



AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION

Serving the Present – Remembering the Past – Air Force Weather

NEWSLETTER

Volume XI

January 2025

AWA REUNION 2025

Join many other AWA members, their spouses and guests for the next biennial Air Weather Association reunion, **Wednesday 23 April to Sunday 27 April 2025 in Dayton, Ohio.**

Registration form is on pages 7-8 and must be mailed to reunion organizer and postmarked no later than April 8, 2025 or by mail no later than April 11, 2025

The reunion hotel will be the **Marriott at the University of Dayton** at 1414 S Patterson Blvd, Dayton, OH, 45409.

We will have an AWA reunion hospitality room in the Oakwood Room. It will be open during the reunion period for all reunion attendees.

For attendees needing hotel rooms, please reserve by **28 March 2025** to obtain the Marriott AWA Reunion discount daily rate of \$148 + tax (currently 16.5%). The discounted room block rates will be available for dates 22-27 April for those that may want to arrive early.

Make hotel room reservations by using this link: [Marriott at the University of Dayton](https://www.marriott.com/hotels-and-reservations/usa/dayton-university-of-dayton-hotel) or by phone with Marriott reservations, 1-888-236-2427. Be sure to mention you are with **Air Weather Association Military Reunion**. There is also a link on the AWA website main page at: <https://www.airweaassn.org/index.html>

Guestroom rate includes complimentary self-parking, free wireless Internet access, and a 10% off coupon for breakfast each day in the Hotel Dewberry Restaurant.

If problems with room reservations occur, contact Don Farrington, (404) 405-1649 or email donaldfarrington2442@comcast.net.

Why is the reunion so expensive?

Or what does it cost to hold a reunion?

An excellent question that deserves looking into. Many members have asked why is it so expensive to have/hold a reunion. Here is some insight into the planning process. First and foremost, the Air Weather Association Board of Directors has never planned or hosted a reunion with the intention of being profitable. Most reunions, in fact, are very lucky to break even.

Just like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the day after a reunion ends, the thinking about the next one begins. We try to vary the locations considering where AWA members live and has reasonable access, i.e. airports, highway access, etc., and has interesting places to visit. Next is finding a hotel large enough to accommodate our group and has the facilities to host the dinners.

Once we find a hotel that has what we believe we'll need, we negotiate a contract guessing how many people will attend. We contract with them for a minimum # of nights. Often a significant deposit is required and we are obligated for that # of nights and a substantial penalty is incurred for cancellation. For Dayton, we are obligated for nearly \$30,000 just for hotel rooms. If enough AWA members reserve and attend there is no issue. If not, AWA must somehow pay and the AWA does not have enough funds in our account to do that.

Our usual Friday night buffet and Saturday plated dinners are added into the contract as well. The prices for the food will not be set until 30 days prior for Dayton, so we again estimate # based on available pricing. The hotel figures in room setup charges, staffing, taxes and anything else and comes up with their prices to us. For the upcoming Dayton reunion, we have contractual obligations of about \$8,000 for the Friday buffet and Saturday seated banquet. Again, if not enough AWA members attend and have the meals, AWA must somehow pay to meet the obligations.

Another substantial up front cost is transportation

to and from tours. Bus size must consider proposed tours, timing of tours, number of people attending, distance to the tour destination from the hotel, one or two 50-passenger buses or will a mini-bus work? The initial estimate for Dayton is ~\$5,000 and substantial deposit is necessary.

So, what else goes the costs of having a reunion besides the hotel and food? A lot. We have always had handouts printed for members when they arrive. Other considerations go to the name tags and holders, not cheap, that we give to attendees upon arrival. Any signage must be printed. Even the colored dinner tickets we hand out based on member selection, red for beef, yellow for chicken, etc. must be bought. Need a podium and microphone for speakers? That'll cost you. The bartenders for the Happy Hour before the dinners are another expense.

So, while we may not have included absolutely everything that costs money to hold a reunion, you now have a better idea of the process involved for having one. There are literally hundreds of manhours spent by the organizers putting a reunion together. Not one of the many people who have worked to have a successful reunion has ever gotten even a nickel for their time, effort or personal expense. We do this for you, the members.

AWA REUNION 2025 Agenda

During the reunion period, you are welcome to enjoy the Marriott hotel amenities and the AWA hospitality room, choose from the optional tours listed in this agenda and on the registration form (pages 7-8) and/or enjoy the many sites and tours available throughout the Dayton area.

