



# THE NORTHEAST FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



## TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR, MARCY WHITED

Voted Texas Teacher of the Year, Marcy Whited stands with Timm Dickens and Vance Clarke at the 2013 Annual Spring Thing Banquet.

### CHAPTER 416 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	VANCE CLARKE
VICE PRESIDENT	CHUCK MEADOR
TREASURER	JOE GAUTHIER
SECRETARY	TREY JOHNSON

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2013 VOL. 3 - 416Q22013

## 2013 CALENDAR

## 2014 CALENDAR

		JANUARY	8: Chapter Meeting
AUGUST	3: State Meeting – Wichita 7: Chapter Meeting	FEBRUARY	12: Chapter Meeting
SEPTEMBER	11: Chapter Meeting 13-17: AFA Nat'l Convention 21: Golf Thing	MARCH	12: Chapter Meeting
OCTOBER	9: Chapter Meeting 18-19: TX State Mtg. – Austin	APRIL	TBD: “Spring Thing” Banquet 9: Chapter Meeting
NOVEMBER	TBD: Bonham Vets Visit TBD: (Tent) TAMU Vets Vigil 13: Chapter Meeting	MAY	TBD: Bonham Veterans Visit 14: Chapter Meeting
DECEMBER	11: Chapter Meeting	JUNE	11: Chapter Meeting
		JULY	10: Chapter Meeting

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# GOLF THING

## TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 21, 2013




TOURNAMENT

AUCTION



# PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



## **Two Years – Gone so fast!**

It is hard to believe that two years will be up for me in the office of President of Chapter 416 in October of this year. I cannot believe all our team has accomplished and what all we have to be proud of. I am honored to have been able to lead and work to contribute over this time. I am sure we can continue to accomplish great things in Northeast Texas for the nation, the Air Force and our local communities. We can only do this as long as “WE” are strong and many. Please, find ways you can help and to step up, find new people to help, and ensure the success of this great team. We have many slots that need to be filled, most requiring effort in small amounts at critical times. If you are interested, please contact us.

## **Golf Thing – Need your help!**

Our annual “Golf Thing and Auction” are coming up on September 21, 2013. We need your help to ensure success. If possible, come out and work a 2, 4, or 8 hour shift and have some fun as we work to raise the funds we require to support our yearlong efforts. Any help or time you can provide, whether to help set up, guide the golfers, work a hole, take money, or help close things down after the auction, we need your help and welcome it.

## **Civil Air Patrol**

We have continued to expand our efforts and work hard to ensure we are giving all we can to provide the best education, training, and development for our CAP citizens. We are proud of their accomplishments and all we have been able to support. We were able to aid Tommy Novotny to attend a training session in the United Kingdom as well as send Andre Graham to Colorado for some marvelous exposure to Air Force Space Command. We are blessed to be able to provide such support along with efforts we normally provide for specific training.

## **Reflection**

In two years we have raised a lot of awareness and worked many wonders in Northeast Texas. Our team has worked hard and I could not be prouder of what we have done. As I look forward, I urge many to consider

stepping up into roles that will aid in our cause. We need “new people” who are willing to give some of their time, not a lot, but some to help keep things going as those who’s shoulders we stand on have in the past.

We need help with the “Spring Thing” banquet. Small things like set up, script, etc. It doesn’t take a lot, just organizing the date, time, and coordinating some of the awards we give out.

Could you help get the essay information out to the public and to receive the results and engage our ready judges for results? This work results in three scholarships for worthy students.

Interested in helping guide our newsletter and ensure we get information published for our membership?

Know a little about web pages? Willing to learn? Ours always needs attention to ensure we keep it updated and ensure it serves our community partners and our membership.

Like to get out and talk to people? Help us support our efforts? Could you aid with our efforts to support and gain community partners. We desire to have CPs in every town and need YOU to help. We have members in many places; Tyler, Paris, Rockwall, Sulphur Springs, and more ... can you help? Our goal is to gain one CP for every town where we have a member. Today we largely have CPs in Greenville and Rockwall. Can you help?

Our needs are great if we desire to continue to accomplish great things. I believe we should continue to reach out and work hard to expand our presence ensuring all we do accomplishes good for our nation, Air Force, and local communities. I believe we can do this if we remain focused and targeted on the results we desire to achieve.

We must remember that every scholarship essay educates one student, one family, someone in some schools, and exposes both students, educators, and more to the needs of our nation and Air Force. Everything we do must generate greater awareness and potential support for our efforts.



