



AFSA *Heartbeat*



HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER 804
P.O. Box 213 – Belton, Missouri 64012

afsachapter804@gmail.com

January-March 2017

CHAPTER PRESIDENT

As I prepare to wrap up my second year as your Chapter President, I want to say thank you for your passion and for your love of our great Air Force and our great nation. Together we have weathered the storm of falling membership, uncertain financial future for our association, and a rapidly changing political environment that has divided our nation and turned its people against one another. Through it all, our passion for AFSA and for our fellow Airmen and their families, both past and present, has formed a bond that cannot be broken. Over the past two years, we have seen unprecedented success in both Division and International awards, as many of our members have been recognized for the incredible work they do every day for our Chapter and our association. We have been recognized for our association leading Family Matters Program, for our legislative prowess, and for our caring commitment to our community. These are things of which I am immensely proud.

Through all of this I have battled illness, injury, and competing priorities that often made me wonder how I was going to juggle them all. In true AFSA Chapter 804 fashion, you all came to my rescue.

My Senior Advisor, Harry McLane, was always there for me to bounce ideas off of or just to give me an ear to vent. Charlie and Patti Dalzell were both indispensable over the past two years and, in many ways, are responsible for our continuity and success.

My Vice President, Kathy Oden, has provided sage counsel and an historical perspective that has kept me grounded and aware of the pride and professional heritage of our Chapter. Past Chapter President and current Secretary, Tony Berter, has unselfishly given of himself too many times for me to mention here, but it is greatly appreciated. Trustees Curtis Gist and Hershell Spurlock are fantastic ambassadors for our Chapter through the many community volunteer programs in which they participate. A group of Chapter Officers of which I couldn't be more proud!

Lastly, I must thank the ladies of Chapter 804. From the lunches, card parties, and special events that enrich the fraternity and friendship in our Chapter, to all the volunteer work they do in their churches, veterans organizations, and at the VA Hospital, these ladies are the embodiment of our association. They pour their hearts into everything they do and they make us better in every way.

The past two years have been challenging, fun and often fatiguing, but I consider myself to be the luckiest man alive. I will forever be able to say that I had the privilege of leading the best Chapter in AFSA and the friendships I have made will last a lifetime. For this I am grateful and I am humbled.



Elections were held at the December meeting and the Chapter 804 Executive Council for 2017 is as follows:

President – Kathy Oden
Vice President – Harry McLane
1st Trustee – Barbara Veach
2nd Trustee – Curtis Gist
3rd Trustee – Hershell Spurlock
Secretary – Tony Berter
Treasurer – Charlie Dalzell
Senior Advisor – Mark Clark

Thank you for allowing me to share your passion and for all the support you have given our Chapter the past two years. God bless, be safe and please continue to support our historic Chapter. We cannot do this without you!

MARK R. CLARK, CMSgt, USAF, Retired
President, AFSA Chapter 804
Home: 816-503-8520
E-mail: mandlclark@comcast.net

LEGISLATIVE

Well the election has come and gone and the American people have spoken so now it is time to go to work. The House and Senate returned to work and immediately began working on the National Defense Authorization Act for 2017. This bill is especially important to us because it funds all of our retiree and healthcare benefits. The good news is that AFSA never stopped working on this legislation and, during the campaign, did the quiet but essential work behind the scenes to protect our hard-earned benefits. So, what does this bill include?

The House adopted the conference report on the bill that would authorize \$611.2 billion for defense programs in fiscal 2017, including \$59.5 billion for overseas operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. It would authorize \$222.4 billion for operations and maintenance; \$139.6 billion for military personnel; \$7.9 billion for military

construction and family housing; \$10 billion for ballistic-missile defense; and \$33.4 billion for defense healthcare programs, including \$334 million from the overseas operations account. It would prohibit the use of funds for a new round of base closures. The bill would authorize a 2.1 percent pay raise for military personnel. It would elevate U.S. Cyber Command to an independent major command within the Defense Department. It would prohibit detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from being transferred to U.S. soil, and would prohibit the closing of the main base and detention facility at Guantanamo. It would also extend, through fiscal 2017, the authority for several bonus and special payments for military members. The bill still must be passed by the Senate and signed by the President but, at this time, no major changes are expected.

