



Association of Military Musicians

Web Site - <http://milmusicians.com>



2016-2017 Officers

Peter Swanson: President

Karen Mayfield: Vice-President,
2017 Reunion Host

Judy Kessler: Secretary

Allen Lawless: Treasurer

Serving AMM

Allen Lawless: Webmaster

Rickey Lumpkin: Chaplain

Bill Von Kamp: Librarian

Frank Hill: Historian

Gary Hartman: Sound Off Editor

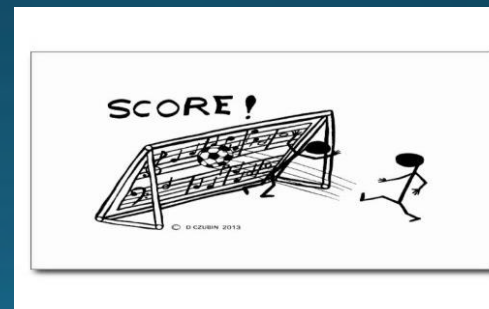
Welcome AMM Members!

The time has gone by ever so quickly since our last reunion. Our illustrious Vice-President, Karen Mayfield, is hosting this year's reunion in Huntsville, Alabama. The dates are September 14 to 17, 2017. The registration page is ready for members to sign up on our website. Non-Internet members may use the hardcopy registration page included in this newsletter.

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

Until then,
Bb Chord

Gary Hartman



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2017 AMM REUNION by *Karen Mayfield*

The 2017 AMM Reunion will be held September 14 -17, 2017, in Huntsville, AL. The location is the Holiday Inn Research Park, 5903 UNIVERSITY DRIVE · HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35806.

Telephone (256) 830-0600; Registration fee will be \$60 per person.

If mailing registration form, please send to me at PO Box 5701, Decatur, AL 35601 Checks should be made out to Karen Mayfield. Attendees can book their rooms from the link on the AMM website. **A buffet dinner is scheduled for Saturday night!**

The AMM room rate of \$97 (breakfast included) is available from 9/14/17 to 9/19/17 for those who may want to extend their stay.

Things to do:

Huntsville is located in the Tennessee Valley, and is the home of **Redstone Arsenal**, and **The Space and Rocket Center**.

The **Space and Rocket Center** is open to the public. If 15 or more people would like to go I can set up a group tour.

Golf - There is a golf course on the Arsenal and another is close to the airport. If anyone wants to play on Friday, let me know so I can set some tee times for the group.

Paddle Boarding - there are 2 hour tours to the lighthouse. All equipment provided along with a tour guide.

Cathedral Cavern - This is a beautiful cavern with a tour guide who shows and tells you the history of the cavern. A bit of a distance away but worth the drive.

I am anxious to see everyone again at this year's reunion. (KM)

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

For those members who do not use the internet, please use the form below:

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date Arriving: _____ Date Departing: _____

Preferred Beverage: _____

Registration Fee is \$60/person. Please make all checks out to **Karen Mayfield**, and send to: Karen Mayfield
PO Box 5701
Decatur, AL 35601

Karen's Contact Number is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Call the hotel directly to make your room reservations.
Phone (256) 830-0600

Hotel offers free WiFi. No pets allowed, but service animals are OK.

New AMM SHIRTS by Dave Ratliff

I am happy to report that there is a vendor on Fort Jackson that can produce our new AMM Polo Shirts.

If you would like a polo shirt (or shirts) let me know color and size (using link below and model ST-640) and I will get it ordered. I will continue the discussion about T-shirts - cost, number, etc. My thought is once you have your shirt and are satisfied we can post on the web site to the members.

The link below is the manufacturer they use. Quoted price is approximately \$30.00 for the shirt, material and labor. I have a couple of similar shirts - fabric is lightweight and breathable. There are several colors available and there are men's and women's styles.

Expect shipping costs to be \$5.00+/- . Would use a padded envelope and USPS. (Guess you won't have to pay shipping costs - a simple delivery can occur if attending the reunion.)