You can contact me at:  
903-274-9981  
President@netxafa.org  
vancemclarke@aol.com

Vance M. Clarke  
President, AFA Chapter 416

# UPDATES FROM OUR TEAM

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## **Treasurer: Joe Gauthier**

In May our chapter was especially busy assisting with funding Civil Air Patrol (CAP) once in a lifetime training opportunities for local cadets. Powered flight, Cadet officer and Pararescue schools, Flight and Glider academies and Lone star emergency services training are all educational opportunities we are proud to help our CAP cadets attend with funding from our Murray educational fund.



Jaci Ledkins

This month, our Earle North Parker Essay Contest winner, Jaci Ledkins, had us send her \$1,000 scholarship to Panola College where she'll attend this fall. Zach Nash, our 3rd place winner also asked us to send his \$500 scholarship to University of Texas, Austin where he'll start this fall.

Mark Tarpley, Vice President of the Oklahoma Gerrity Chapter organized a call out through AFA National to all chapters to support the Tinker

Emergency Family Assistance Center for the more than 300 personnel within the Tinker family that were directly and significantly impacted by the recent tornadoes in the Oklahoma City area. Our chapter was able to respond to our northern neighbor's need with \$1,000 for the Tinker family readiness fund.



Joe G. and Jamie Pack at the 12 April 2013 Gilmer JROTC Banquet.

We are also proud to join forces with L-3 to sponsor Vance Clarke, our President and Trey Johnson, Secretary, attendance at the upcoming 13-17 September 2013 AFA National convention in Washington D.C this fall.

Thanks to all our generous contributors and CPs for helping us support our community. Our next big fund raising opportunity is our "Golf Thing," Terry

Thomas, as always, has been busy acquiring very nice White House and Air Force One items since even before the last auction was over. Hope to see you all there, 21 September 2013!

It is a pleasure to continue to serve our nation, Air Force, Association, and local communities as Chapter 416 Treasurer.

## **Civil Air Patrol Update: Vice President: Chuck Meador**

Outstanding! The TX 450 Chapter, Civil Air Patrol, is making things happen.

We started the year off with our first annual banquet where we recognized Amelia Earhart and Billy Mitchell award winners, several promotions, and a change of command for both levels of the cadet program. Throughout the year the cadets were leaders at many levels within the Texas Wing at camps and we have the newly elected president of the TX Wing Cadet Advisory Program within our team.

At the annual Honor Guard competition in February, they placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the competition, once again the Chapter was represented in a most professional manner which made our cadets better leaders and true winners.

We had a very successful year and at our summer break we had grown three new cadets to expand our team to 14 cadets. Over the summer the cadet team will be very busy with two going to powered flight academies and two to glider flight academy. Additionally, several are going to leadership specialized training camps and to Basic Encampment. From my viewpoint the TX 450 Chapter is moving strongly forward and we are looking forward to upcoming opportunities.

We could not do all of the things that Civil Air Patrol does without the help of Chapter 416 of the Air Force Association. I am pleased to serve in capacities in both organizations that make a difference to so many young people in the local area.



Chuck Meador



# GREENVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GOES TO GLOBAL

**By: Tom Witt, GCS Teacher**

Chapter 416 recently supported the Greenville Christian School (GCS) robotics team as part of our goal for supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. The team was heading to final national competition and was in need of funding to support that. We were able to step up and provide \$2,500 to help with the \$10,000 total expected costs. How did it go?



The Destination Imagination Global Finals were held in Knoxville, TN again this year. There were over 10,000 students competing in six separate challenges at four different levels (elementary, middle, secondary,

collegiate). GCS sent two elementary teams.

Backyard Pit Crew, a 3rd grade team, competed in the technical challenge where they had to design and construct vehicles powered by different means. They built a ramp in order to use gravity, air pressure, and stored kinetic energy in the form of a spring to power different cars. Additionally, they had to have a skit that dealt with teamwork. For their work, they placed 1st at Regionals, 3rd at state, and 27th in globals!

The other team was a scientific team whose name consisted of the initials of each member of the team (JW WEST). The scientific challenge requires the team to do research on a given topic and incorporate that research into a story with this year's challenge being wind energy. JW WEST decided to use the windmill (wind pump), wild west setting to tell the story of a town that is changed by a mail-order bride. Additionally, the challenge required the team to create a piece of kinetic art that was powered by the wind. They did so by constructing a "diamond ring" where the diamond spun under the power of wind. For their



efforts, the team place 1st at district, 3rd at state, and 9th in globals.

