

USAF Recruiting Alumni Association Board Meeting

September 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by president Billy McAllan. Members present were Matt Macho, Billy McAllan, Tino Tinoco, MSgt Matthew Garza, Mary Gandolfo and Stan Staples via telephone. Members absent were Andy Coppi, Greg Valdez, Bob Cantu, Dale Ullrich, Ed Curbelo and Danny Roby. New member Mike Johnson was present as a guest.

Minutes from the August meeting were read. The date was incorrect as published. Date was corrected and the rest of the minutes were accepted as written.

Stan gave us the financial and membership report. We have 75 members with Mike Johnson. The monument fund was increased with a donation from Stan Staples. We have a total of \$2,678.24 in our General Fund, \$14,398.28 in the Blue Suit Fund and \$32,542.05 in the Monument Fund for a grand total of \$49,615.57 in the bank.

The annual Recruiting Service picnic will be October 6, 2023. Matt and Billy have indicated that they will attend representing the Association this year. We will again provide meat and buns for the event.

Billy sent out a letter to the membership concerning the upcoming elections. So far there have not been responses with nominees. The following individuals have indicated that they would remain in their current positions:

Vice President	Tino Tinoco
Treasurer	Stan Staples
Secretary	Mary Gandolfo
President	Matt Macho is considering this position.

We are starting to plan for Blue Suit XLV. Billy attended an informational meeting September 7, 2023. The dates for this event are March 18 - 22, 2024. There will be 12 award winners this year with the following representation: 8 regular Air Force, 2 Guard and 2 Air Force reserve winners. MSgt Chris Baldares will work with MSgt Matthew Garza as co-chairs. The following is the tentative schedule of events:

March 17	Arrival (no other events planned)
March 18	Training day and Kahlig sponsored dinner

March 19	Arrival Ceremony
March 20	Kahlig Ranch day
March 21	Recruiting School and BMT day, banquet night
March 22	Departure

Award winners will be staying at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio.

The Association will be providing the following:

Coins

Watches

Funds for spouse event

Fund for award winners' dinners at banquet

Lunch at the ranch

Tables and chairs at the ranch

Snack and beverages at the ranch

This list is traditionally what we have provided. That does not mean we won't help with other expenses. MSgt Garza was asked to ensure that we have biographies from the winners. Matt Macho has pledged funds to Blue Suit.

Our next topic of conversation was the awards at the Recruiting School. Each award costs \$37.95, this is up from the last time we purchased awards. We will need 56 awards for next year. Air Force Association (AFA) is donating \$1800.00 toward these awards with the balance being covered by Matt Macho. The Association point of contact for this program is CMSgt (Ret) Sal Lagudi.

The next topic we covered was the Monument efforts. Dale and Andy were both unable to make the meeting so we didn't get an update. Matt was not able to talk to Dale about the pavers/brick costs. We will get that information at the next meeting.

**ACTION ITEM: Dale will get the price of a paver/brick and have that information at the October meeting.**

Vance Clark from the AFA recently wrote his Master's Thesis about "Why we Need a Monument". He is very interested in getting involved with our efforts to raise funds for the monument.

Matt suggested a Go-Fund-Me account be set up. We need someone tech and website savvy to help with this platform. Matt asked about our website and getting it updated/redesigned. He was referred to Karen Gordon, our web

master for the details. Specifically, he asked about our host, who has access, are there any recent changes. Stan and Karen are the only ones with access to make major changes to the website.

**ACTION ITEM: Billy will contact Karen to see where we are with the website and what we need to do to keep it current.**

The next issue of the Bag Dragger is due to publish at the end of September. Articles were requested from Billy ... Notes from the President, Matt ... Space Force article, and MSgt Garza ... current recruiting processes. Deadline for submission is September 25, 2023.

Our final topic of discussion was the Christmas/Holiday Party. We will talk to Bob and see if we can celebrate at the ranch again this year. We have proposed December 2 and 9, 2023 as possible dates. We have to see which date works for the RS Commander and Chief.

**ACTION ITEM: Billy will contact Bob and Recruiting Service to see which date works best for them. We will select a date at the next meeting.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am. The next meeting will be October 11, 2023 at the Cantu Ranch at 10:00 am. Minutes respectfully submitted,

*Mary Gandolfo*

Mary Gandolfo

Secretary, USAFRAA