



From the President:
Dick Marolf

January 2006

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the 2006 convention of our Nebraska State Bandmasters Association March 2-4 at UNL. This is the 45th Annual Convention and I hope you will find several clinics that would be beneficial to you as an educator. There are also excellent concerts to attend as well as displays by a variety of vendors that do so much to enhance our profession.

The convention will open with a Thursday night concert by the 43rd Army Band. The Colonel George s. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence, which is awarded by the John Philip Sousa Foundation, is an annual international competition for reserve components and active duty bands. The 43rd Army Band has received this prestigious award in 1991, 1997, 2001, and 2004.

Bands will also present concerts from nearly all grade levels from Middle School to College. This is an excellent time to hear some of our state's finest ensembles. You should hear some great literature performed. Come and get some program ideas for your bands.

Clinics offered this year range from conducting, technology lab, to sound and recording equipment and software, to instrument techniques sessions for woodwinds and rehearsal techniques. I hope you will find several of interest to you.

Having some quality personal time renewing acquaintances is also very important. We will have our luncheons still available to you. This provides an excellent opportunity to visit with colleagues and have a sandwich from Doozy's. (Be sure to order with your registration form found in this newsletter.)

Jim Schulz has planned the meal for the Awards Banquet. Please pencil this on your "things to do at convention" list. What a wonderful time to sit back and enjoy each other's company, swap stories, relive old memories, and meet new members of our profession.

We will, as usual, be voting in new officers to the NSBA Board. This will take place following the annual board meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Those band directors that have graciously agreed to lend their time and talents to serving the NSBA for three years are:

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Stan Johnson, Shickley HS
Neal Schnoor, UNK

SECRETARY

Becky Wilhelm, Norris MS
Marla Janak, Platteview HS

AWARDS CHAIR

Andy Walters, Papillion-LaVista HS
Bryan Regier, McCook HS

CONCERT BAND CHAIR

Carolyn Barber, UNL
Erica Neidlinger, UNO

It is certainly my greatest hope that you will join us in Lincoln in March. Make your reservations soon, as that is Girls State Basketball weekend and rooms go fast. The Downtown Holiday Inn has an NSBA block of rooms at the rate of \$88 this year. Rooms will be released to the public on Feb. 2, 2006, so reserve yours now. Call 402-475-4011.

Please review the convention schedule included in this newsletter as well as important scholarship information for your students and the Excellence in Academic Achievement Award. There is much more inside. So take a

Few minutes to read the newsletter, fill out your registration form and plan on making it a date for NSBA, March 2-4, 2006 on the UNL campus in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Saturday, March 4, 2005

- 7:00 a.m. National Band Association
Breakfast – Gary Davis,
Presiding (Holiday Inn - Arbor
Room)
- 7:30 - 8:15 a.m. **Registration - WMB 107**
- 8:00 a.m. **CLINIC:** Garageband – Jeff
Ingraham - WMB 119
- 8:00 a.m. **CLINIC:** Clarinet Techniques
Carola Winkle - WMB 130
- 8:00 a.m. **CLINIC:** Iowa Judging
Certification Training Part 1 –
Alan Greiner – WMB 114
- 9:00 a.m. **NSBA Annual Business
Meeting & Election of
Officers** – Jim Schulz,
Presiding - WMB 119
- 10:30 a.m. **CONCERT: Doane College
Symphonic Band KRH**
- 11:15 a.m. **CLINIC:** Jazz Standards –
Lincoln High Jazz Band /
Terry Rush Director –
WMB 130
- 11:15 a.m. **CLINIC:** Organize to
Optimize – Dr. Frank Tracz,
Intercollegiate Band Guest
Conductor - WMB 119
- 11:15 a.m. **CLINIC:** Iowa Judging
Certification Training Part 2–
Alan Greiner - WMB 114
- 12:15 p.m. Phi Beta Mu Luncheon - Matt
Sheppard, Presiding - ES
- 1:30 p.m. NSBA Executive Board
Meeting – Jim Schulz,
Presiding – WMB 107

