



The Alamo AFA

DEFENDER

The Newsletter
of the Alamo AFA
Chapter 234

San Antonio, Texas • The Largest Chapter in the World

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Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet slated for March 31 at Airport Hilton

SAN ANTONIO — By popular demand, we will be returning to the rich amenity and superb cuisine of the Airport Hilton Hotel Thursday, March 31 for the 20th annual Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Awards Banquet.

This year's event will honor more than 60 outstanding Air Force uniformed personnel from 14 major organizations in the San Antonio area.

The evening will begin with a pay-as-you-go social hour at 6:30 p.m. and continue with opening ceremonies at 7:15 p.m. Dinner begins at 7:30.

Also to be recognized at this event will be the Alamo chapter's selected civilian organization of the year, military organization of the year, community partner of the year, as well as our design-

nated officer, civilian and airman of the year.

Presentation of the Earle North Parker Essay Contest Award to the winning high school senior will also be made, as will the Christa McAuliffe Memorial Award and

AFA Teacher of the Year awards.

The national AFA president Bob Largent will be in attendance to assist with the presentation of the awards.

Tickets will be available from your unit ticket

monitors in early February, or you will be able to obtain them from the Alamo AFA office at 210-928-1153.

Prices are \$22.50 per person, discounted to \$15.00 for E-5/GS-9 and junior.

Alamo Chapter to host Texas AFA spring meeting

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Association Texas President Ed Garland has announced that the Texas AFA quarterly meeting for the spring of 2005 will be held at San Antonio's St. Anthony Hotel, April 1-3, immediately following our 20th annual Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Banquet.

National AFA President Bob Largent will be the guest speaker at the meeting.

Bob will be arriving in San Antonio earlier during the week of

this event, and will be with us for four days. He is planning to attend our Blue Suit Banquet, and arrangements are also being made for him to meet with several area senior commanders during stay with us.

Details regarding the AFA Texas spring meeting will be published on the AFA Texas Web page in January.

All events associated with this meeting are open to all AFA members, and Alamo AFA members are

encouraged to participate. Most important, they are welcome to attend the non-ticketed business events free of charge, to see first hand how the upper echelons of AFA work.

Additionally, Texoma Regional President Buster Horlen will conduct a regional seminar on membership development. This will indeed be an especially valuable informational experience for unit vice presidents and other executive council members.



President's Page

Last year great - this year better

Andy Nodine

Alamo AFA President

Welcome to a happy and exciting new year.

Let me open this first Defender of 2005 with a sincere hope that every member of the Alamo Chapter, active duty or retired, enlisted or officer, military or civilian...and yes...at home or deployed...had the opportunity to enjoy peace, rest and refreshment during this recently past holiday season.

Also as we begin this new year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the great successes our Alamo AFA Chapter enjoyed in 2004.

Our record for the year includes notable accomplishments in public education, scholarships, and outreach programs. Most important, we took advantage of every opportunity to encourage the best and brightest of our land to make the Air Force their career of choice.

The year past truly was a banner one, and each of you can be justifiably proud to be part of such a great organization.

But turning to the coming year, we need to recognize that we can always be better. While our chapter is already a powerful team, the time is now to find new opportunities to excel even further.

The most basic and essential element of our success, of course, is our



Nodine

membership. Our first order of business must be to continue to retain and motivate our existing members and to attract new ones. Toward this end, our annual membership campaign will be beginning as this reaches your hands in January, and will culminate with the exciting Joe Kellogg Blue Suit Banquet in March. Our executive council devoted an entire evening in December to brainstorming in preparation for this campaign. This session, complete with pizza and refreshments, resulted in new ideas, focused enthusiasm, and contagious energy that will persist through this campaign and all year long.

Second, we are "deregulating" our monthly Executive Council Meetings by replacing routine business and formal structure with sincere encouragement for input, exchange of ideas, and personal interaction. To be sure, I

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— Nodine

want to facilitate versus dictate our discussions, so our members can get their fresh, new ideas on the table and see them acted upon. In short, we are looking for a new cadre of leaders, and we want to create a forum in which folks with leadership potential can demonstrate it.

In addition, we must leverage technology such as e-mail and the web to coordinate the Chapter's message more effectively, and we must continue to seize opportunities such as conferences, air shows, parades and other opportunities for visibility. By these means we must develop and send a crisp, clear and consistent message promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation.

