

Association of Military Musicians

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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Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

Reflections of a Reunion—an Editorial

By Allen Lawless, AMM Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

2012/2013 Officers

- Jon Eggleston—President
- Harry Booth—Vice President
- Deby Kidney—Secretary
- Allen Lawless—Treasurer

Serving AMM

- Mike Noland—Entertainment Chairman
- Gary Hartman—Chaplain
- Bill Von Kamp—Librarian
- Frank Hill—Historian
- Glenn Moore—Webmaster
- Allen Lawless—*Sound Off!* Editor

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To be frank, much of this issue of *Sound Off!* sounds, well, desperate. I shall not add to that mood in this article. Instead, I want to reflect on a recent reunion of yet another military organization to which I belong.

The Berlin US Military Veterans Association is not too much different than the Association of Military Musicians. There are the same types of people in both. Grandfathers and mothers, retirees and veterans. Fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, all manner of familial titles. There are those who still work and those who stopped decades ago. At the final dinner dance, veterans and retirees alike wore their dress uniforms (if they could still fit in them) and for those who preferred not to wear a uniform for whatever reason, many wore their miniature medals and authorized badges on their suit coats.

The effect of this was palpable on the group. Veterans seemed to stand a little taller and their wives seemed a little prouder. There was a discernible sense of comradeship and community among those present, even among those who had not a clue who the next person at the table was. All of those present had engaged in a profession that had seen adversity, sometimes calamity, and in that experience, shared brotherhood.

The formal dinner was well-attended, well-received, and beyond the glasses of watery iced tea and cooled-off chicken, the organization's own worth and sense of belonging came to be.

This is why we have reunions. This is why we greet each other with a smile and a handshake after another year has passed, and yes, this is why we lament the passing of another member who was with us just a year ago.

Some of us won't be able to make the reunion this year. Dick Pinter, for one, our stalwart and a passionate "Lone Bugler," cannot attend for health reasons. And no doubt others cannot make the journey. But for those who have been blessed with good health and a reasonable opportunity to travel, we shall encounter that same sense of comradeship and community. For the September reunion which Mike has worked so hard to organize, I propose that we dust off those miniature medals for those who have them, and wear them on your sport coat or other outer clothing item at the Saturday dinner dance. (Army regs permit this.) You just might be surprised how straight your back becomes and how much younger you will feel. And your spouse will also reflect the pride in you that you know is there but sometimes isn't expressed.

Taps

- Clarification—the Editor regrets several errors in the announcement of Richard Naujoks' passing in the last Issue of *Sound Off!*. Richard was 70, not 72, when he passed. Date of death was February 25, 2013, not 2012. And finally, Richard's sister is Phyllis, not Shirley.
- Albert Biales, musician, composer, professor emeritus and jazz educator of St. Catherine University, died December 6, 2012. Dr. Biales served in Army bands in the mid-Fifties. Thanks to Lou Hurvitz, SGM (Ret.) for this information.

President's Corner

By Jon Eggleston, AMM President



When I was nominated for this office, I was told it was an easy job. That's about half right; it's easy if I don't do anything. The hard part is now upon me. This association needs to move forward, and I have been informed in no uncertain terms that it is my job to lead. This is not the place to relate that forced epiphany (it'll make a war story for later). Suffice it to say that its source is one whose dedication and service to AMM I will not dishonor by shirking my part. Whatever my deficits as a leader (think 2LT), I intend to bend my back to the task before me.

It is inevitably awkward for someone so much like a 2LT to lead a pack of senior NCOs and WOs, so we'll start your job with the easy part, too. Whatever the long-term prospects for AMM, our immediate goal is to stay alive for another year. Mike Noland is struggling with a tardy and feeble response to his pleas for prompt registration. Change that, each of you. Right now is good. The sooner he has the requisite numbers committed, the better he can plan food, drink, and activities. The more hotel reservations we hold, the better Mike's leverage in arranging facilities (and the better our relations when we arrive). Get to it, and remember that this is the easy part. OFF AND ON, ladies and gentlemen.

We need to formulate an effective program of promotion and recruitment for AMM. We need to be more visible in the world at large, and we need to reach out more effectively to individual potential members. If you belong to another organization with successful methods, or if you have professional competence in advertising or other relevant areas, I call upon you to offer your help and advice. Think about it, then write or call.

Beyond this general call for volunteers, though, we need a more focused, coordinated effort in which individual members take on specific assignments to contribute to a defined goal. Just for example, I believe we should be recruiting from the ranks of community bands across the country. Most have a presence on the web and should be hearing from us, with an invitation to the former military musicians among them. This project lends itself to a division of labor, from crafting an invitation to searching out lists of bands by region, which will not put an undue burden on any of us. Other goals remain to be defined, as do the appropriate assignments of tasks. I will insist on a level of participation such that no one's life is disrupted by its demands. So, when your phone rings and you hear my voice, you'll know that the hard part of your job has begun. Since everyone I will call understands the need, the load will be shared and it won't be hard at all. Show me I'm right.

Thinking about seeing you all again in Clarksville brings on a warm glow. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Secretary's Notes

By Deby Kidney, AMM Secretary



When I first accepted this job, one of my priorities was to increase the group's exposure to those military musicians who may not have heard of us. One of the first things I did was to create a Facebook group for AMM and to date we now have 262 members. I'm not mentioning this to "toot my own horn," but to illustrate that there are SO many more folks out there that we can reach if we just use the social networking and electronic tools that are available. We cannot afford to live in the past if we are to grow this organization. We--meaning ALL of us, not just a select few--have to pitch in and make things happen. If you know any of the 262 Facebook members who are not currently paid, active members of AMM, contact them (by email or on Facebook!) and talk to them about becoming active

members of AMM, coming to the reunion, etc.

