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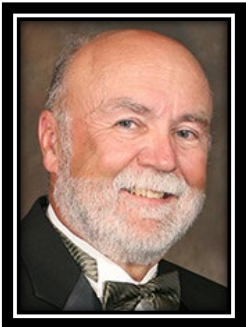
INTERNATIONAL BANDMASTERS FRATERNITY

ΦΒΜ



Life - Love - Music

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the end of each academic year, we all have time-honored rituals, opportunities for reflection, and, for most of us, preparations for a fresh start in the next school year! With banquets, graduations, and countless other events, we recognize the achievements of the students and colleagues who have contributed to our successes. Through all of these events, we are reminded that our group achievements are the result of the efforts of many individuals. Furthermore, as with our bands, it is also true of our Fraternity.

We want to take this opportunity to thank each of YOU. As a Phi Beta Mu (PBM) member, you demonstrate our ideals in your daily efforts to advance the cause of bands and bandsmen as you share your love of music with your students and colleagues. You further our reach every time you mentor a young director by sharing your knowledge or offering a lending ear to their concerns. Your efforts make a difference in the lives of so many people!

Many of you have taken on leadership roles in your chapter. You are the glue that keeps our organization together! Without chapter leadership, there would be no chapters and no need for an international office. We are so pleased that chapters are finding many ways to recognize achievements, support and enhance music education, and provide opportunities for fellowship among your members. Whether the commitment you make is large or small, it is vital to the vibrancy of your chapter.

To those serving on the PBM International Board and our various committees, it is an honor to be your president and know how you enhance our organization! Each of you plays a crucial role in providing services to our members and extending our outreach as we strive to provide support and resources for our many members and chapters.

To all, I encourage you to:

- Help your secretary by keeping your contact information updated and by responding quickly to correspondence.
- Take a few minutes to explore our [website](http://phibetamu.org) (phibetamu.org) and resources.
- Join our private Facebook group, [Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity](#), and share the successes of your bands along with news about your fellow members and their bands.
- Nominate a worthy band director for membership. You became a member because someone was your advocate. Pass it on!
- Continue to share your concerns and suggestions with us!

Very best wishes for a relaxing break!

All hail Phi Beta Mu!

Keith Rudolph

Active members passionate about Phi Beta Mu are encouraged to consider running for the International Board of Directors. Each year, two board positions are up for election. **Nominations are open from June 1 to September 30.**

Terms of Office and Requirements

- All elected officers serve three-year terms. Board members are limited to two consecutive terms.
- Board orientation will occur during meetings on December 18–19, 2024, at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois, with service running from 2025–2027. Any individual who allows their name to stand for election must be able to attend all meetings of the International Board of Directors at the 2024 Midwest Clinic. The Board and General Assembly meetings are scheduled on Wednesday afternoon (December 18) and Thursday morning (December 19).
- Each board member will be responsible for a leadership role in our projects and outreach.
- Elected members who attend the meetings during Midwest receive a \$600.00 honorarium.



Guidelines

- Each chapter may submit two nominations for the International Board of Directors.
- No election can result in more than two members from a single chapter sitting simultaneously on the International Board of Directors. The President, Vice President, and Executive Secretary are exempt from this stipulation.

Nomination Process

- Nominations should originate at each chapter's annual business meeting or by online ballot and must have the endorsement of the Chapter President or Secretary. Chapter Secretaries can access Forms and Documents on the Phi Beta Mu website.
- A brief biography and high-resolution JPEG photo must accompany all nominations.

Timelines

- Nominations are open June 1 and must be received by September 30, 2024.
- Nominations will be vetted and placed on the website by October 10, 2024.
- Voting begins November 1, 2024.
- Polls close at midnight (12:00 a.m.) PST on November 30, 2024.
- Election results will be announced on December 1, 2024.

2024 COMMISSION PROJECT

Submitted by Cindy Lansford

The 2024 PBMI Commission will be performed at the 2024 Midwest Clinic by the Wiley Middle School Band (Leander ISD), under the director of Taylor Williamson, Alpha Chapter (Texas) 2024 Young Bandmaster of the Year. We are excited that this outstanding ensemble is premiering the piece and know the performance will be memorable! Mr. Adrian B. Sims has been contracted to compose a piece at the 2–3.5 difficulty level for the commission. We hope many ensembles will perform this piece in the future and that it may even make its way onto some state music lists!

