

# AFA Texas News

**Volume 20 Issue 2**

**Official Newsletter of Air Force  
Association Texas**

**President: Paul Weseloh**

**Exec VP: Paul Hendricks**

**Secretary.: Joan Lopez**

**Treasurer: Mitsi Morrison**

**VP Comm: Norm King**

**Web page: <https://texasafa.org>**

The Air Force Association is a civilian, nonprofit aerospace organization, and is privately operated and financed. Our mission is to advocate and support the men and women of the United States Air Force, to educate the members and the public at large as to what these men and women do, and to advocate and support the military preparedness of the United States in order to maintain the security of this nation and its allies.

## **Summer Texas State Meeting**

The Summer Texas State AFA Annual Awards meeting was held virtually by the Seidel Chapter. It also was the Texoma Region Meeting.

**Summer 2020**

## **Future Meetings**

Fall 2020: October 10 Virtual Meeting

Spring 2021 Austin (Marble Falls)  
April 9-11

Summer 2021: TBD

Fall 2021: TBD

## **Virtual Air, Space & Cyber Conference**

**SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2020**

**VIRTUAL**

**AFA's Air, Space & Cyber Conference is going virtual.** AFA reached this decision only after carefully considering the current and projected state of the COVID-19 pandemic, guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, directives from the State of Maryland and Prince George's County, and feedback we have received from prospective speakers, attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, Airmen, and Space Professionals.

<https://airspacecyber2020.expotracker.net/index.aspx>

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## **AFA 20/20: A Celebration of Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Going**

**VIRTUAL FIELD LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2020**

**AFA's Board of Directors has approved the cancellation of the 2020 National Convention.** In lieu of the Convention, the virtual Field Leadership Development event, AFA 20/20: A Celebration of Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Going will be held.

Additionally, it has been approved to hold National Elections virtually and separately from the event. AFA 20/20 is open to all Field Leaders and AFA members.

<https://events.eventzilla.net/e/afa-2020-2138797771>

# Summer State Meeting Notes

AFA National President: Orville Wright discussed AFA's 75 year existence and that we are going faster and higher. Stated the biggest threat to the United States is China.

Chairman of the Board Field Operations: Mac MacAloon said the in person AFA Convention has been cancelled. Replaced with a virtual conference. Replaced with AFA 2020 virtual conference on 12-13 September, where national officers will be selected via electronic voting.

Region President: Mike Winslow reminded Chapters to do the semiannual reports on the forms available from National. Training modules are available on the National webpage. National is working on a new chapter rejuvenation checklist. **Reported that Paul Weseloh was elected to be the new Texoma Region President.**

Unfinished Business: The Field Operations Guide, Chapter Advocacy Plan and the AFA Strategic Plan are still being revised. Zip code realignment effort has been completed.

TEXAEF: many activities cancelled due to COVID so donations are down. A company is creating metal AEF Mugs that will be for sale at \$25 each.

New Business: Texas Aviation STEM Magazine asked if AFA Texas would be interested in placing a monthly ad in the magazine for \$50/month. State will pay for a 1 year trial with each chapter getting 1 ad per year.

New AFA Texas Officers for 2020-2021

## 2020-2021 Air Force Association Texas Officers

**President: Paul Hendricks**

**Exec VP: Norm King**

**Secretary.: Joan Lopez**

**Treasurer: Mitzi Morrison**

Vice President Reports:

Aerospace Education: We had many good Teacher of the Year nominations this year.

Awards: We need 5 people for the awards nominations committee. Texas received 5 National Medals of Merit and one Exceptional Service Award this year.

Government Relations: we are working on an advocacy program.

Programs: Spring Meeting in Marble Falls changed to the weekend of 9-11 April.



