



The Patriot



From the PANG President – Lane Chereskin

Hello fellow PANG Patriots. I want to first wish everyone a Happy New Year. 2022 was a great year for the organization. In 2022 the new board was able to set a solid framework for the organization which will drive future success in our Mission to support the men and woman of the Air National Guard here in Phoenix. Some of the key events that took place in 2022 were the Annual Meeting held in June, the Summer Happy Hour at the Sasquatch Lodge and of course our Annual Golf tournament at Legacy Golf Course. This year’s golf event was held at a new venue and was an incredible success. It was great to see representation from the Wing as well as local supporters like Nextiva and Amazon who both sponsored the event.

Looking forward to 2023 we are planning to double down on some of the same annual events in order to drive awareness and to further spread the word about PANG Patriots and the local Air National Guard Units. This year we will focus on growing our membership base and increasing engagement with our members. There are many opportunities and ways for us to serve the men and women of the Air National Guard and the more members, volunteers and supports we have in the community the more we can do. I ask anyone who has not yet joined this year to take the time to think about making the commitment and joining up. Joining is simple and can be done in minutes on our website Pangpatriots.org.

I want to reiterate how excited I am about this year with the events and activities we have planned. We can only accomplish our goals, results and milestones with amazing people and the efforts and feedback of the larger group. If anyone has any feedback, recommendations, or ideas, I ask that you email me at lane@pangpatriots.org. I would love to hear from you and collaborate with anyone looking to move the organization forward.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board, our donors, and the amazing members for all they have done for the PANG Patriots and looking forward to all we will accomplish in 2023.

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS APRIL 2023	
President:	Lane Chereskin
Vice President:	
Secretary:	Nick Bielinski
Treasurer:	Stephen Paluga
Board Members:	Nancy Bell, Scott Essex, John Greenway, Mike Stotts, John Murphy, Fred Gardea, Mark Phillips
Executive Director:	Ron Spear
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Guam Deployment

103 Airmen as well as the Adjutant General (AG) Kerry Muehlenbeck and Base Commander Jessica Hastings got a great sendoff courtesy of the PANG Patriots on February 24th and 25th. The Patriots provided goodie bags and served a continental breakfast to the Airmen prior to departure, who will be traveling to Guam for a three-month deployment. The AG and the Commander returned to Arizona a week after the deployment, they met with LEADERSHIP at Andersen AF Base in Guam to ensure a smooth transition of assignments for the 161st ARW Airmen and are now back to their leadership duties here in Arizona.



Two groups of Airmen departed on February 24th and 25th. They had a stopover for approximately 24 hours in Hawaii and continued the final 9-hour leg to Guam. At the briefing before departure, they were informed of the safety net that provides resources from funds raised by the PANG Patriots to Airmen's families in need while they are on Mission. Presentations were also made by ESGR leadership as well.

PANG Plans will host the Airmen on their return. We will keep the membership informed so that all who want to attend will be given that opportunity.

Orientation Flight

This past December, the Wing hosted an orientation refueling flight for PANG Members and prospective Members. Over 50 attended which fielded two simultaneous flights to witness firsthand refueling operations over the friendly skies of Colorado.



Attendees were treated to a continental breakfast and lunch hosted by the PANG Patriots. Many agreed that this was a "THRILL OF A LIFETIME!" Over a dozen of the passengers have signed up to become members of the Patriots. These opportunities don't come around very often due to Department of Defense restrictions; however, we have assurances from Base Leadership that we will be informed of any opportunities in the future.



Annual Golf Outing



A great fundraising event was held this past October with the PANG Patriots Golf Outing that had over 80 golfers hitting the links! Both live and silent auctions raised funds to fill the coffers of our 501(c)3 funds that help promote the value of the 161st ARW and most importantly provides resources to help Airmen and their families in time of need. PANG Patriots also fund Family Day activities both on and off the base. Those details on how you can help coming soon!



Our first of two membership gatherings will occur on April 27th at the The Lodge in Tempe at 5:30 p.m. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be served free of charge to PANG members.

Information & briefings from Wing leadership will be presented and opportunities to volunteer on future projects shared.

We hope to have you all attend to share our passion of supporting the fine Airmen of our COPPERHEADS!

BRAG WITH SWAG!

Get 'em while they're hot! We have State 48 Copperhead T's in a wide variety of sizes.

“Copperheads” is a nickname given to the 161st Air Refueling Wing many years ago that you will see referenced around the base.

\$21 gets you one of these exclusive T's. Use the QR Code to order or visit www.pangpatriots.org



We Want You!

Membership Info...

*Haven't Joined Yet? What are you waiting for??
Here's what our members have to say...*

"I joined as a way to give support to the Unit and all of those who make sacrifices to protect us."

Nancy Bell

"Retired but still committed to the Wing. PANG is very important to the Wing and our community."

Ret. Commander Pat Donaldson

"I joined PANG because I'd been the ESGR liaison to the 161st for a time and grown to admire the mission and the people. This was my chance to give something back to the whole unit and not just the members needing assistance with civilian employers."

Scott Essex

"This is great to work with veterans while they are still working closely with active military is a differentiator of why I joined PANG. A lot of organizations where I would work with veterans post service but serving as an advocate to the civilian sector."

Nick Bielinski

"I joined PANG because as a Guardsman assigned to the 161st ARW, I could see the direct impact the organization had on supporting my fellow airmen and providing Commanders with the resources they needed to recognize the efforts of their troops."

Stephen Paluga



"Tremendous organization with outstanding service members and vital global mission! It's great to give back to these folks who sacrifice so much for our country."

Mark Phillips

"I joined the PANG Patriots to give back to the amazing Arizona Guardsmen and their families. The work they do for our state and Nation is so critical and I just wanted to find a way to support them further."

Lane Chereskin

★★★ To become a member, go to www.pangpatriots.org and click on the JOIN link. ★★★
You will be able to choose the membership you prefer.



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