



LEIGH WADE AFA CHAPTER 169 NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER

FEBRUARY 2008

CALENDAR

The next quarterly meeting will be a Luncheon at Colonial Heights Technical Center on Thursday, March 6th, 2008. The Technical Center is located at 3451 Conduit Road in Colonial Heights. The meeting will start at 11am. We will order off the menu and pay individually. Lunch prices are ala carte with most items under \$5. Call George Aguirre at 526-3951 to let us know if you are planning to attend. We need to know how many are coming by **March 1st, 2008**.



REMINDER:

?? We need at least 2 new members for this quarter—January—March. We can receive a 25% bonus added to our support payments from National if we achieve our required goal of 1% of current membership each quarter. If you know someone who might be interested in joining, please see George or Julie for an application. Applications can also be found online at: <http://afa.org/members/memapp.pdf> Please remember to put the Leigh Wade AFA Chapter 169 as the AFA Chapter choice.

Many thanks to those who have responded to the call for e-mail addresses. Each time we get an e-mail address, we save .41 on postage! When you have 126 members, postage adds up. You WILL NOT receive any junk or unnecessary e-mail from our Chapter. We will only use your e-mail address for the newsletter or important announcements. If you have an e-mail address PLEASE let us know by e-mailing Jim Barker at barkerjm2@comcast.net or Julie Bowles at gdane51@msn.com. Thank you so much!

**Please note that the new AFA policy concerning newsletters is that those who do not get their copies via e-mail can now be dropped from the postal service delivery of the newsletter unless they request a copy be sent to them..

CHAPTER OFFICERS

James Barker	President	526-4183	barkerjm2@comcast.net
Rick Fortune	Vice President		skyhawkcam@hotmail.com
George Aguirre	Treasurer	526-3951	
Julie Bowles	Secretary	520-7702	gdane51@msn.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LAST MEETING MINUTES	2
WREATH LAYING PICTURES	2
TRICARE UNIFORM FORMULARY UPDATE	3
SPIN CODE LAWSUIT	3
SBP PAID UP PROVISION UPDATE	4
COMMUNITY PARTNERS	5
TIDBITS	6

Meeting Minutes

November 1st 2008

Our guest speakers were Major Kevin Erickson who recently returned from Iraq and our Chapter Teacher of the Year Mr. Timothy Couillard. Major Erickson shared some interesting insights into his mission and life in general in Iraq and Mr. Tim Couillard, talked about how his rocket club did in competitions last year and was they were planning on doing this coming school year.

The chapter voted Mr. Jim Barker as the new Chapter President. Mr. Aguirre presented a few well deserved community partner awards for partners that had been in the program for 10 years. This chapter has 7 community partners that have been partners for 10 or more years. We also presented Mr. Couillard his AFA tote bag and check for being our 2007 Chapter Teacher of the Year.

Former President Bowles spoke about the need for more volunteers to help with the day to day running of the chapter and reminded members that new members need not be former military personnel. ANYONE can now be a member of the Air Force Association

Scott Van Cleef, AFA State President and Chip Moran, Central East Region VP also said a few words about the importance of volunteering.

NEWS

Congratulations to Melinda Kelley, Colonial Heights Middle School, and Timothy Couillard, James River High School, for being 2 of 8 teachers in Virginia to receive AFA Educator Grants for 2008.

Leigh Wade Chapter will bring the Science Museum of Virginia Starlab planetarium to the new Elizabeth Scott Elementary School on April 7, 2008, funded by National and State AFA grants and through support of our 26 Community Partners. Community Partners and LW members are invited attend as observers. Contact Jim Barker at 526-4183 or barkerjm2@comcast.net to arrange for visitation.



This is the wreath purchased by the Leigh Wade Chapter. This wreath was presented on Veteran's Day, November 11th, 2007, at the Colonial Heights Veteran's Memorial by Mr. George Aguirre. He and Mr. Barker represented our Chapter at the ceremony.

TRICARE UNIFORM FORMULARY UPDATE



On 10 JAN the DoD Beneficiary Advisory Panel (BAP) met to review DoD proposals to elevate some cardiovascular disorder, prostate, and immune disease medications to the third tier, or \$22 copay level. In the cardiovascular disorder category, the BAP concurred with keeping Zebeta, Coreg, Toprol XL, and Lopressor at \$3 or \$9 copays. Within the prostate medications, DoD proposed a "prior authorization" requirement which would require beneficiaries to try Uroxatral before Hytrin, Cardura, or Flomax unless they had a current prescription within the last 180 days. Even after trying Uroxatral without success, a "medical necessity" statement from a physician is still needed for Flomax or beneficiaries would have to pay a \$22 copay. The BAP agreed to the prior

authorization requirement but urged DoD to move Flomax back to a lower copay.

