



**Northeast Texas Chapter 416**  
**Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)**  
**P.O. Box 8633, Greenville, TX 75404-8633**  
**[www.netxafa.org](http://www.netxafa.org) and [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org)**



January 1, 2026

Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)  
Northeast Texas Chapter 416  
Corporate Non-Profit Tax ID # 51-0209545  
Vance Clarke, Treasurer

Donation info for Northeast Texas, Chapter 416, Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)

*Dear Prospective Partner,*

The **Northeast Texas, Chapter 416 of the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)** is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association that promotes public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. Led by volunteers, we educate the public about national defense, how to support the members of our Air & Space Forces and their families and promote Aerospace Education designed to better our youth, communities, and nation. Our chapter area represents Northeast Texas from Rockwall, East to Arkansas, North to Oklahoma and south to the Athens area.

The chapter strives to positively impact communities. The chapter encourages and supports STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities and school education programs. We provide support for robotics, drones, solar cars, girls programs, and many other. We employ the AFA developed CyberPatriot and StellarXplorer programs and provide support to schools who use them. We provide some financial, industry, and member support to school and Civil Air Patrol (Air Force Auxiliary) programs. We offer school program grants and funding for their educational programs as well as offer student scholarships through AFA and through our annual high school senior essay contest. And we work hard to support and inspire military service.

*We are only able to positively impact communities through the support of our partner contributors and community partners. Please, come join and help us make a difference!*

AFA is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible. Chapter 416 is its own entity, and its Employer Identification Number is 51-0209545 and is officially listed as Air Force Association, Greenville, TX, in IRS records. A copy of our 2026 W-9 and our 2024 Annual 990-N, e-Postcards, are on back of this letter and on file with the IRS and can be viewed at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/details/>.

*Vance M Clarke*

VANCE M. CLARKE, CMSgt (Ret)  
[TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org)  
903-274-9981



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IRS forms and information for AFA Northeast Texas Chapter 416

Form <b>W-9</b> (Rev. October 2018) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service		Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification		Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.	
▶ Go to <a href="http://www.irs.gov/FormW9">www.irs.gov/FormW9</a> for instructions and the latest information.					
1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank. <b>Air Force Association (AFA), Chapter 416</b>					
2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above					
Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes. <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ _____ Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶ <b>501(C)(3)</b>			4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____ <small>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the US)</small>	
	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. <b>PO Box 8633</b>			Requester's name and address (optional)	
	6 City, state, and ZIP code <b>Greenville, TX 75404-8633</b>				
7 List account number(s) here (optional)					
<b>Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)</b>					
Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see <i>How to get a TIN</i> , later. <b>Note:</b> If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see <i>What Name and Number To Give the Requester</i> for guidelines on whose number to enter.					
			Social security number [ ][ ] - [ ][ ] - [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]		
			or Employer identification number 5 1 - 0 2 0 9 5 4 5		
<b>Part II Certification</b>					
Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:					
1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and					
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and					
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and					
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.					
<b>Certification instructions.</b> You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.					
Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶ <i>Vance M Clarke</i>			Date ▶ <i>January 1, 2026</i>	

Tax Year 2024 Form 990-N (e-Postcard)		
<b>Tax Period:</b> 2024 (01/01/2024-12/31/2024)	<b>Mailing Address:</b> PO Box 8633 Greenville, TX 75404 United States	<b>Gross receipts not greater than:</b> \$50,000
<b>EIN:</b> 51-0209545	<b>Principal Officer's Name and Address:</b> Vance Clarke PO Box 8633 Greenville, TX 75404 United States	<b>Organization has terminated:</b> No
<b>Organization Name (Doing Business as):</b> AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION		<b>Website URL:</b> <a href="http://www.netxafa.org">www.netxafa.org</a>



