



The Sijan Sentinel

Volume I – 2025

February/March 2025

WELCOME TO AFA
SIJAN CHAPTER #125



President: Caty Rozema
Vice President: Aaron Prupas
Secretary: Gayle Divine
Treasurer: Bruce Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



“Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend.” – Theophrastus

Looking Ahead to 2025 – Opportunity Awaits!

As Caty so powerfully stated in our last newsletter, 2024 was a year of impact for the Sijan Chapter—proof that even a small, dedicated team can accomplish big things. But as we close the chapter on last year’s successes, I challenge each of you to consider what we can achieve together in 2025.

AFA’s mission is clear: **Educate. Advocate. Support.** Every event we held, every student we encouraged, every veteran we honored, and every connection we fostered contributed to a stronger community. But the work is never done.

This is where you come in.

The strength of our chapter isn’t just in the handful of board members leading the charge—it’s in every member who chooses to give their time, their expertise, and their passion to make a difference. We have exciting plans for 2025, but they will only become reality with **your** involvement.

This year, I ask you to **commit your time to something bigger.** Whether it’s mentoring a JROTC cadet, volunteering at a STEM event, or stepping into a leadership role, your contributions will shape the future of this chapter and the impact we make.

There are **so many ways to get involved**—whether a few hours for one activity or a few hours each month for a board position. If you’ve ever thought, *I’d like to help, but I’m not sure how*—let’s talk. **There’s a place for you in this mission.**

2025 is a year of opportunity. Let’s make it count!

Investing Time, Transforming Lives,

Aaron M. “Brain” Prupas
Vice President, Sijan Chapter
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OUT AND ABOUT WITH CATY

On 6 Feb 2025, our Sijan Chapter celebrated Valentine's Day and our airmen and guardians at The Hub on Peterson SFB. Anyone with a Q1 birthday was entered in a drawing for a \$25 multi-restaurant gift card. **Left:** Two birthday winners show off their prize with Caty.

Below: Sijan Secretary, Gayle Divine chats with member and long-time Air & Space Forces Ball Master of Ceremonies, "Karl (Fruendt) from Kansas". Welcome back to Colorado, Karl!



Right: Sijan Chapter Officers, President Caty Rozema; VP Aaron Prupas; Secretary Gayle Divine; and Treasurer Bruce Hall showing off the lovely and delicious birthday cake shared with everyone at The Hub. We're so fortunate to have this dedicated group of both civilians and retired military (2 each!) leading our chapter! Can you guess which is which?
Below: Giving away cake makes everyone smile!



Stay tuned for the date and time of our Q2 2025 birthday party!!

Warm Winter Welcome!



The Sijan Chapter welcomes our two newest volunteers:

Treasurer and VP of Finance, Bruce Hall (left) and VP of Aerospace Education, Dave Geuting (right).

Bruce and Dave were previously volunteers with the chapter and we are thrilled to have them back!

Thank you, Bruce and Dave, for your service and for volunteering with the AFA Sijan Chapter!



Teacher of the Year Nominations Open

The AFA **Teacher of the Year** (TOY) program recognizes classroom teachers at the Chapter and State levels for their accomplishments and achievements in exciting K-12 students about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and preparing them to contribute to tomorrow's technologies. This is a unique opportunity to recognize and reward outstanding teachers who are furthering excellence and making coming to class an adventure by teaching and integrating aerospace-related STEM topics/programs into their classrooms!

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter recognizes the teaching excellence of one teacher in grades K-12 and forwards that honoree to compete for the State Teacher of the Year.

The Sijan Chapter TOY receives a check for \$250, a Certificate of Excellence, lapel pin, padfolio, and a complimentary Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Membership. We recognize the honoree, along with their school's principal, at a school assembly or a school board/staff meeting in coordination with the school principal's recommendation and additionally, at the AFA Colorado State Banquet/Awards Ceremony. The State TOY winner receives a \$500 check, AFA jacket, certificate and pin. Additionally, the State TOY winner may be nominated for the AFA National TOY award.

To apply or nominate your favorite STEM TEACHER, complete a [Nomination Package](#) and email to LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com by April 11, 2025.

**Thank a STEM Teacher Today...
Nominate them for AFA Teacher of the Year!**

Chapter Teachers of the Year will receive a \$250 award check, certificate, lapel pin, padfolio, window decal, and complimentary membership to Civil Air Patrol.

It's easy!

1. Fill out the form
2. Attach a one-page narrative of the teacher's accomplishments and achievements in support of aerospace-related STEM and the impact of these activities on the students.
3. Include a letter of recommendation/support from a school official, principal, or higher.
4. (Optional) Up to three pages of newspaper articles, other documents, and/or photos that include the teacher with students completing aerospace-related STEM activities. Ensure students in photos have media release permission for use.

Click for the application form and more details.



2025 Scholarships Available

Do you know a student who could use a scholarship? If so, you're in luck!

There are *TWO* AFA local scholarships available – one at the chapter level and one at the state level. In addition, there are multiple National AFA scholarships available.



2025 AFA Scholarships Available - APPLY NOW!



Offering more than \$100,000 in educational funds to support Airmen, Guardians, their spouses, and their children in pursuing higher education.