The targeted immunomodulatory biologics (TIB) -- Enbrel, Kineret, Humira, Raptiva, and Amevive -- are used to treat various forms of arthritis, psoriasis, Chron's Disease, and ulcerative colitis. By a one-vote margin, the BAP concurred with moving Enbrel and Kineret to the third tier but recommended delaying implementation for 120 days to allow time for patients to consult with their doctor and a rheumatologist. The BAP agreed to move Exforge, a combination drug for high blood pressure, and the contraceptive Lybrel to the third tier with a 60-day implementation period. However, the BAP did not concur with moving

Vyvnase, used to treat ADHD, to a \$22 copay. This is the first case where DoD has recommended third tier status when there was no clinically meaningful therapeutic disadvantage or cost advantage. The BAP concurred with DoD's recommendations to place the generic version of the hypertension drug Norvasc back on the formulary at a lower copay than the current \$22 price. All recommendations will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) for final decision. Beneficiaries can use the Formulary Search Tool located on TRICARE's pharmacy web site <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Prescriptions> for additional information about medications, their availability and cost. [Source: MOAA Leg Up 11 Jan 08]

SPIN CODE LAWSUIT

This case was originally filed in the US District Court, Northern District of New York, Syracuse and aspects of it are still being litigated. The lawsuit began in MAR 76 when Edwin Cosby with an Honorable Discharge discovered he had a bad "Spin Code" (i.e. Separation Program Number). Unknown to him and most other veterans beginning 11 JUN 56 under D.O.D. Instruction 1336.3 DOD ordered the military departments to begin putting a coded number on the main employment reference document of veterans. This document known as the DD-214 is often by employers of veterans seeking employment and benefits. DoD prepares eight or more copies of a veteran's DD-214 of which copy one goes to the veteran and others are eventually sent to State Adjutant General, VA Data Processing Center, Austin, TX. State Director Selective Service, and National Military Records Center, St. Louis MO. At a congressional hearing in 1974 DoD told Congress that only a couple hundred thousand documents had a

code number and the "SPN" coding system would be stopped. However, in 1972, DoD started changing their "SPN" system to the "SPD" (separation program designator) and by 1977 nearly 20 million veterans with Honorable Discharges had a coded number. Congress subsequently attempted to pass a law regarding the use of the coded numbers; however, this failed to pass.

Numerous major corporations have admitted to having the codes and use them in their employment decisions regarding veterans. Banks, life insurance companies, State Government & Federal Government Agencies have them as well. Lists of the codes were sent to FAA, (federal aviation admin.), HUD, (housing & urban development), and Office Personnel Management. Even on an Honorable discharge, a "Spin Code" can hurt a veteran's chance of being hired by a prospective employer, obtaining a loan, and/or obtaining insurance. A few examples of spin codes and their meanings

are:

- SPN 258 - Unfitness, multiple reasons
- SPN 263 - Bedwetter
- SPN 41A - Apathy, lack of interest
- SPN 41E - Obesity
- SPN 46C - Apathy / Obesity
- SPN 463 - Paranoid personality

A complete listing of spin codes can be found at <http://www.landscaper.net/discharg.htm>. Veterans can request a new DD 214 with the spin codes removed. If you were in the US Army, written requests for having a SPN code removed from your DD 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) or earlier discharge papers, should be sent to: Commander, Reserve Components Personnel & Administrative Center, Box 12479, Ollivette Branch, St. Louis, MO 63132. Additional info on this subject is available at <http://veterancourtcodes.com> which contains a 90 minute video on the subject. [Source: Veteran's Forum 9 Jan 07 and Ed Crosby ecrosby1@rochester.rr.com]

SBP PAID UP PROVISION UPDATE

1) What is Paid-up SBP? Paid-up SBP refers to a provision of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) law passed by Congress in OCT 98 and which is due to take effect in OCT 08. This change in the law applies to qualified members who will no longer be required to pay SBP premiums once they satisfy certain age and premium payment requirements.

2) Who is eligible to have their SBP premiums stopped? Any retiree who is age 70 or older and whose retired pay has been reduced for SBP premiums for at least 360 months will qualify to have their SBP costs terminated.

3) Are retirees with Reserve Component SBP (RCSBP) coverage eligible? Yes. Any reference made to SBP premiums also includes RCSBP premiums.

