



AFSA Heartbeat



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

afsachapter804@gmail.com

April-June 2019

CHAPTER PRESIDENT

I would like to introduce myself to you. I am SMSgt (ret) Charlie Dalzell and your new Chapter 804 President. I would also like to introduce your new Executive Council as follows:

Vice President	CMSgt (ret) Mark Clark
1st Trustee (Family Matters)	Wanda Kiefer
2nd Trustee (Legislation)	CMSgt (ret) Curtis Gist
3rd Trustee (VA Rep)	CMSgt (ret) Hershell Spurlock
Secretary	Kathy Oden
Treasurer	Patti Dalzell
Senior Advisor	MSgt (ret) Tony Berter
Historian	CMSgt (ret) Harry McLane

A big thanks to these valuable members for stepping up to take these positions. If you have any concerns in the areas for which they are responsible, please don't hesitate to contact me and we will see what we can do for you.

Our Chapter is one of the oldest in all of AFSA and has survived even without a base near us – and the thanks go to all of you for your continued support!

The number of members that belong to AFSA is what counts when our advocates go to Capitol Hill to fight for your quality of life issues. We also need to grow our Family Members so if you have a spouse who is not a member, please sign them up. Also, when you receive a renewal from us, please renew with that so your Chapter receives

credit, which helps the Chapter get a rebate from AFSA HQ. Those rebates help us make more donations to the VA Hospital and to St. Michael's Center for homeless vets so they can get back on their feet. We also make donations every year to the local "Operation Santa" and Hope Haven, a home for abused women and children.

Your Chapter is spread across three states – southern Iowa, western Missouri and eastern Kansas. We even have members in other states that have chosen to stay true to Chapter 804.

You also have some great representation at AFSA HQ within your Chapter – International Family Matters Trustee Patti Dalzell, International Retiree & Veterans Affairs Trustee SMSgt (ret) Dale Lutzen, Past International President MSgt (ret) Steve Norberg and Past International Auxiliary President Kathy Oden. Also, I serve on the International Budget & Finance Committee. We all have your backs!

Congratulations to our Chapter Award winners. They will go on to compete at the Division 3 Conference and the Division winners will then go on to compete at the International Conference.

Chapter Member of the Year	SMSgt (ret) Charlie Dalzell
Family Member of the Year	Patti Dalzell
Individual Legislative Award	CMSgt (ret) Curtis Gist
Veterans Admin Services Award	CMSgt (ret) Hershell Spurlock
Volunteer Service Award	Helen Hatz

Thanks again for your continued support and for being loyal members of Chapter 804. Feel free to contact me with any concerns.

CHARLIE DALZELL, SMSgt (ret)
Chapter President
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LEGISLATIVE

1. From www.military.com dated March 5, 2019 --

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/03/05/trump-signs-executive-order-creating-task-force-stop-vet-suicide.html>

Trump Signs Executive Order Creating Task Force to Stop Vet Suicide

– President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday aiming to stem the number of suicides among veterans by creating a high-level task force to develop research strategies and plans to tackle the problem and provide grants for communities to help former troops who are struggling.

Calling suicide among veterans "a tragedy of staggering proportions," Trump said the problem can be solved only if the entire country works together.

"To every veteran, I want you to know an entire nation of more than 300 million people is behind you. You will never, ever be forgotten. We are with you all the way," he said.

2. From The Air Force Times dated March 1, 2019 –

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2019/03/01/facial-recognition-may-be-coming-to-the-gate-of-an-air-force-base-near-you/>

Facial recognition may be coming to the gate of an Air Force base near you

-- [Facial recognition](#) using artificial intelligence may be coming to the gates at [Air Force bases](#) in the near future.

The idea was put forth in January as part of an [innovation campaign](#) the Air Force started to crowd-source ideas from its airmen.

Facial recognition could be of benefit to [base defenders](#) who often must manually sift through photos and video feeds of interlopers near military installations, according to Lt. Col. Carlos Hernandez, who submitted the proposal.

3. From The Washington Report dated March 1, 2019 –

<https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/newsletters/32296>

Women Veterans Health Care

– Women are the fastest growing group within the veteran population, and we learned this week that nearly half a million of them now receive their health care through the VA system. Women make up 16.2 percent of today's active duty military forces and 19 percent of the reserve component forces. With increasing numbers of women joining all branches of military service, the number of female veterans using the system will rise as well.