National Museum of the Air Force – The National Museum of the US Air Force is the world's largest military aviation museum. Museum entrance, parking, and docent tours are free. The museum features more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 19 acres of indoor and outdoor exhibit space. Docent led tours are available and are approximately 1.25 hours. There will also be ample time to explore on your own. There is a daily movie for \$10 that can be purchased on your own and prepackaged food items are available for purchase.

Carillon Park (a 15-minute walk from the hotel or use the complimentary hotel shuttle). Entrance to the

park for seniors is \$12, train ride is \$5 and carousel \$1. A 65-acre open air history museum. See more than three million artifacts including the Wright Brothers' first practical airplane replica or the Carillon Park Railroad, a nearly mile-long, 3' narrow gauge rail network with a replica 1851 locomotive for a narrated circle tour of the park.

Other local attractions which can be visited by the hotel shuttle include American Packard Museum (\$10 for seniors), Dayton Art Institute (\$10 for seniors), 2nd Street Market (free entry), Wright Cycle Company and Museum (free entry), Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum (free entry). Please indicate your interest on the registration form so that a shuttle schedule can be arranged.

Hotel shuttle is not wheel chair accessible.

REUNION DAILY AGENDA:

Wednesday, 23 April 2025 –Arrival Day for most attendees.

The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens at 3:00 pm in the AWA Hospitality room. It will remain open until 9:00 pm.

The AWA desk will be open each day from 8:00am to 9:00pm.

All reunion attendees staying at the hotel or commuting must check-in at the AWA desk as soon as possible to confirm their registration and receive their nametags and welcome packet.

A bulletin board will be nearby to post messages, activity changes, shuttle schedules, and general information.

Thursday, 24 April 2025:

6:00 am Breakfast is available at the Hotel Dewberry Restaurant. Breakfast is not included, but reunion guests will receive a 10% off coupon for breakfast with their hotel registration. Breakfast ends at 10:00 am.

8:00 am The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens in the reunion hospitality room.

9:00 am Transportation assistance to the National Museum of the Air Force will be provided beginning at 9:00am. See Hospitality Room for details and options. The possibility of a hired commercial transport at \$20.00 per person, round trip, **may** be available.

Carpools, taxi, or Uber for the short 8 mile trip is also recommended.

Evening: Reunion attendees and others may wish to have dinner with friends or stop by the AWA Hospitality room which will be open until 9:00 pm.

Friday, 25 April 2025:

6:00 am Breakfast is available at the Hotel Dewberry Restaurant. Breakfast is not included, but reunion guests will receive a 10% off coupon for breakfast with their hotel registration. Breakfast ends at 11:00am.

8:00 am The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens in the reunion hospitality room.

9:00 am Hotel shuttle transportation to Carillon Park and other nearby attractions will be available. See posted schedule in the Hospitality Room.

Evening

6:00 pm Social hour (cash bar) – Location TBD.

7:00 pm AWA reunion buffet dinner in the Marriott Ballroom. Midwest BBQ Buffet will include fried flounder, smoked beef brisket, and barbequed grilled chicken plus salads, sides, and desserts.

Saturday, 26 April 2025:

7:00 am Breakfast is available at the Hotel Dewberry Restaurant. Breakfast is not included, but reunion guests will receive a 10% off coupon for breakfast with their hotel registration. Breakfast ends at 11:00 am.

8:00 am The AWA reunion registration and information desk opens in the reunion hospitality room.

9:00am Hotel shuttle transportation to Carillon Park and other nearby attractions will be available. See posted schedule in the Hospitality Room.

Evening

6:00 pm Social hour (cash bar) – Location TBD.

7:00 pm AWA 2025 Reunion Banquet in the Ballroom. Dinner entrée choices are: Grilled Chicken Asiago, Flat Iron Steak with mushroom ragout, Seven Spiced Salmon with brown sugar glaze, or Tomato and Mozzarella stuffed Portobella mushrooms. Please indicate your selection(s) on the reunion registration form.

Our dinner speaker will be Don Berchhoff, CEO True Weather Solutions, retired AFWX Colonel, who started a company specializing in weather for UAS (drones). With so much news about UAS warfare it should be

interesting.

Sunday, 27 April 2025:

7:00 am Breakfast is available at the Hotel Dewberry Restaurant. Breakfast is not included, but reunion guests will receive a 10% off coupon for breakfast with their hotel registration. Breakfast ends at 10:00 am.

Attendees are welcome to join in wishing each other safe travels until we meet again. After breakfast, the AWA Reunion 2025 adjourns.

REGISTRATION: The reunion registration form is on pages 7-8. Please complete **both pages** of the form. Options for submission:

USPS Mail postmarked no later than April 8th.

