



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 7 Issue 1

January through June 2015



San Antonio Marriott North

FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT

The AMTA is rapidly approaching its 11th anniversary. June 26, 2015 the AMTA will be 11 years old. We continue to maintain a membership in excess of 150 AMTs and our LIFE-TIME membership continues to increase. The fact our annual and three-year memberships continue to decrease does not affect the AMTA that much due to the generosity of the AMTA members and other AMTs that donate even though they are not members. AMTA Associate members are also very generous in supporting the AMTA. The mission

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY

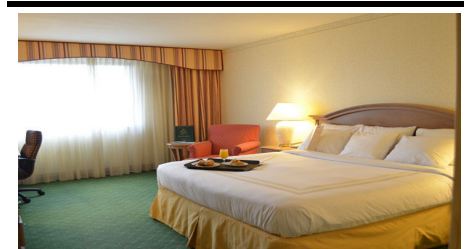
The 2015 AMTA reunion is less than four months away. Hotel and banquet reservations have started slow, but I hope it picks up soon and that we have a good turnout. The Marriott NW in San Antonio is spacious and has a very friendly staff. The room rate of \$94.00 is well within reason as it includes breakfast buffet for two per room. Handicap rooms are available at the same rate, but if you need one be sure to get your reservation made. For many reunions, we have been able to keep the banquet meals at \$29.00, however we needed to raise it to \$32.00 this year to almost break even. We will cover the cost of the speaker/spouse and color guard meals from the silent auction proceeds. Response for AMTA polo shirts has been considerably less than for shirts in the past. It appears I made an error by stipulating all would be no pockets in an effort to keep the cost down. I will be checking with the vendor to see how much more polo shirts with

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT

Well, it's that time of year again that we start gearing up for our odd numbered year AMTA Reunion in San Antonio, Texas. It also brings to mind the plight occurring in parts of Texas that pulls at your heart with the horrible rains they are having and the death and destruction that has resulted. I believe I can speak for all of us in expressing our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to those that have lost so much in properties and lives. On to the Reunion, and once again I urge those that have not attended before to do so. We miss you! See you in September.

*Mervin "Whitey" Gross
Vice President*



Inside This Issue

AMTA Treasurer	Pg 2
Membership Chairman	Pg 3
Remember the 145.....	Pg 3
AMTA Face Book Coord.....	Pg 3
AMTA Editors Note.....	Pg 4

President (Continued from page 1)

or goal of the AMTA is the same as always and that is to help those in need and to ensure fellowship and camaraderie of the AMTs. Thanks to all those who have supported and continue to support the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association. Everyone should have received a ballot from the AMTA Secretary, Mike McLaughlin and he has given everyone 30 days to complete their ballot and return it to the vote counters. Be sure and vote for four candidates of your choice. I believe we have seven candidates on the ballot and each of them have volunteered to work and support the AMTA as an active board member. You will be hard pressed to make a bad choice regardless of who you vote for on the ballot.

Time is going by very fast and it is getting closer and closer to this year's AMTA reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Mike has negotiated a very good deal with the Marriott Hotel in San Antonio and I expect nothing less than a great time for everyone once again. Start making your travel plans now as the longer you wait the tougher it gets. We are hoping to be Texas residents again by the time the reunion rolls around in September and travel will not be so tough as the 1300 plus miles from Las Vegas to San Antonio.

As president of the AMTA I have pretty much seen and heard it all, but when I have the opportunity to work alongside people like Mike McLaughlin, Bob White and Whitey Gross everything seems to become easy and enjoyable. The fact we have been friends for over 40 years may have something to do with it, but these guys are great friends and always seem to have my back. Whitey puts out a heck of a newsletter (the WireBender), and while some may think this just happens, it takes someone dedicated and willing to do the tedious work. Bob White can tell you at anytime the financial situation concerning the AMTA and his record keeping is superb. I don't even know

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

where to start about Mike McLaughlin. He has been a great friend for so long I don't even remember when we were NOT friends. He gives the word secretary true meaning and ensures the "T's" are crossed and the "I's" are dotted. I appreciate each of these guys, and thanks to them we should have a great reunion in September at the Marriott so start making your plans now.

*Johnnie Estes
President*

Secretary (Continued from page 1)

pockets will cost. If it seems reasonable, I will send out an email with the particulars. I am going to investigate whether or not to set up a tour of the Nimitz Museum and The Museum of The Pacific which are collocated in Fredericksburg, Texas. If we decide to do this, particulars will be emailed and posted on the AMTA website. We continue to lose AMTs much too often. It can happen without any forewarning as in the case of Bob Thomas. Do not count on seeing your old friends and coworkers "at the next reunion" if you just skip a reunion. We are all getting older, some more than others, and old friendships are much too important in this day and age to risk not having the chance to enjoy them while we can.

The AMTA election results will be emailed to all members by the end of June. My thanks to all who participated and cast their votes. I hope to see all the old faces and hopefully some new ones at the 2015 reunion. Till then, travel safely and may the bumps in your road be few.

*Michael McLaughlin
Secretary*



Hotel Fitness Center

FROM THE AMTA TREASURER

To start off I would like to report that the AMTA organizational financial budget is still sound and doing well. However, due to costs of hosting web services, donations, reimbursements for services and other items that come up throughout each year, our overall finances are starting to trickle gradually.

So far this year we have a total of Four renewal/life time memberships; Two being for three years and two were for Life memberships. It appears as our members turn older we're having an increase of "Life" memberships. Our renewal membership's change depending on the date our members joined the AMTA. Enrolling new members into the AMTA is very important, we need additional AMTs to carry on! We have lost a few members due to death and there are others that have chosen to resign for reasons of their own. Tom Joines and others are constantly looking for and locating past AMTs. As members of our organization we are all responsible in helping to locate our fellow AMTs and get the word out about our organization.

In May of this year the AMTA was pleased to be in the position to donate once again \$1,000 to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida, (www.afenlistedwidows.org). While we may not always be able to afford this amount, we will always attempt to donate \$500 which we as an organization are dedicated to each year as long as resources permit. The enlisted wives home is the charity that our organization charter has design-

(Continued on page 4)



**the WIREBENDER
Staff:**

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher: Whitey Gross

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

**AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS,
1017 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???**



**INFORMATION ON
THE AMTA
FACEBOOK**

In the few short months that I have been one of the AMTA Facebook Administrators we have had several people ask to join the AMT Facebook group that have names I am not familiar with or are not in the AMT database. I in turn send out a message requesting information and sometimes do not receive a response. Someone has asked to join but never goes back over their steps to see if they were accepted or if a message requesting information was sent back. On the other side, we get several requests to join the AMT Facebook group from people that are not past or present AMTs. I can usually determine this by going back to their Facebook page and see where they live or who their friends are. One give away, they joined Facebook only a couple of months earlier and they belong to numerous groups. If I have any question about their ambitions, it's time for a follow up message with more questions. A really good tool of the AMT Facebook is that we have contacted several AMTs and updated our database with valid information. Hopefully we can expand the AMTA membership with this information.

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

By opening the group we also have passed along the word that membership to the Facebook group and the AMTA is open to AMTs, IMTs, and ASEs that have flown on any collection mission like Compass Call, Rivet Joint, and those missions that proceeded them. I am sure there are other platforms that I do not know about.

During our upcoming reunion in September in San Antonio we will display a listing of our database so anyone and everyone can see who we know of as AMTs, IMTs, or ASE. If you know anyone that is qualified to be a member of the AMTA or AMT Facebook group please direct them to the Facebook group home page and request to be added to the group or at the very least pass along information for the database. At no time will any personal information be released to anyone without their prior permission. We only collect the information for our purposes



Airborne Maintenance

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of contact and not to bother anyone. Questions? Contact John Brown at jjbrown6818@hotmail.com or 661-965-5012

*John and Jeanie Brown
Facebook Coordinators*

**AMTA MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN**

Iwould like to thank each and every person that has decided to become an active member of the AMTA. Not only those in the past year, but also those faithful members who have been with us since its beginning in 2004. This is our 11th year of reunions, unofficial get-togethers and fellowship. Our growth has been slow but we are steadily growing in numbers. With your help, we have been able to locate and inform additional Airborne Maintenance men and women about our group. There are still approximately 500 AMT's that have never been contacted and are unaware of the AMT Association. It is a slow process because the information we have may not be anything more than a name. Trying to gather personal information on an acquaintance last seen over 50 years ago has proven to be a daunting task and leaves much to be desired. I appreciate each individual that has provided any information for this continuous search. It has helped tremendously. The short list will continue to be sent out and any help or information will be greatly appreciated!

