



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

Website: www.milmusicians.com

Update ~ 2019 Reunion at Little Rock

2018/2019 Officers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Mayfield—President • Judy Kessler—Vice President • Allen Lawless—Treasurer • Tom Zale—Secretary

Serving AMM:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen Lawless—Little Rock Reunion Host for 2019 • Rickey Lumpkin—Chaplain • Bill Von Kamp—Librarian • Walt Nail—Historian • Allen Lawless—Webmaster • Vernon L. Williams—<i>Sound Off!</i> Editor



Allen Lawless
Little Rock
Reunion Host

Procrastinators, Awake! The reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas is still on, but we don't know you're coming yet!

Information is basically unchanged from the March issue of *Sound Off!* except that we will not have 106th Army Band support, unfortunately. I have contracted with a local DJ to come in and provide music for listening and dancing from 8 PM till 11 PM.

I might come to regret this, but we will leave **the registration rate at \$75 PER PERSON.** The DJ comes at a reasonable cost and while it impacts on the overall budget, we should be okay – IF, that is, we have a healthy attendance of 50 people or more.

Again, here are the particulars:

- Location: Crowne Plaza hotel
- Address: 201 S. Shackelford Rd., Little Rock, AR 72211
- Dates: 5-8 September 2019
- Hotel room rate: \$125.35 per night, taxes included
- Breakfast coupons can be purchased for \$8. This will be cheaper than at the local Denny's, about a 2-minute drive. Unfortunately, the area is not conducive for walking.
- You can book your room directly via [THIS LINK.](#)

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We announced the general attractions that Little Rock offers in the March *Sound Off!* I'd like to drill down a little deeper for those who like to explore the area at reunions, especially an area in which AMM has never had a reunion.

- Golf – a nearby public golf course is located at:
 First Tee of Central Arkansas - features a 9-hole regulation course (Chairman's Course) with three sets of tees. Course length ranges from 2198 yards to 3428 yards. The facility also boasts a 9-hole par-3 course (Honors Course), with holes ranging from 48 yards to 113 yards. If you're up for a full 18, greens fees are as little as \$16 for those 55 and over. Their web site is [HERE.](#)
- Museums (just a sample – there are plenty to be found in Little Rock!)
 Old State House Museum – located in the oldest original state house west of the Mississippi, this facility saw Arkansas join the Union, witnessed a fatal knife fight between two legislators, and saw Arkansas secede from the Union. After all that, they moved to the new Capitol building, but left plenty of history and artifacts in the museum. Their web site is [HERE.](#)
 Garvan Woodland Gardens in nearby Hot Springs is an arboretum that has to be seen to be believed. Large and expansive and cared for by attentive staff, you'll be amazed at the flora contained within. Admission is \$15, parking is free. Their web site is [HERE.](#)

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Newsletter Editor



Vernon Williams
Editor

Summer has begun and that means we are in our final countdown to the 2019 Reunion at Little Rock. The reunion at Little Rock holds out the promise of some very interesting times for each of us.

Those who want to bring your horns can enjoy rehearsing and playing together.

All of you have spent a significant period of time playing in military bands across the globe. During those active years, you and your fellow bandmen had some interesting times and made a difference in military life and in the communities where you were stationed. I know that a number of you played in Berlin, at that moment in time when history changed Europe forever. I hope each of you in the AMM might consider doing an oral history interview with me during the reunion in Little Rock and during other reunions in the future. It is a way to document your service and, at the same time, add to our knowledge of American history. It may well be worth doing.

Walt Nail reports that he has the 2020 planning underway. He writes that *“Even though we haven't had 2019's reunion, much work has been done on the 2020 Reunion in Augusta, GA. It will be the 10th-12th of September at the Hilton Garden Inn, just off Interstate 20. Hotel rates, registration rates, and hospitality room are all similar to this year's reunion. With costs so high for the Meeting rooms and for the Saturday night buffet dinner, we might not have music on Saturday night unless we get someone from a military band or reserve band to provide it. I'm trying to keep the registration costs down.”*

“The 2020 Augusta rehearsal and business meeting are scheduled, and hopefully we can have a jam session or a concert by a local band on Friday night. Enjoy Little Rock but don't forget to put Augusta on your calendar for 2020 !!”

