



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 16 Issue 1

January through July 2025

AMTA PRESIDENT' Interesting / Frustrating

To All,
It has been an interesting and frustrating first part of this year. Hope the rest of this year will go easier. With Mike stepping down for health reasons, it will be hard to find someone to replace him. He takes with him a lot of years of experience and information that helps in running this organization. It has been Mike that has organized the reunions in the past. He was the main contact that set up the hotels as well as scheduled the events during the reunion week.

This year it has been difficult and disappointing as it appeared the AMTA membership has lost interest in the Association. We sent out several emails requesting input about a 2025 AMTA Reunion, but no one seemed to care and/or did not response. As discussed in the past, we aren't getting any younger and our health isn't what it used to be. What few did respond said they would not be attending because they could not travel for health reasons. This makes it difficult because the numbers for attending were down. Cost alone isn't a factor, but participation is THE driving factor.

The future of the Association lies with the membership. A few cannot sustain the current expectations. Difficult decisions are on the table for discussion and consideration. History is there, but maybe we are history. The wishes of the few cannot out-weigh the whole.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

REMEMBER THE 195...	Pg 2
AMTA VSO / AMTA CHAPLAIN	Pg 2
VICE-PRESIDENT	Pg 3
FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR	Pg 4



No Hotel or Reunion Date Yet, SO Aircraft 842

TREASURER REPORT State of Affairs 2025

Hello AMTA members and fellow AMTs hope this finds everyone doing well. It's been awhile since the last newsletter. Hopefully we can start the newsletter up again continue this tradition. This is a quick summary of our finances for 2024 and up to May of 2025. We've had no incoming donations for the AMTA in 2024 and no donations so far in 2025. Money paid out; USO donation of \$50, Webhosting for 3 years \$215.64 (good till 6 April 2027) and Air Force Enlisted Village donation of \$1000. No other monies to talk about. I do get numerous letters requesting donations from Wounded Warrior Project, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross and others to name a few. I get these letters addressed to the AMTA and my individual address. So it's true, once you donate they keep calling on you for more and more. At one time we donated \$50 to an organization, now I'm getting request for \$100-\$250 donation. As always I contact all board members for their ap-

(Continued on page 3)

SECRETARY..... OUTGOING.....

Michael McLaughlin-Outgoing AMTA Board of Directors and Secretary (January 3, 2005—October 2025)

It has become necessary for me to back away from active participation in the AMTA. In August 2021, I had a bad fall off a ladder resulting in severe back trauma and I was hospitalized three weeks. Back pain has been constant since then. In 2024, I had five level fusion of my spine and another three weeks in the hospital. I have had four spinal injections in the past two weeks. My back pain has not gone away. I am also now an Alzheimer's caregiver.

During nearly twenty years as the AMTA secretary, it has been interesting and challenging at times. Board members/officers have come and gone. A new board of directors will convene in the near future and new officers elected. I will assist the new secretary in any way I can. It is not a tough job, but does require a measure of dedication. Reun-

(Continued on page 3)

AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 726 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???

195 DECEASED

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

(President's Continued from page 1)

Please feel free to contact me at jmorton@satx.rr.com or phone 210-860-0464 for discussions or comments. I welcome the suggestions, comments, criticism or any input from everyone.

Jim Morton
AMTA President



This picture depicts why we should care about the AMTA. John, Del and Sharon are all gone. Frank is the only one left with us in this picture. THINK ABOUT IT. FIVE AMTA MEMBERS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE 2023 REUNION. 2004 Reunion



Airborne Maintenance Technician Association

288 Stone Trail
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009

AMTA VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

I am willing to serve on the AMTA board again, after many years of letting others run the association. I will do whatever it takes to ensure the preservation of this organization of uniquely trained and qualified electronics technicians. More commonly referred to as Airborne Maintenance Technicians (AMTs), In-flight Maintenance Technicians (IMTs), Airborne Systems Engineers (ASEs,) etc. This explains my reasoning for agreeing to come out of retirement to run again for the AMTA board of directors.

NOW SOME VSO NEWS:

Has your service connected disabilities worsened over the years? If they have you should request the Veteran's Administration schedule you for a re-evaluation. Here are the locations now added to the Agent Orange presumptive exposure list: Any United States or Thailand base, Cambodia, Guam or American Samoa, Johnston Atoll or any ship that called on these locations. This new list takes in a lot of territory and you should look at it very carefully as it may mean a chance of a greater disability percentage.

John L Hurst
AMTA VSO

**LIFE IS A ONE TIME OFFER
USE IT WELL!**

AMTA CHAPLAIN What it's all about.....

