WOMEN BAND DIRECTORS UNITE!

A short History of Women in the Wind Band Tradition

An Introduction to the Women Band Director's International

An organization that recognizes the value of each individual and promotes integrity, respect, and regard for others. Equality within its membership is a core value in WBDI.

The History of Wind Bands in America

1. 1870-1910 "Golden Age of Bands"
    a. Bands were a source of pride for respective towns in America
    b. Women were not permitted to be members
    c. They started their own bands "Keota Ladies Town Band" 1910

2. Social Mores of the time period Excluded Women
    a. A women's character was questioned if she played a brass instrument
    b. Women worked hard to maintain their "female" appearance
    c. Helen Mae Butler "The Female Sousa"

3. Brass Playing and Instrumental music remained segregated into the 60's & 70's
    a. Congress passed the sex discrimination act in 1972
    b. Women School, Industry, Swing, and Military Bands
    c. 1940's great women swing band era / WW II

4. The Challenges continues
    a. Women continued to be excluded after the war ended\
    b. Audiences often looked at women musicians as sex symbols
    c. Even after graduating from college with music degrees women were discouraged from embarking on music careers.
    d. Very seldom selected for players in major orchestra

5. Meet The Women Band Directors International (WBDI)
    a. Founder Gladys Wright
    b. Equity and Diversity
    c. Networking, Common meeting ground to support and grow professionally
    d. Opportunities to publish and create special projects

6. Professional Development
    a. Summer Conferences
    b. Conducting Symposiums
    c. Subscription to the *Woman Conductor Journal*
    d. Scholarships and Grants
    e. Meet re-known women in the Field
    f. Hold an International Office or serve on a committee

7. ATTEND CHICAGO MID WEST CLINIC
    We have wonderful guest speakers and a big luncheon
    Annual Summer Conference with opportunities to present & conduct