



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

2013/2014 Officers

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- Karen Mayfield—Vice President
- Deby Kidney—Secretary
- Allen Lawless—Treasurer

Serving AMM

- Allen Lawless—Entertainment Chairman, Webmaster
- Gary Hartman—Chaplain
- Bill Von Kamp—Librarian
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- TBD—*Sound Off!* Editor

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AMM Recognizes Bandsmen of the Year

At the Clarksville reunion this past September, a proposal was made to award Certificates of Commendation and 1-year memberships to the annual Army Bandsmen of the Year. The attending membership approved this proposal, therefore AMM member Dave Ratliff provided the names and units

of these notable musicians of the Year. Active duty, Reserve, and National Guard are all represented in this distinguished list. They are:

- SFC Daniel Welch, US Army Japan Band, Senior NCO Bandsman of the Year, Active Component
- SFC Ronald Earlenbaugh, 380th Army Band, Senior NCO Bandsman of the Year, Reserve Component
- SGT Danielle Winter, 101st Airborne Division Band, Junior NCO Bandsman of the Year, Active Component
- SGT Walter Hirschmann, 229th Army Band,

Junior NCO Bandsman of the Year, Maryland ANG

- SPC James Landman, 188th Army Band, Soldier Bandsman of the Year, North Dakota ANG

- SPC Kyle Pfautz, Eighth Army Band, Soldier Bandsman of the Year, Active Component



Each of these musicians exemplifies the rigorous and exacting standards that today's Army bands demand. As the force has shrunk, so too have the number of bands and the number of musicians. Standards have

gone up and training time has gone down. As a result, these musicians come to the Army as accomplished, experienced and capable musicians right from the start. These mentioned in this list have exceeded those expectations and distinguished themselves and their units accordingly. Well done, and congratulations!

It's That Time Again!

Yep, another year has passed and we've all lost another few hairs and developed another couple of creaky bones. But despite our best attempts to beat Father Time, we just can't.

While the new web site and a healthy attendance on AMM's Facebook page (over 550 members) have attracted more than a few new members, we need to keep the members we already have! So please take a look and if that yearly chore of sending in your dues has slipped your mind, the new web site at <http://milmusicians.com> has made it easier than ever to get 'er done. Please take a look or if you're not online, a paper check sent to the Treasurer always gets the job done too. Please take care of this now, while it's on your mind! Otherwise, for those whose memberships lapsed this past September, this will be your last newsletter until you renew.

President's Remarks



I'm writing this on Veterans' Day 2013 and so my very first thought is to thank each and every one of you for your service to our Nation and express my appreciation for the art that you have shared as military musicians. It still seems odd after all of these years of retirement not to be rushing to a gig (or four) on a national holiday, so I thought that I would take the time to reach out to our membership.

I'm still getting acquainted with the office of President of the Association, and am most grateful to the other officers for their efforts in setting the course for the organization over the next months. The new web page looks great and, while there are still areas "under construction", we're headed in the right direction with it. One area with which we could use some help is with AMM photos. I'd like to solicit images from the membership for inclusion in the new web page. Especially appreciated would be any shots from the early AMM reunions and pictures of military bands/bandmembers doing that military music thing.

One other area in which we could use your assistance is in spreading the word that we're an organization for all military musicians...not just Army, not just retirees...but all services and all individuals who have honorably served...or are still serving.

I play in a community band and one of the alto sax players served a hitch back in the 1960s with the 3rd Infantry Division Band. He wasn't a careerist...just served the one hitch and returned to civilian life...but he expressed a great interest in the Association as a means of making contact with his former band-mates. This is the kind of contact that might help us to grow our numbers and broaden our member base.

So here's my request for assistance: Would it be possible for each of us to reach out to any/all of the community bands in our geographic regions and let the directors know about the Association, the 2014 Reunion in Branson, MO and that membership is open to any military musician with honorable service of any length? Simply direct them to our web page for more information.

Golf Outing Planned in Branson



The intrepid Tom Zale has been in contact with the Ledge-Stone Country Club and they have expressed great interest in seeing our Tiger Woods wannabes play their five-star golf facility on 3 October 2014. This golf course is located a mere four miles from the Radisson.

