

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

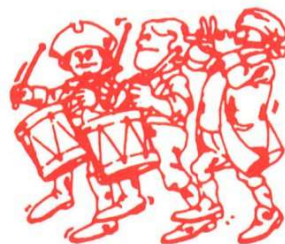
BRICE EVANS
Secretary
Jonesboro High School
brice.evans@jonesboroschools.net

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

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

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

PAST PRESIDENTS
AARON DURHAM
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 (*deceased*)
JIM BURGESS (*deceased*)
BILL TUCKER (*deceased*)
RONALD BRAMMER (*deceased*)
GARY WELLS
FRANKLIN WASHBURN (*deceased*)
ELDON JANZEN (*deceased*)



Arkansas Bandmasters Association

Hello, ABA Spouses!

I am excited to announce our activities for ABA 2026! The registration table will open on Wednesday, July 22, at 11:00 a.m. The Raymond and Ruth Brandon Kick-Off Concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will feature a performance by the Arkansas Highlands Brass Band.

World-renowned composer Brian Balmages will open the conference on Thursday, July 23, at 9:00 a.m. with the keynote address. Following the presentation, we will visit the Fort Smith Museum of History for a guided tour. A visit to the museum offers a fascinating journey through the rich heritage of Fort Smith and the surrounding Arkansas River Valley. Housed in a historic downtown building, the museum features engaging exhibits that bring the region's past to life, from frontier history and transportation to local culture and industry. Lunch will be Dutch treat.

Join us Thursday at 2:00 p.m. for Candles, Cakes, and Coffee. GetCus2mized, a locally owned business in Fort Smith, Arkansas, will provide an engaging candle-making experience designed to inspire creativity and fellowship. Through guided, hands-on workshops, participants will have the opportunity to craft their own custom candles by selecting unique fragrance combinations, colors, and designs. The cost is \$22 per candle, and pre-registration is required to ensure we have adequate supplies for everyone.

On Friday, July 24, the BDK group picture will be taken at 9:15 a.m. At 10:00 a.m., Faith Serna will once again lead us in a fun and engaging craft activity. The cost is \$20, and pre-registration is required so that all necessary supplies can be purchased.

Following the craft activity, we will enjoy lunch together before returning to the hotel to attend the outstanding concerts presented by the Arkansas Instrument Ensembles, ABA Banquet, and of course, more door prizes. The evening will end with an exciting performance by the Metropolitan Winds and New Orleans jazz clarinetist Doreen Ketchens.

You will also have time to explore the exhibits, shop in the downtown area, or simply enjoy visiting with fellow convention attendees.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Fort Smith!

Teresa S. McCraney
Spouse Committee Chair