



the WIRE BENDER

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San Antonio , Texas

FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT...

This year has been a busy one and we still have a lot to accomplish and do before the end of the year. We elected three AMTA board members. We had six outstanding candidates and they each support the AMTA and work to ensure the success of the organization. When it was voting time the members obviously saw this also as the election was close and we mean really close. We had no idea who the three elected board members would be until the final day of the voting because we had one or two different candidates leading every other day. We congratulate Mike McLaughlin for being re-elected to the AMTA board for a second consecutive term. Thanks to Mike for

the dedication and hard work he puts forth for the AMTA. Randy Holt was re-elected for a full term as a board member for the first time as he was previously elected during a special election and had served one year. Randy is a strong supporter of the AMTA and is extremely dedicated to the Association. We have a new guy as an elected AMTA board member, Mr. Larry Meade of Papillion, Nebraska. Larry has always been a very strong supporter of the AMTA and when he can he works to ensure the success of the AMTA from every aspect. Thanks Larry for your hard work and congratulations on being elected to the AMTA board of directors. We look forward to working with you over the next four years. I would be remiss if I did not mention those that did not get elected. Joe Jesty served one full term on the AMTA board and has always put forth every effort to ensure the success of the AMTA. Thanks Joe and we look forward to working with you again in the future. John Brown has never been a member of the AMTA board but that has never slowed John down with helping out. He stands tall and is always ready to help when there is

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FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

The 2013 AMTA reunion is only four months away. Hotel room and banquet reservations are running behind our historic norm. So far, approximately twenty AMTs have booked hotel rooms with fewer than that with banquet reservations. I encourage all who intend to attend the reunion to get hotel and banquet reservations firmed up. The AMTA has historically not had any problem meeting hotel contractual requirements for total room nights utilized and I anticipate that will again be the case, but we have started slow.

As in the past, we will have a silent auction and I solicit items from attendees. Don't feel it has to be something of exceptional value or unique. Some past auction items really drove some intense bidding. You never know what treasures may be in your closet or have been residing in the attic for the past ten years. We will have another t-shirt design for the 2013 reunion. Your inputs are welcome as to what the design may be, but we would like to keep the cost down by going with printing on only

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AMTA CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ...

We meet again at this place. I've been wondering how many followers of Jesus the Christ there really are in this organization. One person told me that eighty percent of our AMT's are Christians. I think he extrapolated that idea from a national survey. It is interesting that eighty percent of Americans classify themselves as Christians.

Now then, the question that I have is: what do they think makes them "Christian?" I thought I was a Christian after being confirmed in a Lutheran church and then voted in as a member of that congregation. I wondered about the pastor teaching Luther's religion to us and telling us all that we needed to invite Jesus into our lives and follow His teaching to be "saved." I found it interesting that later that pastor was "invited" to leave the church because of his teaching. Apparently, some think being a Lutheran and having a personal relationship with Jesus are different.

That idea of knowing Jesus and inviting Him to be resident in my "heart" remained with me for years. When I was home on leave I'd go to church with my parents, but my living didn't connect me to Jesus; no one would know that I was a Jesus follower. I had a religion.

I had people ask me where I was going when I died. Sometimes I said I'd find out when the time came. I didn't realize that my levity just showed my ignorance of the subject. I learned that there were many religions in the world. The afterlife place was called heaven, or paradise, or one would come back as a mouse or beetle or ant until they worked themselves UP to their idea of "heaven."

Then one night the real GOD confronted me in my sleep. Apparently that was the only time He could get my undivided attention. He said I had to decide WHO I would follow: His way or the world's way. I said I'd follow Him. After that I'd "hear" a voice that told me what person to associate with and where to go for fellowship. It

was with those people who said each person had to decide what they believed and who they would follow. They were all members of the group who had invited Jesus to live in their "heart" and who read their Judeo/Christian Bibles every day and applied that information to their lives. They told me that they wanted people to be able to detect that they spent their time with Jesus – just like Jesus disciples.

It was a learning time. It has been since an August day in 1967 when I asked Jesus to come and live in my heart. Later, while reading in the New Testament, I learned that the heart was really my mind (the heart of my being where decisions are made). Before that decision for myself I used to watch people who called themselves Christian and judge their actions – a bunch of hypocrites. Now I realize that all followers of Jesus are in process of being changed. As we read the Scriptures and apply what GOD shows us we change our way of living. A hypocrite today may be a disciple tomorrow.

The Christians who wanted to share their faith with me wanted me to read the Gospel of John. God told me to read the Torah (Moses five books) so I would understand the foundation for what these guys wanted to share with me. It worked but took three or four months before I was ready to make the decision. Some of you can make it now. If you put off this decision you may wait until it is too late.

I learned that I had to pray in Jesus name because Jesus was the unblemished sacrifice for my sins. I have to identify with the perfect sacrifice when I bring my requests and/or praise to Father God to be accepted.

I have lost many good friends this year already, to cancer and other maladies. I'm getting the message that maybe my time and the return of Jesus is near. So I am hoping that those who have been goofing off will get-with-it and read the Bible and those who have put off the de-

cision to follow Jesus will decide to follow Him today.

In the spirit world I want to be able to continue the relationship begun here or on missions in the recon aircraft.

Take care and

May my God bless you.

*Henry Leupp
Chaplin*

FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT...

Congratulations to the winners of the AMTA's recent Board of Directors election, Mike McLaughlin, Randy Holt and Larry Meade and I look forward to working with them. I am sure our Association will benefit from their expertise and work ethic.

I would like to add my voice to the others extolling the fun and good feeling you have attending the AMTA Reunion. It's always great to see everyone again and hash out old and new stories. Can't wait. Come and join us in September. You won't regret it!

