

# Women Band Directors International

## Dedicated, Experienced, and Thoroughly Gracious!

**Debbie Bradley, President WBDI**

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A thank you to the Texas Bandmasters Association for open arms of inclusion as we become part of your 2008 Summer Conference!

Today the Women Band Directors International serves the contemporary woman, a woman with dedication and service. Our support toward the young band director is stellar. We are proud to offer eleven scholarships which serve the future band/educator this year. Any collegiate woman who pledges to become a band director can receive assistance with their training by an online application. Our web site [www.womenbanddirectors.org](http://www.womenbanddirectors.org) will give a deep insight into our organization.

Former Texas Tech student Christy Gibbons, (now band director), sites the following facts everyone should know about Women Band Directors International.

Gibbons says, "Women Band Directors International was established by Gladys Stone Wright. It was originally called the Women Band Directors National Association. Mrs. Wright wanted to establish an organization where

women band directors were located, what they did, who they were, what they looked like, and how they solved their unique problems as band directors. She

was also inspired by a collection of photographs of six women band directors that were posted in the office of the Daniel Boone Music Camp. They were posted by Kate Hawkins, wife of the camp director Dr. Robert Hawkins, after Dr. Hawkins had gathered some material to present a talk to encourage the girls in the band at Blue Blazer High School to become band directors.

"Gladys met with some women enrolled in adult band methods classes at the camp. They seemed enthusiastic about the forming of a women's band directors organization so in 1967 she placed a notice in the

program at the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago for a meeting to begin forming the organization. Unfortunately, only one other woman attended this meeting—

Dorothy Stewart. However, this did begin the journey of WBDI.

"A year later at the same clinic/convention a few more women gathered for the meeting and elected a slate of officers. The first officers were: Gladys Stone Wright-President, Charlotte Folan-Vice President, Blanch Kangas-Secretary/Treasurer, Eleanor Padly-Membership Chair, and Dorothy Stewart-Historian.

This group continued work on forming the organization and by 1969 the Women Band Directors National Association had been officially established with a membership

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of 53 women. The name was changed in 1997 to Women Band Directors International in order to include the members who had joined from outside the United States. The membership has grown to approximately 350 members and 28 corporate members.”

### **The purpose of the organization:**

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WBDI currently produces two publications *The Woman Conductor*, and *Women of the Podium*.

Our summer hosts for 2008 are Barbara Lambrecht and Bethann Adams. There are plans of a clinic panel discussion where mainstream topics will target our struggles and common issues. WBDI reaches out to many areas of the United States in order to build a strong and broad base of members.

As dedicated band directors, our members hope to create unique opportunities for other women. Our dream is to see you in San Antonio at the TBA Convention/Clinic. “The Eyes of Texas are upon us.” WBDI meetings will be held July 26-27, 2008.

See you in July!



*Debbie Bradley has been a music educator in Georgia, Florida and Alabama with experience in Middle School, High School, and Junior College Bands. She currently teaches at Lowndes Middle School in Valdosta, Georgia and is a staff director for the Lowndes High “Georgia Bridgemen”.*

*Ms. Bradley is a graduate of Troy University, Alabama. She is a past Alumni president for the “Sound of the South” Band. She received the Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation in 1984 and the Outstanding Service to Music Award from the National Board of Tau Beta Sigma in 2002. She has been the Teacher of the Year for two Georgia schools and is a member of Kappa Delta Pi education Honor Society. Debbie Bradley is the current president of Women Band Directors International.*