## Air Force & Chapter 416 Lose Friend: CMSAF#5 ‘Bob’ Gaylor

May 8, 1930 – January 17, 2024

Our sincere condolences to the Gaylor family and their loss of a father, grandfather, as well as, our loss of our national treasure, the Fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Robert ‘Bob’ D. Gaylor. He became Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force on August 1, 1977, and retired August 31, 1979, in San Antonio, TX. Retire is not what he did, he just changed how he served our Airmen. He travelled relentlessly sharing his messages of inspiration. ‘Name on the Mailbox and Hot Fries’ are only two titles you can call out. In 2012 he met with recruiters and chapter leadership, in 2014 he shared his life with the Texas A&M Commerce, War & Memory Program, and in 2022, he spoke to Civil Air Patrol Cadets to recognize and inspire them. **We will miss CMSAF#5 Gaylor, but he lives on in all those he touched!**  
*Photos: clockwise: 1) TAMU War & Memory, 2) 2022 Gaylor, CAP recognition, 3) 2012 area recruiters, 4) AFA416 leaders, 5) 2014 Check presentation to Air Force Enlisted Village, 6) Gaylor & Chuck Meador.*

Chapter Officers		In This Issue	Page
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Treasurer	Terry Thomas	G.R.O.W. Program - Sponsor	5
Secretary	John McDermott	Essay Contest Finalists	8-9



Calendar	
2024	
March	07: Chapter Meeting 16: State Mtg – College Station 22: 'Inspire & Impact' Event 23: Spring Thing Banquet
April	11: Chapter Meeting
May	8: Chapter Meeting
June	20: Chapter Meeting
July	10: Chapter Meeting
August	7: Chapter Meeting
September	9-10: AFA Natl Convention 19: Chapter Meeting 28: Golf Thing Fundraiser
October	9: Chapter Meeting
November	6: Chapter Meeting 7/11:(T) Greenville HS Vets Day 8: TAMU-C Veterans Vigil 18: (T) TX State (Virtual)
December	13: Chapter Meeting
2025	
January	8: Chapter Meeting
February	5: Chapter Meeting

\* Meeting schedule is subject to change to best meet needs of day/night meetings. Please look for e-mails or call 903-274-9981.

**AFA416 is always Seeking Volunteers**

What do we need? We need some people who can give a few hours a month or quarter to help produce certain products. We do not need you to attend a lot of meetings – we are doing more on the phone, online, and in other ways. *See if you can find a bit of time and effort to give us to help keep us strong. (Call 903-274-9981 for info!)*

**Program Help:** We need help making our efforts run smoothly. Please, if you or someone you know is interested, contact us. We need you!  
**We are looking for people to come alongside and equally yoke us in our work.**

**STEM Support:** We provide numerous donations each year to support school Science Technology Engineering and Math efforts. We need men/women interested in visiting some of these activities to take pictures, show interest, and to show we care about the efforts we support. Your time can be given once or many times as you desire to make 'your' difference.

**Executive Committee Advisors/Members:** We need someone to manage our Essay Contest. To help with oversight on our membership database. To give assistance to our Awards program. To give aid to Community Partner seeking and management. We need people in new communities to help us expand our programs, our support, and our impact.

**Please, let us know! We are sure there is something you can do if you are willing.**

**Give it a try!**

**We know we need you, and you will find joy!**

We need *many hands to make the workload lighter* for each of us. **If you desire to help, let us know!**  
[TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org)  
or call us at **903-274-9981**.



If you have not given lately, or not sure if you are eligible, recommend you check. Requirements have changed; maybe you can!

1-800-366-2834  
[www.carterbloodcare.org](http://www.carterbloodcare.org)



**President's  
Ponderings**

**Vance Clarke**

AFA Chapter 416  
members and those  
reading these  
"ponderings" –  
**Greetings!**



Here I am back in the 'President' position 'pondering' how we can keep this awesome chapter moving forward and making a difference for our association and local community. **I do have a few ideas but all of them require one thing – YOUR HELP!**

We have a great reputation in our association, much of that coming from our phenomenal Community Partners, our tremendous donors, and our steadfast members who have kept our success going. Thank you to all our current officers and those who work behind the scenes. You make us strong.

