



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 11 Issue 2

July through December 2019



AMTA OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We had another great reunion at the Hilton Hotel at the San Antonio Airport October 2nd through the 4th this year. It was low in attendance which is due to many different things and the most noticeable and biggest issue is we are getting older and more and more of us have failing health. Many of us in attendance were there wholly by the Grace of God as most of us had some kind of an ailment that was really slowing us down. I cannot speak for everyone but I know my pace was less than half speed. None the less Mike and Bob did an abso-

(Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue

Remember the 167....	Pg 2
Facebook Group	Pg 2
AMTA VSO	Pg 3
Chaplain's Words	Pg 3
Vice President	Pg 4
Editor's Corner	Pg 4

AMTA PRESIDENTS INSIGHT

Hello all. I am guessing most of you will be wondering what changes you will see with myself and Tom Muggeo as your new President and Vice President. Hopefully...NONE! I do not see any reason to make wholesale changes just for the sake of making change. The founders of the AMTA have setup what I believe is a solid foundation for our organization. Changes will come from the members. At the moment, we are still in the figuring out who did what mode and transferring those duties over. Other than the clerical changes that have already been made on the AMTA website, we hope to make this transition as transparent as possible. As always, if you have any suggestions, please send them to us. If you're not sure who to send them to, just send them to any board member and we will figure it out.

*David Leslie
President*

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL INPUT

Hello fellow AMTs! We are at the end of another fantastic year. Financially, I'll summarize some of this year's activity. During this year's reunion we added "2" Life members and "1" three year member to our organization. In 2019 we had a total of 10 renewal/life time memberships. We had "1" for one year, "4" were for three years and "5" were for Life memberships. Although we do add new members now and then, our membership numbers are remaining pretty constant. We now only have a few members that are not Lifetime members. The 2019 AMTA reunion was a complete success. We broke pretty even on the snack fund donations, but the 50/50 drawing brought in \$108.00 and the silent auction amassed a grand total of \$465.00 which is just outstanding. Thanks to all of our members and spouses that donated items for the auction. During the year we received \$342.00 in donations and paid out \$1325.00. Our largest expenditure was to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida, which is the AMTA's "financial obligation" for

(Treasurer Continued on page 2)

AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 951 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???



SECRETARY'S LATEST

The 2019 AMTA reunion was a good time for all, highlighted by the attendance of Lois and Nancy Larson (Gen Larson's wife and daughter). Nancy Larson gave an outstanding presentation on Gen Larson's younger years on through his rise in the ranks to become one of the most admired leaders the airborne reconnaissance program was ever blessed with. Attendance at the 2019 reunion was the lowest I recall since the organization began in 2004. Several people that had signed up needed to cancel due to personal or family medical issues. I suspect there are a host of other reasons for a low turnout to include conflicting family responsibilities, the distance to San Antonio from where members live, and the cost of travel/hotel accommodations.

If possible, the 2021 reunion will be back at the Courtyard by Marriott on Hwy 151 where it was in 2017. I really wanted to be there for the 2019 reunion, but when the FTVA moved their reunion a week I could not get space at the Courtyard. That meant going to a backup plan and ending up at the Airport Hilton where we were in 2009 and 2011. The current management was not as accommodating as previous management had been and we had to fight for normal considera-

(Secretary continued on page 3)

(Treasurer continued from page 1)

\$1000.00. The other \$325.00 was for the AMTA's administrative support, three years of WEB hosting, paper/card stock, ink and postage.

This year our members once again elected to donate to the "USO" Christmas effort that continuously adapts to the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families. USO donors provide critical support that improves the daily lives of service members and their families, who proudly serve our country. Members in our association donated \$1135.00 and a check has been sent to the USO. Thank you to everyone that donated!

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I truly appreciate the never-ending support and hard work of the entire membership. Thank You! Wishing all a great, safe and successful 2020.

*Robert White
Treasurer*



Airborne Maintenance Technician

11615 Old Hills Lane

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

AMTA'S FACEBOOK GROUP

The Airborne Maintenance Technician Association (AMTA) is in transition. We completed our biennial reunion this past October and election and nominations for the Board of Directors are complete. If you go to the AMTA website (amtassociation.org) you can see the people who fill these positions. Like anything else transitions take time. At any rate, you can contact the new Board of Directors that were installed or contact past Board of Directors if you have any question.

On a different subject.....Notification of changes in peoples lives is still very important. We are a family and are spread all over the world. We are intertwined with each others families. If you have lost a family member, let us know. If your address or email address has changed, let us know. If you are looking for a long lost friend but can't find them, let us know. The FaceBook group may know where they are. Keep in mind we may not, and probably won't, give you the pertinent information until we contact that person to make sure they want to be found. Couple good examples.....A member died that the AMTA Board of Directors were unaware of. It took quite an effort to determine all of the correct facts. Another example was that a rumor was out that a member had died. No one could be sure. Upon finally contacting a individual that was in contact with said person, the confusion was settled

(FaceBook Continued on page 4)

AMTA Board of Directors:

David Leslie - President, Director
Tom Muggeo - Vice-President, Director
Mervin Gross - Newsletter, Director
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary, Director
Robert White - Treasurer, Director
Jim Hargrove - Director
Joe Jesty - Director
Larry Meade - Director
Don Weaver - Director
Johnnie Estes - Director (Permanent)
Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)

(Continued from page 1)

lutely great job putting together another great reunion.

