

Hello,

I am one of the few at last week's conference who does not teach in a school system.

I direct an American Legion band - sort of like middle school with grownups.

I learned a lot and enjoyed it thoroughly, but thought I should point out that I work with the adults your students have become.

Most of our members are between, say, 50 and 70. We do have a 12-year-old flutist, and our baritone sax player is 92, but 50-70 is the mean.

You or someone like you taught them to play and they are still at it.

I think you should be proud of that.

I have nothing against athletics, but I have trouble picturing our 84-year-old bass drummer, who still does every parade, continuing in any sport.

My band is full of stories of members who played in schools or college groups, stopped for various reasons, and then came back to it - sometimes after many years.

The skill of my players varies, but their spirit of cooperation and willingness to help each other is a constant.

Please consider this a testimony to the change you can make in someone's life by introducing them to the skills and camaraderie of playing music.

Thank you all for doing what you do.

You make my job possible and the world a better place.

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[www.walthamlegionband.org](http://www.walthamlegionband.org)