Recently we celebrated Easter, hiding colored eggs and enjoying good food. Do you remember that Easter is actually a celebration of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, the shell symbolic of the cave and when cracked open the emergence of new life. Earlier Christians painted bible symbols on the egg and when kids found them, they would tell stories about the symbol, much like we tell stories about Jesus's life, death and resurrection. Sadly, we have slowly forgotten the true meaning of Easter. Today I sense a beginning of a shift to regain Christianity in our society, schools and even in our own lives. When things are going good, we tend to forget who gave us the peace, prosperity and tranquility. When times turn, the economy is bad and wars are raging we remember. We ask ourselves, how did we get in this condition, we each have one vote. When you sense that you are not as close to God as you were, guess who moved. No matter what war you were in, God heard your prayers and brought you home; let's help the current efforts to restore our Christian principles in our lives and secure our nation. May God bless us and protect us from our enemies, both foreign and domestic.

Frank Jordan,
AMTA Chaplain

The glory of life is to LOVE not be loved; to GIVE not to get; to SERVE not to be served.

You know
you're an
adult when
you get excited
to just go
home.

Success has many fathers, while failure is a lonely orphan.

Author: Unknown



the WIREBENDER Staff:

Editor: J. Estes (TEMP)
Publisher: J. Estes (TEMP)

*"It's your newsletter to use to
communicate with other AMTs, etc."*

(Treasurer Continued from page 1)

proval before I obligate any donations from the AMTA funds.

Currently our organization has adequate funds to conduct day to day operations. Presently we are still able to donate and meet our organizations financial commitment to the Air Force Enlisted Village which is due in June 2025. We have donated \$1000 annually but we may not be able to always provide this amount. We will strive to donate \$500 which the AMTA has committed to each year, funds permitting.

Individual donations, silent actions and memorabilia have brought in a few dollars to help our financial commitments. Membership dues no longer play a role in our finances. We have a total of 142 active members, 135 are life time members and 7 have 1-3 year memberships. Once again, please keep supporting the AMTA, we cannot and will not exist without YOU! Be "Active and a Supporter".

At this time we are still lacking in new memberships. It's getting harder and harder to locate present and past AMTs, almost impossible. The younger AMTs appear to have a lack of interest in the AMTA, their type of work has little to do with what our older members did at one time. Also we need someone to step-up or help in publishing our newsletter, the "WireBender". Any help in either area will be greatly appreciated.

A 2025 AMTA reunion is being planned.

With inflation prices are really high for everything. We are spreading out to contact other hotels and possible get a bit of competition going in our favor. We are doing our best to keep down room cost, have breakfast included in the room rate, and having a hospitality room included. We must have positive numbers of the membership attending the reunion to get the best deal we can from any hotel. We will send out details as soon as we have something firmed up.

Thank you once again for the support of the entire membership, this is your association. As stated before the AMTA cannot and will not exist without YOU! Please stay in touch with each other and the board members. Exchange ideas and help solve problems we are facing. The very best to everyone, stay safe and thoughtful!

Robert J. White
AMTA Treasurer

When life gets tough , hang out with your dog.

VICE-PRESIDENT AMTA Membership ????

Hello Everyone!

I am dedicating my efforts as the AMTA Membership Chairman into ensuring we get more and younger members into the AMTA. This is to ensure the longevity of the Association. I am doing this because I do care about the AMTA.

I and other board members want to work closely with fellow AMTs to recruit new members. This action must be taken or the AMTA is going to cease to exist. We are down to 142 members now and all of them but 7 are lifetime members. During the most recent study of our membership we have discovered six members that are now deceased. If we and this is all AMTs, want to ensure the longevity of the AMTA as a strong and solid organization. We need every AMT, both members and non-members, to assist us with this effort. The strategy for this to work is for everyone to make calls, email and/or message your AMT buddies to join us as part of the AMTA. Please connect with us through the website, www.amtassociation.org and/or the AMTA FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AMT.IMT/>.

A great way to understand and get to know about the AMTA is to attend a reunion, such as the one we are planning for October of this year. In helping us strengthen and grow YOUR association, please provide your thoughts on the following topics:

1. What would you suggest to make others want to be a part of the AMTA?
2. What is your suggestion to get the AMTA known far and wide? Is it the WireBender (Newsletter), the FaceBook group or the AMTA Website, or some other method?

We have over 270 members in the AMTA FaceBook group that are not members of the AMTA. We have people that maintain

(Continued on page 4)

AMTA Board of Directors:

Jim Morton - President, Director
Gene Dudley - Vice-President, Director
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary, Director
Robert White - Treasurer, Director
Larry Meade - Director
Tom Muggeo - Director
David Leslie - Director
Johnnie Estes - Director (Permanent)
Mervin Gross - Director (Permanent)
Jim Hargrove - Director (Permanent)
Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)
OPEN— Newsletter Temporary

(Secretary Continued from page 1)

ion attendance has steadily declined for several reasons. Our comrades continue to pass away and travel is difficult or impossible for many others. Another big hurdle is the increased cost of travel, hotel rooms and banquet meals. It was always enjoyable to visit with friends and former coworkers. I am thankful that I was able to coordinate and manage seven successful reunions in San Antonio. I wish the best for the AMTA to continue and help AMTs stay in touch with each other.

