



AMTA SEMI-ANNUAL NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 8

July though December 2008

FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

During the past six months things have been rather quiet but many Airborne Maintenance Technician board members have been very busy. Thanks to a heads up from Colonel Bob Cope, the AMTA was able to talk with our members and we received donations in excess of \$1200 for the "Christmas for The Troops" fund. Thanks to everyone that supported this effort, and a special thanks to Bob White and Mike McLaughlin for their strong efforts to ensure the success of this worthwhile program as it gave us a chance to do something for those that continue to serve and are away from their families. We are about ten months away from the next reunion (September 2009), but Noe C Guerra, Mike McLaughlin and Bob White are in full swing searching for the ideal place for the reunion in San Antonio. These guys are hitting it from all sides and have been insistent on a good price for rooms while also ensuring a Hospitality Room and Banquet Room that are large enough to be comfortable without splitting people up. The last two reunion hotels have been very nice but the Hospitality rooms have left a lot to be desired. These guys are trying to avoid that. If anyone is interested in running for an AMTA board position please contact the AMTA Secretary, Mike



The HILTON San Antonio Airport will be the site for the 2009 Airborne Maintenance Technician Association Reunion. The Reunion Committee is to be commended.....

McLaughlin, so your name can be added to the ballot. If you nominate someone to run for the board they must accept the nomination before their name can be added. We have two present board members who do not wish to be placed on the upcoming ballot. Bill Wilson and Del Jolly have been a part of the AMTA for over four years and they are hoping that some of the younger troops will step up and ensure the continued success of the AMTA. Both Bill and Del have voiced that in no way will they desert the AMTA but just want to give others a chance to contribute.

The AMTA is quickly becoming one of the strongest organizations in existence. AMTA is presently 142 members strong with a few more coming on board very soon. The dedication and tenacity of Tom Joines in locating people (AMTs) is very much appreciated. In 2008 we have 12 new members and we give Tom credit for ten of those AMTs joining.

We know the cost of everything has been borderline ridiculous but gas prices are at least down a little for now and let us just hope they stay that way. Mike McLaughlin is asking everyone what their tentative plans may be for the 2009 reunion as this is necessary for the planning of a successful reunion. Everyone needs to start making their travel plans over the next

couple of months if you plan to attend. Remember you do not have to be a member of the AMTA to attend the reunion, but you do have to be a member to attend the General Membership Meeting and vote on AMTA business. Thank you all for your support of the AMTA and we hope that 2009 is a very rewarding and prosperous year for everyone.

*Johnnie Estes
AMTA President*

FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

Another year has passed and I hope it was kind to you. My only real challenge was rotator cuff surgery, but I am recovering from it very nicely. I have noticed it is a little harder each year to muster up the enthusiasm and stamina to cut and haul firewood for the winter. When I picture the electric meter spinning like a top, I manage to give the chain saw a good workout. We do not have a real winter in Texas, but then that is one of the reasons we are here instead of up north.

Not a lot to talk about on the business front. As a small organization AMTA reporting requirements to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the State of Texas are minimal. The IRS requires a

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



(Continued from page 1) AMTA Secretary form annually and Texas requests an update of corporate registration about every four to five years. Both are accomplished electronically which makes it easy. AMTA requirements are current. The AMTA joined in the "Christmas for the Troops" fund drive raising \$1275.00 which was forwarded to the 97IS at Offutt AFB to help make Christmas a little brighter for deployed members. We will make our annual contribution to the Enlisted Widows Home shortly. The 2009 reunion committee has been sifting through hotels for the best reunion location. The Oak Hills Medical Center hotel used in 2004 and 2005 was not considered as they have done no updating. At least twenty hotels were called and another twelve were visited. The list was quickly down to five possibilities. In depth negotiations with one in particular are ongoing. You will be notified as soon as arrangements are finalized. As the AMTA focal point for memorabilia, I will replenish stock this spring. We do not routinely order shirts with a date as we had a lot of 2005 shirts left over that we gave away and had to write off. If you want a dated shirt, I will do my best to work with the vendor and make it happen at a decent price, but you will have to pay in advance. I hope to have a source for AFIC and AFISRA hat pins nailed down soon. If you have a suggestion for an addition to our memorabilia, let me know by email.

We are getting older so don't miss out on the chance to see old friends and make new ones at the 2009 reunion!

Michael McLaughlin
AMTA Secretary

LATE NEWS.....

The AMTA Board of Directors voted unanimously to donate \$1000 to the Air Force Enlisted Widows Village again this year. The Treasurer and Secretary reviewed the AMTA finances and based on the amount of money on hand and the cost of reunions in the past we are sure this amount will not affect our ability to meet other financial commitments. Thanks to the AMTA members and others that have donated to the AMTA.

Whitey Gross, Editor
AMTA Newsletter



How many flew on this platform?

AMTA Board of Directors:

Johnnie Estes - President and Director
Del Jolly - Vice-Pres and Director
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director
Robert White - Treasurer and Director
Bill Wilson - Director
Mervin Gross - Newsletter and Director
Jim Hargrove - Director

VSO CORNER...

