

# THE FLORIDA BANDMASTER

(Bulletin of the Florida Bandmasters Association, Inc.)

90th Year, No. 3

Pembroke Pines, Florida

February 4, 2026

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*The **2026 FBA SUMMER CONFERENCE** - The Summer Professional Development Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando Theme Park Resort, **July 7-10, 2026**, and will have as our Keynote: Wycliffe Gordon. Many great clinics are planned and will also feature a Masterworks session with Dr. Bentley Shellahamer (bring your instrument). More information is posted on the web site, and it's certainly going to be great, **AGAIN!** Bring the family, enjoy the clinics and great fellowship, and get inspired for next school year! We will again have the Southern Winds with Doug Phillips, the always highly anticipated Barbecue, along with a concert by the highly successful Seven Star Honor Band to be conducted by Hannah Jennings, Director at Lake Nona MS, and the Nine Star Honor Band to be conducted by Retired Director & FBA Life Member, Jose Lopez. The All-Star Community Band is back with Jon Eckman, Director at Bartow HS. In addition, look for information about the FBA Jazz Institute.*

## ATTENTION SENIOR HIGH DIRECTORS

### 2026 STATE S&E, JAZZ BAND & AUX. MPA DATES

State S&E North: March 16-17, 2026: Matanzas High School (Palm Coast)

State S&E Central: March 18-19, 2026: Seminole High School (Sanford)

State S&E South: March 20-21, 2026: Wellington High School (Wellington)

State Auxiliary (Collier Co. Only): March 24, 2026: Palmetto Ridge High School (Naples)

State S&E Northwest: March 28, 2026: Florida State University School (Tallahassee)

Virtual Platform: March 23-April 11, 2026 (Full details on FBA website under MPA/State S&E)

### 2026 STATE BAND DATES

State Band North: April 21-23, 2026: Univ. of North Florida, Jacksonville

State Band Northwest: April 29-30, 2026: Florida State Univ., Tallahassee

State Band Central: April 30-May 2, 2026: Venice High School, Venice

State Band South: April 30-May 2, 2026: Broward College, Davie (Broward County)

Check the FBA Web Site under MPA/State Solo & Ensemble or State Band for further information. Please adhere to the assigned site as shown on the FBA website. Refer to the FBA Handbook, page 13, #7.b. if you find it necessary to attend a site outside your assigned Region. The Entry Instructions and Information is posted on the FBA website under "MPA" - "State Solo & Ensemble" or "State Band".

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

*Look for the State Bulletin which will be posted early February on the FBA website.*

*Be sure to READ the State S&E Instructions posted on the FBA website.*

# GENERAL MEETING of the FLORIDA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

## Tampa Convention Center - Tampa - January 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by President **Jeff Cayer**. Big THANK YOUS go out to everyone who helped with setting up the conference, and especially a big “thank you” to the All State Band Committee, Hannah Jennings, & Jeremy Williamson Co-Chairs, and Kristy Dell, Percussion Coordinator. Kudos to Nick Eggen for his work in the roll as FBA Conference Manager for the FMEA Conference. After the introduction of the FBA Officers, the attendees were asked to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of FBA members who have passed away during 2025.

Louis St.-Laurent - March 29, 2025  
Michael Jo Miller - August 11, 2025  
Richard W. Beckford - December 24, 2025

Joseph Kreines - July 31, 2025  
John R. DeYoung - October 7, 2025

Attendance was recorded electronically and by sign-ins. registered their attendance.

Minutes of the July 2025 Board and General Business meeting stands approved as posted on the FBA website.  
Minutes of the December 2025 Executive Board stands approved as posted on the FBA website.

### **TREASURERS REPORT** - As of Jan. 1, 2026 (figures in () indicates report at the December 2025 Board Meeting)

FBA Operating Account (\$153,238.64)	\$126,107.14
FBA Commissioning Acct (\$24,702.89)	\$ 24,703.10
FBA Transfer Account (\$40,605.80)	\$ 40,606.14
FBA Severance Fund CD (\$50,264.20)	\$ 50,264.20
FBA Hall of Fame Fund CD (\$48,419.48)	\$ 48,419.48
FBA Emergency Fund Ck. (\$163,284.50)	\$163,284.50
FBA Reserve Investment Acct. (\$122,468.10)	\$122,468.10

