

Air and Space Forces Association  
Waterman-Twining Chapter 316 Meeting Minutes (October 27, 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 3:00 PM EST on Friday, October 27, 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 (V): Treasurer  
Mike Lezaun (V): Secretary

Other Chapter members in attendance: Teri Weide (V), Emily Farkas (P), Cadet Madison Weaver (P), Cadet Duane Jackson (P), Cadet Cassandra Beall (V), Cadet Joshua Entienne (V), Cadet David Hodgson (P), Cadet Jaiden Latimer (P), Cadet Kimsey Trlak (P), Cadet Ben Sohoski (P), and Cadet Kayla Demartin (P).

**Chapter President Welcome – Bill Yucuis**

Chapter President reminded attendees of the AFA Mission and the Waterman-Twining Chapter Vision.

- **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
- 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. Therefore, the slate was elected unanimously.

The Chapter has two appointed positions:

Chapter VP for Education: Teri Weide

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Chapter AFROTC Liaison: Emily Farkas

**Treasurer's Report** - Gary Gilchrist stated the current Chapter balance is \$9383.75. Bill Yucuis briefed that the Chapter currently receives Chapter Support payments biannually from AFA National. The Chapter receives \$0.60 for every Chapter member, plus a 50% rebate based on recruiting new members and current members who renew. Bill Yucuis reported AFA National will be receiving a Chapter support payment of \$1110.30 soon, which included \$442.50 in rebates but \$0 in renewals.

**Proposed 2023 Chapter Budget** (Approval not required)

Starting Chapter Checking Account: \$11,000

Income: AFA National Support and Rebates: \$1500 (biannual Chapter Support Payments)

Expenditures

- USF AFROTC, including Arnold Air Society: \$1500
- Stewart Middle School: \$00 (John Glenn Space Club support)
- AFJROTC: \$100 (State Drill Meet trophies)
- FTAC Support: \$700 (FTAC support)
- Our Community Salutes: \$500 (new event)
- Honor Flight: \$500

**Membership Summary** – Bill Yucuis

Total Membership: 1112

- Life Members: 536
- 3-Year Members: 228
- 1-Year: 142; includes Arnold Air Society and FTAC Complimentary award
- CAP 2-year Complimentary: 124
- Military 2-year Complimentary: 125

AFA National offered complimentary memberships to CAP and Military members last year during Christmas time. It is unknown if that will continue next year.

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**Chapter 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.
- Bill Yucuis, Mike Lezaun, and Emily Farkas met recently with the CENTCOM Deputy Commander and the 6 ARW Deputy Commander to talk about how to better cooperate to support airmen and guardians. It was a very encouraging meeting, and several initiatives were discussed.
  - Professional Development opportunities using AFS Mitchell Institute resources.
  - AFA National Education and Family resources, such as Scholarships, Pitsenbarger Grants, AFA's United Family and Support Program, and Wounded Airman Program
  - Helping Air Force Recruiting efforts, which is an AFA objective this year. We talked about how to get active AF personnel visible in schools.
- Shortly thereafter, Bill Yucuis met with the 6 ARW Command Chief to discuss ways to work closer with the Wing personnel. We talked about supporting the FTAC graduations, Pitsenbarger grant presentations, Chapter participation in the Wing Quarterly Awards program, and Chapter participation in the MacDill AirFest which will be held March 29-30, 2024.
- Bill Yucuis met with the Base Education Office to talk about the AFA Education programs.
- Bill Yucuis met with the CENTCOM Family Center, which coordinates Family support for all military personnel assigned to MacDill AFB. We discussed holding a Spouse event using the AFA United Family and Support Program.
- After these meetings, the events in the Middle East have curtailed coordination on several of these initiatives, due to increased activity by both CENTCOM and the 6 ARW.

**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.
- The Chapter has offered to speak with the entire unit about our Air Force experiences plus offer AFA Professional Development opportunities through the Mitchell Institute.
- Chapter members attend unit Awards and Graduation ceremonies and present an Outstanding AFROTC Cadet Award at the Spring Awards ceremony.

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### **AFJROTC Support**

- Our chapter supports 10 AFJROTC units in our area: Durant, Bloomingdale, Middleton, Blake, H.B. Plant, Jefferson, Sickles, River Ridge, Springstead, Hernando High Schools. Our chapter members try to attend their Awards Ceremony and present the AFA National Cadet of Year Award. Last year, we presented at 9 units, which was the most in several years. This was due to the efforts of Teri Weide.
- Teri has also contacted the units this year to try and assist with MacDill's efforts to have active Air Force members visit schools during Teach In days. No units had responded as of our meeting date.

**Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Support:** Teri Weide reached out to area CAP units to tell them about AFA resources, such as education grants, plus supporting AFA STEM programs, such as Cyber Patriot and StellarXplorers. No units had responded as of the meeting date.

### **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 financially support a yearly trip to Kennedy Space Center. Chapter members has in the past spoken at yearly Teach Ins about AFA, Aerospace, and their experiences.
- **Our Community Salutes** is a program Bill Yucuis found out during the AFA National Convention in September. In numerous cities around the country, they provide a recognition ceremony for high school students who have enlisted in the military. Tampa will hold a ceremony sometime in April or May 2024 and our Chapter plans to support it with a table to showcase AFA programs.
- There are opportunities to promote and support **CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers**, which are the two major AFA National STEM programs.
- Our Chapter supports the AFA **Chapter Teacher of the Year (TOY)** 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 plus a Chapter Newsletter.

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**Chapter help needed** – Bill Yucuis promises that if you volunteer, I will only ask you to do one small task and provide the necessary support to be successful.

- **Newsletter** editor
- Help with **MacDill events**, including manning a table at the MacDill AirFest in March. We have asked AFA National for assistance with swag and other promotional items.
- Attend **AFJROTC Awards Ceremonies**.
- **New Chapter Funding:** We all need to look for ways to improve the Chapter funding. Bill Yucuis is developing a letter to present to local businesses and industry.

President Bill Yucuis adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM EST.