



Sound Off!

Association of Military Musicians

Website: www.militarymusicians.org

2022-2023 Officers

- David Smith—President
- Judy Kessler—Vice President
- Allen Lawless—Treasurer
- Tom Zale—Secretary

Serving AMM:

- Cheryl Wason — 2023 AMM Reunion Host
- Rickey Lumpkin—Chaplain
- Kay Smith—Librarian
- OPEN — Historian
- Toni Furan — AMM *Sound Off!* Editor

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REUNION NEWS!

“Ein Prosit...ein Prosit...der Gemuetlichkeit”



We are approximately 3 months out before our 37th annual AMM Reunion, the 7th-10th of September in The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota—The Star of the North. I have been in contact with the folks promoting the St. Paul Oktoberfest and sent out promotion pictures with the AMM Logo. They are excited to have us play for the opening ceremonies. They will have complimentary beer and food for us after the performance. We will be telling our audience about how military bands have entertained while stationed in Germany! At the end, we will also play the Armed Services Medley with the new Space Force song. I don't think we'll have much problem getting back into the swing of the beer fest music.

CW5 Dave Ratliff will be working on the play list and would like to have a rehearsal on Thursday evening at 7pm as well as at 10am on Friday morning. Dave says to get practicing and have fun! We also have procured a school bus to take us over to the performance on Friday, September 8th at around 2:30. We initially had not planned to use a bus, but after further consideration, the board approved having a bus. We try to keep the reunions self-supporting, but did not budget for this cost. *If you would like to donate money to the bus fund, that would be much appreciated.* AMM will pick up any costs not covered for the bus. We can relive times on the bus back home from beer tent gigs! I can picture a few PRO-SIT renditions in our future!!!

The hotel has informed me that it is very important that folks make their **reservations** at the **HOTEL ASAP**. There is a home Vikings game on that Sunday, and the Normandy Inn & Suites is right downtown. They will have to give up our block of rooms in the next month UNLESS we have them reserved. Even if you are not sure, please call and make your reservations. The cancellation policy without any charges is 72 hours. **PLEASE CALL NOW!!** You may not be able to get a room if you wait too long. I will try to hold them off as long as I can.

Keep the reservation forms coming in and encourage others to sign up. The best way to get folks you'd like to see to the reunion, is to reach out

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to them personally. We officially have 23 folks with registration forms in. We have 13 hotel rooms reserved. Let's MOVE OUT on this!!

A little reminder again that we plan to have a dance and our own folks entertaining us with a Jazz Combo on Saturday evening at our banquet so please note in the registration your instrument and wishes to participate in the FEST BAND or the JAZZ COMBO or BOTH. Jeff Gottwig will be taking the lead on this group.

Again, it would be helpful to have everyone who is PLANNING on coming to text or email me ASAP. I will **not** hold anyone to their word at this point, but just need to get a feel for attendance and instrumentation at this point as we did for Augusta City Fest in 2021. Please text me at 651-353-6204 or email me at: cwason@comcast.net

If you have not already registered, the registration form is included in this newsletter and is also on our website (<https://militarymusicians.org>). Please print it out, fill it out and send it to me with your registration fees and monies for t-shirt (if wanted) to:

Cheryl Wason
1478 Thomas Lane
Eagan, MN 55122

Checks or money orders only please. We can't use PAY PAL for this reunion. Reminder that the t-shirts will be used as our uniform along with black pants. Folks who attended the 35th Anniversary Augusta Reunion, can wear those t-shirts or order a new one. Another option is to wear a white polo shirt/t-shirt. Prices and sizes are on the Registration Form! Shirts ordered will be placed in the Welcome Packets in September! **I have been notified that t-shirt orders must be in by August 6th.**

Tentative Schedule of Event for the weekend:

Thursday, 7 September

1200- Hospitality Room open (Normandy Room)/Registration

1500- Hotel Check-in

1900-2030- Rehearsal in Continental Room (**Bring your own STAND**)

There is a very nice restaurant in the hotel and many more options in the area.

