

2012-13

AFA



Mueller



Dietsch



Van Cleef

The Air Force Association Nominating Committee met on April 21 and selected candidates to send forward for five national officer positions and three elective National Director positions on the Board of Directors. The committee comprises three most recent past Chairmen of the Board, one person selected by each of the two Vice Chairmen of the Board, two persons representing each geographic area, and one person each representing the Total Air Force, Air Force veterans, and aerospace industry constituencies. The slate will be presented to the delegates at the National Convention in Washington, D.C., in September.

Chairman of the Board

George K. Mueller, Huntington Beach, Calif., nominated for a first one-year term. He is a Life Member and has served as a National Director, a member of the Compensation Committee, and a member of the Aerospace Education Council. He is currently the Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education. He is a past recipient of the AFA Theodore von Karman Award. Mueller retired from Boeing in 2008, as president of Advanced Systems, with previous positions as VP-GM of Air Force Systems and as president of Phantom Works. He served for 31 years in the Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant general, as Principal Deputy for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. Key Air Force assignments included Pro-

gram Executive Officer for the Joint Strike Fighter program and Deputy Chief of Staff for Requirements, Air Combat Command. Mueller spent most of his career as a fighter pilot, fighter weapons instructor, test pilot, and commander. He flew combat missions in Vietnam and commanded the JSTARS deployment during Operation Desert Storm. He is Past President of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Illinois; master's degrees in engineering from the University of Southern California and from California State University; and an M.B.A. from Auburn University. He currently consults in the aerospace industry, is a Director on several boards, and serves as a Fellow of the Scientific Advisory Board.

Vice Chairman Field Operations

David A. Dietsch, Arlington, Tex., nominated for a first one-year term. A Life Member active in AFA since 1992, he has served as Executive Vice President of the Lubbock Chapter, President of the Fort Worth Chapter, Texas State President, and Texoma Region President. He is currently Vice President for the state of Texas for Industrial Relations and Government Relations. He co-founded and became the first Chairman of the Board of the AFA Texas Aerospace Education Foundation. Dietsch has served at the national level on the Constitution Committee, Membership Committee, and Nominating Committee. He is

currently on the Field Council. He has been AFA Texas Member of the Year twice and has received the AFA Texas Claire Chennault Patriotism Award. He also received the AFA Medal of Merit and three AFA Exceptional Service Awards. Dietsch served for 27 years in USAF in aircraft maintenance and logistics positions. Following retirement in 1992, he managed the aircraft maintenance contract workforce at two USAF flying training wings. He received a bachelor's degree in American Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs from Miami University in Ohio and a master's degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University. He graduated from the resident courses of Squadron Officer School, Armed Forces Staff College, and Air War College and completed the Lockheed Advanced Management Institute and the W. Edwards Demming Quality Management Institute. He serves on the local Salvation Army Management Committee and is a part-time consultant.

Scott P. Van Cleef, Fincastle, Va., nominated for a first one-year term. He is a Life Member and currently is the Central East Region President. He was President of Virginia's Roanoke Chapter when it was named AFA Medium-size Chapter of the Year for 2005 and winner of an AFA Unit Exceptional Service Award in 2006. He was the State President when Virginia was named the Outstanding State Organization of the Year for 2008. He has held several other chapter and state

Nominees



White



Garland



Vernamonti

positions and served on the AFA Board of Directors, 2008-11. He served on the afa21 Internal Review Group in 2005 and afa21 Field Structure Team in 2006. He was also a member of the Field Council and Strategic Planning Committee, which he chaired for two years. Van Cleef was Virginia's Member of the Year in 2004 and 2010 and recipient of the Central East Region President's Award, AFA's Medal of Merit, Exceptional Service Award, and Chairman's Citation. Van Cleef served for more than 29 years in USAF, primarily as a fighter pilot. He commanded an F-16 squadron, was vice commander of an F-16 training wing, and commander of a fighter wing. He is a self-employed maker of fine furniture, chapter officer in MOAA, Civil Air Patrol senior member, and serves on the board of directors for the Virginia Museum of Transportation.

Vice Chairman Aerospace Education

Jerry E. White, Colorado Springs, Colo., nominated for a first one-year term. He is a Life Member, member of the Thunderbird Society and Gold Wings Society, and has served for several years on the Aerospace Education Foundation and AFA Boards. He was Chair and Co-Chair of the Development Committee. He served one year as an appointed member of the AFA Executive Committee. He currently serves on the Aerospace Education Council. He was active in the combining of AEF and AFA organizations and boards. White served for 37 years, active and reserve, in USAF, retiring as

a major general. His Air Force career had been primarily in space and development. He is the co-author of the Air Force Academy's primary text on astrodynamics. As a former Air Force Academy faculty member, he remains engaged with the academy and technical education. White has extensive experience in leadership of nonprofit organizations, with 18 years as CEO and Board Chair of a large nonprofit (4,500 employees). He was Chair of an association of several hundred nonprofits. He was a member of the congressionally mandated Reserve Forces Policy Board. He holds degrees from the University of Washington and AFIT and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. White chaired the Rhodes Scholarship Colorado Selection Committee for three years. He is currently President Emeritus and Chairman Emeritus of an interdenominational Christian ministry.