***NSBA Scholarships* by Larry Rathbun, Awards Chair**

NSBA is offering four scholarships for college students and band directors. **Two \$250 college student scholarships** will be awarded at the March convention. The prerequisites are as follows: applicants must have completed a minimum of five semesters in a Nebraska college or university music education program, with a wind or percussion instrument as the primary area of study. Applicants must also be student members of NSBA. To apply, follow this procedure. Send to the NSBA awards chair the following information typed on one side of an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper: name, school, home address, school address, city, zip code, home phone number, name of high school band director, and high school attended. An e-mail address can be included. In addition, applicants should include a brief paragraph answering the questions, "Who had the most influence in

your life, and why?" and also, a brief essay (no more than two typewritten pages) entitled "Why I want to become a band director and how I will make a difference in music education." Student applications must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation from faculty members. All application materials will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the NSBA president and awards chair. This committee will interview applicants in Lincoln during the March convention. Winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet.

Two \$300 scholarships will be available for NSBA band directors with a minimum of three years teaching experience. Applicants must be enrolled in an instrumental music education graduate course. This course does not need to be taken at a Nebraska institution. To apply, band directors need to follow this procedure. Send to the NSBA awards chair the following information typed on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper using no more than one and one half pages: name, school, home address, phone number, e-mail (if available), a brief description of your band program, contest and festival results, number of students, musical achievements, dates and places taught, three character qualities that you desire to develop in your students and why you consider these to be important characteristics. In the remaining space, describe what course you plan to take, the name of the college or university, where you plan to take the course, and why you are taking the course. Scholarships can be awarded to the same person more than once.

The **Bob Palensky Scholarship** will be in the amount of \$250, and will be presented to an outstanding high school senior who will attend any Nebraska college or university. It is open to any freshman student who will participate in the band program their freshman year. Send the following information: name, home address, home phone number, your high school, school address, and the name of your high school band director. In addition, include a brief paragraph answering the question, "Who had the most influence, musically, in my life?" and a brief essay titled "Why music is important in my life." Send along with the written material, two letters of recommendation for the scholarship.

Application materials will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the NSBA president and awards chair. The winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet.

DEADLINE for the Bob Palensky Scholarship, NSBA college student and band director scholarships is **FEBRUARY 1, 2006**. Applications are to be sent to NSBA Awards Chair, Larry Rathbun, 16545 Dorcas Street, Omaha, NE. 68130. For more information call (402) 691-1513 (work) or (402) 758-7012 (home).

NSBA Is Looking for Retiring Members

NSBA needs your help in identifying members who are retiring at the end of the year. If you are retiring, or know someone who is, please contact the NSBA Awards Chair, Larry Rathbun, at the following address:

Larry Rathbun
16545 Dorcas Street
Omaha, NE. 68130

If possible, please get this information to Larry by February 1, 2006.

NSBA Excellence in Academic Achievement Award

The Nebraska State Bandmasters Association has instituted a new award to honor band programs that demonstrate a high degree of academic achievement. The EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is to be presented at the awards banquet at the annual March Convention to those bands who qualify.

To qualify for the award the cumulative grade point of all students in the high school instrumental program must be 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. this needs to be verified by the high school principal or superintendent.

To apply for this award, please use the application form found elsewhere in this newsletter. The deadline to apply for this award is February 1, 2006 (postmark). It should be sent to:

Larry Rathbun
NSBA Awards Chair
16545 Dorcas Street
Omaha, NE. 68130

If you have any questions about any of these awards or scholarships, please contact Larry at 402-691-1513 (work), or 402-758-7012 (home), or e-mail him at: ldrathbun@mpsomaha.org

From the Webmaster.....

If you have an address for your band or organization, (elementary, middle, senior, college, adult, private or public) which you would like to have linked to the NSBA Web site send the address to: dyoung3@neb.rr.com.

If you have upcoming concert information (date, time, place and possible program) send this to Dave Young at: dyoung3@neb.rr.com.

