

TAJ MAHAL CHAPTER 1075/A1075



“BACKBONE”

“The Voice of the Enlisted”

Spring 2010



WORDS FROM THE PRES

Damon Smith
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Hello AFSA-1075,

One of the charges of AFSA is that "...we unite to further the aims and objectives of this Association." As your new President, I'm excited to work in expanding those positive objectives of the chapter, local community and AFSA International. I've been associated with Chapter 1075 for over 5 years and have enjoyed the time and friendship immensely and look forward to the upcoming year, that will offer many opportunities for AFSA to expand and grow within the greatest Air Force in the world.

First, I want to thank my predecessor, Leo Polanco-Sierra, whose leadership was instrumental in keeping the chapter moving forward. Would also like to thank the 2009 Executive Council. Their ability to work and support each other was exceptional and needs to be applauded. These are the people who worked very hard to ensure that AFSA-1075 did not fail during a difficult year.

Now please join me in welcoming the 2010 AFSA-1075 Executive Council. These are some excited folks who are ready to do what it takes to keep Chapter 1075 providing unprecedented Airman and local community support, with distinction for years to come.

(continued on page 2)

The Auxiliary

Marian E. Nesbit
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Hi Everyone,
Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Auxiliary President. I will do the best that I can.

We held several workshops making items to sell at the Division Convention in April. As the only Auxiliary in San Antonio, we were able to offer items for sale to the delegates.

February was our birthday month and instead of having a cake during our meeting, we decided to share our cake with everyone at the Installation of Officers. This year we turned 29 years old.

We continue to monitor the bills pending in Congress, and keep our representatives informed of our wishes and opinions. The website Thomas.gov is a good source for information on the bills that your representatives are or are not supporting.

If your membership is up for renewal, please continue your membership. We need to maintain our current members and actively recruit new members to continue our support of the Enlisted Force. Our goal this year is 20 new members. I know we can do this. Talk to every one you know and tell them what AFSA does to maintain their entitlements and current way of life.

(continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The Council consists of:

Airman Activities Coordinator: A1C Kyle Jones
Military Affairs Committee: SSgt Tausha Walker
Legislative Committee: TSgt Matthew Dickens
Fundraising Committee: MSgt Jeffrey Brown
Plans & Programs: SMSgt Lachanda Crowell
Publicity/Communication Committee: SMSgt Jason Davis
Membership Committee: James Crissinger
Sgt-At-Arms: Roy Ricks
Chaplain: Bryan Harder
Treasurer: SMSgt Melissa "Kat" Bailey
Recorder: SMSgt Diane "Dee" Hotaling
Senior Advisors: Stan Staples/SMSgt Greg Gallup
Vice President/Civic Affairs: Tom Nesbit

Although we have a sizeable council, we can not do it alone. We need YOU, the members, to help fill key roles on several committees that will be created throughout the year and support the programs they benefit. So stay tuned, because we know that you will be interested and will want to share your ideas of expertise and dedication. Plus being on a committee is a good way to meet your fellow chapter members and more importantly, you are directly impacting and shaping the path of AFSA 1075.

Finally, I see one of my major roles being a facilitator of the members' needs. This being said, we are very open to listening to our members and what their needs are. Please know that I'm hoping that each and every one of you will send us your ideas, thoughts, and constructive critiques for the organization throughout the year. GO AFSA GO!!!!

Humbly yours,

Damon Z. Smith
President AFSA-1075



(Continued from page 1)

We will continue to make our voices heard on Capitol Hill, but, we need to keep our numbers strong so that we have the power to make ourselves heard.

Also, recruit your family members. They will receive information about what the military is doing for you.

At the Division Convention, our chapter was awarded the Newsletter of the Year for the Division Auxiliary. Now we compete at the International Level.

The International Conference is August 14-18 in Atlanta, GA. At this conference the merger of the Auxiliary and AFSA will be discussed and voted on. Our Division voted to support this move. The International Auxiliary is going broke and this will be an opportunity for us to survive. It would become one organization and everyone can hold office and work on committees. If we do not merge and no other solution is available, the Auxiliary will cease to exist. I hope those of you going to the Conference will continue to support this action and we can make AFSA a stronger force.

I hope that everyone will make an effort to attend our meetings. We meet at the Kendrick Club (Enlisted) on Randolph AFB at 5:00 P.M. on the 2nd Thursday of each month. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me. See you at the next meeting.

Marian

Division News

At the Division 610 Convention in April the following members were elected to the Division 610 Executive Council:

President: MSgt (Ret) Johnny Byrd
Vice President--MSgt (Ret) Dan Cook
Auxiliary Coordinator--Carol Ruholl
Trustees: CMSgt (Ret) Stan Staples
TSgt Rodney Pollard
TSgt Toby May
SMSgt (Ret) Jim Crissinger
Secretary: Jessica Coleman-Escobar
Treasurer: CMSgt (Ret) Stan Staples
Senior Advisor: MSgt (Ret) John Knotts

The following 2009 Division 610 Awards were presented:

Chapter Awards:

Chapter of the Year (Under 500)--Chapter 1077-
Brooks City-Base, TX
(Continued on page 3)

Retama Park--Our number one fundraiser

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First let me say "thank you" to all of you who have stepped forward and volunteered at Retama Park. A special "thank you" to those who have volunteered on multiple occasions. As a result, we are on track to meet our proposed budget. However, Retama Park officials have decided to offer us a second inside booth, which will increase our fundraising capacity by forty percent. We raise more money in our outside booth than in our two inside booths.

