

## AAFA ACTION #95

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### AAFA ANNIVERSARY

By Gil Alford, Creator of the Alford Association

Our association has completed the first 25 years. We hope you will join with us to celebrate this for the rest of this year. It was January 1987 that I, announced the formation of the Alford American Family Association in my newsletter *About Alford's*. You will never believe how little I knew then. The table below provides a glance back so that one can easily see where we have been and just how far we have come. Our original plan was to share a lot of our anniversary stuff with you in the quarterly but after having worked with it for a couple of months it is obvious that the type of information we have can best be treated on the web site using a combination of html and pdf linked files. The centerpiece will be a chronology which is expected to be under construction throughout most of the year. Our 25 years have been divided into four units to approximately mesh with the four quarterlies. The first segment will cover much of years one through six. To see more go to [www.alfordassociation.org/25years-1.html](http://www.alfordassociation.org/25years-1.html).

### A GLANCE AT AAFA'S 25 YEARS

Nr.	Year	President	Meeting Place	AAFA ACTION Issues	Editor	New Members	Total Members	Dues*
1	1987	Lodwick Alford	None	None		45	45	\$8
2	1988	Lodwick Alford	Atlanta, GA	1-3	Pam Thompson	74	119	\$10
3	1989	Lodwick Alford	Houston, TX	5-7	Pam Thompson	147	266	\$15
4	1990	Lodwick Alford	Raleigh, NC	8-11	Pam Thompson	91	357	\$15
5	1991	Lodwick Alford	Jackson, MS	12-15	Pam Thompson	107	461	\$15
6	1992	Harold Alford	Destin, FL	16-19	Pam Thompson	80	541	\$15
7	1993	Benjamin Alford	St. Francisville, LA	20-22	Pam Thompson	68	609	\$16
8	1994	Benjamin Alford	Richmond, VA	23-26	Pam Thompson	85	694	\$16
9	1995	Benjamin Alford	Decatur, AL	27-30	Pam Thompson	99	793	\$16
10	1996	Benjamin Alford	Springfield, MO	31-34	Pam Thompson	52	845	\$16
11	1997	Gilbert Alford	Pleasanton, CA	35-38	Pam Thompson	65	910	\$20
12	1998	Gilbert Alford	Paducah, KY	39-42	Pam Thompson	108	1018	\$20
13	1999	Gilbert Alford	San Antonio, TX	43-46	Pam Thompson	104	1122	\$20
14	2000	Richard Alford	Augusta, GA	47-50	AAFA Team	131	1153	\$25
15	2001	Max Alford	Raleigh, NC	51-54	Jim & Sue Adams	42	1195	\$25
16	2002	Max Alford	Salt Lake City, UT	55-58	Jim & Sue Adams	15	1210	\$25
17	2003	Max Alford	Little Rock, AR	59-62	Jim & Sue Adams	23	1233	\$25
18	2004	Max Alford	Baton Rouge, LA	63-66	Jim & Sue Adams	30	1263	\$25
19	2005	Max Alford	St. Louis, MO	67-70	Jim & Sue Adams	8	1271	\$25
20	2006	Max Alford	Nashville, TN	71-74	Jim & Sue Adams	18	1289	\$25
21	2007	Max Alford	Vicksburg, MS	75-78	Jim & Sue Adams	13	1307	\$25
22	2008	Carl Alford	Columbia, SC	79-82	Jim & Sue Adams	29	1336	\$25
23	2009	Earl Alford	Dallas, TX	83-86	Jim & Sue Adams	24	1360	\$25
24	2010	Earl Alford	New Orleans, LA	87-90	Jim & Sue Adams	28	1388	\$25
25	2011	Earl Alford	St. Louis, MO	91-94	AAFA Team	7	1395	\$25

*\*Initially there was a registration fee of \$8. It varied in amount through 2000.*

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In our beginning new members were provided a sheet on which they could volunteer and offer various suggestions for setting up the association. Although we have had a blank form that was used on the website for some time I have never shared the results with anyone. They are being tabulated now and I hope to have them linked from our timeline by the time you are reading this. (Probably did not make it.) Some of the new members questioned things like why “Alford American Family Association” instead of “American Alford Family Association?” I never really answered those directly thinking that the reason would soak through with use. On the website I will share these questions and give a direct answer.

We were not all that democratic in getting the association staffed with the first group of officers, and I’ll explain that. Those who knew Wick and Pooley (Julius M.) may wonder why in the world they were selected be the first directors and later recognized as co-founders. There were those of you who had worked harder and done a greater service to the Alford cause, but I had three, what I thought were good, reasons for selecting them. I have never shared that before but I will in the timeline on the website.

I’ll be sharing some never heard of stuff that I think will interest some of you. It won’t be real history making but of some human interest. I loved our first president, Lodwick H. Alford, like a brother, and we fought like brothers at times also. I really think he was picking on me. Those of you who saw us at some of the meetings witnessed some of our exchanges—especially in meetings of the board of directors. There were some disagreements by mail though that no one ever knew about.

At the third meeting which was in Raleigh NC there was a big bru ha ha going on in the back ground, especially over the head table. I did not have anything to do with the meeting arrangements in the first two, meetings and those who did arranged for a head table. That carried over into the third meeting in which I was more involved and we had a head table. One of our members who lived in the area was helping with things and was recognized as the meeting host. I’ve never been a fan of head tables in the first place as I don’t believe in setting folks up front for whatever reason. But for this meeting our daughter who had been in Washington, DC on business had arranged to go back to Texas via Raleigh so she could attend the meeting. She, my wife and I were seated together at one of the regular tables and Wick came over and told me I was supposed to be at the head table. I explained and he went on looking for more head table prospects. As I remember there were two or three officers there but there was space. About that time some members, strangers to the officers sitting there, began to come up and sit down and the officers present told them to move on that the table was reserved for AAFA leaders. They, who I’ll mention on the website but not here, told them that they were close kin of Wick’s and that he had sent them.

That was not all that bad, but after the meeting I received a copy of a letter (no email then) that Wick had sent to our host and he really read her out as only an old sea captain could do. It really ticked me off after her volunteering and how hard she had tried. I unloaded on Wick with a response, a copy of which went to the host, and then I wrote him another letter that was just between the two of us and as he described—“took him to the woodpile.” I’ll share copies of these letters with names and all on the website in the timeline. As best I can remember there was not another meeting after that for which we had a head table for the banquet.

A lot of things have been on the website for years that represent part of our history but have not be identified as such. They will be listed in the timeline and links provided as applicable.

One of our officers recently suggested fixing nice color pages that members might want to save or download, print and keep as souvenirs. If there are such things that you have in mind let us know and they will be prepared and notice given about how to access them.