



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 8 Issue 2

July through December 2016



See what you missed! Mission San Xavier. Tucson, Arizona

FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT

Another year is practically gone and while it has gone by very quickly we have not done that much at our house in 2016. Made a quick trip to North Carolina to visit family and a couple of months later headed west to Tucson, Arizona for the 2016 Informal AMTA Reunion. Joe and Monica Jesty with the help of Tom Anderson put together a great reunion. It was not well attended (only 26 AMTs), but I believe the biggest reason for this is the fact we are getting older by the

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FROM THE AMTA TREASURER

The unofficial reunion in Tucson, AZ, was a huge success. No loss from the snacks and beverages fund for the reunion. After paying all total expenses we had about one hundred dollars donation for the AMTA. Many members enjoyed sharing past memories and making new ones. Even a couple of members that had not attended a former reunion attended and had a great time. Thanks to all that joined in and participated.

In 2016 the AMTA received ten membership renewals. Five of which were upgraded to "Life" memberships. Now we only have a handful of memberships not being Life Time.

The AMTA finances are sound and doing well, as anticipated. The only revenue we have are memberships dues, donations and silent auctions. In contrast we have day to day

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FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2017 AMTA reunion. I will make initial contact with possible locations in January.

Our last two reunions were at the Drury and the Marriott NW in 2013 and 2015 respectively. The Drury has since made some changes relative to both bringing in our own refreshments and catering for a banquet. For those reasons it is highly unlikely we could have it there. The Marriott NW was a pretty good deal, however the hospitality room needed to be larger. I will visit the Marriott first to see if we can still get a good deal, but with a more spacious hospitality room. I have another possible location located on Hwy 151 between IH 410 and Loop 1604. They proposed a decent contract in 2015, but the Marriot NW was a better deal. They will be my next stop.

As in the past, I will be looking at another new design for either t-shirts or

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day. I know I am not even close to being as agile and spry as I was even five years ago. Tucson has a lot to offer and it would take quite awhile to see everything worthwhile in the area. Thanks to a great friend and fellow AMT some of us were able to spend a day in Tombstone, Arizona. After leaving the reunion we traveled on to Las Vegas, Nevada for four or five days of fun visiting friends, family and playing a bit of golf. Got home after being gone for about two weeks. One thing that was great about this reunion even though few attended, we had some AMTs there that had never attended a reunion in the past; Tom Anderson, Marcus Forbes, George Honsaker and Preston Kelly. All of these are members of the AMTA except Preston Kelly and he is giving it some thought.

AMTA Secretary put out an email telling about our efforts to support the USO at Christmas time to ensure entertainment for those who are away from their family this time of year. Anything you donate will be much appreciated.

In about three or four months the AMTA Secretary will send out ballots to AMTA members to vote on three board member positions that will run out in 2017. The reason I mention this now is we need to get some new board members on board that are younger and of another generation as many of us are in our 70s or late 60s and we need some AMTs (ASEs, IMTs) in their 40s and 50s to keep this great organization going for years to come. encourage everyone to be thinking about this and who you can nominate. Keep in mind any one nominated must accept the nomination in writing to the AMTA Secretary, email response is acceptable.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years and a prosperous 2017.

*Johnnie Estes
President*

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operational costs; hosting web services, donations, reimbursements for services and other items that come up throughout the year. As of now we are a couple hundred dollars behind past years. Due to overhead cost we cannot expect our assets to maintain at the same level each year.

This year the AMTA elected to donate to the "USO" Christmas effort that constantly supports our service men and women throughout the world. We are still collecting donations and the total amount will be sent to the USO around the middle of December. Thanks to all of our members that have supported this effort.

The 2017 AMTA reunion is months away. However planning for the reunion will start shortly. I recommend all AMTs plan early and join us again in San Antonio. Details for the 2017 Reunion will be coming out soon. Until then I hope all had a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Robert J. White
Treasurer*

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polos. I would like input on the design from AMTA members. If you have an idea of what you might like on a shirt, please let me know. Final design needs to be completed by July so I can shop it around for the best price and get order forms out to members and other AMTs.