Our racing season has come to an end for this f/y, and we have grossed over \$13,700. In addition we have shared our fund raising capacity with thirteen base organizations, totaling almost \$5,500.

We volunteered for 272 six-hours shifts during 2009. Pat yourselves on the back because that is 1632 total volunteer hours. Fourteen organizations including AFSA have been able to directly support our military and civic communities on and around Randolph AFB as a result of a lot of hard work and volunteerism. See you next year!!!

Please step forward and volunteer during the next racing season. The chapter website located at <http://afsa1075.org> is the place to start; then click on "Retama". Select the month you wish to volunteer as a worker. Once you have chosen the day, then click on "Volunteer", then choose Retama Volunteer form. Complete the information and submit. You will receive confirmation after the website is updated with your request.

The Retama Coordinators will confirm your request and insure you have any necessary questions answered prior to the day you volunteer.

Please, if you have any questions or would like to volunteer, send an e-mail to either one of the e-mail addresses at the top of this article.

(Continued from page 2)



Chapter of the Year (Over 500)--Chapter 1075 Randolph AFB, TX
Community Service Award--Chapter 615--Barksdale, AFB, LA
Newsletter of the Year--Chapter 1075 Randolph AFB, TX
Website of the Year--Chapter 615 Barksdale AFB, LA

(Recruiting Chapter--Chapter 652 Kessler AFB, MS

Retaining Chapter--Chapter 1075 Randolph AFB, TX

Member of the Year--MSgt Dan Cook Chapter 1054

NCO of the Year--SSgt Jessica Coleman-Escobar Chapter 1075

Airman of the Year--SRA Deanna Neaves Chapter 1054

Legislative Award--CMSgt (Ret) Paul Hulgán Chapter 1075

VSP Award--Mrs.... Chasitey A. Turner Chapter 1054

Recruiter of the Year--MSgt Steven Dickenson

Chapter 652 Kessler AFB, MS

Retainer of the Year--TSgt (Ret) Bill Fain Chapter 1062 Houston, TX

Auxiliary Awards:

Chapter of the Year (Over 125)--Chapter A615 Barksdale AFB, LA

Community Service Award--Chapter A615 Barksdale AFB, LA

Recruiting Chapter--Chapter A1073 Dallas, TX

Retaining Chapter--Chapter A615 Barksdale AFB, LA

Newsletter of the Year--Chapter A1075 Randolph AFB, TX

Website of the Year--Chapter A615 Barksdale AFB, LA

Member of the Year--Mrs. Lisa Byrd Chapter A615 Barksdale AFB, LA

Recruiter of the Year--Mrs... Debby Oesterrich

Chapter A615 Barksdale AFB, LA

Retainer of the Year--Mrs... Debby Oesterrich Chapter A615 Barksdale AB, LA

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's Division 610 Awards

Civic Affairs/Convention Manager
Tom Nesbit 210-599-6244

Our Chapter hosted this year's Division 610 Convention at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk and it was quite a success. We had over 40 volunteers from the three area chapters and they worked really hard to make it happen. A special thanks to the committee chairs for the

herculean effort they put forth. They include: Kat Bailey, Lachanda Crowell, Damon Smith, Stan Staples, Bryan Harder, Derek Sinclair, and our emcees for the events; Damon Smith, Greg Gallup, and Renee James. And, of course, the hotel staff was magnificent. Any thing we needed to make our convention a success, they were right there to oblige, and, with a smile. Again, thanks to you all. Without the teamwork it would not have been successful.

On 14 June, Flag Day, 15 folks from the chapter and base visited the patients at the Audie Murphy VA Hospital. We visited patients on three floors and a new unit called "Progressive Medicine". We gave out over 50 American flags and in return got the gratitude of those we visited, and, a history lesson from the many combat vets from WWII and Korea. Check the chapter website (AFSA1075.org) for the time and date of our next visit, and volunteer. You'll be glad you did when you see the smiles on the patients faces.

Tom



Flag Song

Look up, there's our flag!
We can count every star,--
And the red, blue, and white,
How lovely they are!

Floating high, floating wide,--
We can see it from far,
Our flag, it's the flag,
We can count every star!

In the sun, in the wind,
Do its bright colors shine.
O look at the flag,
It is yours, it is mine!

~Nancy Byrd Turner~

Event Schedule

June

- 14 VA Hospital Visit 1000
- 24 FTAC Membership Drive
- 25 Habitat For Humanity



July

- 8 Chapter/Auxiliary Mtg 1700
- 8 Missions Baseball Booths 1700
- 9 Airmen's Day Out at Schlitterbaun Park, New Braunfels
- 22 Mission Baseball Booths 1700
- 29 Mission Baseball Booths 1700

August

- 14 Adopt A Hwy Cleanup 0800 at Loop 1604 & Southgate Rd
- 19 Mission Baseball Booths 1700
- 27 Aug through 6 Nov Retama Park (each weekend)

September

- 2 Missions Baseball Booths 1700
- 9 Chapt/Aux Mtg 1700
- 11 Chapt/Aux Picnic at Eberle Park Noon until 1700

October

- 14 Chapt/Aux Mtg 1700
- TBD Mentally and Physically Challenged Adults Picnic and Dance at Eberle Park



November

- 5&6 Last weekend of Retama
- 11 Veterans Day Ceremony at Ft Sam Houston 0930
- 11 Chapt/Aux Mtg 1700

December

No meeting in December

- 11 Chapt/Aux Christmas Party at Enlisted Club 1830