



SUMMER ISSUE · AUGUST 2022
MILE HIGH FLYER
THE LATEST NEWS FOR MILE HIGH CHAPTER MEMBERS

President's Corner

CLIFF KLEIN

This summer finds the Mile High Chapter Thriving! Our 17th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was a great success (more on that on page 2)! We are back on track attending The Wings Over the Rockies – Exploration of Flight monthly fly-ins where we meet potential Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) members and spread the good word of AFA STEM programs and the Mile High Chapter. If you're not aware, Exploration of Flight hosts a breakfast fly-in at the Centennial Airport the first Saturday of each month. If this sort of thing interests you, please check out their website [here](#).



The Chapter was recently awarded, from National, an Exceptional Service Award for our Airmen & Family Program and an Aerospace Education Achievement Award. Chapter members attended the CO State AFA Annual Awards banquet where we were delighted to honor our Chapter 2022 Teacher of the Year (Alan Godman) and the National Teacher of the Year, first runner up, Robbie Ferguson. In addition, our team members received recognition for their steadfast and selfless service to the AFA and the Mile High Chapter. We are still in need of a secretary, which is one of only four elected leadership positions. If that is something you'd be interested in, please [email me](#). I should mention we were the 2020 DW Steel AFA Chapter of the Year, so we are an organization getting things done. Lastly, I'd like to invite everyone to visit our website (<https://milehigh.afa.org>) and join us at our monthly meetings held each 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce (3rd floor of the Westerra Credit Union Bldg). I hope to see some new faces in September!

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Register for the Mile High Amazon Smile! Click here to get setup! (only accessible through digital copy)



17th Annual Charity Golf Tournament!

Another year, another fantastic golf tournament experience (I may be a bit biased). We had another sold-out tournament, fantastic weather and our golfers had a time. This year is a first...we had golfers travel in from Maryland, Texas, and Wyoming! We are a very fortunate Chapter to have such amazing tournament sponsors like LITEYE (our title sponsor), Colorado Realty Now, Kearney & Company, City Light & Power, Aces/Everwatch, and Bent Barley that keep coming back year after year. A big thanks goes out to them as well as newcomers Intellic Integration/4.0 Solutions, Tensley Consulting, and Actalent. We couldn't do what we do for our charities as well as the Buckley Space Force Base community and the many veteran programs we support throughout the year without the support of all the golfers and our awesome sponsors. Did I mention, we have some incredible sponsors?! Congratulations goes out to The Shanks: Andy Jochems, Luke Korum, Elliot Olson & Daley Sallis who captured 1st place this year. I'd also like to mention, Spring Valley GC was in excellent shape and the staff did a bang up job with everything yet again. We are already planning for June 23, 2023 at SVGC, so put it on your calendar. Invites will go out in mid January. Thanks again to all for supporting this event!.



Ken Geyer
CEO, LITEYE



Mike Hantke
CEO, Tensley Consulting



Walker Reynolds,
Founder,
Intellic 4.0 Solutions



Volunteers hard
at work!



Col Jackson
BSFB CC

Chief DeVall
BSFB Command
Chief

Our annual golf tournament brings together the best of the community. 50% of the proceeds go back to Buckley Space Force Base Airmen and Guardian programs



Teacher of the Year

In ancient times, knowledgeable and learned men became the default teachers of society. Only royal or noble households were allowed an education. In the U.S. nowadays everyone has the opportunity to learn and receive an education. Teachers hold the time-honored responsibility of passing their knowledge and wisdom on while ensuring the next generation becomes nothing short of productive members of society.

Every year, AFA chapters have the opportunity to honor and highlight standout STEM teachers from their local area. This honor recognizes STEM educators for their outstanding classroom performance, leadership, and significant impact in the school and community.

Mr. Robbie Ferguson, the 2021 Colorado State and Mile High Chapter Teacher of the Year, is the 2022 runner-up National AFA Teacher of the Year (TOY)! For this distinction, he was presented a certificate and monetary award. Many remarkable teachers compete every year from all over the country. It takes a lot to stand out and Robbie did that effortlessly.

At Westminster High School, Robbie has taught computer science courses, International Baccalaureate Organization (IB) Design Technology, and engineering courses through Project Lead the Way. Robbie goes the extra mile in everything he does; even during the pandemic he went out of his way to deliver materials to students and mentor them on essential aerospace engineering principles. He is an incredible teacher and we could not be more of him and everything he does to promote STEM education across our community.

