

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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Moberly, MO 65270

1044 CR 2340



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

2012/2013 Officers

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

Serving AMM

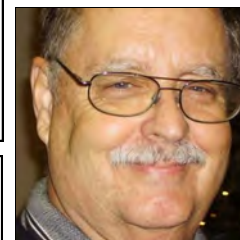
- Mike Noland—Entertainment Chairman
- Gary Hartman—Chaplain
- Bill Von Kamp—Librarian
- Frank Hill—Historian
- Glenn Moore—Webmaster
- Allen Lawless—*Sound Off!* Editor

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Reunion Update

By Mike Noland, Entertainment Chairperson



The reunion is less than two 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.

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 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 ½ 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 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 AFES system and we also have a new commissary. The hospitality room will also be open. On Thursday evening, members will be invited to attend the Cumberland Winds rehearsal. This will give you a chance to look over the music if you plan to sit in with the group on the concert.

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

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Your New Sound Off! Editor...

Many thanks to Gary Hartman for stepping up to become the next *Sound Off!* editor. I know he will do a fabulous job and I'm looking forward to reading his work in the December issue. I've had a blast editing and writing and stealing stuff from the Internet and others over the past 3 years and then presenting that to you, but other duties beckon. For example, sometime

between now and the Reunion, I'm going to have to re-learn how to do a simple balance sheet or other document that tells you that I haven't stolen your money over the past year. Maybe I'll check with Ben Bernanke...

Just kidding, of course. Thanks to all of you for putting up with me. See you next month.
Allen Lawless

State of the Art

By David M. Smith, CW4, Ret.



At a certain age, it is very tempting to come to the conclusion that during one's lifetime...let's say the last 50 years or so...that the world has experienced the most-unique and revolutionary changes that have simply ever occurred...in technology, in Art-with-a-capital-A and just generally in life-

styles.

In 1957, my mother's cousin stopped by as he was passing through Toledo. He was an engineer at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton and was what we would later come to call a "techno-geek." He always had the shiniest, technologically-advance new thing...and drove the longest Oldsmobile that they made with the biggest tail fins...bought a new one every year...on this trip he had something called a "transistor radio" that ran on batteries and, if the print ad is to be believed, could slip in the pocket of your fully-buttoned-to-the-top-button shirt that you wore under your sport coat...on the way to the ballgame...so as not to miss the scintillating play-by-play...or catch some easy-listening music or news on a local AM station. [Feel free to count the anachronisms as they pile up.]

The cost of one of these little marvels was then, as the ad reads, \$29.95...to put that in perspective, the average weekly pay then was about \$60.00-\$70.00 before taxes...so it cost

about \$600.00 or so in today's dollars...or about 150% of the cost of a first-generation iPod at \$400.00.

About 10 years after the AM-only transistor radio was introduced, you couldn't give them away since everyone was moving toward the better sound of FM transmissions...and first-generation iPods don't have the ability to make phone calls and/or show movies, so their market-value is nil...although I admit that every time I think of iPod-as-a-vehicle-to-watch-movie, the movie Lawrence of Arabia comes to mind with a one pixel by three pixel Peter O'Toole in the center of the vast desert landscape on the iPhone screen...quite an image...or not, as it were.

My first pay gig for money was a NYE gig just a little after that radio came out...we played from 8:00 in the evening until about 5:00 the

next morning and my cut with overtime was over twice that average weekly pay mentioned above...Toledo was not only a manufacturing center in the manufacturing giant that was America, but it had an active live music scene until about 1970...a good union musician could always find work and many bands were booked out 18 months in advance...weddings, country club bands, night club bands...you name it...but that's changed, too.

You see, it's not that massive changes have occurred only during one's lifetime...it's that, if one lives long enough, changes just occur...and become the new normal...

60 years before that transistor radio hit the streets, a guy in Italy named Marconi was sending and receiving the first radio signals...

and about six years prior to that was the debut of a hot new musical number, *The Washington Post March*...

and a little less than 50 years prior to that a guy named Sousa was born.



Everyone knows the American march form that Sousa used...Intro - **First Strain** with mostly tonic or tonic-substitute harmony - **Second Strain** with heavy subdominant and dominant harmony - Trio in a new key usually the dominant of the original strain - **Break up Strain - Trio**...but it wasn't always that way.

When Sousa was a kid (prior to the Civil War), the march form was usually two or three 16-bar strains that would repeat, as needed. That was all of the thematic material that was ever needed since the marches were always played on the hoof and

the audience was transitory as you marched by them...16 bars later you had a new audience and the same material on a repeat was new to them.

After the Civil War, bandsmen who returned home formed town bands and built gazebos and gave concerts in the park...to a now-captive audience whose attention needed to be held for longer than 16 bars...and the march form changed so completely to accommodate that need that by the time *The Washington Post March* was written, the new march form had become the new normal...

...in about that same time span of 50 years.

Now if I can only get the new I-MAX 3D version of Avatar to display on the iPhone with no degradation of experience...

Reunion Update (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

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 drinks can be purchased at the bar prior to the dinner. Dinner music will be provided a local contracted group as the Tennessee National Guard Band is unable to support due to the budget problems. Dress for the dinner dance will be casual.

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

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 final 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 31 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.

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.



Chaplain's Corner

By Gary Hartman, AMM Chaplain



Greetings, fellow AMM members. I trust that everyone was able to have an enjoyable summer. For the most part, I stayed busy working through most of it. But on July 22nd, I was given a 30-day termination notice; my job position is being cut, along with several others. I've been doing the job search thing, and a couple leads have the process going forward. Isn't it ironic that my wife has gone through this very same situation only four short months ago. We still have hope, that God will provide for our needs. He may not include the "wants", but maybe our priorities will have to be adjusted. Although I fully plan on, and have my reservations for, attending AMM 2013 in Clarksville, I have no certain plan on what the future will hold. No more "Re-Upping" for another 6-year tour.

Some of you may have experienced that same situation. The uncertainty of life can be very intimidating, causing anxiety, uneasiness, restlessness,

and the like. It's almost like getting a "2.65 with no extension." If you're not familiar with the School of Music terminology, ask around; you may think it is the slightest bit humorous. The words to "Lean On Me" seem to echo in my mind. Load up YouTube for this classic but timeless song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR0NZqu6igg&list=PL2BC7949D897AAF72>

As far as AMM is concerned, I was asked to consider taking the reins of this newsletter, so that our esteemed Treasurer only has to concentrate on one main task; finances. With that in mind, I in turn seek a replacement as Chaplain. If you're interested, please talk with our president about serving. Otherwise, talk with Allen about taking the reins of the newsletter.

For those of you who may not be able to attend this year's reunion, please consider hosting a future reunion in your general area. Maybe several of you who live close to each other can TEAM UP.