***AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION***

***AFSA Division 6 - Legislative Trustee***

**CY 2020 FULL-YEAR LEGISLATIVE TRUSTEE REPORT**

**1. GENERAL ACTIVITIES (1 January – 31 December 2020).**

a. **Chapter Training and Instruction**. Worked with Division 6 chapters throughout the year, and I answered numerous legislative- and benefits-related questions from AFSA members within and from outside our division.

b. **One In-Person Visit in 2020**. In January 2020, I traveled to Hill AFB to do legislative briefings and to attend a Chapter 1163 meeting, swore in officers, and helped present local awards. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was to be the only in-person visit I made during the calendar year.

c. **Collaborated with AFSA Headquarters Legislative Team**. Throughout the calendar year, I regularly collaborated with AFSA Headquarters’ Legislative Affairs Policy Advisor Matt Schwartzman as the Headquarters completed revamped the AFSA International Website, especially getting involved in the legislative section of that site, and as we replaced the Washington Reports and Headline Roundups with a very informative, twice-weekly Military & Government Brief. During the year, as benefit-related situations arose within Division 6, I notified Matt to make sure the Headquarters was aware of these important matters: Examples:

1) Gave Matt feedback on DoD’s decision to force military retirees and family members out of base medical clinics at several locations. Also, told Matt about early observations at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. Accordingly, the DoD Health Agency backed off on plans to significantly reduce personnel and facilities – a move that would have forced tens of thousands of military retirees and survivors out of the military health care system.

2) I informed Matt right away when the Nellis AFB leadership decided to force all military retirees and survivors to get their prescriptions off base. Many who had been receiving free medicines from the base pharmacy were now faced with significant out-of-pocket costs. This situation led to action on the part of AFSA and the Military Coalition. Also, at Matt’s request, I encouraged our members to send AFSA HQ their stories about various aspects of quality-of-life benefits and to send letters to their elected officials. Of course, the COVID-19 situation continued to impact many different quality-of-life programs in terms of availability and access.

3) I continued to keep Matt apprised of the medical and prescription situations/limitations for military retirees and survivors in the various areas of our Division. Additionally, I alerted Matt right away when, with virtually no notice, the Air Force announced that they were reducing the Military Tuition Assistance cap (maximum assistance available in a year) for Airmen from $4,500 to $3,750 starting 1 October. This forced many Airmen to alter their educational planning. AFSA immediately discussed the matter with CMSAF Bass and the Air Force personnel leadership. Not long after that, the Air Force reinstated the cap to $4,500.

**2. AFSA DIVISION 6 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES PUBLISHED**. During Calendar Year 2020, I published sixty-five (65) AFSA Division 6 Legislative Updates which were distributed throughout Division 6 and to leaders of the other divisions, the International Executive Council, dozens of AFSA members throughout the association who have requested them, all past AFSA and Auxiliary International Presidents, and to CMSAF Bass and to every past Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. The updates provided current legislative information, ideas about conducting chapter-level legislative programs, participation in headquarters legislative campaigns, and instructions on how to properly and effectively communicate with their elected officials.

**3. VIRTUAL BRIEFINGS DELIVERED DURING COVID YEAR 2020.** During 2020, I delivered 41 comprehensive AFSA Legislative Quality-of-Life Benefits briefings. On five occasions I was joined by AFSA Legisaltive Policy Advisor Matt Schwartzman, twice by AFSA Executive Director Keith Reed. These included;

 a. **Division-Level Briefings** – Division 1 twice, Division 3 twice, Division 5, Division 6, Division 7 twice (Division Executive Councils/Chapter Leaders)

b. **Chapter-Level Briefings** – Chapters: 102, 444 (twice), 658, 751, 872 (twice), 985, 1163, 1178, 1179, 1181, 1201, 1252 (twice), 1253, 1260, 1320 (twice), 1330, 1356, 1372, 1473, and 1550 (twice).

 c. **Other Legislative-Benefits Briefings Delivered** - Ft Meade Chiefs Group, AF Quarantine University, Vandenberg AFB Private Organizations, F.E. Warren NCO PES, FE Warren General Population, JB San Antonio Chiefs Group and Top 3, and about 2 dozen other briefings/meetings, including chapter and division meetings, meet and greets, meetings preliminary to briefings, and AFSA Division 6 EC meetings and training sessions. I also delivered a legislative briefing for the 2020 AFSA Division 6 Professional Development Conference.

 d. **AFSA Legislative Awareness Week Briefings**: Chapters 1075 and 1076, Chapter 444.

 e. **Airman Leadership Schools Briefings**: Hill AFB, Edwards AFB, Travis AFB, Fort Meade, MD., Peterson AFB,

**4. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

 a. Provided Division 6 Communications Trustee Michelle Chabot with Legislative Trustee Newsletter Inputs as requested throughout the year.

b. Upon request of Division 6 President Kerry Wright, worked with Trustee Bob Tomlinson to spearhead/accomplish AFSA Division 6’s input for the AFSA Headquarters Legacy Project.

  c. Served as Division 6 Annual Conference Committee Chairman. Requested and collected inputs and constructed the AFSA Division 6 Conference Magazine.

 d. As Regional Director for SoCal and Utah chapters. Helped successfully lead Chapters 1163, 1311, 1328, and 1330 to complete all required start-of-year reports and timely award inputs. Assisted Chapter 1311 to successfully manage an unexpected leadership transition and worked with Chapter 1330 on conducting elections and meeting chapter structure requirements.

e. Participated in numerous Division and Chapter meetings and training sessions.

(Signed)

CMSGT (RET) JAMES E. LOKOVIC

AFSA Division 6 Legislative Trustee/Regional Director for SoCal and Utah

Defending the Quality of Life for Service Members and Their Families Since 1961