



Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398



Jul-Sep 2021

The official newsletter of Chapter 398 of the Air Force Association.

AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong national defense; honor and support our Airmen, Space professionals, and their families; and to honor and respect our enduring heritage

To accomplish this, we:

Educate the public on the critical need for unrivaled air and space power and a technically superior workforce to ensure national security.

Advocate for air and space power, and promote aerospace and STEM education and professional development.

Support readiness for the Total Air and Space Forces, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families and members of the Civil Air Patrol

Chapter Officers

President – Jim Connors
Vice President - Fred Gross
Secretary – Susan Ault-Davis
Treasurer – Dan Mattiza

State Officers

President – Todd Freece
Vice President – Dwyer Dennis
Secretary – Sharon Branch
Treasurer – Gary Lehmann

AFA Chapter 398

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First In-Person Conventions Since 2019

By Mark Chapman

Yes you read that right, this year Florida AFA members attended their first in-person state and national meetings since September of 2019 due to the COVID pandemic, and was it ever refreshing to see our chapter and state leaders smiling faces once again. We started off with our state convention in July, hosted by the Falcon Chapter in Jacksonville Florida. Thanks to Larry Belge, Ernie Webster, and the entire Falcon Chapter team for putting this all together.

The agenda, aside from approving the Winter Meeting minutes and the state budget for 2022, also included election of our state officers and a lengthy discussion on a proposed change to our national governance – more on that later. Sharon Branch, VP for leadership development and past Region/State President presented the slate of officers for a confirmation vote by the delegates. All were unanimously approved. Todd Freece from the Martin Harris chapter was elected Region State President for a two year term, Dwyer Dennis from the Space Coast Chapter assumes the State Vice President role while Sharon Branch and Gary Lehmann, both from the Martin Harris Chapter will continue in their roles as State Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

As mentioned earlier our delegates had a lively discussion on the proposed changes to our national governance that was an agenda item for approval at the upcoming national convention in September. Changes included moving to a member based organization versus our current delegate based system, changing the organization structure of national leadership, and changes to how candidates to national office would be nominated and voted on. This proposal would also move what is now our national convention to an annual membership meeting similar to how USAA and other organizations operate. AFA Chairman of the Board Gerald Murray called in via Zoom and presented his views on the changes and fielded questions from the delegates.

During our lunch we recognized our State Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Allen from the Palm Bay magnet School and she in turn gave the delegates a presentation on the work she has been doing that prompted the Space Coast Chapter to nominate her for the award.

Upon convening the meeting the delegates gathered for our dinner where we were treated to a presentation by the incoming Florida West Coast Chapter President, Maj Gen Scott Gray (USAF-Ret) on the threats the U.S. faces and the need for increased capabilities with government support and funding in order to maintain a strong national defense.



2021 AFA National Convention

By Mark Chapman

I would first like to thank the 11 delegates we had from the Harris, Space Coast, Falcon, Eglin, Florida West Coast and Hurlburt Chapters. Only Virginia had more delegates attend.

On Saturday nominations for national offices were announced and on Sunday the delegates voted on the two contested elections (Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education) and National Secretary. I am proud to announce that Florida's own Mike Liquori was elected as National Secretary and Steve Gourley of Stellar Explorers fame will be the next Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education.

The much anticipated discussion and vote on governance changes did not go off as expected. Saturday despite our chairman's emphatic support for the proposed changes and supporting presentation by past AFA and AF leaders, our chairman announced that the proposed changes would go back to the Governance and By-Laws Committee (GBL) for a relook and that the Vice Chairmen's for Aerospace Education and Field Operations were to pick one each field leader to sit on that committee as well. The GBL has been tasked to come up with a revised proposal in 6 months that, in turn, will no doubt be debated up until the 2022 National Convention. I would urge all chapter presidents to discuss this with your chapter members and be prepared to discuss at our 2022 State Convention in Tallahassee next July.