Excellence in Academic Achievement Award

This award is given to the total high school band program whose members have an average GPA of 3.5 or higher. This applies to those high school band programs that consist of students grades 9-12 or grades 10-12.

ALL GRADE-POINT AVERAGES MUST BE SUBMITTED ON A 4.0 SCALE

High School _____

Band Director _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of high school band students _____

Overall Grade-Point Average for these students (do not round up) _____

Example: 3.49 Overall GPA should not be rounded to a 3.5 Overall GPA

Band Director (signature) _____

Principal (or) Superintendent (signature) _____

Deadline: MUST BE POSTMARKED BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Send completed form to the following address:

Larry Rathbun
NSBA Awards Chair
16545 Dorcas Street
Omaha, NE. 68130

During the Awards Banquet at the 2005 NSBA March Convention, a plaque will be presented to the band programs that qualify for this award.

NSBA STATE CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - OMAHA

APRIL 8, 2006

What is the NSBA Concert Band Festival?

The Nebraska State Bandmasters Association will sponsor a non-competitive festival for concert bands on April 8, 2006 on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha. This is two weeks before district music contest, giving directors an opportunity to get some extra performance experience and evaluation before contest. Participation will include several of the finest bands in Nebraska, with clinicians selected from music educators around the country.

How can my band apply to participate in the festival?

Participation in the festival will include several bands selected by submission of an application and registration fee, on a first come first serve basis.

What is the format of the festival?

The bands which are accepted will take part in a non-competitive festival, with the emphasis placed upon evaluation and improvement. Each band will get the opportunity to play a concert in UNO's Strauss Auditorium, will receive taped comments on their performance from one of the clinicians and will participate in a post performance clinic/rehearsal with a clinician. No ratings or rankings will be used.

What other benefits are there for my band?

In addition to the opportunity to play in beautiful, to listen to several bands from all over the state, to receive taped comments, and to participate in a clinic/rehearsal with one of the clinicians immediately following their performance, each band will also receive a professional audio recording of the performance and a plaque honoring their performance at the festival.

What have other band directors said about the festival?

"The NSBA Concert Band Festival is truly an educational experience. This is really the way we learn about music, performing and discussing it among ourselves. And the people with whom we get to dialogue are among the best in the world."

Rex Barker, Millard South High School

"Adams Central High School has had the good fortune to participate in all of the NSBA Concert Band Festivals so far. My students have really enjoyed the chance to play in a quality facility on high quality equipment in a well-organized event."

Tom Jaworski, Adams Central High Schools

How much does it cost to participate?

There is a \$125 participation fee to all bands which are accepted to perform in the festival.

What are the deadlines for application and registration?

The application and fee are due on Friday, February 3, 2006. Any applications postmarked after that date will not be accepted. Bands will be notified by February 10, 2006 that their application has been received. The participation fee of \$125 will be due with the application.

Sincerely

Michelle Bluford

NSBA Concert Band Chair

**NSBA Concert Band Festival
Application Form
(Please Print)**

School Name Ensemble Name (as you would want it on the plaque)

Director's Name School Enrollment Music Class (AA, A, B, C, D)

School Address

City Zip Phone

Fax Number E-mail address (if applicable)

Director's Address

City Zip Phone

Participating band directors must be current members of NSBA for their bands to participate.

Director's Signature

Date

**Please return this form along with the payment of \$125 to:
Michelle Bluford
Elkhorn High School
711 Veterans Drive
Elkhorn Ne, 68002.**

Please make the checks out to NSBA - Concert Band Festival

Applications postmarked after February 3, 2006 will not be accepted.