**We must make changes to continue our success.**

We need our community, our partners, and those we benefit to come along side and help man an oar to keep the ship moving. I know, funny to use Naval terms in an Air & Space Forces organization but ships take a long time, and we need a quick turn in 2024.

We need advisory boards from the communities we serve like **Commerce, Greenville, Linden, Lone Oak, Rockwall, and Sulphur Springs**. We need people living in those communities to help us in their 'neighborhood' deliver benefits and to be a 'face for AFA' in programs we support in those areas. We need some help from people who know the businesses, those who think about issues we work on, and who could make small efforts to help AFA.

We provide a great deal of support. We give out \$8,000 in scholarships, a Teacher of the Year award, recognize Civil Air Patrol cadets, support school STEM programs in five school districts, and we provide other help and encouragement geared at 'inspiring by making an impact.'

We need people to come join us and help us continue to inspire and make an impact. Can you help? Come see where you can help. Please consider taking action to join us.

*Vance Clarke*

[TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org)  
903-274-9981

## Colonel Tom Bailey

1942 – 2024

**Tom Bailey, husband, father, friend, and great American 'slipped the surly bonds of earth on March 6, 2024. R.I.P Tom!**

Tom served valiantly in our Air Force and rose to the premier rank of Colonel. His work with the Air & Space Forces association was noteworthy as well.

Tom was a critical part of the 'Restart Team' led by past President Leigh Oliver in 1989-1990. Tom was chapter Vice-President and held the position as Chapter Vice President for Scholastic Awards as well as the same position at the Texas State level overseeing the Earl North Parker Essay Contest.

Colonel Tom Bailey was a very good man who cared about his family and others. He was a stalwart member of the Air & Space



Forces Association (AFA), Chapter 416 and its' activities. And what do you give a man who was a husband, father, dad, friend, and Colonel in the United States Air Force? We recognized Tom in manners we could. He loved that he received a Texas AFA Medal of Freedom in 2021 for his work with our chapter Essay Contest. Tom created standards we still follow, and always will.

"Well done good and faithful servant." AFA416 will stay the course and hold to Tom's values.

**Our condolences to Suzanne, and the Bailey family. God bless.**



### Tango Flight – Lone Oak High School

In August 2023, Chapter 416 engaged in helping students in building an airplane they will deliver and sell in two years! This is a first in our local area and Lone Oak Superintendent, Janee Carter is making it happen.

“What I’m most excited about is that our kids are going to be able to be part of something the first time it’s offered ... something that ties directly to what everyone is looking for in our kids’ STEM education” Carter told the district’s school board when they reviewed the program in January 2024. “It’s going to open doors that have never been opened before.”



Students using flight simulation with teacher and instructor, Mr. Isaac Frazier, guiding their learning.

The program has an instructor, students engaging in learning about the history of flight, learning mechanics of flying, and will begin working on the actual aircraft in school facilities.

School and AFA416 partner, L3Harris is also sponsoring the program



Terry Thomas (left) presents “First Founder” check to Tango Flight students, instructor, and Janee Carter.

To offer the program and complete its first cohort’s project, the district has been seeking

foundation partners to help fund it. For reference, when Georgetown ISD built its first plane through Tango Flight in 2017, it cost about \$80,000.

The four-year course of study was developed through Tango Flight, a non-profit organization that’s currently providing technical support, mentor training, and co-mentoring for aviation programs at more than 20 high schools across the country.

*One of the program’s most fervent supporters has been the Northeast Texas chapter of the Air & Space Forces Association.* The chapter



provided initial funds and became the ‘First Founder’ to begin the effort. “We are excited to see this program and realize it will provide experience, knowledge, and launch students lives in directions they never imagined,” said Terry Thomas, AFA416 Vice President of Community Partners.

Aviation students have been making appearances at various events to help spread awareness and interest in the program and to raise funds to support the program.

