


BW 2017
The Bandworld Legion of Honor

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Joe Trusty

Joe Trusty has been the Cabot High School Director of Bands in Cabot, Arkansas for the last 29 years.

Trusty earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Arkansas Tech University and his Masters of Science in Education from the University of Central Arkansas.

Trusty was named AR Band Master of the Year in 2010, Music educator of the Year for AR in 2011 and was named to The Instrumentalist 50 Directors that Make a Difference in 2014.

He has served his profession by holding about every office possible in the ASBOA from board member to President. He also currently serves as the secretary for the AR Bandmasters Association.

Trusty's ensembles have received superior ratings at the ASBOA contests for the past 20 years. His marching band has many Sweepstakes and Grand Champion awards as well.

"Do what is right. These words have proven time and again to be the answer in every situation. Do what is right for the students. Do what is right for the music. Do what is right for the parents, school and community. When you do what is right, not only does the individual musician improve, but the

ensemble improves and more importantly, the student improves and learns to become a better person and able to contribute positively to our society. Making great music and helping students become the best they can be creates an atmosphere that attracts, and retains, the kind of student that makes the school and community a better place." It is hard to argue with that wonderful philosophy.

A special award of The John Philip Sousa Foundation

The Bandworld Legion of Honor was established in 1989 to honor, over the course of a year, eight of the finest band directors in our business.

Recipients have taught for at least fifteen years, have maintained a very high quality concert band program, and have contributed significantly to the profession through dedication to bands and band music.

Each is honored at the annual Sousa Foundation awards ceremony during the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

Chairman of the Legion of Honor Committee is Terry Austin, Virginia Commonwealth University.

[Legion Laureates List Link](#)


Randall Mealer

Randall Mealer is the Director of Bands and the Fine Arts Coordinator at Harrison High School in Harrison, AR. He has held this position for the past 10 years which is nearly half of his teaching career.

Mealer earned his BME from Henderson State and went on to earn a MSEL from Western Governors University.

1994 was a banner year for Mealer in that he was named the Monett Elementary, Junior High and High School Teacher of the Year! He was also awarded an Excellence in Musical Leadership by the Army All-American Band in 2011.

He has served the AR School Band and Orchestra Association by hosting Regional Solo/Ensemble as well as Regional Concert Festivals. Prior to his time in Arkansas he also served at the SW Missouri MEA Badn President.

Mealer's Wind Ensemble has scored consistently high in the ASBOA competitions. His Golden Gobblins Marching Band has also shown itself to be worthy competition.

Mealer says, "My career has been shaped by the influence of role models and mentors starting in college at Henderson State University with Windell O. Evanson, supportive administrators like David Sippy and Ken Brumely and more recently with the influence of Dr. Al and Gladys Wright. Additionally, my career has been shaped by the sharing of music and performances with students and adults of great composers."

Part of his philosophy is spelled out by the school's value and mission statement. It says "Maximize the Learning of Every Scholar" and I strive to challenge my students daily.

[Terry Austin Bio](#)
[Legion of Honor Chairman](#)