

# AOSFB Alumni News

## The Baton is Passed

### Don Santa-Emma Retires - Named Director Emeritus

Donald F. Santa-Emma, Director of the All-Ohio State Fair Band, announced his retirement last fall after serving on the staff for 42 years with the last 17 years as director.

Unbeknownst to fairgoers and supporters, he quietly took his final bow as director at the conclusion of the 2015 Ohio State Fair. During his tenure, he compassionately worked with thousands of Ohio's finest high school musicians, allowing them to showcase their talents at thousands of concerts. His leadership, wisdom and diplomacy provided stability over the years, guiding the AOSFB and leaving a lasting mark on the Ohio State Fair.

"It is with great sadness that I accept Mr. Santa-Emma's announcement," explained General Manager Virgil Strickler. "Don has shown such an immense amount of passion toward the All-Ohio State Fair Band, empowering each and every one of its youth members with an outstanding musical education, a positive Fair experience and a devoted sense of community spirit. While I am saddened to see him go, I am proud of the legacy of excellence that Don has left behind."

The Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame member joined the staff in 1974 when he received a frantic phone call from the director, Omar Blackman. He urged the hesitant Santa-Emma to join the band staff as an assistant director as a vacancy needed to be filled immediately. Through the years he has been a steady force as a leader within the organization. Whether serving in his previous roles as Assistant & Director, Administrative Assistant, or Director, his foremost focus was on the band members. He desired a high quality music experience for the members while working to create a welcoming and professional environment in which the members would grow as citizens of Ohio. Mr. Santa-Emma knew the AOSFB provided the right arena for high school students to grow and develop and he did all that he could do to set the stage so members could maximize the opportunity and experience.

Incoming Director, Brian W. Dodd, named Mr. Santa-Emma as Director Emeritus of the AOSFB. As a result, he will be with the Band on several occasions this summer and continues to provide his expertise during this transition period.

He deserves the utmost respect for his leadership and contributions to the All-Ohio State Fair Band and Music Education. Without a doubt, Mr. Santa-Emma led the AOSFB in the spirit of previous directors - Jack Wainwright, Louis Pete, Jack Evans and Omar Blackman, as he carried forward many traditions in respect of the organization's deep history.

Thank you Mr. Santa-Emma.....Take a bow!!

### Brian Dodd Named Director of the AOSFB

Ohio State Fair officials announced in November that Brian W. Dodd of Bladensburg in Knox County has been named as director of the All-Ohio State Fair Band.

As director, Dodd has a variety of responsibilities throughout the year as well as during the Fair. He will recruit, prepare and manage a talented ensemble of more than 200 high school musicians selected to represent Ohio's diverse population in the famed All-Ohio State Fair Band.

Dodd is entering his 10th year as an AOSFB staff member and first as director. He is a graduate of Philo High School in Muskingum County and The Ohio State University. He holds an Honorary Chapter FFA Degree and received the Honor to Educator Award from West Holmes Schools six times. Mr. Dodd is a recipient of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award and was two time Teacher of the Year for the East Knox Schools. Previously, he was a member of the Adjunct Music Faculty at Mount Vernon Nazarene University and spent 14 years as Director of Music at East Knox High School.



"I am really honored and excited for this opportunity to continue serving the All-Ohio State Fair Band as Director," an enthusiastic Dodd explained. "I look forward to building on the traditions established by Mr. Santa-Emma and the other fine directors that came before me. I am excited to work with the students from fine music programs from across our wonderful state as they continue to grow; both as musicians and positive leaders. It is with excitement that I accept this role as I eagerly look forward to the band's performances at the 2016 Ohio State Fair."

Dodd is in his 31st year as a high school band director and educator, and is in his 17th year as director of bands at West Holmes High School in Millersburg where he currently directs 235 students in the school's two concert bands, jazz band, pep band, marching band and percussion ensemble. His bands have performed throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and Florida, and regularly perform for the NBA Champion Cleveland Cavaliers. He has had students participate in the AOSFB & AOSFYC for the past 31 years.

