

Dear Judy,

This is such a great award and I was so surprised to hear I was to receive the award. It is a great honor and thanks all of you or who ever nominated me for this award. I will try to answer the questions for you.

As for the type of business I approach. I know about all the businesses in Enid who are members. As I go around Enid and I notice a business I think is not on the list, I jot it down and check it against the members list and if they are not a member I try to find out the owner, Manager or person in charge of that business before I call on them. They are surprised to find out that I know their name when I go by to approach them to become a member. If my husband and I go out to eat or just on a trip thru Enid I always have a pen and pad to write down anyone I think is not a member. I am an Ambassador for The Chamber of Commerce and they are very helpful on the contacts or names of the owners. I call on all and every business as I know Vance AFB is a business Enid can not afford to loose.

If I know the business person I sometimes call them. I like to make a face to face meeting with them and it is harder for them to tell you NO.

I always go in with an application and a letter that tells about the organization and who the directors are and what we support. I also show them the plaque and door decal they will receive if they join.

I tell them AFA is a civilian organization made up of people who have never served, those who have served, and those who still serve this country in it defense. I explain to them what the organization (AFA) does for the Vance AFB and the military personnel and their families defending our country. I explain to them and they very well understand what Enid would be if we did not have Vance AFB here. Our community is very supportive of any thing to help Vance AFB and most of them don't think twice before they say OK.

I have some objections which I can understand. It is usually the small business owners who are just making it day to day. They always say check with me later and I will see how next month goes. I always put it on my calendar and call them on the date they ask that I recall. I have not had any negative responses.

We have a number of things the AFA supports with the Community Partner Income:

- We have quarterly meetings with a quality speaker that helps keep us updated about anything connected with Vance AFB.
- We finance many local Aerospace Education Projects for our schools and the general public.

- We process grants to the Air Force Association for education.
- We work closely with Vance Development Authority on community relations and base issues such as housing.
- We sponsor an annual Golf Tournament and award many community donated prizes to the Air Force, contract personnel and local citizens.
- We financially support the Civil Air Patrol.
- We help the Chamber of Commerce conduct the Annual Enlisted Appreciation Night where over \$15,000 in prizes is handed out to Vance Air Force Base personnel.
- We provide recognition and support for the Junior ROTC at Enid High School and Oklahoma State University's ROTC programs.
- We recognize financially those who serve, such as the Vance AFB Company Grade Officer, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, Non Commissioned Officer and Airman quarterly and annually.
- We help sponsor events such as Special Olympics, Camp Tomahawk (for youngster who might never get a vacation or opportunity to camp out) and the local Christmas in April program.
- We help sponsor the ROTC Ball in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- We help sponsor the Cadet of the Year at the Awards Banquet in Stillwater, Oklahoma.
- We help sponsor the All Academy Ball in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- We help sponsor the Company Grade Officers Bowling Party at Vance AFB, Oklahoma.
- We help sponsor the Warm Heart Program.
- We help sponsor the Tops and Blue when they performed in Enid, Oklahoma this year.
- We sponsored 5 teachers in the vision program this year.
- We have a welcome reception for the New Wing Commander and a Farewell dinner for the Commander leaving the command at Vance AFB.

- We sponsored an exhibit on airpower at Leonardo's Discovery Warehouse & Adventure Quest.
- We are not limited to how we can support Vance Air Force Base. A long range project is the granite monument built and installed in the Airpark Area at Vance Air Force Base in commemoration of their 50th Anniversary.
- We are currently working to raise funds to install a bronze statue in the atrium of the Vance Headquarters building.

The special benefits are:

- They are invited to the quarterly meetings and have an opportunity to network their business.
- They get their name on a list that goes on a large poster board that we display at every quarterly meeting or event sponsored by the AFA. We also list those names in the local newspaper at least 3 or 4 times a year. This gives them some type of advertising.
- They receive the AFA Community Partner Plaque, Air Force Magazine and door decal. Some of our community partners give a discount at their businesses if you are a member of the AFA or have a military ID Card.

Judy, I hope I have answered all your questions. If you need additional information, please let me know. Thanks again, this is something I would have never dreamed of receiving. It is an honor to assist with anything or anyway I can help the men and women in uniform to make theirs and their families lives better while they are defending our country.

Mary Feightner