A subject we spent most of our caucus time on was a motion to authorize the AFA Board of Directors to consider a change to our association's name to include space. This is a far from simple task that has many implications both legal and branding, but there was almost universal agreement among the delegates that it was vitally important that we step out smartly to let our U.S. Space Force (USSF) Guardians know that they are an important part of this association. Again during our caucus there were many points both for and against but in the end on Sunday morning with only a few dissenting votes the motion was overwhelmingly approved. No name has been decided upon and the board will coordinate with the Department of the Air Force as well as the USAF and USSF leadership before making any decision.

And finally before the closing of the convention I had the privilege to introduce Todd Freece as the incoming Florida Region and State president. I look forward to Todd's leadership along with our new Executive Vice President, Dwyer Dennis from the Space Coast Chapter.



Community Partner of the Quarter

Congratulations to **Emerald Coast Endodontics** for being selected our Community Partner of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter 2021. **Emerald Coast Endodontics** is a long standing AFA Chapter 398 Hurlburt Field Community Partner since 2008 supporting our Air Force family and community.

Emerald Coast Endodontics is a specialist member of the American Association of Endodontists and look forward to being of service to you. The expert team is led by respected endodontic specialist Dr. Eric Bludau and includes an experienced endodontic staff. They provide the highest standard of professional care in a friendly, comfortable environment.

Community Partner of the Year for 2020

Due to COVID restrictions the chapter was unable to make the proper presentation of the Community Partner of the Year Award to Lockheed-Martin Rotary and Mission Systems. Chapter Executive VP for Community Partners Nelson Arroyo presents the belated CP Award to chapter member and Lockheed Martin representative Mr. Edward "Bud" Sauvageau. Congratulations and many thanks for Lockheed-Martin Rotary and Mission Systems' continued and outstanding support of the AFA and Chapter 398.



Chapter 398 Community Partners

AFA Chapter 398 is very fortunate to have very supportive Community Partners. Through their generous funding and involvement, we were able to support our Wounded Warrior training camp, Teacher Workshops, Teacher of the Year recognition, Space Camp, student scholarships, Unsung Heroes Airmen recognition, Cyber Patriot competitions, regional Science Fair and much more.



Thank you to all current partners who renewed their commitment this year and went above and beyond with grants and other financial support.

Again, "Thank you!" to all our Community Partners who supported us throughout the year. We are looking forward to a very busy and successful new year and with your support we will make it better than ever.

Platinum	
Alion Science and Technology	The Boeing Company – Ft Walton Beach
Elbit Systems of America	Lockheed Martin – Ft Walton Beach
Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems	Lockheed Martin MFC SOS CLSS
Gold	
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide	Eglin Federal Credit Union
Lt Col Gerry & Kay Chapman Memorial	
Silver	
Cherry Wealth Advisors	Clemenza's at Uptown Station
Emerald Coast Endodontics (CP of the Qtr)	Nathan Hall DMD, "Family & Cosmetic Dentistry"
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Associates	Preston Hood Chevrolet
Sacred Heart Medical Group – Rheumatology	
Bronze	
Aqua Pool and Patio Company	Awards Plus Frames by Sharon
Beach Bank	Booz Allen Hamilton
Dennis and Company	Edward Jones
FNBT Bank	On-Point Defense Technologies, LLC
SA Technical Services Inc	Serigraphia Inc
Basic	
Emerald Coast Funeral Home	Freedom Self Storage
Jimmy's Men's Store and Pawn	McNeil Hotel Group

Community Sponsorship levels are: Commando - \$5000, Diamond - \$2500, Platinum - \$1000, Gold - \$500, Silver - \$300, Bronze - \$150, and Basic - \$100. If you know of any business interested in becoming a Community Partner, please contact one of our chapter officers.

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Call 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or visit WWW.FLORIDACONSUMERHELP.COM, Chapter 398 registration number is CH32205

Coming Events

October

13 - Executive Board Meeting. 1130, Two Trees, Ft Walton Beach

November

10 - Executive Board Meeting. 1130,

December

8 – Executive Board Meeting, 1130,