Dodd is a member of Ohio Music Education Association and served as district chairman and host of OMEA District 10 Large Group Adjudicated Event. He remains active as a performer in the North Central Ohio area and is a member of American Federation of Musicians Local #159. He and his wife Lori currently reside in Bladensburg.

# Alumni Day Schedule, Saturday

## Instrument Storage in a location in the Rhodes Center to be announced

AOSFB, AOSFB Alumni Association, State of Ohio, Ohio State Fair and Ohio Expositions Center are not responsible for any articles. Leave your instrument and possessions at your own risk.

- 10am - 1pm**      **All-Ohio State Fair Band Historical Display in the Rhodes Center Lobby & Morning Performances by the AOSFB**
- 10:15 - 12:00**      **Alumni Registration in the Rhodes Center Lobby**
- 12:00 - 12:30**      **AOSFB Alumni Rehearsal & Meeting**  
You must take part in the rehearsal to play with the Alumni Band.  
Alumni Band uniform is a gray AOSFB alumni shirt (or plain gray shirt) and khaki shorts or pants.
- 12:45**              **AOSFB Alumni Band Fall-in on Rhodes Center front walk**
- 12:45 - 2:00**      **AOSFB Alumni Band Performances**  
The Alumni Band will Ballyhoo through the grounds. **Join the Alumni Band.**  
Playing will be done standing still during these performances  
It is ok to bring a stand and chair if needed.  
A golf cart *may* be available to carry bags, water, chairs and other items.  
Space will be limited; we could use some help from Alums not playing. **Email your name,  
instrument and years in  
the AOSFB to  
aosfb@aosfb.com**
- 1:00 - 1:20**      **AOSFB Alumni Performance at the Cardinal Gate or Cardinal Patio**
- 1:30 - 2:00**      **AOSFB Alumni Performance in Bricker Building near the food court**
- 3:30**              **Alumni Band Fall In on the Rhodes Center Sidewalk for the Parade**  
March to the beginning of the parade route near ODNR  
The parade starts at 4:00 and concludes near the Rhodes Center around 4:30
- 6:30**              **AOSFB & AOSFB Alumni Concert**  
Rhodes Center East Lawn  
The Alumni Band will join in for a few songs. Info will be shared during the rehearsal.  
Registration will be open after the concert.

## Stay In Touch—Drop us a line and keep everyone up to date

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

AOSFB Years: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check if this is a new address
- Check if you do not want your information printed
- Check if you will be playing in the Alumni Band on July 30

**Tell us the news about you. . .**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Check Out. . .**

2016-2017 Annual Dues	\$7 (8/16-8/17)	\$ _____
Lifetime Membership	\$50	\$ _____
Donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund		\$ _____
<b>Total Due</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

Mail the completed form to: AOSFB Alumni Association 8106 Parmenter Drive Parma, Ohio 44129-5351

# All-Ohio State Fair Band Alumni Association Elections

The following individuals have expressed willingness to run for elections for positions on the AOSFB Alumni Association Executive Committee. Please read these short biographical profiles and vote for your choice or write in the name of a willing candidate.

**For the office of President: Karissa Harvey** is a member of the French Horn section from 1997-1999. She currently resides in Springfield, OH and works at Assurant Specialty Property as a Senior Loss Drafts Specialist. While she has not pursued a career in music, her time in the band has remained one of her proudest accomplishments. In addition to her love for band, she volunteers regularly at local middle and high schools. Karissa has previously served as Vice President of the Alumni Association from 2013-2015. This position holds office from August 2016 - August 2018.

**For the office of Vice President: Van Parker** is a member of the French horn section from 1998-2001. Van currently enjoys an active career as a freelance musician in the Cleveland area where he performs regularly with the Firelands, Ashland, Mansfield, Akron and Youngstown Symphonies. A highly sought-after educator, Van has had students accepted to the Akron Youth Symphony, Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, and, of course, AOSFB. His students have been accepted into Baldwin Wallace, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Eastman School of Music and the Cincinnati Conservatory. This position holds office from August 2016 - August 2018.