At the recent Colorado State Awards Banquet, Mr. Bryce McLean from the Lance P. Sijan chapter of Colorado Springs was honored as the Teacher of the Year, as well as Mr. Alan Godman from the Mile High Chapter, featured in our last issue, Ms. Katharine Smushkov from the Huyser Chapter, Ms. Sharon Kok-Pollock from the Mel Harmon Chapter and Ms. Valerie DeLello also from the Lance P. Sijan Chapter. These teachers are nothing short of amazing; they are building our next generation of STEM experts in Colorado. Who knows, one of their students just may be a future Chief of Staff in the making. Great job teachers!

Celebrating the Teacher of the Year

“Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions”

Unknown

2022 Colorado Teachers of the Year



Robbie Ferguson,
Runner-Up
National TOY



Bryce McLean,
Colorado
TOY



Alan Godman
Mile High
Chapter TOY

Mr. Stephen Gourley, Vice Chairman of the Board, Education, seen presenting each award





Our Teachers of the Year! Bravo!

From left to right: Bryce McLean, Valerie DeLello, Sharon Kok-Pollock, Robbie Ferguson, Stephen Gourley, Katharine Smushkov, and Alan Godman



Ms. Sharon
Kok-Pollock
Mel Harmon
TOY



Ms. Valerie
DeLello
Lance P. Sijan
TOY



Ms. Katharine
Smushkov
Huyser TOY

#womeninSTEM
It is no secret men significantly outweigh women in STEM career fields. However, these teachers challenge that statistic every day. On top of being phenomenal educators, these brilliant women inspire countless little girls to dream big. STEM will never be out of reach for a curious mind.



State Awards Banquet

The AFA is a volunteer-led organization, every person you see from the chapter, state, and regional levels are volunteering their limited time to better our community. Each year the Annual Colorado Awards Banquet is held and this year is the first time since the start of the pandemic we have had the privilege to honor military members and include the new category recognizing our remarkable U.S. Space Force members. The pictures you see are a snapshot of this memorable evening at Weidner Field in Colorado Springs. Featured was a lively band, delicious food, and the hardworking men and women supporting our AFA.



Thank you Linda Aldrich! Colorado's Longest Serving State President



There are many people you will happen upon as you traverse through life. Some are just a small imprint, like a single leaf falling into a pond, others are more like the strong oak tree, present, strong, and will make an impact on everything around them, this is Linda Aldrich. Linda is an incredible leader, approachable, compassionate, and will always use whatever time she has to help others.

Retired Colonel Aldrich served in the US Air Force for 29 years in the Space and Missile career fields before retiring in 2011. She has led a phenomenal career, from being one of the first women to integrate the Minuteman II weapon system to commanding the 319th Missile Squadron at FE Warren AFB, WY to developing and executing military participation plans for the 2001 Presidential Inauguration. Linda proved there was nothing she couldn't do. Linda's support to the AFA is longstanding dating back to her cadet days in Angel Flight (the former name for the female arm of AFROTC) at the University of Nebraska.

AFA is a volunteer-led organization, it takes someone with immense heart and dedication to serve as a leader in the field. Linda has served as the Colorado State President for many years even doing so while championing the position of Rocky Mountain Regional President. While these roles are rewarding beyond measure, it takes a special talent to coordinate across Colorado through the many generations of folks we encounter and through the different considerations each chapter brings. Every quarter, Linda travels to each chapter to engage, advocate, and ensure their voices are heard. Colorado hosts an annual awards banquet honoring hardworking AFA members, active duty military, reserve and guard, cadets, and teachers. This is a time for the community to come together to celebrate what we have accomplished. At this year's state convention which precedes the banquet, Cliff Klein, President of the Mile High Chapter, officially took the helm as State President. Linda has left very big shoes to fill and we could not be more grateful for her years of service as our State president. Thank you for everything you have done for our beloved Association!

*Thank You
Linda!*



Biden Directs \$2.98 Billion Ukraine Defense Package to Build Future Force

ABRAHAM MAHSHIE

President Joe Biden is making a bet on Ukraine's ability to withstand war and deter Russia for years to come, announcing on Ukraine's independence day, Aug. 24, a \$2.98 billion defense package that builds out a future force with high-end air defenses, radar, and counter-unmanned aerial systems that may take years to deliver. The largest defense assistance package yet relies on a lengthier contracting process that buys targeted new weapons for Ukraine instead of drawing down existing U.S. stocks. It also refrains from the longer-range weapons Ukraine seeks to reach Russian supply lines as they adjust to greater stand-off distances.

