



AFSA Chapter 1451 & A1451 Newsletter

Serving Oregon and Southwest Washington

The Merge

AFSA and Auxiliary members will officially merge into a single distinct AFSA organization effective January 1st, 2012. For Chapter 1451, this is just full circle from where we were as short as four years ago. Chapter 1451 AFSA and Auxiliary members have always worked closely together and participated jointly in events focused on the military and community. For us, this means we will return to a single executive board for both AFSA and Auxiliary members.

Eligibility criteria for the two roles of AFSA and Auxiliary remain the same and the new Bylaws require elected positions of President, Vice President, and Trustee positions 1, 2 and 3 to be held by AFSA members. Auxiliary awards for 2011 will be submitted and awarded separately at the 2012 AFSA Professional Airman's Conference.

November 2011

General Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:

**Saturday
11/19/11 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Please Note: There will be no potluck at this meeting.

The meeting will be held at Miramont Pointe (meeting moved from Camp Withycombe because of conflicting events).

The meeting will include AFSA and Auxiliary Members and their guests. Attendees will need their military ID card at the gate.



Chapter 1451 at the PAC

Auxiliary President Sue Mesick and AFSA Vice President Ralph Mesick attended the AFSA Professional Airman Conference (PAC) ready to kick butt and take names. Chapter 1451 may consist mostly of retired veterans, but the Executive staff was going to ensure we were not taken lightly. I believe the point was made as Sue and Ralph were on hand to greet attendees as they made their way from the garage. Okay, the picture enclosed is from a PAC "Theme" night event, but nobody looked tougher than these two.



Veterans Home Dedication

The Chapter will be present at the dedication of a new Community Center at the Dallas Veterans Home on December 2nd, at 1 pm. If you are interested in driving/riding over with other Chapter members contact Don Schram.

Upcoming Events

11/19—Chapter General membership meeting at Miramont Pointe, Clackamas, @ 10 am. Address: 11520 SE Sunnyside Rd., Clackamas. Please note that this is a change from our regular meeting at Camp Withycombe because of conflicting activities on the base.

11/19—Hiring Our Heroes Jobs Benefits Fair—Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, @ 9 am.—3 pm.

12/2—Chapter attending Oregon Veterans home dedication of new Community Center building. If you would like to drive/ride with other chapter members, contact President Don Schram.

12/13—Chapter social luncheon—Hometown Buffet near Mall 205. Address: 10542 SE Washington St., Portland @ 11 am. Open to members, guests and visitors.

Is it Time to Review Your Benefit Paperwork?

Don and I recently returned from a dear friend's funeral. Don spent all of one day with one of the daughters who will be helping her Mom through the benefit process. They found a lot of paperwork, but not in any kind of order. While starting the process, they discovered they were missing copies of the DD214 which will have to be obtained before they can proceed.



Don and I feel we have all of our paperwork in order, but after reviewing and actually getting into this process, we have decided we are not as far along as we had believed. Not only that, but what if something happens to both of us? Will our Trust Representative know the military side of the process? We have work to do!! I hope that you will go through your Estate paperwork with your family so that they are prepared!

Louise Schram, Membership Chair

In Appreciation: Newsletter



The Chapter would like to recognize the following individuals who have made direct financial contributions to keep the newsletter program running for our members: **Lissa & Gerard Perrone; Charlie & LaRene Paul (2); Frank Carraher (2); Donald & Beverly Gammon.** And also, to those who made a contribution through the fundraising sale of ball caps: **Pat & Micky Downey; Charlie & LaRene Paul (3); Rudy & Cherie Chavelier (3).** It is through the contributions of individuals such as these that we are able to remain in contact with all our members – THANK YOU.

If you would like to support the newsletter program, please send a check to “AFSA 1451” at the return address on the back of this newsletter.

TRICARE Expands Retail Pharmacy Vaccine Program

TRICARE is expanding the number of preventive vaccines covered at retail network pharmacies and best of all, there is no co-pay. Previously, the majority of vaccines were only covered when obtained through a physician's office.

Covered at the pharmacy are age-appropriate vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including shingles vaccines and Zostavax. Other immunizations include vaccination for measles, mumps, and many other preventable diseases. Online, you can go to Tricare4u.com to learn more. When in doubt, call ahead to your pharmacy to ensure the vaccination you want is covered. “Getting immunized is one of the easiest things we can do to help protect the health of our families and our community” (from the 8-25-11 “AFSA On Call”)

Auxiliary Members Take NOTICE

Due to the changes made to the AFSA By-Laws, it would be a benefit to you to renew your AFSA Auxiliary Membership this year, 2011, as the dues for your membership will adjust from \$20.00 to \$25.00 in January, 2012.

If you need a Membership Renewal Form to accomplish this, please contact Sue Mesick, Auxiliary President, at SMesick@aol.com or by phone at 360-573-1906, or renew online through Chapter 1451 at www.afsa1451.org. Every renewal through the Chapter provides Chapter 1451 with membership participation points and an additional \$1 of administration support.

