

By Frances McKenney, Assistant Managing Editor



Emerging Leaders

The Air Force Association's Emerging Leaders Program began in 2013 as a way to prepare volunteers for future AFA leadership roles. Emerging Leaders serve for a year. They participate on a national-level council, attend national leader orientations, and serve as National Convention delegates.

Emerging Leaders for 2015 are: Emilie S. Boschert, Shannon M. Farrell, Deborah A. Landry, Michael J. Liquori, Emily C. Shay, Christopher M. Talbot, James A. Thurber, Jeremy Trotter, and Daniel Whalen.

Here's the seventh profile in AFA's second group of Emerging Leaders.

James A. Thurber

Home State: Connecticut.

Chapter: Paul Revere (Mass.).

AFA Offices: Chapter treasurer; former chapter secretary.

Occupation: Senior manager, business development, Lockheed Martin.

Education: B.S., Air Force Academy; M.F.A., University of Alaska Fairbanks.



Photo by Talia Thurber

Q&A

Why is AFA relevant to young airmen? All the things we do with our local chapter are really focused on the young airman, whether that's scholarships for going back to school or providing assistance for various events being sponsored by the Air Force organizations on the base. I think it's valid to them because we're involved in everything they do day to day. ... I think CyberPatriot is starting to appeal to the young teens. Some of the excitement we've seen in the local chapter is from sponsoring those kinds of teams.

I would like to see AFA ... continue to focus on the local chapter and supporting it in succeeding. The local impact the chapter can make is the most important part of what AFA can do. I'd like to see that it's easier for local chapters to work in their [Air Force] community, so we can fan out to do more good work. I would like to see an expansion of support for wounded airmen. ... I love being on [AFA's Wounded Airman Program] committee. It's amazing to see the impact.



Photo by Maria Nicolet

If AFA's strength lies in its members, we're in good shape with Thurber. Here, he lifts nearly 200 pounds during a competition at his local gym last fall.

SMSgt. Leonard Stevens from the 614th Air and Space Operations Center, pauses during the reception at the Robert H. Goddard Chapter's awards ceremony at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Chapter President Juan Cruz said some 200 guests—including community leaders from neighboring Lompoc—turned out. They celebrated the achievements of nearly two dozen awardees. The chapter joined the Air Force Sergeants Association in hosting this 45th annual event.



Photos by WSgt. Herb Mosier

Gen. E. W. Rawlings Chapter President Larry Sagstetter (r) invited US Rep. Tom Emmer (R-Minn.), at left, to a chapter meeting to present a Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year AFA award to Jonathan Keller.



Photo via Lawrence Sagstetter

Gold Coast Chapter member Leo Gray (l)—who's also a Tuskegee Airman—drew a crowd when he met up with Harold Johnson (r), a fellow World War II vet, at a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., airport. They had all turned out to view warbirds, flown in by the Collings Foundation.



Photo by Virginia Montalvo

A Keystone Run

For competitors in the **Keystone Chapter's** 5K and 10K runs at Kadena AB, Japan, it really was the "Land of the Rising Sun." Registration opened at 5:10 a.m., and when the races began, "the sun was barely starting to come up," said Chapter President SSgt. Abraham N. Almonte. Despite the early hour, "we had a great turnout by the entire Air Force family," he commented. Just over 100 airmen, civilians, and family members participated.

SMSgt. James Clark, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, completed the 10K in 42 minutes, as the top male finisher. The first-place female, civilian spouse Liz Andrews, came in at 48 minutes, 34 seconds. SSgt. Jones Kwan, of the 18th Operations Support Squadron, and Madison Dooghan, a high school student, won the 5K.

Since the event was part of Kadena's activities in observance of Women's History Month, Almonte did a head count and reported that of the 105 competitors, 38 were women—including the top stroller runner, Allie Lee, who pushed her baby jogger across the finish line in 48 minutes, 11 seconds.



Photo by Grant Ellis

Bullhorn in hand, Keystone Chapter Community Relations VP Veronica Guerrero musters runners at 6 a.m. for the road races at Kadena AB, Japan. Notice the #WeAreAFA banner? It advertises AFA's campaign to build awareness on social media. See this month's Wingman Magazine, "We Are AFA," p. 8.



Photo by Grant Ellis

Col. Debra Lovette, 18th Mission Support Group commander—and an AFA Life Member—makes the closing remarks at the run. The event raised \$800 for scholarships.

Whether they ran 6.2 miles or 3.1 miles, A1C Armando Solis cheered all the racers. He was one of many who volunteered at the Keystone Chapter's 10K and 5K.



Photo by Antonio Evangelista

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Photo via William Solemene



AFA National Director Gary North (center) poses with a CAP color guard at a Seidel-AFA Dallas Chapter meeting. The former PACAF commander delivered a presentation called "Walk Around the World," covering USAF capabilities and responses to crises.



Photo via Lt. Col. Lynn Bentley

In Texas, San Jacinto Chapter's Lt. Col. Lynn Bentley (r), commander of University of Houston's AFROTC Det. 3, announced that Meaghanne Austin (l) received an AFROTC full scholarship. She is an Arnold Air Society member.

Photo by Gayle White



At left: Guests enjoy a pizza party co-hosted by the Lance P. Sijan Chapter at the Air Force Academy. The fundraiser took place before the academy's boxing tournament.

Look for more chapter news in *Wingman Magazine*.

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317th Tactical Airlift Wg, Lockbourne AFB, OH. 18th Troop Carrier Sq, 39th Tactical Airlift Sq, and 40th TAS (1966-70). Oct. 5-9 in Columbus, OH. **Contact:** T. Alfonsi (301-335-4321) (thomasalfonsi532@gmail.com).

317th Troop Carrier Wg/Airlift, including all 317th veterans. Sept. 10-13 in Savannah, GA. **Contact:** Jim Timmons, 758 221st St., Pasadena, MD 21122 (410-255-2735) (jimt0708@aol.com).

463rd Airlifters Assn & 316th TAW, Langley AFB, VA (1965-75). Sept. 21-26 at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. **Contact:** Jerry Haines (937-325-9306) (gerald-haines@yahoo.com).

FB-111A. Sept. 9-13 at the Holiday Inn Dayton/Fairborn in Fairborn, OH. **Contact:** Curt Nelson (937-602-1221) (cnelson3@woh.rr.com).

Finland AFS, MN, veterans. July 11 at Silver Bay, MN. **Contact:** Marvin Crawford, 661 S. 196th Ave., Elkhorn, NE 68022 (402-571-9498) (mdcrawford@earthlink.net).

Minot Air Force Base firefighters, June 26-27, in Minot, N.D. **Contact:** Jim Clifford (701-340-0385) (jclifford@srt.com).

USAF radar station veterans, military or civilian. June 28-July 3 in Dayton, OH. **Contact:** Woody Woodworth (927-878-2495) (lgwdwrth@roadrunner.com) (www.mlrsinc.com/usafsvs). 

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