Complete the registration form on your computer, save it and print it. Write your check for the amount and mail it to Don Farrington: 1149 Augustine Dr, Auburn GA 30011

Electronically no later than April 11th. Fill in the registration form on your computer and save it to your computer. Email the completed form to Don Farrington at donaldfarrington2442@comcast.net. You can pay electronically using Zelle or mail a check. Most banks offer Zelle. Contact Jim DeCarufel for details on using Zelle to pay electronically.

Be sure to save a copy of the form for your reference.

If you need more information or want to discuss attendance at functions, please call or email any of the Board members. Their contact information is on the form.

The AWA reunions are great opportunities for members to meet and enjoy the great camaraderie shared in Air Force Weather. If you are in the local Dayton area, please stop by the reunion hotel even if you can't attend the scheduled events.

Help in manning the AWA check-in and information desk is also needed. If you can spend time at the desk during the reunion period, please let a board member know.

If you wish to attend the reunion, but cannot attend all the scheduled dinners on the basic reunion package, please call or email Don Farrington to see if special accommodations can be worked out.

◀ IN MEMORIAM ▶

These deceased AWA members and spouses have been reported to the AWA Board of Directors since January 2020.

				(William)	Gates	MSgt	Cecelia
				(Forrest E.)	Gray	CMSgt	Maria-Cruz
				(Travis L.)	Greening	CMSgt	Christina
(Thomas D)	Accola	Col	Brenda	(George D.)	Greenly	Maj	Diana
(Peter)	Abt	Col	Linda	(Vincent P.)	Grocki	Lt Col	Barbara
(Richard C.)	Bagby	Maj	Gail Geiger	(John H.) (Jack)	Haneklau	Col	Joan
(Frederic)	Barnes	MSgt	Edna C.	(John H.)	Hug	Lt Col	Nelida R.
(John F.)	Beck	Capt	Michiko	(Raymond E.M.)	Hunniford	Maj	Gertrud
(Dan)	Bellue	Col	Judy	(Jerry D.)	Hunt	MSgt	Rosita
(Max)	Bokelman	A1C	Edith	(Robert E. Jr)	Introne	Lt Col	Carol
(S. Edward)	Boselly III	Lt Col	Janet	(Robert E.)	Julian	Col	Dot
Lawrence H.	Cavanaugh Sr	SSgt	Lyle/Lee	(Albert)	Kaehn	BG	(Melly)
(Robert)	Chamberlain	Col	Mary Louise	(Raymond A.			
(John L)	Charvat	CMSgt	Nadine	"Buzz")	Kandler	Lt Col	Susan
(Richard C.)	Clayton	Col	Carol Lee	(Gregory D.)	Keates	MSgt	Sandy
(Kenneth)	Daly	CMSgt	Barbara	(Ronald H.)	Kellerman	SMSgt	Maria
(Thomas D.)	Damon	Lt Col	Anita	(William D.)	Klein	Col	Robin
(Shawn P.)	Durkin	MSgt	Theresa	(Bruce N)	Larabee	CMSgt	Salinda A
(Steven L)	Erickson	Lt Col		(Craig A.)	Lewis	MSgt	Cindy
(Francisco A.)	Evangelista	TSgt	Lola	(David S.)	Lydon	Lt Col	Joan
(Alex)	Finta	Lt Col	Carol	(Robert L.)	Miller	Lt Col	
(William B.)	Freeman Jr	Col	Julia B	(Danny W.)	Milner	CMSgt	Niecy
(Larry)	French	Col	Betty Sue	(James B)	Near Jr	Lt Col	
(Glenn)	Fuller	Lt Col	Dorothy	(Thomas A.)	Nixon	SMSgt	Rita

(W. Vaughan)	Palmore	Col	(Lorraine)
(Kenneth J.)	Palucci	Lt Col	Susan H.
(David P.)	Pigors	Capt	Marilyn (Marie Francoise)
(Kenneth F.)	Pineau	CMSgt	(Dorothy Elizabeth)
(John P.)	Priestle	SMSgt	(Sally)
(James R.)	Raudy	Capt	JoAnn
(John)	Reames	Col	Gudrun
(Roger G.)	Seyfert	CMSgt	(Barbara)
(David E.)	Smart	Lt Col	Lois
(Albert W.)	Starbird	Cpl	Mary Ann (Bernadine Helen)
(Charles P.)	Stephens	Col	(Helen)
(Richard N.)	Taylor	SMSgt	
(Stanley W.)	Tkach	Maj	
(William C.)	Trevarrow	Lt Col	Lavonne
(Joseph)	Tucker	Col	Sandy
(Robert)	Tuttle	SMSgt	(Jackie)
(Jurgen)("Sam")	Verhunc	CMSgt	(Setsuko)
(Richard J.)	Vogt	Col	Cheryl
(David A.)	Weiner	A1C	Virginia
(George R.)	Wetzel	SSgt	Shelly
(Dale C.)	Whiteside	SSgt	Marilou
(Edward R. Sr.)	Zizulka	MSgt	Phyllis

Please report departures to the AWA Locator, Al Mongeon, 703-455-5868 or 703-966-6749, or email lightning6b@gmail.com. Obituaries submitted will be posted on the AWA website.

