

Leon High School Band Parent Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 22, 2022; 6:00 p.m.— Leon High School, Band Room

Board Members (Present | Absent)

- Lee Commander (LC), Band Director/Booster Board Advisor – commanderl@leonschools.net
- Curtis Newsom (CN), Assistant Band Director/Booster Board Co-advisor – commanderl@leonschools.net
- Jennie Alvis (JA), President – alvismassage3@gmail.com
- Jennifer Guarraia (JG), Vice President – fsumomof3@yahoo.com
- Mechelle Mickles (MM), Treasurer – mechellemickles@yahoo.com
- Chris Guarraia (CG), Secretary – chris.guarraia@gmail.com
- Rachel Christensen (RC), Volunteer Coordinator – christensen.rachel.a@gmail.com
- *Rachel Lehman (RL), Senior Representative – cylonophile@gmail.com*
- Julie Hatfield (JH), Junior Representative – juliedupuis@yahoo.com
- *Tia Cross (TC), Sophomore Representative – ncross1128@gmail.com*
- Jacque Williams (JW), Freshman Representative – jacquebyrdsong@gmail.com

I. Opening

Lee Commander called the regular meeting of Leon High School Band Parents to order at **6:07 p.m.** and introduced Assistant Band Director Curtis Newsom.

II. Introduction of Officers

- Jennie Alvis: Band Booster President
- Booster Board has 9 people.
 - a. Five are elected officials, elected in January of each year:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice President
 - iii. Treasurer
 - iv. Secretary
 - v. Volunteer Coordinator
 - b. Four appointed officials—Grade-level representatives that follow the grades in successive years.

III. Reports of Officers

President

- n/a

Vice President

- n/a

Treasurer

- n/a

Secretary

- n/a

Volunteer Coordinator

- n/a

IV. From the Band Director

- Brief history of Leon Band
 - We hold the longest Superior streak in the state of Florida.
 - Three of the four first band directors went on to be president of the Florida Bandmasters Association.
 - I am just the 10th band director since Leon Band started.
- I hand-pick the staff.

V. New Business

Marching Season (Dos and Don'ts) – Lee Commander

- Rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday evening, unless LCS says we can't have it.
 - Rehearsals are in the evenings (start at 6 p.m.) to give opportunities for students to be involved in other activities.
- No band camp this year—working smarter, not harder
- Don't
 - Ask if we're having rehearsal
 - Have dairy on days of rehearsal
 - Not eat
- Tu., 8/23/2022: Uniform fitting for students who haven't been fitted are during class.
- All information can be found on marchingredcoats.com
 - Email me if there is information you need that is not on the site
 - The calendar has everything we know about for the whole year
 - There are four Saturdays where band students are needed
 - One in September
 - Three in October
 - Sa., 10/1/2022: Rehearse-a-thon has the potential to bring in a lot of money for fundraising. When we've had less than 10% of students involved, we still made \$5000.
 - Sa., 10/22/2022: Marching Music Performance Assessment (MPA) – No absence granted. This is what we work towards for the marching season.
 - Discussion about grading policy. Rehearsal are a big part of a student's grade.
 - **Documents** page has a "Request for Absence" form for students to complete (for rehearsals and performances) if they know they know they will have a scheduled absence.
 - I communicate with the other Leon performing arts teacher throughout the year. Concerts take priority over rehearsals (e.g., if a student has a Steel Drum concert the same day as a rehearsal, they will be excused to perform in the concert).
 - For parades, if a student is also in JROTC, I just need to know with what group they are marching.

London Trip – Lee Commander

- Week-long trip is optional for students, and the trip happens once every four years.
- Trip is in March 2023. Students can fundraise however they want. Students can get private donations, but I cannot provide funds because it is an optional trip.
- We currently have 33 students. If we reach 40 students, we can be our own private group through EF Tours.
- It is open for anyone in the Marching Redcoats (which includes The Scarlet Battalion [i.e., color guard] and the Leonettes [i.e., dance team]).