AFSA, through our legislative team on Capitol Hill, managed to hold off any changes to TRICARE for Life for current recipients and also prevented most of the catastrophic changes to the TRICARE system that the current administration had sought. While “working age” retirees may see a modest annual enrollment fee, the higher premiums, higher copays for medications, and loss of TRICARE Prime feared by many are off the table.

Lastly, it looks like our Commissary and BX systems will remain unchanged in the short term. Congress would still like to see the DoD make the system more efficient, but they are honestly not sure the best way to go so, for now, these benefits are safe and unchanged. Let’s hope the Senate doesn’t do anything too drastic so we can lock these legislative victories in and begin the fight for next year’s battles.

Keep communicating with your elected officials and remind them that now it is time to go to work. On January 20th, we will welcome a new President and a new administration with a promise to take care of our nation’s veterans. Now it is up to us to hold them accountable and to do our part in fighting for our hard-earned benefits. Are you with me?

MARK R. CLARK, CMSgt, USAF, Retired
President, AFSA Chapter 804

LUNCHEONS

Our monthly luncheons are at the **Golden Corral** in Raymore, MO, on the fourth Thursday each month at 11:30 AM (unless otherwise announced).

Our luncheon dates for the remainder of the year are as follows:

- ❖ **January 26**
- ❖ **February 23**
- ❖ **March 23**

Mark your calendars for the above dates and come join us for.....

**Good Food!
Grand Friends!
Great Fun!**

Gaynelle Barnett, 816-779-6732
Chairperson



CARD DAYS



Card Days for January thru March are as follows:

January 5th & 12th
February 2nd & 9th
March 2nd & 9th

Pinochle: 10:00 AM at Aaron's Family Fun Ctr
17070 Aaron Lane, Belton, MO

Bridge: 10:00 AM at Ruby Tuesday
1300 East North Ave, Belton, MO

If you are interested in being a regular or sub for Pinochle or Bridge, please give us a call.

Addy Davidson, 816-763-4903 (Pinochle)
Gloria Pinksaw, 816-322-2421 (Bridge)

MEMBERSHIP

As of December 23rd, we were at 1,012 active members, which is a decrease of 11 members since the last newsletter.

Also, our roster showed a total of 23 inactive members covering the months of June thru November 2016. Since the last newsletter, renewal requests and follow-ups were sent out for the months of November and December 2016 and January 2017. I am currently working on submitting renewal requests for February thru June 2017. **In order for our Chapter to receive credit for the retention, PLEASE be sure to renew via the form you receive from me.**

To date, our Chapter has recruited 14 members and we received credit for 59 retentions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at my home number or email listed below.

Patti Dalzell, 816-331-7594

Chairperson

E-mail: afsachapter804@gmail.com

**Happy
New Year!**

Buck-a-Month (BAM) Club

Members of the BAM Club donate \$12 yearly to help us offset the printing & mailing cost of the *Heartbeat* newsletter.

You can also help save the Chapter money by signing up to receive your *Heartbeat* via email. Email us at afsachapter804@gmail.com or call Charlie Dalzell at 816-331-7594.

Thanks to our recent contributor -- **George Hope**

VA HOSPITAL

Members of AFSA visited the VA Hospital and gave each hospitalized veteran a Christmas card with a \$5 bill in it. We thanked them for their service and hoped they would be able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

If anyone is interested in helping, we go to the hospital every Tuesday. One of our AFSA members drives the bus and takes the visitors from and to the parking lot to visit their relatives and friends.

We also have a volunteer working in the Clothing Store helping veterans find clothes they need. They must have a slip from the Volunteer Office.

