



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 3 Issue 1

January though June 2011



The Hilton San Antonio Airport once again welcomes the AMTA to enjoy its hospitality.



Hilton San Antonio Airport Guest Room

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FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

Approximately three and a half months from now we will get together at the Hilton Hotel at The Airport in San Antonio, Texas for the sixth Airborne Maintenance Technician Association reunion. We, as always, figure this one will be the best yet and so far we have not been disappointed. Mike McLaughlin, the 2011 reunion chairman, along with his committee Bob White and Dan Sloan have laid the preparations for another outstanding reunion. If you have not signed up do so quickly as the more we have the better the reunion. Remember while we urge you to join the AMTA you DO NOT have to be a member of the AMTA to attend the reunions, you just

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FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

The AMTA 2011 reunion is fast approaching. If we can surpass the turnout we had in 2009 that would be great. Fourteen reunion banquet reservations have been received and ten members have made hotel reservations. Please make your banquet and hotel reservations as soon as you can. I have ninety room nights blocked and can request more if needed. However, additional nights are on an "as available" basis. In 2009, we initially had ninety room nights blocked and ended up using over one hundred and twenty. This is the link to the AMTA banquet reservation form http://www.amtassociation.org/Registration%20Form02_02_2011.pdf. The link for hotel reservations is <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/>

(Continued on page 2)

AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 951 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???

118 DECEASED

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN . . .

I want to thank each one of you that has responded to the monthly search list. This month 22 people have given me information, orders and pictures to increase our numbers of AMTs that we have data on to 468 in our data base. Without your help, we would not have the amount of data that we have collected so far. The AMT membership remains steady between 165 and 170 members. Our biggest problem right now, even though we have an outstanding and supportive membership, we are aging. We need to encourage some of the younger ASEs (AMTs) to become more involved. Younger men and women in the Air Force today could care less about spending time or associating with older AMTs that could be their dad or grandfather, but the AMTA needs their input and help. Become a full member. Join the AMTA today. With your help, we have 1001 names of AMTs in the data base, but we need more complete information on more than 600 of them. We have lost contact with approximately 25 individuals that have failed to keep their data up to date. If you change your contact information in any way, please let someone at the AMTA know by sending an email or give them a call. Let us set a goal of increasing our AMTs that we have all the data on to 500 by the time of the reunion in September.

On a sadder note, we have 118 AMTs on the "Fallen AMTs" list and that list continues to grow each year. With that said, I would encourage everyone reading this newsletter to sign up for the AMTA reunion in September of this year. You do not have to be a member to attend but only members will attend the membership meeting. Bring a guest if you so desire. More information can be found on this website under 2011 reunion.

I will continue to put out a list each month of AMTs we have limited or no information on. With your help, no matter what the number, it will all be worthwhile. The AMTA is an outstanding association; it provides a lot of help to those in need, it gives us all a great opportunity to stay in touch with each other, we join together for reunions and enjoy a great time of fellowship. Join today. Become a voting member and express your thoughts at the next meeting of the AMTA during the reunion in San Antonio. Go to the website "www.amtassociation.org", click on "join the AMTA", print the

(Continued on page 3)



Airborne Maintenance Technician

11615 Old Hills Lane
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

(Continued from page 1 Secretary)

personalized/S/SATAPHF-AMT-20110920/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

I am considering a couple of T-shirt designs for the 2011 reunion. A few of our members have asked about a shirt with a C-130 and that is one that I'm working on. When a design (s) is decided on, I will send out an email with particulars and ordering instructions. The window for placing an order will be short, no more than 30 days. If anyone has an item they want to bring for the silent auction, I encourage them to do so. If you are bringing an item (s), let me know so I can get bid sheets made.

The results of the AMTA Board of Directors election were all very close and were finalized on May 7th. Four director positions had to be filled. The candidates elected are those currently serving on the AMTA board, Johnnie Estes, Mervin Gross, James Hargrove, and Robert White. Two other strong supporters of the AMTA, Randy Holt and Frank Jordan were also candidates and I commend them for running and showing they care about the future of the AMTA.

If you have checked the website recently, you will have noticed that MG Heithold, AFISRA Commander has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at the banquet. Also, I have secured the AFISRA color guard for posting of the colors. I am still looking for a backup speaker, so if you would like to recommend someone (San Antonio area) please let me know. Hope to see many old and new faces at the reunion.

*Michael B. McLaughlin
Secretary*

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

AMTA Board of Directors:

Johnnie Estes - President, Director
Mervin Gross - Vice-Pres, Dir, Newsletter
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director
Robert White - Treasurer, Director
Jim Hargrove - Director
Joe Jesty - Director
Stan Aarhus - Director
Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)
Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

(Continued from page 1 President)

need to have been an AMT, an associate member or a guest of a member or associate member.

