



## AFSA Governing Board Election Campaign Messages

The AFSA Committee on Elections is overseeing the regularly scheduled election of AFSA officers and representatives of its Governing Board and as such is responsible for ensuring that the election is conducted in accordance with the law. **Use of union or employer funds or resources to promote or criticize the candidacy of any person in a union officer election is prohibited.** For additional information, please see the election rules located at [www.afsa.org/elections](http://www.afsa.org/elections).

Foreign Service members should use their personal computers and email accounts on their own time to communicate directly with candidates at the candidates' personal email accounts or see the AFSA Community for candidate discussion forums. Personal email accounts should also be used to communicate amongst each other regarding the candidates for election.

It is **against Federal law** for anyone to use union or employer resources, **including email**, to promote or criticize candidates in a union officer election. **Employees found to have used government resources including .gov email accounts to promote or criticize candidates could also be subject to discipline from their agency.**

However, the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Broadcasting Board of Governors and the Foreign Commercial Service have agreed to permit the transmission of three (3) "blast" email messages to those AFSA members who have given AFSA email addresses ending in .gov. These are the only campaign emails permitted to be sent to a .gov email address and you are currently receiving the second of these blast emails. In addition, AFSA will send an identical email to its members who have given AFSA their personal email addresses. **You may not use government resources to reproduce, forward or further transmit these emails in any way.** Again, you have ample opportunity through personal email accounts and/or the AFSA Community discussion forums to

express your opinions.

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**Barbara Stephenson for President \***

Please vote for me for a second term as AFSA president to signal your support for a professional association that serves effectively as the principal advocate for a strong Foreign Service. In the face of proposals to make deep budget cuts and undertake sweeping reorganization, all of us who care about the Foreign Service and understand its vital role in exercising American global leadership—supported by 90% of Americans—need to unite in making an effective case for a strong Foreign Service. In a second term, I will use executive skills gained in two tours as COM (plus DCM London, Deputy Coordinator for Iraq) to continue the work I started in my first term: bolstering AFSA's role as a professional association and pursuing improvements in AFSA governance so AFSA is as effective as possible advocating for a strong professional career Foreign Service fit to provide the global leadership Americans want.

**Tom Boyatt for Secretary \***

In my first email I discussed AFSA's tremendous progress in governance and outreach. The Strong Diplomacy Slate has unfinished business in both areas and I am proud to join Barbara and slate mates in advancing these objectives.

I also registered the unprecedented uncertainties in the current budget proposal, the reorganization and "streamlining" being considered and the possible RIF flowing therefrom.

Also, AFSA's business continues as usual. At any given moment we will be working on a dozen negotiations with the managements of State, AID, Commerce and Agriculture; 50–60 grievances will be in play; and we must manage and take fiduciary responsibility for a \$4 million budget, a \$14 million balance sheet and a staff of about 35. The Strong Diplomacy Slate has been carefully selected to address these matters. Please vote for experience and determination. Vote Strong Diplomacy.

**Earl Anthony (Tony) Wayne for Treasurer \***

I am honored to be part of the Strong Diplomacy team with Ambassadors Stephenson and Boyatt. More than ever, AFSA needs leadership to advocate effectively for the Foreign Service with the Administration, Congress and the public. I cannot recall a period when the misunderstanding was so serious regarding the vital role that American diplomats and American diplomacy play. AFSA must be as effective as

possible in explaining the importance of the non-military tools in America's international policy. The proposed budget cuts are deeply concerning. The Strong Diplomacy Slate will advocate vigorously as the debate progresses. With you, Strong Diplomacy will articulate a broad vision of our "core" roles, functions, capacities and institutions. We will also work to identify the kinds of organizational changes that will strengthen America's international effectiveness. We should take advantage of the opportunities for reform, but let's be smart and not weaken America's core tools and capabilities.

**Ken Kero-Mentz for State Vice President \***

Undoubtedly, these are challenging times for State. Like my Strong Diplomacy colleagues, I believe we must forge new alliances, build new bridges, and plan for a stronger future, together. I have loved the State Department, the Foreign Service, and AFSA since joining State 17 years ago. Now I want to channel my passion to advocate for you as your AFSA Vice President for State.

I won the AFSA Post Rep of the Year award in 2009 and twice served on the AFSA Governing Board where I learned a great deal about how AFSA succeeds. I believe AFSA must be a place where everyone can share concerns and ideas, safely. I know how to work with senior management, and I know how to advocate for our Foreign Service and our Department. During this critical time, I ask for your vote, and to vote for the Strong Diplomacy slate. Thank you.

