

# Army & Air Force Exchange Service Retired Employees Association (AREA)

Who We Are and What We Do





# AREA - Who We Are

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service Retired Employees Association (AREA) is a non-profit organization established in 1975. The purpose of the association is to continue the friendships and associations that had been made during Exchange careers, a legacy that continues today in the association's endeavors.

- To foster communication and social activities between retired Army & Air Force Exchange Service employees
- To support the interests of The Exchange, its employees and the people it serves
- To promote the interests of Association members.



# AREA - Who Can Join

## Who is Eligible to Join AREA

- Retired civilian personnel of the Exchange and all other persons receiving an annuity under the Exchange Retirement Program
- Former employees of the Exchange, including civilians, foreign nationals and third-country nationals
- Military personnel who, while serving in the United States Armed Forces, were assigned for duty with AAFES
- Surviving spouses for all previously listed categories
- Active Exchange employees are eligible for associate AREA membership upon payment of dues in accordance with the by-laws



# AREA – What We Do

AREA has a National level that is responsible for:

- Advocacy
- AREA Scholarship Program
- Exchange Emergency Relief Program
- Community Service Award Program
- Communications
  - Social Media – Facebook Group – AAFES Retired Employees Association
  - Monthly Newsletter for all National members that contains:
    - AREA happenings
    - The Exchange
    - News for the retiree community
    - Benefits



# AREA – What We Do

## Advocacy

- Ensure our membership is aware of any changes that may impact the retiree community
- AREA provides a strong voice for members to the Exchange, Department of Defense (DoD), or Congress on proposals that will impact the retiree community. The National level ensures the community is aware when these issues arise. The strength of that voice depends on a large and growing number of members.



# AREA – What We Do

## AREA Scholarship Program

The AREA scholarship program is a long-standing AREA activity. We've provided scholarships to the children of The Exchange employees for many years.

- Goal is to provide scholarships to 12 deserving young members of our Exchange family totaling \$40,000 each year.
- Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who:
  - Are related to active, retired, or deceased Exchange US payroll associates
  - Military personnel assigned to the Exchange or work for the Exchange and paid on the US payroll
- Full eligibility information and the scholarship application are available on-line



# AREA – What We Do

The Scholarship Program is funded by donations to the program.

- Anyone can donate and at any amount
- Many will make donations in honor or in memory of a friend, family member, or a former Exchange associate that has passed away.
- Making a donation is easy. The donation information is available on-line ([aafesretired.org](http://aafesretired.org))
- All donations to the Scholarship program are tax deductible

Please consider making donations to this program so we can continue to support the Exchange family and quite possibly future Exchange associates



# AREA – What We Do

## Emergency Relief

This program provides financial assistance to Exchange associates and their families devastated by disasters such as fire, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods. AREA has assumed responsibility for this assistance providing a depository for donations collected from Exchange associates and retirees as well as sources outside the Exchange. The Exchange must request AREA activate this program.

Examples of when assistance has been provided:

- Seymour Johnson – Hurricane Floyd
- Pentagon Victims Fund – September 11, 2001
- Keesler AFB – Hurricane Katrina
- Guam/Saipan – Typhoon Mawar – May 2023





# AREA – What We Do

## Communications

Communication with the National membership ensures an informed membership regarding issues directly impacting the retiree community. Your membership participation and support of AREA National ensures these communications can continue.

- Social Media – Facebook Group – AAFES Retired Employees Association – the more social side of National
- Monthly Newsletter for all National members that contains:
  - AREA happenings
  - Information regarding the Exchange
  - News for the retiree community
  - Benefits – both Exchange and generally for retirees
- Emails to National members if something is time sensitive or determined to be critical information



# AREA – Local Chapters

AREA has Local Chapters that provide information to their membership and often host social events for the Chapter membership to get together and enjoy each other's company. Many times the Chapters will have information impacting the retiree community to share.

While the local chapters are chartered by National AREA, each chapter may collect dues to pay for chapter expenses.

Information regarding local chapters is available on our website. If there is a local in your area, reach out!

**Please note:** Being a member of a Local Chapter does not make you a member of National AREA nor does being a member of National make you a member of a Local Chapter.



# AREA – How to Join

When you have indicated you are ready to retire:

- Make sure you request a retirement briefing
- Information about AREA and a membership form for National will be included in your retirement paperwork
- Complete the enrollment form and return with your other paperwork. The Exchange will pay your membership dues for the first year.

Information regarding how to join after retirement or to renew membership dues is available on-line ([aafesretired.org](http://aafesretired.org)).



# AREA – Thank You

Thank you for taking time to learn more about AREA!

Exciting things are in the works. Join us and continue your relationship with your Exchange family!

**Website: <https://aafesretired.org>**