



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

2010/2011 Officers

- Dave Ratliff—President
- Harry Booth—Vice President
- Mike Noland—Treasurer
- Deby Kidney—Secretary

Serving AMM:

- Gary Hartman—Entertainment Chairman and Chaplain
- Frank Hill—Historian
- Glenn Moore—Webmaster
- Ann Secord—Special Projects Coordinator
- Allen Lawless—*Sound Off!* Editor

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ARMM Adopts Changes

At the September 2010 reunion in Huntsville, AL, the organization previously known as the “Association of Retired Military Musicians” officially changed its name to the “Association of Military Musicians”. Other changes were adopted into the Bylaws resulting from this historic change, which are summarized below.

This change began two years ago when the mandated Bylaws review revealed a strong proposal to change the organization’s name by dropping the “Retired” moniker. It was felt that the word “Retired” in the organization’s name led some prospective members to think that they would have to be retired from military service to qualify for membership. As the criterion for membership in the organization has always been, and continues to be, service of any length in a military musical group, this proposal rang clearly in the ears of the attending members and thus the



changes to the Bylaws were approved unanimously.

To summarize the rest of the Bylaws changes:

- The name of the organization and acronym “ARMM” were changed throughout the Bylaws document.
- All members, whether “Full” or “Associate”, become “full” members and are otherwise eligible for service as officers upon election. Previously, only “full” members, i.e., retired members, qualified for certain elected positions.
- Members who are delinquent in their dues shall not receive the newsletter or the updated membership roster.
- AMM’s web site (see the top of this page for the new URL and related article elsewhere!) is now the responsibility of the Secretary. He/she may appoint individuals to assist in developing and maintaining the web site.

AMM Secretary Announces Appointment



Deby Kidney, AMM Secretary, announced recently that Ann Secord, USN Retired, has been appointed as “Special Projects Coordinator” for AMM with duties to be announced.

Ann is a former Army oboist who served for one enlistment in the band program, then through a series of programs encompassing two enlistments and four commissions, Ann had 28 consecutive years of service and retired

in 2003 as an O-5 Navy CDR Physician in the Navy Medical Corps.

Ann became a Life Member of AMM at the September 2010 reunion and is excited to once again be a part of military music. She offers, “It’s great to be around those with whom I once served and while I don’t quite have the oboe chops I used to, that’s okay. I want to contribute to this fine organization and I’m sure there’s something that needs to be done.” Welcome, and congratulations, Ann!

2011 Reunion to be Held in Columbia, SC

Gary Hartman, Entertainment Chairman

Greetings, fellow AMM members! I trust that this holiday season will allow many opportunities to both enjoy and share in the musical festivities of your area. And speaking of festivities, our 2011 Annual Reunion will have the same. Be sure to visit the Reunion page on our website for information on how to complete all registration requirements.

DATES: SEPTEMBER 15 – 18, 2011
LOCATION: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
2100 Bush River Rd
Columbia, SC 29210

Tentative plans include a Friday night concert by the illustrious 282nd Army “Victory” Band from Fort Jackson, and a dance combo for our Saturday night dinner/dance affair. Attire may be dress casual or Suit & Tie; subject to change.

Sight-seeing opportunities include downtown museums, the Riverbanks Zoo, plenty of golf courses, and

a bowling center two blocks from the hotel. Those preferring to relax and enjoy the social atmosphere of the hotel may have an opportunity to see or meet the University of South Carolina football team and coaching staff, as they will be staying at the same hotel from Friday night until pre-game on Saturday.

For those traveling by plane, please know that the hotel offers FREE airport shuttle service. Please include your itinerary on the registration form, as advance notice will provide better service upon your arrival. Area maps of interest, as well as eating locations will be provided at check-in.

Questions or inquiries are welcome, so please contact me for more information.

My email address is: avguy49@gmail.com

Wishing you all a very blessed and happy holiday season.

P r e s i d e n t ’ s M e s s a g e

By Dave Ratliff

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving and “Black Friday” will be over. Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Where has 2010 gone? It does not seem possible that 2011 is almost here.

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Association. There is no way we can ever say thanks to those who created this organization. But, if AMM is to survive for another 25 years, each of you must be

active recruiters. Many of you participate in social media – Facebook, Twitter, etc. You have many friends and contacts that were members of a military band for three years or 30 years or more. Ask them to go to the AMM homepage and purchase a one year membership. It doesn’t cost much but I feel the benefits of membership make this a worthwhile investment. Encourage them to travel to Columbia, SC in September 2011 for the

annual reunion. They will have a wonderful time remembering their service as a military musician. One of the reasons for the name change was to encourage *all* military musicians to join - not just those who have retired. When you recruit a new member, be sure you receive credit for your effort. I will make a presentation to the person who recruits the most members (new or renewal) by September 2011.



