



*315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina*

January/February 2018

Visit our website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

2018 brings to us a new beginning for the 315th Alumni Association

We were established on July 9th, 1994 with fifty five (55) charter members. During the past 24 years we have followed our current by-laws and we have become a catalyst bringing old members back to become a part of our activities. We have provided an opportunity to see what their unit is doing today, to get new information first hand, and allow them to provide that part of history and background that only they can. The Alumni has made numerous changes with the passage of time. Currently our membership is dealing with the age process and many of our members are passing on a regular basis. This continues to bring our number of members down and we will be replacing them with a younger generation under our new leadership. With new and younger Alumni Officers on board, we held our first 315th Alumni Board meeting on Thursday January 25th, 2018. Those attending were:

Col Jim Roberts, President, replacing Chief Dick Fuller
Col Gary Cook, Vice President, replacing SMSgt Ray Ardis
Linda Skillman, Secretary & Membership Chair
Chief Tom Clemmons, Webmaster @ <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>
Lt Col Eileen Wilson, Benevolence Chair
Chief Sam Brock, Events & Activities Chair, and Fundraising
Chief Dick Fuller, outgoing President
SMSgt Ray Ardis, outgoing Vice-President
MSgt Del Oxford, Communications

I paid a visit to several of the squadrons and work sections during the month of February to get their support and hopefully bring them on board as associate members. We need to get this younger generation involved now as they will be our leaders of the future. This was a subject Col Jim Roberts and Col Gary Cook covered in their first board meeting with us on January 25th.

Our next Board meeting will be next Friday, March 2nd, 9:30 am at the Charleston Club. This meeting will be followed by the [Heritage Trust Sponsored Quarterly Luncheon at 11:00 am](#). Flexible sign in begins at 11:00 am and remains open for an hour. Sign in first, go pick up your food from the seafood buffet, then return to the meeting room. Enjoy fellowship with your fellow Alumni Member.

Recent visit to squadrons & work sections

The 38th Aerial Port Squadron was my first visit. I was greeted by Chief (ART) Deborah Cole. I have known Deborah for 34 years as she was among my first recruits when I was assigned to recruiting service. Chief Cole has been very active with the Alumni over the years and looks forward to working with the new leadership. She said there would be many of her staff coming up for retirement soon. Deborah.cole4@us.af.mil

Recruiting Service was my second visit and I was greeted by SMSgt Barbara J. Sosebee, Administrative Support Technician. I've known Barbara for about 10 years and she has always been a strong supporter of the Alumni and she's on my mailing list. I first met her at Linda Skillman's retirement. I noticed the recruiters now wear their field uniforms while on duty. Currently they have a satellite office in Columbia and two in-service recruiters at Shaw AFB SC. Barbara.osebee.1@us.af.mil

Airman & Family Readiness, Mrs Jeanelle Perkins-Muhammad, replaced Lisa A. Sweatt. Lisa is on our board and a very active supporter of the Alumni. If you lose a military member of your family you may contact Jeanelle for support and guidance. Marion.perkins-muhammad@us.af.mil, (843) 963-4399.

315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Capt (ART) Lee O. Knoell, Medical Service Corps. On the left side of the main entrance hallway is a history of the squadron broken down by year with numerous photos. There was a large photo of SMSgt (ART) Jack Pinkerton (now retired CMSgt) and the late Col Beryl Asbury, Squadron Commander, preparing for a mission. I had some photos I had taken but the display was full. We get great support from the AES, especially SMSgt (ret) Virginia Jamison. The AES usually fills one large table at the Heritage Trust Sponsored luncheons. Lee.knoell@us.af.mil.

315th Public Affairs, Major Wayne Capps, Chief of Public Affairs. Wayne is very active in the Alumni and he attends our board meetings. I was checking with him to find out the hours of operation for the 315th History Office. The Historian position is no longer full time and the Historian comes in one 3 day weekend per month. Public Affairs is on Facebook and Twitter. Howard.Capps.1@us.af.mil.

Commander, 315th Airlift Wing, Colonel Gregory Gilmour. It was almost 5:00 pm on a Friday evening and I was looking for the History Office on the second floor in Bldg 60. The building was completely vacated, but there was a light on in the Commander's office. The Commander was sitting at his desk in his flying suit in a crouched over position so that I could not see his rank or name tag. I had never met the wing commander before and didn't recognize him, thinking it was someone else using his desk. We talked about the History office and he was helpful. When he stood, I seen his rank and name tag

realizing only then that I had been talking to Colonel Gilmour. He came around the desk, we had a warm hand shake and some brief conversation as he led me down the hallway to the location of the history office explaining the hours of operation. The Historian is TSgt Courtnee Hummel courtnee.hummel@us.af.mil. I will be writing a more in depth history of the members of the Alumni but first I need to know what information we have on file already. I went back to visit Sgt Courtnee on her scheduled day in the office and missed her, but the wing staff gave all her address information.

Charleston Club, Mrs Romney Reding, Operations Manager, Romney.reding@us.af.mil. Romney is the Club Manager and we had a brief conversation about our new leadership in the Alumni. Romney will be looking forward to meeting Jim Roberts and believes she has talked to him already in the past. I was inquiring about joining the Club. She said you no longer need to come to the Club to join up. You can do it online or on your smart phone. It's \$7.00 per month to join if you're enlisted. You may go to www.myairforcelife.com to join. Once joined, you go to www.planet.com, log in with a pass word.

Final Fly-Bye

SMSgt Bobby R. Drinnen, 300th Squadron Loadmaster, passed on 5 February 2018. Funeral services were private. However, a memorial service is planned for March 15th in Maryville, TN. The time is yet to be determined. According to postings on Facebook, Bobby was a mentor and role model to many. Bobby was also assigned to the 707th squadron before going to Seymour-Johnson to join up with the KC-10 unit along with the late Jack Barrett. We will get back with everyone on the time.

Mr. Harold A. Major, the Budget Director of the wing, passed in November. We have no information at this time on Harold. He has been a very active member of the Alumni and attended most of our luncheons. I called his current phone number but it had been disconnected. He lived in the vicinity of Miler Golf Course in Summerville and he served in the US Army. There were many very nice postings on Facebook about Harold. We will try to locate information on him thru Ledgens.com

I met J. Brennan Jr in the commissary. He was in the 315th AGS 1983 – 1996 and served in the active Air Force 1972 - 1979. He served a tour of duty in 1973 at Anderson AFB in Guam as a B-52 crew chief. He is now retired. Linda will be sending him a membership application at jbrennanjr@hotmail.com

Alumni Board Scheduled Meetings/Heritage Trust sponsored Luncheons for year 2018

Friday, March 2nd, 9:30 am Board Meeting, 11:00 am, Heritage luncheon at the Charleston Club

Friday, June 1st, 09:30 Board Meeting, 11:00 am, Heritage luncheon at the Charleston Club

Friday, Sept 7th, 09:30 Board Meeting, 11:00 am, Heritage luncheon at the Charleston Club

Friday, Nov 30th, 09:30 Board Meeting, 11:00 am, Heritage luncheon **Christmas Social** at the Charleston Club

We will look forward to seeing you on Friday March the 2nd at the Charleston Club. Drive safely.

MSG Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor & Historian

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