



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Dear Troopers Alumni,

As we prepare to kick off this year's *On the Road Again* campaign, I want to take a moment to thank you, from the heart, for the legacy you've helped build.

Over the years, this campaign has become far more than just a fundraiser. It's been a way for alumni to reconnect with the corps, to pass on pride and encouragement, and to remind current members that they're part of something much bigger than just one season. Your generosity, your spirit, and your continued involvement have made *On the Road Again* something truly special.

That's why I want to be as transparent as possible about an important change going into this year's campaign:

Beginning this season, the Troopers will no longer facilitate one-on-one pairings between alumni and current members as part of the On the Road Again campaign.

This was not an easy decision, but it is the right one.

The pairing aspect of the program, while rooted in love and tradition, presents a number of challenges we can no longer overlook. Over time, it has become clear that:

- Alumni are not vetted or background checked, which means we can't ensure member safety in every interaction.
- Member contact information has historically been shared with individuals outside our secure communication channels, which raises privacy concerns.
- The experience varies widely—some members receive gifts or messages, others receive nothing—which can create confusion or even hurt feelings.
- Our internal policies rightly prevent staff and volunteers from having unsupervised one-on-one contact with members; to remain consistent and uphold the highest standards, this policy must extend to everyone.

Simply put: the world has changed, and so must we. We owe it to our members, and to all of you, to ensure that every part of the Troopers experience is safe, equitable, and aligned with today's best practices.

But let me be very clear:

The On the Road Again campaign is still going strong. And it's still one of the most meaningful ways alumni can support the corps.

Here's what to expect moving forward:

- You'll still receive the beautifully designed **commemorative coin** with your donation.
- Members will still receive the annual **washer**—now gifted from the alumni community as a whole, a powerful symbol of legacy and pride.
- You'll be able to send short **messages of encouragement** to the corps through official channels, which will be shared with the members throughout the season.

And if you'd like to do even more, we welcome your support through the **Sponsor a Meal** program, an incredibly impactful way to keep our members well-fed and cared for on the road. We're also happy to accept snacks, drinks, or goodies for specific sections or for the entire corps at any time. These thoughtful gestures continue to make a big difference in daily life on tour.

I know this change may feel like the end of something personal, and in a way, it is. But it's also the start of a new era where we can maintain the heart of the tradition while creating a safer, more sustainable experience for everyone involved.

We can't do it without you. And we wouldn't want to.

With deepest appreciation,



Michael Gough
Executive Director
Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps

