerrity Chapter Treasurer
  - **Exceptional Service Award:** Marti Ribeiro, Gerrity Newsletter Editor & Community Partner Program luncheon coordinator
  - **Final Note:** The Gerrity Chapter has had a terrific year thanks to the hard work of the many Gerrity Chapter members and Community Partners. If it was my decision, you'd all be recognized for your excellence at the AFA National level.
- **Support to our Veterans:** The Gerrity Chapter donated \$100.00 to the AMVETS program in support of their program to assist our Nation's Veterans.