- There is information online.

Online Shop – Lee Commander

- Pop-up shops close August 31. It's fundraising for all of the Marching Redcoats. There are two shops:
 - Leon Band/Marching Redcoats merchandise: <https://fancloth.shop/MSVGR>
 - Scarlet Battalion/general merchandise: <https://fancloth.shop/LWYNE>
- If we sell 400 items, we get \$9 per item for fundraising.
- It is good quality clothing.

Volunteering – Rachel Christensen

- Thank you to everyone who helped last week.
- Because of medical issues, I won't be as visible at events as much as I would like to be.
- If you wish to volunteer, you will need to complete the LCS volunteer form online.
- When you get the approval email from LCS, send the copy to both JA and myself. Only then can you volunteer with Leon Band.
 - If I haven't responded that I've received your approval through LCS, reach out to me.
 - If you submitted your volunteer form but haven't received an email back from LCS, reach out to me.
- I will be sending out Signup Genius links for various events throughout the year.
- Please complete the Band Parent-Guardian Talent Survey form (attached). It is on the **Current Redcoats: Parent** page of marchingredcoats.com.
 - The form is fillable online, as are most of our forms.
 - Let us know what your interests are. If there is something that's not on the sheet, send me an email.
- If you want the option to be considered as a chaperone for overnight trips, you need to have fingerprints run through LCS as a background check.
 - If you are a LCS employee, your fingerprints carry over.
 - If you've worked as a volunteer before in LCS and have had fingerprints, there is a form you need to complete.
 - Fingerprints cost \$60 per person.
- LC: For London, I have a limited number of free spots—one for every six students. Because it is going through EF Tours, parents can pay to go on the trip. We will have one adult for every six students.
- This is true volunteering. You are not "voluntold." However, all volunteer things that you do (such as attending parent meetings) get submitted to the school and we do get funding for it.
- Signup Genius counts as a log. Also keep track of the volunteer log (attached to notes) on the form that Ms. Susan Homes sent to you.

Scholarships – Julie Hatfield

- We've launched a fundraising drive to be able to provide students with scholarships.
- We succeeded in raising the first \$10,000 start the endowment. Operated by Community Foundation of North Florida (CFNF).
- We want to get to \$50,000 by the end of the school year. It allows us to generate \$2000 in interest every year that can go to providing 3–4 scholarships per year. It also lowers our fees with CFNF.
- Please promote the scholarship fund whenever you can. Send me names and addresses, and I'll send out letters.
- **Question:** *Is it appropriate that during Chicken Dinner fundraising, can we mention the scholarship drive?*
 - LC: Yes.

Chicken Dinner Fundraiser (Sales, Friends and Family, and Pick-Up) – Cheryl Swanson

- It's not difficult to run.
- We make about \$17,000.
- It starts with Friends and Family sales (vouchers).
- Sa., 9/10/2022: Students with chaperone drivers canvas the surrounding neighborhoods in up to 31 routes in the Leon HS zone. We have route maps.
- Students (in marching uniform) go in pairs with a parent driving the route along with the students.
- There is also a car bingo activity they do throughout the day.
 - LC: The vouchers are like cash and are \$12 each. At the end of the Friends and Family sales, students are either returning all five unsold vouchers, cash for vouchers sold, or some combination of the two.
 - JA: Students can sign out more vouchers to sell.
- There is an online purchasing option as well (not available for Friends and Family sales).
- Sa., 11/12/2022: Chicken dinner pickup
 - LC: It is really easy. It's done as a drive through line in the Senior Parking lot. This fundraiser pays for our marching show, staff members, drill, and helps lower fees.
- When I started, band fees were \$700 for a year. This year, fees are \$250 (\$350 for auxiliary).
- LC: Because it's a student fundraiser, collected money can't be paid through mobile apps like Venmo, Paypal, etc. It needs to be cash or check to go through the school.

