

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2021! I know everyone has been challenged with all the changes this pandemic has brought into our lives. There are new ways of doing daily tasks, work, relaxation, and everything else we took for granted; some ways better, some more difficult. Regardless, I know you are a resilient group who will press on and attend in 2022.

Since we were not able to meet in person in 2020, the AMEA Board of Directors found a way to elect new members as well as ensure we have a great reunion in 2022. You can read more of the Board of Directors details in the article posted in this Crew Alert. We are grateful to those who have stepped up and so appreciative of all the work done by those departing. We could not have made this transition without everyone participating and voting! Thank you!!

Now for the actual reunion. There have been many changes. It is still 23-27 March 2022 and still in San Antonio, TX. However, once we got the new contract signed with El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel this past October, they notified us in November that management had decided to close rather than complete remodeling plans. So our favorite hotel site was no longer an option and we are released from their contract. That left us with trying to find a new site for the reunion. Do we go to another geographic area altogether and start from scratch or check out one of the other three hotels we looked at during our original site visit in 2018? With COVID, new site visits would likely not be advisable; so, we began discussions with our second choice. Originally, we did not choose the Menger Hotel because their prices were higher and they offered fewer amenities. However, the situation has changed. With the lack of tourism, hard hits to businesses and the Menger not being part of a big chain, we were able to develop and sign a new contract by December with better prices and some great amenities. They have been great working with us.

2022 REUNION DETAILS

DATES: 23-27 March 2022, Wednesday—Sunday
SITE: The historic Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205

ROOM COST: \$149.00 per night any size bed.
 Rate is honored 3 days prior & 3 days after the reunion on a space available basis.

BREAKFAST: 2 free breakfasts per room.
PARKING: reduced rate of \$22.00 per day

HOSPITALITY SUITE: BIG CHANGE, we can only bring in our own food if we use a suite, i.e., not a meeting room. We booked the Teddy Roosevelt Suite with a capacity of around 40 overlooking the garden. Other groups have found it to workout great.

REGISTRATION FEE/ACTIVITIES: Usually the Board meets on-site at the hotel the year before the reunion to set up activities, plan meals & set the registration fee. This March the BOD will use video teleconferencing to get this done. Everything will be finalized and *updates* will be posted in the June and December 2021 Crew Alerts.

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Two options are available: 1) Call the hotel directly at **(210) 223-4361** or toll free **(800) 345-9285** or 2) click [here](https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=16589&nights=1&checkin=03/23/2022&group=032322AEROMED) for online reservations or type this address to your browser: **https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=16589&nights=1&checkin=03/23/2022&group=032322AEROMED**. It is essential that you identify yourself as part of the AeroMed Evac Association group and not use a third party booking agency. This is the only way to receive the benefit of reduced parking/room rates/two free breakfasts per room. Let the hotel know if you have any special needs...ADA, refrigerator, etc.

Belinda Morrone, AMEA President

AMEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT
Belinda Morrone



VICE PRESIDENT
Mary Jane Cahill



SECRETARY
Ted Bassett



TREASURER
David Schill



MEMBER
Roy Campbell



MEMBER
Deborah Millerberg



MEMBER
Bob Mebane

New Board of Directors

Under normal circumstances, our AMEA Board members are nominated and elected during the General Membership meeting at the reunion. Due to COVID-19 we did not have a reunion in 2020 so we had to find another way to fill the three available slots. If we did not act, there would be no mix of new and experienced members on the board as defined by our By-Laws.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Steve Davis for designing the online voting system used by the US Navy for eight years with great results. We implemented it and as a result were able to hold a successful election. Of the five candidates, three received 2/3's of the votes and were therefore elected. So please welcome MaryJane Cahill, Harold "Roy" Campbell, and Bob Mebane. Mary Jane Cahill has been voted in to be our Vice President and Roy Campbell and Bob Mebane will be members. Thank you to everyone for stepping up. We may not get to meet in person until the reunion, but I know we will enjoy working together to ensure the best reunion ever in 2022!

Also, huge THANK YOU to Sam Kittle and Dan Hosford for staying on the board and working until the very end to be sure we were covered. Sam I know has been instrumental in setting up and defining most of the workings of the organization. He has put in many hours and held many positions to ensure the work gets done when others were not available. Dan was instrumental in choosing the site of our upcoming reunion and has always ensured we have the best items for our Auction at the Banquet. He and Threva have done all the engraving on our glassware and provided special personalized gifts for guests speakers. We will certainly miss our now retired board members and look forward to working with our new members.

AMEA Board of Directors

THE HISTORIC MENGER HOTEL

Not only will we have a wonderful time at our reunion events in San Antonio, we have an incredible hotel to enjoy as well. The Menger Hotel opened in 1859 and has been operating ever since. It is recognized as part of the National Register of Historic Places offering a one-of-kind accommodation for its guests. Its grand architectural design coupled with museum-worthy furnishings adds to its charm. The Colonial Dining Room, the in-house restaurant, serves the well-loved recipes of the hotel's original owner. The Menger Bar was the site Teddy Roosevelt hired his Rough Riders. The Bar is made of solid mahogany and was modeled after a bar in Parliament, in England.