New Laws Allow Retirees and Vets to Salute Flag

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service members, military RETIREES, and VETERANS to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag. The amendment did not address saluting the flag during the playing of the national anthem, pledge of allegiance, honors (i.e. Taps), or any other saluting situations. The Defense Authorization Act of 2009 has now added that the hand salute may be rendered during the playing of the national anthem by un-uniformed service members, military retirees, and veterans.

John Hurst
AMTA Veterans' Service Officer

FROM THE EDITOR...

The time has come the walrus said to talk of many things; of shoes and sealing wax, of cabbages...and the 2009 AMTA Reunion! With the reunion scheduled for 23-25 September, it's time to start planning possible events in conjunction with the reunion. Some of the venues to think about include the Alamo, the San Antonio Museum of Art, Buckhorn Saloon & Museum, the River Walk, Market Square, Mission San Jose, and of course, there is always GOLF! To see what San Antonio has to offer, visit their web site at www.sanantonio.com, and have a great AMTA Reunion

Whitey Gross, Editor
AMTA Newsletter



Airborne Maintenance Technician Association

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

CHAPLAIN CORNER...

Today is the day after our national, state and county general election. Some people are happy and some not so happy. This is the way it is in America right after election day. We will hear and read all kinds of things about why and why not but the fact remains that we have chosen a new President and Vice-President...many new Representatives and Senators as well as some incumbents...many new lawmakers at the state, county and city levels...voted for or against many new proposals that will effect our governments...happy with some unhappy with others. The fact remains that this is the United States of America and we are Americans living in the greatest country in the world. We have based our government on the principals of democracy and we enjoy the greatest free society this world has ever known. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness lies within the grasp of any citizen who will pay the price of freedom and work to achieve it. We as Americans have always had our differences but in the end we come together to live, work, play, worship, rejoice with those who rejoice and with those who weep, putting aside our differences and join together as only Americans can. The Apostle Paul tells us in the book of Romans that we are to: (please allow me to paraphrase) 1.. Pray for those in authority...2.obey those in authority...3.defend those in authority ..(this includes those who make the decisions for the defense of our freedom)...and as much as it is possible, be at peace with everyone, and the way we do that is to love God with all our hearts and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Who is our neighbor? Every AMERICAN is our neighbor. For those of us who have had the honor and privilege to wear the uniform of this great nation, we know the sacrifice that has been paid for our right not only to vote and have free elections but the right to pray, obey, defend and in doing so to serve this nation. For those who are believers let us look to Thanksgiving and Christmas as opportunities to serve our neighbors in some way and to show our love to people everywhere. After all, it was Jesus Christ who showed us how to love. I pray that all your holidays will be the best ever and

that you will look forward with great anticipation to 2009 as your best year ever....In HIS Love.

Jeff Knisley
AMTA Chaplain

FROM THE BOD....

We are presently preparing the 2009 AMTA Board of Director's ballot to elect three board members for the term from September 2009 to September 2013. Mike McLaughlin, AMTA Secretary is the only present board member that will be on the ballot. Bill Wilson and Del Jolly have devoted a ton of time and energy to ensure the success of the AMTA but both want to retire from the AMTA and leave it to others. They are NOT deserting the AMTA and will always be available to help anyway they can. We will have a minimum of five excellent candidates on the ballot and you will vote for three. If you know someone that wants to serve on the board and they are not on the ballot, we can add them or you can write them in. It is far better to ensure they are added to the ballot otherwise people will not be aware that they are willing to serve on the board. Every nominee must accept the nomination before being placed on the ballot by any means. Let us know of any possible nominations (they may already be on the ballot but we will let you know).

The following article is repeated from the January - July 2008 Newsletter to ensure the widest dissemination.

A quick note from the Board of Directors (BOD) concerning the AMTA membership card. We issue new card only when something changes on your membership card such as going from one status of membership to another. The three types are CURRENT, CHARTER OR LIFE-TIME. Your card has the date you became a member, and your membership number which directly links in our data base to when you joined the AMTA and the expiration date, if any. We purposely did not put an expiration date on

the cards so we do not have to re-issue them when the expiration date changed. If anyone has a card with an expiration date on it (i.e. 2004-2005) please contact Mike McLaughlin the AMTA Secretary, at mbmc1@amtassociation.org and he will see that you get a new card. If you have further questions, please contact the Board of Directors on the AMTA website (www.amtassociation.org) and click on Email the BOARD OF DIRECTORS link on the left side of the Home page.

See you all in San Antonio in 2009.

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT ..

