



Association of Military Musicians Web Site - <http://milmusicians.com>



2016-2017 Officers

Peter Swanson: President
Karen Mayfield: Vice-President
Jamie Hillen: Secretary
Allen Lawless: Treasurer

Serving AMM

Allen Lawless: Webmaster
Rickey Lumpkin: Chaplain
Bill Von Kamp: Librarian
Frank Hill: Historian
Gary Hartman: Sound Off Editor
Karla Hillen – 2016 Reunion Chair

Welcome AMM Members!

Now that summer is halfway over, family vacations are either done, about to happen, or scheduled later in the year. My wife and I are looking forward to the AMM Cruise in September to celebrate our 39th Anniversary.

If anyone has any articles about military music or bands, or your involvement in the local community, please send to me "ready made" via mail or email. Space may be limited, so lengthy articles may have to be edited.

Please find the information concerning our next reunion later in this publication. I trust everyone is enjoying the summer (and subsequent heat), and taking the necessary steps to avoid heat injuries.

Until then,
Bb Chord

Gary Hartman

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PRESIDENT'S PEN by Peter Swanson

I thought there wouldn't be much to write about for this newsletter, but in looking over recent developments, I appear to be wrong.

First, notice the list of those who we've lost since the last newsletter. This included several life members. While I only served with one, CW4 (Ret) Dave Smith, I am acquainted with the others. While it is a fact of life, that our time on earth will eventually end, these folks will be missed by us all.

This year has also seen one of the most concerted attacks on military music by members of the House of Representatives. An amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill, introduced by Rep. Martha McSally, stated that no money from the Defense Appropriations Act of 2017 may be used to support: a concert, parade, or other event, that is a patriotic event or celebration of a national holiday, or a performance that is incidental to an event.

In testimony by Rep McSally, she stated that "Some of our choices here are related to - Do we want to have aircraft parts funded or musical instruments? Again, these are difficult choices, but my amendment today simply limits the functions of military bands so they can be performing those ceremonial duties, playing at military funerals, playing taps, those things that are very important roles for our military.

While our communities certainly do enjoy being entertained by our military bands, they would, I THINK, prefer to be protected by our

military. I urge everybody to support this amendment and make sure our money is spent well on defense and bands are focused on their most crucial rolls."

This amendment was passed by a voice vote and included in the House version of the Defense Appropriations Act. The Senate version of this act does not include this language, so the bill will go to conference committee for resolution. Please follow our group on Facebook or look for the group "Save Military Music" for more updates. There are instructions on who and how to contact those who will be deciding the future of military music.

Our annual gathering is fast approaching. This year will be a three-day cruise to the Bahamas on board Majesty of the Seas sailing from Port Canaveral on September 23rd. There are still rooms available, however they are pretty well limited to interior and ocean-view. We currently have 13 rooms booked representing 14 members, but are looking forward to a great time. Any reading session will probably have a strong resemblance to the size and composition of military bands in the future. Hopefully we will get an update of upcoming closures and reductions at the meeting. The annual meeting is where we select the location for next year's meeting.

If anybody has a recommendation or preference, please forward it to one of the officers. Remember, there is a lot that goes into one of these gatherings, so be prepared to help with the logistics.

Best wishes to all. Aloha - Pete

2016 REUNION UPDATE by Karla HillenThe Association of Military Musicians on the High Seas

The AMM reunion cruise 2016 is only two months away! It's not too late to get in on the action. Come sail the high seas with your old friends and bandmates and make some new ones.

Here are the particulars.

The cruise is scheduled to depart on Friday, September 23rd , and return on Monday, September 26th . This Caribbean cruise will depart from Port Canaveral FL and go to the Bahamas:

1. The cost is no longer set because we are within the 90 day window for the group rate, so you need to contact our group representative at Vacations To Go, Louise Smith. Her contact information is:

lsmith@vacationstogo.com

US and Canada: 800-514- 9986 ext. 7582

UK free phone: 0800-098- 8546 ext. 7582

International: +1-713- 974-2121 ext. 7582

Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm (CST)

- a. The price includes the cabin, all meals and gratuity.
- b. The price does NOT include shore excursions or alcohol and soda.