Those of you that have not yet become an active, voting member, please consider doing so now. Every dime taken in through our very reasonable dues and any donations,

(Continued on page 4)

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
- Randy Holt - Director
- Larry Meade - Director
- Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)
- Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

AMTA Yahoo Group:

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

AMTA Website:

www.amtassociation.org

Treasurer (Continued from page 2)

nated as our primary donation each year.

Membership dues are only a small part of our revenue. The majority of our revenue comes from personal donations and from our silent auction. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on ways the Association can increase our revenue stream.

While we did not have an official 2014 reunion we did have an unofficial reunion last October in Las Vegas. I really believe that everyone that attended had a great time. Now it's time to look forward to the 2015 reunion in San Antonio, 23-25 September. The location of this year's reunion will be held at the San Antonio Marriott Northwest. You can go on line to the AMTA web page for all the details. Please send me your reunion dinner buffet form with payment (\$32.00). In the past, the cost of the snacks and beverages for the reunion has been our largest loss in revenue. Any support you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

With the 2015 reunion is just a few months away, I recommend everyone plan early and join us again in San Antonio. We can all rekindle many past memories with friends and make new ones. Again the board members are grateful for the continuous support of our entire membership, thank you! I'm looking forward of seeing all of you at the reunion.

*Robert J. White
Treasurer*

(Membership Continued from page 3)

goes to the support of our mission. These missions include, Retired Widows Homes, our troops thru the USO and other needs that individuals or troops may have.

The reunions and get-togethers have been a real treat for me and hopefully for others too! Who would ever have thought that after 57 years I would be reuniting with fellow Air Force veterans that I shared my first assignment with? Yes, I am looking forward to the upcoming reunion on September 23-25, 2015 in San Antonio, TX. I hope you are making plans to being there. We are always excited to see new faces! Make it a priority for 2015!

We presently have on our website current members names along with names of people that we are continually searching for information on. Johnnie Estes, our President and Web-Master, plans to have the names (names only) of every known AMT on the website. Please take a moment to go over the AMT website. There is a lot of good information included along with links to other sites. While there, click on the Facebook link and John Brown will assist you in becoming a part of the closed group of the "Airborne Maintenance & Inflight Maintenance Technicians (AMT/IMT/ASE)" group.

See you in San Antonio!

*Thomas Joines
Membership Chairman*

AMTA EDITOR'S NOTE

Detailed reunion information and hotel reservation link are on the AMTA website http://www.amtassociation.org/2015_AMT_A_Reunion.htm
<http://www.amtassociation.org/Events.htm>

Hotel reservations by phone: 1-800-228-9290 or 1-210-377-3900. Group ID is AMTA Reunion 2015

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

- Socrates

Law of Gravity- - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

Law of Mechanical Repair- - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

To view an excellent article concerning the 6994thSS check out the following web site.

<http://>

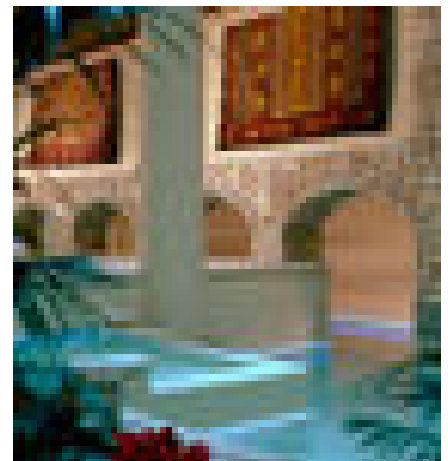
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Marriott Hotel Lounge



Banquets and Receptions



Lobby Fountain