



Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha  
**ADJUDICATION PANEL BIOGRAPHIES**  
October 21, 2023 - College Park, MD



## MUSIC PANEL

**Andrew Buikema (Rockford, Michigan)** has over 20 years of experience in design and instruction in marching band programming and 14 years teaching as a Director of Bands in Michigan. His marching bands were incredibly successful at local, state, and national competitions and were regular participants in Bands of America Regional and Grand National competitions. His bands and jazz bands were also regular participants in Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association festivals and clinics. His love for the marching arts began with experiencing the pageantry of drum corps in the early '90s by watching Drum Corps International finals and especially Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps, an organization that he would later join and perform with in 2000. Buikema studied Music Education at Western Michigan University (WMU) and has a Master of Education from Grand Valley State University. He was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the "Sound of Western" at WMU. Buikema's adjudication experience stems from the Michigan Competing Band Association, Scholastic Bands, and Bands of America. Buikema is an active drill writer, clinician, and adjudicator. Buikema lives in Rockford, Michigan with his wife and amazing English Bulldog, Rubble, where he works as an Assistant Principal at Sparta Middle School.

**Cheryl Lee (Austin, Texas)** is currently serving as Director of Bands for Anderson High School in Austin, Texas. Prior to her appointment in June 2020, she served seven years as the Director of Bands at Blue Valley West High School in Overland Park, Kansas where her teaching responsibilities included the Marching Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble 1, and Honors Music Theory. Under her leadership, the program more than doubled in size and experienced substantial changes in terms of structure and focus. The Blue Valley West Marching Band competed at the regional and national level and won their State Marching Championship two of the last three years. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed at the state Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) conference in 2015 and 2018 and the Music for All National Concert Band Festival in 2016. Jazz Ensemble 1 was consistently named "Outstanding Ensemble" at the University of Kansas Jazz Festival and performed at the 2020 Jazz Education Network conference in New Orleans. West also served the Kansas City area by hosting festivals annually, including a Percussion Festival and Concert Band Festival. Lee is a native Oklahoman and spent five years teaching for Broken Arrow Public Schools as the head director of Haskell Middle School (now Oneta Ridge). While at Haskell, she worked with the Pride of Broken Arrow marching band which won its first Grand National Championship in 2006. In 2009, Lee moved to Kansas to serve as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Kansas while earning a Master of Music degree in Conducting with Dr. Scott Weiss and Dr. Paul Popiel. While at KU, she conducted the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, University Band, "Helianthus" New Music Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and athletic bands including the Marching Jayhawks. Lee was invited to join the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society as well as the Phi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society for maintaining a perfect grade point average and completing oral exams with an honors designation. Lee's Bachelor of Music Education degree is from Oklahoma State University. She was drum major for the Cowboy Marching Band in 2002 and 2003 and was voted "Member of the Year" by the members and staff for the 2003 season. Lee performed on baritone with the Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps for the 2003 and 2004 seasons and was a visual instructor for Crossmen from 2007-2009 and for the Boston Crusaders in 2013. For New Year's Day 2021, she was selected to serve on the Music for All Tournament of Roses Parade All-National Honor Band staff. Her professional affiliations include KMEA, National Association for Music Education, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and she is a National Board Certified Teacher.

**Dave Orser (Kingston, Ontario, Canada)** is the Music Director at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, a position he has held for the past 28 years. Orser's musical ensembles have received top honors, not only at the Provincial and National Levels, but throughout the United States as well. In addition to being a lifelong performer and arranger in the marching arts, Orser is an adjudicator for Bands of America and Drum Corps International.

**Greg Williams (Acworth, Georgia)** spent his professional career as a high school band director and fine arts department chair in the Cobb County School District, located in a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia. During his career, he received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence three times and was honored as Teacher of the Year twice. He served as Director of Bands at North Cobb High School in Kennesaw, Georgia for 20 years. The North Cobb Bands won many local and regional contests and were selected to perform at the GMEA in-service conference in 2006 and 2012. Williams was named the Acworth Citizen of the Year in 2016 for his many years of devotion and commitment to the community. Williams earned his Bachelor of Science and master's degrees in Music Education from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. He was a member of the Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps and the Jacksonville State University Marching Southerners, where he also served as drum major for both organizations. Williams enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, fishing, traveling, and judging high school bands. He and his wife of 36 years, Dr. Lisa Williams, reside in Acworth, Georgia.

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## **VISUAL PANEL**

**John Howell (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)** resides in North Huntingdon Pennsylvania just outside of Pittsburgh. He is currently employed as a Business Education Teacher in the Hempfield Area School District where he serves as the Department Chairperson and teaches Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Web Page Design, Video Game Programming, and Personal Finance. Howell holds a Bachelor of Administration in Business Management and an Accounting minor from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is a visual designer and has taught and written shows for various nationally acclaimed marching bands, drum and bugle corps, and indoor winter color guards. Howell continues to conduct clinics and consultations for bands, winter color guards, and judging associations across the United States. He has been a visual adjudicator for over 28 years and judges for Bands of America, Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International, and various other judging associations. Howell has had the opportunity to judge internationally on numerous occasions. He also conducts both the Trinity Handbell and Hand Chime choirs at his church in which he has performed for over 38 years.

