



AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

THE BIG NEWS

Arkansas - Mississippi - Texas - Louisiana



August

DIVISION 610

2009

President:

Rick Miller, SMSgt (ret)
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Vice President:

TBA
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Auxiliary Coordinators:

Christy Miller
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Asst. Auxiliary Coordinators:

Libby Swanson
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Membership Trustee:

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Communication Trustee:

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Awards Trustee:

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Senior Advisor:

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Stan Staples, CMSgt (ret)
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Historian:

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Airman's Activity Coordinator:

Sarah Schnitker, SrA
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Asst Airman's Activity

Coordinator:
Rupert Laco, A1C

Words from the President

When I was elected VP I knew this might happen so it's no surprise. I have been the Division President before so I assume my learning curve will not be too steep in order to bring me up to speed on what I need to do. I want to thank Jeff for placing his trust in me and pledge him my support as he assumes the AFSA Presidency. For the rest of us it's business as usual... I think.

I operate under the premise that I work for the Chapters. We in the Division are to support the Chapters and act as a conduit for information and leadership between the Chapters and International. My focus is now and will continue to be to ensure our Legislative program is strong. A strong legislative program, communicated effectively to eligible Air Force people will result in strong recruiting and retention achievements. I do not believe in and will not support recruiting that result in a revolving door for our members. All of us are recruiters and we must all work at recruiting mature eligible members who believe in the same things we do. I ask ALL active duty and retired AFSA and Auxiliary members to ask yourself "Who do I know that I care about who would benefit from participation in our organization". Once you've selected your target, zero in and start working on them to join and do not stop until they do, and once they join, do not stop encouraging until they are on a committee or a chapter officer...and then start all over again, that is how we will stop the bleeding of our membership. Also remember we "recruit members but we retain families" get the families involved at the chapter level and retention is a done deal. Everyone has a particular place they feel the most comfortable in AFSA I urge you to get out of your comfort zones and try something new, it delays burn-out. In the next few weeks I will be contacting all our chapter presidents to solicit input on Chapter needs, goals and challenges. Please contact your Chapter leadership with your feelings in these areas and others that might concern you. I look forward to the next few months and working together with all of you to make The Air Force Sergeants Association all it needs to be and more.

*Respectfully,
Rick Miller*

Words from the AFSA International President

For those who haven't heard, I was elected as your new AFSA International President so I must step down as Division President. Before I do I want to thank you for the several years of support and dedication you provided me and the members of Division 610. It's been an honor and privilege to serve as your president. We are #1 in recruiting and owe that success to our numerous recruiters who keep this association strong. Again thanks and I look forward to your support as we make AFSA even stronger. Your new President is SMSgt (ret) Rick Miller and he is excited to take over. I ask each of you to support him as you did me.

Jeff Ledoux

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Membership Report

Sky High

2009 Recruiting/Retention Incentives

Starting in January 2009 we will base incentives on Chapter end strength - includes Auxiliary Chapters

1. If your Chapter end strength is greater at the end of the month than beginning, your chapter will receive one ticket for each month with positive end strength.
 - Drawing will be held at Div Convention
 - One drawing for \$500
 - One drawing for \$250
2. 100 Recruits/Retains - Free Div Registration

2009 Skyhigher Club

652	DICKINSON, STEVEN	175
652	BRANDON, KEVIN	152
1054	COOK, DANIEL	110
652	LINCOLN, KWANZA	105
652	BARRON, JEREMY	105
1054	TURNER, SCOTT	104
652	SOLIS, HOMERO	103
652	COLLINGS, KENETH	103
652	OLIVER, RICHARD	101
652	HAWKINS, WILLIAM	101
652	EVERETT, MONTY	101
652	HIKARY, OMAR	101
1054	PUGH, WENDELL	100
1054	FRYE, JANET	100
652	CIMENSKI, THOMAS	100
652	TAYLOR, MARK	100

Chapter	Recruits	Retains
615	114	8
651	5	0
652	1929	4
658	239	20
665	0	2
1054	873	17
1055	30	7
1056	61	1
1062	1	11
1066	22	3
1069	71	1
1073	2	5
1075	103	25
1076	35	9
1077	29	3
Total	3514	116

As of 31 August 2009

We had 16 Skyhighers this year already. Congratulations to all and thanks for all the hard work you put into your Chapters and the Division.

SKYHIGH: If you recruit/rejoin 100 new members in one calendar year, or 200 in three years, you are recognized as a SKYHIGH member. You receive a free registration to International Convention (approx \$180 value) and are recognized with a special luncheon at the convention and at the President's Awards Dinner.

HIGH FLYER: Basically the same as SKYHIGH, but recognizes retentions. Very few have ever attained both in the same year and only one has attained them both more than once.

