

From the President | February 2026



James McLanahan
President SFA Ch. 78

Momentum Is a Choice

Momentum is one of those things everyone recognizes when it's present and feels when it's gone. What's less often discussed is this: momentum doesn't happen by accident. It is not a function of luck, nostalgia, or even history. Momentum is a choice, made repeatedly, often in small and unglamorous ways.

Across the country, our organizations are fading, not because their missions stop mattering, but because participation becomes

optional, leadership becomes reactive, and "next time" quietly replaces "this time." That's the fork in the road where good organizations stall. *Not this chapter.*

Look, and you will see it in the details: our speakers, our venues that encourage engagement rather than isolation, and events designed to include spouses and families, not as an afterthought, but as part of the team. These are not cosmetic decisions. They are deliberate investments in relevance and longevity.

February is a telling month. There's no holiday glow, no year-end urgency, no easy excuses to show up. And yet, that's precisely why it matters. Our upcoming gathering at Iron Mike's isn't just about marksmanship or social time. It's about reinforcing the habit of participation. In Special Forces, we understood that readiness was built long before deployment. The same principle applies here. Plus, it's good fun.

Momentum compounds when members choose to engage even when it's inconvenient. When leadership plans ahead instead of scrambling to recover lost ground. None of that happens overnight; it happens if we decide to do it. And it helps that you have all done this before, so you can help me along the way. Tom Turney has taken to planning our trip to Normandy, something he has wanted to do for a long time. Now we all benefit from his leadership, energy, and expertise. Thank you, Tom.

The reality is this: organizations that endure don't chase energy—they create it. They don't rely on past benchmarks or achievements; they honor them by staying active, disciplined, and forward-looking. My first Team Sergeant told me, "You make your own Kool-Aid." He was right. At Chapter 78, we make our own momentum.

My ask is simple: keep choosing momentum. Show up. Bring your spouse. Bring a fellow member who's been quiet for a while. Tell your friends who didn't come what they missed. And for heaven's sake, please reply to our VP Don Deatherage to help get an accurate headcount. Those small decisions, made consistently, are what ensure that Chapter 78 remains strong, not just this year, but for the next generation who will inherit what we build today. It is going to be a great year. ♦

De Oppresso Liber,
James McLanahan
President, SFA Chapter 78



SFA Chapter 78 Monthly Meeting

February 21, 2026

Breakfast – 0800 • Meeting – 0830

Iron Mike's

23253 La Palma Ave
Yorba Linda, CA 92887

Shoot Back at Cupid

*Bring your spouse for
late-Valentines Day fun!*



Next month

March 21, 2026

Back at JFTB—

The Pub at Fiddler's Green

2026 Meeting Schedule

March 21 • April 19 (Valor Luncheon)

May 16 • June 20 • July 18 • August 15

September 19 • October 17 • November 21

December (to be announced)