



2nd Quarter 2006



News From The Chapter President

This will be a very busy spring and summer for the Chapter. Beginning with Memorial Day weekend, we'll be helping out at the Veteran's Cemetery in Boscawen, have an informational meeting at Pease on the 4th of June, volunteering at Prescott Park on the 15th of July with the Chapter Picnic being the following Sunday (23 Jul) at the Newington Town Common and we'll end the summer by helping out at Operation Thank You on the 13th of August being held at the Red Hook Brewery! Click on our website (www.afsa155.org) for more information on these events. We hope you'll join us!!

Recruiting continues to improve! Chapter 155 currently has the most recruits in Division One this Fiscal Year. While that's good we can still do much better. Our Division is last of all the Divisions so let's see what we can do to reverse that and build our Chapter and Division. Many thanks to those of you who are actively recruiting new members and retaining current members!

Speaking of new members...Welcome!! Our Chapter continues to grow with new membership from our Air National Guard unit at Pease. We're very glad to have you join us and want to thank you for becoming a member of our professional organization. If you have any ideas as to what you would like to see our Chapter be involved with, particularly where it comes to taking care of Airmen, please let me know.

Lastly, enjoy your Memorial Day and be sure to take time to reflect on what the day means to our country. Remember those who have served and are still serving, especially during these days of our continued War on Terrorism.



News From The Auxiliary President

We have many opportunities this summer to support seacoast area events as well as show our appreciation for all who have served in our Armed Forces and those who are serving today. I hope to see you at the many events we have scheduled. It takes only a small amount of time to give back to the community and show your appreciation.

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SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE NEARS

A reminder that chapter scholarship applications are available for the '06 – '07 school year.

The Neal Powers Memorial Scholarship is granted to a Chapter/Auxiliary member or dependent who has been accepted and is entering their first post-secondary education program.

The William Sowers Memorial Scholarship is a grant for continuing education, granted to members/dependents of Chapter 155/A155. The student must be enrolled in an accredited institution and have completed at least one semester or term.

All scholarship applications must be returned to the scholarship chairman by 30 June for consideration, and scholarship monies will be sent to the appropriate college in September.

To obtain a scholarship application, please contact me at the address/phone listed below. Please specify which scholarship you are interested in applying for.

Sue Williams, Scholarship Chairman
419 Ocean Rd
Portsmouth NH 03801-6020
Phone: 603-431-5130 (H) (Answer machine available)
603-430-2593 (W) (Voice mail available)

CHAPTER TO BE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY EVENINGS

VETERAN'S CEMETERY

On May 27 chapter members will be doing some landscaping and general labor at the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen. Spend the day sprucing up the cemetery in preparation for the Memorial Day service (to be held 30 May). This is a great chance to make Memorial Day special for families who attend each year. We'll carpool from Pease at 0800 on Saturday, do a little manual labor and then have a bite to eat along with a quick briefing on the Cemetery, its history and plans for the future.

PRESCOTT PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

Join us as we spend an evening volunteering to help the folks at Prescott Park on July 15th. At 5:00 we will be at the gates collecting donations and handing out programs from those coming to watch the play. This year's presentation is "Oliver". Our work is done when the show starts which is 8PM and volunteers can stay and see the show which is always fun.

"OPERATION THANK YOU"

"Operation Thank You" will be held again this year at the Redhook Brewery. This year's event will be held on August 13th. We are looking for volunteers to help park cars. This is an opportunity to thank all those who have served since September 11th. We would also like to have a booth to recruit new members. If interested in helping contact TSgt Grenier at 430-3408 or lgrenierma@earthlink.net.

CHAPTER TO HOLD MEET AND GREET

On June 4, Sunday of the Unit Training Assembly at Pease, the Chapter will be holding an informational meeting/briefing for members and anyone interested in learning more about AFSA. We will be at the corner of Newmarket St. and Chief Fortier Dr. adjacent to Bldg 245 (across the street from the BX) from 1100 to 1300. We will have appetizers available and will be holding a raffle. All are welcome to stop by.

