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Honorary Life Members at 2023 Conference
Message from the President

JEANNE CHRISTENSEN - PRESIDENT

Two simple words that mean so much are “thank you”. I'd like to thank all of you, the members of SCSBOA, for your support over the past 4 years of my term as President of our Association. To say this term has been smooth sailing would make me laugh out loud. This has been one of the most challenging times in our history, but also the most rewarding for me personally. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve SCSBOA. I have formed wonderful relationships with the dedicated educators and people that serve the SCSBOA.

I became President in July of 2019. The Board of Directors and I thought all of the plans of the conference were settled only to find out none of them were. I watched a group of educators, all volunteers on the Board, dig in and plan our annual conference with determination and conviction that we would do things right. We did. The January 2020 conference was a wonderful success and I felt I could take my first breath as President. Well...March of 2020 had different plans for all of us. This was an unprecedented time and I knew we needed to stay connected. Over the next year, we hosted video chats, gave suggestions for lessons, kept in contact with as many educators as we could, and hosted three mini conferences within four months in 2021 for our members. At times it felt that we would never get back to school in person and get back to seeing one another. Thankfully, we did return to school and made our way back to the opportunities we love to provide for our students. In the 2021-2022 school year, we returned to the field, parade, and festivals in most regions. The honor groups were in person once again, though not on the conference weekend due to health constraints still imposed by counties. Finally, this past January 2023, we came back together to celebrate our annual conference, our honor groups, and we were able to see one another once again. The conference was a joyful celebration and meaningful to all of us.

Through this term as President, I have seen what a strong group of educators can do when times are tough. There will never be enough times I can say thank you to the following Board members who served during my term in office: Albert Jeung, Duane Otani, Steve Acciani, Zach Christy, Cathy Olinger, Scott Domingues, Amy Villanova, Yeon Choi, Susan Willmering, Mike Gangemi, Dennis Crystal, Bincins Garcia, Jeri Webb, Darnella Davidson, Jennifer Jackson, Ray Llewelyn, Brian Hamilton, Kevin Hamilton, Andy Magana, Paul Bluto, Curt Richardson, Steve Graves, Jason Marshall, Tom Phillips, Joe Dudek, Don Jaramillo, Susie Marin, Brian Belski, and Jim Wang. Thank you to Amy Mack, our SCSBOA office manager, for all of her unwavering support. I wish our new President, Cathy Olinger, well in her term. She’s been an outstanding leader for years and I appreciate her friendship and mentorship very much. We are all in good hands with the new Board of Directors.

To all who just retired, congratulations! Thank you for your years of service to music education. To those of you who just finished your first year of teaching, congratulations! If you did it right, you are exhausted. Frankly if any year you are doing things correct, then you are exhausted and have earned a well-deserved break. Teaching is sharing with one another. It’s a reminder to reach out to someone in your area and say hello. We all need support and people that we trust. It’s what makes each of us stronger and we’ve been working together in SCSBOA since 1937.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Take time to relax, refuel, and make your lists. Thank you, everyone.
President Elect Message

CATHY OLINGER - PRESIDENT ELECT

As I reflect on the past year as President-Elect and my time serving the previous four years as secretary, I am grateful of having the opportunity to work alongside with so many passionate, dedicated, and like-minded music educators. I am grateful to be a member of SCSBOA who provided opportunities and support for me to grow as an educator. I am so very grateful to Jeanne Christensen, SCSBOA President whose dedication, perseverance, and guidance did not waiver throughout her 4-year term even during the unprecedented pandemic. Brava! Jeanne is the guiding light and ambassador for music education for SCSBOA. And thank you, Amy Mack for making the impossible become possible.

SCSBOA celebrated 86 years of a rich tradition in music education with the return of in-person Fall Downbeat Clinics, the Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency including Elementary, Middle School, High School band, orchestra, and jazz honor groups. Parade & Field Competitions, Solo/Ensemble Festivals, and Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Festivals.

Congratulations to all for completing another year of making great music with students throughout Southern California. Each year has its new challenges but when that final bell rings on the last day of school and your time becomes all yours, we each need to reflect on the difference we make every day. The hours and energy you poured into your program impacted so many students and their families and has enriched their lives through the arts forever.

As I begin my term as President of SCSBOA, I am excited and optimistic with the direction that we are headed in for what is best for students, directors, and communities throughout Southern California in music education. Thank you to the outgoing board of directors for your service, you are valued! Congratulations to the continuing and newly elected Board of Directors. I can’t wait to begin the journey together.

