



AFSA International Family Matters Trustee

January 2018



Happy New Year to you all! As much as I love Christmas, I have to admit that I'm glad it's over and my life can resume back to normal (whatever that is).

This month's report will focus on Valentine's Day activities and fundraisers in which Chapter and **Family Members** can participate.

1. **Valentine Raffle** – Create gift baskets to include such items as wine, cheese, chocolates, coffee, candy, gourmet cookies, etc. The baskets can be purchased at your local Dollar Tree, Hobby Lobby or Michael's. For the contents, I suggest buying bulk items at Costco or Sam's Club. I know we have some crafty **Family Members** out there that could put these baskets together! The money can be used to support your local VA Hospital or any charity of your choice. Advertising this raffle via social media is a must to quickly get the word out. Each gift basket could also include an AFSA Membership application, along with a brief write-up of what AFSA stands for and how your Chapter supports the military and what it does for the community. Who knows, you might get a new member or two!
2. **Be Mine Lollipop Sale** – Try a bake sale with a twist! Make Valentine lollipops in a few simple steps with heart candy molds from your local craft store. If mixing hard candy is not your thing, then use chocolate. Try Food Network's easy to follow recipe -- <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/chocolate-lollipops-2103247>. Altogether, your cost will be less than \$1 a pop and customers will easily buy them for \$2 to \$3 each. This is a great way to involve your **Family Members**, children and adults.
3. **Couples Valentine Dinner** – Your Chapter can partner with a local caterer or a local famous chef to split the proceeds. This would be a great time to do the Valentine Raffle mentioned above.
4. **Singles Valentine Dinner** – How about a Valentine Dinner for singles where they can spend time with their friends? Your Chapter could host a Wine Tasting with cheese and appetizers or bring in local fast food businesses for a Junk Fest. You could even auction off dates with the help of a few hunky volunteers!

Now for a couple Valentine's Day activities –

1. **Valentines for Veterans** – Have your crafty **Family Members** design some Valentine's Day cards. Those members who own personal cutting machines such as the Cricut or Silhouette can easily bang these out in no time. Yes, I am speaking from experience! For those who aren't crafty, you can purchase cards from the Dollar Tree. Deliver your Valentines to the veterans at your local VA Hospital. You could even purchase little boxes of candy to include with the cards. It lets the veterans know that they are not forgotten and how much we appreciate them and the sacrifices they made for our country.
2. **Valentine Dinner for Spouses of Deployed** – Have your Chapter host a Valentine's Dinner for those on your base whose spouses are deployed – FREE OF CHARGE! It doesn't have to be anything fancy – but this is a wonderful way to show them how much they are appreciated and you may even get them to sign up as a member. You could even present each attendee with a little token of appreciation such as a small heart box of candy, goodie bags filled with various items, etc.

Until next month, I thank you all for what you do!

Take care and God Bless!

Patti Dalzell
Family Matters Trustee
1/5/2018

