

2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

HOPE BRUNER

President

Highland Bands
1627 Hwy. 62/412
Highland, Arkansas 72542
Phone. 870-847-5143
hope.bruner@highlandrebels.org

LEIGHNORA (PRISSY) BUCHANAN

Administrative Advisor

8207 Williamsburg

Fort Smith, AR 72903

UA Fort Smith, Retired

Phone 479.459.3119

prissyret@gmail.com

AARON DURHAM

Immediate Past President

Fort Smith Northside High School

jdurham@fortsmithschools.org

JULIA REYNOLDS

Executive Advisor

ASBOA Executive Secretary

Emeritus

julia.reynolds@atu.edu

CARL McCRANEY

Vice President

Lakeside Junior High School

carl_mccraney@lakesidesd.org

JOHN PRATER

Treasurer

Cabot Freshman Academy

john.prater@cabotschools.org

VALERIE LANEY

Secretary

Magnolia High 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)

PAST PRESIDENTS

RALPH BRODY

PEGGY JEFFRIES

MARK POUNDS

JANNA LANE

BRIAN PEARSON

JOE TRUSTY

KAREN DISMUKE

JEFF KEE

BRADY MASSEY

RICK SOWELL

JEFFREY MARLOW

SISSY PIERCE

JAN CUNNINGHAM

CHUCK BOOKER

STAN HALL

JOHN COMBS

DUANE WALKER

RICO BELOTTI

RICKY BROOKS

STEVE WARNER

CATHY WILLIAMS

CINDY BARRINGTON

WESLEY BRANSTINE

TOM O'NEAL

JULIA REYNOLDS

SUSAN ANTONETTI

KEN WILLIAMS (deceased)

CLAUDE SMITH

GEOFF CARLTON

ROBERT HESSE

PATRICIA ELLISON (deceased)

JOHN WEBB

WENDELL EVANSON (deceased)

LEIGHNORA BUCHANAN

TRAVIS BEARD

ED ABBOTT (deceased)

EDDIE EPPERSON (deceased)

ROBIN NIX

ROBERT NELSON (deceased)

RUSSELL LANGSTON

ANDREW TOLBERT

HAL COOPER

JIM BURGETT (deceased)

BILL TUCKER (deceased)

RONALD BRAMMER (deceased)

GARY WELLS

FRANKLIN WASHBURN

ELDON JANZEN (deceased)



Arkansas Bandmasters Association

Greetings, ABA Spouses!

I am excited to announce our activities for ABA 2025! I can't wait to share these experiences with you and hope you look forward to them as much as I am already! Registration opens on Wednesday, July 30, at 11:00 am. The Raymond and Ruth Brandon Kick-Off Concert will be at 7:00 pm featuring a performance by the Jonesboro Community Wind Ensemble.

The keynote address given by Marcia Neal will be Thursday, July 31, at 9:00 am then we have a 10:00 am appointment to tour the Fort Smith National Historic Site. Ranger Jessika is excited to give our group a personal guided tour. There is no charge for this event. It is a walking tour so be sure to bring your water bottles! We will have a dutch-treat lunch in a location TBD before heading back to the hotel. At 3:30pm, Ben Light is giving a clinic called "Resonance and Reflection: A Sound Bath for Well-Being." He's encouraging those participating to bring a yoga mat or a blanket. This sounds like my kind of clinic! Relax, relax, relax...

On Friday, August 1, Faith Serna is doing a craft clinic for us where we will create a Sunflower Wreath/Wall Hanger. You will leave with your own beautiful creation to take home with you. The cost is \$20 per wreath made. If you'd like to work with your child on this to create one together that would be great. Please pre-register for this activity so we have plenty of supplies on hand and so we don't order too many as well.

After another Dutch treat lunch, we are headed to the historic Clayton House. Their website describes it this way: "The Clayton House provides a step back to 1882, the year William Henry Harrison Clayton moved his family into the home that he doubled in size and shaped into an Italianate-style masterpiece. Coal-burning fireplaces and period furnishings in each room place you in a time that featured no indoor plumbing or electricity, but that was rich with austerity. Our guided tour provides a perspective of the mission to bring law and justice to the area from the home of the chief prosecutor of the famous court of Judge Isaac C. Parker." This historic Victorian home will be our host for a traditional "low tea" (pastry and tea) after our tour. The cost of the tour and tea is \$10 per person. You will need to pre-register for this event so the caterers know how many to prepare for.

After BDK pics, wonderful concerts by the Arkansas Instruments and of course the ABA Banquet and door prizes, the evening will conclude with the big band sounds of the Jubilation Jazz Band as they present an authentic 1940s radio show for us. It should be a LOT of fun!

You'll also have time to enjoy the exhibits, shop the downtown area on your own, and just enjoy visiting with all the attendees at the convention. It's shaping up to be another great ABA and I can't wait to see all of you in Fort Smith, Arkansas!

Looking forward to seeing you in Fort Smith!

Greg Bruner

Spouse Committee Chair

