



Aurora American Legion Band

2023 Conductor Letter

Dear Aurora American Legion Band,

I am so excited to be writing you as the newly appointed Director of the Aurora American Legion Band!

To say that I am honored and excited would be a very big understatement. Because I will be a new director, and many of you do not know me, I thought a little introduction was warranted. I grew up in Joliet, which is another great band town with an amazing history and tradition of Legion Band. When I was in high school, I wanted to join the Joliet American Legion Band but was unable because females were not allowed to participate. I know for some of the members in this band, you were among the first females who were allowed into this band. To now be the conductor of the AALB feels very satisfying. I attended DePaul University for my undergraduate degree and Northwestern University for my Masters degree. And I play what is perhaps the most important instrument in any ensemble, the saxophone.

*This summer I anticipate working on, and performing, some great concert music, as well as our traditional selections. Our programs will include both music of a more serious nature as well as lighter fare for the sake of entertaining our concertgoers. Our first rehearsal is **Thursday, May 18 at 7pm at West Aurora HS**. All subsequent rehearsals will be at Herget Middle School.*

I anticipate having fun but productive rehearsals. The Board and I understand and appreciate that many of you have summer plans and obligations. Please communicate conflicts with your section leader well in advance of any performance so we can prepare accordingly.

I also hope we can count on your continued participation and contributions as marching members of our ensemble. As a member of our band, please know that parade marching is important and must be treated as any other performance of our ensemble. We strongly desire to have every member who is physically able to participate in parades to properly represent the band. We will have marching rehearsals on both May 25 and June 29 in preparation for our parade commitments on May 29 and July 3 & 4. We understand that some members, especially high school students, may have previous performance commitments on Memorial Day weekend.

I am very much looking forward to meeting all of you and having fun making great music together!

Here's to a great summer ahead!

Sincerely,

Miss Patty Sampson