



John Brane

John Brane grew up as a farm boy in LaFontaine, Indiana, just north of Marion. His parents both played band instruments, and John began playing the baritone in the fifth grade. He knew he either wanted to be a band director or a mechanic when he grew up, and ultimately decided to pursue a career in music. John graduated from LaFontaine High School in 1954 and received his bachelor's degree from the Jordan College of Music at Butler University and master's degree from the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. John spent his career as a band director, serving at Oak Hill Community Schools in Converse, Indiana; Avilla High School, north of Ft. Wayne; Hartford City Junior and Senior High School; and Taylor University. His last job, which lasted 22 years, was band director at Eastbrook Junior High in Marion. After 37 years of teaching, John decided to retire in 1995. In 2001 he helped co-found the Mississinewa Valley Community Band, based in Marion, and spent 20 years as the director.

In addition to his years as a band director, John has been a part of the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) since its inception. He was a founding member of the organization and served as its first president in 1981. He served on the board of directors and as a consulting member until his retirement in 1995. And he continues to serve as a site manager for ISSMA Regional marching band contest and as a timer for the ISSMA State Marching Band contest.

John has spent much of his life serving his community and is the recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award from LaFontaine Indiana; the Community Service Award from Van Buren, Indiana; The Tony Maidenberg Community Service Award for Grant County, Indiana, and the Circle of Corydon from the governor of Indiana.

John has three grown daughters, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He lives in Van Buren, Indiana.