### **FBA Composition Contest Award** - The FBA Composition Contest winner was announced

Adonai Michel, Somerset Academy Charter School, Broward County  
Band Director: Tatiana Rodriguez

Winning selection: Concert Band selection entitled “Horizons”  
Adonai, his parents and band director were present for the award presentation

### **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS & MEMBERS**

- Any Special Guests - All FBA Collegiate members present were asked to stand and be recognized.  
Gail Robertson, David Springfield, and Omar Thomas
- All State Band Clinicians:** Colonel Don Schofield (Symphonic Band), Robert Panto (Concert Band), Ian Schwindt (HS Honor Band), Dayna Cole (All State MS Band), Paul Morton (MS Honor Band),  
Dr. Sherrie Maricle (HS Jazz Band), David Springfield (MS Jazz Band), Chris Creswell (HS Honor Big Band)
- All State Band Coordinators:** Michael Weintraub (11/12 Symphonic Band), Lee Commander (9/10 Concert Band),  
Ryan Schulz (High School Honor Band), Michelle McCarthy (All State MS Band), Ashley Crosby (Middle School Honor Band), Rick Fowler (HS Jazz Band), Tim Ostrow (MS Jazz Band), Matt Flenner (HS Honor Big Band)
- All State Committee Coordinators:** Hannah Jennings (All State Chair), Jeremy Williamson (All State Co-Chair),  
Kristy Dell (All State Percussion Coordinator)
- Recognize **Past-Presidents** in attendance: Richard Davenport, Jason Duckett, Bernie Hendricks, Neil Jenkins,  
Cathi Leibinger, Ian Schwindt
- Recognize **Hall of Fame** and **Roll of Distinction** Members present: Richard Davenport, Neil Jenkins, Melvin  
Maxwell, John Nista, Jim Matthews, Lee Ponder, Eddie Steadman, Randy Sonntag.  
Patrick Dunnigan and Ken Williams (Roll of Distinction).
- Welcome all new/first year Active members to FBA -
- All FBA members stand: 5 years plus remain standing. 10 years, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 etc. years remain standing  
**Chuck Buetel and Lee Ponder: 57 years of FBA Membership**

- i. Presentation of newly eligible **25-year Life Member Pins: Kenneth Boyd, Robert Cook, Kay Dubbert, Carrie Fuoco, Kelvin Gunter, Milton Joselyn, Melvin Maxwell, David Olsen, Vincent Parrulli, Frank Williams** (actually recognized in 2007)
- j. Presentation of **LINDA MANN FIVE-YEAR SUPERIOR AWARD:**
  - Francis R. Bermudez: Wellington Landings Middle School
  - Christopher Bowen: Osceola Middle School
  - Walter S. Boyer: Lakeside Jr. High School
  - Craig M. Denny: Loggers' Run Middle School
  - David Dixon: Westwood Middle School
  - Aron D. Friedman: Palm Springs Community Middle School
  - David A. Gonzalez: Arvida Middle School
  - Amber R. Hansen: Lakeland Highlands Middle School
  - Michael Lofredo: Bradford Middle School/Pine Island Academy/Kanapaha Middle School
  - William J. Molineaux: Osceola County School for the Arts MS
  - Robert L. Rigdon: Ransom Middle School
  - Kyle J. Sargent: Apopka Middle School/Bridgewater Middle School
  - Michael Summers: Oakleaf Jr. High School
  - Francisco R. Williams South Miami Middle Community School
  - Calista A. Zebley: Clearwater Fundamental Middle School
- k. Presentation of **HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ FIVE-YEAR SUPERIOR AWARD:**
  - Matthew W. Flenner: Eustis High School
- l. Presentation of **MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ FIVE-YEAR SUPERIOR AWARD:**
  - Francisco R. Williams: South Miami Middle Community School
  - Marianne Flanagan: Odyssey Middle School
- m. Presentation of **ANDREW J. CREW FIVE-YEAR SUPERIOR AWARD:**
  - Brian P. Dell: H.B. Plant High School
  - Keith A. Griffis: Sickie High School
  - Brent A. Mounger: New World School of the Arts
- n. **TOM BISHOP** Plaque AWARD PRESENTATION:
  - Ashley Crosby: Corkscrew Middle School
  - Shane Falco: Winding Waters K-8 School
  - Bill Guthrie: River Springs Middle School
  - Michael Kawalya: Buffalo Creek Middle School
  - Alex Krynski: Cocoa Beach Jr./Sr. High School
  - Jennifer Luechauer: James S. Rickards Middle School
  - Ethan Mitchell: South Walton High School
- o. **OLIVER HOBBS** Plaque AWARD PRESENTATION:
  - Amy Beres: Howard W. Bishop Middle School
  - Charlene Cannon: Horizon High School
  - Richard Fowler: Creekside High School
  - Jennifer Jimenez: South Miami Sr. High School
- p. Recognition of recent Retirees: send to ED via email (See Good of the Association)

