

October

NEWSLETTER

2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - ELVA KAYE LANCE (DELTA/MS)


**Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Phi Beta Mu:**

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. Hopefully each of you has found time to renew relationships, reflect, realign your priorities, rest, and recharge as we move from the summer into the activities of the Fall and a new school year.

After a difficult year for all of us, it is impossible to convey the excitement that we all have about our potential return to activities and traditions that have routinely been such an important part of our lives. The upcoming Midwest Clinic is a tradition that has been vital to our profession for 75 years. The opportunity to visit with friends and colleagues, hear exciting musical performances, attend clinic sessions, and of course, attend professional meetings is right around the corner. I hope that many of you will be able to gather with us in Chicago for this annual

event and I look forward to seeing you at our business meeting and awards breakfast.

The impact of Covid has been significant on our personal lives as well as our band programs. There is much discussion amongst the leadership in our profession about how we can help our instrumental music programs going forward. Regardless of whether we are active or retired, we can all make a conscientious effort to help identify potential educators for the future of music. We all know students in our communities who are nearing the completion of their high school years. They are faced with the difficult task of trying to determine (guess) what they might like to be doing over the next thirty to forty years. Each of them has many more career opportunities than we had in the past and thanks to technology and all the information that is available, they are aware of the possibilities more than any other generation. While the availability of all this information is exciting, it can also further complicate their decision-making process.

All these high school musicians in our communities have a measure of musical talent. So, how can we as educators help these young people find a career path for which they are well-suited? How can we

encourage them not to overlook music education as a career choice? I propose that we help them gather data by encouraging them to reflect on their suitability for music as a career. Psychologist, Dr. James Dobson, has offered lots of advice over the years on how we might engage young people in discussion concerning their career choice. I have attempted to adapt some of those points to our profession.

**Questions to Guide Students in Reflection**
**1) What do you enjoy?**

I have been very blessed to be able to spend my career working in an area that has been an important component of my life since seventh grade when I began my band experience. I was fortunate to have nurturing teachers along the way who made the experience enjoyable for me, helped me develop the skills to be successful, and gave me just enough responsibility to give me confidence to become more involved.

Being in a field that one enjoys is critical because we spend such a large amount of time working. Earlier in my career I taught in a rural community and found assistance with the band program from within the business community. The per-

“Teaching music is about helping students develop positive life skills, a life-long interest in a subject, and about building something in a community that hopefully will flourish long after we are no longer there.”

**Lance– Continued** cussion instructor was a former All-State band member who was president of the local bank. The guard instructor was also in business in the community. These "volunteers" came weekly (sometimes more) to work with the band students because they were interested in our program and as they said, it provided them a release, or as one put it, an "escape" from the everyday duties of their job. As I observed their work, I began to appreciate the fact that what I loved was what I did daily in my work. I did not have to sandwich it between the obligations of my "real job."

If the student enjoys making music, likes to set short and long-term goals and work towards reaching them, enjoys working with others rather than solo, then music education might be a good choice for this student. Teaching music is about helping students develop positive life skills, a life-long interest in a subject, and about building something in a community that hopefully will flourish long after we are no longer there. It is so much more than pep rallies, parades, concerts, contests, and ratings.

There are few things in life as rewarding as teaching someone to express themselves musically whether at 8 or 80. I propose that we give students more opportunities for leadership in our programs – a "future music educator" experience, if you will.

## 2) Can you develop the skills necessary for job success?

This information must be obtained through careful reflection and self-evaluation of the student's strengths and weaknesses. The student must assess their personality traits and their work ethic. If one can identify the talent, it must then be determined whether one has an interest in committing to further developing the skills to the level necessary for job success.

"While the availability of all this information is exciting, it can also further complicate their decision-making process."

## 3) What is your expectation of earning potential?

Please note that I did not mention "earning enough," as we frequently struggle to earn "enough" to support our chosen lifestyle. I am simply suggesting that our chosen profession allows us to live comfortably.

