

Membership gathers in San Antonio for 9th annual meeting, fellowship

People still interested have time to register for the ninth annual Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association annual meeting, which will be held May 30 through June 1 at the Adams Mark Hotel in San Antonio.

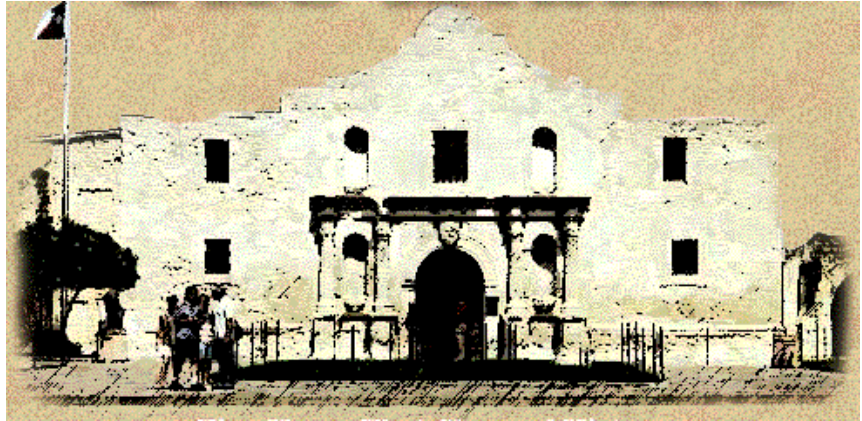
Event chairman Dave Smith and his committee of volunteers say it will be the biggest and best annual meeting held in the Association's nine-year history.

Advance registration ends May 10th, however, people can sign up through Saturday, June 1. **A registration form is available on Page 4.**

SATRANS Airport Shuttle offers transportation to the hotel from 7am-1am for \$9 one way or \$16 roundtrip for people flying into San Antonio.

They have a 24-hour reservation line at (210) 281-9900 or they can be contacted at www.saaairportshuttle.com.

The annual meeting registration desk will be located in the Adams Mark Hotel lobby and will be open from noon-6pm on Thursday, May 30th, and again on Saturday, June 1st, from 7:30am-noon.



Attendees are asked to register as soon as possible so they can be given their name tags, dinner tickets, and meeting information.

Events start bright and early Friday morning, May 31 when attendees depart the hotel lobby via bus for Lackland AFB at 8 a.m.

The group will first go to the parade grounds for a Basic Military Training Graduation.

After the ceremony, they will tour some of the Lackland Basic Training facilities, followed by lunch at the Club.

After lunch, attendees will go to

the Air Intelligence Agency for a tour and briefing, followed by a visit to AFNEWS.

Buses will depart AFNEWS at 4:30pm for the return trip to the hotel.

Several optional activities are planned for Friday evening.

Barn Door/Hangin'Tree (Optional Tour, \$30 per person):

Busses will depart the hotel at 6 p.m. The first stop is the Barn Door Restaurant, well known in San Antonio since 1953 for its steaks, ribs and barbecue.

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Six vie for seats on board of directors

Full members will get the opportunity to vote on six candidates seeking a seat on the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association Board of Directors.

John Gura, Joe Wojtecki and Dave Shea are not seeking reelection.

Larry Greer, Jim McGuire and Joe Purka are seeking reelection.

John Gulick, Jim Hart and Charley Powers are seeking election.

Dave Smith, Rick Fuller, Linda Arnold, Al Eakle and Mike Gannon are not up for reelection this year.

Under the succession plan in the bylaws, **Purka** will move up as board chairman, if reelected.

Smith will become President and **Fuller** will become Vice President.

The new board will vote on a new secretary following the elections.

Terms for the new board will run

from July 1 through June 30, 2003.

Voting will be by mail.

Full members will see a ballot and envelope enclosed with this issue of the AFPAAA Newsletter. The ballots should be completed and must be received by the Association before May 17.

Results of the election will be

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The Link

Rose goes from PRO to PIO to ISO to IO to PA

by Chuck Lucas

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is a feature on stories from the Association's Oral History program.

A ubiquitous pipe and a candid assessment of policy, programs and people come to mind most often to those who crossed paths with Jack Rose during more than a quarter century of Air Force public affairs assignments.

"Now it's PA," he said. "PRO to PIO to ISO to IO to PA. I was all five of them."

Add to that, bombardier and command pilot with 3,600 flying hours. A Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross and five Air Medals are only an external view of 30 years' dedicated service to this nation.