ENRTYUIOPLKJHGFDSA
AZSCVBNMLKJHWSERT
QETGUIPKHFSZSCBMH
ZCVNMLHGFDSFAQWER
WSXEDCVFDIAERFOSI
PLMODKMIJSNUHWBYGV
TFXRNDXEUSSZWAQSE
RFTNIGYHUJIKASAO
AZSRXDC FVGBHNJMKZ
POIOUYTREWQLKJHGF
DSAPOIUESCYTR EWQM
LPOKIJUHTGFRDESWA
ZSXDC FVGBHNJMKLP
QAZWSOXEDCRFCVGTGB
NHTYHNNUJMIKLP IY
RAWQAIDGJLAMBVXZX
ZCIBMLJGFSQETUNIP
ZPOAXCIUVBYTFXGXE
GFDSAPOUSSUYTASD
FGHJIQWERTYMN BV CX
LIJBNGREDCXTNSAKP
JUFBKNU TS K O P L M N H Y

- 1. AIA 9. NRO
2. ASA 10. NSA
3. CIA 11. NSG
4. DIA 12. ONI
5. DNI 13. OSI
6. ESC 14. OSS
7. FBI 15. USAFSS
8. NGA

See Answers on Page 4.



UII Bravo Maint troops - 73/74

Anyone have names for these AMTs?

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

AMTA Website: www.amtassociation.org

Together Alone

By Bill Mahan

I saw the face of the other guy,
Flying his bullet in the cold blue sky;
His helmet was open and I could see
The stony look he gave to me.

Beneath us waves and distant shore
Had seen us fly this sky before,
And though we'd played these deadly
games
No one knew the others' names

Round and round our metal birds
Flew watchfully and spoke no words;
From him there was no colleagues'
hail
Not with the Red Star on his tail.

Chess pieces were our ears, his
eyes,
Circling round that cold blue skies;
But he had thunder and lightning hot,
And he knew well that we did not.

Seemingly safe, the thick white
clouds
Could quickly change to funeral
shrouds,
As from his fatal dragon fire,
We'd hit the ground a metal pyre.

Yet though we knew the dangers
there,
Still openly we probed this air;
Our mission we would not let fail,
Despite the Red Star on his tail.

We knew the story of five-two-eight,
Knew their fiery, final fate,
Heard the killers' blazing guns,
Knew we, too, might be the ones.

But choices we had gladly made.
And silent in the sky we stayed;
Listening there with measured
breath,

With nothing there to ward off
death.

We did just what we had to do,
Alone up there in the cold and blue;
No matter what, they'd be no wail;
To Hell with the Red Star on his tail!

TREASURER REPORT...

In December 2008 members of The Airborne Maintenance Technician Association donated \$1275.00 to the 97th IS, "Christmas for the Troops" fund. The AMTA is always ready to support worthy causes and this is one we can surely identify with. The AMTA thanks the members in supporting the servicemen and women of the military.

The 2009 AMTA Reunion in San Antonio will be 23-25 September. This is the same time frame of the FTVA Reunion so attendees can attend some of their events as well as participate in the FTVA golf tournament. The reunion committee has been hard at work in getting the best possible location for the reunion. We hope to have a location identified by the end of February. More information will follow as available.

As always, a number of AMTA members have been active in trying to locate past AMTs not presently members, as well as contacting current members that have let their memberships expire. Trying to keep the AMTA data base current and updated is a massive task. Thanks to the directors and to those that have attempted to boost AMTA membership. I encourage every member to help spread the word of what the AMTA is about.

The AMTA financial status is sound enough to meet financial commitments such as the Air Force Enlisted Village. The bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations and memorabilia. However, we as an organization still

need to come up with ways to raise money. Think about it, if anyone has a concept that we can draw upon and obtain funds for a not-for-profit organization, let us know. Please feel free to contact the AMTA Board of Directors with practical inputs. The 2009 AMTA Reunion will soon be up on us. However it's not too late to think about what "you" as members would like to see introduced/presented at the next General Membership Meeting.

Until the reunion in September, the very best in 2009. I truly appreciate the support and hard work of all the AMTA members, thank you!

*Robert J. White
AMTA Treasurer*



JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

Answers to Puzzle

Intel and Security-Old and New

E N R T Y U I O P L K J H G F D S
A Z S C V B N M L K J H W S E R T
Q E T G U I P K H F S Z S C B M H
Z C V N M L H G F D S F A Q W E R
W S X E D C V F D I A E R F O S I
P L M O D K M I J S N U H B Y G V
T F X R N D X E U S Z W A Q S E D
R F T N I G Y H U J I K A S A O L
A Z S R X D C F V G B H N J M K Z
P O I O U Y T R E W Q L K J H G F
D S A P O I U E S C Y T R E W Q M
L P O K I J U H T G F R D E S W A
Z S X D C F V G B H N J M K L P O
Q A Z W S O X E D C R F C V T G B
N H T Y H N N U J M I I K L P I Y
R A W Q A I D G J L A M B V X Z X
Z C I B M L J G F S Q E T U N I P
Z P O A X C I U V B Y T F X G X E
G F D S A P O O S S I U Y T A S D
F G H J I Q W E R T Y M N B V C X
L I J B N G R E D C X T N S A K P
J U F B K N U T S K O P L M N H Y



**AMTA Semi-Annual
Newsletter Staff:**

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher: Whitey Gross

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

Remember those that have gone before
us and those that are suffering today.
Keep them in your prayers.

BOD