



## Missouri Bandmasters Association **Butch Antal Service Award**

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### 2024 Inductee - **Doyle Edwards**

\*Introduction Transcript

The Butch Antal Service Award was established to recognize an individual or organization who has contributed in an extraordinary manner to the support of the Missouri Bandmasters Association and music education in the state of Missouri. This year's recipient established a connection with MBA at an early age and for years has selflessly helped the organization fulfill its mission of Building Better Bands.

There is no doubt the establishment of the Missouri All State Band in 1977 under the leadership of Larry Pohlmann has served as a source of inspiration and wonderful memories for thousands of musicians. The Missouri All-State Band is well known nationally as one of the best, and much of that can be attributed to the selection process. Each year, over a thousand students, all who were selected to their district band, converge at Hickman High School to duke it out to be selected to the 100 member band.

Doyle Edwards attended Rolla High School and played tuba in the band with directors Harold Cleveland, Bob Drummond, and Pam Henry. In 1981, he was selected to the Missouri All State Band conducted by H. Robert Reynolds. When he was in that band playing pieces such as Four Scottish Dances and Salvation is Created, he probably would have NEVER guessed that 43 years later he would have a huge role in MBA and the All State Band!

This is going to sound amusing to some of our younger band directors here today, but BACK IN THE 1900's soon after the internet was invented, the 1999-2000 MBA Board while Jim Cunningham was President realized they needed a website to stay current. Doyle designed and maintained the first MBA Website when most of the programming was not pre-established and continued this service for several years at no charge to our organization.

In 2005, the MBA Board voted to transition the all-state band audition registration to an online pre-registration process. I remember my first 7 years of teaching getting to Hickman, and 1200 students standing in lines to register, cash in hand, and the MBA Board and volunteers would write down names, assign audition numbers, and write each student an audition ticket. Results were hand written on huge pieces of paper and taped up in the lobby, and would last about 30 seconds before elated students would tear a strip with their name down as a souvenir of their conquest. I honestly don't know how they ever pulled off that day, but they did - but it was kind of chaotic! When going to an online registration process, there needed to be a way to collect information from the directors to the software that Laura Ruether had written to streamline the process.

Keith Ruether noted:

“With his website and computer programming skills and his knowledge of the All state band process, we knew Doyle would be the perfect person to help us through this daunting and stressful endeavor of pre-registering over 1200 students when it had always been done onsite at Hickman High School. Doyle graciously accepted this challenge and his work was, and is, critical to MBA running a successful audition each year on the first Saturday in December.”

Linda Huck added:

“Doyle’s help with setting up All state band items on the MBA website was crucial to the All State Coordinators as we were beginning the move from pencil and paper to a computer program for administering the All State Band. With his help and Laura Ruether’s help, the all state audition process was streamlined, making the experience better for all involved!”

Having served as the all state coordinator, I can attest that Doyle was always so helpful, patient, kind, and pleasant as I was preparing for audition day. Crazy enough, I am pretty sure Kim Pirtle, Kenny Hansen, Brad Hudson, and I didn’t ever actually meet him until a couple years ago when he came to help out on audition day! I remember meeting him and being like “YOU’RE DOYLE!” He was always like the man behind the curtain in the Wizard of Oz, and when we finally met him we found out he was just as nice! I think every all state coordinator can attest of his kindness, helpfulness, and willingness to roll with any last minute hiccups that could put everything into a frenzy. It never did because of his knowledge and willingness to help.

Doyle was a music education major, and did his student teaching with an amazing mentor, Ed Roberts. He was an excellent band director but eventually changed to his career in computer programming at Brewer Science in Rolla. However, he still would write marching band drill for nearly 20 years and continued to honor his first profession by all of these contributions to MBA. He did the majority of the work for our organization free of charge and has been such an important contributor to our mission of BUILDING BETTER BANDS.

It is my honor and privilege to present the Butch Antal Service Award to the “man behind the curtain”  
- Mr. Doyle Edwards!