There are 316 well-appointed rooms. Some of the rooms have balconies that overlook downtown or the beautiful garden. WiFi is free. An outdoor pool and a fitness center are available for those who want to unwind at the Menger Hotel Spa.

The hotel is located just across from the Alamo and adjacent to the Riverwalk Mall and a very short walk to the Riverwalk itself. Be sure to check out more of the hotel's history and learn of the ghosts that still wander the halls.

Enjoy photos and videos of the Menger Hotel in San Antonio by copying and pasting the following links to your web browser.

On this first link once you get to their website, go down the page to the white arrow on the black page, click on the arrow.

<https://www.mengerhotel.com/about-us>

This second link will take you to a gallery of photos around the hotel.

<https://www.mengerhotel.com/gallery>

ENJOY!!

Words to Live by...

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light" by Aristotle



Brett Wade
Paul Dias
Gerald Kenna
Audrey Lauria
Karen Siddoway
Valerie Mitchell

AMEA Membership Numbers:

Lifetime	<u>322</u>
Current Paid	<u>62</u>
Total	<u>384</u>

Computer Corner

The New Year brings new changes to the AMEA website, referred to throughout this article simply as "the website". We have been hard at work during the past several months to prepare the website to be much more mobile friendly and secure. There are three components of the website: the public website, the members-only website and the management portal. All AMEA websites are now mobile friendly and are secured with a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Certificate.

Previous questions have included 'if the website only works with a certain web browser'. The short answer is no, you may use any modern browser to view the website. However, all browsers do not work the same way. Each browser displays the same website differently and the variation can be quite substantial. So, if something does not seem to be working properly, try a different browser as a test. The website has a menu option for Help where you can find many frequently asked questions related to the website and browsers in general. Additionally, the updated members-only website, has a new feature called a forum. This is like a blog or Facebook page, but it is private and only available after you log into the members-only

website from the primary public website (amea.us or www.amea.us or aeromedevac.org). All three addresses display the same public website. Please refer to the following section for login tips.

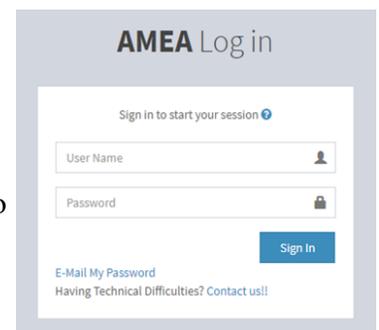
Login Tips

When logging into the members only website, please make sure you are ONLY logging in from the AMEA website and not using any saved links. This is performed by clicking on the 'MEMBER LOGIN' as illustrated in the graphic below.



Your username is not case sensitive and contains a period between your first and last name. Please check carefully to ensure you include this period and there are no spaces before, after or anywhere in your username. The PASSWORD IS case sensitive. You may recover your username and password if you cannot remember, however, your e-mail address in the database must be current. If needed, click on the Forgotten Password: 'E-Mail my Password' and enter your e-mail address for assistance. If you receive a message stating that your e-mail was not found in our database, contact David Schill for assistance.

Finally, the login page should match the graphic for the new website version. If you see a login page containing the AeroMedEvac logo, you are looking at the old website version and it is possible that your browser is using cached content. Refer to the public website 'HELP' section for a discussion of cache.



The new updated management portal used by the AMEA Board gives them added visibility into who is attempting to access the website and identify scammers as well as the ability to manage the public website.

Overall, there are substantial improvements to security contained within this new version and it is more readable when accessed on an iPhone or iPad.

Steve Davis, AMEA Webmaster



Honor Roll

*Gone,
But not forgotten,
Although we are apart,
Your Spirit lives within us,
Forever in our hearts*

Danny Beaman Columbus MS	2 Jan 2012
Charlie Ray Holloway Las Vegas, NV	18 Apr 2019
Lawrence Russell Wichita Falls TX	3 Jun 2019
Paul Chenoweth San Antonio TX	11 Jan 2020
Robert St Maur Plattsburgh NY	23 Mar 2020
Mary (Cook) Frances Sun Lakes AZ	25 Mar 2020
Phyllis P. Parcels Palm Harbor FL	3 Jul 2020
Alfred (Bud) Lauria Lakeland FL	14 Jul 2020
Lois Byron Spokane WA	23 Nov 2020
William H. (Bill) Horn Johnson City TN	22 Dec 2020
John M. Urbank Fort Worth TX	31 Dec 2020
Walter (Gene) Siddoway Nampa ID	18 Jan 2021
James (Jim) Mitchell Dayton OH	18 Jan 2021

DONATIONS

Our veteran organization is designated a non profit 501(c)(19). Since over 90% of our members are war veterans, contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes. We generate some income from annual dues which are set very low. Since many folks take advantage of lifetime dues, once they are paid, that ends the income. We set the registration fees for our reunions to cover costs only. All that said we are happy to accept donations either by a check sent in to the organization or by using the donate button on the website and electronically donating. We thank you for all your support.