If you would be interested in helping, please give me a call.

Addy Davidson, 816-322-5658

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Our next outing is Tuesday, **January 17th**, to see George Wendt at the New Theatre Restaurant in "The Fabulous Lipitones." Following is the schedule for the remaining shows:

"Boeing-Boeing" – April 4

"The Dixie Swim Team" – June 20

"Million Dollar Quartet" – August 22

If you are interested in any of these shows, contact me soon. I have a few seats available for each one and they will not last.

Thursday, **January 19th**, we will be going to **Harrah's Casino** for lunch and gaming. We will meet at the 810 Sports Zone at 11:30 AM. Please let me know if you plan on going so I can call you if I must postpone due to bad weather.

Kathy Oden, 816-331-4058
Chairperson

COUPON PROGRAM

It does not seem possible that another year has come and gone. We have had another successful year with our Coupon Program. This year we have cut, packaged and sent out approximately 300 pounds of coupons to overseas bases. During the last three months, we have mailed coupons to one base in Germany and two in Japan. I will make my end-of-year report with the final totals at the January meeting. I want to thank all of you for the tremendous job you do in supporting this program.

One reminder – while gathering your coupons to send to me, do not forget to check the *Parade* magazine for coupons that come in your Sunday KC Star.

Remember, our coupon-cutting sessions take place the Monday following the monthly meeting at the Loft in Carnegie Village at 9:30 AM. We can use all the help we can get.

Kathy Oden, 816-331-4058
Chairperson
6101 East 149th Street
Grandview, MO 64030

ADOPT – A – HIGHWAY

Our mile of roadway is clean and ready for the winter months. We met on Saturday, October 8th, and picked up 12 bags of trash. My many thanks to our crew of Tony Berter, Charlie Dalzell, Charlie Knight, Harry McLane, Melissa Semke, Hershell Spurlock, and George Ward. You are a great team and I appreciate all of you being there for this project!

Kathy Oden, 816-331-4058
Chairperson

CHAPTER HISTORY

“Reflections”

Our Chapter was founded in July 1962. With the exception of a few years in the late 1960's, to which there is no documentation, the following is a list of individuals who served as Chapter Presidents.

1963-1964	Edwin Candelaria
1964-1965	Ramon Doss
1970-1971	Robert Richerson
1972-1973	Leith Jones
1973-1974	Bob Wright
1974-1975	Ron Barksdale
1975-1977	Gerald Sodders
1977-1978	Jay Hyde
1978-1979	James Christy
1980-1981	John Lahey
1981-1982	Jack Cornelison
1982-1983	Richard Anderson
1983-1984	Bob Pound
1984-1985	Dottie Avery
1986-1987	Frank Pinksaw
1987-1988	Curtis Gist
1989-1992	Mina Anderson
1992-1993	John Clark
1994-1996	Richard Clark
1996-1998	Bob Duck
1998-2000	Charlie Dalzell
2000-2005	Jerry Henkemeyer
2005-2008	Galen Oden
2009	Tony Berter
2009	Dottie Seidle
2010-2011	Tony Berter
2012-2014	Harry McLane
2015-2016	Mark Clark

Harry McLane
Chapter Historian

WELFARE

If you know of anyone who is ill, in the hospital or has passed away, please let us know so we can send a card and let them know our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

