



# the WIRE BENDER

Volume 13 Issue 1

January to June 2021



A Blast From The Past :- 2011 Reunion Silent Auction

2016 Arizona Informal Reunion

## SECRETARY'S LATEST

**G**reetings from the Texas hill country. The past year has been one that I would rather forget. Things are returning to a semblance of normal as we move through this Covid mess. That is not to say it is over, as variants are still surfacing. My hope is that our members and fellow AMTs made it through. In retrospect, we probably could have still planned on having a 2021 reunion. However I believe we made the right decision as people are likely still reluctant to travel or

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## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL INPUT

**I** trust this letter finds you and your families doing well. I know all of us are waiting to get back to a normal life style. With all of the COVID-19 precautionary and prevention protocols being in place it's been very hard getting out into the public. At this time it appears we are slowly returning to some type of normalcy, but it will take time. Hopefully we can soon start visiting friends and family once again.

Our financial budget is sound and doing well as expected. This year we have received \$60, two membership renewals and one personal donation. So far we have paid out \$1238.91 (administration fees, webhosting 3yrs and donation to the Air Force Enlisted Village).

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## AMTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**2**020 to present has been and continues to be a challenge. Nothing will ever be the same as it used to be. But nothing grabs your attention like a reminder you still have a civic duty when called. Yes, I received my first call for jury duty in many years. I have been called several times in the past but have never actually been on a jury. Will see how this one goes.

We had very few new members join and a few membership renewals over the past several years. I have been in contact with several AMT's and their reasons for not joining are just as varied as where they live. In all cases, they were aware of the AMTA's existence.

There has been much talk of younger members taking on a larger role in

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

**176  
DECEASED**

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

**WORDS FROM THE  
VICE PRESIDENT**

**I**t is summer 2021 and is that a light at the end of the tunnel? We have had to deal with the COVID virus for almost a year and a half, whether you believe it was truly as bad as they said or we were a victim of scare tactics, who knows. The important thing at this point is we are starting to return to normal or close to it. Here in Texas masks are no longer mandatory in most establishments and only suggested if you haven't had the vaccines. Hopefully this is happening in other states throughout the country and people are enjoying the freedom of getting out of the house this summer. With the restrictions easing up hopefully the AMTA can return to having formal and informal reunions so we can all get caught up on the latest war stories. With that I just want to say enjoy the summer and be safe and hope to see you at the next reunion.

*Tom Muggeo  
AMTA Vice President*

"Truth will ultimately prevail where pain is taken to bring it to light"

George Washington

*(Secretary Continued from page 1)*

be in a large group. There may be some interest in an informal reunion by next year. In the months ahead, I will poll members and AMTs to see how much interest there might be. Keep in mind that an informal reunion could be anywhere, but someone would need to step up and get it planned and find a suitable venue.

*Michael McLaughlin  
AMTA Secretary*

*(President Continued from page 1)*

running the association. A few members have indicated they would be interested at a later time. Of those, the most common reason for not stepping up now is they are still working! All of us are in different situations, but for the most part we are still working. Only time will tell the direction our association will go.

*David Leslie  
AMTA President*

"I must study politics and war, that our sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy."

--- John Adams

**AMTA VSO  
INFORMATION**

**T**he Veterans Administration (VA) just announced three additional conditions to the list of presumptive diseases due to exposure to Agent Orange. They are: bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism. Previous claims do not need to be refiled. VA will automatically review all prior claims. If a widow(er)'s spouse died of any of these diseases and had not filed a claim it is possible to file a claim now to apply for DIC (Dependent Indemnity Compensation) for the death of the veteran due to service connected disability. Contact your County Veterans Service Officer or State Department of Veterans Affairs.

*John Hurst  
Veterans Service Officer*



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

The Air Force Enlisted Village Home is the AMTA primary designated donation each year. Our present funding in Jun 2021 allowed the AMTA to donate \$1000 once again to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida, ([www.afenlistedwidows.org](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org)). Our funds may not always allow us to afford this amount, however we will always attempt to donate \$500 which as an organization are dedicated to each year as long as resources permit.

2021 was to be the next AMTA official reunion year. Early this year hotel plans and reservations had been set up and established by Don Weaver. However due to COVID-19, the board members thought it would be wise to cancel this year's reunion. Don got back with Courtyard by Marriott and the hotel agreed to cancel the 2021 AMTA Reunion with no financial penalty to AMTA. The hotel will be contacted in the future to

discuss upcoming options. Thanks to Don for all of his hard work and planning.

The next AMTA official reunion should be in 2023. Hopefully all will continue to go well and we can all get together once again. I know it's been awhile since we have been together and we are not getting any younger. After this year's reunion cancellation I received questions from a couple of individuals if there could be an unofficial reunion in 2022. At this time I know of no plans of an unofficial reunion in 2022.

The AMTA thanks everyone for their continued support. Until we're able to meet again, please stay safe and well. May God bless his land, his people and the USA.

*Robert J. White  
AMTA Treasurer*

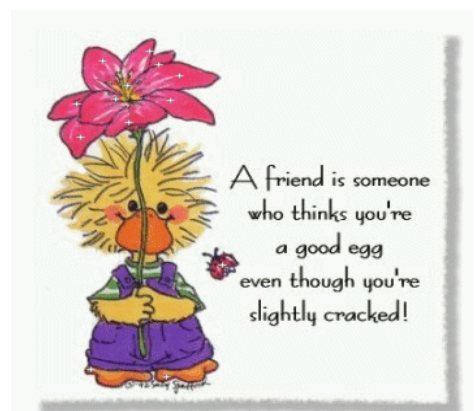
## CHAPLAIN'S IMPORTANT WORDS

**D**uring these times of Pandemic, winter storms, heat waves, tornados and rising crime rates many all across the country are suffering. Finances, sickness, depression and lack of social contact are just a few things that many of our members have to deal with. Do your part to help, make phone calls and write letters to friends, let them know you care and let them know God cares and loves them. Help is just a prayer away. If your knees are like mine they creak and groan but when you get down on them they work and if you are having trouble getting up it might mean you are not through praying, you can never get too much.

*Frank Jordan  
AMTA Champlain*



Just a friendly chat in the Hospitality



### **AMTA Board of Directors:**

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