The International Chapter will contribute \$1,000 to the project, and although there is no limit, state chapters may wish to contribute the usual amount of \$200. Individual contributions and commemorations of \$100 may also be made and designated to honor a loved one or to acknowledge a job well done! Contributions are being accepted through September 1, 2024, and will be acknowledged in the score and program notes. Please contact Executive Secretary June Bearden for the contribution form. Thank you in advance for your support in providing new, quality music for young musicians to perform!

Ray Laffin (1931–2024)

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Brother Ray Laffin. Ray was an outstanding band director and was very active as secretary of what was then the Indiana Music Festivals Association that ran the All-State Solo Contests and the early All-State Marching Contests. A member of Phi Beta Mu since 1969, he served as president and later secretary/treasurer for Gamma (Indiana) Chapter for nine years before moving to Sun City West, Arizona, in 2012. Once in Arizona, he became involved in performing and conducting several local community bands but was disappointed not to find an active Phi Beta Mu chapter.

After several years of reaching out to his acquaintances in community bands, contact was made in 2016 with George Hattendorf, a former Indiana and Illinois band director and Xi (Illinois) Chapter member teaching in Phoenix. As is often the case, things move quickly once the right people are involved. George Hattendorf and Dennis Smith were the catalysts that led to the installation/reinstatement of the Kappa Zeta Chapter in February 2017. Ray's Hall of Fame biography is available on the [Indiana Bandmasters website](#).



(l to r) Keith Bearden (International President, 2016-2018), Ray Laffin, and Keith Rudolph (Installing Officer)

Nancy Ditmer (1950–2024)

We are sorry to share the passing of Mu Chapter (Ohio) Past President Nancy Ditmer. Her obituary is available on the [McIntire, Bradham, and Sleek Funeral Home website](#).



Naney Elaine Ditmer

PBM CHAPTER NEWS



Mu Alpha

Alberta, Canada

Submitted by Bro. Brian Thorlacius

In 2024, Mu Alpha awarded two scholarships to Alberta music students to attend the National Youth Band, which meets in Ontario later in the year for rehearsals and concerts. Students share musical experiences with talented peers from across the Dominion. The band is an auditioned group that works with highly respected and qualified guest conductors.

We also continue to support "Girls in Jazz" through a financial contribution. This program was created to help increase the number of female jazz musicians in high school and beyond to the professional ranks. The program is a two-day event that includes professional development regarding all aspects of jazz education. The second day is a big-band playing experience with rehearsals and concerts. The staff, performers, and guest artists are exclusively female. This project was initiated in 2023 by the Alberta Chapter of Women Band Directors International. It continues to grow through the support of jazz professionals like Jens Lindeman, Phi Beta Mu, and various local sponsors. Mu Alpha will continue to support this program, commissions, and other special projects as funds allow.

Mu Alpha Chapter will gather for fellowship and camaraderie in Central Alberta on June 8, 2024, for our Spring Social. We are also excited to announce that the Conn Selmer Institute will present sessions for young educators in Alberta during the spring of 2025. These sessions are the result of an initiative by Bro. Chris Herard, member of Mu Alpha executive.

Rho

Alabama

Submitted by Dr. Clifford M. "Ski" Winter

Rho Chapter had its business meeting on April 26, 2024. This date was changed this year as the Alabama Music Educators Association meeting was canceled in January due to an ice and snow storm in north Alabama. The April meeting was held in conjunction with the Alabama Bandmasters Association (ABA) All-State Band convention. Rho Chapter sponsored the directors of the All-State Bands at our lunch meeting.



High School

- Dr. Richard Floyd, Red Band
- Dr. Sue Samuels, White Band
- Carol Brittin Chambers, Blue Band

Middle School

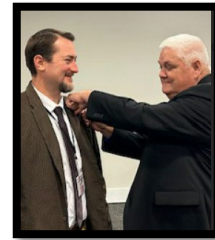
- Cheryl Floyd, Red Band
- Mickey Smith, Jr., White Band

Eight new members were welcomed into the chapter. Each of the sponsors pinned the new member.