Rose pioneered many unique assignments. If the job wasn't unique when he got there, his achievements made it so before he moved on to plow new ground elsewhere.

After 54 combat missions as a bombardier in the Pacific during World War II, Rose found himself at Randolph Field, Tex., in 1945 helping to process the mass exodus from the military.

When the commander said he needed a public relations officer, Rose said, "I'm your man. I lied like hell, when he asked me what background I had."

He went to work for the base PIO.

"Doc Royal was the photo officer. He's the guy who made Randolph the 'West Point of the Air.'"

Rose moved on to Wright-Patterson AFB where he became the first PRO for the Air Materiel Command Exhibit Unit.

"I was the first PIO of the Orientation Group, only it wasn't called that then," he said. "We had 54 trailer trucks full of junk and we went to state fairs all over the Midwest."

He completed flight training in 1949 and remained at Mather AFB, Calif., as base IO.

The 1950s found him at St. John's, Newfoundland, setting up Armed Forces TV stations for North East Air Command bases.

"I started the first base newspapers there," said Rose.

"We sent the dummies down on one plane and the newspapers came back on the next one," he added.

His first Pentagon assignment followed in 1961.

"Some of the civilians that worked there were great, like Gladys Wise," Rose commented. "I'm the one that made her an Information specialist. She was a secretary and smart lady.

"Max Boyd sat outside of General (Arno) Luehman's office. He was one smart son of a bitch."

Rose was the first Air Force IO assigned to the newly formed U.S. Strike Command at MacDill AFB, Fla.

"(Gen. Curtis) LeMay called all of the officers wearing blue suits who were going to this command into his office," said Rose. "I was the most junior in the group

Lemay said, "You have all been personally selected by me to go to this command. I've got one mission statement (and that is) make it work"

Rose described his first year in the unified assignment "as the hardest in my entire life (as) I never got home."

He added, "I threw my golf clubs in the attic and didn't seem them for a year."

A change in public affairs hierarchy brought improvement. His new boss was Army Col. Rodger Bankson.

"I met him in the hallway, he had just come out of (Army) General (Paul D.) Adams' office. I asked him what will be our roles?"

He said, "I will be the kindly old gentleman and you will be the resident son-of-a-bitch."

"That suits me to a T," said Rose, "and we got along like brothers for a long time."

Rose went to Vietnam as a reconnaissance pilot in 1966.

"I had orders to go to USAFE," he said. "It turned out there was a project called 'Phyllis Ann,' a very hush, hush tactical reconnaissance mission that the Air Force had taken over." The project logo was a pair of panties hanging on a line.

It was a C-47 operation and, according to Rose, the only people around the Air Force who could fly gooney birds were lieutenant colonels so "my orders to USAFE were gone."

Rose found many old friends in Vietnam, including Bankson, MACV's public affairs chief. He wanted Rose to be his air briefer.

"I told him I've got to fly my missions," Rose said. "I didn't go through all this crap (survival school and jungle survival school) just to sit at a desk."

Bankson suggested Col. Bob Eby, 7th Air Force PA chief, could work out something.

"I got the damndest set of orders you've ever seen," said Rose. "I was in a tac recon squadron at Tan Son Nhut."

The message that (Gen. William M.) Momyer sent to the wing commander was, "Colonel Rose is on detached service to this headquarters — 7th Air Force — and on loan to MACV headquarters. He will remain assigned to his squadron and he will provide you with his flying schedule."

"Now, how do you like that, Rose asked"

He succeeded Lt. Col. Vince Tocci in providing daily briefings at the Five O'clock Follies and flew 50 combat recon missions.

He returned to the Pentagon and served as chief of the Press Division in OSD/PA before being named director of Defense Information in 1970. He was the first Air Force officer to fill that position.

Colonel Rose retired to Tampa in 1971. He died in June 2000.

The President's Pen

What value does AFPAAA have for you?

For all of our members, we provide a variety of services including the annual directory, this quarterly newsletter, lessons learned from the Oral History program, "Tips for Transition" for those planning to hang up the blue suit, the Alumni Forum and a host of others.

One component of our mission is support of SAF/PA and we provide a series of benefits for those still on active duty, such as the initial award of the Public Affairs badge to new DINFOS graduates, the Association's sponsorship of the annual "Best of the Best" award, support for the SAF/PA golf tournament, scholarships, PRSA or IABC accreditation support and more.