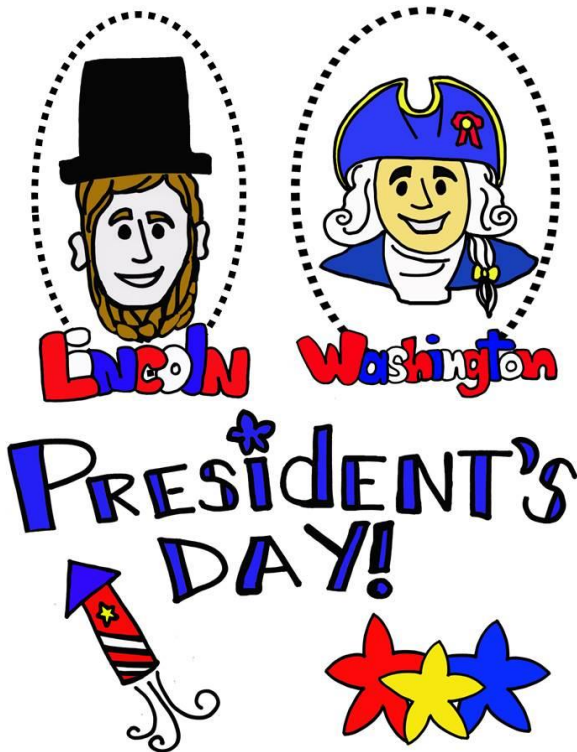
Please keep saving the UPC code labels from the following products: Best Choice, Campbell's Soups, Franco American, Pepperidge Farms, Swanson's; the lids from Prego, V8, V8 Splash and V8 Fusion products; and the box tops from all General Mills products.

We also need your cancelled stamps (both local and foreign), but not the pre-sorted ones.

Thank you for your help with this project!

Erma Fetters, 816-524-4585

Addy Davidson, 816-322-5658



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

With Valentine's Day approaching, here is a melt-in-your-mouth cookie recipe to make for your loved ones.

Cherry Cheesecake Cookies

¼ cup butter, softened
1 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese, softened
1 egg
¼ tsp vanilla extract
1 pkg white cake mix
¾ cup maraschino cherries, chopped

- Chop cherries and place on a paper towel to absorb excess juice.
- Cream together butter and cheese with electric mixer until smooth.
- Add in egg and vanilla.
- Add cake mix 1/3 at a time. If mixture is too heavy for mixer, use hands to knead in the cake mix.
- Add cherries to batter.
- Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes.
- Drop batter in lumps (mixture may be a bit sticky) 2" apart on lightly greased cookie sheet.
- Bake at 375 degrees for 7-9 minutes. Cool slightly before removing from baking sheet.

Cherish your family members and friends – make the most of each and every day – and dance like nobody's watching.

God Bless!

Patti Dalzell, 816-331-7594

Heartbeat Editor

E-mail: afsachapter804@gmail.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 5 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 5 Bridge, 10:00 AM, Ruby Tuesday, Belton, MO
- 10 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie
- 12 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 12 Bridge, 10:00 AM, Ruby Tuesday, Belton, MO
- 16 Martin Luther King Day!
- 16 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
- 17 New Theatre Restaurant, "*The Fabulous Lipitones*"
- 19 Harrah's Casino -- meet at 810 Sports Zone at 11:30 AM
- 26 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO

VA Hospital Volunteer Service: 2-3-4-9-10-11-17-18-23-24-25-30-31

FEBRUARY

- 2 Groundhog Day!
- 2 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 2 Bridge, 10:00 AM, Ruby Tuesday, Belton, MO
- 9 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 9 Bridge, 10:00 AM, Ruby Tuesday, Belton, MO
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday!
- 14 Valentine's Day!
- 14 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie
- 20 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
- 20 Presidents' Day!
- 23 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO

VA Hospital Volunteer Service: 1-6-7-8-13-14-15-21-22-27-28

MARCH

- 2 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 2 Bridge, 10:00 AM, Ruby Tuesday, Belton, MO
- 9 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 9 Bridge, 10:00 AM, Ruby Tuesday, Belton, MO
- 12 Daylight Savings Time begins – set clocks ahead one hour
- 14 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM – **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**
- 17 St. Patrick's Day!
- 20 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
- 23 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO

VA Hospital Volunteer Service: 1-6-7-8-13-14-15-20-21-22-27-28-29

APRIL

- 3 Newsletter Assembly, 2:30 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie

Bingo every Wednesday every month, 5:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie

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To find out more about these Member Services go to <https://www.hqafsa.org/fa>