Just to put both of those showings in finals in perspective, both teams were first year teams with first year coaches. At state, both teams faced forty teams that represent

1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winners in their region. At globals, the competition was the 1, 2, or 3 place winners of the state/nation

For example, JW WEST was competing against the top qualifiers from each state as well as teams from provinces of Canada, two teams from Korea, a team from China as well as other nations. JW WEST placing 9 out of the top 70 teams from around the world is an extreme honor and accomplishment.

However, none of that would have been possible except that we had partners in the process. In order for



both teams to go to global finals, we had to raise at least \$10,000. The Air Force Association was a huge part of that partnership - and we want to thank you.

# BONHAM VISIT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

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## First 2013 Bonham VA visit

The first of twice-yearly visits for 2013 to VA Community Center in Bonham, Texas, sponsored by Chapter 416, took place May 4, 2013. The group numbered 18 - three chapter AFA members, one active duty Air Force member and his family of four, three Cub and Webelos Scouts and their families (seven in total), and three guests. The visit was a part of our ongoing veteran's project that began about 6 years ago. We visited about thirty veterans and passed out American flags to each of them. They are always happy to not only meet us but also talk to people who really care about them. Some of the activities included one-on-one chats, reading magazine articles and reading the Bible to one who requested it. The veterans really enjoyed talking and sharing about their military days and appreciated a listening ear. They especially enjoyed meeting those who wore uniforms (the active duty Air Force member and the three Scouts). The Scouts explained what their various badges meant and how they earned them. For the veterans, seeing children visit them is a very special treat.



Members of Chapter 416, a 645<sup>th</sup> AESS member and his family, boy scouts, and more came all came out to visit our veterans.

I think that the Scouts received a real eye opener when they saw the physical conditions of some of the men and women. I think they probably expected a bunch of really old men, but did not expect woman veterans, much less to see amputees, stroke victims, and other debilitating issues our vets live with on a daily basis.

It was a win-win visit for all, and cost those who participated only about four hours on a Saturday morning plus driving expenses to Bonham. Besides doing an unquestionable good thing for the veterans, Connie Peters, Director of Activities and Recreation at the Bonham Community Center, was very happy to see so many sharing and visiting with the veterans on their personal time,

especially on a Saturday. She said Saturday is usually a very boring and lonely day for them, since no one usually comes to visit. But more than this, we got to visit with members of our communities we'd possibly not met before, and build support for other AFA activities.

If this sounds like something you'd like to do, our next visit is scheduled Nov. 2, 2013. We'll alert you as the date gets nearer. It is one of the most valuable activities we have and as I mentioned earlier, everyone is a winner. Join us next time! You will be glad you did.

## AFA Support to the Farmersville Intermediate School Science Program

I've always supported Chapter 416's emphasis on education - it helps ensure a solid tomorrow for our nation. So I was delighted when the chapter decided to assist some really dedicated teachers in the development of a middle school outdoor science center in my town of Farmersville. That was back in 2009 or so. Some of the results of our support showed up at the recent Physics Phair in Farmersville.

More than 40 students from the Farmersville Intermediate School planned, set up, and demonstrated every experiment. Some of their demonstrations included powering a light with lemons and potatoes, powering up two bottle rockets using air pressure, building and demonstrating a hairspray powered gun to shoot potatoes. There were also demonstrations involving color, heat and many other projects. The students were great "teachers" as they explained not only how, but also why the experiments worked.



Larry Ratliff accepts presentation on behalf of Chapter 416 for support to Farmersville Intermediate School

Chapter member and engineer Jim Henderson was among those attending the Phair, and he was impressed.

"The Physics Phair in Farmersville was surprisingly good. Very little fluff." All of it was good science and maybe one third was actually at the junior high to high school level. I had a good time getting each student to



## BONHAM VISIT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT (CONTINUED)



Let her swing!  
Centripetal force in action.

describe his demonstration and asking him/her questions on his subject. Several of the best ones I remember are:

- Centripetal force (swinging a bucket of water over your head to show how water stayed in when the bucket was upside down)
  - One booth had pairs of unequal weights suspended on unequal strings to show the swinging period was determined by the string length, not the weight.
  - An awesome volcano demonstration // Tests for Chlorine in water.
  - Cornstarch in water. The demonstrator ran her hands through the mixture to show it was liquid then walked on it to show it was solid. Good demo- This young girl was caked, head to foot, in cornstarch.
- Surface tension, showing non-mixing properties of water/oil, adding detergent breaking surface tension so they mixed.



