



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 15 Issue 1

January through June 2023

AMTA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is June in Texas and boy is it hot outside! We get some relief next week when it is only projected to be 97-98 degrees. As the AMTA gets ready for its 2023 reunion, I would like to send a special thank you to our secretary, Mike McLaughlin. He busted his butt to find a hotel that would allow us to have a hospitality room and not cost an arm and a leg. THANK YOU MIKE! The AMTA reunion is scheduled for October 18-21 here in San Antonio. The weather should be a bit cooler and a lot more comfortable by then. Perhaps if the AMTA decides to continue the tradition of a reunion every two years in San Antonio, we should consider doing it either in October or the April/May time frame when the weather is a bit cooler. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the reunion this year as Ginger and I will be taking a long planned trip to PA for a wedding and to visit my relatives. I hope everyone has a great time and I will definitely miss the beer & bull sessions in the hospitality room.

The Board of Directors Election was conducted in April and May and the following AMTA members were reelected or elected to the Board in May: David Leslie, Tom Muggeo, Bob White, and Jim Morton. They will join Mike McLaughlin and Larry Meade on the board. The new AMTA Board of Directors will take over in October 2023 at the reunion. Our Vice President and AMTA

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

Remember the 181...	Pg 2
Vice President	Pg 2
AMTA VSO	Pg 3



Courtesy William J. White

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL INPUT

Currently our organization has sufficient funds to conduct day to day operations. Individual donations, silent auctions and memorabilia have always brought in a few dollars to help our financial commitments. However since COVID we've had little to no donations. So far in 2023 we've had one individual donation for \$50 and the AMTA donated \$1,000 to the Air Force Enlisted Village. I will break it out even further; since the beginning of 2020 to the present time we have received a total of \$300 in donations. The amount we have paid out over the same time frame, \$6,723.80. List of groups receiving our donation: Air Force Enlisted Village, Web hosting, USO donation, American Can-

SECRETARY'S LATEST

After a four year lull, the 2023 AMTA reunion is set for October 18-20 at the Marriott NW in San Antonio. It was unfortunate that we needed to cancel the 2021 reunion, but appropriate at the time. Hotel and banquet reservations are slow so far and this will likely be the smallest reunion we have had. This is understandable for a myriad of reasons. I have sent reunion information to everyone I have an email address for, but if you need information contact me at mbm@hctc.net. I will email the reunion schedule when it is finalized. Unlike previous reunions, I will not pursue a t-shirt design for this reunion. The cost of artwork and printing is cost prohibitive if not ordering at least 100 shirts. A guest

(Continued on page 3)

AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 891 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???

181 DECEASED

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

WORDS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings from blistering Buckeye Arizona, midnight temperatures of 99 degrees. The monsoon season has finally provided some relief with blowing dust.

Congratulations to those re-elected board members and welcome to our new board member Jimmy Morton. A Lifetime Member since 2009 Jim has attended every AMTA reunion with his wife Jouree.

I've known Jim since 1978 while stationed in Okinawa. August of 1979 the 6990th spent a majority of the month hunkered down at Clark AB as a series of typhoons rolled though South China Sea. The last of which allowed the return of the unit to Kadena and for Tom Stocker to run 62-4139 into the mud between the runways. The infamous Pig in the Mud! Bob Donan, Bill Hale, Jim Morton, and I volunteered to remain to ensure the classified equipment was removed and accounted for. The story goes on but a week later Chief Rainey arrived at Clark to ensure we returned in a timely fashion to Kadena. Welcome Jim to the Board of Directors!

The AMTA reunion is rapidly approaching and I'm hoping registration is growing and that the reunion

is a huge success. Many thanks Mike McLaughlin for planning and organizing this event and to Jonnie Estes for organizing the golf outing. Details and registration form are located on the AMTA WEBSITE: [AMTA News \(amtassociation.org\)](http://AMTA News (amtassociation.org)) Finally, I have resigned from the AMTA and as Vice President effective 30 June 2023. For those who know me, what doctors describe as reckless living, I look as robust and living to my full potential. Some of which I don't remember. LOL The result has been two Pulmonary Embolism and several extended hospitals stays this past year. Added to the other complications of just getting old I've been directed to slow the....down. So on that note ...

C YA

George Honsaker



**Airborne Maintenance
Technician Association**

288 Stone Trail

CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009

(President Continued from page 1)

Board Member George Honsaker, has resigned his positions due to health reasons. IAW our by-laws, the board accepted Gene Dudley as a board member to take George's position on the board. Welcome aboard Gene! We will solely miss George and his skills. George did an outstanding job redoing the AMTA website and making it look modern. If anyone in the AMTA would like to take over the website to keep it updated, please let myself or another board member know. I did not run for the board of directors this year as I knew I would not be able to attend in October and didn't think it was right for me to be elected and not attend. I wish the incoming Board the Best of Luck and I will see you all at the next reunion, wherever and whenever that is.

