

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

CARL L. MCCRANEY, JR.
President
Lakeside Junior High
2839 Malvern Ave
Hot Springs, AR 71901
Phone: 501-651-9077
carl_mccraney@lakesidesd.org

LEIGHNORA (PRISSY) BUCHANAN
Administrative Advisor
UA Fort Smith, Retired
prissyret@gmail.com

HOPE BRUNER
Immediate Past President
Highland Middle School
hope.bruner@highlandrebels.org

JULIA REYNOLDS
Executive Advisor
ASBOA Executive Secretary
Emeritus
julia.reynolds@atu.edu

JOHN PRATER
Vice President
Cabot Freshman Academy
john.prater@cabotschools.org

VALERIE LANEY
Treasurer
Magnolia High School
valerielaney@me.com

BRICE EVANS
Secretary
Jonesboro High School
brice.evans@jonesboroschools.net

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

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Arkansas Bandmasters Association

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are thrilled to invite you to the 52nd Annual Arkansas Bandmasters Convention in Fort Smith, July 22–25! This year's convention is shaping up to be an unforgettable celebration of music, teaching, and creativity, and we can't wait to spend a few days together with band directors and music educators from all across Arkansas.

Whether you're looking for meaningful professional development or simply the chance to reconnect with friends and colleagues who share your passion for music education, this year's ABA Convention will have something for everyone, from exciting performances to engaging clinics that will leave you energized for the upcoming school year.

We are especially excited about this year's featured events, including a powerful kick-off performance by the Arkansas Highlands Brass Band that is sure to start the convention with energy and excitement. We are also honored to welcome renowned composer and educator Brian Balmages as our keynote speaker. In addition to his keynote address, Brian will present two outstanding clinics packed with practical ideas, musical insight, and encouragement for educators at every level.

For directors interested in sharpening their conducting skills, we are proud to continue the Conducting Symposium led by Dr. Caroline Hand from The University of Oklahoma. This hands-on experience promises to be both educational and inspiring for conductors looking to grow artistically and professionally.

One of the convention highlights will undoubtedly be the featured performance by Metropolitan Winds under the direction of Frank Felice, featuring special guest artist Doreen Ketchens. Known around the world for her electrifying performances and musicianship, Doreen's appearance is certain to be a memorable and uplifting experience for everyone in attendance.

And that's only the beginning! Throughout the week, you will enjoy a wide variety of clinics presented by outstanding Arkansas music educators, covering topics designed to inspire new ideas and support directors at every stage of their careers.

We hope you'll make plans to join us in Fort Smith this July for a convention filled with great music and renewed inspiration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Carl L. McCraney, Jr.,

President

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