So you can see that our two reunion hosts, Allen Lawless for the 2019 Little Rock reunion, and Walt Nail for the 2020 Augusta, Georgia reunion, have been hard at work on our behalf. Now its up to us to send in our registration checks and book our hotel rooms. Get ready for some good fellowship and sharing of poignant memories of military music and where those times took us. See you in Little Rock.

2019 Reunion ~ Mark Your Calendars

The 2019 AMM Reunion will be in at the Little Rock. Crowne Plaza hotel on South Shackleford.

- 5-8 September.
- Room cost per night is \$125.35, including taxes
- Breakfast buffet available for \$8
- Registration cost per person \$75 (updated lower price).

See page 1 for updates and full details and Allen Lawless' plans for an exciting reunion for us this summer.



Mail your registration to Allen Lawless, 123 Antler Way Drive, Sherwood, AR 72120. Enclose \$75 per person attending. Make checks out to: Allen Lawless.

Book your hotel room directly with Crowne Plaza Hotel at Little Rock. Use the clickable link on page 1 or call 1-877 666-3243. Ask for the AMM rate.



Bandsmen, circa 1917, Headquarters Company, 105th Infantry Regiment Band, New York, photograph taken during training. Sgt. John W. Feyl, Band Leader (front row, far right), other bandmen not identified. The band had a complement of 26 musicians and served during World War I.





The Marine Band national concert tours began in 1891 under the leadership of John Philip Sousa. Sousa had taken the band on short trips to perform in nearby cities such as Baltimore and Philadelphia, but no extended concert tour had been attempted. Sousa's initial requests for permission to take the band on such a trip were denied. The band's extremely busy concert schedule in Washington, D.C., and the responsibilities at the White House were cited as reasons for the denial. But Sousa persisted and eventually presented his request directly to President Benjamin Harrison. In his autobiography, *Marching Along*, Sousa recalls what transpired. He wrote:

My years in Washington had taught me that if you wish to see the President, see his wife first. So I asked for Mrs. Harrison. She liked the idea of a tour and promised to speak to the President about it. Next morning I was summoned to see the President. As I entered the room, he rose, shook hands cordially, and leading me to one of the windows which faced the Potomac River, said, "Mrs. Harrison tells me that you are anxious to make a tour with the band. I was thinking myself of going out of town, and"—with a smile—"it would be tough on Washington if both of us were away at the same time. I have thought it over, and believe the country would rather hear you than see me; so you have my permission to go."



Treasurer's Report



Allen Lawless
Treasurer



As of 25 May 2019, the AMM checking account has \$8,971.10. The Paypal account has \$503.04.

Expenses since the last report:

- \$500 to the Crowne Plaza hotel as a down payment. This will be reimbursed to AMM through reunion registrations.
- \$40.11 to Vernon Williams for newsletter publication expenses and postage in March.
- \$25.70 for software needed for the web site (WPForms).

The Treasurer is owed \$37.74 for postage expenses incurred throughout the year to date.

AMM has picked up 4 members who have either renewed their memberships or are new to AMM.

AMM now has 117 dues-paid members.



Spotlight on History ~ The 122nd Army Band, 1927-Present

The 122nd Army Band of the Ohio National Guard, A Tradition of Wartime and Peacetime Service

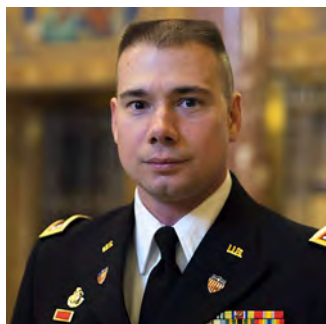
By Vernon L. Williams

Editor's Note: The 122nd Army Band is typical of twentieth century army bands, going through many changes, deactivations, and emerging missions across time. In recent years, military band budgets and missions have been under attack by a Congress who fails to see military music as vital to mission and readiness. It is a cycle that often appears in our history as Americans react to developing political realities and economic forces, especially following wartime sacrifice.

The 122nd Army Band is a good current example of military musicians serving in a variety of ways. Citizen soldiers all, the men and women of the 122nd Army Band have served both in times of war and peace. They have been called to active duty when needed, but in other times, continued to serve across the years as a National Guard band at home and in the community.

