

## 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### HONORARY PRESIDENTS

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

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W. FRANCIS MCBETH (*deceased*)  
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## Arkansas Bandmasters Association

### Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are excited to invite you to the **51st Annual Arkansas Bandmasters Convention**, to be held in **Fort Smith, Arkansas**, July 30 to August 2. This year's convention promises to be an exceptional event filled with inspiring performances, valuable professional development, and opportunities to connect with fellow educators from across the state.

### Convention Highlights Include:

- A rousing **Kick Off Concert** by the **Jonesboro Community Wind Ensemble**. This ensemble consists of mostly music educators and we are excited to welcome for their **premiere** ABA performance.
- **Special Guests Marcia Neal and Joe Clark** of the **National Music Council**, will offer powerful insights on advocacy, music education policy, and leadership.
- A **conducting clinic** featuring **Dr. Nick Balla** of **Arkansas State University** and **Dr. Chris Knighten** of the **University of Arkansas**, providing hands-on guidance and expert techniques for band directors at all levels.
- A show-stopping **featured performance by Jubilation Jazz**, performing their crowd-favorite **Live Radio Show**. This entertaining show lets you travel back in time to a live radio show from the big band era and will be their first time to perform at ABA!
- Michael Levine of the **Dallas Brass** and Doug Blevins will present a clinic about **making a difference** in your school and community through small ensemble development.
- Opportunities for **YOU** to perform with the Phi Beta Mu Reading Band, conducted by **Randall Standridge**, as well as the Arkansas Ensembles.
- Also **NEW** to this year's convention, you will have the opportunity to get a **fresh new professional headshot** taken by Chris Moore. Strengthen your own personal brand with this new service.

These are just a few of the things you can expect at ABA. We will have additional clinics by great Arkansas music educators, exhibits, networking opportunities and don't forget the fun door prizes! It's a time to learn, grow, and celebrate the achievements of our band programs while gaining tools and inspiration to take back to your own classrooms.

We hope you will join us in Fort Smith for this special 51st anniversary event. I encourage you to **PRE-REGISTER** to make everything easier when you arrive at ABA. Please remember, all of the clinics and concerts can be counted as official in-service hours.

Have a fantastic summer!

Hope Bruner

President

Arkansas Bandmasters Association