Congratulations, to the new hires/first year teachers, we’ve got your back. Don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the SCSBOA board members. Mentors and Mentees are music educators supporting each other. We’ve all had a 1st year.
To those of you who are in the middle of your career, stay the course. YOU survived the pandemic.

And to those who are wearing the biggest smiles right now, our class of 2023 Retirees! Congratulations but don’t go too far away as we will be calling on you!

Hit the reset Button: Make time to unplug, reflect, renew, and enjoy a fantastic summer!

Renew your Membership: July 1, 2023

Save the date: January 26-28, 2024: SCSBOA Professional Growth Conference/Honor Groups @ the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove
Festivals

STEVE GRAVES - V.P. FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION

Congratulations on wrapping up another year - you deserve the time off you’ve got coming! Do you know one thing that really helps me decompress? Planning! Well, not in detail, but just throwing down my thoughts and ideas for the next year. Taking a minute at the start of your vacation time to just jot down things you might have thought of during the school year, projects you didn’t quite get to, literature you heard and want to try, strategies you might employ next year, instruments you’d like to purchase, etc., can be a great de-stressor. For me, it really helps to just get that stuff out of my head and on paper (or a computer) so I can really stop thinking about it for a little while. You can even do it while sitting outdoors, by the pool, or at the beach!

While you’re planning, consider your literature choices. This is a huge part of our curricular material, and it’s important that it reflects the true goals of our programs. Do you find yourself selecting literature that takes three months to prepare for performance? Picking literature that matches the skill set you’ve prepared your students with will enable them to spend more time on the artistic and creative aspects of music, rather than just “learning” it. This isn’t to say you shouldn’t challenge your ensembles but considering your pacing of fundamental development in your early planning can help students reach a higher level of music literacy sooner, which can lead to a lot more music making. This same concept can apply to those of you planning your marching season; how much time will be spent learning the music, rather than making music? Thoughtful planning now can produce better musical (and educational) results down the road, so take a few minutes - and then relax for several weeks!
Summer Concert
apply online

Youth Symphony Orchestra | Band | Choir
Summer Music Festival by LAYP
at Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUMMER SEASON AUDITION

Summer Season Youth Orchestra
Summer Season Youth Band
Summer SATB Chamber Singers
(5th-12th school grade)

For more information, visit www.layouthphilharmonic.com
Music Lists

PAUL BLUTO - V.P. MUSIC LISTS

Congratulations to all on the completion of another school year!

I am writing this article as I conclude my third successive term, and fifth overall in the office of V.P. of Music Lists. During my time in this office, we’ve accomplished many things that I am proud of. Possibly most important of all has been helping our membership navigate the many challenges of the Covid pandemic and bringing so many programs back to the festival stage these past several years. This has been a collective effort in which listening to our membership concerns has driven the accommodation protocols that were developed. Personal thanks go out to the “Team Festival” board members that have worked hand-in-hand with me tackling these challenges, the past and current V.P.s of Festival Adjudication and Festivals; Steve Graves, Curt Richardson, Tom Phillips and Scott Dominguez.

Important during my tenure as well has been the tireless work of the Music Literature Committee members that have evaluated pieces for our SCSBOA Music Lists and worked on the Music Lists Revision Project. I’d like to personally these committee members: Stephanie Bollard, Kay Crask, Brian Hamilton, Jim Johnson, Henry Miller, Naomi Norwich, Cathy Olinger, Jay Posteraro, and Nancy Robinson. The important work of this office could not have been accomplished without your service!

Regarding the Music List Revision Project, I will continue to work this summer to collate the collective work of Music Literature Committee to prepare revised versions of our music lists in time for use during the 2023-2024 school year. These revised lists will be a major step forward in providing the membership with a more relevant and current tool for selecting festival literature.

In closing, I’d like to congratulate Nancy Robinson on being elected as the incoming V.P. of Music Lists. I know she will do a fantastic job in this position, and I have offered her my support during the transition and moving forward in all things “Music Lists.”

Finally, It has been an honor and privilege to serve you as a member of the SCSBOA Board of Directors, and I look forward to being a part of the continued work this great Association does in support of music education in Southern California.

Musically yours,

Paul Bluto
Festivals

TOM PHILIPS - V.P. FESTIVALS

Happy "Almost" Summer from the Festival Desk!

