



# Summer Conference President's Report

Hello everyone!

I sincerely hope that each of you have had a wonderful summer with some much needed rest and relaxation! We have just returned from the ABA Summer Conference at the beautiful Perdido Beach Resort and it was a great time of fellowship and development!

Alabama native and world renowned composer, arranger and teacher, Robert W. Smith, opened our conference with his keynote address about the responsibility we all have in the development of our students as future leaders. Many thanks to Gene Butler, Joshua Heicht, Samantha Maltagliati, Chris Moore and Joel Henson for their outstanding clinics which brought about new thoughts and ideas.

Our Tuesday night Meet and Greet / Trivia Contest was a huge success and I want to thank Chris Lindley with American Travel Consulting for hosting the fun filled event! Wednesday night's Shrimp Boil Dinner had more participants than anticipated and we loved having the Doc Rogers and the Rock Dodgers Band provide live music! It was inspiring to see so many members of the band come from all walks of life and generations....it brought all that we discussed in our clinics, come full circle, when you see the 80+ year old piano player use her walker as her piano bench! Priceless! What we do is important because we teach lifelong musicians!

The board adopted new comment sheets for the back of our MPA adjudication sheets, as well as increasing the pay scale of our MPA Adjudicators so that we are more closely aligned with other states' pay scales. The Music Selection committee is looking at new

music to add to our Cumulative lists and the updated list will be published on August 1st, along with the 2024 All State requirements. Look for all of these on our website.

The board voted to take a one year suspension of the Summer Conference, in order to look at the financial feasibility of this event. The rising costs of hotel, food and other items related to conferences has become astronomical in relation to the number of participants. The board feels it is our responsibility to be good stewards of the ABA finances, so we will take a year to look into other venues and opportunities for future conferences.

Lastly, we will partner with members of Phi Beta Mu in the development of a new teacher mentorship. I am afraid, as of this writing, we may have more teaching jobs open than we have teachers to fill them. It is important that we nurture and mentor our young directors so that we can always fill the positions within our state. We need more band programs, not less! More information regarding this will be forthcoming.

In closing, my sincere thanks to our ABA Board and to our outstanding sponsors for their longstanding support of the ABA Summer Conference:

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Best wishes to all of you as you prepare for the upcoming school year. May it be your best one yet!