Poinsettia Fundraiser – Lee Commander

- This fundraiser goes directly to individual students' accounts to help offset fee. It is not a general band account fundraiser.
- Poinsettias are delivered first week of December.
- JA: I'm waiting to hear from the vendor for exact dates.

VI. Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- Mo., 8/22/2022 – Fr., 8/29/2022: PRISM ticket sales
 - Tickets are first come first serve. We have pre-bought a block of seats.
- 8/24/2022: Chicken Dinner Friends and Family sales
- Fr., 8/26/2022: Leon football (away) @ North Florida Christian School
 - Sign up for Remind account. It's how I message parents on event days.
- Fr., 9/2/2022: Leon football (home) vs. Munroe HS @ Leon HS
- Fr., 9/9/2022: Leon football (home) vs. Ft. Lauderdale @ Leon HS
- Sa., 9/10/2022: Chicken dinner door-to-door sales
- Sa., 9/17/2022: All-State Auditions @ Leon HS
- Fr., 9/23/2022: Leon football (away) @ Navarre HS
- Mo., 9/26/2022: Fall Holiday (no school)
- We., 9/28/2022: Fall Concert, 9 p.m. @ LPAT
- Sa., 10/1/2022: Rehearse-a-thon—A 12-hour rehearsal for MPA that's also a fundraiser
- Fr., 10/7/2022: Leon football (home) vs. Lincoln HS @ Gene Cox Stadium; 8th Grade Night
- Sa., 10/8/2022: Big Bend Marching Band Festival @ Gene Cox Stadium
- Th., 10/13/2022: Leon football (home) vs. Chiles HS @ Gene Cox Stadium; Homecoming
- Th., 10/20/2022: End-of-season picnic at the conclusion of rehearsal
- Fr., 10/21/2022: Leon football (home) vs. Niceville HS @ Gene Cox Stadium; Senior Night
- Sa., 10/22/2022: Marching MPA @ Gene Cox Stadium
- Sa., 11/5/2022: All-District Auditions @ Lincoln HS

- Does not apply to everyone
- Symphonic Band does audition and any other student who wishes to
- Fr., 11/11/2022: Veterans' Day Parade
- Sa., 11/12/2022: Chicken Dinner Pick-up in Senior Parking Lot
- Fr., 11/25/2022 – Sa., 12/24/2022: Gift Wrapping Booth at Governor's Square Mall
 - Fundraising comes from donations from those getting gifts wrapped.
 - We've averaged around \$5000.
 - JA: If you can't volunteer time but can donate supplies, that's appreciated. They don't need to be just Christmas Gifts. They can be any gifts that need wrapping (e.g., Chanukah, birthday, etc.)
- We., 11/30/2022: FSU PRISM Concert

VII. Q&A

- Answered throughout the meeting.

VIII. Good of the Order: Announcements

- n/a

IX. Adjournment

- Door prizes were distributed by JA and JG.
- **Lee Commander** adjourned the meeting at **7:28 p.m.**
- The next meeting of the Leon High School Band Parents will be at **6:00 p.m.** on **Monday, November 28, 2022** (nominations for Band Booster Board takes place).



2022–2023 Leon High School Leon Band Parent/Guardian Talent Survey

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Work Phone: () _____

Email Address(es): _____

Survey: How Can You Help (Check as many that apply to you.)