I say "almost" because we have been covered by clouds for more than two weeks here in Lakewood, where I live! I know the sun will swelter on us soon, but gosh, school is out and so we need some sun to go along with "vacation!" My dear colleagues, I hope you all get plenty of rest and have fun with your family. For me to really relax, I need to leave the area because I live a mere 2.9 miles from Mayfair, and on any weekend, I am drawn there to do work. As music teachers, it is hard to ever really shut down anyway as music is in our soul! We probably listen to music even more because we have time to enjoy our favorite genre, play our instruments or go to concerts. Whatever you do this summer make sure you get some "real" downtime enjoying your favorite tunes.

Okay, some business here...

We need two things: More regional festival hosts and more solo/ensemble hosts!

This past spring some directors scrambled to put together regional festival sites after realizing there were only about 3 when we hit March and over the winter, a few solo/ensemble festival hosts were not able to get a venue and had to cancel.

Would you consider hosting either event next year? Please look at your calendars and consider hosting a regional in your area. We have usuals in Norwalk and Lake Elsinore, but it would be great to have regional festivals in Antelope Valley, Bakersfield, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange County. Bus costs are $88.00 per hour in my district, so having to travel far to attend a regional festival weighs into the decision because the trip takes between 6 and 8 hours. Again, please consider hosting a regional in one of these other cities or counties mentioned.
FESTIVALS CONT.

Hosting a solo/ensemble festival is relatively simple as you only need a small stage and a warm-up room! You can still sell food to make money for your program, but it gives many students an opportunity to present in a short period of time!

If you have any questions or need a festival host application, please call or text me at 562-212-BAND or email vpfestivals@scsboa.org.

Stay tuned for:
"Command Performance" - a new concept to honor outstanding performing ensembles at area festivals by offering a chance to perform in a fantastic venue, receive an onstage clinic from honored educators and listen to other outstanding performances. We are working to secure a wonderful venue and the criteria for groups to earn the opportunity for a "Command Performance!"

Registering for festivals...we are updating the process to make it easier for the festival host and participating director...more to follow!

If you are continuing to host a festival next spring, please email your host request form soon so I can get your first choice on the list!

Enjoy a restful summer,

Tom Philips
Elementary Education

RAY LLEWELLYN - VP ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Ray Llewellyn, VP Elementary Education Hello fellow elementary music educators! I hope your school year has gone well and that your classes were filled with students excited about learning music! As we close another school year, I also hope all of your final concerts of the year have been musically inspiring to all who performed and attended!

As I end my tenure on the SCSBOA Board, I would like to express my gratitude to the membership for honoring me with the position of VP of Elementary Education for the past few years. I hope I have served you well. While I would have loved to be able to run for a second term, family needs to take precedence in my life at this time. I hope there will be a time in the future, that I may have the opportunity to serve you again.

I would like to thank each and every Board member who I was honored to work with and who supported me as I worked to represent the elementary music educators in our organization.

It has been an honor to serve with you! It has been an interesting few years, to say the least, as we navigated successfully through the pandemic doing virtual elementary honor groups to keep things going and then transitioning successfully back to full live ensembles at our last conference.

I am very proud of the work the Board and I have been able to do during my tenure by continuing to develop and provide specific sessions at our conference geared toward elementary music educators building upon the work of my predecessors. I am sure our new VP of Elementary Education will be equally supported by the Board to support elementary music education in the SCSBOA.

As I said in my first newsletter article a few years ago as I started my tenure as VP of Elementary Education. Being an elementary music educator is not easier or harder than teaching at the middle school or high school level, it is just different. The challenges are not what you get at the other levels. Each level has their own unique challenge.
I can say, without hesitation though, that the elementary music teachers I know are the hardest working most creative and most inspiring educators out there! I am inspired by your dedication to starting students off on their musical careers in our schools and am honored to be counted as one of you! Keep up the great work I know you are all doing. I am sure the middle school, and high school music programs in your districts benefit from your starting students off on their musical journey.

I would like to take a moment to encourage the middle school and high school educators out there to acknowledge the elementary music teachers in your district if you are lucky enough to have them. The elementary music job can feel thankless at times as we are generally spread between many schools and have many students we serve each week. A little support and acknowledgment of the work we do means the world to us and would definitely help in creating a unified music team throughout your district.

Moving forward, I am happy to announce that our elementary honor group conductors for next year will be Mr. Greg Rochford who will conduct our elementary honor orchestra, and Mr. Chris Watts who will conduct our elementary honor band. I look forward to hearing from the honor groups next year under their musical guidance. The students will be lucky to work with and learn from each of them. I look forward to hearing next year’s honor groups perform under their direction.

