



# the WIRE BENDER

Volume 10 Issue 2

July through December 2018



## SECRETARY'S LATEST

As I write this, the dates for the 2019 AMTA and FTVA reunions do not coincide. I had already completed a contract with our 2017 reunion hotel (Courtyard by Marriott) for 25-27 September 2019. The reason being, that the FTVA historically have been setting their reunion for the last full week of September. However, the December FTVA newsletter revealed that they were moving their reunion to 3-5 October. This is because there is a wedding banquet booked at the FTVA site. I have contacted the FTVA president to see if this can be worked out. My first option was to see if I could move our reunion one week and match up with the FTVA. However, the hotel has neither rooms nor banquet space available. The FTVA will be contacting the wedding couple to see if they can move their banquet date. My option of last resort is to go back into hotel search mode as hotels that can meet our requirements are extremely scarce. I do not expect to hear anything back until at least the end of January. When I know one way or the other, we will get the word out.

As always, I solicit inputs for a 2019 T-shirt design. If you have an input, please send it soonest. We need significant lead time to finalize the design, solicit orders, and get them printed. There will again be a silent auction, so if you have something you will part with, please consider bringing it. I have not made things for the auction over recent years, but will have some items for the 2019 reunion. I wish all a safe and prosperous new year.

Michael McLaughlin  
Secretary

## AMTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone had a wonderful and thankful Thanksgiving and also hope everyone is ready to have the Merriest of Christmases. Not much happened this year although the AMTA had an informal reunion in the Omaha area in September that was a really good one. John Hurst put it all together and did a great job. That is the first reunion some of us have missed. I continue to hope we get some of the younger AMTs, IMTs, ASEs or whatever they are called today, to join the AMTA. I hope every-

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## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL INPUT

I will start off with a recap of this year's activity. New memberships have declined and are still a major concern. We had a total of six membership transactions; 4 three year renewals, 1 new three year membership and 1 three year membership upgrading to Life. We received a total of \$750.00 in donations and paid out \$1200.00 (donations to St Jude Children's Hospital and Air Force Enlisted Village). You can see that we paid out more than we brought in, fairly normal for a non-reunion year. To remind everyone, the bulk of our funds come from membership drives, donations, silent auctions and memorabilia. We were still able to meet "our financial obligation" to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida.

The 2018 unofficial reunion in Council Bluffs, IA, was a huge success. Members from far and near enjoyed the companionship of one another. One of

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



*(President Continued from page 1)*

one is watching that we never seem to have any younger people joining and those that do are still busy working or doing other things and have no time to be an AMTA board member. We will be sending out ballots in the March or April time frame for the election of four board members. Three of the current board members will NOT be seeking re-election so we must have some new guys to step up and keep the Association going. The AMTA has been going strong for over 15 years, but it takes a little effort for some or a few to step up and take control.

We will be voting sometime in April for the new or re-elected board members and the results will be announced at the next AMTA reunion which will be in September 2019 time frame. Mike McLaughlin will be putting out information on the 2019 reunion sometime after May of 2019, which will give us time to complete the election and vote counting.

Hope to see everyone in San Antonio next fall, and when you receive a ballot for voting purposes think about it, study it and by all means vote. Past voting records indicate less than 40 percent of the members vote.

Merry Christmas and I hope 2019 is a great year for everyone.

*Johnnie Estes  
President*

*(Treasurer Continued from page 1)*

the big highlights was the opportunity to tour the upgraded RC135 platform. Our "old air crew" were rather surprised in how much the aircraft interior had changed. We were able to take pictures of the outside of the aircraft and the base photo lab took pictures of the entire group in front of the aircraft. Another highpoint was during the informal dinner when a number of AMTAs showed up unannounced to join in with the fellowship. Although we had a great non-reunion turnout we sure missed all of our members that were unable to attend.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. I truly cherish the endless support and hard work of the entire AMTA membership, thank you! Hope to see everyone in San Antonio in September of 2019. Please have a great, safe and prosperous 2019.