(Hospitality Room will be closed during rehearsal and open afterwards.)

Friday, 8 September

0900- Hospitality Room open/ Registration

1000-1200- Rehearsal in Continental Room

1430- Bus Departs for St. Paul Oktoberfest at the German American Institute

1600-1800- Perform opening Ceremonies and typical beer tent military band-style!

1800-2100- Enjoy beer/meal and music from POLKA POLICE

2100- Depart for hotel

2130- Hospitality room opens until????

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Saturday, 9 September

0900 Hospitality Room opens

1000-1230- TWIN CITIES BUS TOUR (Optional \$36-40 and only with enough participants. Please see the REGISTRATION FORM for further information. We must have around 30 participants to make it a GO.)

Free Time to see the attractions in the area and explore the Twin Cities!

1400- Business Meeting in Continental Room

Hospitality Room closed during business meeting

1615- Hospitality room closes

1730- Cocktail Hour in Continental Room/The Parlour

1730-1930- Dedicated Bartender for our Banquet in the Parlour

1800- Move into Dining Room (No drinks from HR allowed)

1815- Program with Guest Speaker Bruce Gleason

2000- Jazz Combo entertains/Dance/Socializing

2130- Hospitality Room re-opens until ??????

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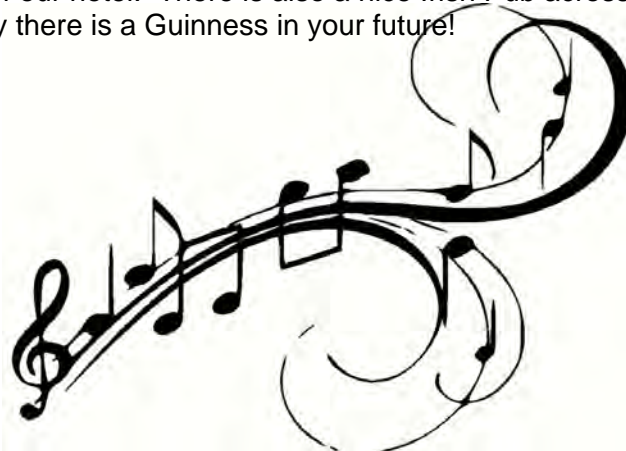
Sunday, 10 September

Breakfast & Farewells

Option to attend a Twin Games for Military Appreciation Day (arranged on own)

Changes to the schedule and updates will be in the next reunion newsletter. I would recommend calling the hotel for further guidance regarding transportation to the hotel. We have light rail and there are many rideshare options such as Lyft or Uber. The hotel is 11.7 miles from the MSP Airport.

Many attractions are very close to the hotel and again, there is light rail that can take you to St. Paul and the many attractions there too! I will have more on that with the next newsletter! Here are a few places within walking distance of our hotel. There is also a nice Irish Pub across the street from our hotel: Dan Kelly's Bar and Grill. May there is a Guinness in your future!



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- Minneapolis Convention Center - 5 Blocks
- Hennepin County Medical Center - 2 Blocks
- Light Rail Transit (to Airport, Mall of America and University of Minnesota) - 3 Blocks
 - State Theater - 6 Blocks
 - Orpheum Theater - 6 Blocks
 - Pantages Theater - 6 Blocks
 - Guthrie Theater - 8 Blocks
 - Orchestra Hall - 6 Blocks
 - US Bank Stadium- 4 Blocks
- Target Field - 9 Blocks (Home of the Minnesota Twins)
- Target Center - 7 Blocks (Home of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Minnesota Lynx WNBA Basketball)
 - University of Minnesota - 1.5 Miles

Our reunion is falling into place nicely and now we need all of you **to RESERVE your HOTEL as well as FILL OUT and SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION--ASAP.**

Cheryl Wason

2023 AMM Reunion Host



President's Message

Hi!

Once again, the newsletter is jam-packed with great information; be sure to read every article!

