



# the WIRE BENDER

Volume 4 Issue 1

January though December 2012



## FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT...

For the first time since the AMTA Newsletter and/or the WireBender have been published we did not publish a mid-year newsletter. The one for December 2012 is full of new and exciting information. In the beginning of 2012 the AMTA Board of Directors based on the AMTA's present financial condition voted to send the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home in Shalimar, Florida \$1000. Not much has happened since March. The AMTA is on the rise again as it has 162 members, and we know that more memberships are on their way. August 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year John Hurst and Larry Meade put together an Informal AMTA Reunion in the Omaha area. The Holiday Inn and

Suites was the hotel used during the 2006 AMTA reunion and John used it again for the Informal reunion. Sorry if you missed it because it was one of the best we have had so far. We had plenty of snacks, drinks and fellowship during the entire reunion. John did not leave much to chance. Everyone dined together Thursday evening at Tish's Café about a half mile from the hotel. It was a fantastic evening with great service while enjoying a great meal with friends. We gained two new members from the reunion and will possibly gain some more. The reunion was a complete success and I think John and Larry were proud of what they had accomplished. The tour of two of the aircraft at Offutt was talked about for at least a couple of days after the tour. Many people said the aircraft tour was worth the entire trip to Omaha. It was a great time and we know this did not just happen as it took a lot of work, thanks to John and Larry. A few AMTs will be playing in the FTVA golf tournament again this year in San Antonio as the FTVA reunions are always nice to join in the fun. We do not have any AMTs being inducted into the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

Another year has quickly gone by. It is not too early for AMTA members and all AMTs to start making plans to attend the 2013 reunion in San Antonio. We held the 2009 and 2011 reunions at the Airport Hilton. While the 2009 reunion went off without any problems, the 2011 reunion had one major detractor. Due to the hotel over booking meeting rooms, we were not able to occupy our intended hospitality room until half way through the reunion. Although the move from two small rooms on the second floor to the hospitality room on the first floor was accomplished quickly due to a great effort by attendees, it was still something we should not have had to contend with. The 2013 reunion committee will be identifying suitable locations for our reunion over the next couple weeks. Despite the 2011 problem at the Hilton, they have consistently offered the best deal we have found. We have not dropped the Hilton from the candidate list, but for them to be a front runner; we would need total assurance that the problem from 2011 would not be re-

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Inside This Issue

Remember the 129....	Pg 2
AMTA Treasurer	Pg 2
AMTA VSO	Pg 3
Chaplin's Corner	Pg 3
AMTA VSO	Pg 4
Omaha Pictures	Pg 4

## AMTA CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ...

**T**hank you all who attended the August reunion in Omaha this year. It was great to have the time for meeting those of you who I didn't know from my time being assigned to units with a flying mission and the work on those planes. I entered USAFSS as a ground radio technician (304x4) in 1963. I flew as an AMT in the years 1970 to 73 at Kadena, Okinawa. The opportunity to see those planes and have a briefing of the current work was a good overview on the stresses of current missions on the flyers too. Please pray for the safety of those who are doing this for us today.

I have been wondering what to write for this issue of the WireBender. Perhaps the following will provoke some spiritual decisions:

"For God [YHVH] so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish [be separated from YHVH], but have eternal life." John 3:16

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God [YHVH] remains on him." John 3:36

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him [YHVH] who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." John 5:24

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door. I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me." Revelation of Jesus Christ 3:20

"The one who believes in the Son of God [YHVH] has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God [YHVH] has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God [YHVH] has borne concerning His Son. And the witness is this, that God [YHVH] has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God

[YHVH] does not have the life." First John 5:10-12

The evidence of a living relationship with YHVH is through faith in Jesus. Jesus, speaking to His disciples, then and now, said: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He remains with you, and will be in you. John 14:15-17

"He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and disclose Myself to him." V 21

Jesus . . . said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him." V 23

The future? A mystery?