## 4) Are there opportunities for employment?

There are many interesting jobs, but the positions are not always available. I learned a few years ago from several of my students that, for example, there is very little turnover among those working with animals in a zoo or safari park, as most people in this field have a strong love for their work. Further inquiry has proved that there are often limited positions available in the country's national parks. Major orchestral positions are rarely open as players tend to spend their entire career in their position. Research shows that there are significantly more positions available for music educators than for those in performance.

## 5) Is there an expectation of affirmation and respect?

Everyone wants to feel that the work they do is valued and respected by their constituents. Music educators receive lots of positive feedback and support from, not only their colleagues, but the students, parents, and members of the communities where they serve.

## 6) Is making a difference in the development of others important?

Many people feel that teaching music is a calling rather than a profession. Everyone has a personal philosophy, a mission statement that guides his/her life. We are constantly adjusting and redefining our philosophy. But it may be helpful at this point to determine the importance the student might place on contributing to the development of others.

**As we encourage students to reflect on these various questions, we as educators may find that we will also gain perspective on how our work is satisfying these different areas in our lives.**

Additionally, I suggest that we have students join in the leadership of our program by giving them opportunities to teach individual lessons, lead sectionals, assist with the beginner band start-up lessons, prepare program notes, develop bus lists, lead service projects, and assist with defining the individual performance goals for each grade level, just to name a few possibilities. This shared leadership gives more individual buy-in to the goals of our program, strengthens the threads of our shared community, helps with the workload, and assists students with achieving a level of personal success as we all work toward shared goals. Plus, students learn about the various responsibilities of being a music educator and whether they can envision themselves in this role.

As a result of these activities, it has been my experience that we as educators also begin to think **CONTINUED.....**

**Lance– Continued** differently about our role in our profession. As we move through this reflection process with students, we are encouraged as we begin to look at our work through fresh eyes. Sharing something positive about our experience as a music educator helps to lift our spirits, too. It motivates us to identify the positive things about our work rather than focusing on the problem areas. If, as a result, one student out of each class is encouraged to choose music education as a career, we will have made a positive impact on the future of our profession.

*Retirees don't get a pass! Find future music educators and young teachers to mentor. You have the most to share. All of us need to get involved. Help move us forward!*

See you in Chicago.

*Elva Kaye Lance*



# Midwest Is Back!!

**Our Annual General Assembly and Business Meetings will resume  
at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic**

**Chicago, IL December 15-18, 2021**

International Board meets Wednesday 3 to 6 PM , December 15

Chicago Hilton and Towers

General Assembly 7:30 AM Thursday, December 16

Awards Breakfast 9 AM -\$25.00 (*RESERVATION REQUIRED*) - [dlambert55@comcast.net](mailto:dlambert55@comcast.net)

Chicago Hilton and Towers

[www.midwestclinic.org](http://www.midwestclinic.org)

## **PBM EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROJECT** – June Bearden (Alpha/TX)

The International Board created the project at Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic and this is the ninth series of articles under “Teaching Tips”, “The Profession” and “Repertoire” topics. A big **THANK YOU** to the Alpha chapter members & Texas directors who share their knowledge with us this series! All the articles will remain on the PBM International website as a resource for directors, so please share with others and consult the previous submissions under the EO tab.



### **Best wishes on your fall semester!**

#### **The Profession:**

- **mentoring**
  - [Seeing Around the Corner - How to be an Effective Assistant by Jana Harvey, Flower Mound HS; T.J. Peterman, Cypress Woods HS; Aaron Collins, Hays HS, Texas](#)
- **organizing your band events**
  - [It starts with Culture! Building Program Culture Strong Enough to Overcome a Pandemic by Mike Howard, Vandergift HS, Leander ISD & Corey Graves, Jackson MS, Forney, Texas](#)
- **preparing for adjudication/contests**
  - [Laying the Foundation for Stronger Ensemble Skills by Jeff King, UTA Adjunct Professor of Music](#)
  - [Building Better Brass: Making the Most of the First Year of Instruction for Brass by Russ Teweleit, WTAMU](#)

