

The TBA Professional Development Clinic: New Benefits For Its Membership From TBA

Tom Harrington, TBA Secretary

Two years ago The Texas Bandmasters Association launched the first in a new series of professional development sessions outside the summer convention.

The well-attended session included former TBA President Susan Scarborough's band as the demonstration group and Greg Countryman and Cindy Lansford as clinicians in a clinic focused on effective use of daily drill for middle school band. This clinic was the pilot for an effort, that the TBA Board of Directors hoped would become an opportunity to further help its membership. After all, the first statement in the association's mission is to "Continually assist its membership in achieving the highest standards of musical education". What could be better than going on the road and sponsoring clinics outside the July convention?

After the success of that first clinic, TBA established a charge to each member of the board of directors to organize and sponsor at least one clinic each year. The 2006-2007 school year became the first with a full slate of clinics featuring outstanding Texas band

directors. Clinics were held all over the state from Kingsville to Canyon and included topics such as ensemble fundamentals,

Included in this article are just a couple of comments from band directors that attended recent clinics.

"It was just great stuff. I can't imagine teaching in any program and not being able to use all the gems that Lynn, Jeff and David provided. I will sit down with anyone and express my belief in what TBA is doing. We all should go to every opportunity that TBA provides that can make us better teachers and ultimately help our kids."

Chris Kosterman
Rockwall-Heath High School

sight-reading, and mid-semester tune-ups. Since that time there have been nine clinics sponsored by TBA. With close to fifty clinics at the summer convention it is easy to see why it is so important, but the professional development session allows us to dive much deeper into a topic because of the longer time available.

In addition, due to some generous sponsorships TBA has offered these clinics at a bargain price of \$10 per attendee while incurring little expense to the association itself.

Let's not forget the opportunity to spend lunch or possibly time after the clinic to talk shop with others who attended the clinic. It seems that in our busy schedules we seldom have time to visit with other directors from outside our area. New teachers, now that you have the job, one of the best ways to improve is to get around some veterans and ask away. Find out what others are playing for contest and why they pick the music they play. What beginner book do others use and why? Maybe even get some answers on oboe reeds.

The TBA Professional Development Clinic

There is no shortage of outstanding Texas band directors or important topics to discuss. It seems that the greatest obstacle to setting up a clinic is to find the perfect weekend. Band directors seem anxious to get to the information but often their demanding schedule prohibits attendance.

“This was the most amazing workshop I have ever been to. I learned more at this than I have in years. It was so perfect! Thanks again.”

Jean Bryant
Eules Junior High School

Your feedback will help organizers to select dates that best fit the schedules of the membership. Contacting a member of the board of directors or your region’s TBA representative is a great way to give some input on topics you would like to see presented at a clinic. Email addresses for the region representatives and members of the board of directors can be found on the TBA web site at www.texasbandmasters.org.

While you are at the web site, check out the ever increasing numbers of online articles. Currently there are articles on sight-reading, saxophone double-tonguing, as well as an article on music advocacy by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser and more. I hope you check back often for new articles, future clinic dates, and convention information.

See you in July!

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Texas Bandmasters Association, Inc. is to:

Continually assist its membership in achieving the highest standards of instrumental music education.



Promote the place and value of music education in our society and the important role instrumental music plays in our cultural, intellectual, and social lives.



Foster goodwill, fellowship and a collegial, fraternal spirit among its members.



Provide its membership with an annual Convention/Clinic which introduces new music, tried and proven teaching methods and materials as well as instruments and equipment.



Provide Educational Publications of instructional methods and materials for TBA members and aid them with their personal development and leadership.



Provide information for the university music student preparing to become a band director.