"For the Lord [Jesus] Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God [YHVH]; and the dead in Christ [Jesus] shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord [Jesus] in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." First Thessalonians 4:16-18

If this means Jesus is coming soon to take out His followers before the wrath of God [YHVH] comes on the world, the question that should be in each of our minds is whether we have a relationship with God [YHVH] through Christ Jesus. If we do we should be refreshing ourselves with reading the Scriptures every day. If anyone does not have this relationship you/they need to ask YHVH in Jesus name for guidance and understanding. He will show you the way!

YHVH is the word used for God or Elohim in the Old Testament. The rabbi's lost the vowel pointing so we

can only guess or ask YHVH for His Name. I believe it to be Yahveh; others believe it to be Yehovah. The J in our writing originally had a pronunciation of the Y so I have replaced the J with the Y.

Blessings,

Henry Leupp  
Chaplain

## FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT...

**H**allelujah, it's reunion time again. Or, pretty close to it. At our ages time seems to be compressed. Things are on us before we realize it. Before you know it, September will be here and I would really like to see some new faces this year at the gathering in San Antonio. From what I have heard, everyone that attended the get together in Omaha had a great time. I know you will like the reunion in San Antonio just as much as and maybe even more, than Omaha. So let's get the suitcases out of storage, throw some clothes in it and join the revelry in Texas. Believe me, you will love it. A quick note concerning this newsletter, YOUR newsletter. This newsletter is not just for putting news out from the Board of Directors to you. It is also an avenue for the membership to put forth their views and thoughts. So please, if you would like to say something, whether it be about our organization, a great experience you have had, i.e. a tour of Australia, or a good recipe you would like to share, feel free to send an email or letter to me and we will include it in the next newsletter published. My email addresses are:

*(Continued on page 4)*



**the WIREBENDER  
Staff:**

**Editor:** Whitey Gross

**Publisher:** Whitey Gross

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

**AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS,  
1017 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???**



*(PRESIDENT Continued from page 1)*

Hall of Honor this year but the AMTA will be represented by the AMTA Secretary who will attend the ceremony.

Tom Joines, AMTA Membership Chairman, is still spending hundreds of hours looking for AMTs. He is always seeking information from everyone. You may know something as simple as a middle initial that will help him in locating another AMT. We need Tom around for a long time as I cannot think of anyone that would accomplish half of what he does and no one would ever be as tenacious and determined as Tom. Please help him with any information you can share.

We are going to have a busy 2013 with the reunion in the fall and preparing for everything so be ready for a jam packed newsletter in July 2013 and start making your plans to be at the next reunion in September. Thanks to all those who make the AMTA the strongest association of its type and the members are the ones to thank for such a great organization. Thanks to everyone

*Johnnie Estes  
President*

Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together.

Georg Christopher Lichtenberg (1742 - 1799)

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

**FROM THE AMTA  
TREASURER...**

Once again I'd like to thank all of our AMTA members for your continuous support. As previously stated in the past, the bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations, silent auctions and memorabilia. So far this year, twenty memberships were renewed, eight being lifetime memberships. At this time we have paid out \$2385.54 and brought in \$1834.39--fairly normal for a non-reunion year. However, the overall AMTA financial status remains healthy. The AMTA donated funds to the United Service Organizations (USO), Ben Hur Shrine, VFW Post 8002, National MS Society and Air Force Enlisted Village this year. The Enlisted Widows Home in Shalimar, FL is still the AMTA's primary financial commitment.

Last year the AMTA Board of Direc-

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Airborne Maintenance  
Technician**

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*(SECRETARY Continued from page 1)*

peated. We will forward information as it becomes available. Again, the reunion will be the same week as the FTVA reunion.