#### **Teaching tips:**

- **events**
  - [Cross-Curricular Teaching with Music Technology by Shawna Longo, Arts Integration Specialist, STEAM Consultant, Music Educator](#)
  - [From Hollywood Squares to Band Hall Chairs: Meeting Your Students Where They Are! By Robert Herrings, Henry Middle School, Leander, Texas](#)
- **rehearsal ideas**
  - [Developing Efficient Rehearsal Strategies by Kerry Taylor, Westlake HS, Austin, Texas](#)

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## **PBM EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROJECT — *Continued***

- **instructional tools –focusing on Clarinet and Horn**

- ['Net Gains - Growing the Beginning Clarinet Class by Jim Shaw, Tomball, Texas](#)  
- [How to Have a Fabulous Horn Section at All Levels by Richard Lambrecht, Professor of Horn, University of Texas El Paso](#)

### **Repertoire:**

- [Band LITerature, Programming for Young Ensembles by Jim Shaw, Tomball, Texas](#)  
- [Crossing the Threshold from the Components of Playing to Communicating Musically by Scott Rush, Theta Chapter \(South Carolina\)](#)

***Please use these yourself or share with those you mentor!***

*We need your Teaching Ideas and articles for the February Issue.*

Email to: [jbearden66@gmail.com](mailto:jbearden66@gmail.com)

## **Phi Beta Mu International Calendar**

- 10 days after your chapter meeting: Annual Business Report Due to the International Secretary
- April 30: Deadline for Nomination for the Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction Award
- June 1: Application for Irons Award due (uploaded to the Dropbox)
- June 1: Deadline for Chapter Nominations to the Irons Award Evaluation Committee
- June 30: Annual Per Capita Report Due to the International Secretary
- October 31: Nominations Due for International Board Positions
- November 1: Recipients of the Irons Award are notified.
- *Mid-November: Polls open for voting on International Board Positions*
- November 30, midnight PST: Polls close on voting.
- December 1: Election results announced
- December 15, 2021: International Board Meeting at Midwest Clinic
- December 16, 2021: International General Assembly & Awards Breakfast at Midwest Clinic

**Special Thanks to Keith Rudoph for compiling this list.**

## EARL D. IRONS PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION – PAUL WOROSELLO (Alpha/TX)



As we all return to a normal teaching environment over the next few months, applications for the Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction should resume in 2022. Specific details will be forthcoming, following the International Board Meeting in December at the Midwest Clinic. For more information visit:

[Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction.](#)

## OUTSTANDING BANDMASTER AWARD – KEITH RANDOLPH (Gamma/IN)



Thanks to a number of people who have submitted suggestions for a future recipient of this award. Outstanding Bandmaster Chair Keith Rudolph has 8 names to bring forward to the PBM International Board for further consideration. The Board will narrow the field to three or four finalists and make a final selection of the 2022 recipient at Midwest this December. **We look forward to recognizing 2020 recipient Alfred Watkins at the PBM International Awards Breakfast on December 16!**

## COMMISSION PROJECT NEWS– CINDY LANSFORD (Alpha/TX)



Phi Beta Mu continues to have a strong commitment to the creation of new compositions for winds and percussion. With each of these projects, it has been our intent to collaborate with composers in producing new literature that would make a significant contribution to the existing wind band literature and would also be accessible to diverse talented wind bands at various grade levels.

**Our most recent commission, *Rejoice, Dolce, and Dance* by Quincy Hillard was recently published by Carl Fisher. We will keep you updated on the premiere performance of this work.**

We have been reviewing YOUR composer recommendations for consideration for our next commission project which is to be a Grade 3-3.5 composition. **We want to continue to help create great and useful literature for our bands of all levels! We look forward to hearing from you concerning your recommendations.**

## OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR AWARD – JULIA REYNOLDS (Omicron/AR)

**Nominations for the International Phi Beta Mu 2022 Outstanding Contributor to Bands are being considered at this time.** Any PBM member may submit a name with brief bio to Julia Reynolds for consideration. We have the privilege of recognizing John M. Stoner, former CEO/President of Conn-Selmer, as the 2020 Outstanding Contributor to Bands during the PBM Awards Breakfast at the Midwest Clinic this December!



