



Volume V, Issue IX

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FROM THE BOARD

Storm Boen: Chairman

Internal Operations Committee (*Introducing Our Newest Committee*):

1) Danielle Lombardi- (Committee Vice-Chair): Her job is to collect and sort all of the immense data that this committee collects. She is also our new Volunteer Administrator. She will be calling each committee member weekly. Also, she will be collecting new vital data. Danielle will have team members who want to help in a tighter cluster of shops/ECs. These team members are basically Regional Coordinators. Our first one is Paul Hinman, and he will be over the Dallas/Ft.Worth Metroplex. He is already doing an amazing job.



2) Tammy Rekito- (Committee Scribe): Her primary duties on this committee will be Donation Centers Administrator. Like Danielle, she will be making phone calls daily to our donation centers, as well as contacting those that were ours in the past, and of course shops that have not been approached yet. She will also be building a team to assist her in collecting data, giving advice, and or approaching new shops.

3) Shane Woodmancy: (Staff Development Manager): Shane has recently taken over Richard DeFay's additional duties of Staff development. He is the beginning of the process to acquiring a new volunteer, (outside of the upcoming Social Media District Manager Team). Shane then sends the new volunteer to Danielle Lombardi, who will finish his/her welcoming process. He will add said volunteer to all pertinent groups.

4) Jim Bridgman: (Chief Technical Officer): All of the data that almost every committee member and Board of Directors collect, will be sent to him for the website. Currently he is also our webmaster, and building a new website that will be up prior to this year's CFW Work Conference.

5) Vernon E Warner Jr: (Event Operations Manager): Vernon and his team coordinate all upcoming events. He will ask for persons from our ECs directorate (individuals in this group), to become Lead ECs for events, and then assist said person in building the team. He needs a team as well.

6) John Chernogorec: (Assistant Events Operations Manager): He works for Vernon. Both of them have an extremely hard mission. They will need volunteer(s) for Events and for all to let them know about events/festivals.

7) Robert Allan: (CFW's Chief of Logistics): Robert has graciously agreed to also be part of this committee in an advisor capacity, as many of the personnel may need information that only Robert can provide.

8.) Melissa Ford: (CFW's Supply Sgt): Her job is to be CFW's primary supply depot and accountability of supplies. She sends supplies to Danielle, Tammy, and to wherever Vernon/John need items shipped.

9) Trey Boring (Co-Chair of the committee): He will be available, at those times that Danielle needs him to be available, because I am not.

10) R.j. Witcher (CFW's Dir of Marketing): RJ is essential for ALL of these pieces to work right. He receives/creates event promos, photos, descriptions, donations photos, etc, He will also be pushing these out via email to other departments, plus all the info he gets from Danielle and Tammy. Meaning: he will be making posts about new Volunteers, as well as new donation centers and upcoming events. RJ and his team's responsibility are vast. If you like marketing or social media, and you want to join one of his teams, please reach out to him. He has an amazing amount of knowledge he would love to pass on.

11) Storm Boen: (Sr. Co-Chair): I am currently the chair of this committee. My job is to keep all the pieces moving correctly, while keeping to the Board's vision of the committee.

EVENT-COORDINATION

Josie Mills

"I started my life out living in the military with an Army Dad, and spent my first three years in Germany. Since my 4th birthday, I've lived in Central Florida right between Busch Gardens/Tampa and Disney World/Orlando. I made being a firefighter my career and retired as a driver/engineer after 30+ years with a city fire department."

"There are a few cigar shops nearby that I check on for CFW, and attend any special events that I receive an invitation to. In the early years of my cigar attraction, I met Ben Edmundson at a Drew Estate event manning the CFW table. Having a son-in-law deployed at the time, I became very interested in the program. I've worked off and on over the years since then helping out where I can for this great cause."

I'll be attending The Great Smoke in West Palm Beach, FL for the first time this year and working one of the two CFW booths there. Hope to see you at the next CFW table.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Smoker Friendly



Smoker Friendly (headquarters in Boulder, CO.) operates nearly 100 corporate-owned stores in five states. Another approximately 850 stores in 38 states are operated by licensed retailers.

Smoker Friendly has been in business for more than two decades, and in the past 10 years it transitioned to become a full-line tobacconist, targeting premium cigar enthusiasts as well as cigarette smokers and consumers of other tobacco products. Since 1995, the chain has been actively lobbying against raising tobacco taxes and is committed to doing all it can to defend the rights of tobacco consumers.

Smoker Friendly has added smoking lounge areas in several stores, with areas for premium cigars and a second lounge for cigarette consumers. A store in suburban Denver became the model for future Smoker Friendly store lounges, with a walk-in humidor in the back, and a front-of-the-store lounge geared more toward an eclectic, younger crowd. <http://www.smokerfriendly.com>

THE FRONT LINE

Andrew Brandmeyer

"I'm a Staff Sergeant with eleven years in the military. I am a mechanic on Chinook helicopters and have been since 2014. Before that I was a culinary specialist from 2009-2014. I was born and raised in Moline, Illinois, and am 29 years old.

I've been smoking cigars for nearly ten years now. As a result of my father and my Poppy (grandpa) smoking cigars, I, of course, developed my own love for them.

I found out about CFW through different lounges. I have been to a couple, including Primings in Nashville, TN, that have CFW donation bins, description pamphlets, and signage describing what CFW does. I have donated cigars but have never given them thought while deployed until I ended up in a location where a lot of guys in my company wanted to smoke cigars with me, but I can't very well give away all my stash. So, I remembered that CFW exists and started doing some research. Reached out. Someone in the foundation reached back and put us on a list He said there was a backlog and it could take a while. Lo and behold, within I would say three weeks. a large package of cigars arrived, along with \$120.00 or so C.I. bucks (which we used to buy some more cigars and have sent out!). From then until I left, it was a regular weekend thing for a group of us smokers to get together, pick a smoke and relax.

To me and to us, having that time means downtime. It's a break. Our operations' tempo is so high usually. It's go-go-go. Cigars are inherently relaxing but in a combat zone where tensions run high, the cigar hits different. For that forty-five minutes to an hour or maybe longer, you cannot think about work (unless called away from your gorgeous cigar for something more pressing). It's just you, some good buddies, and fine tobacco. There is something special in that, no matter where you are. (I've attached a picture of myself smoking while deployed, I am in civilian clothes as we don't wear a uniform unless on the aircraft.)"

