



AFSA Chapter 1451 Newsletter



Serving Oregon and Southwest Washington

Veteran Family Christmas

February 2014

With your support, Chapter 1451 made Christmas more enjoyable for homeless veterans and their families. 2013 was the second year we are honored to support the Salvation Army (SA) Homeless Veterans and Family Center. Sue Mesick is shown below with a toy I hear was difficult for her to let go. If it wasn't going to a hero's family, I am sure it would be at her home right now.



This Christmas, we provided over \$300 worth of toys and clothes.

Chapter 1451 will continue to work with the SA Veterans Center on special projects like the

upcoming 2nd annual "Cruise In" that will be held on July 12th at the Valley Catholic High School, next door to the Family Center in Beaverton. More information will follow in May.

The Homeless Veterans who live at the Family Center have their families with them. The VA refers them to the Center for counseling, guidance in job hunting. Comcast donated five computer centers for their use, along with other donations from businesses in the area.

AFSA 1451 would like to see our Members support our efforts to stand with this facility in helping our Veterans. Monetary donations are acceptable and will be used for special projects for the facility.

General Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:

**Saturday
3/15/14 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Meet at Camp Withycombe's new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Clackamas.

The meeting is open to all AFSA and Auxiliary Members and their guests. A military ID card is needed at the gate.

Change Address or Email?

It's important your AFSA records are correct in order to receive your AFSA Magazine, Chapter Newsletters and pertinent e-mails including meeting notices, legislative issues and Chapter events.

Please help me help you and send updates to Louise Schram, Membership, 4664 SE Brae Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 -4714 or e-mail at loudon56@comcast.net. I will make the changes and acknowledge to you that the changes have been made.

Thank you, *Louise*

Salem Meeting Going Strong



The quarterly meeting in Salem continues to be well-received. It is an opportunity for Chapter members to socialize, receive latest updates, participate in discussions and provide feedback to Chapter leaders.

The January meeting was no less successful with 22 members in attendance including MSgt (Ret) Robbie Ellis from McNary High School AF JROTC and two JROTC cadets. Please let us know if you are interested in meeting with other members in your area or with your Chapter leadership.

AFSA Professional Conference

This article is more about the people at the last AFSA Professional Airman Conference (PAC) than it is about the topics. It is more about showcasing the individuals supporting AFSA and the level of connection our Chapter leadership maintains with Air Force and AFSA executive leadership.

The Division 5 and AFSA International Conventions were both held in San Antonio TX last August. With the federal budget cuts, decreased attendance of Active Air Force, Reserve and Guard members was very noticeable.

PARTICIPATING ATTENDEES (Order of Presentation):

- Dr Todd Fore, Executive Director, AF Personnel Center
- MGen James McLaughlin, Commander, 24th AF, Space Command
- Col. Sean McKenna, Director, AF Public Affairs
- MGen Charles L. Car, Jr., Commander, Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
- US Congress Rep. Tim Walts (D) Minnesota
- Staff Sergeant Jordan D. Killam, Silver Star and recipient of the William H. Pitsenbarger Award for astounding bravery under enemy fire
- 5th CMSAF (Ret) Bob Gaynor
- 8th CMSAF (Ret) Sam Parrish
- 9th CMSAF (Ret) Jim Bennecker
- 11th CMSAF (Ret) Dave Campanele
- 12th CMSAF (Ret) Erik Benken
- 13th CMSAF (Ret) Jim Finch
- 14th CMSAF (Ret) Gerald Murray

*Chapter delegates
President Don
Schram, member
LaRene Paul,
Senior Advisor
Charlie Paul, and
Membership Chair
Louise Schram*



Renate Reed with her donated quilt

Quilt Raffle

All current members should have received a letter from Chapter 1451 with the opportunity to participate in a quilt fundraiser raffle. Donations made from this fundraiser will go to support chapter Americanism programs that include the Air National Guard, Oregon Veteran Homes, Salvation Army Homeless Veterans Center, three JROTC programs in Washington and Oregon and Civil Air Patrol in Oregon. Contact Sue at smesick@aol.com for more information or to donate.

Louise Schram demonstrates one skill that helped members prepare the almost 900 raffle envelopes for mailing. Also preparing were Jill, Carolyn, Sue, Charlie, LaRene and Don.



Upcoming Events

2/11/14—Chapter social luncheon at Hometown Buffet near Mall 205, 10542 SE Washington St, Portland, 11am. Open to members, guests and visitors.

3/15/14—Chapter President Conference with Division 5

3/15/14—Chapter General Membership Meeting, 10am at Camp Withycombe (watch location for possible change), Armed Forces Reserve Center, second floor. ID card needed to enter base.

4/8/14—Chapter social luncheon at Hometown Buffet

near Mall 205, 10542 SE Washington St, Portland, 11am. Open to members, guests and visitors.

4/30/14—Trip to Oregon Veterans Home in the Dalles. Meet at "Cousins" for lunch at noon prior to going to the Veterans home. Always collecting donations of stamps, gift shop items, socks... Contact Louis Schram if you need more information.

7/12/14—CRUISE IN for Salvation Army Homeless Veterans and Family Center, Beaverton OR.

