

## January 2015 Membership Committee Update

Happy New Year AFA Leaders! It's an important time to be a member of AFA. There are serious issues facing our Air Force and we're the people who need to step forward and tell the accurate and complete story for our Air Force and national defense.

One important side of our membership is our corporate members. They bring a perspective on national defense as it relates to our industrial base and economic issues. They bring a wealth of expertise on national defense, engineering, technology, context for the discussion. They bring numbers—people able to join and drive the conversations that need to happen. And all that brings strength our Association and our message. I'm grateful that we have dedicated corporate members who joined our Association, even in these tough budget environments, to stand as advocates for airpower and national defense. Gary North, the Vice-Chairman for Membership and National Director, will be talking about corporate memberships more in future *Newslines* and other venues.

Another important side of our membership is our young members in Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings. They are our future. They will carry on the tradition and history of AFA and our mission. Their capstone professional development event—NATCON—is just around the corner. They need our support. At our local ARCON, I pledged to personally sponsor, for \$500, one person's registration fee so they could get to the event and grow personally and professionally. I asked them at ARCON to pass the word to other units to contact their local AFA chapter and ask how they can work together to help get more cadets to NATCON. If an Arnold Air Society chapter hasn't approached you, please take the time to reach out. Time is getting short—NATCON is Easter weekend. If you don't know who your local AAS chapter is, contact AFA National and they can direct you.

Thanks for all you do for AFA. And if you have any feedback on membership issues or ideas that are growing your local membership, please share them with me at [gilpetrina@gmail.com](mailto:gilpetrina@gmail.com)