[2021 Election Information! 2021 Election Information! 2021 Election Information!](#)

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# ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER!

- KEITH RUDOLPH (Gamma/Indiana)

**After several projects over the last two decades, Gamma Chapter has information and photos on almost all of our current and prior members!**

It started with a brother's passing – and the realization that you don't know much about his background, achievements, or family. Then you were asked to say a few words about the brother at the chapter meeting and although you do your best, you realize you're speaking in generalities that don't really tell the story. And years later you become aware that the man that you had only known as a friendly and supportive retired director from a nearby community had been president of the state association and directed very fine bands in several different communities during his long career.

Those are the type of moments that led to a strong interest in locating and preserving more information about each of our chapter's members.

The first important step was in preparing a booklet for the chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003 the committee gathered information on each of the charter members. As might be expected, these charter members included men from several generations whose careers ranged from the late 1920's into the 1980's. Their credentials ranged from directing a very fine band to being among the legends in our profession. Fortunately, several members of this committee knew most of the charter members (some of whom had passed years earlier) and were able to provide accurate and interesting information about them.

In 2011-12 a strong push was made to put a photo and either a bio or obituary of each Hall of Fame member on our public website: indianabandmasters.org. Our chapter was founded in 1953 and the Hall of Fame was established in 1976, so by 2011 we had 36 years of recipients to document. It soon became obvious that acquiring photos was the bigger challenge although getting biographical information on a few of the early recipients was also difficult. Fortunately, a visit to the IMEA office archives provided photos of a number of these members since so many of our Hall of Fame recipients had been very active in the state's music associations.

As the chapter became larger it became more difficult for members to know much about each other, so in 2013 a survey of current chapter members gathered information on college(s) attended, degrees earned, and where the member had taught band. This information was not immediately published but added to the chapter archives.

In 2019 the chapter began serious research on early leaders in music education as we tried to recognize the 'pioneers' in our profession. School bands did not become commonplace until the late 1920's and early '30's. The early national contests in that era included strong representation from Indiana bands and although some of the directors of these groups became charter members, others had retired or passed before the chapter was established. Our Indiana Band Pioneers Hall of Fame, also on the IBA website strives to recognize those men and women. As compelling information becomes available, we will add more names to this pioneer group.

Finally in 2020 extensive research was done to try to locate information on ALL prior members as well as current members. A more detailed survey of current members was taken with information including where the member had gone to high school, their high school director, with each given the opportunity to share a favorite memory. In the case of members who had long since passed, another visit to the IMEA archives again yielded valuable photos and information.

**Gamma members have made invaluable contributions to these efforts! Among them (and at risk of forgetting some): Dan Bolin, Don Robertson, John Wilson, Don Hoffman, John Parshall, Charles Conrad, Don Litherland, Ray Laffin, Joe Scagnoli, Bill Knapp, Larry Eifler, Thaine Campbell, Martin Becker, and Keith Rudolph.**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### **Mu Alpha Chapter (ALB) NEWS - Tricia Howe**

**Fall is upon us again, and again we find ourselves and our chapter navigating uncertainty.** It's definitely not all bad! The Brothers and Sisters at Mu Alpha are actively making music with students, and most are playing some form of wind ensemble and jazz and keeping all of the things they learned last year at the ready, whether it was bucket drums, composition, guitar ensemble.... Last year was an exercise in flexibility and finding ways to find the silver lining. Our members got better at tech and incorporating new things. Finding new ways to interact with students, and finding students who worked well in the smaller group setting.

