

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Association of Alumni Bands Announces Organization and 2020 Board of Directors

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Alumni organizations from college bands across the nation have formed a National Association of Alumni Bands to share best practices and provide leadership and coordination for such programs. Leaders from alumni band groups announced the formation of the NAOAB with a mission “to serve as the indispensable advocate for alumni bands across the U.S.” The association’s goal is to develop and enhance peer connections to solve issues, develop strategies and provide a conduit for alumni band leaders to learn how to better serve their constituency and members.

Former members of America’s leading marching bands continue their premiere collegiate experience through participation in their respective alumni bands. These organizations provide an outlet for ongoing performances by alumni musicians and engender financial support for their current band.

“Our vision with NAOAB is to help the leaders in collegiate alumni band programs grow and better understand best practices from other organizations and to help those who want to start their alumni bands, from the ground-level” said Geof Sloan, representing the Texas Longhorn Alumni Band, who is the newly elected President and chair of the organizing committee. The organizing committee was formed at the 2019 Alumni Band Symposium hosted by the University of Washington Husky Alumni Band. During the past year the committee followed a rigorous process of writing the governing documents and bylaws that formally created NAOAB.

Mentoring - Virtual Roundtables – Symposiums

“We are in a unique position to share knowledge and experience among the association members and with other alumni bands.” says Lee Butts, representing the Georgia Redcoat Band Alumni Association, who is President-Elect and technology officer. By leveraging virtual conferencing over the next several months, NAOAB will structure organizational mentoring and virtual roundtables to take advantage of non-travel communication technology. The next NAOAB Alumni Band Symposium will be held at the University of Cincinnati in May 2021 in conjunction with the national College Band Directors National Association Athletic Bands Symposium.

Positive Impact

Many alumni bands have already benefited from three national symposiums, where our 24 Charter Member organizations have shared their successes and experiences.

- “The excitement generated from the symposium presentations and roundtables enabled representatives from every attending alumni band organization to return home with energizing ideas to make game-changing contributions to their alumni bands,” said Lee Butts, President Elect of NAOAB.
- “Thanks to the stories shared at the symposium, we had the most successful Homecoming event in our very young history. We used many of the ideas that you all brought to the symposium and came away with a balance that I then believed we could turn around this year and use to support our student band, the #1 reason for the existence of our band alumni organizations!” — Sarah Eishen, San Diego State University Marching Aztecs Alumni Band.

- “This organization was there to advise me as I assumed the role of new President of the Clemson University Tiger Band Association,” offered Tom Waldrop, newly elected Vice President of NaoAB. “That advice helped me avoid possible missteps as we rapidly grew with our goals,” said Waldrop.
- Robin Oegerle, newly elected Treasurer of NAOAB said, “After attending the first symposium in 2015 in Seattle, I couldn’t wait to get back to my next Gator Band Alumni Association Board meeting to relay ideas and stories. Now, I am in a position to share our successes with others.”

Newly Elected Board of Directors

The six newly elected NAOAB Board of Directors have over 150 combined years of experience with alumni band organizations:

- President - Geof Sloan, Texas Longhorn Alumni Band
- President Elect – Lee Butts, Redcoat Band Alumni Association (UGA)
- Vice President – Tom Waldrop, Clemson University Tiger Band Association
- Treasurer – Robin Oegerle, Gator Band Alumni Association (Florida)
- Secretary – Michelle Taunton, Gator Band Alumni Association (Florida)
- VP of Communications – Linda Butts, Redcoat Band Alumni Association (UGA)

Photos and Biographies at www.AlumniBands.org/Leadership/

Charter Members

The following alumni bands are NAOAB Charter Members representing collegiate alumni organizations across the United States.

Golden Wave Alumni Band (Baylor University)	University of Michigan Band Alumni Association
Cal Band Alumni Association (University of California)	TBDBITL Alumni Club (The Ohio State University)
University of Cincinnati Band Alumni Association	Ole Miss Band Alumni (University of Mississippi)
Clemson University Tiger Band Association	Pitt Band Alumni Council (University of Pittsburgh)
Gator Band Alumni Association (University of Florida)	Bearkat Marching Band Alumni (Sam Houston State University)
Panther Band Alumni Association (Georgia State University)	Marching Aztecs Alumni Band (San Diego State University)
Redcoat Band Alumni Association (University of Georgia)	Pride of the Southland Alumni Marching Band (University of Tennessee)
University of Illinois Band Alumni	Longhorn Alumni Band (University of Texas)
ISU Alumni Band (Iowa State University)	Truman State Alumni Band (Truman State University)
Tiger Alumni Band Four Notes Club (Louisiana State University)	Huskie Marching Band Alumni Association (University of Washington)
UMass Marching Band Alumni Network (University of Massachusetts)	West Virginia University Alumni Band
McNeese Alumni Band (McNeese State University)	University of Wisconsin Band Alumni Association

To learn more about the National Association of Alumni Bands: www.AlumniBands.org