**Joe De Maria for State Vice President**

I have served 26 years in the Foreign Service. I've served at six posts and in five functional bureaus with many fine generalists and specialists. I've served as a consular officer, a Pearson Fellow, HRO, Labor Officer and Congressional Advisor. I know the Department well.

I raised a special needs child overseas, went through medevacs with my family, appealed housing, supervised FASTOs, served as an AFSA representative at post, served as a mentor and served on awards committees and an ICASS board. I know first-hand that we and our families need to be taken care of so we can work effectively abroad. I know what works well and what doesn't, and what motivates us to keep plugging away year after year.

Let me put this experience and knowledge to work for you and your families. I respectfully ask for your vote for AFSA State Vice President this year.

**Ann Posner for USAID Vice President**

As USAID Contingency VP, I want to press onward to assure that the Agency streamlines systems that affect FSOs' work and careers. Questions? Reach me at noraposner @ [gmail.com](mailto:noraposner@gmail.com).

**Daniel Crocker for FCS Vice President \***

FCS Officers: I'd like your vote to become AFSA FCS VP. I'm part of the Strong Diplomacy slate, led by Ambassador Stephenson. As part of the Foreign Service we need strong unified leadership through AFSA now more than ever.

You deserve more energetic AFSA representation. I'll reach out through our clients and partners and directly to Congress and the Administration on FCS's behalf. When Codels come I'll arm you with data-rich briefs. I'll help ensure that FCS's role in promoting U.S. economic security is a core component of your country team at post. I'll challenge Commerce to support a first-tier Foreign Service. And my communication with you will be transparent and timely.

Elect me and I will leave my post as SCO in Madrid. I will come back to DC to tackle these issues as part of a unified AFSA Governance Board. We can do better.

**Steve Morrison for FCS Vice President**

Why Vote?

Because in 2010, I started an in-person conversation with U.S. Senator Chris Coons of Delaware (Africa Subcommittee Chair) and Congresswoman Karen Bass (Ranking Member, House Africa Subcommittee) that led to MORE MONEY AND NEW OFFICES in Africa for the Commercial Service. Let's do it again!

Why Vote?

Because when I raised with the Director General the fact that we didn't have a Re-employed Annuitants (REA or "When Actually Employed"/WEA) program for retirees to come back to work temporarily at Commerce, he directed OGMHC to look into and create one. Ejike Obineche was there and we got it done!

Why Vote?

Because when I wrote Management one year ago objecting to wasteful, profligate spending, trips were canceled, wasteful spending was reined in, and one of the individuals responsible for the excess spending quit under a cloud.

Proven Results! Steadfast and Independent! Vote Steve Morrison for FCS Vice President!

### **Bill Haugh for Retiree Vice President \***

I'm running for Retiree VP on the Strong Diplomacy slate to be a voice for retirees.

The retirement system is not a perk – it's the bedrock foundation of our competitive, globally deployed Service. Now more than ever we need Strong Diplomacy to protect our Service and our retirement.

I want to strengthen AFSA's capacity to help you transition to retirement. Every retirement is unique, so I propose to strengthen AFSA casework. I am a career management officer with decades of experience navigating the bureaucracy.

I want to keep retirees involved. I'm proud to be on the Strong Diplomacy team that values retiree viewpoints and expertise. I will continue to reinvigorate the Speakers Bureau that provides talking points, themes, and venues for retirees to speak out. I will reach out to the retiree community, and work creatively to enhance member services.

Thanks for your support in the election for retiree VP.

### **John Naland for Retiree Vice President**

Colleagues,

I ask for your vote for AFSA Retiree VP. Here are four reasons:

--As a former AFSA President (twice) and AFSA State VP, I have long experience in fighting for the Foreign Service.

--As the immediate-past Director of the Office of Retirement, I have deep knowledge of our retirement system and benefits.

--As the only retiree candidate who has pledged to dedicate 20 hours per week to AFSA, I have the time to apply my experience and knowledge to advancing AFSA's agenda.

--As an independent candidate, if the need arises to urge our AFSA President to speak out more strongly in defense of the Service, I will be freer to do so than her fellow slate candidates whose elections she made possible.

Please send any comments or questions to nalandfamily @ [yahoo.com](mailto:nalandfamily@yahoo.com). Thank you.

**Josh Glazeroff for State Representative \***

I believe we need continuity in this year's election. These are challenging times for the Department and for AFSA. I have experience on the Board, working on issues related to workforce planning and AFSA's role in their implementation. I have experience as a consular officer dealing with difficult management challenges, even in times of uncertainty. I have experience with the workings of AFSA, including service on the Awards Committee, one of the most high-profile areas of the organization and its undertakings. I appreciate your support and a vote for the Strong Diplomacy slate.

