



Welcome to Orange County, and the 39th ROPA Annual Conference!

On behalf of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association Executive Board, I'd like to welcome you to the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel for the 39th Annual ROPA Conference! After two years of virtual conferences, we are holding an in-person conference. There will be COVID protocols for everyone's safety, including requirement to show proof of full vaccination, masking for all conference indoor events, social distancing, and sanitizing.

As at any ROPA Conference there will be a variety of speakers sharing important information that we can take back to our orchestras, the opportunity to discuss issues with our colleagues from around ROPA, and the opportunity to talk with AFM and Symphonic Services Division (SSD) Staff.

We will take care of the business of ROPA, including making and approving resolutions, making bylaws updates and changes, and electing new Officers and Members at Large of the ROPA Executive Board. The open positions this year are President, Treasurer, and four Members at Large (MALs). Please consider running for one of these important ROPA positions! After six years, I am stepping back and will not be running again for President. The Treasurer position, which became open last year, has been filled on an interim basis by Katie Shields.

Our speakers will include AFM President Ray Hair, Diversity, Legislative and Political Director Alfonso Pollard, and representatives from Orange County Musicians' Union Local 7, and other local speakers for Orange County and the Los Angeles area. Symphonic Services Director, Special Counsel and Assistant to the President Rochelle Skolnick will be leading a role-playing exercise for all participants in negotiations.

Speaking of negotiations, SSD staff will be holding a negotiations workshop for orchestra representatives and Local officers on Monday, July 25, from 10am-5pm. One representative from each orchestra negotiating this coming year is eligible to receive reimbursement by the AFM for one day's hotel expenses and per diem for one day. Any registered attendee is welcome to attend the negotiations workshop.

We look forward to seeing you in Orange County!
In Solidarity,

John Michael Smith
President, ROPA