



THE NORTHEAST FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



In the photo, left to right:

Larry Ratliff, Pete Haayen (WMUC), Luis Benevitez, Trey Johnson, Ed Taylor, Jim Withycombe (WUMC), and Judy London (WUMC)

CHAPTER 416 CONTINUES TO CARE FOR OUR VETERANS. OUR LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAM RAYBURN VETERAN'S COMMUNITY CENTER IN BONHAM, TEXAS STAYED ON TRACK WITH A VISIT ON 2 MAY 2015.

PRESIDENT, TREY JOHNSON, LED THE TEAM WITH LARRY RATLIFF, VP VETERAN'S AFFAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF HIS CHUCH, THE WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (WMUC), GREENVILLE, TEXAS. THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED REMEMBER OUR VETERANS AND MAKE DIFFERENCES IN SHOWING SOMEONE THEY ARE REMEMBERED AND THAT THEIR WORK AND SACRIFICES HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN. IF YOU HAVE A GROUP YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE AN AFA TRIP TO VISIT VETERAN'S WITH, LIKE YOUR CHURCH, BOY SCOUTS, WORK TEAM, ETC., LET US KNOW AT 903-274-9981/VANCEMCLARKE@AOL.COM, AND WE CAN HELP SCHEDULE WITH YOU.

CHAPTER 416 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	TREY JOHNSON
VICE PRESIDENT	MSGT RYAN WIEBECKE
TREASURER	TSGT TYLER REED
SECRETARY	MSGT CHEYENNE BODE

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2015 VOL. 2 – 416 Q2-15

CALENDAR

JUL. 2015	8	Chapter Meeting	18	State Meeting - Dallas
AUG. 2015	12	Chapter Meeting		
SEP. 2015	9	Chapter Meeting	11-13	AFA National Conference
			26	Golf Thing
OCT. 2015	3	State Meeting Del Rio	14	Chapter Meeting
NOV. 2015	7	Bonham Vet's Visit	11	Chapter Meeting
DEC. 2015	9	Chapter Meeting		
JAN. 2016	13	Chapter Meeting	29	Teacher of the Year Suspense to State
FEB. 2016	10	Bonham Vet's Visit		
MAR. 2016	9	Chapter Meeting		
APR. 2016	13	Chapter Meeting	TBD	Spring Thing Banquet
MAY. 2016	11	Chapter Meeting	TBD	Bonham Vet's Visit
JUN. 2016	8	Chapter Meeting		

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Sept. 2016

AFA License Plates

Golf Thing



These special plates cost \$30 over the cost of the regular plates; \$8 of this goes to the State of Texas and the remaining \$22 goes into escrow for AFA to draw on. You do not need to wait for your plates to expire, you can order these anytime. Supporting this program will benefit AFA Scholarships in Texas.

How do you get yours?

1. Go to <http://www.txdmv.gov/index.htm>
2. Click on Order Specialty Plates under [Motorists] column
3. Click on Specialty License Plates
4. Click on Organizations
5. Click on Air Force Association and follow the prompts
6. TxDMV will send the plates to your County Tax Office for pickup

AFA License Plates
Support Scholarships and Show Your Support!



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



Does anything make sense anymore?

We get bombarded everyday now by the media with stories that just don't seem to make sense.

I must admit that I probably allow myself to be excessively exposed to many different media in a vain attempt to remain "informed".

Of course, we must understand that the media for money sources are looking for the most sensational information possible in order to garner attention, and this generally means that the stories are extremely negative in nature.

A recent Gallup poll showed Americans have very little confidence in major institutions including the Country, Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, banks and even organized religion. The two major institutions for which Americans believe in at historically high levels, according to the poll, are the military and small business. Having high confidence in the military and small business certainly gives me hope that most Americans still have their priorities straight when it comes to institutions.

I realize I'm an older citizen, now, and I may have trouble recognizing good new ideas, but I still have faith in certain values. I have to believe that if this poll is anywhere near correct that most Americans have fairly consistent values and now believe their institutions no longer hold those values.

There seems to be a feeling that we understand the need to protect the country and are more comfortable dealing with the small business owner or even owning a small business, ourselves.

Washington D.C. and the major institutions have become such slaves to the media that many people feel they are left out.

The media striving for sensationalism is not new, but what is relatively new is the onslaught of social media.

Individuals who otherwise would be too shy to be involved Twitter their comments to the world which is repeated by the rest of the media and intimidates politicians and CEOs, alike.

Who knows who and how many are actually doing the tweeting?

How do we know that these institutions are not tweeting to themselves or influencing the tweets for their own purposes?

In this confusing world where at times there appears to be no objective truth it is not surprising that most folks lack confidence in their society.

I'm personally optimistic about the future because this is America and the right leadership will arise to instill the confidence we need.