Finally, all our members must appreciate that

leadership, motivation, dedication, drive and, yes, new member recruiting, are not only the province of the executive council. Each and every member has a stake and a role in the Chapter's future. We need to make sure each of our members understands that the most effective membership campaign is the one waged one-on-one. Each of us must be driven to seek out potential new members, capture their interest and enable them to understand why they need the AFA and why the AFA needs them!

So as you explore this issue of the DEFENDER, please think about ways you can engage folks new to the AFA, explain to them what our team is all about, and encourage them to join us. If you do that, then the future of our Chapter will be assured.

Alamo AFA Aerospace Education Foundation moves forward soon

With the final Internal Revenue Service approval as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, the foundation has approved the 2005 budget, has appointed ex-officio officers, has developed a new scholarship for the center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) at the University Of Texas at San Antonio which was recently announced at a meeting with senior officials of UTSA, including president, Ricardo Romo.

During this meeting foundation directors, Kaye Biggar, Bill Croom and BJ Borge were advised of a new initiative, the establishment at UTSA of the Institute For The Protection Of American Communities (IPAC)

The IPAC will focus on the protection and security of communities in America. Its niche will be in infrastructure assurance across all sectors in a community with a

“IPAC will be a major force in the security of our homeland. It will become a nationally recognized homeland security center of excellence.”

— Nodine

focus on cyber security and protection of our most precious resource, our citizens, from chemical, radiological and explosive threats.

IPAC will be a major force in the security of our homeland. It will become a nationally recognized homeland security center of excellence known for its timely research and innovative solutions to the

most daunting challenges faced in the security of our communities.

The senior UTSA leadership was extremely interested in our foundation members observations and input and have asked us to expand our role with UTSA to participate in discussions and assist as deemed appropriate in the establishment and development of the IPAC which will absorb the CIAS and the Center For Biotechnology, Bio-processing, Education and Research (CEBBER) at Brooks City Base, as well as develop an expanded curriculum to train information specialists, intelligence analysts and all manner of related disciplines to serve as the leaders of the evolving and greatly expanded national intelligence community.

This is a very exciting opportunity for the foundation and the Alamo Chapter and we look for detailed tasking soon.

December meeting ‘monumental’ — chapter president

Our meeting on Dec. 14 at the USO was monumental, in that it set a clear path for the future. I was very pleased.

The highlight of the meeting was a keynote address by Buster Horlen, AFA Texoma Region President.

He highlighted the importance of the Alamo Chapter in relation to the 20 plus other chapters throughout Texas and Oklahoma and how, as the largest chapter in AFA, we were looked to "to set the example."

The Texoma Region

has been challenged to recruit 355 new members in the 2004-2005 year.

While his message championed the importance of all the chapters in the region, he challenged our team to be even better. Without a doubt we are ready to meet his expectations and help to more than double the region goal.

John Blumentritt followed with a presentation of the Alamo AFA Membership Drive.

He began with a quick motivational DVD clip and then transitioned to a

professional PowerPoint presentation the strategy, tactics and execution of a successful membership drive.

Everyone then jumped in to provide his or her thoughts on bolstering membership. It was indeed a "free for all" discussion and some great "out of the container" ideas emerged!

The meeting transitioned into a pizza party and informal visiting, dialog and networking, which in turn exponentially bolstered discussions on future planning ideas and challenges.

We worked hard, but had a blast !

I have asked John to help all organizational vice presidents in their membership campaigns to achieve success.

Also, this meeting set the standard for our "work hard - play hard" format. My intent is to have our members "lead from the pack" and put forward well thought out ideas and initiatives ... but also have fun. Our working pizza party was a start.

I really had a good time and can't wait until our meeting next month.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partners assist the Alamo Chapter in a number of valuable areas.

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Care to Join Us?

Want to support your AFA?

Would you like to join the list of outstanding businesses listed here?

As a community partner you will receive a copy of the Air Force Magazine each month, have your company name included here and on programs at our events throughout the year and on our Web page.

You will be invited to quarterly breakfasts conducted by Air Force organizations and to all of our events. All for just \$75.00 per year or \$150.00 for two memberships.

For more information, contact John Di Piero, jdi Piero@satx.rr.com, 210-945-7874.

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