**The research based information on safe playing has been widely accepted in our region,** so with bell covers and spacing (and before the snow flies, outdoor spaces!), the students and community band members in Alberta have started to make music again. Some of the festivals around the province are looking at ways that they can deliver safe, in person events that focus on developing the students and giving them parts of what they missed last year. Many of our Brothers and Sisters took the summer to unplug (literally!) and recharge so that they could take on the challenge of the fall energized and ready to be a source of music and positivity with their students. Most of traditional fall activities, like the provincial music conference and awards are being moved to April with the intent of being able to gather in larger groups safely. That means we'll be able to announce our chapter acknowledgements in the spring.

Our chapter embraces a number of local music industry folks, as well as our bandleaders, educators, and supporting organizations like the Alberta Band Association. We have a wonderful community of strong supporters for school, university, and community based organizations through our local retailers and their connections to national and international suppliers and organizations. **Our secretary, Sister Tricia Howe was recently awarded a scholarship to the NAMM Foundation's Smart Women In Music (SWIM) Leadership Summit at NAMM headquarters in Carlsbad, CA.** She looks forward to sharing that learning within the chapter and the greater community.

All in all, we look forward to being able to make music together in person again, even though it's different. **We hope to be able to bring back some of what was great, incorporate some of the new things that were great discoveries, and forge a new path forward with our students, our colleagues, and our bandmates!**

### **Alpha Chapter (TX) NEWS - Scott Coulson**

**The Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu held the 2020 and 2021 Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame ceremonies** on Saturday, July 24 in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. This was held in conjunction with the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention.

#### **The inductees for the Class of 2020 were:**

Fred J Allen, Randy Bartlett, Frank Coachman, Dennis W. Fisher, Jim Koch, Cindy Lansford, Dois Pace, Sharon Prince and Paul Worosello

#### **The inductees for the Class of 2021 were:**

Robert Caston, Mike Cudd, Roger Edwards, Phil Geiger, Brian Merrill, Sherry Miller, Steve Musser, Tom SoRelle, Travis Smith, and Ray Toler

We recognize the contributions of music educators who have made a difference in the bands of Texas. I invite you to visit the Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter web site at [www.pbmalpha.org](http://www.pbmalpha.org) to view the biographies of past inductees —

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## CHAPTER NEWS

**ALPHA, CONTINUED** **this is a wealth of band history in Texas.** These eminent men and women made our band programs today possible. You will be inspired by their commitment to excellence and their perseverance in overcoming obstacles.

**Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter sponsored two virtual clinics during the TBA Convention:** (1) “Building a Band Hall Culture Strong Enough to Overcome a Pandemic”- Corey Graves, Jackson MS and Mike Howard, Vandegrift HS presenting. And (2) “A view from both sides of the fence! High School and Middle School Directors working together to get kids to the next step, High School Band”- Jarrett Lipman, Claudia Taylor Johnson HS; Bernard Rosenberg, Frank Tejada MS; and Kim Risenberg, David Lee, "Tex" Hill MS presenting.

**Alpha Chapter continues to offer the Band Director’s Support Network.** The BDSN is to assist band directors throughout the State/Nation by providing consultant services, professional development workshops and peer mentoring. There is no charge for any of the services listed below:

1. Consultant/Clinician Services - Each member participating in the network will volunteer up to two free clinic/sessions each school year.
2. Class Coverage - PBM members will volunteer to cover classes for either a half or full day (at the discretion of the PBM member) so a director may observe other band directors in the area where they live.
3. Mentoring - PBM members will volunteer to mentor a director and provide ongoing support and guidance to this director through email or phone.

### Nu (PA) NEWS - Bill Powers

**Robert F. Zellner, 88**, of Palmyra, formerly of Gettysburg, East Stroudsburg, and Nazareth, PA, passed on to his heavenly home on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at Palmyra’s Londonderry Village, ending his battle with Parkinson’s disease.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 66 years, Arlene Heckman Zellner, and two children: Kathy, of Eldersburg, MD, wife of John Saxton; and Gary, of Palmyra, PA, husband of Carol. He had three grandchildren: Ryan Zellner, John Saxton, husband of Rebekka, and Matthew Saxton; and two great grandchildren: Evelyn Zellner and Jarrett Saxton. He is also survived by his sister, Sandra, of Nazareth, PA, wife of Dallas Yeakel, and many nieces and nephews.



