



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 9 Issue 1

January through June 2017

AMTA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our ninth AMTA reunion will happen shortly in San Antonio, TX. It is our 12th overall reunion as we have had three that were informal; Council Bluffs, IA, Henderson, NV, and Tucson, AZ. These reunions were outstanding and if you have never attended an informal reunion you may want to give the next one a try where ever it may be. Informal reunions have no schedule, no meetings, no voting just fun and tall tales with old and new friends. I bring this up because we are having our reunion in San Antonio at the Court Yard by Marriot at Sea World and appears we are not making our reservations very quickly. Mike McLaughlin has put together a nice package with the hotel and it sounds like it is going to be a great time as always. Small glitches from time to time do not stop AMTs from having the time of their life. I suggest we all hurry and sign up for the AMTA dinner (banquet) on Friday evening, September 29th, and while we are at it we will book our hotel room.

I have spoke with many AMTA members and to the other board members that I will not be running for a board position in 2019. The Airborne Maintenance Technician Association is one of the finest organizations I have ever worked with. We have six other board members that have worked with me very closely over the past few years while always making me look good. They are not just board members they are some of my closest friends. I want to step down from the AMTA while I am still able to help should someone need to call on me. Most of all the AMTA is an outstanding organization that does a lot of great things to help a lot of different people and we do NOT



Courtyard by Marriott San Antonio SeaWorld Westover Hills

want to see it fade away just because some of us older guys step away. I will always remember the six guys that came together with me in June 2004 to organize and association for Airborne Maintenance Technicians. Bob Miller, Bill Wilson, John Shaffer, Vern Stump, Del Jolly, John Hurst and myself established the AMTA June 26, 2004. What these six guys did in such a short time was amazing as we had our first reunion in September 2004 and the AMTA was a fully functional tax exempt organization under tax code 501(c)19, which means we have to maintain 90 percent war veterans membership and that has never been a problem as we are near 98 percent. I encourage the very sharp (and you are many) 40, 50 and 60 year old AMTs, ASEs, IMTs, etc to join the AMTA and ask to be put on the ballot to run for a board position. It is up to the younger guys to ensure the longevity of the AMTA. Thanks to everyone for making these years some of the best of my life.

Johnnie Estes
President

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL INPUT

The AMTA financial status is sufficient to meet our financial commitment to the Air Force Enlisted Village. Once again this year the AMTA donated \$1,000 to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida. Although we may not be able to always provide this amount, we will always strive to donate \$500 which as an organization are committed to each year as long as funds permit. In return the AMTA received a very nice thank you card from the Air Force Enlisted Widows

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Village signed by the CEO, Brooke McLean, CMSgt, Ret. The AMTA is considered to be a major donor for the Air Force Enlisted Village as we have been giving \$1000.00 each year. To see a copy of the letter received from the Air Force Enlisted Widows Village go to this link on the AMTA website: <http://www.amtassociation.org/AFEV2017Donation%20Letter.pdf>

Since the beginning of 2017 we have had seven memberships renewed. Four membership were for three years and three members were upgraded to life. As of this date we have a total of 158 members. Of which 137 are life members, 1 one year member and the other 20 are three year members.

As stated previously, the bulk of our funds are derived from memberships, donations, silent auctions and memorabilia. This year to date we have paid out \$1000 to Air Force Enlisted Village Home and received four donations totaling \$376. Please keep supporting the AMTA, we cannot exist without YOU!

The 2017 AMTA reunion is just a few months away. I advise all members to plan early and join us again in San Antonio. The reunion brings back countless memories and is a great place to meet with old friends and make new ones. I always look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

The board members are grateful for the support of our entire membership, thank you!

*Robert J. White
Treasurer*

SECRETARY'S LATEST NEWS

It's that time again folks. The 2017 AMTA Reunion will be here in a few months. We have a great location at the Courtyard by Marriott and an excellent guest speaker—Grover Jackson, USAF, BG, Retired. I am pushing for a strong turnout for this reunion and hope to see many more new faces. Our membership rolls have been somewhat stagnant as we continue to reach out to the younger guys to ensure the longevity of the AMTA. We need your help in getting the word out! If you know anyone who qualifies for membership, please contact them. Remember, this also includes IMTs, and ASEs. I do not have a shirt design yet for this reunion, but working on it and I will get the info out as soon as I can. Any suggestions for the type of shirt or artwork are very welcome. I was somewhat disappointed in how the polo shirts turned out in 2015—another lesson learned. I have had better luck staying with a local vendor as opposed to ordering online. As always, we will have a silent auction and solicit your donations.