When we have a firm number of participants, the association will be able to negotiate a deal. Currently, the morning green fees, including a cart, are \$89.00. Although that seems a little pricey, it is a very nice track. Check out the course's website: <http://www.ledgestonegolf.com/course/photo-gallery.html>. We think that you'll agree that this is a gorgeous course.

We ask that you let Tom Zale know, as soon as possible, if you wish to participate in the 3 October golf event.

Reunion News—Branson, MO

By Allen Lawless, Entertainment Chairman

Since the Clarksville reunion this past September, AMM has entered into a contract with the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO. The Radisson Hotel chain offers a comfortable, easily accessible quality setting in the heart of Branson. Here are the particulars:

- Dates – October 2-5, 2014
- Location – Radisson Hotel
- Address – 120 S. Wildwood Dr.
- City – Branson, MO 65616
- Phone: 417-335-5767 (be sure to ask for the Group Rate under “AMM”)
- Room rates: \$89 per night (king or double, without breakfast); \$100 per night (king or double, with breakfast); \$139 per night 2-room Suite. Guestrooms subject to state (7.6%) and local (4.0%) taxes.
- Registration fee: \$60 per person (please note – registrants must be a member of AMM; members may invite one non-member Guest)



The dates for the reunion are several weeks later than the traditional dates of the second or third weekend in September. An attempt was made early on to secure these traditional dates, but they were not available. Despite this issue and its conflict with at least one religious holiday, the membership approved the Branson reunion.

Tentative plans have been broached to possibly assemble an eclectic mixture of those members who would be interested in working with a local school’s music department for a program yet to be determined. Ideas discussed, but not yet formalized, include featuring an instrument demonstration,

working with sections, or other way to impart the impact of music even in our geriatric age. Kids can get a sense of how music can be a part of the rest of their lives and begin to understand the importance of what they’re currently doing. For those intending to make the Branson reunion and who continue to play on their respective instruments, please contact the Entertainment Chairman if you’re interested in participating in this worthwhile community-service activity. Envisioned is approximately one to two hours on Friday, Oct. 3. Please note that recruitment for military bands is not the focus here – music is.

As in all AMM reunions, we anticipate lots of talking, camaraderie, down time, relaxation, and even a bit of horn honking on Saturday morning. A business meeting is also planned, and the dinner dance will feature a delicious meal of either Smoked Beef Brisket or Chicken Marsala with all the trimmings.

Branson is, of course, a popular resort for those who are looking for good, solid entertainment in a very picturesque area of the country. Branson offers much more than country music. For a complete run-down on what’s happening in Branson currently, please check <http://bransontraveloffice.com/>. As we get closer to the Reunion date, the web site will obviously be updated to include the time we’ll be there, but you can get a good sense as to what the current offerings are by visiting the site now.

The Ozarks in southwestern Missouri and northern Arkansas offer large tracts of beautiful landscapes for all sorts of outdoor activities for those not inclined to shoulder through the throngs in attending one of the major entertainment acts that pepper the Branson “strip.”

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Treasurer's and Webmaster Reports, *by Allen Lawless*



At the Clarksville Reunion this past September, the attending membership approved a budget of \$736.74 for the purpose of establishing an updated web site. The initial web site was launched in early October with a total expenditure of \$704.15, which was under budget.

As of this writing, the new web site also brought in 10 new members to date. These members registered and paid their dues through the Paypal option for dues payment. Only one renewal occurred through the old system of snail-mailing a paper check to the Treasurer. Of the new memberships since the web site launch, two were Lifetime memberships.

AMM's current checking account balance is 6,888.05, with another \$102.50 to be deposited. All bills are paid, including three years for web hosting, security certification, and similar charges.

Currently, AMM's membership roster lists 131 names. These include Active, Retired, Former, and Honorary memberships.

On the webmaster side, as stated in the Treasurer's Report above, the attending membership at the 2013 Reunion in Clarksville approved a plan to develop and launch an updated

web site. The web site in place at the time had not been adequately updated in some time and did not take advantage of some of the technology available today, so the decision was made to allow the old web site to simply expire and go with the new site.

