

From the Board

Tom Harrington, 2008-09 TBA Treasurer

I hope your year has started to settle down and your Fall has been productive. My thoughts go out to all the schools that were affected by hurricanes along the Texas coast. I hope things are getting back to normal for you and your students' families.

Our association has been working hard to provide outstanding professional development opportunities for its membership. This year's convention had numerous clinics, outstanding concerts, and productive business meetings.

And it's not just about band: there were social functions like washer-pitching, a tennis tournament, a golf tournament, a world famous barbeque and even time to visit with some coaches. I hope you had an opportunity to take advantage of the great opportunities to learn, listen and share.

The convention also hosted the WomenBandDirectorsInternational Summer Conference. I hope those of you who were interested had a chance to visit and learn more about that organization. You can get more information about the WBDI at www.womenbanddirectors.org. I also hope you had an opportunity to attend one of the events to celebrate the retirement of Al

Sturchio and his wife, Jan. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve on the board of directors with Mr. Sturchio. He has been the right man at the right time to bring TBA into the position of prominence it enjoys today. Did you get a chance to meet the new Executive Director,

Mike Brashear? He is eager to take on the position and has already done a great job.

Next year, while you are at the convention, please plan to do some shopping in the Exhibit Hall. Our

exhibitors are a necessary and important part of the association's success. I expect next year's exhibit hours will better serve you and help get all of your errands done and out of the way before school starts.

One of the best things TBA has to offer is the quality of its workshops. Ideas for workshops come from the membership. If you have an idea you think would make a great clinic, contact your region's TBA representative by going to the TBA web site at www.texasbandmasters.org, clicking the *About TBA* tab at the top of the page and find the list of Region Reps. The list is also in this *Bandmasters Review* on page 12. You may also call or email a

member of the board of directors directly with ideas.

Did you know that TBA now offers clinics year-round? While we still continue to host the largest state band director's convention in the nation, the regional professional development clinics hosted year round have really taken off. If you have never had the opportunity to attend one of these sessions I strongly encourage you to do so. Sessions count as CPE credit for school district professional development. October's session at Sam Houston State University with Charlotte Royall and Marion West was full of useful information and a lot of fun. There are more sessions scheduled this spring. See the inside front cover for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have worked hard serving in TMEA region and state positions. Without your efforts there would be no region band process. Also, congratulations to the state marching contest winners as well as everyone who participated in their region contest and the area finalists. (See pages 26-27.) The level of playing and marching I witnessed in my area from all bands truly shows outstanding teaching.

Enjoy the short break for the holidays and the time with your families.

