



# Sound Off!

*Association of Military Musicians*

Website: [www.milmusicians.com](http://www.milmusicians.com)

2021/2022 Officers

- Karen Mayfield—President
- Judy Kessler—Vice President
- Walter Nail—Treasurer
- Tom Zale—Secretary

Serving AMM:

- Allen Lawless—Jackson, TN  
Reunion Host for 2022
- Rickey Lumpkin—Chaplain
- Dave and Kay Smith—  
Librarians
- Walt Nail—Historian
- Toni Furan —  
*Sound Off!* Editor

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## 2022 REUNION UPDATE!

Despite a lot of challenges since the December newsletter mostly involving extremely high price quotes due to the inflation that we're all seeing, and a very curious inability or desire for many of the hotel sales managers to communicate, the 2022 Reunion in Jackson, Tennessee, is still a GO! Dates have not changed from 15-18 September 2022, but several things have. The end result should be a far cheaper proposition than what was first envisioned. Here's what's new:

- The hotel has changed to the **Best Western Plus Executive Residency**, located on 2443 Christmasville Cove, Jackson, TN 38305. The Hotel's direct phone is 731.300.3370. We have reserved a block of 10 rooms. Hotel room rate is \$109 (king or two queens) plus 14.75% state and local taxes - \$125.08 per night. This is \$25 cheaper than any other offer, other than commuter-type motels, which is not really an option for us. The hotel will set up a link where you can register online. The link will be provided in the next newsletter. In the meantime, you can call the hotel directly to book your room.
- The Hospitality Room will be set up in a 450 sq. ft. meeting space within the hotel. We will have the customary snacks and drinks available. Please note that during the dinner on Saturday night (see more below), the Hospitality Room will be closed.
- We will use the Hospitality Room for any rehearsals we might have (possibly on Friday for a pickup group to play at the Tennessee State Veteran's Home in Humboldt – see below) and if desired, also on Saturday which is customary. Please bring your axes! The business meeting will also be held within the Hospitality Room at the appointed time, probably 2 PM on Saturday afternoon.
- There is no restaurant within the hotel, though they do offer a breakfast of sorts. At this point I don't know if breakfast is included with the room rate. I'll follow up on that. There are several restaurants in the immediate area, to include a grocery store. For breakfast, a Waffle House is within walking distance and there are and several fast food restaurants .

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I'll follow up on that. There are several restaurants in the immediate area, to include a grocery store. For breakfast, a Waffle House is within walking distance and there are several fast food restaurants nearby. Going a bit further toward the main retail area of Jackson (2-3 miles) there is no shortage of restaurants of all types, but I strongly recommend the Old Country Store for breakfast.

- We are not offering the traditional dinner/dance within the hotel. In lieu of such and due to the astronomical costs, taxes, and fees that hotels are now charging for onsite banquets, we have opted to move our traditional Saturday dinner to a local restaurant, located 0.4 miles from the hotel. **The Parkstone Grille**, 224 Parkstone Pl, Jackson, phone 731.300.0132 is a brand-new restaurant with excellent reviews. They are so new that their web site won't be finalized until mid-March (maybe by the time you read this it'll be up), but they do have a rather bare-bones Facebook page. Despite being new, their menu has a whole host of items sure to please everybody. I will have more details on this in the next newsletter.

Since this restaurant is not part of the hotel, if you elect to take part in our dinner on Saturday night **you are responsible for your own check**. There will be a gratuity added on to your check, which is customary for groups.

We will be in a private room within the restaurant and not out on the general floor.

We are planning a solo piano for music during dinner. We had contracted a 4-piece combo, but that arrangement will be canceled in favor of the solo pianist. If you want to dance, try not to bowl over the servers!

Suggested time for the dinner is 6 PM – 9 PM. For those who like to linger in the restaurant that should not be a problem. They are open till midnight. Many, however, will opt to return to the Hospitality Room at the hotel. We will keep the HR open as late as possible.

- Possibly the best change of all – the Registration Fee for the 2022 Reunion has been **REDUCED to \$50!** In this day and age of ever-increasing prices, when was the last time you saw a price lowered? This is a per-person rate, and as always, unless you are a guest of a dues-paid member of AMM, your dues must be current. And yes, you can take care of that at the Reunion! Dues is still a ridiculously low \$15 per year.

The musical events at the 2021 Augusta Reunion were terrific and they were "firsts" for AMM. We hadn't, until last year, actually taken the time to slam together a pickup group of just AMM members (augmented a bit), a rehearsal and then perform in front of a live audience. Speaking for myself, that experience was a fabulous one. Reunion Host Walt Nail and AMM Member Wayne Hoey, and others, really outdid themselves in organizing the reunion and musical performances. We will not have the benefit of the Berlin contingent as a sub-group from 2021 for this year (though they're certainly welcome!), so it's unknown at this point how many attendees will want to play. The Registration Form (provided in this newsletter) asks the question if you'll be playing. Please consider it!