Right now, Jennie and I are in the process of deciding whether we will drive to the reunion or fly. At the moment we are leaning towards driving. Nothing like some quality time with the wife and sightseeing drive on the way to the reunion.

Almost forgot. Ran across a web site you might want to look at, www.VacationsToGo.com. It is a discount cruises worldwide site. Good deals if you can go on short notice although you can search ahead also.

Take a look.

*Mervin A. Gross
Vice President*



**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???**



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work to be done. Thanks John for everything you do and your strong support for the AMTA. One of these guys has served for a short period of time as a temporary AMTA board member, but has not been a permanent board member. Frank Jordan works hard during every reunion and has always been one with initiative. Frank definitely knows he would far rather ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission and this has worked well for Frank as he makes excellent decisions and has always supported the AMTA and we know that will continue. Thanks to the six who stepped forward to help maintain an outstanding association.

I sincerely hope to see everyone at the reunion September 25, 2013. We should have three wonderful days of fellowship and having a few beers and playing a bit of golf. Mike and his crew have put together another good one for this year at The Drury Inn & Suites.

*Johnnie Estes
President*

"The two enemies of the people are criminals and government, so let us tie the second down with the chains of the Constitution so the second will not become the legalized version of the first."

-Thomas Jefferson

**FROM THE AMTA
TREASURER...**

Since the beginning of 2013 we have had three memberships renewed. One membership was for three years and the other two for life. Although the renewal numbers appear low this is about normal and should increase toward the end of the year. Additionally it appears that more individuals are choosing to elect life time membership.

To date we have made three contributions, two in memory of and one to the Air Force Enlisted Village, totaling \$1100. We had one reimbursement for supplies for the organization and an application refund that totaled \$509.32. So far we have paid out \$1609.32 and brought in \$325 in memberships. As formerly stated, the bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations, silent auctions and

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**Airborne Maintenance
Technician**

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one side of the shirt. I believe that offering shirts in only two colors while keeping the option of pocket or no pocket is sufficient. Our stock t-shirt is white with the AMTA logo on the left chest. Our inventory is fairly low, so a reorder is in the near future. Any suggestions for changes to the stock shirt are welcome and encouraged.

The other items in our memorabilia inventory have not changed for a long time. If you know of an item that would be a good addition to what we currently offer, don't be shy; let us know. I am looking forward to September and hope to see all of the old faces and many new ones.

*Michael McLaughlin
Secretary*

**FROM THE AMTA
VSO**

Those of our members with service-connected disabilities may not be fully aware of the educational benefits for their dependents. As a veterans disability condition worsens education benefits that were not previously available could come into being. I suggest disabled veterans or the dependents of veterans that have passed due to a service-connected disability check the eligibility for dependent education benefits. Here is the current eligibility criteria for dependents. The VA has a Survivors & Dependents Assistance (DEA) website that provides more details at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

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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

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memorabilia. Hopefully this being a reunion year we can come up with some additional funds.

I'd like to thank all of our AMTA members for their constant support. Once again a special thanks to Tom Joines for his efforts in locating past AMTs. I urge all members of the association to totally get involved in locating long-ago AMTs. Time is passing quickly; we are all getting older, we need additional AMTs to carry on.

The 2013 AMTA reunion is just a couple of months away. I advise all AMTs to plan early and join us again in San Antonio. The reunion will likely bring back many past memories and a great place to get together with past friends and make new ones. I'm looking forward to seeing many friends and making new ones at the reunion. All of the board members are grateful for the support of our entire membership, thank you!

*Robert J. White
Treasurer*

FROM THE AMTA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

This year has not been a good year for membership in the AMTA. In fact, we have had no new members for over eight months. Out of approximately 500 AMTs that we are still searching for, we have only located five men. Without your help we may not have found any. I have engaged a people search program (Spokeo) for help and we have had very few results. It does save a few phone calls especially when we know something about the person. lot of airborne maintenance personnel do not know about the AMTA, or they may have chosen not to reply or join the organization. AMTA has been a real blessing to me. I have been able to reacquaint with a lot of old friends and families that I would have never

gotten to fellowship with again, and I was able to meet others that I had only heard about, sometimes talked to, but had never met. The reunions are a fun-packed 3 days and everyone seems to have a really good time together. It is already May and the reunion is just around the corner the last of September. Why not make an extra effort this year to be in San Antonio with us? You do not have to be a member to attend the reunion. So go on the web site (amtassociation.org), fill out the banquet application, and be there. It may be a pretty good drive or flight but it will be well worth your time.

As your AMTA membership chairman, I would like to tell you about becoming a member. It is a non-profit organization. No one takes a dime for their contribution or effort in running this operation. As AMTA members we help support (through contributions, dues which are \$10.00 per year, \$25.00 for 3 years or pro-rate a lifetime membership, and the reunion silent auction), the Enlisted Widows Home Fort Walton FL., the USO for our Troops at Christmas, and helping our fellow servicemen when hardships such as tornados, hurricanes, etc. have befallen them. This organization has other benefits such as a retired, well qualified VA representative that has given outstanding lectures at our reunions, and are able to assist Individuals trying to locate orders that have been lost and misplaced and are needed to apply for benefits. Please bring family or guest and join us at the reunion in San Antonio this September 25,26,& 27.

As this spring brings newness to our lives, let's get together and join in bringing newness to the AMTA. Make a real effort in helping locate AMTs in our search.

*Thomas Joines
Membership Chairman*

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[benefits/other_programs/dea.html](#). Eligibility: You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.

A veteran who died from any cause while such permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence.

A service member missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.

A service member forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

A service member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability. This change is effective December 23, 2006.

*John Hurst
Veterans Service Officer*

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus..
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats..
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food..
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.