



Reunion 2023 in Minnesota:

Music.....Friendships.....Reminiscing....War Stories of Duty in the Military Band....Oktoberfest....exploring the Twin Cities of Minneapolis & St. Paul



Hi Folks! We are fast approaching 30 days before our Reunion 2023 in Minnesota and I am delighted with the response from people interested in attending! Thanks to all of you who have already sent in your registration forms, payments and reserved your hotel rooms! As a former 1SG, you make me very happy! To date, we have 50 people coming and I am sure we will have more signing up in the next weeks! Keep encouraging folks you've served with to attend. Dave Ratliff is encouraged by the instrumentation we have so far for our **Fest Band**—but we could use a few more flutes/bones and saxes. We will also have Danny Jaynes and Rob Kessler conducting... perhaps the current commander of the 204th Army Reserve Band at Ft. Snelling too--Mr. Andrew Nelson. There are about 30 folks signed up to play so far. The **Jazz Combo** that will be entertaining us on Saturday night, is also starting to shape up! Jeff Gottwig will be contacting all of you who have volunteered for that gig. Start working on those chops if you haven't been playing as much! Toni Furan will attach the registration form again. All pertinent information is on the www.militarymusicians.org. You can access it there.

The Best Western Normandy Inn & Suites is pleased to welcome all of us in September, but they did let me know that as of Monday, August 7th, they can guarantee the price of rooms with breakfast I negotiated, as long as there are still rooms available. You must talk directly with Pancho Varela (651-370-1400) to reserve those rooms. Also, our registrations must be in by **August 24th** so that I can let the hotel know what meals people are requesting. After that, the banquet will be closed for further attendees.

If you are planning to order a **t-shirt**, I need to know ASAP as we are having them shipped from Augusta, GA and they are usually quite busy in August and September.

Please have your t-shirt orders in by **August 18th**. T-shirts will be in your welcome packets!

I am not sure if we will be able to offer the Twin Cities bus tour on Saturday. We have 11 folks signed up, but we really need at least 30 to make it a go. Stay tuned on this!

Our **St. Paul Oktoberfest** performance at the German American Institute should be a GREAT event and what a privilege to be able to tell the story of the Military Bands in Germany and their mission through music. Dave Ratliff and our Librarian Kay Smith are working to put the music together. If you happen to have a full arrangement of a German tune you think appropriate for the performance, please let them know—better yet—bring it along! Dave Ratliff can be reached at 803-463-5313.

If you would still like to make donations to cover the costs of our bus to the St. Paul Oktoberfest, please feel free to do so. Thanks to all who have donated so far.

If you have folding stands and wind clips, please bring them! What we have is limited from AMM.

Our **Banquet Saturday night** will feature Bruce Gleason talking about duty as an Army Band Musician in Germany and a spotlight on Berlin. I think you will enjoy this. We would also like to have all of you send us **2-3 pictures** in jpeg format to **gottwjef59@comcast.net** by August 24th and we will put together a slide show that we can enjoy during the evening. Think of some of the great performances you had in Germany...perhaps Beer Tent, Wine Festivals or other ideas. It is always great fun looking at old pictures from our duty stations! If you have old drum heads, banners or other mementos from your specific band, please bring them along!

Tentative Schedule of Events 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

1500- Set up for Performance at German American Institute

1600- Doors Open

1630-Rivers Ballet performs
1645- Keg Tapping
1700- Performance of AMM Reunion German Fest Band In typical beer tent military band-style!
(Wind Clips might be a good idea to have!)
1800- Break for Greetings and Commemoration
1815-1900- Set 2 by German/American Military Reunion Fest Band and at 1900, break and clear band
1930-Enjoy beer/meal and music from Bagpipe Polka Orchestra & POLKA POLICE
2130- Depart for hotel
2200- Hospitality room opens until????

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)
Slide Show will be ongoing with favorite pictures sent from all of YOU and your duty!!!!
1815- Program with Guest Speaker Bruce Gleason
“Berlin and the 298th Army Band, 1988-1991: A Memoir” Dr. Bruce Gleason’s presentation is based on his forthcoming book of the same name, which along with his personal recollections of band operations and performances, includes significant information about Berlin and the history of Andrews Barracks.
2000- Jazz Combo entertains/Dance/Socializing
2130- Hospitality Room re-opens until?????

Sunday, 10 September

Breakfast & Farewells
Option to attend a Twins Game for Military Appreciation Day (arranged on own)

Changes to the schedule and updates will be in the welcome packet upon arrival. 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

If you are in need of a ride to the hotel, please contact me and perhaps we can coordinate a ride with other folks coming from the airport or having vehicles available. My cell is: 651-353-6204. We would need to know this PRIOR to your arrival.

Cheryl Wason & Jeff Gottwig
2023 AMM Reunion Host and Assistant

P.S. **PLEASE, please** get your registration forms & money to me now, get your hotel reservations made, and get your chops in shape! The hotel is fantastic with a great restaurant right there, but an Irish Pub is also across the street. A Guinness may very well be a part of your weekend!

Please let the President know if you are interested in hosting in 2024!



Zicke Zacke Zicke Zacke...Hoi...Hoi...Hoi!!!!

