

Name: Aaron Robin

Hometown: Lafayette, Louisiana

Aaron Robin served as a high school band director for 35 years. He was at Comeaux High School in Lafayette, Louisiana for 30 years. Mr. Robin began serving as an adjudicator in 1977, and he has since adjudicated band events throughout the US. During his tenure as a high school band director, his bands received national recognition in the areas of marching, concert, and jazz performance. His bands were seen in many nationally televised events including the Rose, Presidential Inaugural, and Macy's parades. The band at Comeaux was a frequent participant at Bands of America events and the national adjudicator events. Mr. Robin has had a strong influence on the next generation. Many of his students, student teachers and assistant directors currently hold positions in college music programs and high schools around the country.

Mr. Robin was a recipient of the John Philip Sousa Foundation Order of Merit, Band World's Legion of Honor, and the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence awards. Mr. Robin holds a Master's of Music Education and the Educational Specialist Degree from the University of Louisiana Lafayette. Mr. Robin also attended the Navy School of Music and served as interim trumpet instructor. He has served on the boards of the Louisiana Band Director's Association, the Louisiana Music Educators Association, and the Executive Board of the National Adjudicators Association. He is currently retired from the Lafayette Parish School System and presently serves the Central States Judges Association as both an adjudicator and as the immediate past Executive Director.

I asked Ron Toups for help with his bio and he wrote this testimonial to Aaron:

*"As a colleague and former student teacher under Mr. Robin, I witnessed his commitment to students and the excellence his band programs achieved in daily rehearsal and performance.*

*He was and is an inspiration to so many in our field. In my opinion, Aaron Robin's enthusiasm for band, musical knowledge, dedication to students and untiring quest for excellence places him in the company of the great music educators and directors of our time. I am thankful, like many others, for his mentorship and congratulate him on this nomination into the Central States Judges Association Hall of Fame."*

Aaron was elected to the Executive director post at a time when CSJA was rudderless and at a crossroads. Over the years, CSJA had lost sight of the policies that made CSJA a great adjudication organization. Our objectives had shifted to financial considerations being more important than the students and directors that we were judging. Aaron quickly changed the organization from being dollar centric to education centric while instilling a culture that CSJA is a partner in the education of the students in the marching units. Aaron said to me many times that the participants in smaller show deserves just as good of a panel as a large show. After all, we are partners with the director in the education of their students.

Under Aaron CSJA began a program of self-reflection where many less than competent judges (who were allowed membership simply because we wanted a large number of judges on the

roster) were dropped from the roles of active judges and many of our rules and regulations were updated for current times. The number of judges had been more important than the quality of their judging. We were losing shows because of these policies, Aaron guided us through many difficult, lean years. He insisted on the quality of judging and he stubbornly stayed the course despite many issues. "Build it and they will come" applied to CSJA as the quality of judging eventually led to the return of our reputation and our receiving more shows.

Today CSAJ is a great organization on the rise, due in no small part to his hard work and the culture that Aaron instilled in the organization. Today CSJA has regained its relevance in the world of marching arts. We all know the high energy and commitment that Aaron gave to this organization. I had the pleasure to get to know Aaron while serving as treasurer during his tenure, I will always remember the very unique experience of working with Aaron and his boundless energy. I consider it an honor and pleasure to nominate Aaron for the CSJA hall of fame.

*Bob Rada*  
*03/13/2019*

*I would like to thank Tim Kovarik for his help on the biography and Rob Touns for his testimonial!*