



# AFSA International Family Matters Trustee

April 2018



Hope this finds you all doing well – and that you're succeeding in getting your Family Members involved in your Chapter meetings, events and fundraisers.

I've decided to go a different route with my monthly reports by providing categorized ideas, such as Recruiting, Fundraisers and Community Involvement. These categories may change down the line if I discover new topics. If there is an area you would like more focus on, please let me know.

## RECRUITING

- **Family Membership Pancake Drive:** This could be a great way to recruit your Family Members. For your FREE pancake breakfast, you'll need lots of pancake mix, eggs, milk, and enough plates, cups, cutlery and napkins for all of your attendees, not to mention a place to hold this event. For those Chapters with a Family Matters Trustee, have that person give a brief presentation on the importance of Family Members to AFSA and be sure to have a Fact Sheet outlining all activities and events in which your Chapter is involved.

Have a brainstorming session on what they would like to do in regards to fundraisers, community involvement, etc. One idea could spark many more!

## FUNDRAISERS

- **AFSA Yard Sale:** Have members donate clothing, books, toys, kitchen items, etc., and have an old-fashioned yard sale with proceeds going to your local VA Hospital or Homeless Vets Center. Display the WE ARE AFSA signs and be sure to have plenty of membership applications on hand – you might sign up a Family Member or two.
- **Cornhole Tournament:** First of all, cornhole is so popular that everyone will want to play. It should be easy to promote and attract fanatical cornhole players – and you will. Another great thing about cornhole is that anyone can play, including young whippersnappers and old timers alike. A cornhole tournament is not expensive to conduct because the equipment and venue can be easy to obtain providing you with a better return on the funds you raise. The tournament can also be played indoors or outdoors providing more venue options and making it more flexible to weather changes.

Providing food and drinks can make the tournament feel like more of an event and the food and drink sales can be another lucrative way of raising money for your Chapter. If you plan to cook and sell the food yourself, many businesses like Costco and Wal-Mart are very willing to donate food and drinks to worthy causes. If you are able to secure these donations, then most of all the food sales would be profit.

Players can bring their own equipment or you could find a place to rent them.

This can be played by Teams or Individuals. Each would pay an entry fee and prizes would be given out to the Top 3 Winners.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- **Work-a-Thon:** Have the young people from your Chapter offer to help finish odd jobs for those in the community. Volunteers can mow lawns, rake leaves, walk dogs, help cook meals, etc. You can host the event as a one-time only day where all the volunteers are available or make it a fundraising event series and offer up workers every Saturday for a month, for example. Have your volunteering workers not only collect donations on behalf of their services, but also seek out pledges for hours worked. You'll be creating a wonderful cycle of community service.
  
- **Help the Homeless:**
  - Volunteer at a soup kitchen
  - Throw a birthday party for children at the shelter
  - Gather combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, etc., to make "I Care" kits
  - Donate blankets and clothing
  - Donate art supplies to the children
  - Make first aid kits for the shelter

If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments, please let me know.

Until next month, thanks so much for all you do for our country and for AFSA!

Take care and God Bless!

*Patti Dalzell*

Family Matters Trustee

[pdalzell@hqafsa.org](mailto:pdalzell@hqafsa.org)

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