A native of Nazareth, Robert was the son of the late Wilson and Pauline Zellner. He graduated from Nazareth High School in 1950, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from West Chester University in 1954 and a Master of Arts degree from Lehigh University in 1960. Further study was completed at Trenton State College and the University of Maryland. From 1954-56, Zellner served in the 101st Airborne Division Band and the 282nd Army Band, both stationed in Fort Jackson, SC. After his discharge, he spent 12 years as the Director of Bands for the East Stroudsburg Area School District. He then joined the **music faculty at Gettysburg College, where he served as Director of Bands and Music Department Chair. He retired in 1998, after 30 years** of service at the college.

Over the course of his career, he was invited to serve as a clinician, guest conductor, or adjudicator for over 400 band festivals throughout the eastern United States. Highlights included conducting the 1978 and 1989 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Bands and conducting a touring concert band through Europe. **In 1981, Zellner co-founded the Pennsylvania Lions All-State Band** and for 12 years served as organizer and **CONTINUED...**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Nu Chapter Continued

director of the band for international conventions held throughout the world. Zellner also brought music into the community by organizing many community bands in Gettysburg and by conducting the Harrisburg Concert Band for 12 years. In addition to conducting, Zellner also enjoyed performing in various instrumental ensembles, especially Big Bands.

Zellner was recognized for his achievements through many awards including: the Order of the Silver Horn for his accomplishments in the field of school music, the National Federation of Music Club's Special Award of Merit, the **Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster Award**, and the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence Award. He was selected to be a member of the East Stroudsburg Area School District Hall of Fame (2002), the Nazareth Area School District Wall of Fame (2006), and PMEA Hall of Fame (2010). As a member of the Gettysburg Lions Club, he received the Gettysburg Outstanding Lion Award. He was presented the International President's Award, the Lions' International Ambassador of Good Will Award, and the Dedicated Humanitarian Services Award for his work with the Pennsylvania Lions All-State Band.

Active in a number of professional organizations, Zellner served as President of the Northeast District and Chairman of Region 2 of PMEA. **He also served 4 years as President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Phi Beta Mu**, a national bandmasters' fraternity, and 2 years as a Representative on the Board of the National Band Association. In addition, Zellner held memberships in the College Band Directors National Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, and the American Federation of Musicians.

**Robert was devoted to his family and was a loving son, husband, father, grandfather and brother.** In retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife and spending winters in Florida. He never passed up an opportunity to listen to or participate in a concert, and always made time to interact with his grandchildren. Robert was a member of Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, PA .

**He never passed up an opportunity to listen to or participate in a concert, and always made time to interact with his grandchildren.**

### **Please Join Us At Our Annual Awards Breakfast As We Honor Our Outstanding Bandmaster and Outstanding Contributor!**



**Outstanding Bandmaster**

**Alfred Watkins**



**Outstanding Contributor**

**John Stoner**

**Thursday, December 16 - 9AM Hilton and Towers**  
**\$25.00—Reservations Required: [dlambert55@comcast.net](mailto:dlambert55@comcast.net)**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### **Omicron Chapter (AR) NEWS - Greg Bruner**

The Omicron Chapter (Arkansas) held one of its biannual meetings in conjunction with the Arkansas Bandmasters Association Convention in late July...IN PERSON! **During the convention, six outstanding Arkansas band directors were recognized with special awards.** Each year, the Omicron PBM Chapter honors an Outstanding Young Band Director and an Outstanding Contributor to Bands. Not an annual award, the Jon Barbarotto Lifetime Service Award is presented when an individual is identified as someone who meets the criteria for the honor.