At the September reunion, I will be stepping down as Secretary of AMM. I have enjoyed the three years that I have spent on the board but it's time for someone else to take over. At the same time, I would like to ask for someone to please take over the position of Newsletter Editor, which falls under the purview of the Secretary. Allen Lawless has been doing an amazing job with the newsletter for 3 years now, but his position as Treasurer (which requires the most work of anyone on the board) is the one that he is devoted to now and doing a phenomenal job. We cannot continue to ask him to do both AND have a normal personal life. I know there is someone out there who is handy with words, has lots of military band knowledge, and can compile it for our newsletter. I hope you will come forward soon. Allen did say quite clearly that if you don't, the newsletter stops. It's that simple.

Reunion Update by Mike Noland, Entertainment Chairman



The reunion is just 3 months away and we are now approaching crunch time. This is the time when people are taking their time sending in their registration money and making reservations at the hotel. This makes it very difficult for the host in making decisions on what will happen and what may be cut. The hotel dinner room booking is now

a go no matter how many show up for the reunion. Will still need 15 more rooms booked to guarantee the meal prices on the contract.

This seems to happen every year and I believe it is one of the main reasons no one wants to take on hosting a reunion. We vote on the site a year out and members still continue to drag their feet. I hope that when you read this you will make your reservation ASAP and also send me your registration money. I did not send out an email last month in hopes that I would receive some registrations. I guess I will start doing this again in the hope that it generates more interest.

If I sound frustrated it is because I am. I want to put on a good reunion and not dip into the treasury to accomplish the task. I will be out of state during the month of June and I will be keeping my fingers crossed that there will be more registrations when I return.

The 2013 AMM reunion will be held in Clarksville, TN on the 19th through the 21st of September 2013. This will be the fourth reunion to be held in



Clarksville and I hope it will be the biggest and best one to date. The reunion site will be at the Riverview Inn in downtown Clarksville. For the members who have attended previous reunions here the location will be about 1/2 mile upriver from the Quality Inn. The hotel overlooks the Cumberland River and when you step out the front door you are in downtown Clarksville.

The agenda for the reunion will be pretty much the same as in the past. Thursday the 19th of September will be a registration day and you will be free to take in the sights of Clarksville or head off to Nashville or Bowling Green as some of you have done in the past. Bowling Green is the home of the Corvette museum and Nashville is now the home of Antique Archeology which is where the American Pickers have their new store. Clarksville is also home to the 101st Airborne Division and they have an outstanding museum. The post is also home to the largest PX in the AFEES system and we also have a new commissary. The hospitality room will also be open.

On Friday the 20th of September we will also continue registration. At 1900 hours will have a concert performed for us by the Cumberland Winds. This is a local concert band and a few members are also members of our organization. During the second part of the concert, AMM members will be invited to sit in and participate in the remaining portion of the concert. We hope to have a jam session afterward and invite members of the Cumberland winds

to sit in. Of course the hospitality room will open all day but will be closed during the concerts. Refreshments can be purchased at the bar during this time.

Saturday the 21st will be the big day. We will continue registration and will have a concert band rehearsal in the morning. Our business meeting will be held sometime in the early afternoon. Later on that evening we will have our dinner dance. The hospitality room will be closed during this time and we will have a cash bar provided by the hotel. Dinner music will be provided a local contracted group as the Tennessee National Guard Band is unable to support due to the budget problems.

The cost for the reunion will be \$55.00 per person which will cover all expenses incurred during the reunion. We have made a \$500.00 deposit for the dinner dance area and the hotel is giving us the hospitality room and the room for our concert. Please make your check out to Mike Noland at 402 Andrew Dr., Clarksville, TN 37042. I ask you to make this out as soon as you can so that I can keep an accurate account of who will be attending. Several members wait until the the last minute to send their money and this causes a lot of anxiety for the person putting on the reunion. I have to have a headcount in by 10 September. The hotel will have a 10% overage prepared for last minute guests. The meal will be a buffet with two meats so please sign up early. Late signers will be seated last and may run the risk of not getting fed.

The Riverview Inn's number is 931-552-3331. When you call for your reservation, please tell them that you are with the Association of Military Musicians. The cost of the room per night is \$79.20 plus tax. We are all getting the military rate and I believe that this is the lowest rate that I have seen for several reunions. The cutoff date for guaranteed room prices and reservations is 15 August 2013. We are guaranteed 30 rooms. After that you may be taking a chance. I would hope that you make your reservations as soon as you receive this newsletter and send me your reunion money right after that.

We have had low attendance for a few of our last reunions and had to dip into our treasury to pay some bills. That is what the treasury is for but we cannot continue to do that. My goal at every reunion is to provide the best time for your dollar and to break even on the costs. Let us do our best to attend the reunion and talk this up with your military musician friends and encourage them to join the organization. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 931-216-3221 or email me at waldhorn4@bellsouth.net If you email me, please put AMM Reunion in the subject section. If that area is left blank, I usually do not open it or it sometimes goes to SPAM. More details will be provided in following newsletters or on the website.