



Chapter 101 Newsletter

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Quarterly Report

As we roll into the winter, we can be grateful that snowplows and ice-melters are things that our northern neighbors must endure as we fish, golf and enjoy the Gulf Coast. Our gamelan for the coming year includes a focus on Teacher of the Year, Cyber Patriot, Membership, more engagement with our Community Partners and with our ROTC units at local high schools and the University of South Alabama. Since your chores are reduced

by the shorter days and lack of grass mowing, perhaps you'll have some time to give a little time to these great community involvement activities.

Teacher of the Year and CyberPatriot are direct engagements with our educational systems and go to the heart of STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. If you have skills in these areas, contact your schools and see if they need your help. Contact Don Fry, your Chapter

Education focal for some great, low cost advice on all things educational.

In the area of membership, your help button is Mark Colicchio (Doc Mark) who is always ready to sign up a new member. For Community Partners, get with Scott Hunter. After he gets you squared away on recruiting and signing up a new local business as a CP, he'll gladly regale you on the outlook for the Packers 2013 season. Have a great Holiday – see you in March.

Membership Facts:

- We have a base of over 200 active AFA members in South Alabama
- Our community is a great place to share your aerospace and cyberspace experience and skills
- You CAN help and make a difference

Membership

We are excited by the attendance at our last meeting and are encouraged by the interest of current members and those interested in joining. One of the difficulties in the past has been trying to contact those members on our affiliation roster because much of the information was outdated or in some cases the members were deceased or unable to be active in our chapter. Our membership list "scrub" team revised our working

roster from 188 members to 138 members with current contact information. This is of great significance, because now we know we are working with people who want to continue their affiliation and interest in our chapter. This helped tremendously with our past meeting in contacting members directly. It would be very beneficial to have a phone drive to contact members the week of each meeting. We all need reminders and this is THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY of

getting the word out. Now, to do this WE NEED YOUR HELP. If you are interested in calling members, please contact Mark Colicchio or one or the officers to sign up for the phone contact team.

Great news from our last meeting! We currently have 3 new members in the process of applying for membership. As soon as this is complete we will publish their names in the newsletter and offer a warm welcome.

Education

AFA Chapter 101 Teacher of the Year for South Alabama, Bill Finnegan, science teacher in the Davidson High School engineering program, received a certificate and a check for \$250 from Chapter President Steve Carey at our September meeting. Mr. Finnegan helped pioneer Mobile county's oldest EPIC (Engineering Pathways Integrated Curriculum) program. For 2013, our chapter will select both a high school and an elementary Teacher of the Year. Don Fry VP for Aerospace Education



President's Corner



I had the opportunity to speak to a great group of young aviation minded students in November. The High School Aviation class is taught by Jeff Bailey and is a joint venture by the Enterprise State Community College Aviation school in Mobile and the South Baldwin School for Technology in Robertsdale, Alabama. Jeff teaches high school students aviation class of over 100 students. These courses are airframe sheet metal design and repair for students to

prepare for a career as an airframe and power plant mechanic. The students can receive college credits at the aviation school in Mobile if they meet the requirements of the course study.

In addition to giving the students knowledge of airframe mechanics, invited guest speakers share their aviation experiences with the class. Not all these young people will choose to become A&P mechanics but may select to have a career in other fields in avi-

ation.

My talk generated a great deal of interest in the Air Force Academy and gave the class a better understanding of the requirements both physically and mentally to become a USAF Fighter Pilot. I felt the respect that the students had for the USAF and our mission. Wearing one of my old flight suits and demonstrating the flight equipment was a lot of fun and hopefully made an impression these young people.

Upcoming Activities

Mark your calendars: The U. S. Coast Guard Band will be performing at the Civic Center Theater in Mobile on the evening of Monday, March 11 2013.

Pass this on to students, other music departments, and arts organizations so that we can make sure that we showcase Mobile as the Coast Guard City that we are.

The United States Coast Guard Band was organized in March 1925

with the assistance of Lt. Charles Benter, leader of the United States Navy Band; Dr. Walter Damosch, conductor of the New York Philharmonic; and "American March King" John Philip Sousa, former director of the United States Marine Band. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed congressional legislation resulting in the Coast Guard Band becoming the permanent, official musi-

cal representative of the nation's oldest continuous seagoing service. This event also established the Coast Guard Band as one of our nation's premier service bands.