AMEA Board of Directors

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

There are two methods to join or renew AMEA memberships. You can print the membership form and mail it in with your check and it will be processed manually, or you can pay online, and it will be processed automatically. If you choose to mail in your membership form, it will take some time for it to be entered into the system and for your account to become active. If you pay online, your account becomes active within seconds of entering your payment information and your username/ password is e-mailed to the e-mail entered during the registration process. We use PayPal as our secure payment gateway because it is more cost effective than using other secure payment gateways. All payment gateways are much more secure than processing your credit card information on web servers. The security of your financial information is our utmost concern. You do not need a Pay Pal account to pay online. Simply choose 'Check Out' to use your debit or credit card. You may pay for multiple years by clicking the + symbol under the word Quantity. If you would like to pay for 3 years, you simply change the Quantity to 3. If you chose to join or renew using 'Life Member', leave the Quantity at 1.

Steve Davis, AMEA Webmaster



AMEA CHALLENGE COIN

As our new board met to discuss the upcoming reunion, one of the topics was development of an AMEA challenge coin. Bob Mebane recommended the project and took the initiative to do all the research. He has found a couple of "Made in the USA" companies who do excellent meticulous work. The cost would include an initial set-up fee and then coins are individually priced according to number of colors used and amount of coins ordered. The more coins that are ordered (100, 200, 300) the lower the cost per piece. Standard coin size would be 1.75 to 2 inches. The 2 inch size allows for more detail and art work.

The proposal is to use the AMEA logo on one side of the coin and ask our membership to send in design options for the reverse side.

That said, please send in your suggestions to Board@amea.us by **May 1, 2021**.

Our goal is to choose a final design and be able to make an announcement in the June Crew Alert. We would love to have coins available for sale at the **March 23-27, 2022** reunion. We look forward to your suggestions and even more look forward to seeing you in person in 2022!

AMEA Board of Directors

AMEA MEMBERSHIP FORM:

To apply for membership in the AeroMed Evac Association (AMEA) complete the online application at www.amea.us or complete this form (at least bold face items).

Enclosed is my biennial payment of \$ _____
(\$25 for 2 years)

I request Life Membership and enclose a check for \$100.00 (or \$ _____ partial payment towards full amount to be paid within one year)

Name of Member: _____ Nickname: _____ Known by Maiden Name: _____

Name of Spouse: _____ Is spouse an aeromedical member? ____ If so, what position? _____

Mailing Address: _____

On-line Address (if available): E-Mail _____

Phone numbers: (Home) (_____) _____ Mobile (_____) _____

May we post your address on the AMEA's Webpage (info available only to other AMEA members)? OK _____ Not OK _____

Post your phone number on AMEA's Web page (info available only to other AMEA members)? OK _____ Not OK _____

Membership: New _____ Renewal _____ Re-Join _____

Branch of Service (Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, etc.): _____

Status: Retired _____ Active Duty _____ Reservist/Nat'l Guard _____ Former Military _____ Other _____ Dependent _____

New Member History: List AirEvac units, Locations, Dates assigned and Aircraft flown: _____

Circle your AE Duty Position (Commander, Pilot, Flight Nurse, AET, CCATT, Flight Mech/Engineer, Administrative, Logistical Support,

MSC Officer, Aeromedical Staging Facility Personnel, Other): _____

How did you hear about AMEA? _____

**Make checks
payable to AMEA
and Mail To:**

**AeroMed Evac Assn.
P.O. Box 29450
Indianapolis, IN 46229-9998**

CREW ALERT Newsletter

AeroMed Evac Association (AMEA)

P.O. Box 29450

Indianapolis IN 46229-9998

www.amea.us

AMEA Directorates

Name/Position	Term	Ends	Address	Phone/E-Mail
Belinda Morrone President	4 Years	2022	382 Hamilton St. Worcester, MA 01604	<u>508-755-1985</u> belinda.morrone@amea.us
Mary Jane Cahill Vice President	4 Years	2024	91 Cornell Street #1 Roslindale, MA 02131	(617) 413-3962 mj.cahill@amea.us
Teddy Bassett Secretary	4 Years	2022	902 Footbridge Pl Cary, NC 27519	<u>937-478-5337</u> ted.bassett@amea.us
David Schill Treasurer	4 Years	2022	10921 Tedder Lake Drive Indianapolis, IN 46239	<u>317-898-4293</u> david.schill@amea.us
Roy Campbell Member	4 Years	2024	8057 East Mace Road Lexington, IN 47138	(812) 416-0611 roy.campbell@amea.us
Debby Millerberg Member	4 Years	2022	9443 Winners Circle NW Pickerington, OH 43147	<u>614-866-6138</u> deborah.millerberg@amea.us
Bob Mebane Member	4 Years	2024	910 Main Street Deale, MD 20751	(410) 867-7544 bob.mebane@amea.us