In the coming weeks, AFSA will call on Congress and the VA to address this growing need.

4. From The Washington Report dated February 25, 2019 –

<https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/newsletters/32197>

Space Force Officially Under the Air Force

-- For the time being, it appears that the president has backed off plans to create an independent Space Force. Instead, he signed a directive on Tuesday that centralizes all military space functions under the Air Force.



MEMBERSHIP

As of March 24th, we had 825 active members.

For 2019 (as of March 24), our Chapter recruited 3 members and retained 26. Our goals for 2019 are 20 recruits and 80 retentions – we need 17 more recruits and 54 more retentions by the end of December so you can see we have a ways to go. I am seeking your help to accomplish these goals. Please sign up your Family Members – sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, etc., as long as they are 16 years of age, they can be an AFSA member. Please contact me for membership forms.

Unfortunately, my plan to send out tokens of appreciation for last year's renewals failed to happen and I truly do apologize. This year, though, I promise to do better. In fact, gifts have been mailed out to those members who renewed their January and February memberships through our Chapter as follows –

January -- MSgt (ret) George Hope
CMSgt (ret) Robert Spagnuolo
Joyce Walkup

February -- TSgt (ret) Leslie Cory
Edna Johnson
Sheila Lewis
MSgt (ret) John Luchsinger
MSgt (ret) Scott Spragg
MSgt (ret) Dick Stubblebine

A HUGE thank you to these members who helped our Chapter get closer to our goal. Your support is very much appreciated.

For our Chapter to receive credit for the retention, **PLEASE** be sure to renew via the form you receive from me versus the form you receive from Headquarters.

Thanks for all your support. Take care and God Bless!

PATTI DALZELL

Chairperson

International Family Matters Trustee

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WELFARE

A Thinking of You card was sent to Emma Bittner.

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Louise Hicks, Roy Johnson and Carroll Morton.

If you know of any member who is ill, recovering from surgery, had a death in the family or is just going through a rough patch and needs a little pick-me-up, please let me know.

PATTI DALZELL

Chairperson



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 April thru June are as follows:

- ❖ April 25
- ❖ May 23
- ❖ June 27



VIRGINIA KAPS

Chairperson

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CHAPTER HISTORY

“Reflections”

Recently while going through some AFSA & Chapter archives, I came across some information from 40 years ago that I think many of you will remember and find interesting. It pertains to the Division & Chapters at that time, of which our Chapter was a part. Division 8, also known as the Land of the Great Rivers Division, contained five states (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri & Wisconsin) and 35 AFSA Chapters. Among the Division & Chapter Officers were names most of you will remember. In 1979, the Division officers were as follows -- President was Jay Hyde, the Vice President was Don Karna, 2nd Trustee was John Clark, Secretary was Virginia Campbell, Senior Advisor was Bob Wright and the Auxiliary Coordinator was Addy Davidson. Our Chapter Officers were President James Christy and Auxiliary President Jeanne Wright.

Division 8 Chapters in 1979

Illinois

513 – Scott AFB
873 – Chicago
874 – Rockford
875 – Moline
876 – Peoria
877 – Chanute
878 – Springfield
879 – Marion

Iowa

866 – Des Moines
867 – Sioux City
868 – Cedar Rapids
869 – Mason City
870 – Ottumwa
871 – Council Bluffs

Minnesota

858 – Minneapolis-St. Paul
859 – Duluth
860 – Rochester
861 – Glenwood
862 – Brainerd
863 – Moorhead
864 – Bemidji
865 – New Ulm

Missouri

504 – Richards-Gebaur AFB
522 – Whiteman AFB
880 – Springfield
883 – Poplar Bluff
884 – Kirksville
885 – St. Louis

Wisconsin

851 – Milwaukee
852 – Madison
853 – Green Bay
854 – Eau Claire
855 – Fond Du Lac
856 – Wausau

As most of you remember, in 2009, Division 8 merged with Division 9, which added five more states (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma). It was a good merger at that time because it added eight Active Duty bases from Division 9 to only two Active Duty bases in Division 8, which increased the possibility of additional members. And, indeed it did -- for about the next six years the newly-combined Division became the best Division in AFSA at retaining and recruiting members. But, as Bob Dylan once said, *“The times, they are a-changing”*. In recent years, the Chapter efforts at the Active Duty bases have declined dramatically to where the two best Chapters statistically are our own Chapter 804 and our old Division 8 friends in Milwaukee. That success continues for Chapters 851 and 804 because of the outstanding efforts and attention to details by Bud & Jean Kolwitz and our own Patti Dalzell.