**Keep the faith
and have a great 4th of July!**



You can contact me at:
903-413-1453
President@netxafa.org

Trey Johnson
President, AFA Chapter 416

SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Chapter 416 provides as much help as it can to encourage Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) activities, as well as civic growth in our local youth. The chapter has provided help to Robotics, CyberPatriot teams, Discover Imagination, science projects, rocket launches, outdoor laboratories, and much more. Your donations make a difference right here in our local communities. Here are results of a few of those sponsored events.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION



Pictured: left to right
Matt Selle, Kasey Wilson, Erik Thompson, Sam Potter,
and Karlos Zurutuza

ROMAN ROBOTS



Team Manager: Brent Money

Team:

Adele Money	(3rd grade - home school)
Bren Scott	(3rd grade - Greenville ISD)
Ella Sutton	(3rd grade - home school)
Cole Teurman	(5th grade - Greenville Christian School)
Jacob Vaughn	(5th grade - Greenville Christian School)
Owen Weaver	(5th grade - Greenville Christian School)

VEX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPORT

Cain Middle School Robotics – VEX World Championship Support

*By: Jean Laswell, Career Education Director,
Rockwall School ISD
Maurine Cain Middle School Students
Compete at Vex Robotics World Championship
April 15 - 18, 2015
Louisville, Kentucky*

Five students from Cain Middle School making up Team 3310B Roman Robots were part of the Alliance Team that earned the title of Middle School State Champions.

These five creative thinkers are attending the “VEX World Competition 2015” in Louisville, Kentucky this week. The five Cain students are: 8th graders **Samuel Potter, Matt Selle, Kasey Wilson, Karlos Zurutuza** and 7th grader **Erik Thompson**. The team is coached by Brian Selle.

The VEX Robotics World Championship brings together top robotics teams to

celebrate their accomplishments and compete with and against the best teams from around the world. The 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship will include top teams from over 500 VEX Robotics Competition tournaments happening in cities around the world from June 2014 to March 2015.

Teams have been practicing and competing in the game Skyrise during the 2014-2015 season.

Each team that competes in the Skyrise competition has spent hundreds of hours building a Robot with The VEX Robotics Design System kit.

The Robot is made up of a mobile robotic base that allows the robot to navigate the flat playing surface, a power and control system, additional mechanisms and motors that allow the manipulation of game objects or navigation of field objects. The team can expand the basic kit but the finished robot

has to fit inside an 18 inch cube to be considered an acceptable robot. The Robot is allowed to expand outside of the cube during the competition.

The Skyrise competition consists of two teams or alliances competing in two timed events to score the most points. The first event is the Autonomous Period where the Robots operate in a 15-second time period to react only to sensor inputs and to commands pre-programmed by the team into the onboard Robot control system.

Team 3310B –Roman Robots came in first place at the Texas State Championship for their programming skills. Following the Autonomous period is the Driver Controlled Period for a total of 2 minutes. During each period the Robot is to pick up Skyrise pieces (a section of a tower), stack them into a base piece and build a tower.

Continued on next page...

VEX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPORT CONTINUED

Team 3310B –Roman Robots came in first place at the Texas State Championship for their programming skills.

Following the Autonomous period is the Driver Controlled Period for a total of 2 minutes. During each period the Robot is to pick up Skyrisepieces (a section of a tower), stack them into a base piece and build a tower.

The Robot is also to pick up 8” cubes consisting of tubular segments and place them on their Skyrise tower or various posts that are attached to the playing field perimeter. During the 2 minute period two team members using separate game controllers work together to move the Robot around the playing field, pick up the tower pieces and cubes to score the most points while protecting their towers from their opponent.

Teams can win any of 20 Awards such as “ThinkAward”, “Build Award”, “Programming Skills” or “Tournament Champions” at each local, regional, state or world level competition. The Cain Roman Robots Team won the “Design Award” at the Greenville Qualifier Competition, the “Build Award” and “Tournament Champion” at the Greenville Regional Competition.

In Louisville, Kentucky the Roman Robots team will be competed with over 15,000 participants from over 27 countries many that are high school teams.

The Roman Robots team greatly appreciates the sponsorship they received from the Air Force Association to cover their registration fee for the tournament.

The team won the Design Award for their robot that reaches up to 5 feet in height and

they came in 4th place in the Programming (or Autonomous) portion of the competition. This is the first team from Cain Middle School to win at the Regional Level (they came in first place in the alliance competition and won the Programming Award) and to attend the World Competition.

The VEX World Competition is sponsored by: Chevron, EMC Corporation, Microchip, NASA, Northrop Grumman Foundation, Texas Instruments, the U.S. Army and the FUTURE Foundation. The commitment and support of these partners ensures a great experience for everyone attending the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship.

PATRIOTISM ESSAY CONTEST

AFA Joins Forces with Joe Foss Institute

Chapter 416 and the Joe Foss Institute (JFI) teamed up to help Celeste Jr High School and to in return garnered great essays from their students. Teacher Stacey Bowe got her students to produce 50 essays and they were then judged by JFI Veterans with some of the best recognized. Some of the students were asked to volunteer to read their essays.

Caden Lewis, Chance Brown, and Wesley Daugherty came to the AFA Spring Thing Banquet and read their essays to the audience of about 65 people. The crowd was so proud of these young men and their superb essays. Bree Dalton was brave enough to volunteer to read her essay at the Texas A&M Commerce, War and Memory event with over 200 people in attendance. She was given a resounding standing ovation and applause for her effort and the tremendous words in her essay.



