

Membership Committee Update – May 2015

It's all about the Network

By Gil Petrina

When you talk about the value of AFA, one of the biggest value AFA has is a network of airman across the globe.

I picked up my phone and had a voicemail from Jim Simons (AFA Member of the Year). He told me about his meeting with the chapter VP at the AFA Malmstrom Chapter. During a meeting he learned the VP was moving to Langley AFB and thought it would be good to connect the two of us.

I called Mario and introduced myself. We talked about his activity in AFA at Malmstrom, his moving plans to Langley, and a little bit about our chapter. I asked if he needed any help with his move or anything to make his move smoother. I gave him my email and told him to let me know if he needed anything.

I'm looking forward to meeting Mario when he gets to Langley—as an airman and an AFA member—and introducing him to our Langley Chapter and helping him to be a part of the Langley family.

I followed up with Jim to let him know I connected with Mario. Jim recognized the opportunity to help an AFA member and airman make a connection across the country. I have no doubt Mario will be an integral part of the Langley Chapter.

The network of AFA members is a powerful force and provides tremendous value to our organization. We provide value in helping airman as they travel through their career, AAS cadets and Silver Wings as they transition from school to careers, airman as they transition from the service. Starting the conversation with someone is the first step to learning how you might be able to connect them to someone you know to help them grow, help their move be smoother, or help them to meet someone they might need to know.

It all starts with asking and starting the conversation. Who do you know who might need to network with someone in AFA?

Thanks for all you do and keep growing.