



Freedom News...

P.O. Box 697
Bryant, AR 72089

Volume V Issue 01

"Working for Arkansas Veterans, No Veteran is Alone"

Jan 2018

Happy New Year from the AFF! 2018 is going to be great!

Sorry for the delay in the newsletter. We have a lot to catch up on. We want you to be in the know. We are still looking for newsletter publisher. If you have the skills and desire and can work with no supervision please consider this AFF giving back opportunity.

Lets start off with the Freedom Challenge.



The seventh annual Freedom Challenge ride in Little Rock was a huge success. Pictures are all on our Facebook page. The AFF was hosted at the front door of the Clinton Center and the food was provided by Smackeys BBQ. It was great. The ride

went well even though we didn't get the LEO support we needed, the Biker Community surely made up for it. Thanks Big Joe for reaching out. We appreciate their support. The group rode tightly and quickly through the route. I was totally shocked when the call came that they are "At the Bridge" As I ran up the first person I saw was Charlie Simpson on a hand cycle. It was awesome. I was so happy that we also had our NWA and River Valley Riders come out. Turn out was good and I didn't hear of anything major. It was a beautiful day.

Thank you Clinton Centers Debbie Shock for the new arrangements, Next year we will know what the parking situation will be before we show up.



2018 Freedom Scramble "A beautiful day for Golf"

The eighth annual Freedom Scramble is May 14 at Diamante CC in HSV. Contact Haley Hogan at 505-948-4581. As many of you know this event is our biggest fundraiser. So we need a whole AFF team support to get sponsors and silent auction items. Everyone do you best to get an item and let Haley know so we have another great year and turnout The silent auction and raffle is why this event is good to us..

EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE!

New to our board.

The AFF welcomes Chris Diaz who is now our Treasurer. Taking over from Bill Butterworth. We thank Bill for his service and wish Chris the best as he moves us along keeping financially aligned. Also Clyde Shirron and Richard Thomas stepped down. They did great things with our golf program and will be missed. Their support has been outstanding and we wish them the best. We welcome Carl Struble, Haley Hogan, Larry Butler and Tim Sawyer to the AFF Board. They have huge responsibilities and we are counting on them to help keep the growth, sponsorship and mission moving forward.

New Volunteers

The AFF has new Volunteer positions that have been filled. Rae Brown is now the West Central AFF Director. Working in the area of Central Arkansas (west), Conway and Russellville. Contact Rae for events in that area and to help with Fishing with Heroes coming to Lake Dardanelle on June 8-9. She needs help with sponsors and passing out information. Also on this line we need an individual with great communications skills to be the 103.7 the Buzz Fishing Arkansas pitchman. Big Sarge at Fishing Arkansas would like a caller each week to help push the event. If you think that is you let us know. Thanks Rae for covering this area.

Ft Smith and The River Valley

AFF member Ashley Moss has joined the team in Ft Smith. Working with Jason Lentz and Nathan Varnell, Ash will be helping out Mike Otts our Bike Manager with bike pass out and member sign ups in Ft Smith and NWA. He will be helping to set up the NWA Bike and Hike each April and our new End of Summer Ride in Ft Smith each year. Ash also has helped with an AFF Biking website and is leading the charge to get our group active in competition events throughout west Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma. Take a look at the site www.AFFNWA.org. Thanks Ash for doing this.

Hiking

We also have new member Jonah Flores excited to start leading hikes in the state. So look for this coming to our website and Facebook page.

Kayaking

Kayaking is soon to be an AFF Program. AFF Member Marc Ford is anxious to lead the Kayaking program. We have two in stock now and are looking to have 12 by this year.

We will position 4 each around the state so families of four can sign them out and go float for weekend or vacation. We are excited about this.

THE HUNT PROGRAM CONTINUES TO LEAD THE STATE.

The AFF team under the direction of Gary Wynn our Hunt Chairman and Co Chairs Carl Struble and Chris Archer have done outstanding at getting our members to the woods.

They led Hunts to Kansas, Illinois, Missouri and with our team of volunteers helped over 100 member hunters at our own lease near Bearden.

Gary also worked a donation of 1000 pounds of corn for our lease and with the AFF Team has new stands, cleared lanes and lots of improvements. Thanks to Rufus Hicks and Sheri Arnold for the stands. They are perfect. The whole team has done a lot of hard work. They deserve a lot of thanks for making this a great area. If you haven't had a chance to go, it is open each season just contact Carl or Gary and get a stand assignment. There is usually no waiting and all days are open.

