

OKLAHOMA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION has held a yearly summer conference in July lasting several days . The conference is or has been held in Oklahoma City or Tulsa at an easily accessible hotel or conference center. O.B.A., as it is sometimes known, also sponsors music contests and concerts during the year.

During the summer conference in July, professionals musicians, educators and music industry manufacturers and retailers are contracted to teach O.B.A.'s members of new musical compositions, teaching techniques and resources, plus advances in musical instruments and accessories. As a direct result of these activities, our member's students are exposed to new teaching activities and resources. Those students are kept on the cutting edge of the music world. O.B.A. is totally responsible for the content of these meetings.

O.B.A. sponsors three major statewide marching band contests in October. Dates of these contests vary from year to year, as sites(football stadiums) to host these large contests are subject to availability. Sites such as the Universities of Oklahoma, Tulsa, Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma State and at high school sites as Moore, Enid, Mustang, Choctaw, Broken Arrow, Tulsa Union, Owasso and Catoosa, have hosted O.B.A.'s highly attended contests.

The three contest are divided along school size to provide a comparable and fair contest. Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activity Association football classifications are used to divide the contests into a 1A-2A-3A contest, a 4A-5A contest and a contest for the largest class, 6A. To further the fairness of two contests, a statewide champion for each individual classification is crowned, as well as an over-all champion at each of the three contests. To hold these contests, our members fees are used to contract highly qualified judges from nationally recognized judging associations to determine our champions. As a result of our contests, students and their teachers are given high level critique of their musical performances and professional suggestions that lead to improving the student's performances and their teachers skills in the classroom.

Judging at O.B.A.'s contests, follow national guidelines as set by "the Bands of America" Association. O.B.A. purchases the rights to use critique sheets and judging guidelines as set by B.O.A. Many of O.B.A.'s member schools compete at the B.O.A. Regional Marching Contests and the B.O.A. National Championship held in Indianapolis. O.B.A.'s contests are critical in helping our member schools that choose to, compete at a high level nationally.

At our summer conference each year, O.B.A. sponsors in conjunction with Oklahoma/International Association of Jazz Educators, two "all-state" type jazz bands. The members of the bands are chosen by open audition to earn a position in either the 1A-2A-3A band or the 4A-5A band. Again, using O.S.S.A.A. member classification for jazz bands. The students attend three days of rehearsals held in conjunction with O.B.A.'s July teaching conference. Two professional jazz educators, one for each band, are contracted with funds from our membership fees and the marching contest fees to work with these music students, culminating in a concert open to the public. The concert is held on the final day of the summer conference. Rehearsals are open to the conference members to further their teaching skills.

All of O.B.A.'s funding for these activities come from these sources: membership fees (active,

retired, family, student and commercial memberships) and entry fees and gate proceeds from the marching contests.

O.B.A. confines 100% of it's time to promote these activities above. O.B.A. is not active in any political or commercial activities and is focused solely on promoting musical education of Oklahoma students and their teachers, plus providing outlets (contests and concerts) for musical performances of a type not provided by other organizations at a state side level.