

Western Region Governor

James Kusserow

States of service:

Washington	Oregon	California	Nevada
Arizona	Utah	Idaho	Montana
Wyoming	Colorado	New Mexico	Nebraska
South Dakota	North Dakota	Hawaii	Alaska

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Raised in the Porterville area, graduating from Porterville High School and College, Jim Kusserow began playing the trumpet at age 9 at Terra Bella Elementary School.

Furthering his music education at San Jose State University, he began teaching at Mulcahy Junior High School in Tulare, CA in 1981. A Master's Degree in the Administration of Public Schools soon followed upon arriving in Tulare.

He built successful programs at Mulcahy and Live Oak Middle Schools before accepting the band position back at Porterville High School in 1990. Following the 37-year legacy of Buck Shaffer, which included a Carnegie Hall performance and 5 Tournament of Roses Parades, the Panther Band has continued to attain the highest caliber of musical excellence. There have been only two band directors at Porterville High School since 1953! Consecutive Superior Ratings at CMEA music festivals, recognition as the National Hall of Fame Band of the Year, and performances at The Kennedy Center and Constitution Hall in Washington D.C. have been highlights of the band under Mr. Kusserow's baton.

He has been recognized as the National Hall of Fame Band Director of the Year, by Who's Who in America, and Who's Who of American Teachers. The Fabulous Studio Band has continued to thrive under his direction touring annually throughout the United States and Canada, culminating in two performances in the East Room of the White House December 21, 2001. Mr. Kusserow is a member and active in MENC, TKMEA, , CBDA, IAJE, NBA, ASBDA, HSBDNA, CMEA), and the International Trumpet Guild. He served as principal trumpet of the Tulare County Symphony from 1981-1998, and he now splits that duty. The Azorean Island tour of 1989 is one of the highlights of his TC Symphony experience. Jim also performs professionally with the Sequoia Brass Quintet. He also adjudicates throughout California.