



Airfield 858

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

From the President

Happy Holidays to everyone!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped our Chapter grow over the last two years. We've won some awards, made some money, gave away some money and had a lot of fun. As much as I would like to, I will not be running for president again this year. I was recently selected to serve as the First Sergeant of the 934th Airlift Wing's Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and I need to focus my time there. I have to tell you, it's been a lot of fun and I've enjoyed every minute of my term as president. I do plan to continue to be a part of Chapter 858 in whatever role the new president desires.

Chapter 858 T-Shirts and Polos

Let me know if you would like to purchase a Chapter 858 polo or t-shirt. 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. I have some with the same logo printed on the back across the shoulders and some without. We are selling the polos for \$20 and the t-shirts for \$10.

AFSA Awards Dinner

The Air Force Sergeant's Association and Air Force Association Joint Annual Awards Dinner was held on November 14th. SMSgt Dave Hammer, our Chapter Webmaster, was recognized for our web site being named Division 8 Website of the Year. In addition, SMSgt Hammer was asked to re-design the Division 8 website which was then selected as the best Division Website of the Year. MSgt Sherrill Beecher was recognized for her outstanding support this year. In addition to serving as the Chapter Secretary, Awards Trustee and Newsletter Editor, she has helped with numerous other chapter activities. Rose Hill, Fern Schneider and Becky Bogardus, members of Chapter 858 Auxilliary, were recognized for providing outstanding support. For the last two years, these ladies have given out over 1,800 sno cones at the 934th Airlift Wing's Family Day. In addition, they also help staple, label and stamp over 1,100 newsletters every quarter. Mrs. Hill also serves as a manager for Chapter 858's Metrodome fundraiser events.

Chapter Elections

Our next membership meeting will be held during the 934th Airlift Wing's January UTA, Saturday, January 10, 2003, at 1630, at the Enlisted Club. Among other things, we will be electing a new president and vice president during this meeting. If you're interested in running, or would like to nominate someone, please be sure to attend. Your vote is your voice and all votes count, so please be sure to attend.

133rd Award Ceremony/Holiday Party

MSgt Sherrill Beecher and I attended the 133rd ANG Awards Ceremony and Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13th. We gave away 250 cups of beer, brownies and t-shirts. We enjoyed the festivities and gained 7 new members, two of which were lifetime memberships.

The Vet's Home

The Vet's home is a 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 need volunteers to 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. Let me know if you're interested and I will send you an application.

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Air Force Sergeant's Assoc. Chapter 858
Vicky Kuntz – President
14858 County Rd 30
Elk River MN 55330

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Officers

President – Vicky Kuntz
Vice President – Doug Altrichter
Secretary – Chris Neitzel
Awards Trustee – Sherrill Beecher
Treasurer – Patty Boettner

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
Trustee – Lin Davidson

Auxiliary Chapter Officers

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

Airfield 858 Editor
R. Sherrill Beecher

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The Armed Forces Service 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. That's what I do. I've been filling in for a regular volunteer who has suffered an injury and is unable to work for a few months. I work one 4-hour shift a month. If interested, contact the center directly at (612) 726-9156 or send an e-mail to afsc_msp@qwest.net.

Legislative Update

A big disappointment to the Military—the failure of “**Retire at 55**” to pass. This was in the \$87 Billion Iraq Supplemental Budget Request. It failed by only two votes, however, there seems to be new support for the passage of this bill. H.R. 742 by Rep. Jim Saxton, R-NJ, has eight new sponsors and S.1035 by Sen. Jon Corzine, D-NJ, has 9 new sponsors.

New TRICARE for Drilling Reserves passed in congress and signed by President Bush is a one year test for drilling reservists to sign up for TRICARE. DOD still has to figure out how to deliver the program, but here are some details. The cost per year will be \$420 for self-coverage and \$1440 for self and family. To be eligible you cannot be offered any health insurance through your civilian employer or be unemployed. More details will be coming soon.

The FY 2004 Defense Authorization Act authorized unlimited commissary shopping privileges for Guard and Reserve members and their families. In addition to concluding a long-standing AFSA legislative initiative, it also brings an end to the need for the pink Commissary Privilege Card. Previously, Reserve component personnel and their families were allowed only 24 commissary shopping visits per calendar year. This provision also applies to "gray area retirees" who were not formerly entitled to unlimited commissary shopping until they reached age 60. Now all Guard and Reserve members will be able to enjoy the convenience of unimpeded access to the commissary.

2003 in Review



Krispy Kreme Fundraiser



Family Day



Sponsor for the Hispanic Luncheon



Membership Meetings



Dome Nights

And there were a LOT of them!