Students have also been earning extra funds for the program by working at events such as the AFA416 “Golf Thing” tournament in October at Greenville’s Wright Park.

“Our community partners and donors are excited to see this innovative program come to Northeast Texas,” said Vance Clarke, AFA416 President. “We know they will continue to provide support and help. We encourage local people to call and volunteer to help with the program,” said Clarke.

Those interested in helping Lone Oak ISD with the program may contact the district at 903-662-5427 or through email at Superintendent Carter at [jcarter@loisd.net](mailto:jcarter@loisd.net).



### Girls Recognizing Own Worth

#### G.R.O.W., Sulphur Springs Elementary

G.R.O.W.'s mission to increase girls' interest and engagement in STEM is a noble and important one. Research has shown that girls are underrepresented in STEM fields and providing them with more opportunities to explore and engage with science, technology, engineering, and math can help close this gap.

By cultivating a culture where risk-taking is rewarded, curiosity is encouraged, and creativity is expected the school is taking a bold step in promoting STEM education. Participating in engaging STEM activities can help girls develop problem-solving critical thinking skills, and a passion for learning that can serve them throughout their lives.

AFA416 is all in on supporting, encouraging, and doing all it can to assist in 'GROWS' efforts. Teacher, Hannah Garrett, orchestrates the program. She inspired the chapter to provide funding. *We are grateful to the L3Harris, We3 Employee group for providing multiple people to talk with students during events.*

#### DNA Extraction

Mandy Eckhardt, a Sulphur Springs ISD alumnus, led our students through their first GROW session. She is currently in her third year of graduate school at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and was willing to come to share her love for science! She and a member of her lab, Tiffany Chin, spoke to the students about their field and then led the students through a DNA extraction lab. There will also be 3-5 additional volunteers to help students.



**Charles and Sharon Helm** (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) were inspired and are **"Named Sponsors for the G.R.O.W."** program. Their funding the program make it possible. They are long time community & AFA supporters! **THANK YOU!**

#### Girls Can Weld Too

Megan Nichols, a Como-Pickton CISD alumnus, led our students through their second GROW session. She is an experienced combo welder specializing in both TIG and MIG welding. She was able to speak to our students about the opportunities found within the welding industry and give firsthand account to what it is like being a woman in her field. Her candor inspired.



Our students then experienced a "welding" simulation being tasked to weld a freestanding structure. After Megan's introduction, Hannah Garrett led students through a welding simulation using frosting and Graham Crackers.





### Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

AFA416 directly supports three CAP squadrons: 1) TX-354, Lakeshore, Rockwall, 2) TX-450, Sulphur Springs, 3) TX-645, Greenville. We are blessed to have three strong leaders in Capt Mary Kay Starnes, Capt Eric Pierson, and Lt Col Choya Shanahan. They and their teams do wonders in working with Cadets and growing them into strong men and women.

#### TX-354, Lakeshore Composite Squadron

During January, February, and March of 2024 we used our offices to support *seven orientation flights, ten meetings, and additional training.*

Lt Col McDermott, pilot and AFA416 Secretary and CAP Liaison, conducted cadet powered orientation flights in the squadron’s Cessna 172.

When the cadets were not taking their orientation flights, they practiced flying using our simulator.

In addition to conducting flights for the cadets, our offices support regular senior meetings as well as Mission Scanner Training for our cadets and seniors.

Our offices make it possible for Lakeshore Composite Squadron to continue to support the CAP missions.



Pictured above are Lt Col McDermott and Cadets Samuel Rouse and Elliott Stair.

#### TX-645, Greenville Squadron

This team has awarded special commendations to cadets, conducted regular meetings and training for cadets, and continues to work with the city of Greenville on future airport accommodations to provide improved flight capabilities.

. Special thanks to Dale Crumpton, AFA416 Community Partner, and friend to CAP. He is assisting with hangar space.

The team finds ways to assure success!

### TX-450, Sulphur Springs Squadron



#### Character Development

Cadets discuss the consequences of a lack of temperance.