Balloons give a lot of "static"

- A spoon powered by a rubber band showing how far various items would be thrown.

And there were more.

All the students asked those who attended "Is it magic or science?" The Dairy Queen hosted a family night during the Phair. A portion of the proceeds from everyone purchasing food that evening went to the Intermediate School's Outdoor Lab. The Physics Phair students also took up a donation from anyone interested in helping with this worthwhile project.

It was great to see the results of donations Chapter 416 of the AFA has contributed to the science department at the Farmersville Intermediate School. It was a good feeling to see how excited and enthusiastic all the students are about physics and science in general. And except for chapter members supporting the annual chapter "Golf Thing," our main source of revenue, we really didn't have to do anything. What a deal!



Rocket Scientists at work launching success!

# AFA SUPPORTS SPOUSE PROGRAMS

## 645 AECS Spouse Org; Mary Eckberg

Hello! My name is Mary Eckberg. During our time here in Texas, I am thankful to have attended Air Force Association Chapter 416 sponsored events, and, am overwhelmingly appreciative of the financial support that the Chapter has generously shared with our Active Duty Air Force Squadron and Spouses Group.

In our first few years of marriage, my husband Jason and I were stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. It seemed like Jason was always leaving town on spontaneous trips and TDY's! I learned quickly to gather a circle of friends for support.

Being away from family, I counted on friends when I was feeling lonely, and have many good memories of hanging out with friends, while attending fun activities in the area. While flying solo, even the smallest effort by a friend would help the time pass quicker, and, before I knew it, my husband would return home!

The goal of the 645th AECS Spouses Group is to offer a similar circle of support. We encourage our Spouses to connect with each other, sharing similar interests and experiences and building friendships.

We hope each Spouse knows that they do have someone to talk to, especially when they face difficult times. I feel strongly that no matter what rank our Active Duty member may have achieved, we Spouses are all in the same boat, especially with this unique geographically separated assignment.

We all face similar issues due to the intense schedule and long hours of this job. For example, we know what it is like to prepare a delicious meal that only gets cold waiting. Our patience has been tested by the constant distraction of the work cell phone. We have crisscrossed routes around town, taking children to different practices, as the solo parent available. We have tucked in sleepy little

ones with the promise of "Daddy will be home soon." For all those reasons, and more, we need each other.

With the 645th Spouses Group we have tried to create a feeling of community, especially since we find ourselves away from the amenities of a military base facility. One way to do so, was by organizing family friendly Squadron events.

Since arriving in Texas in August of 2011, Jason and

I have had a wonderful time taking part in a wide variety of activities, held in Greenville, Royse City and Rockwall, TX. From Pumpkin Patch Picnics to dining together for a Squadron Thanksgiving Feast, from monthly Bunco Game Nights to Squadron Chili Cook Off Contests, from Easter Egg Hunting to Summer Splash Pad Parties, we have thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship our Squadron family.

When you plant a seedling and give it tender loving care, you have great hopes. Then, when you see it taking off, on it's own, providing bountiful beauty, you have great pride. That describes how I personally feel about those in our Spouses Group.

Let me share an example or two with you -



Mrs. Michelle Henley and children; she is a leader in the 645 AECS Spouse organization showing check representing \$400 donation made

- On April 15th, when tragedy hit the Boston, MA Marathon, Spouses from our group rallied the next day to donate blood at local blood banks. No one told them they had to. They just felt moved to do something to help, and, their efforts, although miles away, were still sincerely appreciated.
- On April 17th, when the West, TX fertilizer plant exploded, my SUV was filled to the brim with donations from the Spouses of our group for those less fortunate. All voluntary, from the goodness of their hearts, they gave to strangers.



## AFA SUPPORTS SPOUSE PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)



Lt Col Jason Eckberg speaking at a Bonham Veteran's Day Event; Commander, Citizen, Husband and "Dad"

We've been at war a long time, and, even so, I am daily amazed and humbled by the positive examples set by my fellow military Spouses.