I'm happy to report that the new web site has been up and running since early October. There have been more than 500 "hits" since then. The site contains functionality that permits the user to register on the site itself (this opens up the "Members Only" page which isn't visible until the user registers) and participate in a Message Board also set up for the convenience of members. The site also permits a user to become a dues-paid member of AMM (details and instructions on the Membership page) and to even register for the upcoming Reunion (details and instructions on the Reunions page) and room booking as well! Payment is enabled via Paypal at this time. Paypal does offer a credit card payment option through them, but I have not been able to explore that option to date.

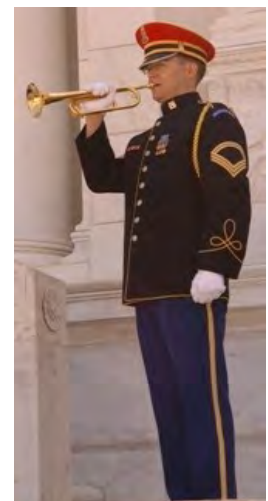
It does need to be said that when the old web site expired, so too did access to the many photographs that were part of the entire ARMM/AMM history. To that end, if you have photos of those days and can scan them, please consider emailing them to me and I'll get them posted on the site as quickly as I can.

Taps, *by Lou Hurvitz*

I occasionally learn of former military musicians' deaths. This news originates from various sources. Some of the notifications are well after the fact; but, I do feel that they deserve to be mentioned.

James Lewis Clute passed away on 7 March 2012. Jim was a member of the Seventh Army Symphony in 1957 and 1958. He went on to enjoy an outstanding career as a double bassist with the Minnesota Orchestra.

Vinton Harold Snyder died at the age of 94 on 25 October 2011 in Medford, Oregon. During World War II, he was a trombonist aboard a US Navy troop carrier and, in 1945, he participated in President Roosevelt's funeral procession.



Branson Reunion - continued

...Continued from page 3

As mentioned in a neighboring article, plans are underway for a golfing event. Member Tom Zale should be providing us with some information in the next few weeks concerning location, fees, and similar information. Make sure to bring your clubs if you're driving! And check the AMM web site (see the link below) for more information as it becomes available.

The 2014 Reunion promises to be one of the best that AMM has offered! Please make sure to visit the AMM web site at <http://milmusicians.com/> and the "Reunions" tab to register. Yes, you can register online! A Paypal account is necessary, but if you don't have one you can open one while you're at it. If Paypal isn't your style, you can always resort to the classic check-to-the-

Entertainment-Chairman – instructions and a registration form are on the web site.

Furthermore, you can also book your room online, using the web site that the Radisson has set up for us. The web site to book your room is linked on the Reunions page.

Don't delay! Get registered while you're thinking about it!



The Radisson logo is written in a stylized, cursive black font with a green underline. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the word.

Band Spotlight, by Lou Hurvitz

What do you think when you hear the moniker, "Red Bull"? Of course, an energy drink with that name may come to mind. However, here in the frozen tundra/flyover territory of Minnesota, it immediately conjures up the glorious 34th Infantry ("Red Bull") Division. This proud unit traces its military lineage back to World War I. Today, roughly two-thirds of the division hails from Minnesota, with other personnel from Wisconsin and the Dakotas.

The 34th Infantry Division Band's heritage actually predates the division by over six decades. Its musical roots can be found in the Great Western Brass Band of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Today's band boasts amore sophisticated instrumentation that reflects the modern small wind ensemble. In addition to its pri-



mary mission of supporting the division, it has participated in many high-visibility events, to include presidential inaugurations, national Veterans Day observances, and it has been the principal musical participant in virtually every Minnesota governor's inauguration. The band has also participated in civic events, such as the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, the Minnesota State Fair, and sporting events, including Minnesota Twins, Vikings, and Timberwolves games. The unit was the recipient of the 2006 George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence, presented by the John Philip Sousa Foundation.

I recently had the opportunity to witness the band's performance at the recent Minnesota/Penn State football game and they did themselves proud.



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.

Contact Information:

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