#### CyberPatriot

Congratulations to Blue team, for placing 13/16, in the CAP division, for Texas!



#### Career Development

Mr Jerry Brewer shares his career path with the Marines, Coast Guard and commercial flight.



#### CG/HG Academy

Group VI hosted a color and honor guard academy, during the last weekend in February, at National Guard Facility, Fort Wolters. Eight cadets from our squadron were spread across multiple teams, to hone their drill skills for special events around CAP and our community. All of our cadets made a great showing, including our own C/MSgt Watters named as academy honor cadet. Many thanks to Capt Smith for driving and volunteering!





### 2023 Greenville High School Solar Car

AFA416 continues to provide support to the Solar Car work at Greenville High School. The team there continues to excel. In 2023 they competed in difficult situations in California where COVID impacted much of the event. However, they continue to excel and look forward to 2024 events!

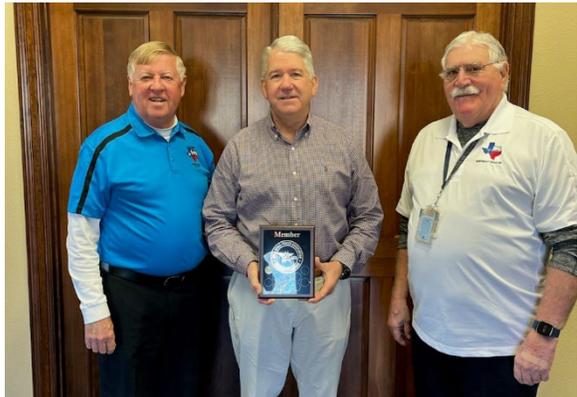


### Commerce High School Robotics

Teacher Earvin Larry who leads the robotics efforts at Commerce High School shared the great news that the team was 3A Champs in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) competitions. This long-standing program continues to grow and excel. This 'back-to-back' championship accomplishment speaks highly to the instruction and the motivation to excel of the students. Congratulations Commerce Team!



## AIS Financial Services



Terry Thomas, VP Community Partners (L), J. Russell Armstrong (C), President AIS Financial Services, a new Community Partner, and Ted Oats, AFA416 Vice President (r), presenting partner plaque.

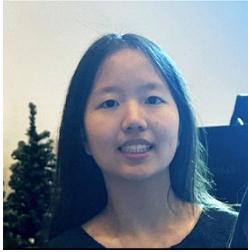
## Community Partners



Medal of Freedom presentation to Danny Leinart, 'Leinart Construction,' and Melanie Littlefield, 'Brass Rail,' for their long-term support of AFA416 as Community Partners!



## 2023-2024 AFA 416 Essay Contest Scholarship Recipients



**Asia Chen:** Asia Chen, daughter of Jennifer Jiang and Su Chen, is a senior at Sulphur Springs High School. She is a member of multiple UIL academics teams (Calculator Applications, Editorial Writing, Science, and Mathematics), band, Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce Leadership, Student Council, HOSA, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and Key Club. Asia plans to major in biology or neuro/cognitive science in college.



**Aiden Ellis:** Aiden Ellis, a senior at Lone Oak High School, is the president of the school's National Honors Society chapter, vice president of the Business Professionals of America chapter, and participates in U.I.L. academic competitions and the National Beta Club. Recipient of the 2023 AFA Outstanding Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Cadet of the Year Award, a Greenville Mayor proclamation, and was 2nd in speech at the Texas State Beta Convention. He is a CAP Master Sergeant and Squadron flight commander. He enjoys flying, running, serving in church's youth group, studying theology, and time with family & friends. He plans to attend Texas A&M-Commerce to study business.



