

Aerospace Education Council Update

The New Year is off to a great start with many opportunities to recognize outstanding people and to educate and advocate for the Air Force right around the corner!

I recently visited the new Rolls-Royce aviation museum in Indianapolis with our 2016 Teacher of the Year, Greg Ennis. Greg is a fantastic ambassador for AFA. We were treated royally and had a productive two days.

I was one of four speakers for the Museum ribbon cutting ceremony. The museum aims to get adolescents interested in science and technology and may encourage future careers in aerospace. Of special note, Phil Burkholder, RR President for North America, included a big pitch for working with and being part of AFA. Phil told the audience he was a proud life member. I thanked RR for their support for TOY and put in a plug for Airmen for Life.

In the afternoon I met with Reginald McGregor, Manager for Engineering Employee Development and Dr. Glade Montgomery, Senior Vice President for Project Lead the Way. Mr. McGregor was very enthusiastic about the partnership and our STEM programs helping them develop future employees and expanding RR's national exposure. Dr. Montgomery was delighted to get the opportunity to be part of the discussion and has already e-mailed me wanting us to begin working closely with PLTW. Both want our Indiana AFA contacts to see how they can help AFA and expand the knowledge and publicity of the TOY program.

Sidebars--walking around the headquarters I saw 3 copies of our magazine on desk tops. A firefighter I was talking to at the reception advised he had a nephew headed for AF basic training. When we finished talking he said he was going straight to his station and signing up for AFA. One of the women at Tuesday morning's meeting took me aside after the meeting and said that she was going to let her membership lapse, but after seeing our presentation and discussion she was going to renew her membership for 3 years.

Chapter, State, and National Teacher of the Year (TOY) REMINDERS:

TOY SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Remember, National AFA can only **fund one (1) K-12 TOY per chapter this year**. If the chapter TOY program normally funds more than one, the chapter must fund those additional TOYs. Chapter and State TOY packages are due to National AFA **by April 30** to ensure checks and award components are sent to the chapter **to present to the teachers prior to the end of the school year**. **National TOY nomination packages are due to National AFA by May 31.**

REACH OUT AND SPOT A TEACHER! Each chapter is encouraged to reach out now and find a deserving teacher in the local area to recognize as the **2017 AFA Chapter TOY**! This recognition will go a long way to encourage and support regular K-12 classroom teachers who desire to go "above and beyond" in their STEM instruction in any grade level; in any subject area. If your chapter wants to recognize teachers from different levels (Elementary, Middle, High School) and you need funding, check out your Community Partners for help! From chapter recognition of these regular classroom teachers who are doing amazing things "beyond the bell," State TOYs are being identified and recognized by the AFA. The spotlight widens. It is suggested that, typically, a State TOY should not be submitted immediately for the National TOY award, but given a year to develop and expand their program impact in order to be more competitive at the national level. Since a State TOY has 2 years of eligibility for the national award, this gives them an opportunity to learn from past National TOY selectees and prepare a well-developed nomination package.

The new AFA AEROSPACE EDUCATION SCHOOL window decals and accompanying certificate are available for you to recognize the schools in your area that have AFA programs. Please contact field@afa.org to acquire your decals. To download the accompanying certificate, please click [here](#). You can also find this certificate on the [Field Leaders Homepage](#) of the AFA website under Aerospace Education Schools.

Another deadline fast approaching is for the AFJROTC Educator Grant. The deadline for submissions is February 10th and more info is available at afa.org.

For your calendars: the Silver Wings and Arnold Air (SW/AAS) National Conclave will be held in Orlando from the 14th to the 17th of April. It is sure to be an exciting event. Hopefully you've already been contacted by your local SW/AAS representative. If not, please inquire and see if you can help send attendees to the event, support in other ways, or attend the event yourself.

CyberPatriot and Stellar Xplorers are continuing, exceeding participant expectations and moving to the competition finals. Please check out their updates in other parts of the Newslane.

Thanks to those of you in the field who continue to support all Aerospace Education programs day-after-day. We couldn't do this without you!

Dick Bundy
Vice Chairman, Aerospace Education