

Air and Space Forces Association
Waterman-Twining Chapter 316 Meeting
USF Tampa, FL
January 14, 2023

Call to Order

Chapter President Bill Yucuis called the Waterman-Twining Chapter of the Air and Space Forces Association (AFA) Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. EST on Saturday, January 14, 2023, in the University of South Florida (USF) Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) Building in Tampa, Florida. The meeting was also open to members via teleconferencing on Microsoft Teams.

(P) means attendance in person while (V) means attendance virtually.

Chapter officers present: Bill Yucuis (P): President Gary Gilchrist (P): Treasurer
Mike Lezaun (P): Secretary

Other Chapter members in attendance: Neil Cosentino (P), Teri Weide (P), Dustin Bryant (V), Cadet Duane Jackson (P), Cadet Nathaniel Matthews (V), Cadet Glenn Hedgepeth (V), Cadet Megan Sgroi (V), Cadet Allison Daniel (V)

Chapter President Welcome – Bill Yucuis

Chapter President refreshed the group with the AFA Mission, Waterman-Twining Chapter Vision and he shared some background on his AFA involvement.

- **AFA Mission:** Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.
- **Waterman-Twining Chapter Vision:** Provide premier Professional Development opportunities and support for all the airmen stationed at MacDill AFB. Promote AFA aerospace education goals at Stewart MS, USF AFROTC, and area AFJROTC units.

Meeting Goals – Bill Yucuis

The goals of this meeting are:

- Officially elect the Chapter Officers
- Approve proposed budget and bank account changes.
- Provide overview of Chapter Finances, Membership and Activities
- Discuss future Chapter participation.

Chapter Officer Elections – Bill Yucuis

Current officer nominations were as follows:

- **President:** Bill Yucuis
- **Vice President:** Dustin Bryant
- **Treasurer:** Gary Gilchrist
- **Secretary:** Mike Lezaun

The floor was opened for more nominations from the in-person or virtual membership. There were none. Bill Yucuis motioned the chapter to elect the chapter officers, in person by saying Aye, virtually by thumbs up. Slate was elected unanimous.

Chapter Elected Officers are as follows:

- **President:** Bill Yucuis
- **Vice President:** Dustin Bryant
- **Treasurer:** Gary Gilchrist
- **Secretary:** Mike Lezaun

Treasurer's Report - Gary Gilchrist and Bill Yucuis

Chapter Finances from July to December 2022:

- Starting Chapter Checking Account: \$13,840.35

Income

- AFA National Support and Rebates: \$1,019.20

Expenditures

- USF ROTC: \$1000 (support Arnold Air Society travel to NATCOM)
- MacDill FTAC: \$552 (Professional Award presentations; pen set and AFA eMemberships)
- Stop check payment: \$35.00

Proposed 2023 Chapter Budget

- Starting Chapter Checking Account: \$11,472.55
- Current Chapter Savings Account: \$1.00

Income

- AFA National Support and Rebates: estimated \$1000

Expenditures

- USF AFROTC, including Arnold Air Society: \$2000
- Stewart Middle School: \$1000 (John Glenn Space Club support)
- AFJROTC: \$100 (State Drill Meet trophies)
- FTAC Support: \$700 (FTAC support)
- Honor Flight: \$500

Bill Yucuis asked if there were any objections or changes to the proposed budget. None. Bill Yucuis motion to approve the budget and it was unanimously approved.

Membership Summary – Bill Yucuis

Bill Yucuis shared some background information on the Hillsborough county and neighboring counties AFA membership. Currently our chapter is the second largest in the State of Florida, however, we don't have that many active members currently.

Total Membership: 1112

- Life Members: 591
- 3-Year Members: 237
- 1-Year: 134; includes Arnold Air Society and FTAC Complimentary award

Greg Moyle, former Chapter VP for Education, has left the Chapter and had access to Chapter bank accounts. Greg Moyle no longer requires access to chapter accounts at Grow Financial Federal Credit Union and will be removed.

Chapter Activities – Bill Yucuis led an overview of current and planned Chapter activities. Please contact Bill Yucuis if you want to assist in these activities.

MacDill AFB:

- First Term Airman Course (FTAC) has a monthly graduation where our chapter presents a Professional Airman Award which includes a pen set and a free 1-year AFA eMembership.
- There are various Professional Development opportunities to meet with various base leadership groups, such as Chiefs Group, Top 3, NCO, Airmen, and CGO. We are currently not engaging on this. If you would like to support, please let us know. (e.g., Lunch Briefs)
- During the CCAF graduation, a chapter member presents the Pitsenbarger Award(s).
- Chapter personnel also contact appropriate base individuals about AFA opportunities, such as Spouse Scholarships.

USF AFROTC Support:

- Arnold Air Society (AAS) cadets are also AFA members. Chapter members Meet with AAS cadets to talk about AFA opportunities. One example of support to AAS cadets is helping fund travel to RCON and NATCON.
- There are also other opportunities to support by attending unit Awards and Graduation ceremonies, Military Ball in spring and present the Outstanding AFROTC Cadet Award

AFJROTC Support

- Our chapter also supports 10 AFJROTC units in our area: Durant, Bloomingdale, Middleton, Blake, H.B. Plant, Jefferson, Sickles, River Ridge, Springstead, Hernando
- Our chapter members try to attend their Awards Ceremony and present the AFA National Cadet of Year Award

AFA Education Mission Support

- Stewart Middle School is a NASA Explorer School and has the John Glenn Club (after school space club). Our chapter has helped in selecting John Glenn club candidates. We also support a yearly trip to Kennedy Space Center. Our member has in the past spoken at yearly Teach Ins about AFA, Aerospace, and their experiences.
- There are opportunities to promote and support CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers.
- There also is the Chapter Teacher of the Year (TOY) AFA program. Nominations due to AFA NLT April 30. This award is sponsored by AFA National and is at no cost to Chapter. AFA provides a \$250 check, TOY pin and certificate, and free CAP Educator membership.

Communications – Bill Yucuis

- The chapter has a Website and Twitter account. Chapter needs Newsletter editor support.

Words from Chapter member – Neil Cosentino

Neil shared that he is on a team that is designing a 50 passenger airplane design project, such as C-47, DC-3. The team is currently building a scale prototype that will be ready for flight in about 6 or 7 weeks to be shown to the military. The goal is for the plane to fly in and around the Arctic, so it would have different configurations and be able to change quickly (e.g., skis, pontoons). Seeking aeronautical engineers to share ideas and discuss design features. Reach out to Cornelius “Neil” Cosentino.

Neil was the Chief of Safety at Bitburg Air Base, in Germany. The wing won the trophy for best safety program in the Air Force. He would like to bring safety to our community and young members. Willing to put a safety program together for the AFJROTC chapters.

Neil is on the board for Florida Aviation Historical Society (FAHS) and recommends that our chapter can nominate personnel for consideration to be inducted into the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame.

Chapter is seeking support in the following areas:

- Newsletter
- Attend AFJROTC Awards Ceremonies
- Help with MacDill AFB Events

President Bill Yucuis adjourned the meeting at 9:45 A.M. EST.

Recorded by Mike Lezaun, Secretary on January 22, 2023