Here is a brief history of the band taken from their website and a host of photographs that demonstrate their service in the community and to our nation. They continue to bring military music to the people. vlw

The precursor of the 122nd Army Band was organized in July 1927 as the Band of the 107th Cavalry of the Ohio National Guard in Akron, Ohio. On June 1, 1944, while de-



ployed to Bougainville, Philippines, in the Pacific Theater of World War II, the band was reorganized with members of the bands of the 145th Infantry, 129th Infantry, and 134th Field Artillery to form the new 37th Infantry Division Band of the Ohio National Guard. While serving in the Philippines, the 37th Infantry Division Band took part in amphibious landings, protecting Major General Beightler and the division HQ through the fight. This baptism by fire earned the band the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

After the close of World War II, the 37th Infantry Division Band returned to Ohio. In 1968 the unit was reorganized again as the 122nd Army Band of the Ohio Army National Guard. After the deactivation of the 555th Ohio Air National Guard Band in Toledo and down-sizing of the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton in 2012, the 122nd Army Band was left as the largest military band in Ohio, tasked with supporting operations across the state.

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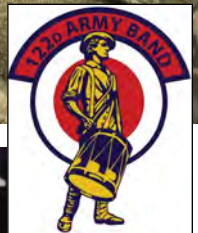
(See 122nd Army Band photograph gallery on page 5.)

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Lewis joined the 122nd Army Band as a Private First Class, playing the trombone. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 2006 with degrees in Music Education and Bass Trombone Performance, and completed a masters degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University. In 2014 he graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, and assumed command of the 122nd Army Band in 2015. CW2 Lewis currently is the Director of Bands at Ashland University.



Top: The 122nd Army Band in 1950. **Middle:** The 122nd Army Band during the Vietnam Era, 1950. **Bottom:** In camp rehearsing, location unknown, date unknown, possibly during World War II or shortly afterwards. Although reorganized several times during the last three quarters of a century, the 122nd saw significant combat in its early history during WWII. A complete history is needed to document the history of the 122nd during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and throughout the Cold War.

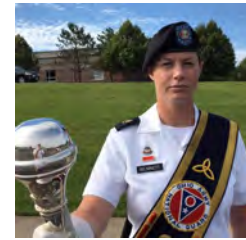




Mission

As an Army Band, the 122nd provides musical support throughout the full spectrum of military operations to instill in our Soldiers the will to fight and win, to foster the support of our Citizens, and to promote our national interests at home and abroad.

As an Army unit, the 122nd Army Band and its members are held to the same standards as Soldiers in the rest of the Army National Guard and the active duty Army, in addition to maintaining their musical proficiency. Army Musicians are required to attend the same 9-week Army Basic Combat Training as all other Army Soldiers, and are required to meet Army standards in physical fitness, marksmanship, and other areas.



2019 Reunion Continued From Page 1

- Shopping:

Tons of shopping up along Chenal Parkway, about a 5-minute drive from the hotel.

Little Rock



For those who delve into political arenas, the Bill Clinton Presidential Library is located in Little Rock. You're on your own to find that one, though!

As you can see, there is no shortage of things to do. Plenty of breweries with pub grub (Flyway, Lost Forty, and Stone's Throw Brewing Stiff Station Taproom are relatively close in Little Rock and North Little Rock), and for those who like to rock out with the 70s band Kiss, they are performing at the Verizon Arena in North Little Rock on Thursday, September 5, in their "End of the Road" tour. Showtime starts at 7:30 PM. Web site is [HERE](#).

Access to Little Rock is easy. The airport is serviced by Delta, Southwest, and other airlines. Atlanta is a favorite hub, but there are many other flights in and out of this smaller, but modern airport. Access by highway is also easy. Located about 90 minutes east of Memphis along I-40 and about 5 hours northeast of Dallas along I-30, Little Rock is only the third time that a reunion has been planned west of the Mississippi.

Regarding the dinner dance, I don't have any additional information other than it will be supported by a DJ. We will have a cocktail hour before dinner, but it will be held at the bar rather than have our own cash bar.

I'm not planning any structured tours or anything of that sort. I'm confident you can make your way around Little Rock and enjoy the sights and sounds of this southern city that features plenty of charm.



Mail your registration to Allen Lawless, 123 Antler Way Drive, Sherwood, AR 72120. Enclose \$75 per person attending. Make checks out to: Allen Lawless.

Book your hotel room directly with Crowne Plaza Hotel at Little Rock. Use the clickable link on page 1 or call 1 877 666 3243. Ask for the AMM rate.