## AFA Texas 2020 Award Winners

NAME	AWARD	CHAPTER
Capt Andre Golson	Active Duty Company Grade Officer	Alamo
MSgt Eric McBrierty	Active Duty Senior NCO	Alamo
SSgt Alisha Prendergast	Active Duty NCO	Alamo
SrA Jose Calderon	Active Duty Airman	Ft Worth
Capt Andre Golson	AFRC Company Grade Officer	Ft Worth
TSgt Tiffany White	AFRC Senior NCO	Ft Worth
SrA Brooke Pirrone	AFRC NCO	Ft Worth
Capt Brandon Roberts	ANG Company Grade Officer	Alamo
MSgt Francisco Tarango	ANG Senior NCO	Alamo
SSgt Tony Ximenez	ANG NCO	Alamo
SrA David Rodriguez	ANG Airman	Alamo
Seidel Chapter	Chapter of the Year	
Mitzi Morrison	Member of the Year	Northeast Texas
Adrienne Emerson	Teacher of the Year	Northeast Texas
254th Combat Communications Group	Military Organization of the Year	Seidel
Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union	Civilian Organization of the Year	Seidel
Bob Gehbauer	Benjamin Foulois First Flight	Seidel
Larry Marwick	Chennault Patriotism	Del Rio
Tom Bailey	Medal of Freedom	Northeast
Sandra Gold	Medal of Freedom	Northeast
Heidi Ratliff	Medal of Freedom	Northeast
Amy Wade	Medal of Freedom	Northeast
Chris Fernandez	Medal of Freedom	Seidel
Jenifer Florence	Medal of Freedom	Seidel
Marvin Kobza	Medal of Freedom	Seidel
Patrick Nugent	Medal of Freedom	Seidel
Paul James, Jr	Medal of Freedom	Seidel
Scott Prentice	Medal of Freedom	Seidel
Steven A. Roser	Medal of Freedom	Seidel
Seidel Chapter	Gen John D. Ryan Membership	(over 400 members)

## AFA National 2020 Award Winners

NAME	AWARD	CHAPTER
Christopher Pineda	Medal of Merit	Alamo
Robert Eldridge	Medal of Merit	Alamo
Matthew Crawford	Medal of Merit	Seidel
Fletcher Sharp	Medal of Merit	Seidel
John Campbell	Exceptional Service Award	Seidel
Paul Weseloh	AFA Chairman's Citation	Alamo

## Chapter News

### Seidel Chapter # 232

1. The Chapter flag program has continued and remains our primary fund-raising activity with the collateral effect of introducing BSA Scouts & CAP Cadets (our program partners) to the Chapter. This half our Flag teams placed flags in five subdivisions on 2 holidays
2. Met with the Allen STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art & Mathematics) Center to discuss their programs and Cyber Patriot program
3. Contacted the Denton Cyber-Patriot leadership program to discuss a "How to Get Started" program
4. Initiated contact with the CP Open and All Service Division teams in our AOR to discuss regional competition for teams that do not progress beyond the national semifinals. This would provide an opportunity for more recognition, especially for new teams
5. The VP Legislative/Community Affairs made visits to the offices of National and State Legislators (Congressman Van Taylor, Senator Angela Paxton, State Representatives Sanford, and Leach)
6. The VP Legislative/Community Affairs visited the Chambers of Commerce for McKinney, Fairview, and Plano to talk with staff and deliver copies of the Air Force magazine
7. The VP Legislative/Community Affairs supported the Collin County Veterans Coalition's monthly meetings
8. In lieu of 2Q meeting, held a Zoom meeting on the United States Space Force with guest presenter General (Ret) Lance Lord. Approximately 25 people attended
9. 2. Used e-blasts to highlight awareness of AF and AFA issues including AFA President's article and Air and Space Museum video
10. In recognition of the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 crisis the Chapter made an outright donation of \$5000 to support DFW-area veteran's programs and established a donation program with \$5000 pledged to match donations. We received and matched another \$5000, for a total of \$15,000 donated to the Veterans Center of North Texas and the Veterans Resource Center.
11. Conducted three Military Book Club meetings (two by Zoom). Averaged 15 attendees
12. In lieu of second quarter membership meeting, held a Zoom symposium for members and guests to discuss the US Space Force with guest speaker Lance Lord, former Commander, Air Force Space Command. Approximately 25 attendees