*Michael McLaughlin
Secretary*

A biography of Gen Jackson can be found at <http://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/106658/brigadier-general-grover-e-jackson/>

A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Once again it is time to speak of reunions and that would be the AMTA Reunion! As we say every year, you do not know what you are missing if you haven't been to one. It's true! Join us this September 27 - 29 in San Antonio.

Breaking news!! The Board of Directors balloting has been completed with Mike McLaughlin, Larry Meade and Joe Jesty being elected. Congratulations gentlemen. A big shout out should also be given to the three other members that were on the ballot, David Leslie, Rick Sluder and Robert Romero. Am sure they will be future BOD selectees.

Please remember this newsletter is by and for the membership. If you have information that you would like to pass on to our members, questions you would like answered, or other member related material, feel free to submit an article for publication. Our two publications are for January to June and July to December each year. All I ask is that I receive the article by 1 June for the January to June edition and 1 December for the July to December edition.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and a terrific Reunion.

*Mervin "Whitey" Gross
Vice President*

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER IN LIFE:

"Take care of your thoughts when you're alone", and "Take care of your words when you're with people."



**the WIREBENDER
Staff:**

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher: Whitey Gross

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



Outdoor Pool

**AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS,
1050 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???**

151 DECEASED

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

**AMTA FACEBOOK
GROUP**

We have 149 people that are members of the Facebook "Airborne Maintenance & In-flight Maintenance Technicians (AMT/IMT/ASE)" or also known as the AMT Facebook group. Several of the people in this group are not members of the AMTA.

September is on the horizon and we want as many people as possible to come join us in San Antonio. I have generated several messages to people trying to entice them to attend the reunion, and let others know, you do not have to be a member to attend the reunion. only stipulation is that those non-members cannot attend the membership meeting, BUT, anyone can attend the social time and golf tournament. We always have fun during the social time and dinner. Please promote the reunion to any and all AMTs, IMTs, and ASEs you know. need to build our membership. See ya'all in September.

*John Brown
Facebook*

Talk is cheap, except when
Congress does it.
-- Anonymous



Fitness Center



Hotel Front Desk



**Airborne Maintenance
Technician Association**
11615 Old Hills Lane
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

**VSO'S
WORDS OF WISDOM**

I want to address this input to any of you that are being paid VA compensation at the 100% rate based in IU, individual employability. There has been a proposal by the staff of the Secretary of the VA to remove IU payment for those Veterans that are receiving Social Security payments. This would result in the compensation payment at the Veterans actual disability rating. If you fall into that possible situation and your disability has either worsened, or you have an additional service connected disability that could result in you receiving a new rating that would increase your combined rating to 100% or improve your current rating, Consider submitting VA form 21-0966 "intent to file a claim" to the VA. This form will establish a new claim date from the date they get the form for one year without actually filing a claim at this time. If the VA does not change the IU benefit you can just not file a new claim and continue being paid at the 100% rate based on IU. If a change does occur you can file a new claim to try to improve your rating with a claim date back to the date of the intent form for up to one year. Visit a service officer if you have any questions.

*John Hurst
Veterans Service Officer*

I don't make jokes. I just watch
the government and report the
facts. -- Will Rogers

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

CHAPLAIN'S IMPORTANT WORDS

Has this been a weird year for weather or what! Oregonians are complaining about the rain, Florida is too hot and burning up without rain. California was beginning to look like a dust bowl and the Mississippi Valley is flooding. One would think that with all of man's high tech knowledge they could avoid some of these less desirable conditions. I guess it boils down to the fact that God is in control of the weather also. I don't hear any radical group demanding God stop these offensive conditions, but then they would have to admit he exists. People who say there is no God find it offensive for you to pray to God, why do they care if you pray to something that does not exist? Our lives are kind of like the weather, God is in charge, sometimes things happen and we can do nothing to change them and many times things are not what we desire them to be. We have means to deal with all things through prayer, faith and trust that God cares and will hear us. We should be in prayer for those who don't know that God exists, they have no assurances. I know God is real, I have a one year old Granddaughter at my house now and one of my Grandsons just made me a Great Grandfather with a baby girl, now that is living proof. Have a great summer and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

*Frank Jordan
Chaplain*



Deluxe King



The Bistro



Waves Lounge



Indoor Pool