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Little Rock

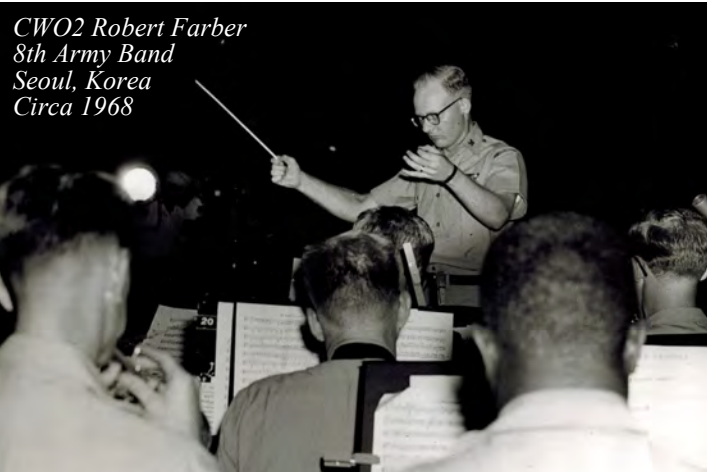


Bylaws Committee Update



The Bylaws Committee has concluded its work and reported on the proposed changes to the Bylaws in the March *Sound Off!* There is nothing new to report other than to request members to carefully review the proposed text from the March newsletter and be prepared to vote on it at the Little Rock reunion. Those who do not attend the reunion will not have an opportunity to vote on those changes.

There is an agenda item that we should address in the business meeting at the Little Rock reunion involving how reunion venues are selected. We encourage you to re-read the article in the last newsletter (past copies can be downloaded off the web site in the "Members Only" section after logging on the <https://milmusicians.com> web site).



*CWO2 Robert Farber
8th Army Band
Seoul, Korea
Circa 1968*

Webmaster's Report



Allen Lawless
Webmaster

Since March, the web site needed some minor editing. I have had to rebuild a couple of forms and otherwise update it with particular information on the reunion, but there is nothing substantial to report at this time.

However, I did reconfigure the site such that self-registrations (subject to approval) have been discontinued. I grew tired of chasing out the bots and the spammers.

Therefore, it is a requirement to be a dues-paid member to register on the site, and for those interested in registering, please send me an email at webmaster@milmusicians.com and I will get you set up. You will need to determine a Username of your choice (need not be your real name), a viable email address, and a password of your choosing. The general public may, of course, visit the web site but may not access the areas for Members Only.

The Facebook page continues to attract new subscribers and currently has 2,069 people on it. Most of these subscribers are not dues-paid members of AMM and do not enjoy the perks that regular members do with access to the newsletter and the opportunity to convene for annual reunions. We periodically announce that fact and invite subscribers to visit the web site to learn more about AMM and become a member in their own right.



*932nd Air Force Band
Guard Mount Formation
September 20, 1943
Syracuse Army Air Base
Syracuse, New York.*

*The Sun Bowl Parade,
New Year's Day 1966*



News ~ From Serving Military Bands Across the Globe

One Couple Bridges International Gap Through Military Music

*Defense Visual Information
Distribution Service*

“Although there are obstacles in language, there is no such thing in music. Music is a wonderful medium to establish friendship,” said Shiori Danni, a leading private in the Japan

Ground Self-Defense Force. Music is a universal language that resonates and unites people from different backgrounds, capable of building new comradeship and friendships, while strengthening existing ones. Throughout the world, people think and speak in different languages while looking at life through various views. Having a common appreciation

for music can help bridge the gap between diverse cultures. For Corey and Shiori Danni who tied the knot in May 2018, music plays a big part in each of their lives. They are both active-duty service members playing brass instruments in military bands, but they are serving different countries.

Sgt. Corey Danni, a euphonium player with the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band, arrived to Camp Foster, Okinawa in 2016. Corey earned a bachelor’s degree in music education from the State University of New York at Fredonia. He has taught music at Tonawanda Middle School and High School, Tonawanda, New York, and has coached a marching band at Lancaster High School, in Lancaster, New York before joining the service. Realizing he wanted to go back to musical performance, the Buffalo, New York, native, decided to join the Marine Corps where he could

serve his country and play euphonium in tandem.