### Fort Worth Chapter # 272

1. \$500 donation to 301Chiefs Group to support 301 Awards Banquet, Fort Worth Stockyards 1 Feb 20, 1000 attended. Chapter President attended and participated
2. F-35 for 301FW at NAS Fort Worth at Brewer High School 5 Mar 20, 1700 200 Community leaders discussing 301FW transition to F-35. Program the economic impact to the community is in the billions of dollars. Con-The increased noise at the 75-year-old air base. Money won out over increased noise. Chapter President presented data for Pro outcome

## **Austin Chapter # 276**

1. Participated in virtual awards ceremony for Cyber Patriot
2. Proactively reached out to candidates running in TX for state and federal elections about the AFA and Air Force in TX
3. Attended Community town hall for Combined Arms in Austin

## **AFA Alamo Chapter # 234**

1. Presented AFA scholarships to San Antonio winning CP team (Mayor's Cup luncheon), in addition \$5,500 for surface pads for each team member of the winning team. During the 10th Annual San Antonio Mayor's Cyber Cup, 29 February 2020 at the Omni Hotel and Resorts.
2. Selected Tracy L. Thomas with the Krueger School of Applied Technologies, San Antonio TX and Colin R. Lang with the Alamo Heights High School, San Antonio TX as Chapter Teachers of the Year

## **North East Texas Chapter 416**

1. 200107: Greenville ISD Solar Car ,Greenville High School, Solar Car Club, (\$3,600) fund additional batteries/ supplies to aid in new car build. Better equipped to win races/build confidence in abilities.
2. 200110: Sulphur Springs ISD G.R.O.W. (\$1,000) check presentation, Sulphur Springs Elementary School, Texas, G.R.O.W. program leads/5th&6th grade females, provide additional resources for program
3. 200130: Sulphur Springs ISD G.R.O.W. first event, Sulphur Springs Elementary School Texas, G.R.O.W. program leads/5th&6th grade females, participants learned leadership/problem solving/team building skills
4. 200214: Sulphur Springs ISD Robotics \$1,500 check presentation, Sulphur Spring High School Texas, program leads/Robotics team, provide additional resources for program
5. Commerce ISD Robotics, Commerce High School Texas, 200312, Program leads/Robotics team, showed AFA/community support
6. 200601: Lone Oaks ISD Robotics donation presentation, program leads/Robotics team, made contact and working to provide additional resources for program.
7. CyperPatriot book series donations, presentations to be done at future date. Donations to elementary schools within chapter district to provide awareness of cyber education to young student to help peak their interests early in their education. Also to show our support and appreciation for our ISD community partners.

1. 200228: Chapter TOY presentation, Greenville High School Texas, Adrienne Emerson, recognizing teacher with school leadership. Chapter presented \$500 and mementos.
2. 200528: State TOY Presentation, Greenville High School Texas, Adrienne Emerson, recognizing her via email due to COVID-19. \$1000, mementos, and recognition at appropriate time.
3. 200615: TOY AFA Membership, Greenville High School Texas, Adrienne Emerson; presented \$85, 3-year electronic membership to inspire and provide opportunity for her to share from material.
4. 200629: Nationals TOY submission, Adrienne Emerson, with possibility of winning.

## A Message from the Maj Gen Mark E. Smith, CAP National Commander

July 9, 2020

Dear Air Force Association Member:

Thank you for your dedicated support of the Air Force as a member of the Air Force Association. Your support through the AFA is critical for the Air Force Total Force to include our airmen and their families serving worldwide.

Civil Air Patrol is also proud to be included as part of the Total Force. Unique in being both the Air Force Auxiliary and a national nonprofit, you may already be aware that for the past 25 years, the Air Force Association has been a crucial partner to CAP in promoting aerospace education and fostering an interest in STEM careers in hundreds of thousands of students and cadets across the country.



