

2009 Winter Board at a Glance

Members of Civil Air Patrol's National Board gathered at the Crystal City Marriott in Alexandria, Va., near the nation's capital for the 2009 Winter Board meeting. The National Board is Civil Air Patrol's policymaking arm, which — in conjunction with the CAP Board of Governors — proposes amendments to the organization's governing constitution and bylaws. National Board members from all eight regions and 52 wings attended the two-day business session, which followed CAP's annual Legislative Day on Capitol Hill. Members approved a number of amendments, including one calling for online cadet achievement tests. The board also officially changed the name of CAP Chaplain Services to the CAP Chaplain Corps.

In addition, five new CAP commanders received their National Board badges during the meeting — Rocky Mountain Region Commander Col. Greg Cortum, Montana Wing Commander Col. Herbert Cahalen, North Carolina Wing Commander Col. Roy Douglass, Puerto Rico Wing Commander Col. Rafael Roman and Oregon Wing Commander Col. Brian Bishop.

Photos by Susan Robertson, CAP National Headquarters



North Central Region Commander Col. Steve Kuddes, left, Southwest Region Vice Commander Col. Andre Davis, Southwest Liaison Region Commander Air Force Lt. Col. Don Hensley, Arizona Wing Commander Col. John Eggen, Arkansas Wing Commander Col. Robert Britton and Louisiana Wing Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Amos Plante line one of the tables near the front of the 2009 Winter Board meeting room. Davis represented Southwest Region Commander Col. Joseph Jensen at the business session, while Plante was sitting in for Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Michael DuBois.

Tom Jones, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, holds up a Civil Air Patrol coin presented to him by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, left, in appreciation for his remarks during the board meeting. At the time, Jones reported to Craig Duehring, a former CAP cadet who served as assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs. Duehring has since retired. Jones told National Board members he is “a believer” in Civil Air Patrol and he committed his support to keeping ties strong between the Air Force and its auxiliary.



Civil Air Patrol National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, left, and Cadet Col. Beth Dumont share a laugh during a meeting of the National Cadet Advisory Council. The council was in session for two days during the week of the 2009 Winter National Board meeting. As chairwoman of the 16-member council, Dumont serves as the general’s No. 1 source for cadet perspectives on challenges facing CAP. Collectively, the council represents more than 22,000 youth in CAP’s Cadet Program.



U.S. Air Force Col. Russell D. Hodgkins Jr. is applauded after being named a CAP Life Member.

Hodgkins received the honor at the 2009 Winter Board meeting, his last as CAP-U.S. Air Force commander. Hodgkins, who praised CAP members for their volunteerism, professionalism and love of country, received three standing ovations. He retired from the Air Force in April, and CAP-U.S. Air Force Vice Commander Col. William R. (Bill) Ward was appointed his successor.



CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter presents an Exceptional Service Award to California Wing 1st Lt. Tolga Tarhan. Tarhan received the award for his development of a software program that automates much of the work involved in labeling CAP photos according to 1st Air Force standards. It is now being used by many CAP wings and squadrons nationwide.

CAP goes to the Hill for

During Civil Air Patrol's Annual Legislative Day, wing commanders accompanied by cadets met with their congressional leaders to present an overview of achievements, plans for the future and CAP's 2008 Annual Report to Congress. Legislators were asked for their support to restore expected budget losses and for the Homeland Security Support Act, H.R. 1178, a new proposal to review CAP's functions and support in homeland security missions.

Photo by Ryan Easterling, CAP National Headquarters



Florida Wing Cadet Capt. Timothy Lhota is promoted by U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., as Lt. Col. Bill Brockman of CAP's Florida Wing looks on. Stearns presented Lhota with the Amelia Earhart Achievement Award, which carries with it the rank of cadet captain.

Photo by Ryan Easterling, CAP National Headquarters



Chaplain (Col.) Whit Woodard, left, shares information about CAP with U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif. Royce represents California's 40th District, while Woodard is Civil Air Patrol's chief of chaplain corps.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa., left, greets former Pennsylvania Wing Commander Col. Mark Lee, right, and Lt. Col. Ron Sharer during their Legislative Day visit on Capitol Hill. Sharer, Pennsylvania Wing's homeland security director, joined Lee in thanking Pennsylvania's 15th District congressman for his legislation, H.R. 1178, which calls for a Government Accountability Office study of the functions of Civil Air Patrol and ways in which the organization can support America's homeland security missions. The bill recently passed the House.

Photo by Ryan Easterling, CAP National Headquarters



Photo by Susan Robertson, CAP National Headquarters



Ten Michigan Wing cadets joined CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Amy S. Courter, third from right; Michigan Wing Commander Col. Michael Saile, fourth from right; and CAP Executive Director Don Rowland, third from left, for the meeting with U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., center.

2009 Legislative Day

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., listens as Col. Edward Phelka, Colorado Wing commander, presents an overview of the wing's accomplishments, including 16 saves in 2008. On hand for the meeting were Col. Gary Tobey, wing government relations officer, and Cadet Maj. Clay Amann, Washington Wing.

Photo by Susan Robertson, CAP National Headquarters



Photo by Ryan Easterling, CAP National Headquarters



Civil Air Patrol cadets, from left, Capt. Laura Beck, Lt. Col. Holly Bevagna and 1st Lt. Christopher Pannier wait to see U.S. Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., one of several lawmakers they visited on Capitol Hill. This meeting was especially exciting for Pannier, who lives in Pembroke Pines, Fla., part of the congressman's district.

Photo by Susan Robertson, CAP National Headquarters



Attending a reception hosted by U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., are Cadet Capt. Casey Hoffman, Montana Wing; Cadet Col. Charles Cox, Minnesota Wing; and Cadet Capt. Katherine Jones, Montana Wing. "Meeting her was a very exciting experience," said Jones.

Photo by Ryan Easterling, CAP National Headquarters



More than 20 cadets and senior members from Civil Air Patrol's Maryland Wing enjoy a pizza party in the Capitol Hill office of U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md. Visiting with the CAP members is Pudge Forrester, back right, a CAP second lieutenant who also works on Bartlett's staff. Bartlett — a co-sponsor of H.R. 1178 and a member of CAP's Congressional Squadron — has treated the Maryland Wing volunteers to lunch for the past three years.