Michael McLaughlin
AMTA Secretary

WORDS FROM PAST AMTA PRESIDENT....

In the fall of year 2019 three board members made a grave mistake, by removing their names from the AMTA 2019 Election ballot. These were three of the most experienced board members and it left only four of the original seven that had any experience. Two of the four remaining directors had extremely limited experience on the operations of the AMTA. The AMTA Secretary and the Treasurer were left with the training of new directors and continuing to do their primary tasks as secretary and treasurer.

This was virtually an impossible task even though the AMTA was well established too much needed to be done for only two people. The following elected AMTA President, while eager and ready to get things done, was left totally in the dark as to what was required. The newly elected board members were unable to provide the assistance that was needed. The two directors, secretary and treasurer helped as much as possible, but it was not enough. Some of the tasks that needed to be accomplished were only familiar to one of the board members that had dropped off the ballot.

The following election year, 2021 another new person was added to the AMTA board of directors and was elected vice-president. A new board member from the 2019 election was elected president in 2021. These people tried hard to get the job done but it was mostly a lack of experience on what needed to be done and how to do it. A very unfair situation for any person to be placed into. To add to the dilemma the new board member that was elected vice-president had to resign his position and his

VICE-PRESIDENT

(Vice-President Continued from page 3) this avenue to help bring the AMTA to everyone's attention, but it doesn't seem to be bringing people forward to join the AMTA. If you have an idea for a location of an AMTA reunion and are willing to help sponsor it, this can be entertained during the none-formal reunions. You can email me at blujag-man@yahoo.com or call/text me (205.837.4009) at your convenience to discuss and learn more. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Thank you all!
Gene Dudley
AMTA Vice-President*



Michael Gareri, AMTA LIFETIME member is no longer with us, gone at age 62



Del and Sharon Jolly, AMTA LIFETIME member, 2nd Vice-President, both are no longer with us.

VOTING FOR 2025 AMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Not looking great so far, only 37% voting while 63% are sitting back waiting. For what? I don't know.
AMTA: 6/24/2004—?????

AMTA FACEBOOK GROUP ADMINISTRATOR

Airborne Maintenance and In-flight Maintenance Technicians (AMT/IMT/ASE) FaceBook Group

This is the first WireBender article about our Airborne Maintenance and In-flight Maintenance Technicians (AMT/IMT/ASE) FaceBook group. The AMTA FB group is a private group. Which means only members can see who's in the group and what they post. And, non-members can not post to the AMTA FB Group webpage. To be accepted into the group a person has to have actually performed duties as an AMT at sometime in the past. Membership is by application only, persons wishing to join have to apply for membership and provide verifiable evidence that they have actually performed as an airborne maintenance technician. Applications to join the group must be approved by the AMTA FaceBook administrator.

The FaceBook group currently has 245 members. Some of those members are members of the AMTA. But, many of the members of the AMTA FB Group are not members of the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association.

If you are a member of the AMTA FB Group, but are not a member of the AMTA, I would encourage you to join and support the AMTA, as it is a great way to fellowship and take part in an association that does a lot to help others. If you are an Association member and are not currently a member of the AMTA FB group I recommend you submit your application for the AMTA FB group. It's a good place to keep in touch with fellow AMTs. You can catch up on the latest news and/or gossip, retell an old "war story" the way it really happened.

*Earl Sifford
AMTA FaceBook
Administrator*



PAST PRESIDENT.....

(Past President Continued from page 3)

membership from the AMTA due to health reasons. The remaining board members elected a new board member to replace the one that resigned.

During the 2023 election a new board member was elected to the board and he was elected as the AMTA president. He had no idea of the monumental task before him. And the AMTA vice-president was the newly AMTA elected board member, that was elected to replace the one that had resigned. We now had a president and a vice-president with zero experience, and we were all expecting nothing but the best from everyone. During a six year span the AMTA had two active board members that had been with the organization for over 15 years and during that same time the AMTA had no less than five board members that had very little knowledge of what to do to ensure the continued success of the AMTA.

It does not take a really brilliant person to see what the problem is and what caused it in the first place. We hope to correct this major mistake, but is going to take a lot of work to get it done and a lot of help from all airborne maintenance people both AMTA members and nonmembers.

*Johnnie Estes
AMTA President
(September 2005—October 2019)*



Both Jerry and Bob are no longer with us. Both AMTA LIFETIME members.



Jean with Hank and John, both are gone