**For the office of Committeeman 2016-2018: Dennis Busse** is a member of Sousaphone section from 1987-1989. He has 2 kids very active with sports and now are showing more interest in the arts. Dennis felt it was time to get back to the roots that helped shaped his life, time to give back to what gave so much. He has previously served as a Committeeman of the Alumni Association from 2012-2015. This position holds office from August 2016 - August 2018.

**For the office of Committeeman 2016-2019: Andy Brubaker** is a member of the Euphonium section from 2008-2010. He graduated last spring from Ohio Northern University with a business degree in Pharmaceutical Business and Accounting. The band has greatly influenced who Andy is today. He has been a part of the Alumni Association of AOSFB as a Committeeman from 2012-2015 and hopes to aid the staff to provide a wonderful experience for the future members and unite the current alums of the band! This position holds office from August 2016 - August 2019.

Stay up to date with the All-Ohio State Fair Band at [www.aosfb.com](http://www.aosfb.com)

Facebook: All-Ohio State Fair Band - AOSFB

Twitter and Instagram: @aosfb

## Elections

The following Alumni are running for positions on the Alumni Association Board.  
Check the name of your choice or write in a candidate's name and check that box.

**President**—term through 2018

Karissa Harvey

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice-President**—term through 2018

Van Parker

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**Committeeperson**— term through 2018

Dennis Busse

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**Committeeperson**—term through 2019

Andy Brubaker

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

Please vote, clip and send to 8106 Parmenter Dr, Parma OH 44129 or  
Deliver in person on Alumni Day at registration.

# THANK YOU MR. SANTA-EMMA!

Through his 42 years Mr. Santa-Emma contributed so much to the success and experience of the All-Ohio State Fair Band. His dedication, vision and desire to make it all work was seen when the Band performed in front of State Fair crowds. It was evident behind the scenes as he worked with Fair administration and staff members to be prepared for everything it takes to be successful.

Mr. Santa-Emma will be honored during the Celeste Center Concert on Sunday, July 31. Please join us at 1:00 pm that day for the annual AOSFB & AOSFYC Concert to hear the Band and to see Mr. Santa-Emma take the podium again.

We are putting together a book of thanks to present to him when he is with us that day. Please take a moment to send a card—of thanks, with a memory, or well wishes to him. This gift will be a great lasting memory. Send cards and notes to: AOSFB Memories; PO Box 27, Bladensburg, OH 43005. You may also send email messages to [aosfb@aosfb.com](mailto:aosfb@aosfb.com).

Please take a moment to share your memory and appreciation for all that he has done for you and the youth of Ohio for so many years!

All-Ohio State Fair Band Alumni Association  
8106 Parmenter Drive  
Parma, Ohio 44129  
[aosfb.org](http://aosfb.org)



## Schedule of Events and AOSFB Appearances

It is time for another Stars and Stripes summer at the Ohio State Fair - here are some important dates. . .

### July 16

Clean & Prep Day in Rhodes Center

### July 23

Band Arrives in Columbus

### July 26

AOSFB performs at The Ohio Statehouse

### July 27 - August 7

Ohio State Fair

### July 30

AOSFB Alumni Day

### July 31

Celeste Center & Park of Roses Concerts

### August 6

Parents' Concert



A Stars & Stripes Performance - 2007

Specific details and times of the events for each of these events are currently posted at [www.aosfb.com](http://www.aosfb.com).

Schedules are subject to change.

All efforts are made to keep posted schedules current.

Performances are weather permitting and may be delayed or cancelled at anytime.

Facebook and Twitter will have photos posted every day as you track Ohio's Finest School Musicians during rehearsal week and throughout the run of the Fair.

Be sure to visit [www.ohiostatefair.com](http://www.ohiostatefair.com) for everything you need to know about the 2016 Ohio State Fair.