The Outstanding Young Director Award is presented to a director who has taught seven years or less, has excellent work ethic, personal integrity, and a record of outstanding bands. **The 2021 award was presented to the high school band director at Greene County Tech (GCT) in Paragould, Arkansas, Mrs. Kim Webb.** Just completing her sixth year of teaching, she coordinates an exceptional program at GCT while balancing her band life and her family life with her husband and two young daughters. We are proud to award this honor to her.

The Raymond and Ruth Brandon Arkansas Outstanding Contributor to Bands Award was actually presented twice this year due to Covid's interference with last year's recognition. **The 2020 award was given to Mr. Eldon Janzen** (past PBM International President) for his lifetime of gracious service in Arkansas. Not only has he been a driving force in Arkansas with his gifts and talents, he has been an impact nationally and internationally to so many young people and to numerous of us...*not so young people.*

The 2021 **Brandon Outstanding Contributor to Bands Award was presented to chapter member Mr. John Caldwell** who has been the director of the "Play it Again Arkansas" program for many years. The program receives musical instrument and monetary donations to provide instruments to Arkansas schools for students who are unable to purchase one of their own. They are donated to the inventory of band programs that have demonstrated a real need for use by their current and future students. Another aspect of Mr. Caldwell's contributions are his many years of work to compile a history of Arkansas bands. He has spent countless hours collecting historical recordings of bands and director interviews to assemble a record of Arkansas band history. Yearly, he shares interview presentations at both our annual state music convention and at our annual bandmasters convention.

The Jon Barbarotto Lifetime Service Award is bestowed upon an individual who has not only had an impact in the band directing world but also to their community through service. Recognized as one who selflessly serves others, chapter member **Ethel "Sissy" Pierce was presented the Jon Barbarotto Lifetime Service Award.** Sissy had a HUGE impact in her small community by producing an outstanding band as well as through her service to her entire school, her church, and many other organizations in her area. A major contributing factor in Sissy's selection was that she always made sure that all of her students had everything they needed for day-to-day life, right down to the shoes on their feet. She is a wonderful human being and so deserving of this award.

In addition to these recognitions by Omicron PBM, each year the Arkansas Bandmasters Association chooses a director from the state to be honored as the **Arkansas Bandmaster of the Year.** **The 2020 award was presented to chapter member Mr. Dewayne Dove.** A past president of the Omicron chapter, Mr. Dove just completed his 32nd year of teaching and is currently the high school director in Russellville, Arkansas. Additionally, **Ms. Peggy Jeffries was chosen as the 2021 recipient.** Also a past president of the Omicron chapter, Ms. Jeffries just wrapped up year number 29 of teaching and is the high school director at Nettleton Schools in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Both of these directors have had enormous success in their years of teaching by being great motivators of young minds.

**The chapter also continues to be benevolent to our state by donating annually to several music scholarships and by sponsoring a clinic at our bandmasters convention each year!**