For many, the most valuable membership function of the Association is fraternal, keeping in touch with old friends and associating with professionals who have shared similar Air Force public affairs experiences.

The annual meeting rates high for many members as the highlight of their AFPAAA membership.

This year, we will meet in San Antonio, site of our very first annual meeting, from May 30th through June 2nd. **Dave Smith** and his enthusiastic corps of volunteers have put together an interesting and exciting program that will leave us re-blued and more informed on Air Force issues.

Most importantly, however, they have allowed plenty of opportunity for old friends to get together, reminisce, and swap stories, some taller than others.

In addition, Brig. Gen. **Ron Rand** will give us his assessment of state of Air Force public affairs. Because of the recent reorganization within the Office of the Secretary, Ron's presentation takes on added importance.

A few weeks ago, I sent out an e-mail reminder of the annual meeting to as many members as we had e-mail addresses. I was pleased to get a number of responses from several people I hadn't heard from in some time. Some thanked me for the reminder; others indicated that they might not be able to attend; and still others indicated that they were on the fence.

Just recently, I received a card from **Betty Rapp**, asking if we were continuing to hold these annual meetings.

My first job in public affairs was at Eglin AFB in 1971, working for Maj. **Dick Rapp**. Dick was a tough taskmaster, but had a lot of tolerance for the two young, inexperienced cross-trainees into the Information Career Field he was given to work with.

I've lost count of the number of times that Dick "fired" either **Walt Werner** or me, and at least on one occasion, fired us both. Fortunately for us, he was always willing to forgive.

Betty wrote how much Dick thoroughly enjoyed the yearly PAO reunions, and anxiously looked forward to each one.

Dick passed away a few years ago, but he always tried to make the annual meeting if distance and his health would permit. Today, Dick and a number of others can only attend in spirit.

I know from the e-mails and from talking with many of you, that the annual meetings are a highly valued part of AFPAAA membership. It's an



opportunity to meet old friends and new ones, enjoy good food and drink and remember some great times in the Information, Broadcast, Band and Public Affairs business.

If you haven't already registered, or weren't planning

to attend, why not reconsider?

All the information you need is on-line at www.afpaaa.org. I can assure you, if you attend, you won't go home disappointed.

One of the other surprises I received in response to my e-mails was that 25-35 percent of the e-mail addresses in our directory are wrong.

Keeping our directory up to date is close to a full time job as **Neil Buttimer** can attest, but I was not expecting such a high error rate.

Not only do people move, but also many change their Internet Service Providers to take advantage of better prices or better service.

Since e-mail provides a quick, efficient and inexpensive means of communication, having an accurate and up-to-date list of addresses could help reduce the Association's operating cost.

We have already seen significant savings as a number of members are subscribing to our quarterly newsletter on-line, rather than waiting for the printed quarterly newsletter by mail.

To subscribe to the on-line newsletter, or to update your e-mail address, just go to www.afpaaa.org.

Or pass along the changes to nbuttimer@afpaaa.org or jpurka@afpaaa.org.

Hope to see you all in San Antonio!

Joe Purka

The Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Association. Online subscriptions are available at www.afpaaa.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Individuals who have ever served, or are currently serving, in Air Force Public Affairs, an Air Force Band, or as an Air Force Broadcaster, military or civilian, on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: Full members- former Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasters, or Bandsmen, military or civilian, retired or separated. Associate members- current or former Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasters, or Bandsmen, military or civilian, still in service. Adjunct members- spouses, widows or widowers of those eligible to be Full or Associate members. Affiliate members- a limited number of persons not eligible for membership under any of the above categories may become a member upon favorable recommendation by the Membership Committee and approval by the Board of Directors (U.S. Citizens only).

CHANGING CATEGORIES: Members may change categories at any time as circumstances permit. They must notify the Membership Committee of their new status.