As I unloaded and organized the goods for West, at the Waco, TX Red Cross Chapter, I proudly gave an AFA Chapter 416 RMO (coin) to the associate in charge. A simple way to express our appreciation for a Red Cross Chapter helping others in need. Much the same sentiment that we feel at the 645th, with appreciation for the continued support of the AFA Chapter 416.

This summer, several of our fellow Spouses and families face the challenges of "dinner for one," or, "single parenting," as their Active Duty member leaves on deployment.

We at the 645th hope to provide a support network for any needs that may arise. We simply want to remind the Spouses and families that they are indeed NOT "left alone."

Thanks to the financial support of the AFA Chapter 416, we have four gift certificates for a day of childcare, to share with four different Spouses that are busy parents. This allows a Spouse to have a day to themselves, away from

the hectic schedule of tending to their children. Meanwhile, the kiddos enjoy the fantastic care of a local child care provider.

Our hope is that with this gift the Spouse will have the chance to "reboot"! A little time off, from what has become the daily grind, may offer renewed enthusiasm for the many tasks on the "to do" list, that they must now complete on their own. Jason and I, and the entire 645th AECS community cannot thank Chapter 416 enough, for providing that financial gift to share with those Spouses.

In closing, I'd like to share one last sentiment. A dear friend, facing incredible health challenges, happily stated "I choose JOY"! That seems to fit each military Spouse in our 645th Spouses Group. We do face challenges with this unique assignment, but, we also support each other, and, most of all, we choose "JOY"!

Sincerely,

Mary Eckberg

Spouse of Lt Col Jason A Eckberg, USAF, Commander,  
645th AECS, Greenville, TX

# COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATE

## Terry Thomas: VP, Community Partners

The Community Partner (CP) Program continues to grow and is meeting the new Challenge from National in gaining new Members. In the past four months alone we have added Six (6) new CP's, renewals remain strong with only two (2) Losses, those losses were due to the Company or Individual going out of Business. To continue on this



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award winning pace I am asking each Officer within the Organization to recruit just one (1) new member before the end of the year. It is something very easy to accomplish, all you need to do is ask, it could be the person cutting your hair, the coffee shop you stop at in the morning, a store you frequently do business with, your Insurance Agent, all are potential members. The trick is to just ask, many are truly amazed and thankful for what our Organization is doing and will gladly sign up, especially if they feel you will continue to do business with them!

One initiative still in work is a CP drive in Commerce with the help of our Veterans Affairs Officer, Ted Oates. Because of heavy schedule conflicts and family emergencies we have not been able to execute this drive but it will be done no later than the 4th Quarter. Ted and I believe we have three (3) at least very solid leads. Ted is very well known and respected in that Community and I believe we will have even more new members in the very near future. I know to that our President is actively in the process of recruiting new members in his hometown of Rockwall, this is yet another untapped area that could produce many new Members.

I would like very much to recognize a few of our newest CP's: Celeste Jr. High Library, Collin Street Bakery, Jungle Burger, Eyecare and Laser Mgt/Dr. Holly Fisher Britt.

One way for us to show our support with a "Partner" is to use their business when possible! We held our chapter meeting at on June 19th at our newest CP, "JUNGLE BURGER". This is what produces renewals year after year!

Thanks to our CPs as well as all our members who patronize them.

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Dr. Britt was recently recognized by the National Register's Who's Who. In 2012, she was voted one of America's Top Optometrists. Call our office now for your appointment to see one of Rockwall's best!

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GENTAL DENTAL	
GILMER HIGH SCHOOL	

## WELCOME AND THANKS COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

“Thanks to all our Community Partners! We are proud to call you all friends and know that your effort has made a big difference this year, and for many of you, for many, many years. THANK YOU!

If you are interested in giving above and beyond to any of our specific efforts, we welcome that. We have our Golf Thing coming up in September and we are looking for donations of \$100 each (or \$150 for non-CPs) to help raise funds. With this comes a sign recognizing you at the hole and special mention in flyers and handouts as well as mention of your support in our newsletter. Please consider this.

Also, if you feel you want to support our scholarships, Civil Air Patrol, giving to charities in the local area, as well as any of our Cyber Patriot or other events, please feel free to contact us to give. We promise to get your funds into your specific endeavor or to something that will make a difference for our nation, Air Force, and local communities.

### *Welcome to* **TWO SEÑORITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT,** *our newest Community Partner*

PR13-003

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



Northeast Texas Chapter 416  
P.O. Box 8633  
Greenville, TX 75404-8633