

## 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

ARON DURHAM  
*President*  
Fort Smith Northside High School  
Phone 479.651.6820  
jdurham@fortsmithschools.org

LEIGHNORA (PRISSY) BUCHANAN  
*Administrative Advisor*  
8207 Williamsburg  
Fort Smith, AR 72903  
UA Fort Smith, Retired  
Phone 479.459.3119  
prissyret@gmail.com

RALPH BRODY, JR  
*Immediate Past President*  
Fort Smith Southside High School  
rbrody@fortsmithschools.org

JULIA REYNOLDS  
*Executive Advisor*  
ASBOA Executive Secretary Emeritus  
jlynreynolds@gmail.com

HOPE BRUNER  
*Vice President*  
Highland Public Schools  
hope.bruner@highlandrebels.org

CARL L. MCCRANEY, JR  
*Treasurer*  
Lakeside Junior High School  
carl\_mccraney@lakesidesd.org

JOHN PRATER  
*Secretary*  
Cabot Freshman Academy  
john.prater@cabotschools.org

VALERIE LANEY  
*Member at Large*  
Magnolia Middle School  
valerielaney@me.com

LIAISON MEMBER  
HAL COOPER, JR  
Cooper Music  
hal@coopermusic.com

**HONORARY PRESIDENTS**  
J. RAYMOND BRANDON (*deceased*)  
ELDON JANZEN (*deceased*)

**LIFETIME MEMBERS**  
RUTH BRANDON (*deceased*)  
W. FRANCIS MCBETH (*deceased*)  
WENDELL O. EVANSON (*deceased*)

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PATRICIA ELLISON (*deceased*)  
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TRAVIS BEARD  
ED ABBOTT (*deceased*)  
EDDIE EPPERSON (*deceased*)  
ROBIN NIX  
ROBERT NELSON (*deceased*)  
RUSSELL LANGSTON  
ANDREW TOLBERT  
HAL COOPER  
JIM BURGESS (*deceased*)  
BILL TUCKER (*deceased*)  
RONALD BRAMMER  
GARY WELLS  
FRANKLIN WASHBURN  
ELDON JANZEN (*deceased*)



# ARKANSAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

Greetings, ABA Spouses!

I am thrilled to announce our activities for the 50th Anniversary of ABA! I've been attending ABA since I was a small child and have only fond memories, so I'm honored to have the chance to plan for all of you now and hope you have the best time!

Registration opens on Wednesday, July 31st, at 11:00 am. The Raymond and Ruth Brandon Kick-Off Concert will be at 7:00 pm featuring a performance by the River Valley Community Band. The keynote address given by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser will be Thursday, August 1st, at 9:00 am.

On Thursday, August 1st, we have a 10:00 am appointment to tour the brand new United States Marshals Museum! A tour guide will give us an overview and let us explore from there. The museum is gorgeous and has exhibits to interest both adults and children! The group rate is \$11.15 for adults, \$5.58 for children, and no charge for children under age 6 with a parent. Please register and pay for this event on the ABA Registration form. We will have a dutch-treat lunch in a location TBD before heading back to the hotel at 1:30 pm to paint and pot succulents with former ABA spouse and talented crafter, Linda Abbott Palmerton! I promise this activity will not "succ"-ulent! Former ABA Board members, Debbie and Travis Beard, are sponsoring this event so there is extra charge spouses to attend!

On Friday, August 2nd, we will meet Chef Spencer in the Convention Center where he will teach us how to create our own charcuterie boards! He is working hard to keep costs affordable, so the ticket to attend is only \$25. Your children 11 & up may register to attend with you to make their own board for \$25 each. Children 10 and younger may assist their parent on their board. You will leave with your own beautiful creation to snack on at your convenience. The Wyndham Hotel will refrigerate our boxes until you are ready to leave the convention. Chef Spencer is very excited to work with us, so you don't want to miss this super "cute" event! We will have another dutch-treat lunch and a little shopping. I have lots of places you will love!

Finally, please help me make this 50th ABA extra special by sending photos of the previous 50 years of ABA conventions. These could be of clinics, hallway chats, registration, dinners, banquets, concerts, exhibits, spouses, or BDKs!!! Drop those pictures in an email to [arbandmasters@gmail.com](mailto:arbandmasters@gmail.com). We want a true representation of all things ABA! Please remember to bring door prizes. I can't wait to see you all, old friends and new! Look for an announcement for the day/time of the BDK picture. As always, all ages are included from newborn to 110+! Once a BDK, always a BDK!

Friday night, don't miss out on the 50th anniversary banquet followed by the Eldon Janzen Tribute Concert featuring the incredible Lone Star Wind Orchestra!! It will be a night to remember!! I

I'm so excited to make you all feel special!

Best,

Emily Beard Durham  
Spouse Executive Committee