

Cheri A. Sleeper is a product of the Florida Public Education system attending elementary and secondary schools in Tampa, Florida. She has been an educator for thirty-four years in the State of Florida teaching Kindergarten through 12th grade. She graduated from King High School and returned to teach as the Orchestra/Band Director for fourteen years. Currently, Ms. Sleeper is the Orchestra/Band Director at Strawberry Crest High School and has been in that position for thirteen years. She has increased her student numbers to three full ensembles which include string and full orchestra. At both schools, her ensembles receive accolades on their musical excellence on the District and State level. Under her musical leadership she has inspired four future music educators including the 2019 Florida Teacher of the Year, Dr. Dakeyan Graham.

Cheri Sleeper is the current Chairperson for District Seven of the Florida Orchestra Association (FOA). She has held this position for five years. During her tenure, she has organized music performance assessments, holds four district FOA meetings annually, assists directors with equipment and instrument needs, serves as a mentor to novice directors and makes recommendations on obtainable literature for the unique nature of the school's ensemble. She has also assisted the FOA handbook committee as well as the committee currently editing the current FOA Music Lists. Mrs. Sleeper has served as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the State of Florida and has been an active member on several committees to write and update music curriculum.

Given the opportunity to serve the Florida Orchestra Association as president elect, Ms. Sleeper's mission is two-fold:

Fold One: The FOA should provide avenues through which our students could have the opportunity to pursue excellence and longevity in their musical endeavors. The goal would be to help students find musical avenues to make connections with colleges, universities, community ensembles and professionals to help them see how music can improve their lives well beyond their secondary experiences.

Fold Two: In these unsettling times, it is important that the Florida Orchestra Association and other component organizations help music teachers in their everyday efforts. Instructors are experiencing many emotions, situations and challenges in this "fluid" situation. Mrs. Sleeper's mission is to offer ideas, options and mentoring to both our young and veteran teachers.

Cheri Sleeper received her Bachelor's in Music Education at Florida State University and Master's in Arts and Educational Leadership at the University of South Florida. She has two sons and one grandson. She is blessed with a fabulous, supportive family, many friends, and her two "fur babies," Buddy and Sammi.