**Kim Kuhn (Westland, Michigan)** has played various roles since becoming involved in the pageantry arts 25 years ago. As a performer, designer, director, instructor, and clinician, Kuhn has been involved with multiple groups making appearances in Bands of America (BOA), Drum Corps International (DCI), and Winter Guard International (WGI) semi-finals and finals. She continues to work with groups in the fall and winter as a writer/designer and technician. As an instructor, she most enjoys being able to share her passion for the activity with her students, watching the training foundation she put into place support their development continuing to higher levels of performance with other organizations as well as teaching groups of their own. Having served on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC) for multiple years, she is currently the Vice President of Color Guards where her main focus is on instructor education. She remains an active member of the rules, championships, and education committees in MCGC. Her judging experience as a visual judge includes: BOA, WGI, DCI, as well as multiple local circuits throughout the country.

**Adam Sage (Boca Raton, Florida)** is an active choreographer, designer, and adjudicator in the pageantry arts. Sage has worked with numerous programs in the southeast including Tarpon Springs High School, East Lake High School, Seminole High School (1993 WGI A class Bronze medalists), Clearwater High School, Kell High School, and Pope High School in Marietta, Georgia. Pope High School was the 2000 WGI Open class Silver medalists and the 2002 WGI World class Bronze medalists. Kell High School was the 2005 WGI A class Silver medalist. In addition, Sage also designed for Spanish River High School Winter Guard in Boca Raton, Florida (2009 Winter Guard International Scholastic A Silver medalists). Sage's drum corps experience includes being a performing member of the Suncoast Sound and The Cadets of Bergen County. He has been on the teaching and design teams for several drum corps over the years. They include the Crossmen, Cavaliers, Santa Clara Vanguard, Phantom Regiment, Carolina Crown, and the Madison Scouts. Sage is also actively involved with Winter Guard International (WGI). He was the director of The Company Colour Guard, Phantom Regiment Winter Guard and CrownGUARD. Sage was the director and designer for the Kennesaw Mountain High School Color Guard in Kennesaw, Georgia 2003-2016 (2004 Winter Guard International Scholastic A World Champions, 2005 Winter Guard

International Scholastic Open World Champions, 2006 Winter Guard International Scholastic World Class finalists, and the 2013 Winter Guard International Scholastic Open Bronze Medalists). Sage is currently the artistic director and choreographer for the Yokohama Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps in Yokohama, Japan. Sage is the visual creative director and color guard coordinator with the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps. He also is one of the directors at Park Vista High School in Lake Worth, Florida where he is the artistic director, designer, and choreographer. When he is not teaching color guard, Sage is a third-grade teacher in Parkland, Florida and resides in Delray Beach.

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## **CHIEF JUDGE**

**W. Dale Warren** (*Fayetteville, Arkansas*) is Senior Wind Band Conductor and Professor of Music in the University of Arkansas' Department of Music. During his three-plus decades of service at the university, Warren has conducted the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Chamber Winds, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Varsity Band, and Campus Band. He also teaches music education courses, supervises music education interns (student teachers), and is actively engaged in the graduate instrumental conducting program. From 1991-2000, Warren was the Director of the UA Razorback Marching Band. He is also the director of the highly successful UA Summer Music Camps. Warren taught at Kentucky high schools Bremen and North Hardin from 1980-1986. His bands received numerous awards and Division I ratings. He has guest conducted all-district, all-region, and all-state honor bands as well as university bands in 39 states. Warren has completed a faculty residency with the Kasetsart University Wind Symphony in Bangkok, Thailand. For 20 years he served as an adjudicator/clinician for Musicfest Orlando. During Warren's affiliation with Music for All/Bands of America, he served as a member of the Educational Advisory Board and for the past 36 years as an adjudicator and chief judge. In addition to serving as chairman of the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Shield Award Committee, Warren is a John Philip Sousa Foundation Board Member, a Past President of the Southeastern Conference Band Directors Association, and for the past 21 years has been a member of the Institutional Review Board at Washington Regional Medical Center. Since Warren arrived at the University of Arkansas, the UA Wind Symphony has made six guest appearances at College Band Directors National Association Conventions. The UA Wind Symphony performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and at the Arkansas Music Educators Convention/All-State Conference on two occasions under Warren's baton. During his tenure as Director, the Razorback Marching Band performed numerous times for former President William Jefferson Clinton, including the 1992 Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C. Under Warren's leadership, the Razorback Band performed at the SEC Championship, the Cotton Bowl, the Citrus Bowl, the Carquest Bowl, and the Independence Bowl. The Razorback Marching Band also appeared as the Grand Finale Band at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. Warren is a former marching member of the Guardsmen Drum and Bugle Corps of Schaumburg, Illinois, and a former brass and visual staff member for the Guardsmen and the Imperial Guard Drum and Bugle Corps of Evansville, Indiana. He has also served as a Drum Corps International (DCI) Adjudicator. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Austin Peay State University and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Kentucky. He also served on the music department faculty as Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Kentucky from 1986-1991.