4) Is a retiree who has paid SBP premiums for 360 months or more but has not reached age 70 eligible to have premiums terminated? No. In order to qualify for the termination of SBP premiums, a retiree must satisfy both requirements of the law. The retiree must be age 70 or older and made payments for at least 360 months of SBP costs.

5) Does the termination of premium payments also apply to retirees with RSFPP coverage? Yes. Congress amended the law in OCT 99 to include Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) participants. Any retiree who is age 70 or older and currently enrolled in the RSFPP is eligible to have their RSFPP costs terminated.

6) When does Paid-up SBP begin? The earliest effective date

that a qualified retiree may stop paying SBP premiums is 1 OCT 08. The first retired pay payment affected will be the payment dated 1 NOV 08.

7) What if the retiree has paid more than 360 months of premiums before 1 OCT 08? Will there be a refund? No. There will be no refund of excess premiums paid prior to the 1 OCT 08, effective date of Paid-up SBP.

8) When will SBP premiums stop for retirees who reach age 70 and have paid 360 months of premiums after 1 OCT 08? Retirees who fall into this category will not be charged SBP premiums beginning with the month they reach age 70 and have paid 360 months of premiums.

9) How will the 360 months of paid-up premiums be determined? The retiree will receive a one-month credit for each month retired pay was reduced. This will be determined by using both current election records and historical records of the initial SBP election.

10) What if the retiree does not have 360 months of paid-up premiums on 1 OCT 08? A retiree who does not have 360 months of paid-up premiums on 1 OCT 08 is not eligible to have the SBP costs stopped. In these cases the retiree will receive an additional one-month credit for each month retired pay is reduced until 360 months of paid premiums is reached.

11) What if the retiree does not have SBP costs deducted from retired pay but pays by direct remittance? For the purpose of

computing the number of months of retired pay reductions, direct remittance payments shall apply as if retired pay was reduced.

12) Will retirees be notified of their paid-up status? Notices will be mailed to retirees informing them of the number of months of coverage that have been credited to their account toward paid-up status.

13) When will retirees receive notification from DFAS? Details regarding a retiree's personal account will not be ready for release until May 2008. DFAS will begin the notification process at that time.

14) Who can expect to receive notification letters from DFAS in May 2008? Retirees enrolled in either the SBP or RSFPP programs that are at least 68 years of age or have been retired and paying premiums for at least 27 years will receive notification letters in MAY 08.

15) What type of information will be provided in the notification letter? The notice retirees will receive will provide Paid-up SBP information as well as specific information about their account, the number of months of paid-up premiums and their current paid-up status. The notice will also instruct retirees of the right to challenge their paid-up status if they disagree with the number of months of paid-up premiums calculated by DFAS.

16) What if the retiree does not agree with the number of months of coverage provided on their notice? If the retiree does not agree with the number of



months of coverage credited to their retired pay account the retiree will have the option to prove differently.

17) What information must the retiree provide to have their months of coverage adjusted? The retiree must submit DD Form 2656-11, "Statement Certifying Number of Months of SBP Premiums Paid." In addition, the retiree may be requested to provide documentary evidence for each month of Paid-up SBP credit claimed. Upon receipt of the DD Form 2656-11, DFAS will review and adjust the retired pay record to reflect the number of months that the retiree certifies has been paid.

18) Can the DD Form 2656-11 be filed at any time? No. Retirees who elect to submit a DD Form 2656-11 must do so within one year after initial notification of the number of months of Paid-up SBP credited.

19) How often may retirees challenge their paid-up status by filing a DD Form 2656-11? Retirees will be permitted to challenge their paid-up status only once. They will not be permitted to submit multiple forms to DFAS.

[Source: Retiree Activities Office 314AW/CVR 7 Jan 08]

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ADVERTISING

Suburban Shopper, Inc, 2200 Blvd, CH, Phone 526-6000 (Linda White)

APPLIANCES

The Appliance Place, Inc, 3213 Blvd, CH, Phone 526-4967 (W.S. Willis)

AUTOMOTIVE

Auto Service, 111 Blvd, CH, Phone 504-0397 (James Ackerman)

Barnes Heating & Cooling, Inc. 16047 Harrowgate, Hopewell, Phone 526-5131 (Bradley Barnes)

Battlefield Park Body Shop, 118 Bruce Ave, CH, Phone 526-7004 (Wilson Abernathy)

Auto Works Service Center, 1718 Snead Ave, CH, Phone 520-7672 (Mark A. Henry)