**Martin McDowell for State Representative \***

Hello - I'm Martin, and I'm running for a seat on the AFSA governing board to help represent the Department of State.

I volunteered to join the Strong Diplomacy slate because I wanted to do more to help protect our Services. We need to be even better in explaining what we do and why it matters to the American people, and we have to be effective in safeguarding our interests and choose our battles carefully.

I was also inspired to do what I could to help Ambassador Stephenson. While AFSA has always served us well, we are frankly very fortunate to have a leader of her talent, vision and tenacity to lead us at this critical time.

I hope you will support us and help keep American Diplomacy and our Services as strong as ever, thank you.

**Tricia Wingerter for State Representative \***

I am running as a State representative on the Strong Diplomacy slate. I have been a member of AFSA since I joined the Department 27 years ago and have had the privilege of serving the AFSA membership over the past two years. I now have a true appreciation of the work of AFSA President Ambassador Stephenson, Vice President Angie Bryan and staff at AFSA does every day to advocate for the membership—most of which is behind the scenes. As past State rep, I have learned firsthand the untiring determination of Ambassador Stephenson and her team. Ambassador Stephenson has assembled a slate with a true representation of the membership. It would be an honor to continue to serve and represent the FS Specialist corps as we face the future of threatened budget cuts and reorganization. Stay strong – vote Strong Diplomacy!

**Anne Coleman-Honn for State Representative \***

I am running for State representative on the Strong Diplomacy slate because, now

more than ever, we need AFSA to be a skilled and respected advocate for the Foreign Service. Under Ambassador Stephenson's leadership, AFSA will continue to be a powerful voice on behalf of the Foreign Service and the role we play in defending and advancing U.S. interests and values overseas.

I am an O2 Economic-conned officer, part of a tandem, and have served in four bureaus and across cones. As a founding member of the Balancing Act employee organization, I am proud to have supported AFSA in bringing to State best practices from other parts of the Federal government—such as the voluntary leave bank and an emergency backup care program for dependents—to help employees meet their work and family obligations.

A vote for Strong Diplomacy is a vote for strong AFSA leadership for the Foreign Service.

### **Philip A. Shull for Retiree Representative \***

The great comedian Steve Martin said, "Be so good they can't ignore you." Despite "being so good" in our daily contributions to America's economy, security, and global understanding, the White House has proposed massive budget cuts to all Foreign Service agencies.

Thanks to your dedication and AFSA's ceaseless outreach, many in Congress and elsewhere already know how much the Foreign Service has done for our country and our world over the course of our history. AFSA's great and urgent challenge is to preserve and improve it in this new environment

If elected as your Retiree Representative, I will use my skills and 30+ years of experience in marketing and coalition building to win over even more converts. Your support of the Strong Diplomacy slate will have an AFSA Board that will strive to ensure the Foreign Service follows Mr. Martin's wise counsel, and to avoid the fate of "King Tut".

### **George Colvin for Retiree Representative**

According to prominent legal theorist Jack Goldsmith, the Trump administration is conducting "the greatest presidential onslaught on international law and international institutions in American history," including "trying to gut State Department capacity across the board." News stories feature bewildered Department staff fearful of budget cuts that could produce a Foreign Service RIF, as well as a drastic and damaging reorganization. The Secretary is a taciturn recluse and policy bystander.

Faced with conditions that threaten both the national interest and the future of the

Foreign Service, Barbara Stephenson and her colleagues have nothing to say.

I am running as an independent candidate for retiree representative because I believe AFSA must engage on these concerns, and must be seen to do so. We are the Foreign Service, not the Silent Service; and it is past time for the "Voice of the Foreign Service" to start speaking.

Please contact me at afediplomat @ [yahoo.com](mailto:afediplomat@yahoo.com).

**Alphonse F. La Porta for Retiree Representative \***

The myriad threats and risks to the Foreign Service in State, USAID, FCS and Agriculture testify to the need for a strong and unified Service to perform our constitutional responsibilities, contribute to sound management in the foreign affairs agencies, conduct diplomatic operations abroad, and participate in policy formulation at home.

AFSA President Barbara Stephenson and the Strong Diplomacy slate are resolved to preserve core Foreign Service capabilities, our personnel strength, and effective United States representation abroad.

But there is another and lesser known threat: the gutting of employee rights and the labor-management system for which AFSA is responsible as the exclusive representative of the Foreign Service. The law-based and carefully-negotiated rights of federal unions are under attack on the Hill to limit due process, employee protections, and AFSA advocacy.

Only with your support can the Strong Diplomacy slate defend these rights.

\* Member of the Strong Diplomacy slate

**American Foreign Service Association**

2101 E Street NW

Washington DC 20037

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