It is an honor to serve as the President of AMM.

Happy Holidays to you and yours from the Ratliffs.

Dave

U.S. Marine Bands



The 1st Marine Division Band, based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consists of 50 Marine musicians. While the primary mission of the 1st Marine Division Band is to provide musical support for military parades and ceremonies, they remain versatile to accommodate other needs. In addition to the Ceremonial Band and Concert Band, the band forms smaller ensembles such as Big Band, Jazz Combo, Brass Quintet, and Party Band. In 2007, the 1st Marine Division Band was awarded the "Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands" administered by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The 1st Marine Division Band was organized during World War II in the Pacific Theater of Operations in the early 1940s. Then, The 1st Marine Division Bandsmen have drawn their rifles in

support of several operations, including Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom I and II. The band was attached to Headquarters Company, Regimental Combat Team 5 and deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq from February 2006 to January 2007, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. The band served in combat missions as a security platoon, with Marines serving as a security force in Central Fallujah, a mobile security convoy, and a mobile security team for an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team. Marines of the 1st Marine Division Band continue to serve as individual augments to I Marine Expeditionary Force, as we are still in the fight on the War on Terror.

Information taken from:
<http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/DIV/band/aboutus.asp>

Other Marine Bands and Their Locations

- "The President's Own" The Marine Band, Washington, D.C.
- Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Washington, D.C.
- Quantico Marine Corps Band, Quantico, VA
- Marine Corps Band, Twenty Nine Palms, CA
- Parris Island Marine Band, Parris Island, SC
- Marine Band San Diego, CA
- Albany Marine Band, Albany, GA
- 2nd Marine Division Band, Camp Lejeune, NC
- 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, Cherry Point, NC
- 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, Miramar, CA
- III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, Okinawa, Japan
- Marine Forces Pacific Band, Kaneohe Bay, HI
- Marine Forces Reserve Band, New Orleans, LA
- Allied Forces Band, Naples, Italy

Tidbits

Army SOM Update

For those who are following the story, there has been much discussion about the Army moving the Army SOM out of the Navy School of Music at the Little Creek Amphibious Base, VA. Initial talks mentioned Ft. Eustis as a home for the new Army SOM. CSM Camarda of the Army SOM reported via email that those discussions to move the operation are still ongoing. Options appear to run from investing a sizeable sum of money in renovating the current facility or make the move to Ft. Jackson should budget

tightening require it. In the meantime, CSM Camarda reports that the Army has already severed its training curriculum from the Navy 6-month course. Army Advanced Individual Training at the SOM is now 10 weeks. Soldiers at the SOM no longer undergo theory, harmony and ear training. Instead, the training is geared toward hands-on performance and in developing entertainment skills. Most basic training graduates come to the SOM with music degrees or are experienced as professional musicians.

A bit of humor from Chaplain Gary Hartman....



The Marine Band "The President's Own"



Corps "The Commandant's Own" and the 12 active duty Marine Corps field bands.

The Marine Band is uniquely known as "The President's Own" because of its historic connection to the President of the United States. The relationship between the Marine Band and the White House began on New Year's Day 1801, when President John Adams invited the band to perform at the Executive Mansion. Later that year, Thomas Jefferson initiated the tradition of Marine Band performances by requesting that it perform at his inauguration. The Marine Band has played at every United States presidential inauguration since.

Today, the Marine Band performs in approximately 500 events every year including state funerals, State Arrival Ceremonies, state dinners, parades, concerts, and other social events. The Marine Band also travels across the country each October and November during its fall concert tour, a tradition that began in 1891 under its most famous director, composer John Philip Sousa.

The Marine Band is comprised of approximately 130 musicians and 30 support staff.

Text and photo Information taken from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Band

The **United States Marine Band** is the premier band of the United States Marine Corps. Established by act of Congress on July 11, 1798, it is the oldest of the United States military bands and the oldest professional musical organization in the United States. Today, the Marine Band also includes the Marine Chamber Orchestra and Marine Chamber Ensembles.

The Marine Band is entirely separate from its sister military band, the United States Marine Drum and Bugle

Secretary's Notes

Deby Kidney, AMM Secretary



I really enjoyed meeting old and new friends at this year's reunion, but I'm especially happy that we have so many new members. It is also nice that we are seeing members returning after several years of inactivity with the organization. Our organization is being rejuvenated with our new name, new website, and new logo, as well as new members. Please make sure that when you renew your membership, even though you think we have your most up-to-date information, you send us address, phone number, EMAIL ADDRESS (very important!), and branch of service. Also remember that your membership information goes first to the treasurer, then to me, then to the newsletter editor. Therefore, there is a chance that something may get lost or dropped for the roster. We don't do it on purpose! We value all of our members and will do our best to make it right and get newsletters and rosters to you ASAP. Happy Holidays!