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- [A great musical tribute to Rho \(Alabama\) member James E. Champion, retired band director from Florence City Schools!](#)
- [Alpha \(Texas\) member Jeff Whitaker is celebrating new uniforms for the Permian band that combine tradition and new technology.](#)
- [Kappa Theta \(Minnesota\) member Leon Sieve has the Rosemount Band back with a successful competition season.](#)
- [Delta \(Mississippi\) member and International President Elva Kaye Lance is featured on a recent podcast.](#)
- [Lambda Chapter member Denis Swope and the Hickman High School Band will be the "fill in" group for the Marching Mizzou at a big game!](#)
- [Rho member Ken Ozello, and the University of Alabama Band are at "full force" this Fall!](#)
- [Mississippi State University Band Hall was officially named for late Delta Chapter member Dr. Kent Sills.](#)
- [Lambda \(Missouri\) Chapter member Sarah Sacco and the Ava High School Band are back "rocking the house" in Ava, MO!](#)
- [Lambda \(Missouri\) chapter member Denis Swope recently led the Columbia Concert Band in a celebration of 40 years to the community!](#)
- [Mu Alpha \(Alberta\) member Bill Wahl has served his community as the "Music Man of Medicine Hat" for over 50 years, but is taking a step back after this season.](#)
- [Omega \(Florida\) member Shelby Chipman recently led FAMU Marching 100 in a historic performance!](#)
- [Gamma \(Indiana\) member Jay Gephart has the All-American Band of Purdue University moving "Full Steam Ahead"!](#)
- [Lambda Alpha \(Connecticut\) member David Mills has the UConn Marching Band taking the field for the first time since November of 2019.](#)
- [In Cape Girardeau, Lambda \(Missouri\) member Jim Daughters will be taking the field with the largest Southeast Missouri State marching band ever!](#)
- [Alpha Gamma \(North Dakota\) member Sigurd Johnson is bringing the NDSU Gold Star Band back to the Fargodome!](#)
- [Rho \(Alabama\) member Corey Spurling and the Auburn Marching Band are back with a full band on the Plains!](#)
- [Beta \(Oklahoma\) member Jeremy Parker is preparing his Bixby Band in scorching conditions, but they are energized for the season!](#)
- [Theta \(South Carolina\) member Jay Jacobs has the Carolina Band putting on its "game face"!](#)
- [In the midst of a pandemic, Omega \(Florida\) member Jay Watkins has put together the largest edition of the University of Florida Gator Band!](#)
- [Lambda \(Missouri\) member Ron Sikes shares some great thoughts in a recent podcast on why young teachers should not be dismissive of teaching in rural situations.](#)

## EVEN *MORE* MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- [Omicron \(Arkansas\) member Daniel Belongia and the Arkansas Tech "Band of Distinction" are excited to be back in the stadium and on the street!](#)
- [Rho \(Alabama\) member Randall Coleman is building steam in Chattooga with a re-energized version of the Marching Mocs!](#)
- [Alpha \(Texas\) Chapter member Horacio Gomez has the Silver Knights of Hanks High School in El Paso returning to games playing loud and proud!](#)
- [Barry L. Houser of Xi Chapter \(Illinois\) had the Marching Illini stocked with a few surprises for the opening game.](#)
- [Despite a pandemic, Chris Cooper of Rho Chapter \(Alabama\) and the Homewood Patriot Band are still showing extremely healthy participation numbers.](#)
- [Psi Chapter \(Kentucky\) member Beth Stribling makes sure that her beginners \(and their parents\) know they are becoming part of something very special in Murray, KY at a unique "Kickoff Night".](#)
- [Iota \(Kansas\) Chapter member Frank Tracz has created a culture at Kansas State where the football team reciprocates that Wildcat Spirit!](#)
- [Rho Chapter \(Alabama\) member David Raney has his Sparkman High School Band of Huntsville going full speed with a Fall season of two marching band shows and three performing concert bands.](#)
- [Tim Meinholz of Pi Chapter \(Wisconsin\) is "drumming up the excitement" for events this Fall in Columbus!](#)
- [David Allinder of Rho Chapter \(Alabama\) has reunited his band family and has them ready to rock the stands.](#)
- [Delta \(Mississippi\) member Ben Burge has the Maroon Typhoon of Jones County CC ready to unleash a storm of music and motion.](#)
- [Alpha Theta \(Nebraska\) member Brian Alber has the University of Nebraska-Kearney "Pride of the Plains" recharged and ready to go.](#)
- [Delta \(Mississippi\) Chapter member Shawn Sullivan is keeping his Starkville High Band members healthy, safe, and focused on performing for the crowds this Fall.](#)
- [Theta \(South Carolina\) member Tom Finigan is building strong student leadership in the Colleton County "Band of Blue".](#)
- [Alpha \(Texas\) member Bruce Beach receives special recognition by U.S. Congresswoman.](#)
- [Alpha Theta \(Nebraska\) members Anthony Falcone and Doug Bush have that Cornhusker Marching Band fired up and ready to rouse up the crowd!](#)
- [Sigma \(South Dakota\) member Joe Pekas retires from leading Mitchell Municipal band AFTER 55 YEARS! \(He may rejoin trumpet section!\)](#)

**Deadline for February Issue is January 15!**

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