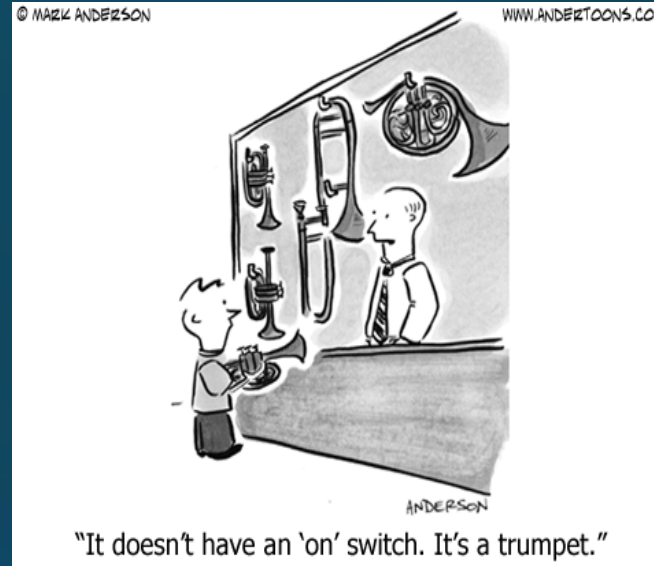
T-shirts: cost varies. Individual shirts cost more due to labor. A quantity (25-50) reduces the cost. We could pursue this and hope they sell. Storage might be an issue.

<http://www.sanmar.com/sanmar-servlets/SearchServlet?catId=115#>

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X

Colors: Black, White, Dark Forest Green, Royal Blue, True Red, Graphite Grey

Dave Ratliff, 229 Steeple Dr, Columbia, SC 29229-8976 (803) 865-0120



PRESIDENT’S PEN by Peter Swanson

Greetings, everyone. It's that time of the year for people to start planning how they will spend their summer and fall vacations. I will talk about a great idea, but first I'd like to address a post that's been circulating on Facebook.

A good friend asked about the rumor that the Fort Sam Houston band would be closing. Unfortunately, he was assured that the rumor was true.

On the Active Army side, the following bands will be deactivated in the coming year: Ft Sam Houston (323d Army Band), Ft Huachuca (U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps Band, i.e. 62d Army Band), Ft. Eustis (TRADOC Band), and Redstone Arsenal (U.S. Army Materiel Command Band, i.e. 389th Army Band). It is my understanding that the TRADOC band would reduce in size and go to Ft Lee where the 392nd Army Band was already in the process of being deactivated.

When the AMC Band moved from Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, (after moving from Ft Monmouth, NJ), a new band hall was constructed at Redstone Arsenal. While this was one of the first "band-specific" facilities, several more have been constructed since then. I have been in contact with CW4(Ret) Jesse Pascua, former commander of the AMC Band and current director of the Huntsville Concert Band (a local community band). He promised to join our gathering and to get 1SG (Retired) James Cardo to be there, too. Hopefully, we can get CW3 James Bettencourt and 1SG Daniel Shannon, the current Commander & First Sergeant, to be available, also.

I was advised that the AMC Band will start losing soldiers in July and will deactivate by October 2018. While any reduction in military bands is a sad state of affairs, it is especially poignant for those of us who remember the "good old days" (i.e. 8 bands in Germany).

Please pass the word to your friends to come to Huntsville to bid this great organization farewell. If you know of any former members of the band when it was in Aberdeen Proving Ground or Ft Monmouth, please pass a special invitation for them to join us at this gathering. Also... since we are now on dry land and back in the Southeast, if you have a favorite location and are willing to serve as a host for our annual gathering, please be present to make a presentation so we can vote on it.

(Editor’s Note – submitted by Dave Ratliff)

Army Bands Inactivations in October 2018 (FY19):

- 323rd - Ft. Sam
- 62nd - Ft. Huachuca
- 389th - Redstone
- TRADOC Band - Eustis

Bands previously identified to inactivate in FY17 which were halted (saved):

- 9th Army Band - Alaska
- 296th Army Band - Japan
- 392nd Army Band - Fort Lee (This band remains. TRADOC Band is NOT shrinking and moving.)

MEET OUR NEW SECRETARY

Hello everyone. I'm your new Secretary and I thought I'd introduce myself. First, the military stuff, because that's why we're all here, right? I spent seven years in the 122nd Ohio Army National Guard Band and thirteen years in the 338th US Army Reserve Band in Ohio as a clarinetist and retired after I completed twenty years.

I have a strong military music family. My father was a retired CW₄ bandmaster in Ohio. My husband, Rob, is a retired CW₅ bandmaster and both of our children are currently enlisted in the 122nd OHARNG Band. Rob and I do whatever we can to support the 122nd, we're "those" parents.