Sijan and Colorado State AFA scholarship applications Due April 1, 2025
Applications for all 11 National scholarships accepted through April 30, 2025

2025 AFA National Scholarship Opportunities

2025 AFA Sijan Chapter and Colorado State Scholarship Opportunities

Lance P. Sijan Chapter and Colorado State AFA Garcia Scholarships

The Lance P. Sijan chapter scholarship is available to high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. The Lance P. Sijan Chapter awards scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors who have been accepted for enrollment at a college or university, and to current outstanding college freshman, sophomore, and junior students. Scholarships are open to immediate family members (son, daughter, spouse) of active duty and retired Air and Space Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard members in the greater Colorado Springs area; JROTC cadets; college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors from the greater Colorado Springs area attending any college or university; Silver Wings members; and Arnold Air Society members. [2025 Sijan Chapter Scholarship Application](#)

The Francisco Garcia Scholarship is awarded by the Colorado State Air and Space Forces Association (CSAFA). It is awarded annually to one recipient in the State of Colorado. The applicant must be a graduating senior from a Colorado high school and intend to obtain a college degree in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) related field. [2025 Garcia Scholarship Application](#)

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Do you like golf? Birthday parties? Races? Ball games? Corn hole? We want to hear from you! *Send us a note, stop by an event, or join us for our monthly leadership meeting.*

Your AFA Sijan Chapter has opportunities for involvement in multiple areas, as little or as much as you would like. Areas of most need are in support of veterans and government outreach and programming.



COMING UP

3-5 March: [AFA Warfare Symposium](#) (Gaylord, Denver)

15 March: Colorado State AFA meeting (Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, Pueblo)

30 April: Mitchell and Sand Creek High School JROTC awards ceremonies

Be sure to visit our [website](#) for details on upcoming events or email us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com. Your participation in these activities and events is a fantastic way to support our future leaders and connect with the local Air & Space Forces community!

Lance P Sijan Chapter Monthly Leadership Meetings

Every 2nd Tuesday of Month, 5:00PM, Visit our [website](#) to confirm date/time and for in-person location and online link. These are our regular business meetings, but all are welcome to listen in. It's a great way to learn more about what's happening inside Sijan and find out about volunteer opportunities.

Become a Community Partner!

"Becoming a Community Partner is a great way to get your business involved with your local Air Force and Space Force community! For more than 40 years, businesses have been joining the Air & Space Forces Association to support both AFA National and local AFA chapters.

Not only does a Community Partner receive all the benefits of an AFA membership, such as a variety of product and service discounts, insurance programs, and much more, but the partner will also receive a wooden plaque with a date medallion and a window decal. These will show customers and clients that your business supports our troops!"

Category One (CP I) \$90.00 annually - Business can designate one person to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Category Two (CP II) \$180.00 annually - Business can designate two people to receive AFA Membership and enjoy all benefits thereof.

Want to know more? Check out <https://www.afa.org/membership/community-partners>

CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- *To contact us or to be added to the Lance P Sijan chapter distribution list, please email us at: lancepsijanafa@gmail.org*
- *To update your contact information, email National AFA at membership@afa.org. Note that the chapter cannot change your email, mailing address, or other contact information. It must be done on your National membership profile.*
- *To join or renew your AFA membership, visit www.afa.org*
- *For details on AFA member benefits, visit <http://www.afa.org/afa/memberbenefits>*

Make sure you continue to receive our communications. You don't want to miss out on \$1 ice cream sundaes, free birthday cake, or any of the other exciting events we have in the works. Update your contact information today. Email National at Membership@afa.org.

While we can update our mailing list, Sijan representatives cannot update your official AFA contact information. You must contact National.

Do you know someone who would like to know about our events but isn't a member yet? We're happy to add them to our mailing list. Have them send a request to us at LancePSijanAFA@gmail.com.

CONTACT US!

Sijan Chapter

Website:

www.lancepsijanafa.org



AFA National Website:

www.afa.org

Email

lancepsijanafa@gmail.com

Mailing Address

Air & Space Forces Association
Lance P Sijan Chapter #125
PO Box 77322
Colorado Springs, CO 80970

The AFA is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA publishes Air Force Magazine, conducts national symposia and disseminates information through outreach programs. It sponsors professional development seminars and recognizes excellence in the education and aerospace fields through national awards programs. AFA presents scholarships and grants to Air Force active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members and their dependents, and AFA awards educator grants to promote science and math education at the elementary, secondary, and high school level. Nationally, AFA has more than 100,000 active members. The AFA National Website is WWW.AFA.ORG

The Lance P. Sijan Chapter is one of the largest, most active chapters in AFA, with more than 1600 members. The Sijan Chapter, one of four AFA Chapters in Colorado, primarily focuses on support to the Colorado Springs area, including Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and the USAFA. The AFA Sijan Chapter is proud of our rich heritage and strong support for the Colorado Springs Air Force community. We pride ourselves on active support to the local Colorado Springs "Air Force Family," providing approximately \$40,000 and thousands of volunteer hours in support annually!