I look forward to passing on the baton to the next VP of Elementary Education and working with her to ensure a smooth transition. I wish her much success! I will see you all soon and keep doing what we all love to do.....teach music!

Ray Llewellyn
Membership

DARNELLA DAVIDSON - VP MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all, including our HLM’s, for your generous donations to our scholarship fund.

We had a record number of student applicants (27) and were able to award a record number of scholarships (13) to members of the Class of 2023.

Thank you to all the directors who encouraged their seniors to apply and hopefully next year we will be able to offer even more scholarships to deserving students.

Most of this year’s scholarships went to HLM applicants: students majoring in music. Congratulations to the following students:

- Kaleb Chavez, headed to CSULB
- Dominic Mumphrey, LSU
- Noah Crystal, CSUN
- Brook Hill, San Diego State
- Kathryn Lau, UCI
- Liam Tamura, CSULB
- Leon Cho, UCLA
- Ryan Nguyen, CSUF
- Jedrick Enclona, Berklee
- Madelyn Olsen, University of Redlands

SCSBOA Scholarships went to the following students. Congratulations to:

- Conner Hamilton, LBCC
- Cade Hamilton, LBCC
- Kira Hamilton, LBCC

As the school year ends, we know that for most in our profession, this is merely the planning period as we slowly prepare for fall activities. Consider for your students and yourself options of music and leadership camps, DCI shows, and summer instructional conferences. These activities always recharged my batteries and continue to do so in my retirement. Bring clinicians into your summer camps to help jumpstart your season. And above all, give yourself some quality time away from the podium to enjoy the things in life that brings you great joy. Learn to live in the moment, be mindful of your surroundings, allow yourself to fully appreciate your sensory perceptions, smile more, and simply RELAX...be happy. You ARE worth it. Take care!
Middle School Education
SUSAN WILLMERING - VP - MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION

As the school year ends, I hope you all take a moment to breathe and spend time with your family and loved ones. I feel this year has been intense for all of us as we have all had to dig in and rebuild our programs after the pandemic and to reset how our programs operate.

Upcoming for MS Education, we have our Fall Down Beat on August 19th at Diamond Bar HS. I will have more to send out about this date next month. Just put it on your calendar. All of us will be in need of some help at the beginning of the year, and what I am planning will help all of us out. Plus we will have a much needed hang with our music colleagues!

Our honor group info will be up on the website shortly here. I encourage you to look at the audition requirements and get the solos out to your students over the summer. They won’t want to miss out on making our honor groups this next year. We have a great group of honor group conductors who are all passionate about young students. If you have any questions about the audition material, email me!

Our honor group conductors are:
MS Symphonic Band- Kevin Mayse
MS Full Orchestra- Michael Boitz
MS String Orchestra- Dana Zimbric

More on these great educators over the next few months. Hope your summer is relaxing and rejuvenating!!!

Susan
High School Education

AMY VILLANOVA - VP HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

We are thrilled to announce the guest conductors for the 2024 High School Honor Groups. Audition materials are posted for winds, strings and percussion. They mirror the CODA/CBDA requirements, however, our audition deadline is still Dec. 1 (All-State auditions are due Nov. 1). You will be able to log in to both systems and start both audition portals around the same time in the fall. There have been changes to some of the required pieces, so please do not use the last version of this audition set without double-checking. Some audition selections have been shortened or replaced with a different piece entirely.

Meet your 2024 High School Honor Group Conductors

[Images of three conductors]

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your VP of High School Education for the last four years. I value the new friendships I have made, and I am in awe of the depth and wealth of knowledge we have within this Association. When I first joined the SCSBOA Board, I didn’t really know what to expect. I quickly learned that this is truly a reflective and active organization, led by people who are motivated to serve all of our school communities. I encourage you to check off the variety of interest boxes on the membership application when you renew for next year, and get involved in the SCSBOA’s various initiatives and services. If I can be of any assistance to you moving forward, please reach out. You can find me at amy.villanova@sduhsd.net
# Field Adjudication

**BRIAN BELSKI - VP FIELD ADJUDICATION**

## 2023 SCSBOA Field Tournament Schedule

*Tentative pending site host contracts*

### Week 1
- 9/30 West (Torrance)
- 9/30 Bonita (La Verne)
- 9/30 Palmdale

### Week 2
- 10/7 Canyon Springs (Moreno Valley)
- 10/7 Downey
- 10/7 Rancho Bernardo
- 10/7 Rowland (Rowland Heights)
- 10/7 Royal (Simi Valley)