As a result of this mutual affiliation, **I am pleased to invite you â€” if not already a CAP member -- to become a *Friend of CAP* for two years -- at no cost, and with no obligation.** This is your chance to show your support of and learn about the impact our more than 66,000 members make as citizens serving communities.

As a *Friend of CAP*, you will receive digital copies of CAP's *Volunteer* magazine, our annual report to Congress, our monthly e-newsletter curated for our CAP alumni and friends, and invitations to special friend events (in-person and virtual), plus periodic digital updates on our missions and programs and more.

To learn more about and take advantage of this offer, please click [HERE](#). To receive the no-cost *Friend of CAP* option, enter **coupon code AFACAP2020** at checkout. Please note that this offer can be extended only until October 1, 2020.

Immediately upon joining, you will receive your digital welcome kit, which will explain more about our shared work. You will also receive an update regarding CAP's COVID-19 response across the nation.

Again, we encourage you to join today and look forward to working alongside you and your fellow AFA members and helping to shape the future aerospace workforce of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark E. Smith  
Major General, CAP  
CAP National Commander/CEO

# ***AFA National News***

## **AFA Doers, Donors and Door Openers (3-D) Revenue Generation**

AFA's revenue generation pilot program is picking up steam with our test Chapters. This program will present options for revenue sharing programs between AFA chapters and the Doolittle Leadership Center through Combined Sponsorship Packages and Referral Incentives, among others. There is so much goodness going on in our Field. This past week I attended several Virtual Chapter Meetings, a Chapter Happy Hour and participated in a first for this VCoBFO - a European Region zoom call with chapters in England, Germany, and Italy! Two of these Chapters are making a comeback thanks to a few dedicated Field Leaders! If challenges create opportunities, we are blessed with opportunities today! I am forever grateful to represent you during the critical turning point in our Association. Thank you for your leadership, support, and ideas! Always on your wing!

## **Field Council Training Subcommittee Update Membership Recruiting.**

All field leaders have a responsibility to their organizations to be able to recruit new AFA members and retain the ones they have. The recommended module views (below) address this long-standing issue within all volunteer organizations. The concepts are discussed at length, but there is also a handy standard checklist or aircrew style checklist you can download on the subject. • Recruiting New Members, Part 1 covers some basic recruiting principals • Recruiting New Members, Part 2 discusses what goes into developing a recruiting plan • Recruiting New Members, Part 3 focuses on creating a recruiting plan for YOUR organization. You can find these videos on the Field Training Page. If your organization still needs to get its SAAR or SAFR finished (I know mine does), the new instructions for both the Chapter, and State-level reports are in the Admin section of the Field Training Page. As always, please remember to take the survey at the end of each training module / instruction to let us know that you have been watching! Richard "Ric" Baldwin Chairman, Field Council Training Sub-Committee (FCTS)

## **Cyber Patriot Update**

Cyber Patriot XIII Registration Still Open Teams looking to participate in the 13th season of the national youth cyber defense competition can register through October 15. Currently registered teams are given access to Exhibition Rounds and additional training resources that students and coaches can use at their own pace. The current Exhibition Round runs from July 7 - August 6.

Cyber Generations Workshop available virtually Since we cannot safely meet in person, we have turned the Cyber Generations workshop into a virtual workshop, accessible to anyone at any time! The workshop includes narrated lessons and supplemental activities and resources that teaches senior citizens everything they need to know to stay safe online.

# News You Can Use

## Tricare to Offer Free Physical Therapy for Lower Back Pain

Tricare users with lower back problems may soon be able to get free physical therapy to help ease their pain -- if they live in certain states.

Officials with the health care program for military families and retirees announced they will begin a pilot program in January 2021 that allows members to receive up to three free physical therapy treatments for lower back pain. The program is scheduled to run for two years and will be available in 10 states.