_____ Check if you need information about NSBA Membership.

Marching Band Chair

The Nebraska State Bandmasters Association is now accepting applications to host the 2006 State Marching Band Contest on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006. Required site information, financial incentives, and application form can be found on the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association's web site at www.nsbma.org or by contacting NSBA Marching Band Chairman:

Byron Braasch,
NSBA Marching Band Chairman
13509 S. 22nd St.
Bellevue, NE. 68123
Phone: 402.291.4647
Email: tbirdbandman@cox.net

Deadline for receiving applications is Feb. 18, 2006

Middle School Chair

The NSBA 8th grade All-State Band is the most prestigious and selective middle school band in the state of Nebraska. The 2006 NSBA 8th grade All-State Band was held on January 14, 2006 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The director was Dr. James Sawyer from Grand Rapids, Michigan. The event consisted of 82 8th grade students who were chosen from over 380 auditionees from across the state. These 82 students and 23 alternates represented 38 schools from all over Nebraska.

Next year's event will be held on January 13, 2007 at UNK. The conductor will be Ky Hascall from Blue Springs, KS, who founded the event in the year 2000. In addition to a full program, Ky Hascall has been commissioned by NSBA to write a piece which will be debuted at the 2007 event. Audition information will be posted on the NSBA website on April 30, 2006. Audition tapes must be postmarked October 13, 2006. Please encourage your students to work for and audition for this prestigious event. If you have any questions about the event, please contact the NSBA Middle School Chair, Chris Johnson.

Middle School Chair
Chris Johnson

From the President-Elect
Jim Schulz
SUMMER CONVENTION - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!
July 6-8, 2006 at New World Inn, Columbus, NE

Jazz

Paul Harr - Jazz Band Basics - How do you get your band to swing!

Greg Olson - Jazz Band reading session - Director's reading band - sponsored by Pepper - Bring your ax!

Percussion

Tony Falcone - Marching Percussion - How do they do that?

Concert Percussion - So that's what a guiro should sound like!

Repair

Kevin Palmer - Isn't that slide supposed to move?

Middle Level

Sharing sessions:

How & when do you switch kids

OK, OK, OK - So what should my kids know?

How do you integrate technology into your curriculum?

How to get more rehearsal time with your kids?

How do you assess your kids' progress?

Marching

Frank Troyka - Teaching marching fundamentals

Lance Nielsen - How do you get that sound? Field sound verses concert sound.

Flags-TBA

Concert Band

New music reading session- Saturday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Robert Sheldon - Meet the composer. (sponsored by J W Pepper)

Student Leadership

High School leadership training workshop - Saturday - Frank Troyka is back by popular demand.

New Teachers

Boot Camp - (Thursday 9:00 - 2:00)

Social Fun & Frivolity

Golf outing - Thursday a.m.

Family picnic - Friday evening

Concert in the Park – Friday evening

Family softball game - bring a glove - no talent required! Bring your suit - the new water park is scheduled to be open Memorial Day.

NSBA Spring Convention Pre-Registration

March 2, 3, 4 - 2006

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Last Name	First Name			Initial
Home Street Address	City	State	Zip	Home Phone
Name of School (or Business)		Name of School District		
School Street Address	City	State	Zip	School Phone
E-mail Address			Fax #	

School Music Classification (circle one) AA A B C D College
Job Description (check all applicable) Elem ___ MS ___ HS ___ College ___
Friend ___ Exhibitor ___ Retired ___ (Major Instrument: _____)
Mark here if you are a 1st year director ___ (1st year directors receive free membership!)
Total Years Teaching ___ Student Member = Year in School ___

Pre-Registration Fees

NSBA Annual Dues Active = \$35 Associate = \$10 Student = \$1 \$ _____
(Teaching) (Friend, Exhibitor) (University)

Clinic Registration Fees = \$20 \$ _____

Retired Member Registration = \$10 \$ _____

Student Registration = \$5 \$ _____

Awards Banquet Ticket = \$18 \$ _____

Concert/Marching Band Luncheon on Friday = \$5.00 \$ _____
(Catered by Doozy's - meal ticket will be in your packet)

Middle Level Luncheon on Friday = \$5.00 \$ _____
(Catered by Doozy's - meal ticket will be in your packet)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Pre-Registration must be postmarked by Monday, February 20th. Please make payments payable to NSBA. Mail this Pre-Registration form and payment to:

***Jeff Mount
Blair High School
PO Box 288
Blair, NE 68008***