We are electing four AMTA board members that will take up their positions following the general membership meeting in September 2011. The four people whose director terms are up have agreed to run again, but we have two other candidates on the ballot who are outstanding and have always supported the AMTA in every way possible. Regardless of who is elected as an AMTA board member I am sure everyone will work to do their part and the association will remain strong for many years to come. At this time I have no idea who the new directors will be but by the time this newsletter comes out someone will know and publish it. The AMTA Secretary is the official vote counter this year so he will probably give the results of the voting when he writes the secretary's column for the WireBender. Les Robison and Jim Pusateri are also helping count votes and that is much appreciated as we always make every effort to ensure an accurate vote count.

The AMTA continues to be a very strong organization. Our membership remains at 166 members. We have had a few members resign from the AMTA but most everyone remains an active member and new members continue to join each month. The AMTA is the smallest organization of its type, but it remains as one of the strongest and the AMTA members are the ones that make the organization what it is today. As we continue to get older more of us are passing on from this world at a far greater rate than we want. We have lost two AMTA lifetime members since the last reunion and both were very close friends and will always be missed. If you have considered joining the AMTA talk it over with Tom Joines, AMTA membership chairman, and he will explain what the AMTA is all about. The AMTA mission statement on the AMTA website homepage says it very well.

Again I urge you if you have not already made your travel plans for the AMTA reunion September 21st through the 23rd you need to do that very soon. Mike has the website set up so you can use your

computer to make your hotel reservations, or you can call the toll free number, whichever method you like. Please take care, travel safe and hope to see each and everyone in San Antonio in September.

*Johnnie Estes
President*

FROM THE AMTA VSO ...

Paralympic Veterans May Qualify for New Benefit

VA's Partnership with U.S. Paralympics Expands with New Rule

WASHINGTON – Some Veterans in training for the Paralympics will be able to qualify for a monthly subsistence allowance from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), under a new program to help disabled Veterans more easily take part in competitive sports.

“Our disabled Veterans are models of courage, resilience and determination,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “This new allowance will enable our disabled athletes to further their recovery by taking part in world-class adaptive sports.”

VA officials caution that not all disabled Veterans will qualify for the subsistence allowance, which will actually be administered by the U.S. Paralympics.

The allowance will be pegged to VA's subsistence allowance for participants in a full-time institutional program under chapter 31 of title 38 of the U.S. Code. Those rates start at \$554 per month for Veterans without dependents. The current rate table is available at www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/sa.htm.

Under the new rule, VA will pay the allowance to a Veteran with a service-connected or non-service-connected disability if the Veteran is invited by the U.S. Paralympics to compete for a slot on the U.S. Paralympics team or is residing at a U.S. Paralympics training center for training or competition.

“While in uniform, our service men and women are continually challenged to push themselves beyond expectations, both physically and mentally,” said Christopher J. Nowak, director of VA's Paralympics program. “Their motivation and desire to succeed doesn't end with injury. Paralympics sports allow them to harness their competitive nature and push themselves beyond any perceived limitations.”

Applications for the allowance must be submitted through the U.S. Paralympics. The VA Paralympics Program Office will work closely with U.S. Paralympics Committee to ensure that Veterans who are eligible for retroactive payments are processed in a timely manner.

Preceding news article provided by,

*John Hurst
Veteran's Service Officer*

(Continued from page 2 Membership)

form, fill it out, and mail it to Bob White at 11615 Old Hills Lane, San Antonio, TX 78251. Dues are very reasonable; 1 year is \$10.00 or 3 years for \$25.00. You can become a Life Time Member and forget the dues (see the chart on the form). Hopefully we will see you in September.

*Tom Joines
Membership Chairman*

We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.

Winston Churchill



**the WIREBENDER
Staff:**

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher: Whitey Gross

*"It's your newsletter for use to
communicate with other members."*

AMTA Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:

www.amtassociation.org

FROM THE AMTA TREASURER...

As announced in the last news letter, Christmas for the Troops 2010 was in progress in December 2010, is now complete and was the most successful contribution that we have ever had. A total of \$4200.00 was collected and donated to the deployed troops of the 97IS and 25IS. In return we received a thank you card and letter stating their sincere appreciation in supporting the deployed Airmen over the holidays. In addition we received an American Flag and a certificate stating that it flew on board a MC -12W on 23 December 2011 over Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The unit included a unit patch and Challenge Coin. A hearty thanks to all of our members in supporting the deployed servicemen and women of the military.