The states where the pilot program will occur are: Arizona; California; Colorado; Florida; Georgia; Kentucky; North Carolina; Ohio; Tennessee; and Virginia. These states were chosen for their large military retiree populations.

An analysis of Tricare claims conducted by the Defense Health Service showed that retirees were nearly 50% less likely than others to receive physical therapy treatments for lower back pain. One factor that may contribute to this is the fact that retirees have a higher copay or out-of-pocket cost than other groups of Tricare beneficiaries.

The pilot program looks to determine whether more retirees will utilize physical therapy for their lower back pain as a result of being able to access the treatments for free, [according to a notice published in the Federal Register](#).

Many conventional medical treatments for lower back pain, such as drugs or surgery, either have dangerous side effects or are cost prohibitive. Physical therapy has shown promise in eliminating the pain more rapidly than conventional methods and is cheaper in the long run while having fewer side effects.

Conventional medical treatments for lower back pain focus on medication or surgery. However, the drugs used are quite often highly addictive painkillers that stop the pain, but do not cure the problem. Surgery, while usually a last-ditch effort to fix a serious underlying problem, can be dangerous and is also quite expensive.

Medical science, and those who suffer from lower back pain, have long known that it usually is a temporary condition that can be resolved within six weeks given the proper care and rest. Most conventional treatment methods involve expensive procedures such as CAT scans, MRIs, or X-rays.

Physical therapy, therefore, has the promise of being a lower-cost treatment that has less danger of side effects, chance of complications, and is cheaper than conventional treatment methods, [according to the report](#).

Rapidly receiving physical therapy for lower back pain treatment can also result in faster return to normal life and less lost wages because of being unable to participate in daily activities.

The program will be available only to those who are referred by a Tricare-authorized provider to a participating therapist after the 2021 start date. Only those who have a new episode of lower back pain will be able to participate in the program. If you are currently receiving physical therapy for a lower back pain condition, you are not eligible. However, if you had a lower back pain incident in the past and are diagnosed with a new episode, you are eligible if you are in one of the participating states.

## Social Security Taxes Update 04:

### Why Half of Retirees Now Pay Them

Having Social Security taxes taken from your paycheck is bad enough. But for millions of Americans, the obligations do not end there. Half of retirees say they paid income taxes on their Social Security benefit income during the 2019 tax year, according to a survey by the Senior Citizens League. Mary Johnson, a Social Security and Medicare policy analyst for the Senior Citizens League, notes: "There was no change from

previous years in the 50 percent of retiree households 82 who report that they pay tax on a portion of their benefits, despite the 2017 tax reform law.” As the league points out, the problem is likely to grow worse with time.

While income tax brackets are adjusted for inflation over the years, there has been no adjustment since 1984 to the income thresholds that subject Social Security benefits to taxes. That was the first-year benefits became taxable. How bad has the problem become since then? Initially, less than 10% of Social Security recipients were expected to owe taxes on their benefits. Now, Uncle Sam is reaching into the pockets of about half of recipients. Even retirees with modest incomes can become ensnared in these taxes. As the league states: “Up to 85 percent of Social Security benefits can be subject to taxation if an individual has a combined income of \$25,000 and married couples filing jointly have a combined income of \$32,000. Had income thresholds been adjusted for inflation, they would be about \$62,902 for individuals and \$80,515 for joint filers in 2020.” Your combined income determines whether your Social Security benefits are taxable by the federal government and, if so, to what extent.

As previously reported the Social Security 2100 Act (H.R.860/S.269) would greatly help alleviate this situation for millions of older taxpayers by making substantial changes to the income thresholds. The bill would raise the current income thresholds for taxation of Social Security benefits to \$50,000 for single filers and \$100,000 for joint filers, effective for tax year 2020. It would make up for the loss of revenue, by other payroll tax changes. H.R.860 with 280 cosponsors was introduced in the House on 30 JAN 2019 and referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security by the Committee on Ways and Means. S.260 was also introduced on 30 JAN to the Senate and currently only has one cosponsor. It was referred to the Committee on Finance.

