



AFSA *Heartbeat*



HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER 804
P.O. Box 213
Belton, MO 64012

afsachapter804@gmail.com

January-March 2020

CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Welcome to the New Year 2020! Hope everyone had a great holiday season. Your Chapter is doing all they can to keep business going. We seem to be stuck in a rut because of no one stepping up to take on leadership responsibility in our Chapter. It takes an entire membership effort to keep your Chapter running. Kudos to those members who have stepped up!

Our Chapter funds are going down instead of up. Our Bingo fundraiser is ongoing, but needs to bring in more money. We make a lot of donations during the Holiday Season to those who need help. We have donated to the Belton Welfare Association (Operation Santa) and the Mitten Tree. We also donate to the Belton Senior Center for our free use of the building. We have donated this year to the "Fire-Up" program for the local schools. This is run by the Belton Fire Department and the National Safety Council to teach the kids about fire safety. Your Family Members host a card party twice a year and the proceeds go to support the patients at the Kansas City VA Hospital. Another of our annual donations, thanks to Charlie & Melissa Knight, go to the Hope Haven House in Harrisonville, MO. This is a home for abused women and children.

How can you help, you ask? One way you can help is to join the Buck-A-Month (BAM) Club where you can donate \$1 per month, or \$12 for the year, to help with the expenses of printing and mailing out this newsletter, your AFSA *Heartbeat*. Without it, we cannot keep the membership informed of everything going on with your Chapter and the Association.

Another way is, if you have an email address, PLEASE sign up to receive the newsletter by email. The more members receiving the newsletter by email, the less we have to pay for printing and postage. If you want the AFSA *Heartbeat* by email, please send your request to the following email address -- afsachapter804@gmail.com.

We will be holding elections for Vice President and 2nd Trustee at our January 14th meeting. Come on out and join us for the fellowship and to see what we are doing. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM at the Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie Avenue, Belton, MO.

Hope you all have a wonderful and fruitful New Year.

Yours in AFSA,

CHARLIE DALZELL, SMSgt (ret)

Chapter President

Home: 816-331-7594

E-mail: cod1996@kc.rr.com



BEYOND OUR LEADERSHIP

Do you find yourself as the last person standing who was willing to serve as a Chapter President or to take on one of the other officer positions in your Chapter? It seems that every election cycle we end up recycling the same handful of AFSA members to fill the necessary leadership positions in our Chapters. Have you ever wondered why the capable and available members of your Chapter don't raise their hands and volunteer to serve? I know I have wondered why this phenomenon continues to live across our organization every year and, after some serious thought, I think I have the answer.

People, no matter how capable, are reluctant to step into a leadership position they don't believe they are prepared to fill. It is not that they don't want to help; it is simply that they don't want to fail. As a Lifetime Trustee of our organization I have seen the participation of our members dwindle in once robust Chapters to a trickle, and that should concern us all.

Could it be that as an organization we have not done enough to provide the training needed for our fellow AFSA members to feel confident in moving up the leadership ladder? Are Chapters doing enough to be visible to attract the best and brightest? Are we offering activities that interest our members or are we just echo chambers for the constant harping on membership? These are all valid questions that we must find the answers to before it is too late.

We are clearly in this together and together we must find the solution and build a culture of training and professional development that will grow the next generation of leaders. We need competent and confident AFSA leaders who will take our organization to the next level. I believe the only way to do this is by a commitment to training.

If like me, you are tired of seeing the same faces and the same hands raising every time an election comes around. So, join me in developing our replacements through training and helping them build the experience needed. A good leader will make it a priority to develop, mentor and educate their replacement. If we all accept this challenge and use the training resources available to us, we can ensure a future beyond our current leadership. Won't you join me in changing our culture?

MARK R. CLARK, CMSgt (ret)

Vice President

Division 3 Lifetime Trustee

If you're a veteran who has been denied the benefits you believe you have earned, denial is not the end of the road. You have every right to appeal the rejection decision, and our office stands ready to assist you in any way. Feel free to contact Janna Worsham in the Columbia office at 573-442-9311. Janna will have you fill out a privacy form that allows her to ask questions on your behalf. She will then open a case to see whether your appeal will be successful. We are always ready to help our veterans in dealing with government.

Yours in service,



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

MEMBERSHIP

As of December 18, 2019, we had 776 active members.

Our Chapter recruited 21 members and retained 63. The Recruiters are listed below – congrats to these members. The Retainers were Patti Dalzell with 62 retentions and Kathy Oden with 1.

2019 RECRUITERS

Patti Dalzell	11
Charlie Dalzell	3
Tony Berter	3
Dale Lutzen	2
Harry McLane	1
Kathy Oden	1

Take care & God Bless!

PATTI DALZELL

Chairperson

Home: 816-331-7594

E-mail: prd1996@kc.rr.com

LUNCHEONS

Our monthly luncheons are at the **Golden Corral** in Raymore, MO, on the fourth Thursday each month at 11:30 AM (unless otherwise announced).

