

DATE: 27 Aug 08

TIME: 1200

PLACE: Eglin Officer's Club, Sand Dollar Lounge

SPEAKER: Capt Dan Genest, President, Gulf Coast Chapter, ASMC

SUBJECT: State of the Chapter

Meeting was called to order at approximately 1215.

Capt Genest began the meeting by welcoming all attendees and thanking them for their participation. At today's luncheon, seating was a little different. Capt Genest handed out a piece of paper to each member with a number. Each table was numbered and all attendees received a random number that corresponded to a particular table. The point was to get everyone to mingle with other members instead of always sitting with individuals you know. Networking! That was the main objective, get to know other chapter members. Capt Genest asked attendees if anyone has any questions or suggestions. Or, if you are not comfortable expressing your opinion or question in an open forum, write your comment or suggestion on the piece of paper you received with your table assignment and leave it on your table. He stated that we have 23 members on the executive committee who are energized and would like to hear from the other members, their ideas, and suggestions. The chapter president and other committee members welcome your feedback and want to maintain an open line of communication.

Capt Genest continued with the State of the Chapter. This was a briefing designed to familiarize members with their chapter, what is on the horizon for the upcoming year, and what each committee is responsible for. The demographics of the chapter reflect that we have approximately 309 members. Twenty six percent of our members have a CDFM and four percent have their CDFM-A. Our membership is comprised of 27 enlisted, 28 officers, and 233 civilians. There are 114 males and 195 females. Our chapter is fortunate that we also have a membership with a vast amount of experience.

Capt Genest mentioned that the executive committee met last week for a four hour marathon session. It was the first meeting with the new committee chairpersons and officers. Many good ideas and suggestions came out of the meeting. Each year ASMC chapters compete for points in the National Chapter Competition. The Gulf Coast Chapter accumulates a lot of points each year but not enough to win the competition. Capt Genest predicted that our chapter will win this year but stressed that regardless of the outcome; hopefully we will become a better chapter for at least having tried! At the National PDI held in Orlando, Capt Genest stated that one of the areas of interested mentioned was to team up with a buddy chapter. Ideally, this is a chapter of similar size and structure that provides yet another tool for networking and exchanging of ideas. We are currently working with National to find a viable chapter.

Another idea of how we could receive points in the chapter competition would be chapter mentoring. Our chapter would mentor a smaller chapter that is not as fortunate as our chapter that might not be as active and help them out with possible "seed" money to provide an opportunity for their chapter to motivate their members with training and/or membership drive. Capt Genest contacted National about a possible mentoree candidate

and was informed that the Black Hills Chapter (Ellsworth AFB) might be a good candidate.

Two of our chapter members have volunteered to review our constitution, Lisa Regulus and Dedra Hickman. A copy is available on the web site, please review and if you have comments or suggestions, please forward to Lisa or Dedra.

Some other ideas mentioned in last week's executive meeting were forming a local awards committee for our chapter. We would receive points for the chapter competition. Lewis Williams has volunteered to set up the program. We would like to mirror the program after the National awards program.

Our web site chairperson is Doug Craighead. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please let Doug know.

Our chapter newsletter, which is managed by Laura Gamble, will begin a monthly publication on 1 Oct 08. It might not be as big as our quarterly but it is another avenue for our chapter to receive points. We will do the letter on a monthly basis and if it isn't working or you see ways to improve the newsletter, please let us know.

LaTanya Bryant and Deb Washington are the chapter committee chairpersons for our RPDS which is normally held in the Spring. Watch for upcoming information and if anyone is interested in volunteering to help with this project, please let them know.

Our Ways and Means committee is chaired by Jennifer Denega. Some of our fund raisers include the Belk Charity Sale twice a year, Spring and Fall; and gift wrapping during the holiday season. We also prepare care packages for our FM deployed personnel both members and non-members. Watch the web site for more information and if you would like to volunteer, please contact Jennifer.

The membership committee chairs are Woxie Williams and Troy Brown. They will be setting up tables at future luncheons and will be able to sign up new members on the spot. Some of the services offered on-line for memberships is the ability to renew your membership and to update your profile. Capt Genest asked everyone to take a few minutes to review their data. A recent review of our records indicated that some members didn't have their correct address and or chapter listed.

Eglin's enlisted advisor is Ms. Pat Brown and Hurlburt's representative is SSgt Shane Slade. Capt Genest would like to get the enlisted/younger FMers involved with ASMC. One way is to have the enlisted advisors talk with them and let them know what ASMC is all about. Some ideas to drum up interest are a pizza luncheon at each of the Comptroller squadrons or providing donuts for a commander's call and letting the squadrons know that they are provided compliments of their local ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter.

Our Publicity committee is chaired by Pati Galvan. If anyone has news or events of interest that you would like publicized, please contact Pati.

The Programs committee is co-chaired by Leah Hodge and Tammy Robbins. These are the individuals who plan our activities. If anyone has an FM VIP visiting and they would like to speak or share information with ASMC, please let Leah or Tammy know. We are looking for new ideas for locations to hold our luncheons. We normally have about 75 people who show up for our monthly luncheons. It is difficult to find establishments that will accommodate that large of a crowd. We welcome everyone's ideas for meeting places; please remember location, menu, and size. Leah is looking for a Hurlburt representative to help plan the luncheons. Our next luncheon is scheduled for 16 Sep at the Eglin Enlisted Club and the subject is "Estate Planning".

The Education committee is chaired by John Dininger. Our chapter provides scholarships to local college students. One area of the chapter competition where we could receive additional points is awarding scholarships to local high school students. One of the previous criteria to be eligible to receive a scholarship was that you must have at least 60 college credit hours and have declared a major in either the business or financial career fields. We have decided to change that particular criteria and open the scholarships up to high school students as well. Lastly, if anyone has ideas or suggestions for training events or courses, please contact John.

The Community Service committee is chaired by Vanessa Fuentes. Some of the community events that our chapter performs during the holidays are adopt a family, angel tree names, and airmen's attic holiday drive. We also participate in Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society. At our annual RPDS, we raise money to support Shelter House and Brilliant Minds. Our "Blankets of Hope" for soldiers wounded in the Iraq War is also a big draw.

Ron Millis is chairman for the CDFM committee. Ron has formed a CDFM study group that meets every Thursday from 1330-1430 in the Seek Eagle conference room. Our chapter will begin reimbursing military members for taking the CDFM exam. Please contact Ron for more information. Our chapter is sponsoring a CDFM-A class, arrangements are still in the works. More information will be posted on our web site and also sent out to chapter members.

In closing, Capt Genest briefed that volunteers are needed for all committees. If you are interested or know someone who is interested please contact the committee chairs or Capt Genest directly.

The luncheon was adjourned at approximately 1300.

Recorded by Brenda Dininger, Secretary, Gulf Coast Chapter.