Thank you ALL for being part of the Best Chapter in the Air Force Sergeants Association.

HARRY MCLANE, CMSgt (ret)

Chapter Historian

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SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Our next **New Theatre Restaurant** outing will be Tuesday, **April 16th**, to see "*Biloxi Blues*".

The new season includes "*The Last Romance*" starring Michael Learned and Charlie Robinson, "*Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood*" starring Bronson Pinchot, "*Church Basement Ladies*" (Feb 5 - Apr 12, 2020), "*Million Dollar Quartet*" (Apr 16 - Jul 5, 2020) and "*Freaky Friday*", the new Disney musical headed for Broadway (Jul 9 – Sep 13, 2020). Prices are \$49 and \$51. We all need to support this program to keep it alive. We are one of the smallest Chapters in the Association.

KATHY ODEN

Chairperson

Home: 816-331-4058

Email: kcoden@sbcglobal.net

CARD DAYS



April 4th & 11th

May 2nd & 9th

June 6th & 13th

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

Bridge: 10:00 AM at RC's Restaurant
330 East 135th St., Martin City, MO

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

GINNY STAUDINGER, 816-982-5133 (Pinochle)

SHARON DAVIES, 816-331-5581 (Bridge)

COUPON CONNECTION

Two 20-pound boxes were mailed to Yokosuka, Japan and Naples, Italy. The coupon-cutting session was held at the Carnegie Village (The Loft) and the members present were Marty Stevenson, Virginia Kaps, Wanda Kiefer, Charlie & Melissa Knight and Sandy Shook. Please know that there are many others who contribute to this program.

Until next time, continue to clip those coupons.

KATHY ODEN, 816-331-4058

Chairperson

6101 East 149th Street

Grandview, MO 64030



BUCK-A-MONTH 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 by emailing us at afsachapter804@gmail.com or calling Charlie Dalzell at 816-331-7594.

Thanks to our recent contributors –

**Irmgard Fulkerson
Howard Glover
Melba Keppen
Delmer Klinkenborg
George Lewis
George Ward**

CARD PARTY/SALAD LUNCHEON

Monday, April 29, 2019
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Belton Christian Church
409 Airway Lane

\$10 donation

Members, please bring a salad!

Please bring your own cards; you may play any card game you'd like.

All proceeds benefit the Kansas City VA Hospital.

HELEN HATZ

Chairperson

Home: 816-361-4374



CONFERENCES

AFSA Division 3 Conference will be held at the Drury Inn, O'Fallon, IL, on April 25-27, 2019. For more information, please use the Division 3 website, www.afsadiv3.org, or contact Division President, SMSgt (ret) Steve Zalesky at szalesky@hqafsa.org or (618) 977-0950.

AFSA International Convention & Professional Airmen's Conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt on the Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX, on August 24-29, 2019. Hotel and other conference information is on the HQ website, www.hqafsa.org.

Early Registration: \$300 (March 15–April 30)
Registration: \$325 (May 1–July 31)
Late Registration: \$350 (August 1-24)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 *April Fool's Day*
4 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
4 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
9 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie
11 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
11 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
15 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
16 New Dinner Theatre -- "*Biloxi Blues*"
21 *Easter Sunday*
25 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO
25-27 AFSA Division 3 Conference, O'Fallon, IL
29 Card Party/Salad Luncheon, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Belton Christian Church

VA Hospital Volunteer Service: 1-2-3-8-9-10-15-16-17-22-23-24-29-30

MAY

- 4 Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, 9:00 AM
2 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
2 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
9 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
9 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
10 *Military Spouse Appreciation Day*
12 *Mother's Day*
14 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie
18 *Armed Forces Day*
20 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
23 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO
27 *Memorial Day – Fly Your Flag!*

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

JUNE

- 6 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
6 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
11 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM – **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**
13 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
13 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
14 *Army Birthday*
14 *Flag Day – Fly Your Flag!*
16 *Father's Day*
17 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
27 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO

VA Hospital Volunteer Service: 3-4-5-10-11-12-17-18-19-24-25-26

JULY

- 4 *Independence Day – Fly Your Flag!*

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

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April-June 2019

**CHAPTER 804
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BELTON, MO 64012**

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