Reunion

The 2023 Reunion will be one of the best held and I hope we will have a record-breaking turnout. The hotel will bring back memories of Europe and our performance at the St. Paul Oktoberfest is going to make it seem like we have traveled back in time. Book your room and send in your registration right away!

Organizational Status

After careful consideration, soliciting input from members and extensive research, AMM has applied to be a veteran related non-profit. This change will have no impact on when, where, and how we enjoy our time together. It does make us more compliant with today's regulatory environment and creates safeguards for the organization and its leadership.

Business Meeting

AMM holds a business meeting every year in conjunction with the reunion. Be sure to stay for it. There is a great need for participation at several levels. The time to think about it is now so we can talk about it and make decisions at the business meeting. You can read details about each role on the website if you go to the "About Us" page and click on the Bylaws tab on www.militarymusicians.org. The board consists of four officers; President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Two of those positions roll off each year so you always have at least two people staying on for continuity – The two positions to be voted on in 2023 will be the Vice President and the Treasurer. Those rotating off can be re-elected if they choose to be considered as there are no term limits.

Other areas needing support include:

- Historian
- Newsletter
- Social Media
- Music Library
- Website maintenance

Other Business meeting topics:

- The 2024 reunion
As you can imagine, there is a lot involved so, if you want to consider hosting a reunion in the future, check out the expectations in the Bylaws and consult with previous hosts such as Walt Nail, Allen Lawless and, this year's host, Cheryl Wason.
- The location for 2024 will be voted on at this year's meeting
- Bylaw update review
- Donation requests – reviewing requests for financial support by other organizations.

I look forward to seeing you in September!

As always, you can reach me via email at davidsmith02b@gmail.com

David A. Smith
AMM President

By-Laws/Non-Profit Status Reports

Thanks to those who took the time to vote on the revised Bylaws. The rationale for taking this step and discussion as to the changes that went into the document were discussed in the March 2023 newsletter.

Voting, as tabulated by AMM Secretary Tom Zale:

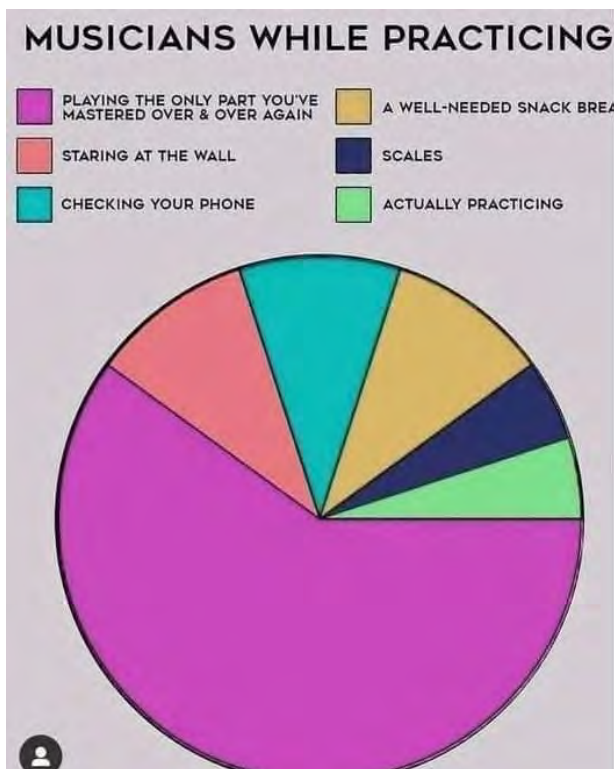
- Ayes – 7
- Nays - 1

Based on this vote, tabulated on 30 April, the Board approved the Bylaws as drafted on 1 May 2023. That document may be downloaded from AMM's web site at this link:

<https://militarymusicians.org/about-us/bylaws/>

The revised Bylaws, the Incorporation document from the State of Arkansas, and the Employer ID Number documentation were uploaded to Pay.gov, which is the portal for submission of applications for non-profit status. The application and attachments were uploaded on 5 May 2023. We have been informed that the approval process is very lengthy – 6 to 9 months or more – so we shouldn't expect to hear back from IRS any time soon. Of course, should they have questions I will do my best to answer them.

