

2026 Southland Jamboree Association Board Members

The Southland Merchants Association created the Southland Jamboree as a free outdoor concert series in 2007. In 2019, the Southland Jamboree Association, Inc was established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit and is now separate from the Southland Association. The board consists of the following individuals:

- **Beth Tibbitts** – Beth is the Jamboree’s president and retired IBM software engineer. After learning to play the mandolin and bluegrass music later in life, she discovered the Southland Jamboree. During this time, she became involved musically with many local bluegrass musicians through various workshops, festivals, music camps, and local music jams and get-togethers. Board member since 2018.
- **Dave Johnson** – Dave is the Jamboree’s treasurer, a retired IT security manager, SCORE volunteer, Salvation Army Advisory Board member, and lifelong music fanatic. Board member since 2018
- **Wayne Smith** – Wayne is the Jamboree’s secretary. He is Vice President of Managed Systems at Custom Data Processing, Inc. (CDP), overseeing software development teams. He is a member of the National WIC Association (NWA) and attends and presents at NWA educational conferences. Wayne was a founding board member of Agile Lexington which hosted monthly meetings bringing together Agile software developers. He is a music enthusiast with an excellent understanding of local bands. He has been a board member since 2018.
- **Ted Critchfield**- Retired local Merchant: Ted has been a lifelong lover of acoustic string music, mainly Americana and Bluegrass, and has been a member of several groups in the Lexington area, starting in the 1960s, and still enjoys gathering with friends and playing. Board member since 2018.
- **Russ Farmer** – has spent over 55 years in Public Broadcasting, retiring in 2003 after 30 years as a Producer/Director for Kentucky Educational Television (KET), where he focused on musical productions like *The Lonesome Pine Specials*, *In Performance at the Governor’s Mansion*, and *Jubilee*. In retirement, he has produced documentaries on Kentucky musicians and continues to produce streaming video for Southland Jamboree while directing a multi-camera production at The Meadowgreen Appalachia Music Park. Additionally, he is a musician and has played in several bluegrass bands since retiring.
- **Kati Penn** – began playing fiddle as a child. At 12 (1995), she performed and recorded with the “Young Acoustic All-Stars,” a group coached by Pete Wernick. She has worked with Wild Rose, The New Coon Creek Girls, Dale Ann Bradley, The Jim Hurst Band, Bill Anderson, J.D. Crowe, Newtown, Alan Bibey, Grasstowne, and Throwdown Thursday. She recorded her first solo album, “Crazy or Not,” in 2003. Kati has been a board member since 2021.
- **Terri Powell** – Terri is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) who has been a mental healthcare provider for over 30 years. Bassist, vocalist, and local bluegrass band member in several local groups, playing in local venues and private events. Instrumental in encouraging local musicians and organizing jams. Volunteer instructor at Festival of the Bluegrass Kids Music Camp for approximately 20 years. Terri is instrumental in the Jamboree’s Kids Music Camp now in its third year. Terri has been a board member since 2019.
- **Billy Sherrow** – Billy is a local attorney who, along with Phil Wyant, started the Southland Jamboree in 2006. He is a musician himself, having had his own band for many years, and has been instrumental

in booking local bands. He is the long-time master of ceremonies at the Jamboree's concerts. Billy has been on the current nonprofit board since its inception in 2018.

- **Ellen Hopp** - Ellen joined the board in 2026 as a fundraising and development volunteer. She is a retired Senior Project Manager with over 30 years of experience in project management and public relations. Her project management skills include facilitation, project start-up, environmental and recreation planning, public outreach, team development, and strategic planning. Ellen managed projects internationally for several Fortune 500 companies. She is a member of the International Association of Facilitators and is certified by the International Association for Public Participation.
- **Lisa Richardson** – Lisa, a 35 year IT veteran and alumni of IBM and Accenture, is the least musical member of the Board. Unable to carry a tune or quote songs from any top tier Bluegrass musician, she is nonetheless an avid supporter of the Southland Jamboree. Her experience in event planning and fundraising ranges from the school PTA to neighborhood HOAs. She enthusiastically promotes local businesses and is happy to assist in making each Jamboree concert run smoothly by organizing refreshments and assisting with fundraising.