



Chattanooga

ALL ABOARD!



Dear ABA Family,

We are happy to welcome you to beautiful and charming Chattanooga, Tennessee for the 90th Annual Convention of the American Bandmasters Association. Teresa and I have really enjoyed visiting and getting to know this amazing place and what it has to offer!

We want to thank our host Randall Coleman for his insight and diligence in planning this event. The planning committee for this year's convention includes, Randall, Roy and June Holder, David and Cheryl Gregory along with Teresa and me. The committee has worked hard for the last 2 years planning for what we think will be an outstanding convention. We would also like to thank the Chattanooga Tourism Board for their outstanding work facilitating much of the planning and booking. Special thanks to David Gregory for his outreach to universities, corporations and individuals to secure funding to help ensure the success of this convention – Bravo David! To the committee chairs and committee members that have worked diligently all year long working on incentives and projects that benefit the organization and our profession as a whole -I cannot thank you enough for all you have done this year!

The performances for this convention promise to be outstanding on all levels. We are happy to have Southwest Dekalb High School Wind Symphony – Mr. James Seda, Conductor, Vanderbilt University Wind Symphony – Dr. Tom Verrier, Conductor, Columbus State University Wind Ensemble – Dr. Jamie Nix, Conductor, The Alabama Winds – Randall Coleman, Conductor and the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own”, Colonel Bruce Pulver, Conductor.

Serving as President of the American Bandmasters Association this year has been the highest professional honor of my life. As a member of the Board of Directors for many years and now President, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful ABA members and leaders. I want to thank my primary sponsor Dr. James Jacobsen (deceased) Emeritus Professor – TCU and James F. Keene - (deceased) – my college band director at East Texas State University (now A&M-Commerce) - for his inspiration, leadership and support during my entire career. He and his wife Alice have been a significant part of my career and life.

Dr. Tom Fraschillo and Cecilia have worked for this organization for so many years. Their contribution to the success of the ABA has been amazing and is appreciated by all. Please join me as we congratulate Tom for his many years of service to this organization.

Teresa and I sincerely hope you have a wonderful time in Chattanooga, and you reconnect with friends and make new ones. We have a wonderful group of new members - I hope you will extend your gracious hospitality welcoming them to the ABA family. We look forward to seeing you in Chattanooga – Just a reminder that we are a week earlier than “normal”. February 26 – March 2, 2025!