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President's Corner

DIVISION 4 CONVENTION

Our division convention was fantastic and I would be remiss if I didn't start off by saying thanks to Chapter 658 and all of the hard work and efforts you put into our convention.

The convention was 20-22 April 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Little Rock, 201 S Shackleford Rd, Little Rock, and the hotel and staff were absolutely awesome to us we had a great venue thanks to their support.

Again, Chapter 0658 worked extremely hard on the convention and activities and I know all who attended a great time. Events and activities included the Division 4 Golf Tournament on Thursday morning, the Ice breaker later that evening. On Friday we had our opening ceremonies, a couple presentations, the Presidents Luncheon, AFSA Business and two separate events that evening downtown. On Saturday we had a busy day with AFSA Business, training and elections and we culminated the day with our Honor's Banquet, recognizing our top performers and hearing from the AMC Command Chief, CMSgt Shelina Frey.

 Dr. Jim Crissinger

 Division 4 President

 Int'l Legislative Committee Chair

 Chapter 1075



WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE DIVISION 4 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS. THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL AND CHAPTERS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE DIVISION 4 CONVENTION.

Amn of the Year: SrA Alexander Greenlief,
Ch 1076

NCO of the Year: SSgt Zachary Bartlett, Ch
652

Member of the Year: TSgt Christopher
Smith, Ch 615

Family Member of the Year: Libby
Swanson, Ch 615

Small Chapter of the Year: Ch 651,
Columbus AFB, MS

Large Chapter of the Year: Ch 652, Keesler
AFB, MS

Division 4 Lifetime Achievement Award:
Stan Meyers, Ch 1076

Division 4 Lifetime Achievement Award:
Harold & Libby Swanson, Chapter 615

President's Award: Div Vice President,
MSgt (Ret) Scott Turner

Lifetime Trustee Award: Div VP, MSgt (Ret)
Scott Turner & Div Trustee Jewell Hicks

Legislative Award (Chapter): Ch 652,
Keesler AFB, MS

Legislative Award (Member): SrA Richard
Shaw, Ch 652

Communications Award (Chapter): Ch 652,
Keesler AFB, MS

Volunteer Service Person of the Year: TSgt
Meshanda Lopez, Ch 652

Community Service Award: Ch 615,
Barksdale AFB, LA

VA Volunteer Services Award: Mrs. Irene
Heffern, Ch 615

Exemplary Achievement Award: MSgt
Nesha Willis, Ch 651

Membership Achievement Award: Mr.
Steven Halloway, Ch 1054

Top Recruiter: SMSgt (Ret) Dan Kazumura,
Ch 652

Top Retainer: Sharon Crissinger, Ch 1075

Top Recruiting Chapter: Ch 652, Keesler
AFB, MS

Top Retaining Chapter: Ch 1075, Randolph
AFB, TX

Division 4 Spirit Stick: Chapter 615,
Barksdale AFB, LA

THE BLENDED RETIREMENT

The military retirement system is changing on January 1, 2018, some say the change is better - some say it is worse. I will try and explain the changes and hopefully give you the resources to make up your own mind.

What Is The New Retirement System?

The new retirement system is known as the "Blended Retirement System" or BRS. The "blending" in BRS comes from the blending of two major sources of retirement income: the existing annuity provision for those who retire after 20 or more years of service, PLUS the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The TSP is a government run 401(k) retirement account that allows members to invest their own money in either stocks or government securities and also get a contribution to that account from their employer.

The New Blended Retirement System can be summed up by saying the new system is made up of 3 specific components:

Defined Benefit:

- Retired pay will be 2% times number of years of service. If you retire at 20 years service you get 40% of your final base pay. If you retire at 30 years service you get 60% of your final base pay.
- You can either get your full retirement when eligible or opt to get a lump-sum benefit at retirement. If you take the lump-sum you will get a reduced monthly retirement check until age 67.