AWA WEBSITE NEWS

Jim DeCarufel, the AWA volunteer webmaster, updates the AWA website www.airweaassn.org regularly. The website contains AWA Newsletters, photos from previous reunions, membership application forms, and much more. In the section on Reports, you will find many publications on the history of Air Force Weather.

All members are invited to send news/articles for posting on the website [jimdecарufel@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdecarufel@yahoo.com). Also, contact Jim if you need the username and password to view the member roster.

AWA is on Facebook with Joey Tabaco, John Hahn, and Jim DeCarufel as administrators. Join us at www.facebook.com/airweaassn.

AWA MEMBERSHIP

AWA is an all-volunteer, nonprofit association, alive and well since 1987 (from discussions at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Air Weather Service). Lifetime membership is only \$20.00. Membership is open to civilian and military personnel who serve or have served, in a USAF, ANG, or USAFR weather unit, including aerial reconnaissance or a weather training unit, regardless of AFSC/MOS, and to the surviving spouse. Membership is Lifetime. No annual dues. **Please help recruit new members!**

The membership applications can be copied from the AWA website at www.airweaassn.org or contact your volunteer board of directors we'll send you an application.

Please also help keep the AWA database current. If you have any changes to your name, rank held, spouse's name, mailing address, telephone number or email address, send changes to: Al Mongeon or any AWA Board member

SPECIAL REQUEST! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The AWA Board of Directors works hard to keep the list of members current and accurate but it is a challenge. We need help in finding lost members and keeping contact

information up to date. Email addresses, which are our primary method of contact, are particularly perishable. The list of lost members is posted on the AWA website (<https://www.airweaassn.org/>).

If you have any changes to your name, rank held, spouse's name, mailing address, telephone number or email address, send changes to: Al Mongeon, lightning6b@gmail.com or any AWA Board member

AWA Board of Directors

The members of the all-volunteer AWA Board of Directors are:

Richard Benninger, Chariman
(703) 402-0287
Richard@richardbenninger.com

Don Farrington
Interim Reunion Organizer
Finance Manager
Email: Donaldfarrington2442@comcast.net
(404) 405-1649
1149 Augustine Drive,
Auburn, GA 30011

Al Mongeon
Director, Roster Manager
3216 Pennypacker Lane
Fairfax, VA 22033
Email: lightning6b@gmail.com
703-455-5868 (H), 703-966-6749(C)

David Wilson
Director, Photographer
Email: nosliw94@charter.net

John Hahn
Director
email: jhahnwx@gmail.com

Jim DeCarufel
Webmaster
email: [jimdecарufel@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdecarufel@yahoo.com)

**** AIR WEATHER ASSOCIATION 2025 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM ****

April 23-27, 2025 in Dayton, Ohio

Reunion Headquarters: **Marriott at the University of Dayton,**

1414 S. Patterson Blvd

Dayton, OH 45409; (937) 223-1000

AWA Member: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Telephone No.:** _____

ALL MEMBERS WANTING TO ATTEND MUST MAIL IN THIS REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT ASAP BUT NO LATER THAN 08 April 2025 IF MAILED OR 11 April BY EMAIL.(see below)

Please complete both pages of this form, fill out your check or money order made payable to “AWA Reunion” covering all fees, and mail both to: (or email form followed by check, or electronic payment)

**Don Farrington,
1149 Augustine Drive,
Auburn, GA 30011**

Email: Donaldfarrington2442@comcast.net

(404) 405-1649

DO YOU OR YOUR GUEST(S) HAVE ANY DISABILITY OR DIETARY NEEDS THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION? Please inform us at the bottom of page 2 of the registration form.