- Travis Bender—Joe Terry, sponsor
- Jamar Dumas—Steve McLendon, sponsor
- Josh Lynch—Harry McAfee, sponsor
- Brandon Peters—Mark Foster, sponsor
- Will Petersen—Lori Hart, sponsor
- Daniel Seay—Terry Ownby, sponsor
- Jeremy Stovall—Chris Lindley, sponsor
- Stuart Tankesley—Jerry Potter, sponsor



Travis Bender and Joe Terry



Jamar Dumas and Steve McLendon



Josh Lynch and Harry McAfee



Mark Foster and Brandon Peters



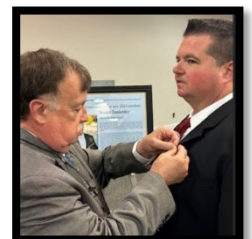
Will Petersen and Lori Hart



Mark Foster and Brandon Peters



Chris Lindley and Jeremy Stovall



Jerry Potter and Stuart Tankesley

Two directors were honored by the Rho Chapter for their exceptional work and received plaques handmade by the Rho Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Ski Winter.



Outstanding Young Band Director, Jessica Hood



Outstanding Bandmaster, Lori Hart

- Lori Hart, Phi Beta Mu member and new ABA President, received the 2023 Outstanding Director Award.
- Jessica Hood, middle school director, received the Outstanding Young Band Director Award.

To help fund the ongoing commission project, a 50/50 drawing is held at the Rho chapter meetings. Sallie Vines White drew the winning ticket—Chris Lindley. He received \$347, which is half of the money collected. He generously donated the winnings to the commission project.

Rho, continued

The business meeting was called to order by President Rusty Courson. Dr. Winters presented the minutes and financial report; the membership approved both. Dr. Winter noted, “Rho Chapter is in solid financial status with a balance of around \$22,000. The commission project will now have over \$2,000.”

The Scholarship Committee chair and past Secretary/Treasurer, Glenn Spiller, announced that Hope Jacobs was selected as the scholarship winner. Hope is a flute student at Meek High School and the first chair of the All-State High School Red Band. She will receive \$500, which she can apply to her tuition at the University of North Alabama.

Rho Chapter typically sends one young band director to the Conn Selmer Institute. This year, member donations allowed the chapter to send four directors to the Institute and pay their tuition and boarding fees (\$300 each).

The chair of the Benevolent Committee, Jim Knight, announced that the band community had lost seven directors:

- Rho Chapter members—Robert W. Smith, Jerry Countryman, Pat Bacon, and David Brewer
- Friends of Rho Chapter—Stacey Goss, Sandra Hill, and Darry Pilkington.



(l to r) Hope Jacobs—
Lamar Triplett Scholarship
winner and Lori Hart



(l to r) Rusty Courson—Chapter President,
Dr. Larry Blocher—Composer, and
Jim Knight—Commission Committee Chair

The Chapter commissioned Dr. Larry Blocher to write a work that would honor the life of Robert W. Smith. Dr. Blocher wrote, with Sue Smith’s permission, “There is a Season.” He donated the commission fee back to the Rho Chapter and collected only the \$500 fee for the publisher. The Chapter is looking forward to commissioning a second work.

Ms. Kim Bain heads the committee on enhancing young band directors. The current project seeks to provide young directors with music education resources in their area by pairing them with successful, well-established directors.

Dr. Phil Min and his committee completed the guidebook for young band directors. The book is already being distributed, not only to Alabama but to other states that have adopted the guidebook for their young directors as well.

Due to David Raney and his committee, the new Rho Chapter website (www.pbmrho.org) is up and running. It is still a shell but contains all of the Hall of Fame photos, bios, and videos from The Legacy Project on the AMEA website. Frank Buck shared, “Here is an update on where we are with my parts of the website: State Contest/PMA programs starting in 1947 are posted as PDFs. Each year also contains a brief narrative. As people look at the programs, they can also learn about changes in ABA over the years. Bios and photos of Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame members are posted.”

The Nominating Committee recommended Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Ski Winter for a third term. He was re-elected and will serve from 2024–2026. Vice-President/President-Elect John Cooper was elected as Vice-President and President-Elect for the 2024–2028 terms.

Rho, continued

The following recognitions were announced at the end of the meeting.