National Secretary

Edward W. Garland, San Antonio, nominated for a second one-year term. A Life Member, he has been active in AFA since 1987 and has served as the Alamo Chapter President, Texas State President, Texoma Region President, and National Director. He has served on the Constitution, Membership, and Development Committees and on the Field and Aerospace Education Councils. His awards include Member of the Year for the Alamo Chapter, both Civilian and Military Member of the Year for AFA Texas, the AFA Medal of Merit, Exceptional Service Award,

and the Presidential Citation. Garland's military career included nearly 30 years of active duty and Reserve assignments as a pilot, flight instructor, operational staff member, and commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing. In his civilian career, he worked as an Air Force civilian employee in numerous engineering and senior management positions. He is currently a Senior Development and Cockpit Integration Engineer for a small business supporting the Air Force on several aircraft projects. Garland has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Tulane University, a master's degree in systems management from St. Mary's University, and is a distinguished graduate from both ACSC and AWC.

National Treasurer

Leonard R. Vernamonti, Clinton, Miss., nominated for a third one-year term. An AFA member since 1964 and a Life Member since 1984, he has served as a Chapter, State, and Region President and was on the Board of Directors. He has been active at the national level since 1989, having served on the afa21 Field Structure Team, Field Council, and Constitution and Nominating Committees. He was Chairman of the Audit Committee and is currently Chairman of the Finance Committee. He has received the Exceptional Service Award and two Medals of Merit. Vernamonti's more than 40-year military and civilian professional careers have focused on management and finance. He was the Comptroller for all USAF ballistic

2012-13 AFA Nominees



Grider



Petrina



Vogel



Ruebrook

missile programs and President, CEO, and CFO of a nonprofit with an operating budget twice that of AFA. He currently serves as a Senior Consultant to the aerospace industry, specializing in strategic planning, acquisition, and budget and cost analysis. Vernamonti has a bachelor's degree in economics from the Air Force Academy and a master's degree in systems engineering from the University of Florida. He is a graduate of the National War College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

The Nominating Committee submits three names—William R. Grider, Gilbert E. Petrina Jr., and James Kurt Vogel—for National Director at Large. Two will be elected.

National Director at Large

William R. Grider, Indianapolis, nominated for a three-year term. Grider has been an AFA member since 1994 and Community Partner for the past 15 years. He has served AFA and Grissom Air Reserve Base with passion and dedication. He served as Grissom Memorial Chapter President from 2000 to 2002 and has again held that position for the past two years. He has served two terms as Indiana State President, from 2002 to 2004 and again from 2009 to 2010. Currently, Grider serves as Great Lakes Region President. He actively participates as an airpower advocate and has given several presentations throughout the Midwest for several years. Grider has practiced general dentistry for 30 years and is Owner and President of two dental centers. He received a bachelor's degree and D.D.S. from Indiana University and has taken M.B.A. courses at Butler University. Over the past 30 years, he has served on numerous civic and nonprofit boards as well as volunteering his time and talent for worthy causes.

Gilbert E. Petrina Jr., Williamsburg, Va., nominated for a three-year term. He is a Life Member and has served as an Under-40 National Director, National Director, and member of the Membership Committee, Long-Range Planning Committee, and Junior Officer Advisory Council. He has been Chapter President for both the Ark-La-Tex Chapter and the Earl D. Clark Jr. Chapter. His national awards include the AFA Medal of Merit and AFA Exceptional Service Award. He served for 21 years in the Air Force, retiring from the Advanced Programs Division in the Air Combat Command Requirements Directorate. He flew in combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to Afghanistan, where he built the J-3 Air Operations Branch for Headquarters, US Forces-Afghanistan. He has more than 3,000 flying hours in the B-2, B-52, T-37, and T-38. He is currently the President of a consulting company he formed in 2010. Petrina holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Air Force Academy, a master's degree in industrial and organizational psychology from Louisiana Tech University, and a master of airpower art and science degree from the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

James Kurt Vogel, Alexandria, Va., nominated for a three-year term. He is the Special Advisor to the Director, Air National Guard. He was previously the Director, J-5 International Affairs, National Guard Bureau, in Arlington, Va., where he developed, managed, and provided oversight for international activities for the National Guard. Vogel was previously the Deputy Director of Air, Space, and Information Operations for the Air National Guard at the National Guard Bureau. Vogel entered the Air Force through ROTC from the University of Cincinnati, where he

earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1985. A veteran of Operations Just Cause, Desert Storm, and Deny Flight, Vogel logged 300 hours of combat and combat support time. He is a Command Pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in KC-135 and C-40 aircraft.

National Director West

Nora Ruebrook, Honolulu, is nominated for a three-year term. She is a Life Member and has served on AFA's National Finance Committee, National Strategic Planning Committee, and AdHoc Congressional Committee. She is currently Far West Region Vice President for Leadership Development. She is a Past President of AFA Hawaii, which includes Guam. Ruebrook is a member of the Thunderbird Society and Legacy Society. She has received the AFA Medal of Merit and the Exceptional Service Award. She serves on the National Board of Directors of the Navy League of the United States. She has been involved with the national governance of numerous organizations such as American Society of Military Comptrollers, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, Association of Old Crows-Electronic Warfare and Information Operations, Association of the United States Army, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, International Association for Counter-terrorism and Security Professionals, National Classification Management Society, National Contract Management Association, National Defense Industrial Association, National Defense University Foundation, National Military Intelligence Association, and the US Naval Institute. Ruebrook is the CEO of a company supporting the cyber, ISR, and R&D communities. ■