

# A Spotlight On . . . Contributions of Influential Texas Women Band Directors

**Michael Brashear, Executive Director**

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Greetings from TBA! I hope your spring contest season is going well and that your bands perform at their very best. Even though the ratings and awards will always be an important factor in measuring success, just remember that you alone know how far the students have progressed this year. Sometimes the full story is not always tied to a number.



Enjoy making music with your students and inspire them to be life-long supporters of the arts. Have a great finish to your year!

Register now and obtain your housing for TBA this summer. This convention is not to be missed! More than 60 clinics, great concerts, and traditional spouse and family activities are planned. Many clinics will utilize demonstration groups and several designed especially for the MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR will be offered. Read about the clinics and activities starting on page 24.

During my lifetime as a band student and director, one of the most significant changes in the band world is the growing number of women band directors and their tremendous impact on Texas bands. In fact, in the twenty-first century it

would be hard to imagine our band world without the contributions of women band directors. However, this has not always been the case.

Back in the '40s, '50s, and even '60s, for the most part Texas bands were being developed primarily by men. Young women were not encouraged to become band directors and in many cases were told

that band directing is a man's world.

So how did we get from this scenario to the present day where women band directors are successful at every level from elementary to university teaching? And, in addition to producing many of the finest band programs in the state, women have also become outstanding leaders in our profession.

This summer, one of the clinics at the convention will address this topic and offer insights into our history. These early women "pioneers" are the ones we thank for breaking the gender barrier and opening the way for future generations which led to the successes of the present day. I am sure there will be plenty of stories, laughter, and lots of fond memories shared by the panel. Barbara Lambrecht is leading the

panel which includes Diane Baker, Marilyn Bennett, Cindy Lansford, and Marion West. This clinic is a great opportunity for current directors to learn more about Texas band history—don't miss this one!!

**Barbara wants your input.**

Here is a list of some women who were influential from the '40s to the early '80s. We know that there are more women and information that should be added. Contact Barbara with additions and especially stories of women directors who influenced you. Her cell is (915) 433-6451 and email is [lambrechtr@aol.com](mailto:lambrechtr@aol.com).

## **Austin/San Antonio**

- Betty Biershenck-Pierce - Austin, Round Rock
- Beth Bronk - New Braunfels ISD, Texas Lutheran University
- Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt - Texas State University
- Verna Covington - Fullmore JH, Porter JH, Austin; **Hall of Fame-1991**
- Paula Crider - Austin Crocket HS, University of Texas at Austin; **First woman head high school director in Texas; Hall of Fame-2011**
- Cheryl Floyd - Hill Country MS, Murchinson MS
- Diane Gorzycki - 1975-2006 Seguin, Austin Porter and Bailey MS; **Hall of Fame-2010**
- Verda Herrington - 1961-92 Midland, Klein, Austin, Pflugerville; **Hall of Fame-2002**
- Linda McDavitt - 1969-2001 Austin, Dripping Springs, TCU, Converse Judson; **Hall of Fame-2012**
- Carol Nelson - McCallum HS, Austin
- Pat Norton - 1955, 1967-98 Brownsville, Luling, Marion, Scherz, Seguin; **Hall of Fame-2002**
- Dana Pradervand - Lubbock, San Antonio, New Braunfels, The Woodlands
- Paulette Rainey - Austin

## **A Spotlight On . . . Contributions of Influential Texas Women Band Directors**

### **Dallas/Fort Worth**

Pat Dickerson - Fort Worth  
Lynne Jackson - Richardson, SMU  
Kathy Johnson - Lewisville ISD, Argyle HS  
Sandy Keys - Garland  
Cindy Lansford - Plano, Birdville ISD  
Melodianne Mallow - Birdville ISD  
Marci McEntyre Zoffuto - Highland Park,  
Richardson, Garland, Rowlett;  
**Hall of Fame-2010**  
Robin Moffett - Richardson ISD  
Verda Shine - Duncanville  
Milly von Tunglin - 1960s  
Betty Wallace - 1950s and 1960s  
Marion West - Richardson ISD,  
University of Houston  
Jollette Wine - Hurst Euless Bedford ISD

### **Houston/East Texas**

Diane Baker - Goose Creek ISD  
Joyce Boelsche - Spring Branch ISD,  
Richardson ISD

Jean Bryant  
Nancy Caston - Spring Branch ISD, Ft. Bend ISD  
Ellie Cleveland - North Shore, Galena Park  
Karen Johnston - Aldine HS  
Sue Gottschalk - Pearland ISD  
Kelly Grimms - Clear Lake MS;  
**Honor Band two times**  
Delilah Miller - 1975-90 Aldine ISD  
Florine Mopre - 1940s-50s Deady JH, Houston  
Nancy Newkirk  
Tye Ann Payne - Cy Fair ISD  
Sharon Prince - 1970 to mid-1990s Pasadena  
Betty Pruden - 1970s Rogers HS Houston  
Gloria Ramirez - Cy Fair ISD  
Charlotte Royal - Spring ISD, College Park  
HS; **First Woman President of TBA**  
Mary Santarelli - Dickinson ISD  
Susan Scarborough - Cy Fair ISD;  
**TBA Past President**  
Dena Steed - 1970-90s Garrison HS, Humble HS  
Linda Tiner - 1970-90s Kingwood HS, Crosby HS  
Jill Yancey - Spring Branch ISD, Ft. Bend ISD

### **Panhandle/N. Texas/W. Texas**

Wava Banes Turner Henry - Avoca,  
Sundown; Tau Beta Sigma  
Marilyn Bennett - Munday, Olney  
Cindy Bulloch - Odessa  
Patsy Cannedy - Wichita Falls  
Ada Creel-Phillips - 1948-73;  
**Hall of Fame-1996**  
Tammy Fedynich - Lubbock  
Lois Hailey - El Paso (also WAC trainer  
of pilots during WWII)  
Barbara Sperberg Prentice Lambrecht -  
1965-present Ralls, Seymour,  
Arlington, El Paso, UMHB;  
**Hall of Fame-2009**  
Barbara Lovett - 1947-86 Ralls,  
Ropesville, Petersburg, Lubbock,  
Brownfield; **Hall of Fame-1992**  
Cleo Patton - 1940s Plainview  
Kathy Phillips - Muleshoe