## 9. RECOGNITION OF DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS

Dist. 1 - Sean Dyke	Dist. 7 - Bruce Herrmann	Dist. 12 - Amber Hansen	Dist. 18 - Lederian Townsend
Dist. 2 - John Harcus	Dist. 8 - Michael Clemente	Dist. 13 - Clint LaFlam	Dist. 19 - Brittany Schofield
Dist. 3 - Erin Whalley	Dist. 9 - Joe Sipiora	Dist. 14 - Craig Denny	Dist. 20 - Robert Sax
Dist. 4 - Amy Beres	Dist. 9 - Robert Thomas	Dist. 15 - Charles Mooror	Dist. 21 - Tina Larsen
Dist. 5 - William Luckett	Dist. 10 - Jennifer Zahn	Dist. 16 - David Gonzalez	Dist. 22 - Annabelle Robinson
Dist. 6 - Joseph Powell	Dist. 11 - Chuck Evans	Dist. 17 - Paul Arnold	Dist. 23 - Scott Abbott

## 10. RECOGNITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

A. Adjudication Committee: Charlene Cannon	H. Past Presidents' Council: Bernie Hendricks
B. All State Bands Committee: Hannah Jennings	I. Professional Resources Committee: Jay Watkins
C. Clinics Committee: Jeff Cayer	J. Sightreading Music Committee: Thomas Dougherty
D. Concert Music Committee: John Seth	K. Solo & Ensemble Music Committee: Dayna Cole
E. Ethics Committee: Tamara Lewis	L. Benevolence Committee: Mara Rose
F. MPA Committee: Michael Antmann	M. Commissioning Committee: Tremon Kizer
G. Finance Committee: Bernie Hendricks	N. Auxiliary: Chris Bonner

# 11. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- |                                          |                                               |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| A. Awards Committee: John Nista          | I. Legacy Project: Tina Laferriere            |
| B. Classification Task Force: Dre Graham | J. Marching Band Task Force: Jody Dunn        |
| C. Composition Contest: Chandler Wilson  | K. Mentoring: Amber Hansen                    |
| D. FMEA Conf. Facilitator: Nick Eggen    | L. Retired Members: Richard Davenport         |
| E. Hall of Fame: Eddie Steadman          | M. Small Schools: Kelly Dorsey                |
| F. Health & Wellness: Dre Graham         | N. Strategic Planning: Cathi Leibinger        |
| G. Historian: Tim Groulx                 | O. Summer Conference Manager: Cathi Leibinger |
| H. Jazz Band: Rick Fowler                |                                               |

# 12. HALL OF FAME REPORT - Eddie Steadman (found at the end of these minutes)

# 13. JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTORS and HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR'S FORUM REPORTS

No Meeting held this year

# 14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

See MOTIONS requiring action by the Membership at the end of these minutes.

**15. NEW BUSINESS:** Any NEW proposals - in the form of written motions. (All motions must be in written form and presented to the Chair. These require a 2/3 majority for passage (more than twice as many voting for as against - abstentions are not considered). Indicate names of persons making motions and seconds. Action or changes to UNFINISHED BUSINESS will require a Motion to send back to the Board. **NONE**

# 16. FBA President Elect election results and FBA Jr.HS/MS Representative election results:

**JHMS Representative: Kerry Waldo**

**President-Elect: Hannah Jennings**

# 17. GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

**Recognition of FBA Partners:** see listing on the FBA website home page:

- |                                 |                                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| All County Music - Fred Schiff  | Excelcia Music Publishing - Larry Clark |
| J.W. Pepper Music - Amber Loper | Lakeside Jazz Festival - David Martin   |
| Lung Trainers - Bill Rose       | Music Mentor Network - Cathi Leibinger  |

Special thanks to our Accounting Firm: Barefoot Accounting, PA - Jo Hagan

Special thanks to all Past District Chairs and Committee Chairs for your hard work serving the FBA membership.

