



🏠 **Location:** Oaks Country Club, Greenville, TX
📅 **Date:** 260304
🕒 **Time:** 1130-1230

Attendees:

President – Zachary Hill

Vice President – Ted Oats

Secretary – Chad Chaffee

Members: Choya Shanahan, Rich Holsinger, Pat Heidelman (SS) **Virtual:** Chad Chaffee

VP Community Partners – Terry Thomas

VP CAP – ~~Chuck Meador~~

Treasurer – Vance Clarke

Minutes

I. Minutes Review, vote to submit

- a) Open Discussion (Meeting at Oaks CC in Ballroom).
- b) Reviewed and approve last month's minutes.
- c) Minutes are now being posted to website for review by all: www.netxafa.org/events

II. 2026 Activity and Financial Plans

- a) Will post the Activity and Financial Plans for 2026 online by 10 Mar and will place them in the Financials Page for now. These are our guiding documents. Both have been submitted to State and above.
- b) Developing area in ABOUT US to post on Website. Determine if we should password protect in some way. Working to complete by end of Mar 2026.

III. Finances

- a) **Start:** ~\$44K **Commitments:** \$28,500 **Available:** ~\$7,500
 - i) Expenditure and budget info available upon request.
- b) Vance requested and board approved an additional \$350 for recurring project at Hugh Springs. We have \$1400 budgeted for an event at HS Library for 2026. These kits are planned to be part of a monthly event targeting 12-16 kids per event, plus can be available anytime for youth to use with supervision from the staff. Estimated to last 3-5 years, this \$1750 investment breaks down to only \$584 a year for 3 years and 350 a year if they go 5 years. This could be looked at as a start of a program that we could invest in over time with similar items that give this small nonprofit library a program they can repeat regularly. They have agreed to quarterly metric reporting stating number of classes, number of participants, and anecdotal info and photos. Shannon Perez, library lead, will be speaking at our April 25 event and sharing her programs with the group. Board approved of \$1750 toward this purchase.

IV. Awards

- a) **TOY Selected.** Working final nomination and how to notify the teacher.

- b) **Chapter/State/National Awards** need to be worked hard in Jan-mid Mar. If we can complete most inputs will make **1 April National and State requirements** easily. If you are interested in helping lead this effort, we would love your help.
 - i) **Military awards** – Zach can you see which ones you can fill
 - ii) State Awards – MOFs submitted and approved. Will be able to present at April 25 event but may not have the medallions. We can do letters if they are NOT here. Zach and Vance are working these.
 - (1) Chapter of Year – Vance and Zach working
 - iii) National Awards - Academic Achievement and AIMS award in work by Vance
 - iv) Zach and Vance will ask for help as needed.

V. Membership – Carlos Hernandez

- a) New membership model coming on March 10 2026. More info to be released soon by AFA National. Recommend all start to encourage signing up for the free membership.

VI. Essay Contest (Helene Hernandez leading)

- a) Rankings and Scholarship Awards for Review – DO NOT DISCUSS outside of group!
 - (1) [Bio's, info, and RSVPs being collected for student winners. See Spring Thing note](#)
- b) Essay Contest Replacement: In-depth discussion on future of essay contest and AFA's contribution to a stable industrial base. Conceptually, dividing scholarship money across multiple partner schools to help sponsor a trade school scholarship for a deserving STEM student going to a trade school
 - i) How does that shape the requirements for student choice versus school support.

VII. 25 April 2026 Spring Thing

- a) April 25 Date set and Oaks Ballroom reserved. Confirmed Carlos Hernandez is helping lead this. Zach will help steer things
- b) Briefers/Attendees: All are confirmed
 - i) 1) **Congressman Self** will attend and speak. 2) **Judge Travis Ransom** from Cass County; will speak on service – he is Army Command Sgt Maj also. 3) **Hughes Springs Library**, 5 min on their programs. 4) **Mandy Eckhardt** 5 min on her science efforts in Sulphur Springs and others. 5) **GVL Solar Car** – Joel Pitts. 6) Asking **GVL Christian School Rocket** program to speak (Joint CAP/GCS effort, possibly with assistance from Choya/Steve)
- c) **Carlos submitted draft script on 10 Feb.** Committee to start working on presentations, polish scripts, and other items. Let Zach and Carlos know if you are willing to help! Board ready to chip in and begin working scripts and presentations. (Zach)

- d) Review awards we present like CP MOFs. Order awards for Medals of Freedom and Exceptional Service (if possible) earlier so that CPs can participate in award observances. Would like to present as many awards as possible at the ST. (Sgt Espinosa)