Pictured: left to right:
Stacey Bowe, Caden Lewis, Chance Brown, Wesley Daugherty, Bree Dalton,
and Vance Clarke

You can hear some of the essays read on our Air Force Association, Chapter 416 Facebook page, and read the essays on our

www.netxafa.org web site.

Vance Clarke, VP Communications orchestrated the effort and presented a plaque to Bowes with names of all students who submitted essays and individual plaques for those who read their essays at events. What a great effort and awesome results. Thanks to Stacey Bowes, the leadership at CJHS, and all the students who submitted essays.

Thanks for your patriotism!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS – BACKBONE OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

Community Partners – Backbone of the Air Force Association Chapters

By : Terry Thomas / VP of Community Partners – Northeast Chapter 416

We in Chapter 416 are so proud of our fifty seven (57) Community Partners (CP's), they truly are critical major players in our planning, strategies and efforts to develop community understanding of, and support for the U.S. Air Force. Most, if not all know, our mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. To accomplish this we: EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure U.S. national security, ADVOCATE for aerospace power and STEM education, and SUPPORT the total Air Force Family, and promote aerospace Education. The Irony of this is that the majority of our CP's in Chapter 416 are close friends, clients and business owners who have little or no affiliation with the Air Force.

We have CP's who know that their business will most likely never get a Customer knocking on their door for the goods and services they provide. Two of our best examples are Danny Leinart who builds Hotels and other major building projects or Danny Keene who has one of the most successful plumbing businesses in the Country and has thoroughbred race horses. Of course we have some CP's who hopefully do reap some business benefit from being associated with us; Dr. Brent Wehner our longest active CP who has a successful Dentistry here in Greenville and Charles & Sharon Helm owners of two of the finest Hotels in Greenville, the Holiday Inn Express and the Best Western Plus Monica Royale, who are our second longest standing Partners.

But simply put, I know from talking to each of our CP's that they know we are going the extra mile in providing assistance to the youth of Northeast Texas in many ways. We are actively supporting Space Station Experiments with Rockwall High School, Rocket Launches in Greenville, Laboratory

efforts in Farmersville, and Robotics in both Rockwall and Greenville. Not to mention Scholarships in the annual Earle North Parker Essay Contest, Civil Air Patrol Training and Encampments, assistance to the War and Memory Team at Texas A & M Commerce, along with donations to a few local charities who help families get by in difficult times. On top of all of that support we have been blessed to provide support to two Wounded Warriors over the past year. As Vance Clarke, Past President and current VP of Communication recently stated in a letter to our CP's, "You are part of something bigger than your vocations – we are building the future!"

Thanks to all of our tremendous CP's! We appreciate your support and promise to do our part in supporting You please let us know what we can do for you – we really want to do more !

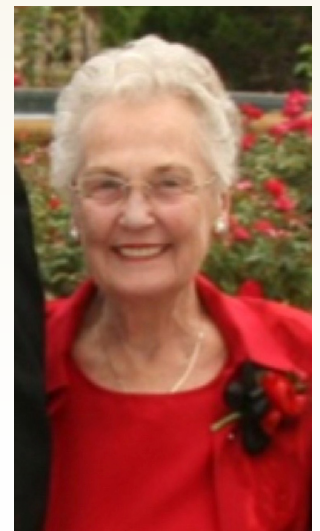


HELEN SEIDEL – AFA LEGEND SLIPS SURLY BONDS OF EARTH

Born August 15, 1928 in Elkhart, Indiana and passed away June 15, 2015. Helen and her husband Bob, are the namesakes for the Dallas Chapter of AFA. Bob and Helen are now back together, and both are sorely missed here on earth.

Many of our chapter member's knew Helen very well. She was always quick with a compliment, a challenge, or just a smile and laughter when needed. She was a true AFA spokesperson and a hard worker here in AFA Texas. We will all miss her terribly but know she is in a better place and that her and Bob are watching over our work.

If you wish to honor Helen, you may send any memorials or gifts in her name to the:
Dallas Foundation for Aerospace Education, c/o Ric Hamer,
1965 Remington Lane, Frisco, Texas 75033.



You can learn more at: <http://www.afadallas.org/about.htm>

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THE TARPLEY AGENCIES
TIM DRAKE JEWELERS
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TWO SENORITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT
WEBB HILL COUNTRY CLUB



Special Thanks to:

**Nissan of Greenville
Apex Supply Company
Greenville Trophies & Awards
Two Senoritas Mexican Restaurant**

Thank you to all of our community partners

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LEGAL STUFF: The NORTHEAST FLYER is published more or less quarterly by the Northeast Texas Chapter 416 of the Air Force Association, P. O. Box 8633, Greenville, TX 75404-8633. Chapter hotline 903-457-6605. The AFA is a non profit organization. Chapter President: Trey Johnson Please address correspondence to the Northeast Texas Chapter, including comments on the NORTHEAST FLYER to the address above.

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

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

