



**AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**CHAPTER 554** <http://afsa554.org>

**Event:** Monthly Membership Meeting

**Time/Location:** Mar 30, 2011, 1115 at the Eglin Enlisted Club

**Attendees:**

SMSgt Oscar Guzman (President),  
CMSgt (Ret) Bruce Blodgett (Division 5 President)  
SMSgt Kevin Hitt (Treasurer)  
MSgt John Shackelford (Legislative)  
SrA Tyler Bigler (Legislative)  
Mr. Charles Britto (AF Enlisted Village Trustee)  
Mr. Heubert Varnum (Senior Enlisted Advisor)  
SSgt Daniel Heise (Secretary)  
A1C Sarah Gauthier (Airman Coordinator)  
TSgt Christopher Wilbur  
TSgt Rebecca Pash

SSgt Karen Ainsley  
MSgt William Burke  
TSgt Patrick Day  
CMSgt Mark Anderson  
CMSgt Larry Dorsey  
CMSgt James Johnson  
SMSgt Scott Passman  
SSgt Deanna Passman  
MSgt Brian Graham  
TSgt Philip Chapman

Meeting called to order at 1115

- Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble was recited
- Vote and motion made to approve February Meeting Minutes

**Committee Reports**

- Treasurer's Report – SMSgt Kevin Hitt
  - Current Balance: \$2,232.96 in checking – approved
    - Subtracted \$130.00 for representative to attend Division Conference in Jacksonville
    - Added \$346.25 in profit for raffle fund during bowl-a-thon
- Membership/Retention Report – SMSgt Guzman in place of SSgt Rodriguez
  - Recruiting! It has slowed down considerably– need Chapter Member focus
    - Use CC Calls, E-mail distro through 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt, refer to chapter website
  - Retention! Contact committee for personnel 30/60/90 days from membership expiration
  - Transfers! When personnel transfer in, change chapter to ours so they're on our roles
- Legislative Report- SrA Tyler Bigler
  - HQ AFSA tracking several bills (Legislative Platform)
    - H.R. 923 Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2011
      - <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h923/show>
    - H.R. 930 To amend Title 38 U.S.C., to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with PTSD
      - <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h930/show>
    - H.R. 943 K-9 Companion Corps Act
      - <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h943/show>
    - H.R. 961 Safe Haven for Heros Act of 2011
      - <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h961/show>

- H.R. 1089 Sergeant Coleman S. Bean Reserve Component Suicide Prevention Act
  - <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/112-h1089/show>

CMSgt (Ret) Blodgett -

Tricare Prime health insurance for military retirees costs individuals \$230 and families \$460 each year. The Pentagon seeks to increase Tricare Prime premiums in an effort to rein in costs projected to top-off at \$65 billion in less than 10 years; rates would rise 6.2 percent. The Department of Defense has presented a formal request to lawmakers for higher Tricare fees as part of the president's fiscal year 2012 budget. The increase fits into a larger plan introduced by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to trim the military health system's budget by \$7 billion in the next five years.

Need AFSA pushback!

Write your congressman how-to: <http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/uscongress/a/letterscongress.htm>

Congress: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Senate: [https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

- Airman Activity Report
  - Nothing significant to report (NSTR)
- AFEV Report - Mr. Britto
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob Hope Memorial Charity Golf Classic:
    - <https://secure.destin.com/secdocs/afev/index.golf.asp>
      - AFSA can sponsor players for \$50
  - AFEV at the USAF Marathon:
    - [http://www.active.com/framed/event\\_detail.cfm?EVENT\\_ID=1932063&CHECKSSO=0](http://www.active.com/framed/event_detail.cfm?EVENT_ID=1932063&CHECKSSO=0)
- Children in Crisis
  - NSTR
- Public Relations
  - NSTR
- Auxiliary Report
  - NSTR
- Plans Committee Report
  - We did two events in March, both successes.
    - Adopt-a-highway March 18<sup>th</sup>, ~35 people, only took 1.5 hrs
    - Bowl-a-Thon March 17<sup>th</sup>, raffled an Ipod Shuffle and \$50 Visa Card
  - Wal-mart burger burn (Apr-May – FWB & Niceville Wal-Marts - Need POC!
  - Membership dinner (families invited), Beach Bash - Step up to lead!

### Base Groups

- Chief's Group
  - Golf Tournament, POC CMSgt Donald Morris, 46 MXS
  - Upcoming AF Marathon September 17<sup>th</sup> For details go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)  
POC's: CMSgt Robert Newman, 33 FW/CCC and CMSgt Westermeyer, 96 ABW/CCC
- First Sergeant's Group
  - NSTR
- Top III
  - NSTR

## **Old Business -**

Seeking nominees for Memorabilia Trustee (shirts, coins, mugs, etc)

**Status:** Open.

-Chapter seeking to move/rotate meeting venues/dates/times to include other locations in order to meet ALL members needs/expectations. Suggested locations made by the Exec Council include:

- AF Enlisted Village – date/time to be determined
- Children in Crisis facility
- VFW lodge, Fort Walton Beach (coord still needs to be initiated)
- Enlisted Club (current dates/times)

**Status:** Pending

Chapter 554 Shirts. Members present agreed to explore local vendors to produce a T-shirt with our Chapter logo. T-Shirt example was \$18 polyester blend, may increase size of emblem on back

**Status:** Open.

## **New Business**

CMSgt (Ret) Blodgett - Division 5 Conference Jacksonville FL on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for tickets has passed, but it may be possible to be squeezed in. There will be an auction to offset the cost of the conference. If you have anything to donate, please do!

CMSgt (Ret) Blodgett attended an AFSA International Meeting in Washington DC in March

- Recruiting! Numbers are down to just under 100K.
- Motion to vote for no more Auxiliary. It's a money issue, membership is under 10K now
- Passed motion to allow Officers as members to increase membership numbers
- Looking at 6 Regional Divisions instead of the current 16

Newly elected Secretary by quorum is SSgt Daniel Heise, 728 ACS

AFSA Chapter 554 NCO/Yr is SSgt Karen Ainsley, 85 TES. She will be headed to Divison 5 conference to complete against the other chapter nominees.

**50/50 event:** \$12.00 in the hat w/ all going back to the Chapter. Thank you to winner MSgt John Shackelford for donating his share!

## **Open Floor for Comments**

**Future Events discussed included: Wal-Mart bbq fundraiser, Chapter Flag/Banner, and Coin(s)**

**Announce Next Meeting: 27 April 2011 from 1100-1200 @ the Eglin Club**

**Meeting adjourned at 1232**