CAPITOL HILL UPDATE FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2006.

RECESS ACTIVITIES: Congress remains in recess through April 24. Taking advantage of the lull in the action, AFSA lobbyists continued to meet with staff personnel in congressional offices seeking to get key initiatives such as the TRICARE fees issue, SBP modifications, and lowering the Guard and Reserve retirement age into the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House Armed Services Committee is expected to start work on its version of the bill immediately upon return from the current recess, with the subcommittees beginning their markups April 25 to 27. Action by the full committee will probably occur the following week, meaning the full House could be looking at the bill during the second full week of May. The Senate plans to begin work on its version of the NDAA in May, although exact timeframes have not yet been posted. That means that time is running out for those who wish to have a direct impact on the development of the defense bill for FY 2007. Take the time, during this congressional recess, to go to town hall meetings, visit the local offices of your elected officials, and communicate with those who serve you in Congress. Let them know your expectations. Those who do not participate in the process, and who do not make an effort to shape this nation's laws by communicating with those who serve, have little right to complain if the outcome is not to their liking.

VA-MEDICARE SUBVENTION: Under current law, Medicare-eligible veterans are not allowed to use Medicare coverage at local VA hospitals. Instead, they are forced to decide between receiving medical care at a VA hospital without being able to use Medicare to help them make their bill payments, or using Medicare at a non-VA hospital and losing the personalized veterans' care of a VA hospital. With more than 40 percent of veterans eligible for Medicare, VA-Medicare subvention could be a very promising funding source for the VA system itself. In mid March Rep. Sue Kelly, D-NY, introduced H.R. 4992, the "Veterans Medicare Assistance Act," which would provide Medicare-eligible veterans with Medicare Subvention--the right to use Medicare benefits to help pay their bills at local VA hospitals. Medicare would then reimburse the VA for care the VA provides to non-disabled Medicare-eligible veterans at VA medical facilities. This is an opportunity to allow those who served to be treated in a veterans' facility which, in many cases, may be convenient to the location where they reside. It would also, no doubt, save taxpayer dollars by reducing an overlap in spending by Medicare and the VA for the same services. "Veterans pay into Medicare for most of their lives, yet the law prohibits them from using Medicare benefits at a VA hospital later in life," Kelly said. "VA hospitals specialize in treating veterans' needs, and veterans should not be forced to choose between cost and comfort. The federal government needs to keep the promises made to veterans and ease their financial burden by providing Medicare benefits at VA hospitals. Veterans have remarkably served our country, and in return they should have every health care option available to them. They should not be forced to make unfair and complicated financial decisions about their quality of health care." Medicare subvention may even enhance some older veterans' access to VA health care, and AFSA has offered its support for this effort

CHAPTER ANNUAL COOK-OUT

Set aside July 23 to attend the Chapter Cook-out at the Newington Town Common on Nimble Hill Road. The Annual Chapter picnic will be held from noon until 5PM. Free to members and their families, we will furnish hamburgers, hotdogs and assorted dishes. We'd love to see you there. We're also hoping to have the kids from St Charles again this year. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert. Please RSVP TSgt Grenier 430-3408 e-mail lgrenierma@earthlink.net or Anne Sowers annesowers@comcast.net no later than July 14th if you would like to attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 9 - VA Bingo- Manchester
- 11 - Chapter Membership Meeting....6:30
- 17 - Veteran's Home, Volunteer meeting
- 28, 29 & 30th Division I Convention

May

- 9 - General Membership Meeting 6:30
- 14 - VA Bingo - Manchester
- 14 - Mother's Day
- 15 - Veteran's Home, Volunteer meeting
- 20 - Armed Forces Day
- 27 - Landscaping at NH Vets Cemetery
- 29 - Memorial Day observed

June

- 4 - Chapter at Pease 1100 to 1300
- 11- VA Bingo - Manchester
- 14 - Flag Day
- 18 - Father's Day
- 19 - Veteran's Home Volunteer meeting
- 21 - Summer begins



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