- Chaperone:** Work with/monitoring students on the bus, in the stands, and on trips
- Concession stand:** Work during Leon home football games to offset individual band fees
- Equipment truck driver:** Drive rental trucks to and from events (e.g., football games, district Solo and Ensemble Festival, etc.); also assists in getting equipment on and off field for field show
- Equipment truck loading:** Help students load/unload the trucks at events (e.g., football games, district Solo and Ensemble Festival, etc.); also assists in getting equipment on and off field for field show
- Uniform helper:** Help fit uniforms; mend and clean uniforms, as necessary
- Lunch helper:** Help make sandwiches/grill food for students for MPA, Rehearse-a-Thon, etc.
- Assist with fundraisers:** Help organize and/or disperse fundraiser items
- Oliver Hobbs Concert Reception/Silent Auction:** Help organize and/or serve; help request donations for silent auction
- Chicken Dinner:** Chicken Dinner is our largest fundraiser. Part of the fundraiser has students (in uniform) canvas the neighborhood on a Saturday selling tickets. On that day, we need people to drive 3–4 kids on set routes to sell the tickets. A few weeks later, we need volunteers to help serve the already prepared meals. If you can help drive the kids and/or help serve on the chicken dinner pickup day, that would be great.
 - Sales Day:** Drive students for door-to-door sales
 - Pick-up Day:** Serving during Chicken Dinner pickups



LEON SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

2757 W. Pensacola Street ♦ Tallahassee, FL ♦ 32304 ♦ 487-7800

RECORD OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY	
Volunteer Approved on LCS Master Computer List?	
Yes	No

Volunteer's LAST Name	FIRST Name	Phone(s)
Volunteer's Address	City/State	Zip
Student's LAST Name	FIRST Name	Teacher/Grade

Volunteer Hours Do Count! Schools are required to keep data on volunteers and business/community involvement. Volunteer hours can be used to qualify schools for statewide awards and provide needed information for grants that schools apply for. Please help us track our volunteer involvement by recording your hours each time you volunteer for a school or program. For an explanation of volunteer categories, see the back of this sheet. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you must have documentation of your volunteer service, please ask the school/program for a copy of this timesheet before the end of the school year and have your supervisor sign and date it.

Supervisor _____ Date _____

Date of Volunteer Service	Type of Volunteer Activity (chaperone, classroom assistance, fundraising, mentoring, etc.)	Location in School (classroom, media, office, science lab, etc.)	Total Volunteer Hours Served Today <small>(Round out fractions of hours to decimals. Example: 1/4 hour = .25 1/2 hour = .50 & 3/4 hour = .75)</small>

Name of Volunteer: _____

Date of Volunteer Service	Type of Volunteer Activity (chaperone, classroom assistance, fundraising, mentoring, etc.)	Location in School (classroom, media, office, science lab, etc.)	Total Volunteer Hours Served Today (Round out fractions of hours to decimals. For example: 1/4 hour = .25, 1/2 hour = .50 & 3/4 hour = .75)

→ **THANKS** for Volunteering in Leon County Schools!



Total Hours from BACK	
Total Hours from FRONT	
TOTAL HOURS for TIMESHEET (Front & Back)	

What Counts as Volunteer Time?

A general rule of thumb is that any services that are provided by persons not paid by the school district may be counted as volunteered services. This includes parents who help in the classroom or with other school activities, college students, guest speakers, students helping other students, persons serving on advisory committees, and so on. A list of potential volunteer categories is listed below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts & Crafts Volunteers Babysitting (so others may volunteer) Bake Sales Book Fairs Booster Organization Activities Bus Duty Candy/Cookie & Wrapping Paper Sales Carnival & Festival events Car Washes Chaperones Classroom Volunteers Clinic Helpers College Students (FAMU, FSU, TCC, etc.) Computer Tutors Community Organizations who sign-up to assist the school for a special event/project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAC/SAC Representatives Foster Grandparents Fund-raising Committees/Events Gardening/Landscaping Projects Homeroom Representatives Judges for Academic Competitions Math Tutors Mentors (work one-on-one weekly with students) Office Helpers Partners for Excellence PTO/PTA Projects Reading Volunteers Resource Speakers School Sports Activities Working at Home (on volunteer projects, making phone calls, e-mail, grading papers, typing, etc.)
<p>What DOES NOT Count as Volunteer Time?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full-time college interns (assigned to work/teach 35 - 40 hours a week) ✓ LCS Teachers/Staff working overtime in their regular staff assignment ✓ Organizations using the school site for after hours meeting space, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, high school clubs, etc. 	