2. We plan to continue the general schedule of events that we have had every year.

- a. The cruise ship is supposed to give us a designated "hospitality room."
- b. **BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS!** We will have a room to get together and play like we do every year.
- c. We will hold our annual business meeting on the ship.

3. Some people have expressed an interest in a slightly longer cruise. You can book passage on the same ship the Monday before, and then already be there when the rest of the AMM group arrives on Friday. This would be an individual reservation you make on your own. If you think you might be interested, email Karla at the email address below and she will send you the information.

It's going to be a great time for everyone. See you in the Bahamas!!!

Karla Hillen: 2016 Reunion Chair

hillenjk@comcast.net

Address: 150 Young Way, Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Phone (912) 596-0192

WEBMASTER'S REPORT by Allen Lawless

AMM's web site at <http://www.milmmusicians.com> has received over 6,853 hits to date. The site regularly receives spam and marketer input, but these are deleted and are not visible to the reader. Of course, anyone can read what's on the web pages except for the "Members Only" page which appears only for those who are registered on the site and who log in – the casual reader cannot view that section of the site.

Those who are logged in can submit comments, but all of these are reviewed before approval. Spammers are intercepted in this fashion and their comments are deleted before registered users even see them. For this reason, legitimate registered members may have to wait a day or two until I can review the site and approve those registered, paid members of AMM. Facebook "members" are not permitted to register on the web site until they become paid members of AMM and thus do not have the same privileges.

We can always use a few photos! Please compress them for the web if you are able, and email them to the Webmaster for inclusion onto the web site. Those interested in attending the 2016 Reunion cruise are encouraged to visit the "Reunions" page on the web site and from there to further follow the hyperlink to the registration portal for all available information including cost, travel tips, passport/ID requirements, and an entire list of FAQ's for your convenience.

In previous years, registering to attend the reunion entailed paying a registration fee. There will be no fee this year as all costs are associated with the cruise and none by AMM. Please note that at this writing, those wishing to attend the reunion must be paid members and must call the phone number indicated in the link to register.

Regarding AMM's Facebook page, those who have registered on it now total 1,589. The vast majority of these Facebook users are not paid members of AMM. Many new registrations continue to come in from active and reserve bands, along with the various military premier bands. These are especially welcome and it's great seeing how military music keeps on, despite the cuts that all military branches are levying on their musicians.

TAPS

We remember these comrades who have passed on:

Ed Cox: March 31st

Virgil Lincks: June 4th

Vic Owens: April 15th

Larry Powell: December 22nd, 2015

David Smith: June 18th

Memorial contributions may be made to: Hospice of NW Ohio,
30000 E River Rd, Perrysburg, 43551



COMMUNITY RELATIONS by Gary Hartman

Auditions? Again? Really? Well, the short answer is YES! Now that Columbia, SC has, once again, acquired a Minor League baseball team called “The Columbia Fireflies”, my Bucket List grew another task; sing the National Anthem at one of their home games.

Since one of my part-time gigs keeps me busy on Sundays running sound for two worship services, I had all the equipment I needed at my fingertips. Before a band rehearsal a couple of weeks ago, I recorded “one take” of the tune and emailed it in to the Fireflies PR staff; only to be contacted the following week for a performance date on July 28th.

On Game Night, I got to reflect numerous times about an old process we all experienced during our military duty, called “Hurry Up & Wait.” When the moment finally came, and the game announcer introduced me to the maddening crowd, I didn’t hold back at all. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to sing once again as an old Army soldier. I may get a Call-Back for a 2nd appearance.

If you are interested in hearing a recording, go to our Facebook page and find the unedited post.

TREASURER’S REPORT by Allen Lawless

As of July 9, 2016, AMM has \$8,760.88 in the Checking Account and \$0 in the Paypal account. All bills are paid and no monies are owed to AMM, except for miscellaneous mailing charges of \$47.80 paid by the Treasurer.

Since the March newsletter, we have picked up one new Lifetime member – congratulations to Lowell Pinney!

It has been a quiet period since March with only one major expense to report - \$336.10 for the web site’s hosting and domain charges. These are paid for the next three years.

AMM currently has 106 members in good standing.





ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY MUSICIANS



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

2016-2017 AMM OFFICERS

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