We had our election for new board members back in the spring of this year and the new board and old board members met at the reunion. The new board members Tom Muggeo, Don Weaver and David Leslie were ready to step up and ensure the continued success of the AMTA. The new board elected new officers and David Leslie was elected AMTA President by a unanimous vote. A bit of discussion followed but ultimately Tom Muggeo was elected AMTA Vice-President also by a unanimous vote. Mike McLaughlin was elected again as the AMTA Secretary and Bob White as the AMTA Treasurer. Don Weaver is stepping up to take over much if not all of the technical duties previously accomplished by me. I will be working closely with Don until he completely takes over the jobs of AMTA membership tracking, AMTA database and the AMTA website. David, as the AMTA President, will be writing letters as needed for the AMTA. The current board members are looking for someone to take over the AMTA newsletter (the WireBender), this could possibly fall on Don Weaver but he is already accepting a great deal of responsibility. It does not have to be a board member so the opportunities are many on who can do the job.

The three outgoing board members, Johnnie Estes (me), Mervin Gross (Whitey) and Jim Hargrove are now AMTA permanent board members along with Bill Wilson. This is in compliance with the AMTA Articles and Bylaws. As permanent board members we can always share our inputs concerning the AMTA but will only vote in case of a tie or if expressly asked to do so by the active AMTA board members.

I encourage everyone to be in full support of the AMTA and the AMTA board members just as you have done in the past. David has demonstrated what an excellent AMTA President he is going to be as he did

a great job during the Friday evening dinner and program at the reunion.

Thanks to every AMT and every AMTA member that have supported me over the past 14 plus years as the AMTA President. I have had the great fortune of working with a group of AMTA board members that are not only very close and dear friends they always took the extra effort to keep me straight and ensure that I screwed up as little as possible. During my time as AMTA president I have seen far too many extremely close friends pass away. Each time was as difficult as the previous ones, because all of these people were loved by all of us. Thanks to each and every one of you and may God bless you and keep you safe for many years to come.

*Johnnie Estes
Permanent Board Member*

(Secretary Continued from page 2)

tions such as ice. I will be going to the Courtyard soon to work out a preliminary contract for 2021. We have considered transitioning reunion coordinator duties to new board member Don Weaver, but he may be taking over website management from Johnnie Estes. Also, Whitey Gross is doing his last newsletter and that job needs to be picked up by someone else. Till I see you in 2021, be safe and stay healthy.

*Michael McLaughlin
Secretary*

I have wondered at times about what the

Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress..

-Ronald Reagan

AMTA VSO INFORMATION

Disabled Veterans rated at 30% or higher, should be receiving an extra amount for each dependent meeting age or in school limits. Do not miss out on an increase in benefits if another qualified child comes into your home by birth, adoption, or as a step-child through a marriage.

*John Hurst
VSO*

CHAPLAIN'S IMPORTANT WORDS

As I write this I am reminded of the fact that Thanksgiving was just here and we are Christmas shopping already, how time flies. We can get away from our family just as quick, think about how long it has been since you have talked or heard from some of your family. You are maybe thinking they are too busy and don't have time to talk with me, maybe they are thinking you are too busy to call or write. In this day of E-mail and texting we forget how good the sound of a loved one talking is, when you hear a voice you connect it with a face, a person and memories of past relation; a text or E-mail just doesn't do it for me. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and will have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year, may God bless and keep us all. Remember the AMTA is your extended family.

*Frank Jordan
Chaplain*



**the WIREBENDER
Staff:**

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher: Whitey Gross

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

AMTA Yahoo Group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:
www.amtassociation.org

(FaceBook Continued from page 2)

and the Past President sent out a blanket email to notify members that the individual had not passed. Of the 325 emails sent out 23 bounced. If your email address is not updated or is incorrect, you can not be contacted with important information. If anyone knows of someone that requested to join the FaceBook group but hasn't responded to my message, remind them that they should look in their message log for my request for information or make another request message to me on the group site. I have 113 requests that have not been responded to.

During that past AMTA reunion we had three new members join the AMTA. This is a good thing. The reunion showed new members who we were and what we are about. Come join us on the FaceBook at the Airborne Maintenance and Inflight Maintenance group. When you make the request to join I will ask you to verify data that we have in the database. This is to ensure we have all the correct information. NONE of that data will be released to anyone without your permission unless you authorize it. We NEVER give out a members information from the website or the FaceBook group. By the way we are non-political and non-religious. The Facebook group is about us not our political affiliation or your religious affiliation.

John Brown
 FaceBook Group

EDITOR'S CORNER

I received an email from Dan Greer asking if we could put an article in the newsletter concerning Scams that prevail year around and particularly during the holiday season. The elderly seem especially susceptible to these Scams. A few examples:

A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Get Out and Recruit

Not to say some of us are getting old, but we need to get some younger folks on board to someday carry on our great heritage. A common misconception is that the associations name means only AMT's are eligible to be members. We need to get the word out that IMT's and ASE's are also eligible to join our group. If you know of any people that may be qualified as potential members talk to them about joining.

If anyone has any ideas of ways we can promote membership please pass your ideas to the AMTA Board of Directors.

Tom Muggeo
 Vice President

- False emails that look real saying you have to update info and telling you to click here. Never click on them.
- False texts saying similar things to call a # provided to verify info. Do not do it.
- Phony phone calls. If you do not know the phone number or the name calling, do not answer.
- Do not put valuables in plain sight in your car and it goes without saying always lock your car.
- Park your car under lights in the parking lot. Women should specially beware of their surroundings before exiting their vehicles. A lot of malls will provide escorts for women to their vehicle after dark..

Dan is right. There are numerous unscrupulous people out there and one slip could be detrimental to your finances and/or physical well being.

Mervin "Whitey" Gross
 Editor



University of Texas at San Antonio Honor Guard