AOC Pikes Peak Roost Sees Surge in Member Participation!

I'm not the best at everything, but I care. Being a Chapter President has been a challenging role. This past year has been difficult to manage work and life, and my efforts with the AOC have dropped considerably. I don't think I did enough to even get a chapter of the year award again. I can't find a volunteer to take over, either, so I guess you get what you get and you don't throw a fit.

But, today was my birthday. It started with getting coffee and my barista guessing my age at 41. I turned 36 today. I am no longer an AOC Young Crow, as defined as 35 and under. I've been one for almost a decade, so it's strange. The fact that ladies regularly think I'm in my forties (the highest I've gotten is 55!) is an indicator that I'm not aging well.

But, it's funny how things like the Soldier's Creed could still be applicable years later. Maybe not all of it, but enough...

-I definitely am still a warrior and a member of a team.
-I definitely will never accept defeat.
-I definitely will never quit.
-I definitely am an expert and a professional.
-Maybe not as ready as I used to be, but I still stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

But, the never quit thing, in a lot of cases, could be considered insanity. If you think that, though, you don't understand what sacrifice means. If you want to test my fortitude, you're going to get upset. Now I'm not saying that I personally haven't ever quit something; I'm saying if it matters to me, I won't. So the electronic warfare community matters to me. I haven't quit. But, running non-profit chapters is frustrating and difficult. People are busy. People are tired. People have

reasons to not want to do things. Inspiring baby boomers, gen xers, and millennials to hang out together is not an easy task, regardless of the perks, bribes or favors called. I've had meetings where nobody showed up. I usually only get a couple of folks, regardless of what I try.

June was different. One of our newer members, but an Old Crow, brought some chaff from the 1960's, and we got to open it. It had a little parachute, ticked open slowly, sounded like a bomb for a bit, and then we disassembled it. We got to play with a piece of history – a cool little gear-powered mechanism, too. We got to hear and share war stories that spanned 50 years! It was the largest turnout we had in months at about 8 members. Jacob won the raffle prize and went home with an AOC T-shirt. It was just EW folk of various backgrounds hanging out – lots of fun.

July comes. We just have our regularly scheduled meeting. Nothing fancy planned, but it was on my birthday, so I was hoping it would be a quick one. Last week, I get a surprise email from William Conley, Ph.D., Director, Electronic Warfare, OUSD(A&S)/A/ Platform & Weapon Portfolio Management (P&WPM). I've met with him every chance I get in DC and have invited him out to speak for years, but schedules just haven't worked out. They did this week. Around 20 people made it! An hour of dinner, drinks and conversation, an hour-long presentation on EW strategy, and 2 hours of questions and conversation. We connected real people in real roles with real missions with folks with real authority to drive National strategic policy and change. Informally, over beer and pizza, we may have just changed something big. Maybe we didn't, but there's always a chance.

This kind of thing inspires careers and innovations. To get folks from all sorts of backgrounds with different interests and priorities to sit down and talk is huge. There are different perspectives, but the core threads and end states are often the same, regardless of service or platform. That is what professional organizations are supposed to be for. The value of EW, the importance of working together, and the... beer and pizza. This is why I care and haven't quit. I didn't see this coming. Maybe the Pikes Peak Roost isn't dying!

Jordan "Cancer" Scott
Chapter President
Pikes Peak Roost, AOC