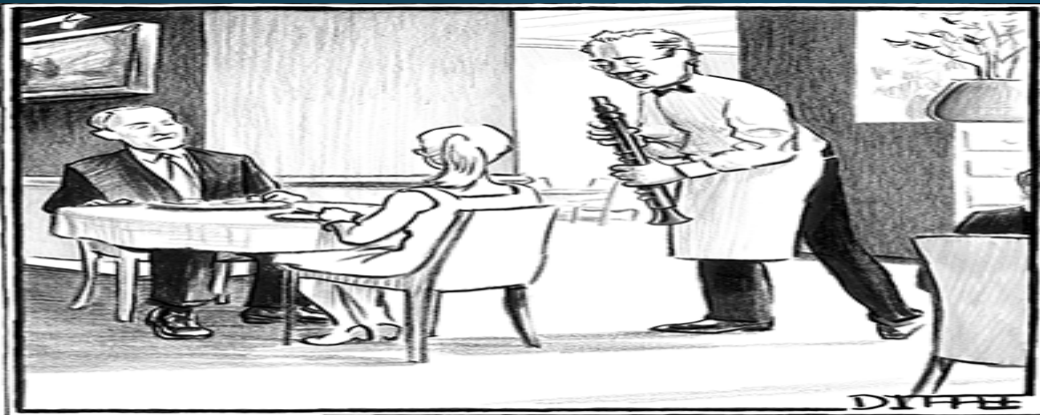
I have a Bachelors of Music Education from The Ohio State University and spent many years teaching privately and creating a home school band program in central Ohio.

I was the Vice-President of Colonial Music, an eight store family owned music business, focusing on school band and orchestra for twenty years. We sold that business and continued servicing our community with a small music store, JET Music for ten more years. I retired from the music industry in 2016.

I continue to play Eb/Bb clarinets in the Winds of Ohio. Someday, when we sell our house in Ohio, we will live in The Villages, FL where Chief can golf all day long and I can play in their band and truly get my clarinet geek on by playing in their clarinet choir.

I look forward to meeting more of you at our next reunion in Huntsville, AL.

Judy Kessler



“Would you care for some fresh-ground pepper and/or a clarinet solo?”

“Would you care for some fresh ground pepper and/or a Clarinet Solo?”

New Newsletter Editor Needed

After producing and publishing this newsletter for awhile, it is time for me to step aside, and let someone else take over the reigns. My own health has me moving in slow motion almost every day, and I often fall asleep while at the computer. Now that this publication is in Microsoft Powerpoint, it is more *User Friendly*.

Please consider taking on this role of service: it will do AMM good. Tell the new AMM President that you are interested in serving!

Until then, Bb Chord! 😊 Gary Hartman

TREASURER'S REPORT *by Allen Lawless*

As of March 20, 2017, AMM has \$8,768.32 in the Checking Account and \$283.40 in the Paypal account, totaling \$9,051.72. All bills are paid and no monies are owed to AMM, except for miscellaneous mailing charges of \$22.59 owed to the Treasurer.

It's been somewhat slow since the December newsletter, but we did reestablish contact with a Lifetime Member (Air Force musician George F. Emerson) and we're very glad we did so as we had no contact information whatsoever. George is alive and well, tickling the ivories in Florida, and we're glad he can see what's going on.

AMM currently has 93 members in good standing. We lost 34 members in the past two years because of nonrenewal. It is noteworthy that AMM does not have a membership committee to actively recruit for new members.

TAPS:

We remember these comrades who have passed away:

Foster Tudor: May 7, 2017

Joseph Barta: April 2, 2017

Richard Willis: August 23, 2016



Webmaster's Report

AMM's web site at <http://www.milmusicians.com> has received over 7,944 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.

We occasionally receive email or input through the "Contact Us" page from those who are seeking active musicians in a particular area, or more recently, a request from a sister military musician organization seeking potential members.

I am well aware that the site needs some updating – my work schedule of 6 and sometimes 7 days a week has commanded most of my time. Will get to things as I am able.

As soon as viable information is received from the 2017 Reunion Chair, I will post the appropriate update to the "Reunions" page, along with a map to Huntsville. Stay tuned!

(Editors Note: See page 2)

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

Peter Swanson: President – Phone (808) 545-8044
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Address: 1515 Nuuanu Ave, #73, Honolulu, HI 96817

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(Email) AMM-Karen [@outlook.com](mailto:AMM-Karen@outlook.com)
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Allen Lawless: Treasurer & Webmaster – Phone (660) 998-4590
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Serving AMM

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