



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Fall 2022 (Oct -Dec)

Things are busy, moving along again. Your chapter needs you to know and to become involved. Here is some of the latest news and some upcoming events you can join in on in the future as they come around!

Chapter President's Message:

Our chapter serves as the Army's private organization for three General Officer-level Commands, five Field Grade-level Commands, University of Central Florida ROTC, the Orlando Recruiting Company, and twelve Junior ROTC detachments. Within this area of operations, we also partner with our sister service organizations, veteran organizations, defense trade organizations, and a robust industrial base delivering capability to the Army.



Association of the US Army Sunshine Chapter



Things Happening Inside the Chapter:

Monthly Pre-PALT Socials

Our organizational battle rhythm has been picking up. Beginning in September, dozens of visitors to PEO STRI have been enjoying mixing at our pre-PALT networking social every **second Monday of the month**. Our friends at the Island Wing Company on Alafaya Trail and University Boulevard have done a fabulous job supporting these events. We thank and encourage our corporate members who keep sponsoring these gatherings.



General Membership Meetings

The chapter hosted its first in-person General Membership Meeting since the onset of the Covid scares on 6 September at the DoubleTree Hotel on the West side of the University of Central Florida Campus. We were privileged to have Brigadier General William Glaser, the Director of the Army Future Command's Synthetic Training Environment (STE) Cross-Functional team. STE is one of the Army's eight modernization priorities, and an



industry focus within the Central Florida modeling simulation and training industrial base. Their employees make up another resource of our Chapter's community.

Gold Star Mothers and Families



We honored our Gold Star Mothers and Families in solemn tribute of the sacrifice of their Soldiers on September 18 in partnership with Orange County Veterans, and the Veteran's Administration. Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings joined in to help us remember and recognize those who have lost a loved one during our latest conflicts, as well as all other conflicts of the Country. Members of the Chapter, past and present, joined others in uniform for the tributes, a Mayoral Proclamation, the presentations of recognition, and a bugle salute.

Annual National AUSA Meeting

Of course, like every year, our leadership and other interested members participated in one of the annual highlights, the AUSA national meeting in Washington DC. AUSA held this year's meeting 10-12 October. Your

Sunshine Chapter, joined by the National Training and Simulation Association, hosted a hospitality suite for all Central Florida members and partners, and many invited guests. The suite in the Marriot Marquis -adjacent to the convention center is always convenient and busy.



Veterans Day

We had numerous events all over the three or four counties covered by our chapter to recognize veterans of all services. Sunshine chapter members

participated throughout the region to include parades in Orlando, Sanford, and other smaller municipalities, as well as in the Veterans Administration events at the Lake Nona VA Center and the National Cemeteries at Bushnell and Cape Canaveral.

Young Professionals – UCF versus Navy Football Tailgate



On 19 November, Ms. Karen Saunders (PEO STRI) joined representatives from multiple defense companies, University of Central Florida students, UCF Club Rowing Team members and Sunshine Chapter Members in a tailgate before the UCF vs. Navy football game, here on the UCF campus. Our focus was on the young professionals interested in the

Army/defense industry in the Orlando area. We provided them with an opportunity to network with retired Soldiers, both enlisted and officer, as well as individuals working in the local defense industry, in an extremely casual setting. Our chapter's intent was to spread the word about AUSA's mission and to support any young professionals who are about to enter the work force. We want the best and the brightest to come work for the benefit of the Soldier.



AUSA members donated breakfast foods and beverages. There was a flagpole with the Army flag raised above the tent line, and an information table where people could sign up for AUSA membership. Multiple students at the event ended up applying for the AUSA Sunshine Chapter scholarship and



have since attended our Monthly Socials. And, in case any Soldier really cares, Navy won the game, 17-14. Go Navy! On any day but that one day in December!!

50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War

This year is the culmination of the commemoration of the Vietnam War, building to the climax on 29 March, 2023, the day we celebrate the end of the war and the return of our Prisoners of War from the cruel captivity imposed by our communist enemy. Florida's Governor, Mr. Ron DeSantis, a veteran himself, issued a Proclamation this year highlighting our Vietnam veterans, extending greetings and best wishes to them all and welcoming them all home. Chapter members participated and even led multiple events recognizing our own Vietnam veteran chapter members as well as our fellow citizen-Soldiers. The Gold Star Mothers, Wreaths Across America, and multiple Honor Flights were the highlight of our annual commemorations, with our members doing selfless service, giving back to our own and our forebears.

Scholarships

As a reminder, Scholarship applications will be due in March of next year. SFC (Ret) Ken Johnson will be leading our Scholarship Program in the 2023 Operational year. He aspires to present three significant scholarships this year. He will be in touch. Keep on the look-out!

***Save the Date* - The 248th Army Birthday Ball,
24 June, 2023**

Your Executive Committee



The chapter is always appreciative of our community partners. Your membership and sponsorship of our events enable us to fulfill our mission. If you would like to sponsor, volunteer, or host any of our events, please contact me anytime. We cannot do it without you.

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