I hope 2017 is a wonderful year for all of you and wish for safe travel of all coming to the 2017 reunion. Our ranks are getting thinner each year. Don't miss the opportunity to reminisce with old friends and comrades.

*Mike McLaughlin
Secretary*

"Those who deny freedom to others
deserve it not for themselves"
Abraham Lincoln

FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT

Now that the Presidential election is over we need to focus on the next important event, which is the AMTA Board of Directors election. Fortunately, it will not be covered by any of the media organizations. Thank Heaven! Mr. Secretary, Mike McLaughlin, will have the ballots out before long. Stay tuned. Santa has finished his rounds to all the children of the world, so now we can turn our thoughts to our Formal reunion in September. After such a great informal reunion last October in Tucson, Arizona, I am really looking forward to this year's get together. Seeing a number of new faces at the reunion would be a fantastic experience. I know that any of you that have not attended one of our reunions will be very satisfied with what you will experience. Let's go, "Make Our Reunion Great!" Hmmm, can I say that?

All the best to everyone and God Bless the USA.

*Mervin "Whitey" Gross
Vice President*



Boneyard B-47 - Now they are fond memories. Then, well.....



**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???**

148 DECEASED

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

**FROM THE AMTA
CHAPLAIN**

The Holiday season has come and gone but the reason for the season will be with us forever. In this new year we will see many changes take place. We will have a new Commander in Chief, new legislators, new appointed Czars and possibly widely shifting world politics. Unfortunately, we will also have Illnesses and losses of those dear to us. Through all of these things the one thing that sustains us and gets us through it all is our faith and the knowledge that it doesn't depend on funding or approval, it's free. Our faith is like a ship on a stormy sea, if it's strong and we hang on to it until the storm has passed we will be afloat in calm waters and sunny skies. I wish the best for all in the coming year and look forward to our next reunion.

*Frank Jordan
Chaplain*

In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.

George Orwell

"The best things in life are unseen, that's why we close our eyes when we kiss, cry and dream"

Helen Keller

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)

**FROM THE AMTA
VSO**

The Veterans Choice Program. If you are already enrolled in VA health care, the Choice Program allows you to receive health care within your community. Using this program does NOT impact your existing VA health care, or any other VA benefit.

30 Days:

A Veteran is told by his/her local VA medical facility that they will not be able to schedule an appointment for care: Within 30 days of the date the Veteran's physician determines he/she needs to be seen; or

Within 30 days of the date the Veteran wishes to be seen if there is no specific date from his/her physician.

40 Miles:

Travel Burdens

The Veteran resides in a location other than Guam, American Samoa, or the Republic of the Philippines and needs to travel by air, boat, or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to his/her home.

The Veteran faces an unusual or excessive burden traveling to a VA medical facility based on geographic challenges, environmental factors, or a medical condition. Staff at the Veteran's local VA medical facility will work with him/her to determine if he/she is eligible for any of these reasons.

For detailed instructions on applying for The Veterans Choice Program call **1-866-606-8198**

Or go to: www.VA.gov and click on the program information details.

*John Hurst
Veteran's Service Officer*



Pima Air and Space Museum

**Airborne Maintenance
Technician Association**

11615 Old Hills Lane
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

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

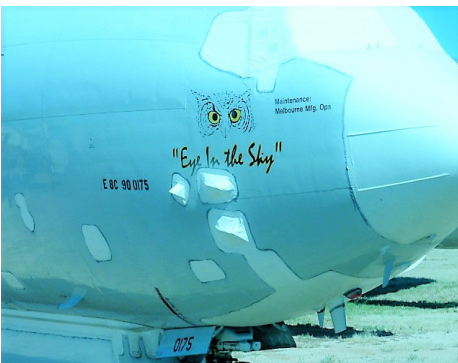
AMTA Website:
www.amtassociation.org



Informal Reunion Hooligans



Least We Not Forget Our Women In Flight - Pima Air and Space Museum



The "Boneyard" at Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona