

AF

Public Affairs
Alumni Association

News & Notes

Winter '94

Many Pitch-In To Launch Association; Active Duty Members Welcome

When 50 Public Affairs and Air Force Broadcasting Service retirees from as far away as Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire made their way to Langley AFB for an update on Air Combat Command, the Air Force, and the challenges facing the Air Force Public Affairs community last July 23, it was clear that something more was needed to meet the needs of the group and the Public Affairs alumni who couldn't attend.

The annual AFA Public Affairs Luncheon in September affirmed that view, and the wheels were set in motion to establish the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association.

Now it is up to us, the former members of the Air Force's Public Affairs community to ensure the venture will succeed. The enclosed letter sums up where we stand now.

We need three things for our association's success: membership – both Full Membership retirees and Associate Membership active duty people; ideas; and participation. Filling out the form we've supplied (feel free to duplicate it and pass it on), sending in your check, your suggestions, and names of people for the directory takes care of the membership and idea parts.

Now we need participation – people who are willing to give a bit of their time, expertise, and, where able, resources, just as Reserve Brig. Gen. Jim Hart has in the publication of our newsletter and the directory, to help the Association.

We need some people in the San Antonio area to assist Marv Braman in putting together the first annual meeting. People who will work on lodging, non-military tours, meals and social events, and serve as on-site liaison with Colonel Johnny Whitaker's staff who are hosting us.

So, when you send in your membership form and dues let us know if you can help; better yet give Marv a call at (603) 885-2817. He's in New Hampshire and will appreciate your assistance.

Newsletter Aims To Inform; What Should Be In It?

Without becoming an imitator of the Sunday New York Times, our Association newsletter should be a source of useful information. In addition to reporting on the activities of the Association, what else do you, the membership, want to see?

Please let us know. Every suggestion will be given full consideration and in a not quite democratic manner we'll attempt to cover those topics that are suggested most frequently as well as those that make the most sense.

So, if you want to see a "Where Is?" column, a "Can You Help Me With . . ." item, or anything else, drop us a note. Better yet, save postage, send in your suggestions with your membership form and dues.

First Association Benefits: Newsletter, Meeting, Directory

The newly formed AF Public Affairs Alumni Association is based on the premise of providing service to a unique group of people – those who worked in Air Force Public Affairs or Air Force Broadcasting Service. And when former members of those groups have gathered, the subjects and questions most frequently asked are: 'What ever happened to?' 'I could sure use somebody who could write like Sgt. Smith.' 'Our wives used to have a great time together.' 'Somebody who knows how to deal with the media is so hard to find.' 'I wish I knew enough about what was going on in the Air Force and the military to help people I meet understand the importance of defense.'

The Association will try to meet the needs implied by those questions with a directory, an annual meeting for former career members and their spouses, information on current Air Force matters, and a recurring newsletter with provisions for finding lost friends, networking, and other PA alumni activities.

Do You Know The Way To San Antonio? First Annual Meeting June 10-11

Mark your calendars and look for the best air fares available because the Association's first annual meeting will be in San Antonio, Friday and Saturday, June 10 & 11.

All the details aren't worked out yet, but Colonel Johnny Whitaker and the other PAs in the area will have a program of interest for us; there will be a membership meeting; our newly elected board of directors will be installed; and we'll close the meeting with a wind-up affair Saturday. More details on schedule, places to stay, etc. will be in the mail soon.

Dues May Be Tax Deductible

AF Public Affairs Alumni Association dues may be tax deductible. Check with your tax preparer. They don't qualify as a charitable deduction, but, depending upon your current employment status, they may be a professional business expense.

AFPAAA Incorporated In VA; Board Candidates Sought

Thanks to the diligence of Pete Alexandrakos, as of December 13, 1993, our Association was incorporated in the state of Virginia. And we have received a duly signed and sealed certificate from the State Corporation Commission.

Pete is also working on establishing the AFPAAA as a tax-exempt, non-profit veteran's organization with the Internal Revenue Service.

Both of these activities are being done with the professional advice and service of both a lawyer and an accountant. While the fees being charged for their efforts are not exorbitant, they are an expense for the Association and are one of the things that dues will be used for. We want to ensure that everything is correct and legal.

The Association's by-laws, thanks to Ted Daniel and Pete's work, have been adopted by an interim board of directors composed of Pete, Ted, Marv Braman, John Gulick, Jim Reinhard, Gene Sands, John Terino, and chaired by Mike McRaney.

This board will function only until the members elect a nine-member board this spring. That board will appoint the Association's operating officers – president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer – positions interimly held by Mike, Jim, John Terino, and Pete.

Any Full Member – a former public affairs or AF Broadcasting Service person no longer on active duty – may serve on the board of directors or become an officer of the Association.

This spring, the nominating committee will provide election guidelines and a slate of candidates to the Full Members – all of whom are eligible to vote.

Two Types of Membership

Full Membership, with voting, board, and office holding privileges, is available to former Public Affairs/AFBS people who are either retired or separated from the Air Force. Associate Membership is available to people on active duty in uniform or as civilian employees in the public affairs field.