



THE TOM SMITH NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

Dick Callaghan
President

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2009

New Mexico Chapter
TEL 505-922-1338
FAX 505-992-2554

EDNA VALVERDE FOWLER

Since our last meeting, Edna has undergone emergency gall bladder surgery. At last report, she is doing fine and just has to rest up for a few weeks. We expect to see her soon at our monthly luncheons.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING: WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2009

We will meet at 1130 hours on Wednesday, 11 February, in the "back room" at the Calico Café / Vernon's Steak House, right next to the historic old El Camino Motel, about ½ mile north of Osuna on the west side of 4th Street.

Our February speaker is pending. Bob Clark will email the speaker's name and bio as soon as it is available.

REPORT OF CHAPTER MEETING, 14 JANUARY 2008:

Substituting for Chapter President, Dick Callaghan, Bob Clark began our luncheon by calling on Pete Bostwick to lead the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dolph Saenz, our acting Chaplain, then took the floor with a prayer for our political leaders that they might have the wisdom and courage to make the right decisions at this difficult and challenging time for our country. Dolph also asked the membership to keep Dick Callaghan and Ron Cuellar in their thoughts and prayers for a return to good health. Pete Bostwick reported how he had recently contacted Ron Cuellar, who is receiving medical treatment in Texas. Ron told him that his last two medical reports showed marked improvement. Bostwick added that Ron very much appreciates the concern expressed by our Chapter.

We were pleased to welcome two guests to our luncheon. They were: Carolyn Campbell, wife of new Chapter member Norman Campbell and James Brockway, a member of the Shriner's Center here in Albuquerque.

With no luncheon speaker scheduled, Vice President Bob Clark took this opportunity to address a wide range of Chapter business.

Night Time Chapter Meeting:

He began by calling on Dolph Saenz who, with Ron Page, had been doing some spade work to arrange a night time Chapter meeting for members and their spouses. The idea is to gain more local publicity for our Chapter by hosting a

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US MARSHALS SERVICE
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US COAST GUARD
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE
OFFICE
NATIONAL IMAGERY
AND MAPPING AGENCY
MARINE CORPS INTELLIGENCE
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NAVY INTELLIGENCE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
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special banquet in honor of the very popular and recently retired New Mexico Senator, Pete Dominici.

The Senator is admired and respected for his strong stand on defense issues and his long-time support for Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories. Local media representatives would be invited to the banquet.

Dolph Saenz and Ron Page are both members of the local Albuquerque Shriner's Center. This facility has its own in-house food service, convenient parking and long experience in hosting medium to large events. With those advantages, Dolph believes the Shriner's complex would be an ideal venue for our Chapter's first-ever evening out.

Dolph and Bob Clark discussed the detailed planning required to successfully sponsor the affair, and saw how the original proposal to host the event in the month of February was just not practical. They agreed that we should give ourselves more preparation time to iron out glitches by postponing the event until June – just before our Summer Break.

Chapter Nominating Committee and Election of Officers:

Continuing, Bob reminded everyone of our upcoming election of officers for the fiscal year beginning 1 August 2009.

As stated in the By Laws, a nominating committee will be formed prior to the February meeting. A slate of nominees for Chapter officer positions will be presented to members at our March meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be taken at that time. A formal election takes place at our April meeting, and paper ballots will be used if more than one member is vying for a particular position. Members have been asked to please submit their names at any time if they are interested in filling any of the positions. **NOTE:** The By Laws state that Full Members are eligible to hold any Chapter office; Associate Members are eligible to hold the positions of Secretary and Treasurer only.

Bob asked members **to plan to vote on the following issues at our February meeting:**

1. **Should the term of office for Chapter officers be returned to a one-year term.** (Until recently, a one-year term had been the norm, so as to encourage more participation by the membership at large. Several years ago it was changed to two years.)
2. **Should voting ballots be sent out to all the membership, with the result tallied and announced at the April Chapter meeting.**

Please be ready to discuss and vote on these issues at next week's meeting.

WEB SITE

As most of you know, long-time Chapter member, Sam Shaw, has brought our AFIO NM Chapter into the 21st Century by designing and managing a web site for us: www.afionm.org.

The site has just passed the one-year mark and we want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Sam for his hard work and dedication in getting this project off the ground. As Sam has frequently reminded us, the web site should be kept fresh and dynamic, with new content provided by our members on a regular basis. Sam encourages members to do just that.

FBI OPEN HOUSE

As reported last month, an FBI-sponsored seminar for Chapter members is planned for the month of March.

As of press time, Bob Clark reports he has been coordinating details of this field trip to the Albuquerque FBI headquarters with Todd Hulsey. Bob advises members planning to attend this event to provide him with their name, DOB and the last four digits of their Social Security number by 1 March in order to receive a visitor's pass to the building. (Bob advises you to do this even if you are not entirely certain you will be attending. This will preclude unnecessary problems and delays if you decide to go.)

Details of the event will be provided to those participating as soon as it is confirmed. Members will be notified by email, and those without email will be called, should the information not be available by the time the March newsletter goes out.

The FBI Open House will NOT take the place of the March Chapter meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, March 11.

TO ALL:

VERY IMPORTANT CORRECTION ----

The AFIO event FBI Crest Academy is scheduled for our regular March Meeting date, Wednesday March 11th from 0830-1230. Todd will need a complete roster of attendees no later than COB 2/23. As I am out of town, please email me or call Jean or Brendan with the information requested no later than 2/20 so it can be compiled and forwarded to Todd.

Thanks,

Bob Clark

President – Dick Callaghan
1st Vice President – Ron Cuellar
2nd Vice President/Programs – Bob Clark
2nd Vice President/Public Relations – Jerry Monahan
Secretary – Brendan O'Donovan
Treasurer – Jean Yardumian