Space Force Hopes for Wear Testing of Uniforms in Spring 2023

GREG HADLEY

Right now, just six prototypes of the Space Force's service dress uniform exist—the two debuted by male and female officers in September 2021, two more for enlisted male and female Guardians, one for Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond, and one for Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force Roger A. Towberman. In the next several months, the service and the Air Force Uniform Office plan to expand those numbers. Tentatively, however, the Space Force is now planning on fit testing taking place "somewhere between November and January. ... And then, once we complete that, we'll move to wear testing, which we hope to be in the spring [of 2023] said Catherine Lovelady, change management team lead."

Candidates for National Office and the Board of Directors

AFA STAFF

The Air & Space Forces Association Nominating Committee met by video conference on May 14, 2022, and selected candidates to send forward for National Officer positions and National Director positions on the Board of Directors. The Committee consists of two past Chairmen of the Board (in addition to the current non-voting Chairman), one person selected by each of the two Vice Chairmen of the Board, two representing each geographic area, and one person each representing the Total Air Force, Air Force veterans, and aerospace industry constituencies. The slate of the candidates will be presented to the delegates in September. For Chairman of the Board, currently held by Gerald Murray, Bernie Skoch is nominated, for Vice Chairman of the Board (VCOB), Field Operations, Jim Simons is nominated for a third year, for VCOB, Education Stephen Gourley is nominated for a second year, for National Secretary, Mike Liquori is nominated for a second year, for National Treasurer, Chuck Martin is nominated for a third year, and finally for National Director at Large, Paul Hendricks, Gabbe Kearney, and Janelle Stafford are nominated.

Veteran's Program Project Sanctuary Gives Hope

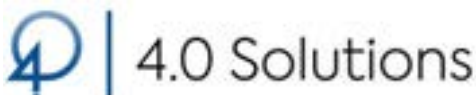
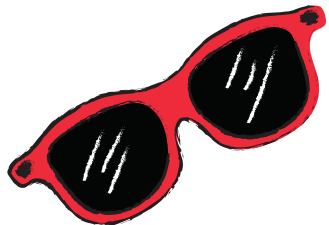
DANA KNOWLES, JULIO SANDOVAL

A word that you'll hear often around the grounds of [Project Sanctuary](#) in scenic Granby, Colorado is "healing." Being in nature and away from technology seems to lend itself to just that. Project Sanctuary strives to be different. It is a nonprofit offering evidence-based therapy programs and retreats for veterans and their loved ones. "When one person in a family serves in the military that means the whole family serves, which means the veteran's trauma becomes the family's trauma." said by Dana Morrin, Project Sanctuary Volunteer. Their comprehensive evidence-based program is one of the only ones treating the entire family, active duty service members from all branches of the military, and veterans from all eras of service. We reconnect families, restore hope, and change lives through therapeutic retreat and long-term family support services.



Our Community Partners

THE MILE HIGH CHAPTER THANKS YOU!



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Chapter Officers

- President: Cliff Klein
- Executive VP, Community Partners: Neil Burroughs
- Secretary: Vacant, please contact us to apply!
- Treasurer: Kenn Bowens
- VP Aerospace Education and Veteran Affairs: Stephen Gourley
- VP Communications: TSgt Damita Stevens
- VP Airman, Guardian & Family Programs: 1st Lt Emily Sawicki

AFA Mission

Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

To accomplish this, we:

- EDUCATE the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and promote aerospace and STEM education for a technically superior and professional workforce to ensure national security;
 - ADVOCATE and promote aerospace power to favorably shape policy and resourcing decisions to guarantee the strongest aerospace forces in the world;
- SUPPORT Airmen, Guardians, and the families of the Total Air Force and Space Force, including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Contact Us

- Email Us: CO127.MileHigh.President@afa.org
- Check out our website: <https://milehigh.afa.org/>
- Find us on Facebook: AFA Mile High Chapter 127 or <https://www.facebook.com/afamilehighchapter/>

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4pm at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and also on Zoom! All members are welcome. Contact us for Zoom details.

- September 20, 2022
- October 18, 2022
- November 15, 2022



Newsletter Editor: TSgt Damita Stevens is an Active Duty Guardian serving on Buckley Space Force Base. She has been with the Mile High AFA for three years and was elected as VP of Communications in 2021, she also serves as the Colorado State AFA Secretary. Recently, she was one of seven members accepted to the National-Level AFA Emerging Leader Program. Damita uses her intimate knowledge of information systems to build the Mile High Website and create the Quarterly Newsletters. Damita is happily married, has one rambunctious Akita named Kana, and loves to cook.

