



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

# Buford A. Johnson Chapter Newsletter

January, 2018

## Chapter Meeting/Membership for 2018



It is time again to pay dues for the year 2018. Some did pay dues last month. Treasurer Alvin Ward kept a list of those who paid. Membership is very important because we will not be eligible to participate in the scholarship program if we do not have at least ten registered members. Dues for the year are \$60.00. (The chapter pays dues for youth and DOTAs.) This covers the months January through December. Though it was apparently inadvertently announced that we do not need to fill out a form each year, this is not true. EACH MEMBER MUST FILL OUT A FORM EACH YEAR. The form is submitted to national each year. This helps keep member information updated. Forms will be available at the meeting and there is also a form attached to this newsletter. If you have not already paid for 2018, please plan to turn in dues with the application. If you need to wait to turn in the dues, please hold the membership application until the dues are turned in. This helps the secretary and the treasurer to keep accurate records.

**OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 10:00 AM. We will also discuss the scholarship program and upcoming events. We are already receiving invitations for living history events later this year. Please join us.**

## Scholarships



Just a reminder for those who have distributed scholarship applications. They are now due. We must receive them no later than January 26, 2018. The sooner we receive them, the greater the chance that we can contact the applicant for any missing information. This also will give us time to thoroughly review each application in order to determine which five will be forwarded to the national Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation for consideration. We will discuss this further at the meeting.

**Buford A. Johnson Chapter, TAI Welcomes DOTA Lt. Col. Harlan Q. Leonard (USAF Ret.)**

Lt. Col. Leonard entered pilot training at Tuskegee Army Airfield in 1944. WWII ended and he returned to civilian life in 1945 and went back to UCLA.

In 1948, he rejoined the military and completed his training at Williams AFB. He was then transferred to the 60<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Otis AFB. Later he attended the USAF Institute of Technology where he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in electrical engineering. After 22 years in the military, Lt. Col. Leonard retired and worked as an engineer for private corporations. We are honored to have Lt. Col. Leonard as a member of our chapter.

## December Meeting



Vice-president Dessely Hodges

Vice-president Dessely Hodges provided a real treat for our December meeting by singing a selection of Christmas carols. Ms. Hodges has a beautiful voice and members enjoyed the holiday spirit she brought to the meeting. We wish to thank her and Mrs. Yolonda Williams who provides treats for our meetings. We welcome Ms. Williams back after her surgery. A special thanks to Phoenix Williams who led songs in French.

### Upcoming Events

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day  
Begin setup at 5:00 AM

### Thank You

Mr. Edison Marshall, Jr. wishes to thank everyone who is keeping him in prayer and who visited, called, or sent him cards. He has had a couple of scares since leaving the hospital, but is improving and is able to walk with a walker.

### Please Continue to Remember

Please continue to remember Mr. Ivan Berry who has been undergoing some health challenges.

## First Continental USAF Fighter Gunnery Competition

The first continental USAF Gunnery Competition began on May 2, 1949 at Las Vegas AFB (now known as Nellis AFB). The 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group participated in the competition. Our own Buford Johnson was the crew chief for the winning team.

After the competition, the trophy was lost until Harry T. Stewart, Jr., who was one of the pilots, began to research why the Air Force Almanac listed the winner of the 1949 competition as unknown. The record was corrected in 1995, but the trophy remained missing until it was discovered by Zellie Orr at the Air Force Museum. It is now on display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Ms. Orr has written a book called First Top Guns which details documents and correspondence between Orr and officials that led to the discovery of the trophy in and exhibit called "1949 integration of the USAF." For those who would like to purchase a copy of this book, the ISBN is 978-1-60643-474-1.

*"I can't express in words how much it means as part of the ground support personnel to finally receive a pat on the back for the efforts expended by so many for so few...Take care of yourself, we need and appreciate you." M/Sgt. USAF Ret. Buford A. Johnson, 1949 "Top Gun" Maintenance Crew Chief to Ms. Zellie Orr (From Hometown Hero: Historian keeps Tuskegee Airmen legacy alive by Bill Hendrick)*