Robert J. White  
Treasurer



**Airborne Maintenance  
Technician Association**  
288 Stone Trail  
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009

## A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Since the FTVA was forced to change the dates of their annual Reunion from the usual last week in September to 3 - 5 October 2019, (see AMTA Secretary article on page 1), we are in the process of 'possibly' readjusting our reunion dates to coincide with the FTVA dates. As soon as Mike can determine if any of the scenarios he is working on to realign our reunion dates and possible hotel change with the FTVA is feasible, he will advise all members. Stay tuned.

From what I hear from attendees of the informal AMTA reunion held in Omaha, a number of ASEs have become interested in the AMTA. Super!! We welcome them with open arms. To that effort I have included the photos of a number of our Board of Directors. Thought this would be a good way to give new personnel a look at some of the BOD, Chaplain and Facebook coordinator.

Hope to see everyone at our reunion this year and send an invitation to all ASEs to

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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  
Larry Meade - Director  
Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)

## AMTA'S FACEBOOK GROUP



Facebook has 191 accepted members. We have 93 requests dating back as late as March of 2015. Those that requested to join have not responded to my message asking for information. We request information from everyone that asks to join the Facebook group.

Two reasons.... one is to make sure the person requesting to join is in fact a past AMT, IMT, or ASE. This ensures we do not get people asking to become members that are phishing or fraudulent. Second, we request information so we can keep the AMTA database up to date. There are 157 active AMTA members and approximately 1058 persons in our database. It is hard to keep up to date when people do not inform us changes to their pertinent information. Of all those numbers there are some AMT's that are deceased that we may not be aware of, because no one has notified us. For any changes in your pertinent information, please make sure Johnnie Estes, Tom Joines, Bob White, or I get that information. Since the informal reunion in Omaha this past September, we have had an influx of ASEs requesting to join the Facebook group. This is what the AMT Association needs. I always remind people to take a look at our web site and join the AMTA.

I received a message from Hollie D. Gerger-Mariett. She is searching for information about her father. died in 2014 and her mother died in 2016. knew he flew as an AMT in Viet Nam. assume on

the C-47s. is basically trying to find out about his time in the Air Force and Viet Nam. name was Donald Mather Gerger and was from Birch Run, Michigan and where he was living when he died. name was in our database. near as can be determined this is not a spoof or case of phishing since several people have vetted her information. you knew him please contact me via email and I will pass it along to her. always need to keep our family up to date on our military service. I know from experience that my father's WW II information would have been worth a lot for me to know. died before I could talk to him about it. I wish I had been able to talk to him and also to tell him about my time. you kids about your military service. or Bad. Funny or Sad. least it will be something for them to remember.

*John Brown  
Facebook*

*(Vice President Continued from page 2)*

attend. Think we can have some really good and fruitful discussions and STORY sessions.

*Mervin 'Whitey' Gross  
Vice President*

"Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it and hell where they already have it."

-Ronald Reagan



Johnnie Estes and his Wife Betty Jo  
AMTA President & Director

## CHAPLAIN'S IMPORTANT WORDS



You were forewarned, are you ready, the holiday season continues. During these times we must embrace our family and friends tightly in order to avoid the seasonal blues. Let us look forward to a great new year and an end to some of the turmoil going on in our nation. Many of us have paved the way for those to follow us and hopefully have taken some of the bumps out of the road. No matter how hard we try, life seems to find more potholes to place in front of us. During these times we must keep our faith and not falter, sometimes our faith is the one thing that will see us through. Today I met a Lady in Tillamook, Oregon who was from Del Jolly's hometown, her son was badly burned when he was 15. Retired USAF pilots flew the family from South Carolina to the Shriner's Hospital in Ohio for treatment, this was a double blessing for me to see that USAF people never quit helping others and I just happen to be a Shriner. The AMTA is a part of our family, may God bless and keep our family safe.

*Frank Jordan  
Chaplain*



**the WIREBENDER  
Staff:**

**Editor:** Whitey Gross

**Publisher:** Whitey Gross

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





AMTA 2018 Informal Reunion Hotel at Council Bluffs, Iowa



Mike McLaughlin, Secretary & Director



Jim Hargrove, Director



Joe Jesty, Director



Larry Meade, Director



Bob White, Treasurer & Director



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