MEMBERSHIP RATES:

\$300 for life membership (payable in four monthly \$75 installments). \$25 for one-year membership (full, adjunct and affiliate). \$50 for three-year membership (full, adjunct and affiliate). \$10 for one-year membership (associate). \$20 for three-year membership (associate).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

Available at www.afpaaa.org

Completed forms and check or money order should be sent to: **Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P.O. Box 540, Fairfax, VA 22030-0540.**

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(* denotes Board Members)

Chairman of the Board: John Gura*

President: Joe Purka*

Vice President: Dave Smith*

Secretary: Rick Fuller*

Treasurer: Jim Hart

Members: Linda Arnold*

Al Eakle*

Mike Gannon*

Larry Greer*

Jim McGuire*

Dave Shea*

Joe Wojtecki*

Ex Officio Board Members: Mike McRaney and Jim Hart

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annual Meeting - Dave Smith

Communications - Al Eakle

Newsletter Editor - Al Eakle

Development - Joe Wojtecki

Finance - Jim Hart

Membership - Mike Gannon

Nominating - Kathy McCollom

Oral History - John Gura

Special Events - Jim McGuire

Web Site - John Gura



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After dinner, the busses will take everyone to The Hangin' Tree Saloon, a true Texas honky-tonk. Partygoers will be able to listen and dance to the widely popular music of "Geronimo," a traditional honky-tonk band.

For more info on this band, visit their web site at www.geronimotrevino.com.

Buses will depart the Hangin' Tree for the hotel around 11pm. The cost includes all bus transportation, dinner at the Barn Door and return to the hotel.

Riverboat Dinner Cruise (Optional Tour, \$50 per person): The group will meet in the lobby of the hotel at 7 p.m. and walk to the Casa Rio Restaurant for the deluxe Mexican dinner and open bar.

After dinner they will board barges for a guided cruise of the famous San Antonio River, dessert and enjoy the sites of the Riverwalk

After the cruise attendees are free to make the rounds on the Riverwalk or head back to the hotel. The price includes open bar and dinner at the Casa Rio Restaurant, the river barge tour and dessert.

The membership meeting kicks off at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman of the Board John Gura will begin the meeting with welcoming remarks.

Attendees will then hear from AETC and 37 TRW/CC and PA to discuss recent media challenges.

Maj. Bruce Sprecher and CMSgt. Mike Devine will discuss staffing, training and Aerospace Expeditionary Force implementation issues.

The group will break for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and go to the Texas Ballroom for a buffet-style lunch, courtesy of the Boeing Company.

Brig. Gen. Ron Rand, SAF/PA,

will discuss the state of Air Force Public Affairs at this luncheon.

The general membership meeting will begin at 1 p.m. to discuss the business of the Association and draw for the door prizes.

Event organizers said they need everyone's support and participation for this event.

Jim McGuire reported the group was so rowdy last year they didn't get all the door prizes given away, so this year's organizers have to make up for it this year.

The Association's annual banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. at the hotel with a no-host cocktail reception in the Rose Garden Foyer. It will be followed by dinner in the Rose Garden.

A ceremonial unit from the Air Force Band of the West will open the evening's festivities with the National Anthem.

Following this the Association will take this opportunity to officially recognize some of its members.

Organizers said door prizes not given away during the general membership meeting will be drawn at dinner breaks.

For dinner attendees have a choice of entrees:

**Grilled Herb and Citrus Marinated Breast of Chicken with a Wild Mushroom, Rosemary and Artichoke Sauce and Harvest Grain Pilaf.*

**Teriyaki Glazed London Broil of Beef, with Coconut-Lime Rice.*

Salad will be *Seasonal Greens tossed with Toasted Croutons, Cherry Tomatoes, Julienne of Smoked Gouda and the Adam's Mark's own Dijon Vinaigrette.* Dessert will be *Classic Vanilla Bean Crème Brûlée.*

People who have not yet registered are reminded to do so soon and indicate their choice of entrée on the registration form.

2002 AFPAAA Annual Meeting

May 30 - June 1, 2002

San Antonio, Texas

Advance registration fee for members is \$100 (includes one lunch, reception and dinner, memento, transportation, and registration package). Advance registration fee for non-members is \$125 (includes one-year full membership or three-year associate membership, as appropriate). On-site registration is \$140 for members and \$165 for non-members. Spouse/guest registration in advance or on-site is \$90. Advanced registration for the meeting must be received not later than Friday, May 10, 2002

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Name(s) of guest(s) accompanying you: _____

Do you or your guest(s) have any special needs or handicaps we need to plan for? If yes, please specify: _____

In order for us to plan transportation and facilities, please provide us with the following information. (Space is limited for the Barn Door and River Cruise—first come basis).

Event	Cost Per Person	Number Total Attending	
Cost			
Annual Meeting Registration (includes all activities)	\$100.00	_____	_____
Guest Registration (includes all activities)	\$90.00	_____	_____
Partial Registration (includes Banquet and membership meeting only)	\$50.00	_____	_____
No Host Ice-breaker at Hotel (Thurs, May 30)	Included	_____	Included
•Visit to Lackland/AIA/AFNEWS (Fri, May 31)	Included	_____	Included
••Dinner at Barn Door Steak House/Hangin' Tree (Fri, May 31)	\$30.00	_____	_____
•••San Antonio River Cruise (Fri, May 31)	\$50.00	_____	_____
Membership Meeting (Sat, Jun 1)	Included	_____	Included
•			
•••Banquet at Adam's Mark Hotel (Sat, Jun 1)	Included	_____	Included
Number attending desiring chicken	Included	_____	Included
Number attending desiring beef	Included	_____	Included
Total Cost (Enclosed)		_____	_____

Please mail completed registration form and payment (make checks or money orders payable to: AFPAAA) no later than May 10, 2002, to:

Linda Arnold, Attn: AFPAAA
1831 Parhaven Dr, San Antonio, TX 78232.

•(8:00am) Bus transportation provided to Lackland AFB for days events. Events include: Basic Training Graduation Parade and Swearing-In Ceremony; Viewing of Air Park; Windshield Tour; AIA briefing and tour; AFNEWS briefing and tour; Lunch will be provided

••(7:00pm) **Optional Activity:** Bus transportation provided to Barn Door Steak House, Hangin' Tree and return to hotel; Price includes dinner and beverage at Barn Door.

•••(7:00pm) **Optional Activity:** San Antonio River Cruise departs from hotel and includes: includes dinner at local Riverwalk restaurant and a guided river barge tour with dessert

••••(6:30pm) Reception and (7:00pm) dinner at the Adam's Mark Hotel; Guest Speaker: TBD; AF Band of the West Ceremonial Opening

Candidates seek leadership positions

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posted on the Association's website, announced at the annual meeting in San Antonio and published in the summer issue of the newsletter.

The following are biographies of all candidates seeking a seat on the Association board of directors:

Larry Greer

Larry Greer served more than 27 years in the Air Force in public affairs assignments at all levels, from squadron to SAF/PA.

Among his assignments, he served as the Chief of Media Relations at SAF/PA, Director of Public Affairs for SAC, and Deputy Director of Public Affairs, SAF/PA.

He retired from the Air Force in 1994 and assumed his present duties in 1995 as Director of Public Affairs for the DoD POW/MIA Office.

He is responsible for worldwide outreach to national and international media; veterans and veterans service organizations; families of those who are missing in action; and other constituencies. He provides advice and counsel regarding the policy oversight and management of the U.S. government's efforts to account for the more than 88,000 servicemen and women who did not return from foreign battlefields.

He is a founding lifetime member of AFPAAA, and has served on the board for two

years.

John Gulick

John F. Gulick is currently a media and public relations consultant in the greater Washington, D.C. area after retiring from Computer Sciences Corporation at the end of March 2002.

During his 10-year CSC career, he held numerous senior PR and communications positions in support of the company's federal and commercial global Information Technology business.

Following a 20-year Air Force career, Gulick joined CSC after serving as a director for COMSAT Corporation, Grumman Corporation and Fairchild Republic Co.

He also founded and operated Gulick Public Relations, Inc., an advertising and public relations agency in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

He is a past chair of the Electronic Industries Alliance Public Relations Committee and the Washington Communicators Workshop, a Washington D.C. based organization of senior industry PR executives.

Together with Dave Shea, he is co-author of *Media Isn't A Four Letter Word*, a publication of the Aerospace Industries Association, and of the U.S. Air Force section of *The Shield & The Storm*, an authoritative account of the Gulf War published by the Commemorative Group, Pt. Pleasant, NJ.

Gulick and his wife Lynn, a banking executive, live in Fairfax,

Va. They are the parents of Ron, 26, San Diego, and Michele, 23, Fairfax, and recent proud grandparents of two infant grandsons, Ashton and Blake.

Gulick holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Temple University and a master's degree in public relations from The American University and is accredited in public relations by the Public Relations Society of America.

Jim Hart

Jim Hart is a 1958 graduate of Chipola College. He retired last year as vice president of public affairs for Duke Energy Corporation, and returned to his old family home in the Paramore community near Sneads.

He started his career in communications, working part-time as a radio announcer at WTYS in Marianna while attending Chipola.

Following graduation he went into the US Air Force and came back to Marianna for pilot training at Graham Air Base, which was located at what, is now the city airport.