Defined Contribution:

- The military will contribute 1% of your base pay to your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account.
- You will be automatically enrolled with a 3% base pay contribution to your TSP. (You can raise or lower contribution or terminate individual contribution.)
- The military will match up to 5% of your contribution, after 2 years of service.
- You can always stop contributing to the TSP, get a loan of your TSP balance, or withdraw your money from the TSP account. However one should note there are penalties and tax consequences associated with the choices made on borrowing and withdrawing. Ensure you informed and aware before making the decision to move forward.

Continuation Pay:

- When they reach 12 years of service, Active Component members will be eligible for a cash incentive of 2.5 to 13 times their regular monthly basic pay, and Reserve Component members will be eligible for 0.5 to 6 times their monthly basic pay (as if serving on active duty) in return for a commitment of 4 more years of service.

→ The percentages is determined by your particular AFSC

DFAS has several resources that explain the BRS on their website. Members should also be receiving BRS training at their units. It is important that you make an educated and informed decision about your future.

Vice President Platform

It is great to be back in the South Central Division again! I just wanted to give an introduction in case you couldn't make it to our outstanding Division Convention (Thanks again to Chapter 658 for hosting) and you weren't able to see my resume when I submitted by intention to run for Division Vice-President.

Greg Gallup

Division 4 Vice President

Chapter 1076

First I'd like to give a thanks to our Division VP for the last 4 years, MSgt (ret) Scott Turner, who put his all into Division 4. Also, it's an almost thankless job but I'd like to thank Scott establishing and continuing to lead the International Membership Committee Tech School joiner "Where's Waldo Team" to help thousands of Airmen get transferred to their first duty assignment so they can get involved in their local Chapter. Scott pledged at the Convention that he will not be far away and he has already helped me in my short time as VP.

Anywho, I joined AFSA almost 20 years ago and I have been appointed to, temporarily filled in, or voted into each position at the Chapter level. My previous Chapter stops were in Minot, Langley, Minot (yep, return trip), Randolph, Vandenberg, and now Lackland.

The last year and half that I was at Randolph I was the Membership Trustee for Division 610 just prior to the reorg into Division 4 for our same 14 Chapters. During my 3 years at Vandenberg I was the Membership Trustee and Legislative Trustee for Division 6.

So why am I still active in AFSA since I retired in late 2015? AFSA has always been a comfortable home for me. I could PCS (or move with retirement) and when I transferred my membership to the new Chapter I have been instantly plugged in with a group of volunteering professionals that want to make a difference for their base/local communities, fellow Airmen, and for AFSA. Additionally, like many of the Retirees and Veterans that are active with AFSA, I want to be able to give back for what AFSA has done for me and also to give to the Airmen that will follow us.

The Legislative Front

You and Your Disability Pay

I was in the military for 25 years and never really gave two thoughts about my disability or how it will affect my pay until I got closer to my separation date. When I was stationed at Malmstrom AFB MT, My Security Forces Group Commander, Col Ernie Harris was getting ready for retirement. He came into my office and said Airman Moix every time you are sick or get injured make sure you go see the doctor and get it documented in your medical records! I laughed and said “Yes Sir”. When the time came to get out I did not consider myself broken by any means much less disabled. I still think about what Col Harris said how his advice was right on target. The smallest things in your medical records can add up to some disability compensation. Due to legislation achieved over the years by AFSA and our Coalition partners, military retirees with a service-connected disability of at least 50 percent (as rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)) are able to concurrently receive all of their military retirement pay and all of their VA disability compensation without offset. Unfortunately, those with disabilities rated below 50 percent still lose one retirement dollar for each compensation dollar received from the VA. The bills listed below help to correct this unfair situation.

Gary Moix

Division 4 Legislative Committee Chair

Chapter 1076

There are three pertinent bills currently referred to Committees regarding Disability Pay <https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/Campaigns> :

1. H.R. 303: To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.
2. H.R. 333: To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.
3. S. 66 the Retired Pay Restoration Act: To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

If you want to make a difference, please contact your Congressman and Senators and let them know to co-sponsor and support these bills. You can go to <http://www.hqafsa.org/legislative.html> to use AFSA's Legislative Action Center. <https://www.votervoice.net/AFSA/>

[home](#) is a fast, easy way to tell your elected officials how you feel about issues important to you.

