



Air Force Sergeants Association

Airfield 858

From the President

Greetings to my fellow members. It is both a humbling and exciting time for me. I am humbled by the endorsement that I have been given by my fellow AFSA members and excited to be forward leaning in the foxhole. I have found two fantastic mentors in our past presidents; First Sergeant Kuntz and First Sergeant Beecher. Having them as predecessors will be a great benefit to draw upon as I, along with your help, wish to continue the great programs they have started.

Please allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Master Sgt. Russ Funaro, 934th Wing Historian. In my civilian life, I am a shift manager for Qwest Communications and an adjunct Faculty Professor at Cardinal Stritch University.

It is my goal to take our chapter to another level by increasing volunteerism through outreach within the community, engaging our younger members, and increasing the visibility of our chapter. None of this is possible without the great participation of our members. We have a very solid team, but as is the case in any organization, there is always room to do better. All Chapter officers are here to do your bidding. If you have an idea, please bring it to the attention of one of us and we will do our best to make it happen. Looking back on the previous quarter, we had a very successful combined Awards Banquet with our good friends at AFA. We held our quarterly meeting in January, and we are now setting our agenda for the upcoming year.

Please allow us to grow into our new positions.

Our agenda for the upcoming year is:

- Continue supporting JR ROTC Air Force Chapters.
- Increase participation with the Civil Air Patrol.
- Begin an outreach with the Veterans Home.
- Continue and expand the Softball team on base.
- Increase membership with the other USAF squadrons and retirees in the local area.
- Continue relationships with the marathon runners and long distance bike riders.
- Help pay AFSA memberships for first-term airmen.
- Increase participation with Auxiliary members.
- Invite our friends from Sister Services to join our association.

I am a free reign manager and it has been my experience that when you invite great ideas, you will usually get them. I am looking forward to working for you this next year.

**Master Sergeant
Russ Funaro**

*officium, perhonorificus, municeps
(Duty, Honor, Country)*

On the Web

Legislative Status:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

AFSA Headquarters:

www.afsahq.org

Division 8

www.afsa8.org

Chapter 858 website

<http://afsa858.home.att.net>

What's Happening

Legislative Update

AFSA is currently supporting nine bills that apply to Guard/Reserve members. Three of the bills are reviewed below:

S. 32 – Sen. Dayton (D-MN) - National Guard and Reserve Bill of Rights Act of 2005 Clarifies periods of overseas deployments, requires correction of military pay problems, increases bonuses and payment options, expands ready reserve health care benefits, authorizes child care for children of members on active duty for Operations Iraqi or Enduring Freedom, provides increase in educational assistance benefits, and calls for a reduction in the Guard and Reserve retirement age from 60 to 55.

S. 337 – Sen. Graham (R-SC) - Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act Revises the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay and expands authorities to provide health care benefits for Reservists and their families.

H.R. 199 – Rep. Scott (D-GA) - Reservists and National Guard Opportunities and Protection of Education Act Grants National Guard and Reserve members a military leave of absence from the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled, while serving on active duty.

Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> to see the in-depth information and status. Continue to contact your Congressional Representative along with Senators Dayton and Coleman to ask for their support.

If you have questions, contact AFSA 858's Legislative Director, Jeff Williams remo_934@earthlink.net.



Airfield 858
Air Force Sergeants Association
Russ Funaro - President
429 Meadowood Lane
Burnsville, MN 55337

AFSA 858 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005



Inside

Presidents Letter

- Master Sergeant Russ Funaro introduces himself

Legislative Update

- Nine new bills introduced

2005 AFSA 858 meetings:

- June 4 (barbecue @ 934th APS)
 - See 858 website for details
- September 10
- November 5

All chapter meetings are held Saturdays at 1645 at the 934th AW Services Club.

2005 Events

Upcoming Dome nights:

Please contact Allison Flieseler to sign up for training and upcoming events.

Cell - (651) 747-7122

Email - hazeleyes0519@hotmail.com

Recent Meetings:

January UTA

- Elections Held
- 2004 Awards

Help us Find You

Please send us a message at

afsa858@worldnet.att.net with all your current contact information (include email).

Air Force Sergeants Association Airfield Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight

Trustees

934th Legislative Trustee – Jeff Williams
133rd Legislative Trustee – Thomas O'Keefe
ANG Membership & Affairs Trustee – Dave Himmer
Boy Scout Trustee and Webmaster – Dave Hammer
934th Membership Trustee – Sonja Fisher
Membership Retention Trustee – William Cox
Veterans Trustee – Tom Foss
Trustee – Clayton Pyle
Trustee – Lin Davidson

Russ Funaro – President
429 Meadowood Lane
Burnsville, Minnesota
55337

Officers

President – Russ Funaro
Vice President – Mike Vosen
Secretary – Troy Novak
Awards Trustee – Gary Frick
Treasurer – Vicky Kuntz
Auxiliary Chapter Officers
President – Beck Bogardus
Vice President – Rose Hill
Secretary/Treasurer – Fern Schneider

Airfield 858 Editor
Troy Novak & Jeff Williams