Our luncheon dates for January thru March are as follows:

- ❖ **January 23**
- ❖ **February 27**
- ❖ **March 26**

VIRGINIA KAPS

Chairperson

Home: 816-331-2730

E-mail: vkaps@hotmail.com

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

A date will be set in late April or early May depending on the time frame of the Missouri Trash Bash

KATHY ODEN

Chairperson

Home: 816-331-4058

Email: kcoden@sbcglobal.net

CARD DAYS



January 2 & 9
February 6 & 13
March 5 & 12

Pinochle: 10:00 AM at Aaron's Family Fun Ctr
17070 Aaron Lane, Belton, MO

Bridge: 10:00 AM at RC's Restaurant
330 East 135th St., Martin City, MO

GINNY STAUDINGER, 816-982-5133 (Pinochle)
SHARON DAVIES, 816-331-5581 (Bridge)

COUPON CONNECTION

Next coupon-cutting session will be Monday, January 20, 9:30 AM, at Carnegie Village (The Loft).

Coupons can be given to me at the meetings, Bingo, Luncheons or mailed to the address below.

KATHY ODEN, 816-331-4058

Chairperson

6101 East 149th Street

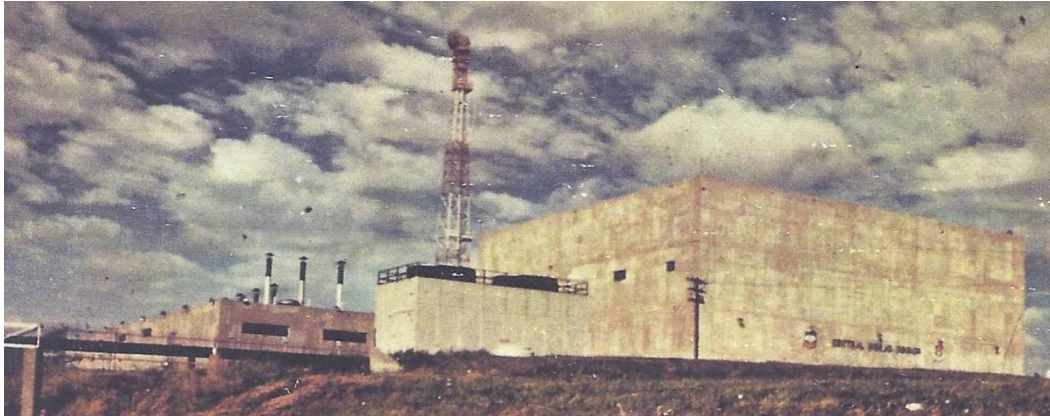
Grandview, MO 64030

CHAPTER HISTORY

"Reflections"

THE BIG CEMENT BLOCKHOUSE AT RICHARDS-GEBAUR

Yes, this article is about that big old building in the middle of the former Richards-Gebaur AFB. If you were not there in the 1950's & 60's, you probably do not know its history, so here goes.



Richards-Gebaur was an Air Defense base then and was a prime component of NORAD, a combined organization of the U.S. & Canada, that provided aerospace warning, air sovereignty and protection for North America. The R-G blockhouse, built in 1956 & 57, was known as the SAGE building (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment), a computerized control system for tracking and intercepting enemy aircraft. The blockhouse contained a system of large computers & associated networking equipment that coordinated data from many radar sites and processed it to produce an image of the airspace over a wide area. The R-G SAGE building was one of about 22 around the country, designed to spot soviet long-range nuclear bombers before they could drop their bombs of destruction on American soil, by directing in flight U.S. and Canadian Interceptor Aircraft to the intercept.

SAGE operations at Richards-Gebaur ended on December 31, 1969, but it continued at many Air Defense Bases up into the 1980's. Just how it was during the Cold War times.

HARRY MCLANE, CMSgt (ret)

Chapter Historian

Home: 816-331-4058

E-mail: macharry@hughes.net

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

A trip to **Harrah's Casino** is planned for Thursday, **January 16th**. We will meet at the coffee shop in the front lobby at **11:30 AM**.

KATHY ODEN

Chairperson

Home: 816-331-4058

Email: kcoden@sbcglobal.net



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 2 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
- 9 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 9 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
- 14 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie
- 16 Harrah's Casino, 11:30 AM
- 20 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!**
- 23 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO

FEBRUARY

- 6 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 6 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
- 11 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie
- 13 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 13 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!**
- 17 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
- 17 Presidents' Day**
- 27 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO

MARCH

- 5 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 5 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
- 8 Daylight Savings Time begins – set clocks one hour forward**
- 10 AFSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM – **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**
- 12 Pinochle, 10:00 AM, Aaron's Family Fun Center, Belton, MO
- 12 Bridge, 10:00 AM, RC's Restaurant, Martin City, MO
- 16 Coupon-Cutting Session, 9:30 AM, Carnegie Village (The Loft)
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!**
- 26 Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Golden Corral, Raymore, MO
- 29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

BINGO every Wednesday at 5:00 PM, Belton Senior Center, 609 Minnie

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AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION**

January-March 2020

**CHAPTER 804
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BELTON, MO 64012**

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To find out more about these Member Services go to <https://www.hqafsa.org>