A few words on charity and volunteerism; while it is easy to get caught up in our daily lives and not seeing the needs of others, there are countless ways to give back to our communities other than financially. It does not have to be a nationally based organization. You can seek out local organizations that service the military, senior citizens, or the disabled as well as many other non-profit entities. An example from my neck of the woods is a camp in Center Point, TX for disabled children founded by a group of Air Force doctors in 1979. The camp offers week long one-on-one mentors for campers with a full medical staff on site. Mentors and the medical personnel are all volunteers. I have been involved with their efforts with a nature center. Another organization is a bird of prey conservancy based in San Antonio with ties to the Comfort, TX area. They receive 150 to 300 birds a year for care and treatment. Approximately 65-80 percent of these birds are successfully returned to nature. I have been working on the electric at an old stone house they are converting to a bird of prey education center. Although my role in both of these efforts is small, it is extremely rewarding. Remember, you don't have to look far; needs are all around us. Hope to see all you regular reunion attendees and hopefully many new faces at the 2013 reunion.

*Michael McLaughlin  
Secretary*

**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
- Joe Jesty - Director
- Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)
- Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

AMTA Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:

[www.amtassociation.org](http://www.amtassociation.org)

*(TREASURER Continued from page 3)*

tors decided to support the "USO" in lieu of "Christmas for the Troops". This year we came to a decision to once again support the USO. Individuals in our membership have donated \$1075.00 and a check was sent to the USO. The USO is a worthy cause and by donating to the USO we are still supporting our servicemen and women of the military who proudly serve our country. Thanks to all of our members that donated to this cause.

Again, a special thanks to Tom Joines for his efforts locating past AMTs and in updating the AMTA database. It appears to be an endless task, but Tom continues to come up with names and data. We are grateful to Tom for continuing to stick with it. We appreciate everyone's help in spreading the word about the AMTA. I urge all past AMTs to check out our website and contact one of the Directors. Any Director would be glad to answer questions from potential members.

The 2013 AMTA reunion is still a bit down the road, but I urge all AMTs to plan early and join us again in San Antonio. The reunion will likely bring back many past memories and the photos will tell even more stories. Our reunions are a great place to meet past friends and make new ones. As always, we will have a silent auction during the reunion. Complete details and schedule for the reunion will be forth coming. I am looking forward to seeing many old friends and still newer ones at the reunion. All of the board members are grateful for the support of our entire membership, thank you!

*Robert J. White  
Treasurer*

"Whether you are talking about education, career, or service, you are talking about life. And life must really have joy. It's supposed to be fun."

—Barbara Bush

*(Vice President Continued from page 2)*

mervjen1@amtassociation.org or mervgross@verizon.net. My snail mail address is: 1403 Georgia Ave, Severn, Md 21144.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanza and a Happy New Year. My apologies if I missed anyone. See you in September at the 2013 AMT Association Reunion

*Mervin A. Gross  
Vice President*

## FROM THE AMTA VSO ...

**I** was contacted by the spouse of one of our AMTA members needing information and guidance on short term rehab care for her spouse that was unable to communicate at that moment. Her spouse has been in a hospital for over two months and he is about to run out of Medicare and Tricare payment support and she needed to find out what help they can get to offset the possible high cost of nursing home rehab costs. Since each veterans case is completely individual, so are the possible sources of assistance. If the need for in-residence rehab is for a service-connected disability, then the VHA (Veterans Health Administration) may be the source for assistance. But what if the need isn't for a service-connected disability? The answer is for the veteran or spouse to learn what other resources are available in the immediate area. If the veteran is in a non-VA hospital start with the hospitals patient assistance representative, they often know the local sources for help. Another source is often a

"Man masters nature not by force but by understanding."

—Jacob Bronowski

County or State Veterans Service Officer. These folks can be found by contacting your state Department of Veterans Affairs. Lastly, the nearest VA medical center will have a patient representative that may be a source for help and guidance, even if the veteran isn't enrolled in VA health-care. The bottom line is that short term and long term nursing home and short term rehab benefits are available for retired military or non-retired veterans and is something that should be explored before the need arises, if at all possible.

*John Hurst  
Veterans Service Officer*

## A COUPLE PICTURES FROM OMAHA...



Roy Shaffer, Henry Leupp with wives.



None other than Carson Lobb

"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."

—George Washington