

Communication... Communication... Communication

We are exploring the potential of holding quarterly audio conferences targeted at AFA education programs. These conferences would be similar to those conducted by many financial firms. You would call into a central 800 number, listen to a five minute update from both staff and leadership, and then utilize the balance of time for a question and answer session. Typically, you would provide the operator with an indication that you have a question. The operator would then line everyone up in order so that those questions can be answered.

But first, we must determine if this is of interest to you, our customer. If you think this is a good idea, please email and express your interest to AENewsletter@afa.org. Please respond not later than July 1, 2009.

Teacher Workshops: A Huge Success in Ohio!

The Wright Memorial Chapter held their Teacher Workshops at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Dayton, Ohio. Over 100 teachers attended the event. During breakfast, Kathy Schweinfurth, Chief of the Education Outreach office for Wright Patterson Air Force Base, provided information on all programs that were available to them by either a phone call or email. Two-hour classes were held both in the morning and the afternoon and the teachers could choose the classes that best fit their needs. The luncheon speaker was Judith Wehn, Chief, Education Division, at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. She shared the numerous programs that she provides for teachers, and encouraged them to contact her. Teachers were offered the opportunity to attend another set of workshops this summer and 63 teachers signed up on the spot. Many took extra flyers back to their schools, and as of today, over 90% of the slots are filled for the workshops in July.



Wright Memorial Chapter President Kent Owsley presents Teacher of the Year Award to Tom Jenkins"

Wright State University provided Continuing Education Units (CEU) for all teachers that attended. Teachers were required to complete a survey for each class to receive the CEUs. The results were very positive in describing the speakers and over 98% stated they would like to attend next year and would share the information with their fellow teachers.

The Teacher of the Year Award for both the Wright Memorial Chapter and the State of Ohio were presented to Tom Jenkins, Indian Valley School, Greenon Local Schools in Clarke County at the luncheon.

Shenandoah Valley Chapter Delivers Second Check

Last month, the *Aerospace Education Newsletter* included an article and photo of Norm Haller, Chapter 435 President, delivering a check to Sacred Heart Academy science teacher Kim Dooley. This month, an even larger check in the amount of \$3,000 was delivered to Sacred Heart Academy administrators..

Jason Kane, a reporter for *The Winchester Star*, wrote a very favorable article about the Air Force Association and the generosity of the Shenandoah Chapter and its members. The story is attached.



Norm Haller presents \$3,000.00 check to Sacred Heart Academy science class.

Colorado is Site for LEGO Conference

In April, the first Rocky Mountain Region LEGO Engineering Conference was conducted in Colorado Springs. The conference was the idea of Erik Russell, a fourth-grade teacher at Odyssey Elementary School. Russell is sponsored by the Air Force Association and received an AFA STEM education grant this year. Erik was also the 2008 Colorado AFA Teacher of the Year, sponsored by the Colorado Springs Lance P. Sijan Chapter. Russell has been nominated for the AFA National Teacher of the Year for 2009.

The purpose of this year's LEGO conference was to gather professional educators throughout the state of Colorado to present and share their experiences with using the LEGO MINDSTORMS robotics technology to teach across elementary curriculums in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Some 60 educators, administrators, and corporate sponsors, including AFA and Tufts University Center for Engineering Education and Outreach, attended the one-day conference. The day also included hands-on workshops on building, programming and testing LEGO robotics.



Educators listen to presentation during LEGO Engineering Conference

This successful LEGO engineering conference was testimony to the great things that the AFA can do to support STEM education in America.

New Summer Intern at Headquarters

Nicholas Thessin, a rising junior at Old Dominion University, began work at AFA Headquarters the second week of May as a *CyberPatriot* intern. Thessin, majoring in Management with a minor in Marketing, will work directly with Buck Buckwalter and Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman of Aerospace Education. He has been hired and funded through General Dynamics. Last summer, Thessin interned with General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems. He worked in the Strategic Business Development department on several key projects.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) Cadets Receive Scholarships Presented by AFA National Officers

Through the generosity of a long-time supporter of ERAU who wishes to remain anonymous (a well known AFA Director Emeritus), five exceptionally deserving ROTC cadets (three Juniors, one Sophomore, and one Freshman) received much-needed assistance to advance their studies. The checks were presented during lunch at the AFA Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, FL, on 28 February 2009.

May is a Busy Month for Schlitt



Left to right : Tim Hester, Aerospace Teacher, Crestview High School, Niceville High School and Pryor Middle School, Jacque Whittle, Aerospace Teacher, Longwood Elementary, Megan Tucker, Aerospace Teacher, Kenwood Elementary, Sandy Schlitt, Rick Soria, Assistant Principal and Aerospace Teacher Choctawhatchee High School, Leo Murphy, Director, CHOICE Aviation and Aerospace Institutes and Tom Godbold, Aerospace Teacher, Crestview High School, Choctawhatchee High School and 2009 Eglin AFA Chapter Teacher of the Year



Left to Right: Judy Church, AFA Secretary, Cadet Kelly Maloney, Cadet David Mandel; Sandy Schlitt, AFA Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education, Cadet Lazir Abalza, Jr., Joseph Sutter, AFA Chairman of the Board, Cadet Timothy Sattler, Jim Lauducci, AFA Vice Chairman for Field Operations, Cadet Jacob McCoy, Steve Lundgren, AFA Treasurer.

Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education, had an ambitious itinerary in Florida during the third week of May. He visited the Choctawhatchee High School Aviation Institute, Eglin and Hurlburt Air Force Bases, the Air Force Enlisted Village, interviewed with the Fort Walton Beach Press, met with the Eglin Air Armament Center Commander, and provided remarks at an AFA dinner meeting, the Eglin Scholarship Education Foundation Appreciation event at the USAF Air Armament Museum, and attended a breakfast meeting with the leadership of the two local chapters.

CyberPatriot II

“Blazing out of the starting blocks” is a good way to describe *CyberPatriot II*. The first iteration of this National High School Cyber Defense Competition held in Orlando 26-27 February 2009 proved that our model could excite and motivate students (see the June issue of *AIR FORCE Magazine* for more on *CyberPatriot I*). This year the goals are to: show that the competition can go nationwide, provide a valuable learning experience, and be executable within realistic resource constraints.

Registration for the competition that begins at the start of next school year is already underway. Open to AFJROTC and CAP units, the contestants will advance through preliminary rounds to be conducted via internet at their own school next fall. The top eight teams will travel to the Finals in Orlando 18-19 February 2010. During Just the first five weeks of registration, 130 AFJROTC and 45 CAP units have already signed up! See www.highschoolcdc.com for more information

Rawlings Chapter Is Featured on Television

The General G. W. Rawlings Chapter in Minneapolis, Minnesota, recently held their annual ROTC/JROTC scholarship and awards banquet. Vic Seavers, Chapter President, said that the event was well attended and drew rave reviews.

The banquet, held in St. Paul, also had a reporter from KSTP-TV, Channel 5 in attendance. The story was broadcast on the evening news and can be seen at the following link: <<http://www.rawlings-afa.org/>>, then click on the blue KSTP link on the right side of the page.

Air Force Memorial as Education

We know our magnificent memorial is a place to honor our Airmen and the heritage of our great Air Force, but it also serves an important educational role. A retired Air Force Colonel wrote a note of thanks recently terming the visit of his church youth group to the Memorial a: “life awakening and pleasurable visit.” The 35 students discussed the wall inscriptions and the symbolism of the different Memorial elements, and a high school student played taps while the group stood at attention overlooking Arlington National Cemetery. (Reported by Pete Lindquist, VP Operations, AFMF)

Keep The News Coming!!!

Thanks to each Chapter and state that provided information to make this Newsletter a success. Now I would like to hear from some of the Chapters in the other 35 states that have not shared their successes.

Springtime is a busy part of the year for Aerospace Education. Send me a story about what you have done. And by the way, send a photograph with the story. If you have questions, contact me and let me help you craft an article for the Newsletter.

Share your successes with other AFA Aerospace enthusiasts! Submit your story today to AENewsletter@afa.org.

Buster Horlen, Editor

Article printed in *The Winchester Star*

By Jason Kane

Winchester - Even the maddest of scientists can't work their magic without the right potions and gizmos — and Catholic school kids need a few supplies to pull off scientific feats, too.

So when a local group discovered that Sacred Heart Academy's new science lab needed to be stocked with more supplies, they stepped up, pulled in some donors, and wrote a giant check.

With \$3,000 donated from the Air Force Association (AFA) — a civilian group that promotes public understanding of aerospace power and national defense — science teacher Kim Dooley now plans to go on a shopping spree for safety goggles, microscopes, hot plates, and pulleys.

"This money means that each student will now have a hands-on opportunity where they might have been an observer before," she said.

The Catholic school near Amherst Street completed its new wing in January, creating additional space for music, art, and science — but funding wasn't available to equip the squeaky-clean science lab with as much fun stuff as Dooley hoped.

Meanwhile, an anonymous donor who attends Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church caught wind of the shortfall and decided to donate \$1,500 to the cause from his own pocketbook.

Incidentally, the same man was a member of the Air Force Association's Northern Shenandoah Valley chapter — so the money multiplied.

The chapter convinced the Virginia Air Force Association Educational Fund and the Air Force Association Headquarters in Arlington to chip in \$500 and \$1,000, respectively.

The association's interest in a middle school lab stems from one of the AFA's core goals: to promote learning in science, technology, education and math.

And it's particularly important to "bring young children into this type of education early," said Norman Haller, the group's president.

"If we can get two of these kids in here to be scientists, we've done our jobs," said Thomas Shepherd, vice president of aerospace education for the group.

Among the science gear to be purchased will be 10 pairs of safety goggles to help kids participate in experiments safely; five microscopes to allow them get a closer look at the structure and movement of cells; 10 electric hot plates for experiments involving kinetic energy, thermal energy, and chemical reactions; 15 tabletop pulleys; and a "transformation of energy" device.

Lastly, some of the money will be used to buy an aquarium, because a science room wouldn't be complete without something to help students learn to take care of another living thing, the AFA members said.

The students will probably love that opportunity, Dooley said.

"They already like to bring me dead things to inspect," she said, laughing. "We have science happening here spontaneously every day."

In coming months, AFA members have committed to returning to the classroom as guest speakers to discuss everything from gravity, rockets, and missiles to the process of refueling aircraft.

All of that high-level science stuff is a far cry from middle school science, the AFA delegation admitted. But even rocket scientists have to start somewhere.