As mentioned above and in the previous newsletter, playing opportunities in the Jackson area include a gig at the West Tennessee State Fair (held on the weekend we'll be in Jackson) and perhaps the best choice, performing at the Tennessee State Veteran's Home in Humboldt (about 30 minutes north of Jackson). We have nothing dialed in at this point, but will have something more to say in the next newsletter.

It is vital we know as quickly as possible who plans on attending. COVID-19 is fundamentally behind us now as the virus is now considered endemic.

**DO NOT DELAY!** Register NOW while you're thinking about it!

Jackson Attractions:

Casey Jones Railroad Museum  
West Tennessee State Fair held that weekend!  
Rockabilly Hall of Fame  
And much more!

Allen Lawless, 2022 Reunion host



President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Hello everyone!

I hope you are enjoying getting together with family and friends once again. It has definitely been an interesting couple of years and I hope we never have to go through this again, at least not to the extent some had to depending on where you live.

Our 022 reunion has been finalized by Allen Lawless and he has planned another great reunion for us in Jackson, TN. I hope everyone will be able to attend this year.

I want to thank Toni Furan for volunteering to do our newsletter this year. Toni has jumped in with both feet right from the start. Toni, you are appreciated!

Information regarding the 2022 reunion has been posted on our website. You can make reservations with the link on our site.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Jackson!

Karen Mayfield

AMM President

Treasurer's Report for March Newsletter

There is not much to add from my previous article except several people have sent in their dues already and I encourage everyone who is not a Lifetime Member to do the same, This will save you time waiting in line at the reunion. Any dues received before or at the reunion will show paid up till Sep 2023. Make check out to **AMM** and send it to me at:

4635 Brittany Dr.  
Evans, GA 30809

Also, anyone who has ideas on how to make worthwhile contributions of our money please contact either Judy Kessler or Dave Ratliff.

Also, it is not too early to think about hosting the 2023 reunion !!

Till September

Walt Nail  
AMM Treasurer



**Featured: 132nd Army Band**

The 132nd Army Band was constituted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1946 as the 32nd Infantry Division Band. Organized and Federally recognized on May 10, 1948 in Madison, Wisconsin.

On October 15, 1961 the Band was inducted into federal service at Madison and was assigned to Ft. Lewis, Washington. On August 10th, 1962, the Band returned from Fort Lewis, WA and was released from Federal Service.

After several more reorganizations, the band was reorganized and re-designated on December 30, 1967 as the 132nd Army Band and was relieved from assignment to the 132nd Infantry Division.

Presently the 132nd Army Band is a reserve component unit still located in Madison, Wisconsin and is comprised of around 50 part time Soldier musicians. Typically, the band meets one weekend per month and performs a two week performance tour around the state of Wisconsin. In recent years the band has also traveled to Germany, Oklahoma, and Hawaii.

Members of the band range from late teens to fifties. Many are professional musicians or music educators. Some members have formerly served in other military assignments. All of our Soldiers pass an audition given by the band prior to their enlistment. From there they complete army Basic training and attend the U.S. Army School of Music before officially becoming members of the band.



In addition to marching in parades and performing military ceremonies, the band has many musical ensembles that can perform for all types of events and audiences, both military and civilian. These ensembles include the Concert Band, Ceremonial/Parade band, "Patriot Jazz" ensemble, "Badger Brass" brass ensemble, "Soldiers of Sax" saxophone ensemble, "Guardian Winds" woodwind quintet, "Country Enough" country and class rock band, "cover Fire" rock band, and several brass quintets.



Editor's Note

Happy Spring AMM members, at least I hope you have some Spring weather wherever you are! This newsletter issue contains lots of information on the upcoming reunion in Jackson, TN. Allen Lawless has been working tirelessly to make this next reunion a huge success.

The next issue will recap the reunion news.

If you haven't yet followed AMM's Facebook page, please do so: Association of Military Musicians. There are currently 2.9 thousand members and growing. It is a private group for any military musician ~ retired, active or with former military band experience.

Also visit our website: <https://milmusicians.com/>

Toni Furan

Sound Off! editor

News from the VP

\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*

**Editors Note: Judy hasn't received a lot of response to this! Please consider nominating musical groups/schools, etc. who could benefit from some extra funds!**

**AMM has some funds they would like to donate to groups and/or organizations. There really have been no guidelines set as to what type of group we will donate funds to. School band programs, community bands, arts organizations are some of the types of groups to which we've given in the past. We have a committee in place to choose worthy groups with who to share our funds.**