- Congratulations to Carlton Wright and the Alabama A&M Marching Maroon and White, who led the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, including a special pre-parade performance featuring the AAMU Dancing Divas with Jon Batiste.
- Congratulations to Theo Vernon for the selection of the Grisson High School Band as one of the eight high school bands selected to perform at the Southeastern Regional Concert Band Clinic at Georgia State University.
- Congratulations to John Hillsman for being named Teacher of the Year at Beauregard High School and Secondary Teacher of the Year for the Lee County School District.
- Congratulations to DOCTOR Gene Butler for successfully defending his dissertation and for the selection of the flute ensemble at Smiths Station High School for a lobby performance at AMEA this year. This year marks the third consecutive year that SSSH has had a group performing at AMEA (2022—Low Brass Ensemble, 2023—SSHS Symphonic Band, and 2023—Flute Ensemble).
- Congratulations to Jon Bubbett and Jerrell Horton for their clinic session at AMEA (along with Heather Henson and Michael Chambliss) titled "Getting to the Art of It!" Programming for Concert Band with Intentionality.
- Congratulations to Jerrell Horton and the Vestavia Hills High School Band for their performance in Rome, Italy.
- Congratulations to Missy Lindley and the Albertville High School Band on their THIRD appearance in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. Missy was also recognized at their Bandfest Presentation in Pasadena, as she is retiring at the end of the year!
- Congratulations to Lori Hart for directing the Elmore County High School Honor Band.
- Congratulations to John Hillsman, Regina Raney, Harry McAfee, Heather Palmer, and Gena Inglis Nix for their AMEA Clinic session, Teaching the Band You Have to Develop the Program You Want." If you didn't notice, this is the Projects Committee of the Rho Chapter of Phi Beta Mu! This clinic will also be presented at Midwest in Chicago in December!
- Congratulations to Rusty Logan for performing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade along with 408 other band directors as part of The Band Directors Marching Band.
- Congratulations to Keith Anderson and Becky Warren for serving as presenters for the FAME (Future Alabama Music Educators) 2024 Session at AMEA.
- Congratulations to Carlton Wright and Regina Raney for directing the Inaugural Lee County Honor Band.
- Congratulations to Gene Inglis for directing the Escambia County Honor Band.
- Congratulations to Gene Inglis and Gena Inglis Nix for directing the DeKalb County High School and Middle School Bands, respectively.
- Congratulations to Kim Bain for presenting "Teaching Saxophone From Day One" at Midwest and conducting the Baldwin County Middle School Honor Band, the Shoals Area Middle School Honor Band, and the North Carolina Western Region Middle School Honor Band.
- Congratulations to Sallie Vines White for her performance at Midwest with the Hoover First Edition Jazz Band and for directing the North Carolina Middle School All-State Jazz Band.



Projects Committee
John Hillsman, Regina Raney, Harry McAfee,
Heather Palmer, and Gena Inglis Nix

Rho, continued

The following directors were nominated from the floor by the membership.

- Jeff Calvert—Greg Gumina, sponsor
- Clint Gillespie— Blair Callaway, sponsor
- Alex Johnson—nominated by James Smith (renomination)
- Nathan Haske—Donald Dowdy, sponsor (renomination)
- Deanna Marshall—Rusty Logan, sponsor (renomination)
- Ben Posey—Chuck Eady, sponsor
- Leah Seng—Kim Bain, sponsor
- Jacob Souder—Lloyd Jones, sponsor
- Meredith Petersen—Chester Bean, sponsor

The meeting concluded with closing comments from the new Rho Chapter President, Kim Bain.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Submitted by June Bearden

Summer Greetings from the International Office! **Thank you to our chapter secretaries and officers** for working behind the scenes for their memberships and local band programs! We appreciate everyone aiming to meet deadlines and adjusting to new procedures. We continue striving to make things accessible and simple to complete. Here are a few business items.

- From June 1 through September 30, **nominations will be open for two positions on the International Board.** Nominations should originate at each chapter's annual business meeting or by online ballot and must have the endorsement of the Chapter President or Secretary. For nomination information, Chapter secretaries can access [Forms and Documents on the website](#)
- **2024 Commissions Project Donations** are sent to the International Office, June Bearden, Executive Secretary. Complete the [online form](#) and submit payments via check or digital formats.
- **Attendee registration for the Midwest Clinic Music Conference** will open on August 1, 2024. Our hope is to have every chapter represented at our breakfast and business meeting. We hope to see many of our leaders in attendance they year!
- Updated Administrative documents are posted online! Check out the updated admin handbooks.

Remember, this year's main administrative goal is to **update ALL chapter member rosters online.** We need every member and chapter to update their profiles. Thank you for helping update our fraternity roster!