Jan 26-28 we need some help manning our booth at the Big Buck Classic. This event got us hunts and lots of donations for the program last year. We really need some help. Please contact Gary and come out to work a couple hours.

THE VA PASSES OUT POPCORN TO VETERANS

The VA again was delivered popcorn to pass out to Veterans. So Gary, Larry, Randy and Charlene completed Operation Popcorn the week before Christmas. We have a ton to get distributed to our members! If you'd like some popcorn get a hold of us. We have Caramel bags and tins of assorted Cheese, cheddar, white cheddar and jalapeño cheddar. Thanks for this team effort on Operation Popcorn.

Spring Fling is Gearing up



Mickey is leading the charge for the Veterans Spring Fling coming to Brunos Powersports in Cabot. Dates are April 6-8. He orchestrated a \$8500 grant from the Cabot A&P commission to fund this event. We are looking for Vendors, sponsors and volunteers to help make this another great year. Bands, food and family fun. AFF team members are needed for booth and informational assistance. Contact Mickey or LoriAnn through the Facebook link www.Facebook.com/springfling-in-cabot-1867614786807881 or our website at the Spring Fling Page. If you have an idea to bring to Spring Fling Let us know.

DUNKIN DONUTS DOES CATERING

Len Falcone owner of Dunkin Donuts on Cantrell wants everyone to know that they do a full catering menu. Len held may Sunday night promotions for the AFF and now has the AFF Patch on their work jackets. They are a hire a Veteran operation. We appreciate their support. **Click here to check out:** [THE NEW HOLIDAY MENU](#)

Thanks to the many year end sponsors that stepped up. We appreciate Andrea Rockefeller, First Collection Services, Evo Business Solutions, Young Republicans, Dunkin Donuts, along with all of the Monthly PayPal donors. Your contributions and support help us to continue our programmed events.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 25 AFF Board Meeting and annual budget approval.

Jan 26-28 Big Buck Classic Volunteers needed to work booth. Contact Gary

Apr 6-8 Spring Fling Veterans Rally Cabot [Details](#)

April ?? - NWA Bike and Hike Fayetteville

May 14 - Freedom Scramble Golf Tournament Fundraiser Diamante CC HSV

June 8-9 - Fishing with Heroes Bass Fishing Lake Dardanella. [Sign up here](#)

June ?? The John Pickell Memorial Fishing Day at Lobo Landing in Heber Springs

For up to date calendar information and changes visit our website and Facebook page

The AFF needs your help.

If you have desktop publishing skills or have a keen eye for news. The AFF newsletter needs an editor. Published four or so times a year to inform our membership of upcoming events and post event photos and news just like this one that I have late. Contact Mark if you are interested. We need your help in moving forward.

Program Managers to lead organize and conduct periodic events in Arkansas. SO if you like the adventure of the outdoors and want to put your best foot forward, you are the one. Contact Mark if youd like to lead an AFF program.

Board Members and Program Chairmen are needed for the many things the AFF does. If you like to organize and direct events get a hold of Mark and lets find a fit for you in the AFF Leadership.

Remember we do what we can for you the AFF Membership. We need active members to help us organize the events you want to do. Volunteering is easy and the success of the AFF depends on you to help us help you.

If you have questions, or need assistance in any way, please contact any AFF Staff or a member of the board. The AFF is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

YOUR AFF BOARD MEMBERS! Always ready to assist and help.



Don Kennedy-Chair, Vacant-Vice Chair, Joyce Wood-Secretary, Chris Diaz-Treasurer, Gary Wynn Hunt Chair, Mickey Spillane, Charlene Ort, Larry Butler, Carl Struble, Haley Hogan, Tim Sawyer.

The AFF STAFF is working for the Veterans of Arkansas.



Mark Leonard Chief Executive Director, Mike Otts Bike Program Manager, Drew Suchanek NW AR Director, Rae Brown west Central Director, Jason Lentz West AR Director, Nathan Varnell West AR Director, Ashley Moss NWA Coordinator, Mark Blue Alumni Coordinator, Bubba Smith-Chaplain, and Odette Woods-Chaplain. *You can reach Odette at 501-612-6817.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARK LEONARD - 501-517-5338 OR LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ARKANSASFREEDOMFUND.ORG.

Note from your Editor: Our newsletter is published every other month: February, April, June, August, October and December. If you have information you wish to include, please email arkansasfreedom@sbcglobal.net with details of event, place, date, etc. We want to hear from you!