This is a rare opportunity to have this world class military band come to Mobile, so we want to do everything that we can to ensure that we have a sell-out crowd. The concert will be FREE.

Next South Alabama Chapter Meeting is Thursday, March 14th at the Captain's Table. See you there. Other 2013 meetings:

Thurs - Jun 20th

Thurs - Sep 12th

Mon - Nov 11th

National News

Vietnam War 50th anniversary - A new program coming on line to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam conflict.

Take a look at the web site at www.vietnamwar50th.com or scan the QR Tag and

see you want to help become a Commemorative Partner. If you are interested, contact Steve and get involved.

Be sure to check out the website.



Alabama Statewide News

Disaster Evacuee Program – This effort aims to recruit AFA volunteers to open up their homes, and help house military members and their families and pets, in the event of either a natural or man-made disaster that brings evacuees to our area. In the event of a disaster that brings evacuees to our area, should you agree, you will be called to place fellow single airmen, couples, military families,

and/or their pet(s) in your home.

When disaster strikes, they arrive with little or no warning! Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Floods, Wildfires, even Volcanic eruption; and natural disasters leave a path of destruction in their wake, and countless Air Force families left to pick up the pieces. The tornadoes at Little Rock, floods at Minot, fires in California

and Arizona, and hurricanes in the Gulf, immediately come to mind. Thankfully, AFA relief, sometimes from miles away, isn't too far behind in the form of support of the Air Force Disaster Evacuee Program.

In Alabama, each Air Force Association Chapter will consider supporting the long-term program. This would be a niche that all chapters could be in-

involved with under the AFA brand. Our chapter needs a POC to coordinate with the installations Airman and Family Readiness Center POC. If you want to help, contact Steve Carey for further info.

Our Community Partners



You can contact chapter officers at:

Steve Carey – President	251-406-9799	scarey@certapro.com
Scott Hunter – Vice President	251-709-2262	Scott.Hunter@RaymondJames.com
Mark Colicchio – VP Membership	251-652-2222	dawgedr@att.net
Don Fry – VP Education	251-422-8466	donfry@member.afa.org
Leif Dunn – Treasurer/Vet Retiree	251-233-6336	ldunn@earthlink.net

AF101, your South Alabama Chapter, is new and growing. You can affiliate on-line easily. Do it now.

Veterans and Retirees



Officials with the Alabama Department of Veterans' Affairs are pleased with the progress of the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort. After an Oct. 7 groundbreaking ceremony, construction of the cemetery began on the approximately 120-acre site.

"We are extremely satisfied with both the pace and quality of construction of this sacred facility, which will be a fitting tribute to our veterans and heroes that wore our nation's cloth," said Clyde Marsh, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs. "The cemetery is on schedule to meet our projected opening of spring 2013."

The first phase of construction covers 22.8 acres and includes an administration building, a maintenance facility, and a committal shelter. The burial population for this phase totals 2,776 graves, with in ground crypts, tradi-

tional graves, columbarium niches, and scatter grounds. This phase of burial sites should accommodate burials for 10 years before another expansion is needed.

At this time, the administration building, which is approximately 2,700 square feet, has four walls, a roof, and some infrastructure. The nearly 3,700 square foot maintenance building is also currently under construction, with three walls standing. Last week, crypt installation began in the first pre-placed crypt burial section of the cemetery. The cemetery site has many unique features. It will have a Memorial Walk that connects with its neighbor, the Saluda Hills Cemetery, where Revolutionary War Soldier Zechariah Godbold is buried. The flag plaza and committal shelter have expanded areas to accommodate large gatherings for ceremonies and to serve as a venue for veterans or other events open

to the public.

The cemetery's site plans and architectural design were by Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects of Fairhope. After receiving a \$7 million final grant approval and funding authorization from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in August, the state VA awarded the construction contract to White-Spunner Construction Co., Inc. of Mobile.

The public can make monetary donations to the cemetery by writing checks payable to the "Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs" and by indicating that the donation is for the cemetery project. Donations can be mailed to the ADVA, P.O. Box 1509, AL 36102-1509

Questions regarding the state veterans' cemetery can be directed to Sandy Speakman, general counsel for the state VA at (334) 353-5033.

**AFA
SOUTH ALABAMA
CHAPTER 101**

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