Finally, it has been nearly 4 years since we have been able to get together, have a few beers, see old friends and co-workers, and tell our war stories. During that time many things have changed in the world. Our aircraft fly where many of us never thought of flying and we can even track them on the web, new aircraft replacing old - EC-37 for C-130 Compass Call, and still another upgrade to the RC's. Keep in mind that our airborne successors are still doing the jobs we once did, and pray that they will always return home safely to family and loved ones.

Don Weaver

"We must be ready to dare all for our country. For history does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid"

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



**the WIREBENDER
Staff:**

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher:

Whitey Gross

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

(Treasurer Continued from page 1)

cer Society (Carson Lobb, Tommy Birdwell), Wounded Warrior Project (John Brown) and Memorial (Taylor Greene). Presently we are still able to donate and meet our organizations financial commitment to the Air Force Enlisted Village, however if this trend continues we will be forced in the future in cutting back our donations. Membership dues no longer play a role in financial income. Most members are lifelong members, only a couple of members pay three years or one year at a time. Once again, please keep supporting the AMTA, we cannot and will not exist without YOU!

Welcome to summer with all of the HEAT and stormy weather. Already we have been in the nineties and have had storm warnings almost every day. Normally I cut or trim my grass every 10-14 days but lately its required cutting weekly. I shouldn't complain because in another month or so we'll be in the 100s, grass and flowers turning brown and back on a watering schedule. It seems that each year is a repeat from the last. Stay calm and keep cool! Guess what, I'm hearing noise outside, it's raining again. No grass cutting today, it's getting higher by the minute.

Although there's little talk about COVID-19 it's still being watched by many individuals. Mask are no longer required but individuals are still encouraged to wear them in certain locations; hospitals, doctor offices and dental offices. Just in case I still carry a few new mask in each vehicle to be on the safe side.

We are finally here, summer of 2023, and the next scheduled AMTA reunion is set for 18-20 September 2023. It will be held at the San Antonio Marriott Northwest, 3233 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213. Main phone is (210) 377-3900. This is the same hotel we were at in 2015. Mike McLaughlin has been working night and day with different hotels trying to

set up a workable contract. Finally he was able to make a contract with a hotel that satisfied both the hotel and the AMTA. The Marriott "Sales" staff worked with Mike in scheduling a hospitality room, banquet room and hotel reservations that come with breakfast included. 2019 was our last official reunion and we have not had an official nor unofficial reunion since. This should be an outstanding reunion, so much to catch up on and friends to bring together. If you have any thoughts on how we can improve or make this upcoming reunion any better for our members, please let one of our board members know as soon as possible. Think of items you could bring to "silent auction" as this has always been a great time. Thank you once again for the support of the entire membership, this is your association. Make it an unforgettable reunion, I'm asking for everyone to join us for this year's 2023 AMTA Reunion. Always take care and stay safe. **Until September 2023, think REUNION.**

Robert J. White

AMTA VSO INFORMATION

The latest on PACT Act-related Presumptive conditions and locations.

Even if you are already service related disabled for an Agent Orange (AO) related disability, adding any of the most recent conditions could benefit your spouse should any of these new conditions contribute to your passing. You should reopen your claim to add these disabilities. www.VA.gov can give you guidance.

New AO related conditions:
 High Blood Pressure (also called hypertension)
 Monoclonal gammopathy of

(Secretary Continued from page 1)

speaker has not been identified at this time nor has a color guard been arranged. These issues are both being ironed out.

The 2023 board of directors election was completed May 26th. The results were emailed to AMTA members. We have a board member leaving mid-term and per our bylaws, a replacement will be identified and appointed in the near future. I will update our organization information with the Texas Secretary of State when the new board is seated. Required IRS filings are submitted in May of each year and the AMTA is in good standing.

Looking forward to resuming reunions and hope to see many old/new friends. Please travel safe.

Michael McLaughlin

undetermined significance (MGUS)
 Five newly added AO exposure locations:

- Any US or Royal Thai military base Laos
- Cambodia at Mimot or Krek. Kampong Cham Province
- Guam or American Samoa
- Johnson Atoll

John Hurst
 AMTA Veterans Service Officer

AMTA Board of Directors:
 Don Weaver - President, Director
 George Honsaker - Vice-President, Director
 Mike McLaughlin - Secretary, Director
 Robert White - Treasurer, Director
 Larry Meade - Director
 Johnnie Estes - Director (Permanent)
 Jim Hargrove - Director (Permanent)
 Mervin Gross - Director (Permanent)
 Mervin Gross - Newsletter Temporary
 Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)