



# the WIRE BENDER

Volume 10 Issue 1

January through June 2018

## AMTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Airborne Maintenance Technician Association is about to celebrate 14 years of helping others and enjoying a lot of fellowship between friends, old and new. In early 2004 seven Airborne Maintenance Technicians got together via phone calls and a couple of conference calls and discussed the possibility of forming an association for AMTs. The founding date for the AMTA was June 26, 2004, and was approved through the State of Texas and the IRS as a 501(c)19 tax exempt organization in September 2004. This effort was started in a large part due to one of our fellow AMTs passing away. Jake Hargrove was an AMT that traveled across the country visiting as many of his friends from his Air Force days as possible. Most of us enjoyed time with Jake and Judy at one time or another over the years. Jake had a heart attack March 17, 2004 just as he was getting ready to go play golf. The point is we are getting older and many are passing away at a far too rapid rate. After almost 14 years of being a strong association the AMTA is starting to dwindle due to lack of interest by the younger generations. The average age of the AMTA members at this time is about 72. Two of the original founders have passed away. If we want the AMTA to continue and be as strong

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Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Council Bluffs, IA ..... Ameristar Casino

## INFORMAL AMTA 2018 REUNION

Arrangements have been made for us to gather at the Holiday Inn & Suites Council Bluffs I-29 located on the banks of the Missouri River adjoining the Ameristar Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa. This is the same hotel we enjoyed in 2012, our last gathering in this area. You can Google the hotel site for photos. See Web site address at end of article.

1. Room rate of \$92.00 +tax (tax is lower than in Omaha) per night. The normal rate would be \$129 week days and \$149 weekends during this period. There is an extra benefit of no increase in room rate for anyone that wants to check in up to 3 days before or to stay 3 days after the reunion dates of 19th through 21st September. I have a block of 25 rooms with the ability to add more. Rooms not reserved by September 1, 2018 will be released and may not be available at our group rate after that date. The motel has agreed to add more rooms after we have re-

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## SECRETARY'S LATEST

Becoming the caretaker of a sixty foot flag pole with a ten by nineteen flag last October, I have become much more aware of flags being flown that do not comply with Public Law 103-322 regarding flag etiquette. Some of the common things are: flying a flag that is no longer presentable because it is very tattered, not adhering to half staff designated days, and flying the flag at night without proper illumination. If you notice instances of non-compliance with flag etiquette at either a business or residence, don't ignore it. Do them a favor and let them know about it. Generally, they will appreciate it, although some may not. I stopped at three businesses last week and all received my input well. The bottom line is that if they are going to fly our flag, it needs to be flown properly. There are many websites with information on flag etiquette and half staff days. Some of them offer free notification via email for half staff days.

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

# 155

## DECEASED

Let's Locate  
Others  
To Help  
Remember  
**THEM!**



Indoor Pool



Reception

**TREASURER'S  
FINANCIAL INPUT**

**S**ince the last newsletter it has been quiet with little activity. No big increase in membership but on the other hand we have not lost any members due to tragedies.

We had one new member join the AMTA, David F Haulman. He was stationed in Kadena and Omaha 1979-1983. Other information on David can be found in our data base.

In June 2018 the AMTA financial status was sufficient to meet our financial commitment of \$1,000 to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida. The Air Force Enlisted Village is a nonprofit organization whose core mission is to provide a safe, secure home for surviving spouses of retired enlisted U.S. Airmen, providing quality, affordable housing and care.

The 2019 AMTA reunion is still a little over a year away. However, it is never too early to start planning for another successful reunion. We need everyone's support, if you have any ideals or suggestions in making the next reunion a memorable one, please let the board members know. I know it's hard to make everyone completely happy, but let us all try to make these reunions enjoyable to everyone.

As always, without you we would not have the AMTA. Hope all of our members and their families have a great and safe summer.

*Robert J. White  
Treasurer*

**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
- Larry Meade - Director
- Bill Wilson – Director (Permanent)
- Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

"Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery.."

-- Winston Churchill



**Airborne Maintenance  
Technician Association**

288 Stone Trail  
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009

### CHAPLAIN'S IMPORTANT WORDS

**J**ust a reminder to all; keep the family of those who have passed in your hearts and mind. Send cards or make phone calls to just keep them in the AMTA family. AMTA members are indeed a very special group of people, we have shared many good and bad times together. We have shared many military events and also many personal times together. If you haven't heard from someone in a while call them, many times we neglect to call or write and later regret it. God's love is plentiful so share it with your friends.

Frank Jordan  
Chaplain



Rivet Joint



Compass Call



Holiday Inn Room Accommodations



Computer Assistance

### A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

**T**o our AMTA Secretary's acquired position of 'Flag caretaker' (See Page 1 column 3) I would like to suggest to all AMTA members, an excellent source of information concerning our national flag. The American Legion has a web site at [WWW.legion.org/flag.code](http://WWW.legion.org/flag.code). It contains the "Top Ten Flag Myths" and other valuable information about our flag. Believe you will find it very interesting.