The Membership Front

What does your AFSA Membership mean to you?

I joined AFSA as an Airmen Basic and had no idea what I was signing up for. A close friend of mine dragged me to an Airman's Council meeting in Grand Forks, ND. There was an opportunity for us to get more involved with the base as the Airman Activity Coordinators for AFSA. I wasn't sure what it all meant, but I knew it was an opportunity for me to get involved and build lasting relationships. Almost ten years in the Air Force and I have never regretted my decision. I have been blessed to serve in many capacities at the chapter level and now at the division level. I have met all the former living CMSAFs and been mentored by some amazing people.

TSgt Elizabeth Corpus

Division 4 Membership Committee Chair

Chapter 1076

AFSA is a sense of family for me. It is something that you can look for at every base you go to. A way to get involved, to meet people, become part of a family and give back. Every year members look forward to the Professional Airman's Conference (July 22-26 2017) to reunite with old friends, learn more about the legislative front, and meet new friends.

What does AFSA mean to you? The Friends and Family Campaign is running from now until July 31, 2017. This is a great opportunity to get your friends and families more involved with what we do at a discounted rate of two for \$50! Let your loved ones know why you are a member and why they should be too!

Chapter Spotlight

This past April I had the honor to represent Chapter 652 at the Division 4 convention that was held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Besides the camaraderie of meeting old friends I had the opportunity to meet new friends as well. I also had the opportunity to talk to other chapter members about our chapter and what I think makes our chapter stand out. There are many things that I feel make our chapter stand out. However, if I had to narrow it down to three items, I would say they would have to be: build a team, groom that team, and give them opportunities to succeed.

Dan Kazumura

Chapter 652 President

First, you have to build a team. Normally, your core members are voted in and the rest are usually appointed by the president. I have found it easier to have a larger team with many positions to include team members.

A prime example would be our membership team. For our chapter the membership lead is a trustee. We then have two other membership team members who help with bad addresses and

other membership areas. Membership is and should be one of your largest teams. I am always trying to build on this team so we can expand our membership and have more opportunities to have recruitment drives, work on our chapter roster, bad addresses and try and recruit retirees, Reserve and Guard members and still concentrate on our permanent party and tech school students. Our chapter has over 70 recruitment drives a year and one person cannot and should not do this alone. I also rely heavily on our executive members to try and come out to one recruitment drive a month.

Second, once you build a team you have to groom that team. In order for your team to be strong and confident they have to know what they are doing. A lot of members today really don't know much about AFSA so this is our opportunity to groom the next generation. If you are not able to train your members, find that member within your chapter that has been an AFSA member for a long period, has passion and time. Or reach out to another chapter or Division to help. Have that member teach your executive team on what they are responsible for and what they should be doing. This past year, I started having more executive training and also setting up more meetings with my individual teams to ensure I set them up for success.

Third, give your team opportunities to succeed. Our chapter does this a few ways. First, we setup quarterly awards that mirror our annual chapter awards (Amn, NCO, Member and Volunteer) and also recruiter of the month. This rewards our members who excel and a more competitive chance at their unit/group/wing awards and evaluations. Another way to do this is have each committee come up with their vision and goals for the year. By doing this, you give them an opportunity to improve their program and take ownership.

These are just three examples of how you can help your chapter stand out. By building a team, that knows what they are responsible for, you will set them up for success. In return, you are grooming our future leaders in the Air Force and within AFSA

Roll Call

Chapter 615 - Barksdale AFB

Chapter 651 - Columbus AFB

Chapter 652 - Keesler AFB

Chapter 658 - Little Rock AFB

Chapter 1054 - Sheppard AFB

Chapter 1055 - Fort Worth

Chapter 1056 - Dyess AFB

Chapter 1062 - Houston

Chapter 1066 - Goodfellow

Chapter 1069 - Laughlin AFB

Chapter 1073 - Dallas

Chapter 1075 - Randolph AFB

Chapter 1076 - Lackland AFB

Chapter 1077 - Fort Sam Houston