AWA REUNION PROGRAM

EVERY ATTENDEE HAS TO SELECT THIS PORTION OF THE PROGRAM

BASIC REUNION PACKAGE:

(HOW MANY x \$\$\$ = \$TOTAL)

Hospitality Room (daily) + Registration fee + Friday and Saturday evening dinners _____ x \$150 = \$ _____

Friday evening – Midwest Barbecue Buffet dinner

Saturday evening – Seated banquet dinner– please make your selections (enter # of each)

_____ Salmon w/ brown sugar glaze _____ Flat Iron Steak _____ Asiago Chicken _____ Stuffed Portobella

SCHEDULE & OPTIONS (please see more detailed information in the AWA Newsletter):

Wednesday, 23 April 2025 -- arrival day for most -- 3:00pm AWA Hospitality room at Marriott Hotel opens for check-in and meeting old and new friends. Hospitality room is open from 8:00am – 9:00pm daily, Thursday through Saturday.

Thursday, 24 April 2025

Please indicate any or all attractions you are interested in. Shuttle schedules will be posted in Hospitality Room.

Other local attractions including American Packard Museum(entry\$10), Dayton Art Institute (entry \$10), 2nd Street Market, Wright Cycle Company & Museum (entry free), Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum (entry free) can be reached by hotel shuttle (not wheel chair accessible).

National Museum of the Air Force (\$20.00 if commercial group transport available TBD)

Other local attraction(s) Please specify: _____

Friday, 25 April 2025

Carillon Park(entry \$12 for seniors, \$5 for train ride)

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum (entry free)

Other local attraction(s) Please specify: _____

6:00pm Social hour (Cash Bar)

7:00pm Buffet Dinner – Marriott Hotel Ballroom – part of Basic Reunion Package

Saturday, 26 April 2025

2nd Street Market(entry free)

Other local attraction(s) Please specify: _____

6:00pm Social hour (Cash Bar)

7:00pm Banquet Dinner – Marriott Hotel Ballroom – part of Basic Reunion Package

Sunday, 27 April 2025: AWA Reunion adjourns. Attendees may meet in the Hotel restaurant for breakfast before departing.

ENCLOSE CHECK or MONEY ORDER payable to “AWA Reunion” for TOTAL of: _____ x \$150 = \$ _____

DEADLINE FOR RESERVED ROOMS CANCELLATION IS 48-HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

Please use this link: [Marriott at the University of Dayton](#) . or call Marriott reservations, 1-888-236-2427.

Please complete this page of the Registration Form also and make yourself a copy of both pages for your continued reference.

Print names below as you would like them shown on your reunion NAME BADGES.

Member _____ Spouse _____

Guest _____ Guest _____

Are you staying at the Reunion hotel? (Check): Yes _____ No _____

Please call in your reservation to the Marriott Dayton. Hotel reservation information is on page 1 of the newsletter. **Please make your reservation by 28 March 2025** to guarantee a room at AWA discount rates. Cancellation deadline for reserved rooms is 48 hours prior to arrival.

To help the reunion committee plan for your arrival, please indicate your travel plans.

Anticipated arrival date/time at hotel to check in/register at reunion desk _____

Please check all appropriate spaces relating to your travel:

Arriving via Air at Dayton _____ then, rental car _____ or taxi/Uber _____

Arriving via RV/Motor home _____ or Car _____ or other _____

Local area resident commuting by car _____. Staying with local friends and commuting by car _____.

Do you have special transportation and/or housing requirements (please also inform the hotel when making your reservation)? Yes _____ Requirements are: _____

AWA REUNION REGISTRATION CANCELLATIONS ARE FULLY REFUNDABLE IF NOTICE IS RECEIVED BY 11 April 2025. Email or call cancellation notification to the Reunion Organizer Don Farrington. Cancellations received after 11 April and during the reunion time frame will be honored **IF** the space can be sold to a member on the space available list. The reunion committee will refund the total costs of the AWA Friday and/or Saturday evening dinner functions if cancellation notice is received by Don Farrington not later than 1 week prior to those functions.

*******DISCLAIMER*******

The Air Weather Association, its directors and committee members are not liable for any damages, injuries or inconvenience incurred to reunion attendees. The AWA volunteer directors & committee members have arranged the reunion and events solely for the enjoyment of AWA members and their spouses and guests. When you submit this form for registration you agree to be held personally responsible for damages and injuries resulting from your, your spouse's or guest's actions.

Two options for submitting your registration form and payment:

- USPS Mail. Complete your registration form on your computer, save it and print it. Write your check for the amount and mail it to Don Farrington. Address is on registration form.
- Electronically. Fill in the registration form on your computer and save it to your computer. Email the completed form to Don Farrington. You can pay electronically using Zelle. Most banks offer that. Contact [Jim DeCarufel](#) for details on using Zelle to pay electronically.

For further information, please contact an AWA Board Member