Chaplain's Corner

Gary Hartman, AMM Chaplain



Greetings! For those of you who may not know me, let me introduce myself. Dates of Army Service: June 8, 1976 to July 31, 1996 Served with 434th Army Band, Fort Gordon, GA; 2nd Inf Div Band, Korea; 74th Army Band, Fort Harrison, IN SHAPE International Band, Mons, Belgium; 282nd Army Band, Fort Jackson, SC. Ordained Clergy with Universal Life Church Modesto, CA October 2006

Dear Fellow Members,

During this 2010 holiday season, may we all remember to treat others the way we want to be treated. Remember those less fortunate than ourselves, and share what we can. Mentor a young person with your gift of music, and make a difference in their life.

For those who receive the membership directory, or use Facebook, Twitter or other online social networks (email); rekindle a friendship from your service days, and invite someone to join us here at AMM. Since our annual membership is only \$15, consider giving a membership to someone as a Christmas gift. If we all invite at least one person to next year's reunion in Columbia, SC, what a great turn-out we can collectively create and enjoy!

May the true spirit of "Christ"mas be with you and yours! God bless!

What's Up on the Web...

Glenn Moore, AMM Webmaster



Hopefully you have had the opportunity to visit our reformatted web site at its new location: <http://www.a-m-m.us>.

Much like a wedding, we have adopted a "something old, something new, and something borrowed" approach. In the "something old" category, you will find our history, contacts, staff and photos. In the "something new" area, we have a new web address (URL, for you technically inclined folks) as noted above. The former web address (www.armm.us) has been retired. We moved the menu to the top center of the page; added a fillable PDF membership form that provides you the opportunity to type in your information, print it and mail it to Mike with your dues; a Message Board; and additional information about our reunion. For the "something borrowed," we kept the traditions started from twenty-five years past and will continue to build upon it.

I encourage you to join our message board. This resource provides you an opportunity to post and review messages applicable to past and present topics.

If you have questions or comments about the website, please send an email note to me using the "AMM Webmaster" email link located on the home (first) page.

Until next time, Glenn

Treasurer's Report

Mike Noland, AMM Treasurer



The 2010 report given at the reunion was \$8443.95. After the 2010 reunion, all outstanding bills were paid and the dues and shirt money were deposited leaving a final 2010 balance of \$9052.55. Final reunion bills were paid in October and additional dues received were deposited. This brings our present balance to \$7812.05.

Since we are in the process of a redesign on our logo, no new dues cards will be printed at this time.

Taps



Roger "Woody" Woodrum, 80, SGM Retired, on Sept. 26, 2010, of esophageal cancer. Originally from Peoria, IL, Woody enlisted in the Army in 1948 and retired in 1978 after having served as a clarinetist in various assignments at Ft. Benning, Ft. Sheridan, Berlin, and NORAD, among others. Woody served combat tours in the Korean War and in Vietnam. Lou Hurvitz writes, "Woody had a great sense of humor that bubbled under a seemingly gruff exterior. He was a terrific fellow and I am all the richer for having known him and for being a friend for 40 years."

No Photo

Barbara (Dolliver) Wilson, 55, on Sept. 26, 2010, of ovarian cancer. Survived by her three children, mother, three brothers, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, George, and father. Barb served from 1976 to 1989 in assignments in Berlin and New York, among others. Lou Hurvitz again writes, "Barb served as the [Berlin] band's flute section leader, woodwind group leader, and administrative noncommissioned officer." Godspeed, Barb. You will be missed.



Thomas William Achenbach, 70, of Jacksonville, FL, on Aug. 7, 2010 of unknown causes. Tom, a Vietnam vet, was retired from the Army band system. He enjoyed listening to jazz at home, along with maintaining his membership with the NRA. Tom enjoyed feeding the neighborhood birds and fishing with his wife, Yoshi. Tom is survived by three sons, three stepdaughters, and other family. Tom was buried in the Jacksonville Military Cemetery with full military honors. Announced by Mike Mideiros.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://A-M-M.US

A s s o c i a t i o n o f M i l i t a r y M u s i c i a n s

AMM's Mission

The Association of Military Musicians is a fraternal organization that strives to preserve the proud tradition of military music. Military musical ensembles don't just play marches and ceremonial music—today's audience demands much more than that, and with panache to boot!

Membership is open to any and all who have served in a military musical organization, whether a band, orchestra, fife & drum corps, or a vocal group.

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