



Airfield 858

The newsletter of the Air Force Sergeant's Association – Chapter 858 Spring 2004

From the President

Greetings!

First I want to thank Vicky Kuntz for the outstanding job she's done the past 2 years as President. She has set the bar very high!

I am looking for eager volunteers to help with just about everything! We are still in need of a VP and I hope to fill this position during our April meeting. I'd also like to hear from you what types of events you'd like to see happen this year. We are investigating a possible paintball event for October. Be thinking about that.

I welcome your inputs and believe in what Vicky has done for the past 2 years – giving back to the membership!

Chapter 858 T-Shirts and Polos

The polos are royal blue and have the AFSA wings and Chapter 858 stitched in silver thread. The t-shirts are black, with the same logo design as the polo shirts on the front, except Chapter 858 is in red. There are still some available with the same logo printed on the back across the shoulders and some without.

Prices: Polos for \$20

t-shirts for \$10

Contact Chris Neitzel to order!

Christopher.Neitzel@minneapolis.af.mil

DOME NIGHT '04 Volunteers Needed!

AFSA Chapter 858 invites you to participate in DOME NIGHT '04. Friday, April 16th, 2004, Game time is 7:10 pm. Twins vs. Kansas City. We'd like dedicated and fun-loving people who want to have a good time selling hot dogs with a lot of other fun-loving folks! Mark your calendar for a great night at the Dome. All proceeds benefit the 934th AW AFSA Chapter 858. More information to follow to volunteer contact Sherrill Beecher. E-mail: sbeecher@adayana.com

E-Mail Newsletter

If you'd like to get the latest and greatest AFSA news even quicker, sign up to be on our e-mail list and have the Chapter 858 newsletter delivered to your own computer!

POC: Tami Besser: Tami.Besser@mortenson.com

Membership Report for March 2004

Total membership strength (AFSA and Auxiliary) is 131,982.

Total membership increased by 370. AFSA decreased by 384.

Auxiliary decreased by 14. Share with your friends the benefits of being an AFSA member and what AFSA does for you in Congress.

The Vet's Home

The Vet's home is another great volunteer opportunity, especially for anyone who lives or works near the home. They can pretty much fit a need with any time slot you have available. They have volunteers help with special activities and events, visit with people and always have a need at meal times to help pass out trays. You will need to complete an application before you're able to start. Contact Vicky Kuntz if interested and she can e-mail or send an application to you.

Death of International Lifetime Trustee

AFSA Headquarters was informed that International Lifetime Trustee James Whitsell, husband of Auxiliary International President Carolyn Whitsell, died March 1st of an apparent heart attack.

Cards and letters can be sent to Mrs. Whitsell and her family at: 68 Blue Ridge Trace, Hendersonville, TN 37075-2664.

Airfield 858
Air Force Sergeant's Assoc. Chapter 858
Sherrill Beecher – President
5276 149th St W
Apple Valley MN 55124

Air Force Sergeants Association
Chapter 858

Sherrill Beecher – President

Officers

President – Sherrill Beecher
Vice President – Open
Secretary – Chris Neitzel
Awards Trustee – Russ Funaro
Treasurer – Open
Senior Advisor – Vicky Kuntz

Trustees

934th Legislative Trustee –
Richard Grewe
133rd Legislative Trustee –
Thomas O'Keefe
ANG Membership & Affairs Trustee –
Dave Himmer
Boy Scout Trustee and Webmaster –
Dave Hammer
934th Membership Trustee –
Jody Knight
Membership Retention Trustee –
William Cox
Veterans Trustee – Tom Foss
Trustee – Clayton Pyle

Auxiliary Chapter Officers

President – Beck Bogardus
Vice President – Rose Hill
Secretary/Treasurer – Fern Schneider

Airfield 858 Editor
Dawn Flipp

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What's Happening

Legislative Update

On March 30th, Rep. Chet Edwards, D-TX, filed a discharge petition to H.R. 548, The "Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2003". A discharge petition is a legal maneuver to bypass committee leadership and force an issue to the House Floor. In order to succeed a discharge petition requires signatures of the majority of members, meaning 218 of the 435 representatives must approve the motion to bypass committee action. AFSA members are encouraged to contact their representatives and ask them to sign the discharge petition.

TRICARE – March 10, 2004 the Senate agreed to include an amendment to allow permanent access to TRICARE for members of the Guard and Reserve. The amendment permanently extends coverage to any member who wants to pay the premium. It would also provide government funding for Guard and Reserve member's private insurance premiums during mobilization periods. Senate lawmakers also agreed to a provision which would increase the monthly SR-MGIB rate by 13 percent.

The Armed Forces Services Center

Don't forget to utilize the Armed Forces Service Center if you're on active duty orders and at the airport waiting for your flight. They're open 24/7 and offer a bite to eat, internet access, local and long distance phone service and much more at no cost.

This is also a great volunteer opportunity. The biggest need is for people to cover the 1200 to 0400 shift. If you don't feel you can make a commitment at this time, you could be put on a call list to fill in when needed. If you'd like more information about what it's really like to volunteer for the AFSC, contact Vicky Kuntz who works one 4-hour shift a month.

If interested in volunteering, contact the center directly at (612)726-9156 or send an e-mail to afsc_msp@qwest.net

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 17, 2004 - 1630
133rd Wing Conference Room