# Special Performances:

**FMEA Concert Hour:** F.W. Buchholz High School Wind Symphony, Noah Graben, Director

**Midwest Clinic:** University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble 1 - J.B. Scott

**London New Year's Parade:** Apopka High School - Jeremy Langford, Director  
Palm Beach Lakes High School - Joshua Velez, Director

**Rome New Year's Day Parade:** Key West High School - Gary Hernandez, Director

**2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade: Dublin, Ireland:** University of Central Florida Marching Knights

**National NBA Blue Ribbon Program of Excellence;** DeLand High School Band program, Monica Leimer, Director

**John Philip Sousa Legion of Honor Laureate:** Jody Dunn (Crestview High School)  
Cathi Leibinger (Ransom Everglades School)

**Special Congratulations to the 2026 Grammy Music Educator:** Jennifer Jimenez (South Miami Sr. High School)

# Teacher of the Year recognitions not reported in the December Minutes:

- Rad Bolt: Polk County District 1 Teacher of the Year - Dist. 12  
Willie Briggs: Cecil Gray Middle School - Dist. 19  
Jeff Cayer: Marshall Middle Magnet School - Dist. 7  
Sean Etheredge: Fort McCoy Middle School - Rookie Teacher of the Year (24-25) - Dist. 19  
Shane Falco: Winding Waters K8 - Dist. 5  
Joe Harrin: Hernando High School - Dist. 5  
Jonte Petty: Wekiva High School - Dist. 8  
Cesare Turner: Mays Conservatory of the Arts - Dist. 16

**Young Composers Composition Contest announcement** - Brian Dell reporting

FBA Young Composer Competition: Under the age of 30 and grades 1,2,3. Winner earns \$1,500 and a possible performance at FMEA or FBA.

Carlos Lalonde: East Lansing Michigan (Concert Band selection: Uncommon Will)

**Retired members:** Dayna Cole (Dist. 15), Jason Duckett (Dist. 21), Dan Wooten (Dist. 1)

**18. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to Adjourn by J. Harcus/K. Romano**  
**Meeting adjourned by President Cayer at 7:31 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted: Neil E. Jenkins, FBA Executive Director**

*Neil E. Jenkins*

**Additional Reminders:**

**SUMMER CONFERENCE 2026**

Dates: July 7 (Adjudication Training) 8-10, Doubletree Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld

The Nine Star High School Honor Band: Clinician/Conductor - Jose Lopez

The Seven Star Middle School Honor Band: Clinician/Conductor –

The All-Star Community Band: Jon Eckman

The Southern Winds: Dr. Douglas Phillips, Director

Keynote: Wycliffe Gordon, Jazz Trombonist

**FBA Hall of Fame 2026:** November 21-22, 2026, Stetson University, DeLand

**FMEA CONFERENCE 2027:** January 13-16, 2027 - Tampa Convention Center

**FBA SUMMER CONFERENCE 2027:** July 12 & 13-15, 2027 - DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Theme Park Resort

**FMEA CONFERENCE 2028:** January 12-15, 2028 - Tampa Convention Center

**FBA SUMMER CONFERENCE 2028:** July 10 & 11-13, 2028 - DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Theme Park Resort

## **Florida Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame Annual Report 2025-26**

The 2025 Hall of Fame Weekend was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Stetson University in DeLand. On Saturday night, we were all treated to a fantastic concert by the Southern Winds, under the direction of Dr. Douglas Phillips honoring the 2025 Roll of Distinction inductees, Dr. Patrick Dunnigan, the Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Florida State University, and Mr. Fred Schiff, FMEA Board Member, Chair of the Corporate and Academic Partners Committee, as well as President and owner of the All-County Music in Broward County.

On Sunday, the Hall of Fame concert was held featuring the outstanding Stetson University Symphonic Band, under the direction of Dr. Chandler Wilson, Director of Bands at Stetson University, honoring the 2025 Hall of Fame inductees: Richard Davenport, the Director of Bands at Deane Bozeman School in Bay County, and Melvin Maxwell, retired Director of Bands at Naples High School in Naples.