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From Your President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Report: The 50TH Anniversary AFSA PAC was a Great Success!!!

I want to thank all of the members who donated funds to help support our delegates' registration fee and related expenses for the conference. As for the weather, all I can say is that San Antonio Texas was HOT—HOT—HOT!!!

The sessions were outstanding and extremely informative. They covered membership business, discussed and ratified AFSA's legislative platform for the coming year, set goals and objectives for AFSA. In addition, there were professionalism, motivational and developmental sessions along with the military conferences. The guest speakers were exceptional: Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Norton Schwartz and CMSgt of the Air Force, CMSgt James A. Roy.

The past CMSgt's of the Air Force Forum was a highlight of the conference! They are remarkable and very knowledgeable individuals and the humor between each of them certainly made their part in the conference interesting and enjoyable. Business Meetings were held throughout the days during the entire conference. In the evening, we had a chance to relax and enjoy such events as the Theme Party—"Biker Night". The President's Dinner and Awards Banquet were outstanding. AFSA Chapter Awards were presented throughout the conference. Individual Awards were presented to outstanding individuals you would have been so proud of! Our Service Members are outstanding men and women; talented, dedicated and committed to their jobs.

International Elections along with amendments to the AFSA By-Laws: CMSgt (Ret) Jeff LeDoux was re-elected to another one-year term as International President. Our Division 14 President, CMSgt (Ret) Dan Yeomans, was elected to a two-year term as International Vice President along with International Membership Chair. (CMSgt (Ret) Cary Hatzinger will move up to assume the Division 14 President position.) MSgt (Ret) Dale Nelson (from Division 14) was re-elected to a two-year term as the Trustee for Retired and Veterans Affairs and was also named as the AFSA legislative Committee Chair.

Changes to the By-Laws: The Auxiliary will officially merge into AFSA effective 1 Jan 2012. Auxiliary members will be coded as "Auxiliary" members, but will be unable to hold an "Elected Office". They will have voting rights.

AFSA total Divisions will be reduced from 13 to 7; this will take effect 1 Jan 2013. Our Division 14 will possibly add Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. This has not been set as of this date.

Divisions and Chapters are to appoint a "Family Affairs Chair" keeping in mind the importance of families within AFSA. Sue Mesick, our Auxiliary President, has been appointed to the Division position.

I hope this brief overview of the events and happenings at AFSA's 50th Anniversary PAC will make you want to attend in the future. It is an opportunity to really appreciate what our AFSA Leadership in DC does for our Total Enlisted Force; Active, Veteran, Retired, Air Force, Guard and Reserve.



Donald J. Schram, CMS Ret
President Chapter 1451



Serving Oregon and Southwest Washington

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Legislation: H.R. 1025 Redefine Veteran Status

This Bill would amend Title 38, United States Code, will extend “veteran” status to National Guard and Reserve members who qualify for retirement after 20 years, but were never activated long enough to meet current statutory requirements in order to attain veteran status. What this Bill will NOT do is provide any additional veteran benefits that individuals retiring with at least 20 years are not already entitled to. The Bill has passed through the House of Representatives and is currently in the Senate with the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Chief Roy Speaks at AFSA PAC

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy communicated his vision of the Air Force's past, present and future to more than 600 attendees at the Air Force Sergeants Association's 50th Anniversary Professional Airmen's Conference.

The chief started the forum by comparing photos of Airmen from 50 years ago to today and how missions have developed over the years. As Roy talked about the present-day Air Force, the joint fight was an enduring topic of his.

Roy said today's fight isn't just about how we can help our allies it's also about teaching them to help themselves.

One example he used was how a National Guard agricultural developmental team taught Afghans to grow sustainable crops. "The Afghans learned how to grow crops that are productive and not harmful," he said. "Instead of growing poppy, now they're growing corn, soy and other products they can eat and sell," he said. "That's what our Airmen are doing today. It shows the breadth and depth of what Airmen bring to the fight."

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force told audience members they were part of the solution to addressing budget challenges. "We can't operate like we operate today," Roy said. "What we do today is driven by the budget, and the budget of the future is not going to be there. We're going to have to find the right way of doing business, as far as what the future holds. It's in your hands ... it's in our hands. I'm looking at you to help us get through this."



"Organizations like AFSA help us relay a very strong message to Congress across the board about Airmen needs and requirements," he said. "Thanks to AFSA for partnering with us to make sure our message is absolutely on target. The fact we have been partnered with AFSA for about as long as we've had an Air Force is quite significant."

(Staff Sgt. Eric D. Donner from Air Force Public Affairs contributed to this story.)

This newsletter is edited and published by Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1451/1451A for the benefit of chapter members. Every effort is made to assure the accuracy of content material. Readers are advised that no guarantee of accuracy is made and that the information provided does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of this chapter or Air Force Sergeants Association.