



## For Immediate Release

**July 7, 2025**

### **Association of Baptists for Scouting Announces Newly Elected Executive Board for 2025–2027 Term**

Dallas, TX — The Association of Baptists for Scouting (ABS) is pleased to announce the election of its Executive Board for the 2025–2027 term. The new leadership slate was officially approved by the membership during the organization’s Annual Meeting held on Monday, July 7, 2025.

Elected to serve as President is Thomas Martin of Pineville, Louisiana, a dedicated and experienced ABS leader who previously served as Treasurer and most recently as Executive Vice President. His long-standing commitment to the mission of ABS makes him well-suited to lead the organization into this next chapter of ministry and outreach.

Joining Martin on the Executive Board are:

**Executive Vice President:** Donna Copeland (*Bartlesville, Oklahoma*)

**Vice President for Membership & Member Communications:** Elrico Hurley (*Iron Mountain, Michigan*)

**Secretary:** Eric Hood (*Columbus, Georgia*)

**Treasurer:** Tim Baker (*Salem, Oregon*)

**Chief Technology Officer:** Jerry Wells (*Bartlesville, Oklahoma*)

**Chaplain:** Jeff Thompson (*Gainesville, Georgia*)

#### **Members-at-Large:**

Merri Bolen (*Phenix City, Alabama*)

Ted Spangenberg Jr. (*Chipley, Florida*)

Chip Turner (*Pineville, Louisiana*)

Verne Wright (*Wisconsin*)

In addition to celebrating the incoming leadership, ABS extends its deepest thanks to outgoing board members who have faithfully served and will continue to support the Association in important ways:

- Pam Thompson of Gainesville, Georgia, who brought enthusiasm and dedication to her board service, will remain actively engaged in ABS’s outreach efforts.
- Dale Copeland of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, will continue in his long-standing role as Editor-in-Chief of the ABS Newsletter, helping keep members informed and inspired across the country.
- John Lyons of Atlanta, Georgia, the Association’s Immediate Past President, will continue his influential leadership as Chair of the newly formed Religious Emblems Committee, which will focus on promoting and strengthening faith-based recognition opportunities within Baptist-chartered Scouting units.

**- MORE -**

## *ABS Announces Newly Elected Executive Board*

“We are grateful for the leadership of those who have served and excited for the vision our new Executive Board brings,” said a spokesperson for the Association. “With a blend of continuity and fresh perspective, ABS is well-positioned to further its mission of serving Baptist churches and the Scouting movement.”

The Association of Baptists for Scouting is a national ministry partner of Scouting America, working to help churches use Scouting as an effective tool for discipleship, leadership development, and community engagement.

For more information, visit [www.baptistscouters.org](http://www.baptistscouters.org).

---

###