On January 1, 2018 the Defense Agency adjusted some Tricare/Tricare-For-Life costs. I know my costs for a couple medicines I take went up from Express Scripts. I think it is really bad when the price of the generic drug is the same as the Name drug. According to "my source" at Express Scripts the price would probably go down after a "time." Be on the alert this fall open season because it looks like we have larger changes to Tricare for Life coming then. Think I will go onto politics and get my health care and not have to work for it. Hate to inform everyone but Jennie and I will not be making the get together in Omaha. Do hope, no, I know everyone will have a great time. We always do. Regards to all.

Mervin "Whitey" Gross  
Vice President

Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official.

Theodore Roosevelt



**the WIREBENDER Staff:**

**Editor:** Whitey Gross

**Publisher:** Whitey Gross

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

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as it has been in the past we must encourage the younger to get involved. We will be electing four board members next year and it would be nice if someone in the 40, 50 or even 60 years of age range would consider running for a board position. It is NOT a lot of work as the AMTA is a well established organization, but it does take a bit of dedication to ensure the success of the Association. We have only missed two years having a reunion since 2004 (2008 and 2010). In 2007 the membership voted unanimously to change the AMTA Articles and Bylaws to have a reunion during odd numbered years. However; many AMTs have wanted to have reunions during the even numbered years. Hence we had informal reunions in 2012 in Omaha, Nebraska, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada and in 2016 in Tucson, Arizona. As of today an informal reunion is being planned in Omaha for 2018. Informal reunions are nice but it is getting more and more difficult for older people to travel. We need to support the efforts to have a reunion in the Omaha area and if possible you should try to attend. Our 2019 AMTA reunion will be in San Antonio, but we can have any reunion anywhere we desire as long as someone is available locally at the location to sponsor the reunion.

If you are of the younger generations please come forward in support of the AMTA as a board member, or even as a member of the AMTA. ....

*Johnnie Estes  
President*

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Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner and a bottle of wine, they retire for the night, and go to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and asks his faithful friend, "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." "I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes" replies Watson. "And what do you deduce from that?" Watson thinks for a minute. "Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we

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served 75% of our 25 room block. Reservations are guaranteed by credit card and that individual is responsible for paying all charges posted to room. If an individual reservation must cancel, notice of this cancellation must be received by the hotel 24 hours prior to the arrival date. To make reservations, guests are to call 712-322-5050 and ask for "in-house" reservations and give the group name as "AMTA reunion". Please make reservations as soon as practical.

2. Free shuttle to and from the Airport. Coordinate shuttle transportation needs through the front desk.

3. Free local shuttle to any place within 5 miles of the hotel, which includes, many areas in Omaha like the Old Market, Zoo, and bars or restaurants.

4. Free Deluxe Breakfast { many more items than usually offered at motels). This is usually an extra cost here.

5. Free Wi-Fi in rooms and throughout the hotel.

6. Buffet and Restaurants in adjoining Ameristar Casino.

7. Huge indoor pool, fitness center, sauna and whirlpool.

8. Free 2 room hospitality suite. We can even bring in our own drinks and snacks.

9. I'm working on setting up the same restaurant, Trish's, that we used last time for a no host diner party.

Feel free to contact me for any assistance required. : 402-296-2805 or 402-617-308, jlhursts05@hotmail.com.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/council-bluffs/cbfrb/hoteldetail>.

*John Hurst  
VSO*

Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together.

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Georg Christopher Lichtenberg (1742 - 1799)

are a small and insignificant part of the universe. What does it tell you, Holmes?" Holmes is silent for a moment. "Watson, you idiot!" he says. "Someone has stolen our tent!"

*Author Unknown*

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The 2019 AMTA reunion location will be the same as the 2017 reunion; Courtyard by Marriott on HWY 151 in San Antonio. Room rates, Hospitality area and banquet cost will be the same. However, the banquet will be a buffet versus plated. I, and I believe others, were not impressed with the plated meal at the 2017 reunion. As always, we solicit items for the silent auction. We will also do the 50/50 drawing. I do not have a candidate for guest speaker yet, so if you have a suggestion, please let me know. Inputs for a t-shirt design will be warmly welcomed. Hope to see many old friends in attendance and hopefully some new faces. See you in September 2019.

*Michael McLaughlin  
Secretary*

## AMTA'S FACEBOOK GROUP ON VOTING

### WHY

Because it affects your life as well as your family and friends. If you don't or your family doesn't or your friends don't the result can only be blamed on you or them individually.

### VOTE

Voting is a right that everyone over the age of eighteen has that can effect their lives. You are encouraged to vote and so is everyone in your family. Whether you vote LEFT or RIGHT, Republican or Democrat or Independent or Green Party or whatever, makes no different. VOTE your conscience and be prepared to live with your vote.

*John Brown  
AMTA Facebook*

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"Everyone is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone else says anything back, that is an outrage".

*Winston Churchill*