Recruiter and Retainer of the Year: AFSA recognizes the AFSA and AFSA Auxiliary Recruiter and Retainers of the Year for those who sign up the most in one calendar year. Six years ago, a member from Lackland AFB broke the record with over 1,140 recruits in one year.

Please visit our website for the latest updates. The website will be update at the beginning of the month and once in the middle of the month. If you have any questions, please contact SSgt Chester Hinds at webmaster@afsa610.org
<http://www.afsa610.org>

**2009 AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION
PROFESSIONAL AIRMAN'S CONFERENCE
CONVENTION UPDATE**

ELECTION RESULTS

International President – CMSgt (ret) Jeff Ledoux
Vice President – CMSgt (ret) Tim Litherland
Active Duty Affairs – MSgt Kent Kundert
Air Force Reserve Affairs – CMSgt Gloria Bennett
Retired Affairs Trustee – CMSgt (ret) James A. (Andy) Anderson

AWARDS

Division Newsletter of the Year
Top Recruiting Chapter – Chapter 652 Biloxi, Mississippi
Auxiliary Top Recruiting Chapter – Chapter A652 Biloxi, Mississippi
Auxiliary Top Recruiter – Michelle Foster Chapter 652
Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) – Sarah Martin Chapter A1073
Thanks for all you hard work and making our Division one of the best!

DIVISION 610 CONVENTION 2010

The Division 610 Convention Planning Committee has started assembled another great package for our 13th Annual Division 610 Convention. Our 2010 convention will be hosted by Chapter 1075 Randolph AFB.

DATES: Thursday, April 15 - Saturday, April 17, 2009
THEME: TBA
PLACE: Holiday Inn on the River Walk, San Antonio TX
HOST CHAPTER: Chapter 1075 – Randolph AFB
REGISTRATION FEE: The convention registration fee, which includes several convention banquet meals, is \$120.00 With all of the items that are included in this fee, it's a great bargain for you and worth much more than the cost.

All information and prices are subject to change. The prices are estimates and will be confirmed at a later date. For more information and latest updates please visit our website.

<http://www.afsa610.org>

Legislative Update

TRICARE Obtains Lower Prices on Retail Prescription Drugs – The Defense Department is projected to reduce spending by \$1.67 billion on prescription medications sold in retail pharmacies in fiscal year 2010, following the full implementation of Section 703 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2008.

“These are significant savings to the Department of Defense and are crucial to our effort to slow the rapid growth of pharmacy costs,” said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, chief of TRICARE pharmaceutical operations.

For the past several years the Department of Defense (DoD) has paid commercial rates for prescription drugs purchased in the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. However, DoD is included in the 1992 Veteran’s Healthcare Act as one of the “big four” government agencies entitled to federal prices when it purchases pharmaceuticals for its beneficiaries.

DoD currently receives federal ceiling prices, the maximum price that can be charged for brand name drugs, in military treatment facilities and the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy. Through authority provided in Section 703 of the 2008 NDAA and the “final rule” implementing the regulation, DoD will now get these same discounts in the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. The final rule was effective May 26, 2009. Controlling the growth in pharmacy benefit costs for both the beneficiaries and the government is an ongoing process for TRICARE. Beneficiaries can sign up to get e-alerts for updates to their pharmacy benefit through the “email updates” link on the front page of <http://www.tricare.mil>.

Military Spouses to Get Federal Jobs Preference

Certain military spouses will soon be eligible for non-competitive appointment/hiring by the Federal government. Beginning September 11th, spouses of service members relocating for a new assignment, spouses of 100% disabled service members injured on active duty, and unremarried widows/widowers of members killed on active duty, will be able to be hired under these new preference rules. The new hiring preference authority is optional for Federal agencies, and it is unclear how many agencies will use it. With nearly half of the 400,000-500,000 active duty service members transferred each year being married, the benefit has potential to help many military spouses.

3.4% Pay Raise for 2010 On Track

The Senate passed its version of the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) including a 3.4% pay raise for 2010, just as the House had done at the end of June. Since both Senate and House versions of the NDAA agree, NAUS expects the 3.4% raise to be in the final bill passed by Congress. This is above the 2.9% raise proposed by the Obama Administration earlier this year.

2010 COLA Update

The inflation index dropped by 0.2 percentage points in July. The overall change in consumer prices this year now stands at a negative 2.3% and it appears unlikely that there will be any COLA increases in military retirement pay or Social Security benefits in 2010. It’s important to note, however, that if the inflation index change from July through September (the period used under current law to set the following year’s COLA) remains in negative territory, pay and benefits are not reduced – they will just not change from 2009.