**Madeline Green:** Madeline Green, the daughter of Drs. Gregory and Amanda Green, is a senior at Paris High School. She is the president of student council, National Honor Society, and Althea Garden Club and is the 2024 Swim Team Captain and former president of Spanish Honor Society. She has had many accomplishments in her extracurriculars such as regional placer and state qualifier in swim, district placer and regional qualifier in golf, state and international qualifier for Future Problem Solving, and district and regional placer for academic U.I.L. She plans on being a biology major in college, ultimately becoming a psychiatrist to support the mental health of her community.



**Ashton Hilliard:** Ashton Hilliard is a senior at Paris High School. He participates in tennis, FPS, and robotics. Additionally, he is a member of the PHS chapters of NHS and Key Club. In his free time, Ashton enjoys sports, spending time with friends and family, and playing video games. In the fall, Ashton plans to attend Ole Miss where he will major in Management Information Systems.



**Jessie Li:** Jessie Li is a student at Sulphur Springs High School. She is a member of the Student Council, Key Club, HOSA, and the National Honor Society. She is involved in Science UIL, Calculator Applications UIL, and Varsity Tennis. After graduating from high school, she is planning on attending the University of Texas at Austin and majoring in Kinesiology.



## 2023-2024 AFA 416 Essay Contest Scholarship Recipients



**Kiera Martin:** Kiera Martin is a senior at Paris High School on the volleyball and softball teams and a member of the Althea Garden Club, Key Club, and National Honor Society. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, going on mission trips to Malawi, Africa with her family, and spending time with her friends. In the fall, Kiera plans on attending Texas A&M University in College Station to pursue a degree in Kinesiology, hoping to be a Pediatric Physical Therapist.



**Mackenzie Martin:** Mackenzie Martin is a senior at Paris High School. She participates in the volleyball, softball, and powerlifting teams and is a member of the Althea Garden Club, Key Club, and National Honor Society. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, and working out. In the fall, Mackenzie will be attending Texas A&M University in College Station majoring in Biomedical Sciences where she hopes to prepare for dental school and later specialize in orthodontics.



**Aiden Riley:** Christopher “Aiden” Riley is a senior at Sulphur Springs High School. Throughout high school, he has participated in plenty of organizations including Computer Science UIL, Business Professionals of America, Key Club, Powerlifting, and Hopkins County High School Leadership. Aiden is also working part-time at Hopkins County Abstract to digitize and preserve over 200 years of important documentation for the company. Aiden will be pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree in College Station this fall.



**Alan Tellez:** Alan Tellez is a senior at Sulphur Springs High School. He is a part of the Color guard team and participates in UIL academics in Literary Criticism and Ready Writing. He is the president of the National Technical Honors Society and vice-president of Health Occupations Students of America at Sulphur Springs High School. He plans to attend Texas A&M-Commerce University for a bachelor’s degree in biology to later attend medical school.



**Kami White:** Kami White is a senior at Sulphur Springs High School and is the daughter of Rodney and Wendy White. She participates in band and UIL Academics. She is also involved with many other school activities, but a few major accomplishments have been a UIL Spelling and Vocabulary state qualifier and champion, UIL Literary Criticism state qualifier and champion, NHS Vice President, Flute Section leader, and many other band accomplishments. Kami will be attending The University of Texas at Austin in the fall as a Biochemistry major with hopes of attending optometry school after college. She enjoys reading, being an active member at Grace Methodist Church, and spending time with her friends and family.

AFA416 is so pleased. We received 37 essays from 10 different schools in our area. Our scholarship recipients, the ten (10) of them, come from three (3) different schools. Over half of our entries came from Paris and Sulphur Springs High Schools. Thank you to those teachers who supported this program and scholarship opportunity at all TEN schools. Congratulations to the recipients listed.

**Thank you donors! These students will receive \$8,000 in scholarships this year!**



[Appeal for Your Hands-On Help and Support for AFA416](#)

**Dear Chapter Members, Community Partners, and all reading this,**

**It is with the strongest appeal that we come to you asking for support.** Our team needs ‘hands-on’ support to enable our ability to keep the programs you have read about in this newsletter viable. If you have some time, we can find tasks to fit the timeframes you can give and have several one-time items we need help with. **Community Partners.** You are such steadfast supporters and provide so much to ensure a positive impact on the students, cadets, and teachers in our area. We ask you to look at your business and company teams to see if you have someone who can come alongside us in our labors.