The enlisted wives home is the charity selected for the AMTA annual donation. In February 2011 the AMTA was once again financially able to donate \$1,000 to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida. Although we will not always be able to provide this amount, we will always strive to donate \$500 which we as an organization are devoted to each year as long as funds permit. In March 2011 the AMTA received a very nice thank you card from the Air Force Enlisted Widows Village, President and CEO. "To All AMTA Members: On behalf of the Air Force Enlisted Village, I'd like to express our appreciation for the generous contribution. We're deeply grateful for your support and generosity. It's through the support of organizations like yours that we're able to continue our mission "To Provide a Home for retired enlisted spouses. Again, thank you for helping make our mission a reality". Sincerely, James C. Binmcker, President and CEO". For more information about Air Force Enlisted Village Home, please visit, www.afenlistedwidows.org/. Additionally the AMTA gave the Disabled American Veterans a \$50 donation in the memory of Cecil D. Porter and a \$50 gift to St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The AMTA financial status remains healthy enough to meet current financial commitments such as the Air Force Enlisted Village. The AMTA is continually ready to support worthy causes and this is one we can truthfully identify with. The bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations and memorabilia. All other financial commitments, such as "Christmas for the Troops" are strictly from donations from AMTA members and friends. As an organization we must come up with further ways to raise money to meet our goals.

So far in 2011, we have had 10 new/renewed memberships. Once again a special thanks to Tom Joines in locating past AMTs that are not members of the AMTA, and thanks to Johnnie Estes for constantly reminding our members that their memberships are about to expire and in keeping the AMTA data base current and updated which is an enormous undertaking. Thanks to everyone that's attempting to boost the AMTA membership.

Get ready; the next AMTA reunion is in September! If you have not attended one of the reunions you have missed out. I encourage all AMTs to try to join us. You will reunite with friends from the past, chat about good times and laugh for hours.

I appreciated the support and hard work of all the AMTA members, thank you! Waiting for the reunion in September, see you in San Antonio.

*Robert J. White
Treasurer*

FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT...

Okay everyone, this is the last chance for me to talk to you about attending the AMTA reunion. Those that have decided to attend, I applaud you. Those that have not made the decision yet, trust me when I say you will enjoy yourself. To see again old friends you haven't seen for a number of years is a terrific joy. And I

know I will be glad to see you! So come on out and enjoy good company.

As you can see from page one of this newsletter, our reunion will once again be at the Hilton San Antonio Airport. If they keep up the same level of hospitality they gave in 2009 and the prices, it could end up being the AMTA home away from home.

Our Hospitality room will open at noon on Wednesday the 21st to provide refreshments after traveling and checking in and throughout the reunion. The banquet will be in the evening on Friday the 23rd. The FTVA golf tournament will be on Thursday the 22nd.

Welcome to the reunion! We would love to see you there.

*Mervin A. Gross
Vice President*

More GREAT GOLF MUSINGS

Give me golf clubs, fresh air and a beautiful partner, and you can keep the clubs and the fresh air.

~Jack Benny

If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball.

~Jack Lemmon

I'm not saying my game is bad, but if I grew tomatoes, they'd come up sliced.

~ Lee Trevino

The only sure rule in golf is - he who has the fastest cart never has to play the bad lie.

~Mickey Mantle

You can make a lot of money in this game. Just ask my ex-wives. Both of them are so rich that neither of their husbands work.

~ Lee Trevino



Outdoor Pool & Whirlpool

**AMTA
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

I've been thinking how important it is for AMT's to be in the association rather than to just come by for a visit occasionally.

It is that way for the follower of Jesus too. I remember thinking that I believed in GOD and that was enough. While praying I told GOD that and He communicated to me that He wanted a relationship with me, not to be treated as a fact or object of my adoration.

He wanted to be in my heart, spirit, body. While I can't get a handle on that He knows how to do it and He is not a burglar (He won't break in) so He said I needed to ask Him to come in. This is like someone coming to visit you at your house. Do you leave them standing on the porch and bring them a cup of coffee or a drink and visit there OR do you invite them in?

If you are not a follower of Jesus and want the benefits that come with that association you need to ask Jesus to come and live inside you, then tell someone that you did this and begin to read from the Instruction Book (The Holy Bible) about how to live this life and honor God, the Father and Jesus, His only begotten Son from now on.

If you are not a member of the AMT Association you need to contact Tom Joines, Bob White or one of our association board members to join. You flew the missions and so you can share the high or low spots with others who had the same experience. Please check on it today. We would like to see you at the reunion this year.

Jesus will return soon for those who trust Him and follow Him. Will you be in heaven with Him for eternity or some place else?

The choice is yours.

*Henry Leupp
AMTA Chaplain*

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Unknown



Hilton San Antonio Airport Lobby Area



Hilton San Antonio Fitness Center



Hilton San Antonio Airport Banquet Room. One of many.