After leaving active duty, Jim became news director and nightly anchor at WTVY, channel four in Dothan. From there he went to WSFA TV in Montgomery and from television he became public relations director for Gulf Oil Corporation in Atlanta.

After Chevron bought Gulf in 1985 he became vice president of public affairs for a natural gas

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Candidates seek leadership positions

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company in Houston. That company merged with Duke Power of Charlotte, North Carolina in 1997 to form the world's 10th largest energy company.

During his career, Jim helped manage three major corporate mergers, completed 37 years of active and reserve duty with the Air Force, retiring as a brigadier general and received his LLB and JD degrees from the University of Alabama Jones Law School.

He has received national and international awards and recognition for his corporate work and is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

He has served as president of the Public Affairs Council, Texas Public Relations Association, International Association of Business Communicators and the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association.

He has received numerous professional awards including three PRSA Silver Anvils, Outstanding Public Relations Practitioner of the Year and two Gold Quills as well as the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, The Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

He is a certified flight instructor with over 5,000 flying hours in more than twenty different types of Air Force and civilian aircraft.

Jim and his wife Patty also of Jackson County, have two children and five grandchildren.

Jim McGuire

Jim McGuire retired from the Air Force in 1997. His last active duty position was director of public affairs for U.S. Air Force Europe at Ramstein AB, Germany.

He is now a stockbroker and financial planner.

Currently serving as an AFPAAA board member, Jim was the on-site project officer for the 2001 Annual Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia.

While he calls Alexandria home, he recently moved to San Antonio, Texas with another PAO: his wife, Lt. Colonel Carla Sylvester, who is the deputy director of public affairs for Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB.

Charley Powers

Charley Powers is a Senior Vice President at Porter Novelli Washington. In this capacity, he offers strategic communications counsel to the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Banco de la Republica (Colombia), Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan, International Trust Fund for Demining, Ad Council/NHTSA, Northern Trust Company and The Reuters Foundation.

Other clients have included Elizabeth Dole when she was President of the American Red Cross, Host Marriott Services Corporation, British Aerospace (BAE), ImageSat, Aerospatiale,

Chesapeake Corporation and Metal Storm.

Charley joined Porter Novelli in 1994 from the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, where he served as press secretary assisting Republican Senator Bob Packwood.

His 30 years of media, communication and issues management experience include service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs under Secretary James A. Baker, III, during the Reagan Administration, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Public Affairs for Secretary Andrew Card, Jr., during the George Bush Administration.

Other notable positions include Director of Public Affairs for the Federal Housing Finance Board and *pro bono* service as press counsel to President George Bush's Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism (PAN AM 103).

His other government stints were as press secretary to U.S. Senator Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) and as a public affairs manager with the Internal Revenue Service.

During the 1996 Republican Convention and presidential campaign, he provided media support and press advance for Elizabeth Dole.

Charley began his public affairs career in television news in Miami and Washington, DC.

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Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association
 P.O. Box 540
 Fairfax, VA 22030-0540.

Candidates seek leadership positions

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His U.S. Air Force service as a public affairs officer included active duty in Southeast Asia and both active and reserve duty with the Secretary of the Air Force, when he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Charley received a AB in communications from the University of Miami and an MA in film from New York University.

He is a member of the Radio-TV News Directors Association, Society of Professional Journalists, National Press Club, Washington Automotive Press Association, International Aviation Club, Aero Club of Washington, Transportation Table, Army and Navy Club, and the Air Force Association.

He serves on the Board of Directors, U.S. Treasury Historical Association, and is Vice Chairman of the National Press Club's Public Relations Committee.

Joe Purka

Joe, currently the Association's president, is a Lifetime Founder Member of AFPAAA and is employed as the Director of Campaign Communications for the Rutgers University Foundation in New Brunswick, NJ.

His Air Force public affairs assignments included the Armament Systems Center, Eglin AFB; Misawa AB, Japan; Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, the Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center; Chief,

Media Relations at SHAPE, Belgium; and Deputy Director, Media Relations and Director, National Affairs in SAF/PA.

Joe was with Hill and Knowlton under the Education with Industry program and was a research fellow at the Airpower Research Institute at Maxwell AFB.

He concluded his Air Force career as Director of Public Affairs at the Air Force Academy, retiring in 1996 after 28 ½ years.

Joe was Public Affairs Director for the World War II Memorial in Washington, and a public relations and marketing consultant before accepting his current position.

Joe and his wife Dee currently reside in Monroe Township, New Jersey.