Chapter Officers

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From Your President — Don Schram

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

I want to thank all those members who continue to support our Chapter. Donations have been received from many members in support of the Homeless Veterans and Family Center in Beaverton with reusable clothing and individual cash donations. Some of our talented members made bright patriotic pillowcases and lap throws. The past two years, we have purchased and donated toys and pj's for the children at the center at Christmas. The kids were very excited and the parents appreciative.

Our Chapter continues to support the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles with quarterly visits and donations. We also spend some time visiting with the veterans there.

The Air National Guard Annual Awards Banquet was held in Klamath Falls in 2013 and will be held this year on March 15, 2014 at the Embassy Suite Hotel by the Portland Airport. We will be sponsoring the banquet and members will be in attendance. The award presentations are very impressive and well deserved.

Chapter 1451 supports three Air Force JROTC Programs: McNary High School in Salem, OR; Battleground High School in Battleground, WA and Prairie High School in Battleground, WA. We feel it is important to support our young people.

Membership is extremely important for our Chapter. It makes our participation in the above projects and programs possible. Our membership numbers are vital to the success of our lobbyists and AFSA Officials in Washington, DC. The greater AFSA's total membership, the more clout our lobbyists carry. They represent all Air Force components protecting military benefits as well as other veterans' organizations. Those of you who are not Life members, please renew your memberships and help recruit your family members as well as your military friends. When you renew/recruit a new member, please send your application to Louise Schram, Chapter 1451 Membership Chair, 4664 SE Brae Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222. Instead of sending the renewal form you receive from AFSA Headquarters, please renew them through Louise. Our current membership is 866 down from nearly 1,000 three years ago. **KEEP RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIPS!**



As you know, we meet bi-monthly on the 3rd Saturday at 10am at Camp Withycombe in the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Clackamas, OR. We also meet quarterly at the "Almost Home Restaurant", Market Street, Salem, OR. This breakfast/lunch (11am) meeting covers members in the surrounding area. Our last meeting was January 25th and was well attended. The next meeting will be April 19, 2014. We discuss Chapter business as well as current legislative issues. These meetings are important for the information gained and more importantly, the camaraderie!

We will continue to send pertinent information regarding Legislative Issues and hope you will utilize the CAPWHIZ Program on the AFSA Website to contact your Representatives in Washington. It is important for all of us to voice our opinions in support of our benefits—not only for the retired, but for the young airmen serving our Country.



President Schram presenting Chapter donation to the Battleground High School JROTC

LET'S MAKE 2014 CHAPTER 1451'S BEST YEAR!!

Motivate Your Elected Officials

For the past ten years, Congress postponed a number of scheduled reductions in payments to doctors who treat Medicare and TRICARE payments. We often refer to these “band-aid” corrections as the “Doc Fix.” Triggered by the flawed, Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, these cuts threaten access to care for beneficiaries. If allowed to proceed, doctors will be less inclined to treat patients using these two programs and some may stop seeing them all together.

A provision in the recently approved Bipartisan Budget Act delayed a 24.7% cut scheduled for January 1, 2014. Congress now has ninety days to come up with what we hope to be a long-term solution. The good news is a permanent solution may finally be on the horizon. Report-

edly, legislators on both sides of the aisle are close to a deal that would pay for a \$130 billion permanent fix.

SAMPLE LETTER

Unless Congress acts by April 1, 2014, payments to doctors who treat Medicare and TRICARE patients will be slashed by nearly 25 percent.

I understand several members of Congress are currently working on legislation that would replace the current formula that triggers these annual cuts with one that better reflects the true cost of administering care to Medicare and TRICARE patients.

I urge you to support this effort and hope Congress approves a new solution to the “Doc Fix” problem by April 1st of this year.

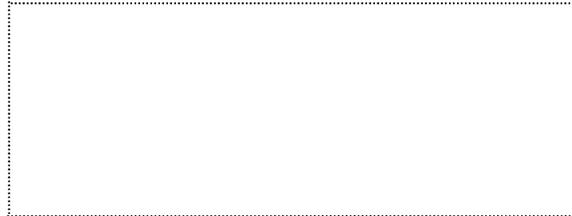


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Southwest Washington

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AFSA Needs Our Help to Restore COLAs

The Senate plans to consider legislation that reverses cuts in annual cost-of-living allowances for all retired military members. A separate House effort is also expected later. Previous attempts to pass corrective legislation fell short as lawmakers squabbled over whose bill to support. Please tell your representatives you are tired of the political maneuvering and urge them to pass a clean reinstatement of COLAs for all

military retirees.

If you have a computer, online resources make contacting your representatives very easy. AFSA provides access through their CAPWIZ link.

<http://www.capwiz.com/hqafsa/home/>

Capwiz is an online advocacy program developed by Capitol Advantage to support grassroots action and help users create and send messages to key legislators at state and national levels.

This newsletter is edited and published by Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1451 for the benefit of chapter members. Every effort is made to assure the accuracy of content material. Readers are advised that no guarantee of accuracy is made and that the information provided does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of this chapter or Air Force Sergeants Association.