

Patrick E. Auerbach
Associate Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations

As a founding member of the Trojan Marching Band Alumni Association, I am excited to submit this letter of support for the nomination of TMBAA for the USC Volunteer Organization of the Year Award.

In 3 years, through a pandemic, we have finally established the alumni association needed to support the students and the alumni of the Trojan Marching Band. The organization has grown to nearly 600 members who have supported the Trojan Marching Band and its alumni with their time, talent and treasure. The TMB alumni are the most passionate and dedicated of alumni; committed to continued support of students and alumni and connecting them together.

Some accomplishments of our organization that have supported TMB students include:

- Purchasing a marching band design program that allows the students to access their instructions on their phone on the field, including future annual related expenses.
- Providing custom spirit packs for band camp.
- Sending congratulatory cards to graduating seniors and welcoming them as USC alum with packages that include alumni band t-shirts and hats.
- Purchasing meals that included opportunities for the students and the alumni to interact at away games and homecoming.
- Assisting students with research projects and recent grads with career counseling.

Some accomplishments that have supported TMB alumni include:

- Jock jacket replacement program: Allowing alumni to replace their third-year jock jacket and the gift of a jock jacket to our oldest living alum, Don Beckhart. You can read the story here: <https://www.tmbaa.org/news/tmb-alum-gets-jock-jacket-nearly-70-years-later/>
- Broad communication: Reaching all alumni – not just members including: a private Facebook page; Instagram; TMBAA website <https://www.tmbaa.org/> ; email communication to 3,000 known alums.
- Alumni events: Promoting virtual and in-person activities through organized and grass roots efforts, including meet ups, traveling to football games, supporting TMB- and USC-owned businesses, mentoring and job referrals and resume assistance.
- The Greatest Homecoming in the History of the Universe: Gathering some 800 alumni over a three-year period to join the Spirit of Troy for the largest halftime show in USC history and to celebrate Dr. Bartner's 50 years as the director of the Spirit of Troy. The weekend included events, rehearsals with the current band, 28 drum majors and custom merchandise produced by the USC bookstore. Read the article at: <https://uscband.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Spirit-Notes-Spring-2022-1.pdf>

It has been my privilege to serve the TMBAA as the merchandise chair and second vice president. We are proud of the many accomplishments of the TMBAA and the difference we have made to our students and our alumni. Thank you for your considering our nomination.

Sincerely,
Betsey (Elizabeth) Dillon
Class of 1981