***Where do we need help?***

**Website.** We need either a referral for help with a known vendor, or someone who has Word Press experience, or is willing to learn. Our website needs update and regular maintenance.

**Newsletter.** We need someone to help produce our quarterly newsletter. We use Microsoft Word to produce it. We could produce more info to our members and supporters with help in this area.

**MailChimp/Constant Contact.** To enable improved contact with our members and supporters, we need to expand and use email techniques to send information. We would like to find someone willing to learn either MailChimp or Constant Contact as tools to do this. Are you willing to learn or know someone who can help?

**Program Support.** As you have read, we are making a lot happen. Many of our programs can use local people to help visit, oversee, and just to show interest in them. We are based out of Greenville, TX, with many of our leadership team living in Greenville, Rockwall, and Farmersville. This makes it difficult for us to be in Commerce, Linden, Lone Oak, Paris, Sulphur Springs, and the like. We would like to build community teams to help our ‘impact and influence’ in these areas.

- **Commerce.** The high school has a great robotics and drone team. The Ratliff Family supports a \$1,200 scholarship for high school seniors. We could do more but need help.
- **Greenville.** We support robotics, solar car, Veteran’s Day program, and more at the high school. Several Teachers of the Year have been named. We have a large number of community partners here. We do well here but could do better!
- **Linden.** We have three community partners here. We desire to reach the Cass County schools and provide some STEM support. We also want to expand our Essay Contest here.
- **Lone Oak.** We have an essay contest winner, are supporting the Tango Flight program, and can do more. How would you help us in Lone Oak?
- **Paris.** Our Essay Contest is huge in Paris. We have members who live in Paris. We have a community partner or two but could expand. We could impact STEM in schools.
- **Rockwall.** We work with TX-354 Civil Air Patrol. We support the Gene Burton College & Career (GBCC) Academy Robotics team. We support the CyberPatriot teams at GBCC. We have members in the area, but we can do more here with your help.
- **Sulphur Springs.** TX-450 is strong but can use help just like our AFA team. We have grown 10-fold with the Essay Contest and the high school students are receiving numerous scholarships these past few years. We had two CyberPatriot teams, but need another instructor to help. And the G.R.O.W. program is awesome. Can you help in this area?

Our Executive Committee does a great job. However, *we need help for our existing programs, new ideas for how to do them better, and to take on other initiatives to support our Air & Space Forces.* You are the only thing we are missing. Please consider helping.

**2024 is the year we must find more ‘you’ to help us continue to ‘Inspire & Impact’!**

***Vance Clarke***

[TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org) / 903-274-9981



## **AFA 416 Community Partners**

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The Tarpley Agencies  
Tim Drake Jewelers  
Total Turf Management – Matt Neyra  
Turf Solutions – Brad Cardwell  
Turtle Creek Financial  
Uncle Juan's Mexican Restaurant, Linden TX  
Wildcatter Companies  
Wright Park Municipal Golf Course

**Want to help? Call us at 903-274-9981 Or email [TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org)**

**Thank You Community Partners (CPs)!**



## Thank You Quarterly Featured Community Partners!

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**D'Anna Bates, Greenville Floral & Gifts**

**Dale & Kay Crumpton, Crumpton T.V. an Stereo**

**Danny Keene, Keene Enterprises**

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Want to be an AFA Chapter 416 Community Partner?

Contact us at [TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.President@afa.org)

You will be making a difference!

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**NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416**

**Air & Space Force Association**

**PO Box 8633**

**Greenville, TX 75404-8633**

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Provide your info to join!  
Either Category 1 - Single Person or  
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Normal membership is for Cat 1.

If you have questions, let us know.

Fill out and email to our Treasurer.  
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