Prior to the concert on Sunday, a banquet was held honoring all four of these inductees on the campus of Stetson University.

A tremendous thanks must go to Dr. Chandler Wilson, the outstanding musicians in the Stetson University Symphonic Band, the entire music faculty and administration at Stetson University, and of course Dr. Doug Phillips and the wonderful musicians in the Southern Winds.

If you haven't attended a Hall of Fame Weekend, then I encourage you to make plans to attend this November. The FBA is so much more than an organization that simply assesses fees and administers MPA's. While not perfect, it's an organization that can and will help us grow as teachers and as individuals if we get involved, learn from each other, and use the resources available. We have a rich history of people who have dedicated their lives to maintaining a high standard of excellence by passing on what they know to the next generation. The Hall of Fame weekend represents this rich history. I encourage you to learn about the history of the FBA in this state. Watch Legacy videos on the FBA website. Learn about the lives of those who came before you and attend these concerts and activities.

As a reminder, any FBA member can submit nominations for consideration to the Hall of Fame and the Roll of Distinction. Each year new inductees are selected by the Hall of Fame Board of Directors, which are living members of the FBA Hall of Fame. The dates for the 2026 Hall of Fame Weekend are November 21-22, at Stetson University.

Now, on behalf of the FBA Hall of Fame Board of Directors, I would like to announce the inductees for 2026. The Roll of Distinction inductee is the retired Director of Bands at Stetson University and the Conductor of the Southern Winds, Dr. Douglas Phillips.

There are two inductees for the 2026 Hall of Fame.

The first inductee is the Director of Bands at Union County High School, Kelly Dorsey.

The second inductee is the Director of Bands at Crestview High School, Jody Dunn.

Thank you and I hope to see you in November at Stetson University.

## Information Only:

**#7-MOTION by D. Gonzalez/B. Schofield:** to approve the new dates for Director Submission (Motion #1).  
September 30 will be the new deadline for Director Submission.  
**PASSED by BOARD (December 2025)**

## Amendment to Bylaws - Article III: Officers

### Section 3. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

Add the following subsection to Section 3 as Subsection C:

#### C. Qualifications for the Office of President-Elect

To be considered for the office of President-Elect, a candidate must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be an Active Full Member of the Florida Bandmasters Association.
2. Have a minimum of fifteen (15) years of teaching experience, the majority in the state of Florida.
3. Have served on the Executive Board of the FBA for no fewer than two (2) years.
4. Have a record of consistently high-caliber band performance under their direction.

### Section 4. ELECTION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

Replace Subsection B with the following:

#### B. Qualifications for consideration for the office of JH/MS Representative

- ~~1. The candidate should have been teaching for no less than 15 years.~~
- ~~2. The candidates bands should consistently be of the highest caliber.~~
- ~~3. The candidates bands should have a high percentage of S&E participation.~~

To be considered for the office of Junior High/Middle School Representative, a candidate must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be an Active Full Member of the Florida Bandmasters Association.
2. Have a minimum of fifteen (15) years of teaching experience, the majority in the state of Florida.
3. Have a record of consistently high-caliber band performance under their direction.
4. Have bands with a high percentage of participation in Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessments.

**MOTION #10:** J. Cayer/A. Crosby to add these qualifications for Office to the By-Laws.

**PASSED by the BOARD (July 2025 Board Meeting - 1st reading: By-Laws)**

**#10-MOTION by J. Harcus/A. Hansen:** to approve the By-Laws as stated.

**PASSED by the BOARD (December 2025 Board Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: By-Laws)**

**Comes as a Motion from the Board: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Lopez**

**PASSED by the MEMBERSHIP**

## Dist. 15-M 2:

Richard Uhler Moved to change the wording in the FBA Handbook under III-H. Auxiliary MPA Events:

From: **A violation of rules may result in lowering of the rating, performing for comments only, or DQ of the entry. Performers should be prepared to correct inspection infractions. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.**

To: *Refer to section III.C.4 for Information concerning Rules Infractions, Violations, and DQs.*

Rationale: This is in line with every other section in the FBA Handbook regarding MPA's.

The motion was approved by the district.

**#15-MOTION 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. Schofield for discussion.**

**PASSED by BOARD (December 2025)**

**Comes as a Motion from the Board: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marissa Lopez**

**PASSED by the MEMBERSHIP**