Allen Lawless



Walter Nail, AMM 2021 Reunion Host, Receives Award from Host City



Walt Nail, founding member of AMM and the 2021 Reunion Host, received an award from “Destination Augusta” in appreciation of the financial impact AMM’s reunion had on the City of Augusta. Congratulations Walt! This is a testament to the hard work and dedication you bring to AMM and its members. Well done Walt!

The recognition of Walt by Augusta, GA is a great example for potential host cities. Those of you who have considered being a host can consider this as a plus when pitching to your local business community, hotels, restaurants, etc.



Editor's Note

It's a lovely summer day up here in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. I'm working on this newsletter while listening to the loon calls and eagle chatter ~ music to my ears! I hope that all of you AMM members are well and looking forward to the upcoming Reunion. Cheryl Wason and her team are busy making sure that our time will be enjoyable and well spent. I can't wait to see everyone!

Toni Furan

Sound Off! Editor

Taps, In Memoriam

Rush Ward, former bandsman and past member of AMM, passed away on January 23, 2023.



The former Berlin Brigade Band, the 298th Army Band, will “piggy back” on our Reunion this year in Minneapolis. The band also chose to piggy back on the 21st AMM Reunion in Augusta, GA. Other bands are invited to do the same...we have a big umbrella that will hold many former and current band members, along with their memories.

Treasurer's/Webmaster Report

Treasurer's Report – June 2023

Expenditures since the last Treasurer's report in March 2023 include:

Heidi Kaufman - \$61.46 for memorial flowers sent to her when her husband and AMM Lifetime Member Mitch "Mike" Kaufman passed away in March.

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church - \$100 sent in memory of AMM member George Armijo, who also passed away in March.

Toni Furan – reimbursed \$49.24 for printing and mailing costs with the March 2023 newsletter.

Art Department + Benton - \$48. This is the graphics company we use to produce durable membership cards for Lifetime members. We have three new Lifetime Members with William van Wickler, Roy W. Rohrbaugh, and Victoria Vernau. Bill has been a longtime member of AMM, who served in the 4AD Band back in the 1960s and Roy is a retired Army bandmaster/commander who served in various bands around the world. New members include Victoria Vernau, Chuck and Sue Eichhorst, and Douglas Johnson. We had one renewal with Wayne Hoey.

IRS - \$600. This is the cost associated with our application to IRS for 501(c)(19) non-profit status.

AMM's checking account shows a balance of \$9,747.17. However, the AMM Board approved an as-yet undetermined cost for a charter bus at the September 2023 reunion in Minneapolis. Vote results – 3 yeas, 1 nay. The presented price when this matter was under discussion exceeded \$700, but that figure may change.

AMM's PayPal account shows a balance of \$967.49. The checking account and PayPal accounts total \$10,730.66.

Membership – AMM has 117 members which includes a number of Surviving Spouses and Supporters.

Webmaster Report

The web site at <https://militarymusicians.org> is largely unchanged since it was launched in December 2022. The only substantial change was uploading the revised Bylaws (approval date 1 May 2023). The Bylaws may be downloaded off the Bylaws sub-page under the "About Us" tab.

This updated site contains relevant information and it includes a "Members Only" section where you can download business meeting minutes, archived copies of newsletters, and more. This is still under development somewhat, but if you'd like to access this part of the web site, you will need to input the password. Dues-paid members can obtain the password (which will change every so often) by contacting me by email or phone. Please check your membership roster for that information. The page can be found at this link: <https://militarymusicians.org/members-only/>

One of the projects that is still undone on the web site is completing the Leadership tab with current photos of AMM's Board and support staff, along with contact information and perhaps a short bio.

Allen Lawless

AMM Treasurer/Webmaster



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