### Week 3
- 10/14 Baldwin Park
- 10/14 Bonita Vista (Chula Vista)
- 10/14 Valencia (Placentia)
- 10/14 Vista
- 10/14 West Ranch (@ Valencia HS, Valencia)

### Week 4
- 10/21 Quartz Hill
- 10/21 Kennedy (@ Western HS, Anaheim)
- 10/21 Lester Oaks (@ Ramona HS, Riverside)
- 10/21 Poway
- 10/21 Simi Valley
- 10/21 Wilson (Hacienda Heights)

### Week 5
- 10/25 Covina
- 10/28 Centennial (Bakersfield)
- 10/28 Chaffey (Ontario)
- 10/28 Cleveland (@ Pierce Coll., Woodland Hills)
- 10/28 Loma (@ Pioneer HS, Whittier)
- 10/28 Mt. Carmel (San Diego)
- 10/28 Sierra Vista (Baldwin Park)

### Week 6
- 11/1 Mayfair (Lakewood)
- 11/1 Rancho Verde (Moreno Valley)
- 11/2 Colony (Ontario)
- 11/2 Estancia (Chula Vista)
- 11/4 Chino
- 11/4 Hart (@ College of the Canyons)
- 11/4 Irvine
- 11/4 Los Altos (Hacienda Heights)
- 11/4 Mira Mesa
- 11/4 Oxnard

### Week 7
- 11/7 West Covina
- 11/7 Shadow Hills (Indio)
- 11/8 Westview (San Diego)
- 11/8 Westminster
- 11/9 Camarillo
- 11/9 John North (Riverside)
- 11/9 South Hills (West Covina)
- 11/10 Valencia (Valencia)
- 11/10 Duarte
- 11/11 1A Prelims @ TBA (central location)
- 11/11 2A Prelims @ Moorpark
- 11/11 Chula Vista
- 11/11 Ramona (Riverside)
- 11/11 Rancho Buena Vista (Vista)
- 11/11 Savanna (@ Santa Ana Bowl)

## Post Season
- 11/18 SCSBOA Field Championships
  
  *(Sites TBA - Applications pending)*
- 12/2 LAUSD Championships (Sites TBA)
Parades

JOE DUDEK - VP PARADES

As I conclude my final term as VP of Parade Adjudication, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Parade Adjudication Committee, and to acknowledge some of our accomplishments.

Thank You Kim Kruger, Curt Richardson, Gary Yearick, Randy Gilpin, Neil Anderson, Charles Gray, Raul Guerrero, Doug Bowden, Eric Mabrey, Linda Bergslien, Sophia Gray, Zig Kanstul, and Amy Mack. Together, we helped the parade band activity survive a brutal pandemic, have taken steps to make parade adjudication easier and more accurate, and (hopefully) have encourage more groups to participate in parade events.

In the past 4 years, we have added more than a dozen new titles to the compulsory high school and middle school parade music lists. AND, we have made the parade music lists interactive: now when accessing the list, there are links to recordings of the marches on the lists. We have hosted 3 “Parade Day” events to train adjudicators, to help directors succeed with their parade bands, and to offer hands on clinics for drum majors. Members of the PAC have rewritten or modified the penalty sheet, the drill team sheet, the drum major sheet, the auxiliary (color guard) sheet, and the music sheet; the new auxiliary (color guard) and music sheets will be in use this fall. To help get more groups out to the street, we have implemented the show band class, and have explored alternative venues for band reviews such as stadium tracks and large parking lots. Also, similar to festival adjudication, the PAC has made music list accommodations for groups hit hard by the pandemic.

As I exit the parade adjudication office, I have laid the groundwork for one more significant upgrade: to raise the parade adjudication pay to be in line with festival adjudication and field show adjudication. Although the groundwork has been laid, it will be up to my successor and the new Board of Directors to bring the policy across the finish line.

In conclusion, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve on the SCSBOA Board of Directors as the VP of Parade Adjudication for the past 4 years. I am happy to leave the position in good hands, as I know Anthony Allmond is worthy of the position and has the ability to move Parade Adjudication and the Association forward.

Thank you, best to you all,
Joe
2022-2023 SCSBOA Board of Directors

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