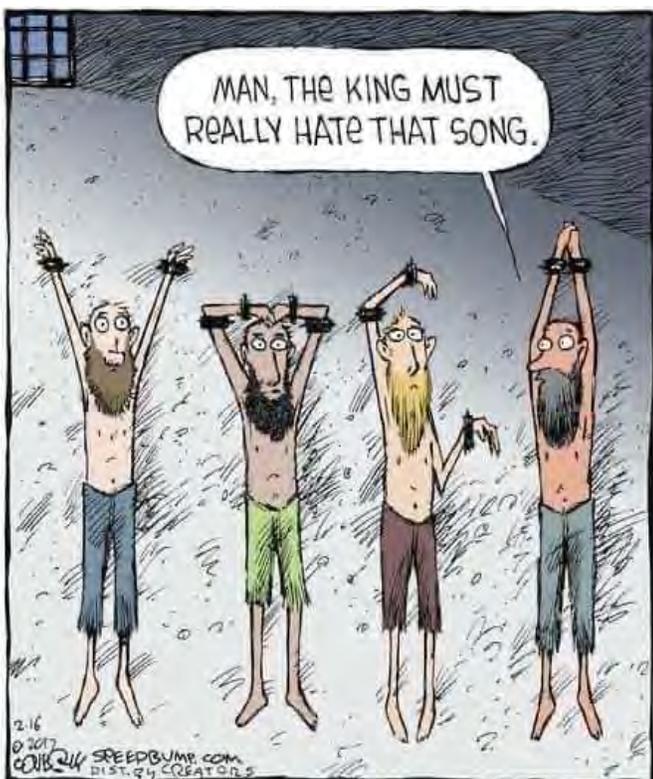
If you are a dues paying member and would like to make a suggestion as to where we might donate, please send an email to me. Please include:

- Name of group
- Why they need our support
- How many people will benefit from the support
- Contact info for the group
- How the funds will be utilized

Judy Kessler

VP, AMM

Email: [Judy Kessler](mailto:Judy.Kessler@amm.org)



## David Clark “Archive of the Community Bands—Wenham” Digitized and Available Online!

AMM received a lovely letter from Barbara Clark, widow of the late David W. Clark of Wenham MA. First, some background from his obituary featured in the December 15, 2011 edition of Sound Off:

“David served in the Army while stationed with the 33rd Infantry in the Panama Canal Zone between 1953-54.

Mr. Clark had been well exposed to music and community bands through his youth. He had taken various instrument lessons, but the euphonium was his primary instrument. In 1968 when recovering from the amputation of his right arm he took up the instrument again. This began years of founding and facilitation volunteer bands to contribute and perpetuate the heritage of traditional military music and provide music entertainment for the town and other community organizations.”

Mrs. Barbara Clark writes: “Soon after Dave’s death in 2011, we donated his baritone and various items associated with the Community Bands—Wenham (MA) to the Wenham Museum and they accepted them for their “Collections”. It had been with high hopes that the David Clark Archive of the Community Bands—Wenham would be digitized and be on-line for broader access. Last year, 2020, this happened!

To get access, go to: [wenhammuseum.org/Clark](http://wenhammuseum.org/Clark). Then select “Collections” and choose “David’s Scrapbooks on line”. This will bring all his notebooks to view.”

Thank you Barbara Clark for sharing this with AMM members!

Memories...

### Mama Kitty

When I arrived at my first duty station, Fort Carson, in November of 1975, I met Mama Kitty, the 4th infantry Division Band’s Mascot. Mama Kitty lived in the band building which contained both our working spaces and the barracks rooms of the soldiers who lived on base. Band members took good care of Mama Kitty. Indeed, the Commanding General of the 4ID approved her designation as our mascot which made her eligible for vaccinations and (if needed) medical treatment by Army Veterinarians.

On one particular evening, when I was pulling CQ duty, mama Kitty brought me a gift. She came strutting down the hallway with an injured mouse clasped in her jaws, her way of exhibiting to me her pride at having captured her prize! After a few moments, when she felt that I had properly recognized her hunting prowess, she picked up her captive and carried it to a spot only a few feet away. Moments after she made herself comfortable at her new location, I heard the distinctive crunch as she ended the days of the mouse. Within a few moments I was able to herd Mama Kitty to a door and shoo her outside, but not before she had removed the head from her prey.

Monte Pursifull (pictured above right)



## VICTORY VERTICALS

During World War II, STEINWAY AND SONS produced specially-built pianos for the American troops. Called the *Victory Vertical* or G.I. Steinways, the pianos were sometimes airdropped onto battlefields to provide a bit of relaxation. They were manufactured in STEINWAY'S Queen-based factory and mostly sold to the U.S. government. At first, STEINWAY was prohibited from building pianos due to government restrictions on iron, copper, brass, and other raw materials. The factory bided its time producing coffins and parts for troop transport gliders,

until it was granted a contract to send specially designed war soldiers to make over 3,000 "Victory Vertical" pianos specifically for troops in battle. The pianos came in olive, blue, and gray drab. In 1942, the first "Victory Vertical" was dropped by parachute, complete with tuning equipment and instructions.



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For American troops in a faraway country during World War II, music was an excellent way to give them a peace of mind and remember why they were fighting. One soldier wrote home to his family, "Two nights past we received welcome entertainment when a jeep pulling a small wagon came to camp. The wagon contained a light system and a STEINWAY piano. It is smaller and painted olive green, just like the jeep. We all got a kick out of it and sure had fun after meals when we gathered around the piano to sing... I slept smiling and even today am humming a few of the songs we sang."

The pianos provided an excellent camaraderie and created a strong appreciation on the battlefield for not only the music, but the STEINWAY name.

Source: [Steinway.com](http://Steinway.com)

## *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.

Toni Furan, Editor  
827 E. Mifflin St.  
Madison, WI 53703

