

AFA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

19 Aug 2026

Attendees

Dann Mattiza Max Friedauer Fred Gross A1C Malik Gooden
SrA Mitchell Mark Chapman Jean Mattiza

Meeting was originally scheduled for 12 Aug but moved due to the number of folks with conflicts. Turns out we still had conflicts.

President Remarks:

- Provided an overview of the events and business items from the State Convention
 - o New Officers elected for 2026-2027—Only change will be Secretary. Sharon Branch is off and Taona Enriques is in
- There will be a reorganization of Regions from National. Florida Region will go away, and the State will join the Southeast Region with Georgia and South Carolina. (North Carolina, currently in Southeast, will move to the Central East Region.)
- AFA Memberships are changing. We currently have a Mission Membership that is given to anyone that attended an AFA sponsored event, for free. (Goal—increase AFA membership!) The Membership Committee has been working to integrate that membership into the system and to still provide paid members with distinctive benefits. Members will vote on the new Membership Plan and designations at the Convention. Paid Members will be known as Premium Memberships and be broken out by Life, 2-year, 3-year and 5-year categories.
- Our chapter is currently up to 1600 members due to the Mission Membership efforts and the entire organization is struggling to keep up with the new members, their assignments to Chapters, etc. Hopefully, that will level off soon.
- Ms. Jennifer Cook, our TOY, was awarded the State TOY award. She will also be recognized at our Award Ceremony.
- Lt Gen Conley was recognized as the Waterman Award winner, although he was unable to attend the Convention. He will be formally presented the award

at our Awards dinner on the 14th of Oct. State VP Gavin MacAloon will present the award to him.

- I accepted the following Chapter awards at the State convention:
 - o Meredith Coleman – Member of the Year
 - o Chapter 398 – Extra Large Chapter of the Year
 - o Unsung Heroes – Best Single Program
 - o Chapter 398 – Communications
 - o Chapter 398 – Community Relations
 - o Chapter 398 – Overall Programming
 - o Fred Gross – Exceptional Service
 - o Susan Ault-Davis – Sustained Service

Treasurer Report

- Chapter funds are in good shape but we may have to move funds around to meet upcoming needs.
- Raymond James account is good. I have asked Mark Chapman to review our portfolio and make recommendations as required.
- Semi-annual report was filed in July/early Aug.
- Paid for two space camps this past month.

Awards Banquet

- Wednesday, October 14th at Home 2 Suites Hotel off Lewis Turner Blvd. Event will begin with the Presentation of Colors at 1830. Bar open before then. Cost per person will be \$50. Menu will be a choice of Chicken Cordon Blue or Beef Tenderloin.
- Planning for about 60 people.
- Announcements going out to CPs, Educators and AFA members. We will also post on FB, Web Page and get some Radio coverage. May also get some info out at Hurlburt Field.

Communications Update

- Next newsletter will go out in Oct. Mark needs articles.

Aerospace Education

- No further input for AE. Dann will contact Meredith to coord Educator attendance at the dinner and arrange for certificates for our TOYs.

Unsung Heroes

- Tentatively planned for March 2027. Begin coordination and work in Feb.

General Discussion

- Went over requirements for the Awards Dinner and sought out volunteers to do various items. Max, Mark, Dann, Eddie and A1C Gooden took on or were given taskings for various areas.

- Discussed the possibility of nominating Col Ken Rodriguez for Brereton Award in 2027. Dann advised that Martin Harris Chapter was considering a nominee for next year and suggested we wait until 2028. All are in favor of his nomination.

- Joe Kinego met with the new commander of the 479th FTG and emailed to give up had positive remarks about Col “Bobcat” Thompson and was looking forward to working with him. (Email report)

- National convention will be September 12th and 13th. Dann and Jean departing on 10 Sept and will return on the 13th.

Next Meeting

- Sept 9th @ 1130 at the Clubhouse Grill