



The Vector

Newsletter of AF309: Space Coast Chapter of the Air Force Association
Oct & Nov 2020



Chapter President-Dwyer Dennis

Fall has come and gone – and we successfully weathered another hurricane season here on the Space Coast. Along the way, we have continued to press forward as a Chapter recently holding elections to fill two Chapter leadership positions. Congratulations to Jordan Arcturus and Ahna Arcturus on their election to the position of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Thanks to both for their willingness to serve in these capacities and for all they do to support the Space Coast Chapter.

The Chapter continues to execute its mission of education, advocacy, and support. As a result of the State Happy Hour, after expenses were covered, we were able to make sizeable donations to both the AFA's COVID Airmen's Assistance Fund (CAAF) and to the Arnold Air Society/Silver Wings (AAS/SW). Likewise, we were able to fulfil a request from the Patrick AFB Company Grade Officer's Council to financially support the Enlisted Appreciation Day held in November. The support of Chapter members and our Community Partners is making it possible to carry out our AFA chapter goals and objectives in our Space Coast community.

As we are now in the final month of 2020, I would like to highlight the opportunity for end of year donations especially as we look to 2021 to plan and budget for Chapter activities. There is currently a special tax incentive which is covered in the Treasurer's section which you may want to consider as you plan any end-of-year non-profit giving.

In addition to financial support, we also need and welcome your engagement and participation as you are able. Even in the midst of the current COVID environment there are many significant contributions we can make as the Space Coast Chapter! Contact me or any of the chapter officers if you have ideas, questions or are seeking a place to "plug in" and get more involved.

As always - Be SAFE! Be Well!

Executive VP – Jerry May

The Nominating Committee completed its work and provided a slate for approval by the EC. A ballot was provided to the Chapter membership and was approved unanimously on 25 Sept. Ahna Arcturus was selected as the Chapter Treasurer and Jordan Arcturus was selected as the Chapter Secretary. Their term of office will run to 30 Sept 2021.

An awards committee, which was established to standardized recognition for all 2021 Chapter awards such as those for ROTC, JrROTC, and CAP units within the Space Coast AOR, completed its duties with approval of the overall Chapter program by the EC at the Oct EC meeting. A Chapter Awards guide and instruction is in draft for final approval by the EC.

Community Partners VP-Randy Turner

To date for 2020 we have signed up three Community Partners: TSS Solutions, Craig Technologies, The Grove Church. Please see later in the newsletter the article featuring The Grove Church. We will be highlighting our CPs in future newsletters. The excitement to support local aerospace education is building! If you know a business that should be contacted about becoming a CP, please let us know.

Aerospace Education VP-Russ Lewey

The Teacher of the Year selection process for 2021 has begun. Applications are being now being distributed to schools and school districts across the Space Coast area. Applications are normally due in the March timeframe. If you are aware of specific educator in our community deserving of this recognition, please contact Russ for more information. Standby for more information on the timeline and need for help on the selection panel.

A Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Teacher Workshop planning has been initiated. Ahna Arcturus is taking the lead reaching out to a local school

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and working with the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) at Patrick AFB to develop the program. More details to follow in the near future.

Chapter Treasurer-Ahna Arcturus

As of the end of Oct 2020, finances are in order and our chapter bank balance is adequate. Donations are always encouraged and welcomed. They can be easily made through the Chapter's PayPal site. We recently received some COVID-related tax information from AFA National highlighting a new tax benefit for 2020.

Important 2020 Tax Update:

Due to recent tax law changes resulting from the Coronavirus stimulus bill, taxpayers will be able to claim up to \$300 in cash contributions made to a nonprofit charity this year as a deduction from their gross income if they take the standard deduction on their 2020 tax return. This deduction will ultimately reduce the amount of your income that's taxable. Follow this link to AFA to [support our Air Force and Space Force today!](#)

This year only - 2020 you can take a \$300 "Off the Top" deduction from your income taxes even if you don't itemize when you donate cash to AFA!

If you have questions about donations, please do not hesitate to contact Ahna. Whether you donate to one of AFA's specific Education programs or **donate directly to the Space Coast Chapter** this is an added "bonus" when helping to provide needed resources.

Chapter Secretary-Jordan Arcturus

Minutes from the Sept and Oct EC meetings were approved by the Executive Council during the Oct and Nov EC meetings, respectively. A draft of the 2021 Chapter Activity Plan was provided to the EC and will be finalized at the Dec EC for formal submittal to National by the end of the year. All members are encouraged to update contact information with AFA National.

Events

Sep 25 Election Ballots emailed to Chapter membership

Oct 13 EC held primarily virtually via ZOOM.

Nov 10 EC held virtually via ZOOM. December EC will be held 8 Dec. Let us know if you want an invite.

Executive Council Decisions from Oct & Nov EC

1. EC approved making a donation from the Happy Hour proceeds to the AFA's CAAF, a fund established to aid Airmen and their families with COVID-associated hardships and to AAS/SW Region IV. Both organizations received a \$1000 donation as a result of the very successful virtual State Happy Hour. Between direct donations and the Happy Hour fundraising the donation and all cost were covered and was the event was budget neutral.
2. EC approved providing partial funding to support the Patrick AFB Enlisted Appreciation Day.

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Space Coast Chapter Community Partner Launchpad

Platinum Level Community Partners

TSS Solutions;
Melbourne, FL
Web: www.tsssolutions.com

Gold Level Community Partners

(Looking for our first!)

Silver Level Community Partners

Craig Technologies;
Melbourne, FL
Web: www.craigtechinc.com/

The Grove Church,
Titusville, FL
Web: www.thegrovechurchfl.org/

Businesses and organizations across the Space Coast participate in the Chapter's Community Partner Program. By their participation they demonstrate their support for a strong defense sufficient to ensure peace and security for our Nation. More than this, through their partnership, they help enable us to support our Air and Space Forces, their families, and the community. We encourage you to express your thanks by visiting these valued members of our Chapter and to encourage other businesses to join our team. For more information on our Community Partner Program contact Randy Turner, VP for Community Partners, at email Randy.Turner@tsssolutions.com.

This issue we are "spotlighting" one of our Community Partners, "The Grove Church"

The Space Coast AFA welcomes The Grove Church of Titusville, as one of the Chapter's first Community Partners. Launched by brothers Brad and Barry Russell in November 2011, the church welcomes all, saying "no perfect people allowed." In 2018, as a member of the Brevard Baptist Association, The Grove was recognized by the Florida Baptist Convention as a leading church in the state for its Cooperative Program giving and baptisms. Their core values reflect the emphasis they place on connecting to the Space Coast and around the world:

- Reaching our Community
- Cultivating Faith
- Planting Churches
- Serving Others



The Grove Church
1450 Harrison St
Titusville, FL 32780
Phone: (321) 289-5501
Web: <https://www.thegrovechurchfl.org>

This December marks the one-year anniversary of The Grove in their facility, located in a former Gooding's grocery store in Titusville. The facility, vacant for two decades, was renovated by hundreds of volunteers giving of their time, resources and dollars to help in the process. This is just one example how The Grove connects with its community. On that note, when told of the work and the mission that the Space Coast Chapter and AFA supports, Pastor Brad didn't hesitate to agreeing for The Grove to become a Community Partner. Like The Grove Church, the Space Coast Chapter welcomes with open arms our new Community Partner, and encourages those seeking a welcoming place, offering fellowship and a chance to get to know God, to stop by 1450 Harrison Street in Titusville, FL and meet the team at The Grove.