## Notes of Interest

**VA Caregiver Support Line.** Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed social workers at 1-855-260-3274 who answer the support line can provide you with information about assistance available from VA, help you access services, connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you, or just listen, if that's what you need right now.

**Robocalls Update 02: Steps that Could Put an End to Them** If your phone is ringing off the hook with infuriating robocalls, you are not alone. Americans received 3 billion robocalls in May, according to the YouMail Robocall Index. That is down from a peak of 5.7 billion robocalls in October 2019, a trend that YouMail has attributed to the coronavirus pandemic. Still, it is little consolation to the recipients of those 3 billion unwanted calls last month. While stopping robocalls might seem hopeless, there are more ways than ever to fight back, thanks to stronger federal laws and improved technology. Following are some tips for reducing those pesky calls.

**1. Check with your phone carrier** -- A federal law enacted in December — the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act — requires phone companies to adopt authentication technology that enables them to determine whether incoming calls are legitimate before calls reach their customers' phones. But even before that, some major phone carriers had introduced new free anti-robocall features or were working on authentication technology, as was reported in 2019. So, contact your phone company or check its website to see what features, apps, or other technology it offers to customers seeking to cut down on unwanted calls.

**2. Check your smartphone** -- In addition to your phone company, your smartphone operating system might offer an anti-spam feature. For example, certain Android devices offer caller ID and spam protection, and some Apple iOS devices offer a relatively new feature called “Silence Unknown Callers,” which enables you to send spam calls directly to voicemail.

**3. Use a third-party app** -- If you are unhappy with the anti-spam call options that your phone carrier or smartphone operating system offers, investigate third-party apps like those detailed in “5 Apps That Block Robocalls.” Some of those apps have been recognized by the Federal Trade Commission. One even lets you

get revenge on telemarketers by tying up their phone lines with mindless chatter from “Answer Bots.” Check out <https://www.robokiller.com>.

**4. Do not answer calls from unfamiliar numbers** -- Ignore calls that come from unfamiliar numbers. According to the Better Business Bureau: Use Caller ID to screen your calls and just do not answer if you do not recognize the number. If someone really needs to reach you, they will leave a message.” If you accidentally or unthinkingly answer, hang up 96 immediately if the call sounds like telemarketing. If the caller hangs up after one ring and you do not recognize the number, do not call back: It could be what is known as a one-ring scam. To learn more, check out “Why Answering the Phone at Night Could Cost You Cash.”

**5. Keep your number to yourself** -- You know how businesses and websites ask for your phone number for just about any reason? If you do not have to give it, do not. The more you give out your number, the greater the chances that it will be sold to a third party. If you must provide a number — such as if an online retailer requires you to give one to place an order — consider giving a fake number. Money Talks News managing editor Karla Bowsher has been using a go-to fake phone number in such situations for years without issue, she says.

**6. Watch out for spoofing** -- Spoofing is a practice that some unscrupulous callers use to disguise the phone number from which they are calling. The goal is to trick you into thinking someone else is calling so that you answer the phone. As the Federal Communications Commission warns: “You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be aware: Caller ID showing a ‘local’ number does not necessarily mean it is a local caller.” Be extra careful in weeding out these calls — which often come from scammers. Common variations on spoofing scams include someone impersonating the IRS, A debt collector, or a computer tech support representative. So, remember tip No. 4: If you do not recognize the number, let the call go to voicemail.

**7. Get on the Do Not Call Registry** -- Put your cellphone and landline numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry. It is free, and it will at least stop law-abiding solicitors. Just be aware that some organizations — including charities, political groups, and debt collectors — are exempt and thus still can call you even if you are on the Do Not Call Registry.

**8. File a complaint** -- If you have been on the Do Not Call Registry for a month or longer and are still getting calls, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. This may seem like a waste of time, but it does not take long, and enough complaints could get policy changed.