“The euphonium is rare. It had a strong tradition with military performances during the American Civil War. Since that tradition stuck around, euphonium players are highly sought after in military bands,” said Corey, who started out learning how to play the trumpet and eventually transitioned to playing his current instrument for the past 14 years.

Shiori first came to Okinawa in 2012 as a graduate student studying French horn at the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts. Upon receiving her master’s degree in music, she went to pursue a career in which she could play and serve others – leading her to join the JGSDF. In 2015, Shiori, an Awaji Island, Hyogo prefecture native, was assigned to the JGSDF 15th Brigade Band at Camp Naha.

(Continued on page 9)



Top: Corey and Shiori Danni, play in military bands on Okinawa, Corey for the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band at Camp Foster and Shiori for the Japan Defense Force Band at Camp Naha. **Below:** French horn section, combined rehearsal with III Marine Expeditionary Force Band and the Japan Defense Force Band at Camp Foster, August 31, 2018. **At Right:** Combined U.S. Marine-Japan Defense Force concert, Okinawa.



(Continued from page 8)

“As much as I enjoy what I do, I also enjoy the rewarding sensation I get when I hear the audience applaud after our performances,” said Shiori, who played the piano growing up and has played French horn for the past 16 years.

Corey and Shiori first met while getting fried chicken and waffles for lunch with mutual friends who were also band members, in January 2017 at Chatan Town, Okinawa.

“I was immediately drawn to Shiori,” said Corey, who appreciates learning and experiencing Japanese culture. Shiori, likewise, felt an unexplainable connection with Corey when she first met him.

Although there were language and culture differences between the couple, they overcame those obstacles through interests and appreciation for each other’s unique background.

The key to a good relationship is to have a lifelong commitment to one another, to respect each other, and be grateful at all times, according to both Corey and Shiori.

Military musicians, like Corey and Shiori, travel around playing at events to connect with local communities. Sometimes bridging gaps with other countries may not be easy, but music breaks bar-

riers. “As a military musician, I am expected to help accomplish the Marine Corps’ mission through the use of music, which leads to building better friendships and relationships with other countries and cultures,” said Corey.

Performing in military uniforms is not always easy. The nature of the uniforms may bring a mystic or even stern aura, but the performances humanize band members which softens any potential tension, according to Shiori.

“Before joining the SDF, I had a rigid image of service members wearing uniforms. But after joining the service, I am proud to be wearing the uniform as an SDF member, especially when I’m playing the Japanese National Anthem. I realized that military uniforms should not interrupt the audience from enjoying the music. And for spectators to enjoy the music, I need to show them that I am enjoying playing the music first,” said Shiori.

While Corey and Shiori typically play with their respective bands, there is one performance they take part in together. The JGSDF 15th Brigade Band and the III MEF Band have been developing their bilateral relationship through music over the years, most recently as they hosted their 23rd Annual Combined Band Concert, Sept. 8 in Okinawa Civic Hall, Okinawa City.

nawa Civic Hall, Okinawa City.

The combined band concerts are to strengthen the Japan-U.S. relationship and express the friendship that the countries have today through music, according to JGSDF Capt. Ken Yamashita, the officer in charge for 15th Brigade Band.

“The combined concert reinforces our commitment to the Okinawa residents. We are guests here. We gain a lot of cultural capital here through performances,” said Chief Warrant Officer Andres Navarro, the officer in charge for the III MEF Band.

The audience members composed of Okinawa residents and American spectators may not have spoken the same language at the combined concert. But once the music hit them, the vibe reverberated through the air as their synchronized clapping got louder with enthusiasm exhibiting the bilateral alliance we have today.

To some, music may be something that inspires, encourages, and provides motivation to themselves. To others, it may be part of their lifestyle. According to Corey, music is meditative, whereas Shiori defines it as part of her everyday life. Although music may hold different meanings to the Dannis, it still has established a significant foundation for both of them.

Music binds those with different backgrounds and cultures, and those who speak different languages. Music can act as a universal tool which creates friendship and new alliances.

The Japan-U.S. relationship, whether seen at the community or international levels, can be portrayed through the Dannis and the combined concerts. Efforts such as these friendship and cultural exchanges increase mutual understanding, accepting differences, being respectful and showing gratitude, bringing harmony to existing and future relationships.



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.



122nd Army Band
Ohio Army National Guard

Vernon L. Williams, Editor
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