CMT Auto Racing, Phone 861-2743 (Donald E. Turner)

Cruisers Collision & Restoration, 28 Bank Street, Petersburg, Phone 733-1144 (Eddie Woodmancy)

Harris Auto Repair, Inc, 115 Blvd, CH, Phone 526-5731 (Neil Gordon)

Proline Transmission, 100 Bruce Ave, CH, 526-1086 (Larry Forehand)

Shumate Automotive, 225 Blvd, CH, Phone 520-1511 (Delmer J. Shumate)

Weathers Auto Supply, Inc, 23308 Airpark Dr, Petersburg, Phone 861-1076 (Van Woodell)



ATTORNEY

Thomas P. Cheeley, Attorney at Law, 2314 Blvd, CH, Phone 526-2323

CARPET

Colonial Carpet One, 3635 Boulevard, C H, Phone 520-2793 (Lori Thibault)

DENTISTRY

A. Wright Pond, D.D. S., Orthodontics, 250 E. Ellerslie Ave, CH, Phone 526-1241

Richard R. Roadcap, D.D.S., General Dentistry, 3501 Blvd, CH, Phone 520-4770

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Hall Brothers Electrical Contractors, 2605 Whitehouse Rd, CH, Phone 526-0911 (James V. Hall)

FURNITURE

Jet Furniture Inc., 32 W. Washington St, Petersburg, Phone 732-5307 (Barry Resnick)

LAWN & GARDEN MACHINERY

Conner Small Engine, 1000 Temple Ave, CH, Phone 526-7108 (Robert Conner)

OPTOMETRISTS

Dr. Gary L Farley, Pediatric & Family Optometry, 3731 Blvd, CH, Phone 526-3676

REAL ESTATE

Ingram & Associates Real Estate Co, 3302 Oaklawn Blvd, Hopewell, Phone 458-9873 (Riley Ingram)

RESTAURANTS

Rosa's Italian Restaurant, 4098 Oaklawn Blvd, Hopewell, Phone 458-8744 (Johnny S. Ingargiola)

INVESTMENTS

Cortright Company, 5601 Ironbridge Pkwy, Ste. 101, Chester; Phone 751-9111 (Kenneth L. Cortright Investment Consultant)

Edward Jones, 201 Temple Ave Ste. D, CH, Phone 526-3016 (Christopher Riggs- Investment Counselor)

TAXES

Ameritax, Inc., 656 Blvd, CH, Phone 524-0829 (John Shorten)

TOOLS

Mac Tools, Phone 731-7595 (David Davis)

**Please support them! When you visit their establishment
tell them how much you appreciate them being an AFA
Community Partner.**

Julie Bowles
1309 Duke of Gloucester
Colonial Heights, VA 23834



Leigh Wade
AFA Chapter 169

TIDBITS

VETERANS IN OFFICE UPDATE 01: The 110th session of Congress has the lowest percentage of veterans in the House and Senate since before World War II. And that number is expected to drop even further with 10 veterans planning to retire or run for other offices. After the Korean War, well over 70% of all members of the House and Senate were veterans. Now the number is 24% - 29 Senators and 100 House members have had some military experience. (In the 109th Congress the total number was 141). Only eight World War II vets are still serving: Sens. Daniel Akaka and Daniel Inouye, both D-Hawaii; Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J.; Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and John Warner, R-Va.; and Reps John Dingell, D-Mich.; Ralph Hall, R-Texas, and Ralph Regula, R-Ohio. Warner and Regula will retire in 2009. [Source: TREA Washington Update 21 Dec 07]

THUNDERBIRDS 2008 SHOW SCHEDULE: The Air Force Thunderbirds have released their performance schedule for 2008, their 55th anniversary year. The Thunderbirds are the official Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron. The unit consists of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots), four support officers, four civilians and about 110 enlisted airmen. The lead pilot this year is Lt. Col. Greg Thomas. The other demonstration pilots are: Maj. Chris Austin, Thunderbird No. 2, left wing; Maj. Scott Poteet, Thunderbird No. 4, slot; Maj. Samantha Weeks, Thunderbird No. 5; and Maj. Tyrone Douglas, Thunderbird No. 6, opposing solo. Weeks is the first-ever female Thunderbird, and is in her second year with the squadron. The Thunderbirds will be performing in Virginia on May 10th and 11th, 2008 at Langley Air Force Base.



Any suggestions for future content in the newsletter or our web page? Please let us know! E-mail Julie Bowles at: gdane51@msn.com