VIII. 15 May 2026 – Tentative for Support & Inspire Tournament

- a) **Reached agreement with Woodbridge GC. Will press with Wylie and date. Will be \$85 per player. Will put together advertisement, etc. Jan-Feb 2026. Zach will build QR code and poster by the end of Jan.**
- b) Sponsors – Zach will build the player list and pre-block planned sponsors, opening as they don't fill.
- c) WW Lan Tec – signed up as \$3000 sponsor.
 - i) Lantec buying one team from inside \$3000 CP donation
 - ii) UHU – signed up for \$1000 buying one team from sponsorship and buying a full team separately.
 - iii) Mercer advisors – hole sponsors and teams. Sponsoring 4 teams. Will help fill teams – expect to need 1-2 players per team. Vance working with them.
- d) Chad looking into like-kind exchanges with other charities.

IX. Golf Thing and Auction

- a) Current reservation at Webb Hill for 3 Oct 26. Working with owner and “Rich Holsinger” for a “real golf tournament” (Terry)
 - i) Two rounds not feasible or practical. Working setup with teams and sponsors.

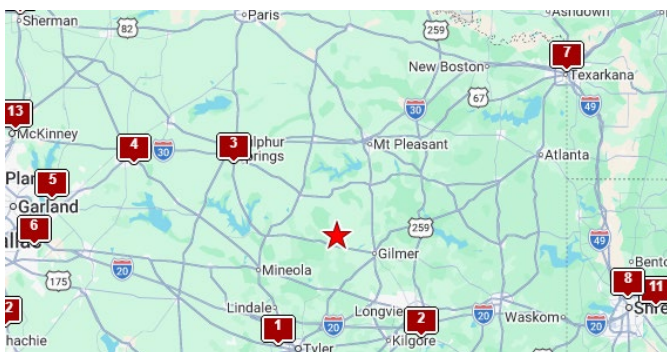
- X. Auction Items:** Terry trying to get purchase in early ahead of Andrews Air Show to ensure better pick of items.

XI. Community Partners (CPs)

- a) Please keep soliciting. If you need help, check out website and tell Vance what you cannot find. Need board to continue working the plan to divide social media, snail mail, web page, email.
- b) Reducing workload with AFA Natl. We are moving to electronic Debit payment with national and are testing now. Initial tests working pretty well. Trying to get best means to share listing. Terry/Vance
- c) Visits to UHU Technologies and WWLT. Both have signed on as sponsors along with Mercer Advisors.
 - i) Zach has setup LANTEC visit for 12 March. (Zach/Terry)

XII. Community Based AFA

- a) **Sulphur Springs** – Pat Heidelman has agreed to begin efforts. Working with her and programs in SS.
- b) **Rockwall** – *Chad* – *would like to develop tasks and plan*. Vance sent email to the 31 members in Rockwall. 7 so far have responded and 4 stating willing to help. Going to go slow and see what we can do here.
- c) **Commerce** – Ted – if yes, would like to develop tasks and plan
- d) **Greenville** – Terry – We are working in area well. Can we get another person to help Terry and help look at building a plan to gather others to attend, etc.
- e) **Working with Carlos on areas; good candidates based on members**. Still working.
- f) Don gave update on travel with Vance and Chad meeting with Tyler and Longview Squadrons, along with presentation of COY and Amelia Erhart achievement award at Longview squadron. Reviewed ways that community AFA may be useful to make smaller detachments of AFA in action in local areas. Map of 416 CAP squadrons:



Presentation picture for Cadet Captain Lane Foreman (L-R: Vance, Chad, Cadet Foreman, Don Tharp):

XIII. Civil Air Patrol

- a) TX-645: Simulator status update... Briefing Installed. Room and simulator completely set up, doors locked, L3 recommending badge access, send contact information to Zach for coordination from the squadron.
 - i) Anticipate grand opening of simulator in April or May once access sorted.
 - ii) Working upgraded aircraft, possibly including G1000 aircraft.
- b) **Need a CAP Liaison for chapter**. See if we can find someone knowledgeable/interested.

XIV. AFA Advocacy Efforts

- a) Vance and Chad to work on Texas Legislative work; litigation.
 - i) Congressional engagement will have to be reset with updates: maps, AOR, districts, high schools, etc.

XV. Events (See calendar at www.netxafa.org/events to see minutes, dates)

- a) **Greenville Knights of Columbus Flag Retirement Ceremony: 21 March, 1000**
 - i) Arrive about 0930 if you would like to assist.
 - ii) [FIND EVENT HERE](#)
- b) 26 Mar, 30 Apr– GROW Events at Sulphur Springs Elementary school 3:30-4:30pm.
- c) Next meetings is scheduled for **8 Apr at The Oaks, 1130-1230**. Stay tuned for meeting invites.

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
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