

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director

Greetings from TBA! I hope you had a successful school year and that you are enjoying a much deserved summer break. I congratulate Gary Robbins, TBA President, and the Board of Directors on their work preparing for another outstanding TBA Convention/Clinic this summer. You can peruse the TBA schedule and convention activities in this *Bandmasters Review*, pages 20-26. Check our web site www.texasbandmasters.org this summer for the most current information. If you have not already done so, take advantage of the pre-registration discount rate prior to July 1 (\$50-membership and \$70-convention fee).

I would like to highlight a couple of special events at TBA this summer. Monday, July 27 will be our BOOSTER CLUB CLINIC. All of us would probably agree that to run a successful band program we must have the help and support of our parents. But did you ever wish that your parents were better organized and really knew how to effectively support YOU and their kids? This is where TBA can help! Read the article on page 31, "How Can a 21st Century Booster Club Make a Difference?" as a preview of the outstanding training presented for YOUR BOOSTERS by David Vandewalker. This event will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at



6 p.m. on Monday, July 27. Included are three sessions with David and time for your parents to survey our Exhibit Hall. You can pre-register your parents by downloading the form on our web site and mailing it with payment to our office or register at the convention. Get off to a great start next year by bringing your booster leaders to the TBA Convention/Clinic!

Our response to TBA STUDENT DAY on Monday, July 27 has been outstanding. It is not too late to register your high school or middle school students for this event! You can download a form and mail with fees or simply bring your students early Monday morning to the convention—registration opens at 7:30 a.m. and their orientation session begins at 8 a.m. If you pre-registered your students, bring their tickets to our registration area where we will issue badges for the day.

After reading Gary Robbins's article, I find myself reflecting on memories from my 30 years as a band director. I too, was very fortunate to have a world-class mentor as I started the band business. I want to thank Lee South, who was band director at Irving High School for helping me, a beginning junior high director, have a great start to my career. He provided the help, support, and direction that shaped expectations and standards for me and

my students throughout my career. In addition to the professional guidance, he and his wife Mary Lou became life-long friends. Having a great mentor is crucial for beginning a successful career. I encourage you to become involved with mentoring. Check out the clinic by Dick Clardy on Sunday afternoon to learn more about the state mentoring program!

My first association with TBA resulted from Lee South, my mentor, loading up his staff and heading to the TBA Convention/Clinic—that is just how we always started the school year. For me, the convention was like taking a kid to a candy shop—3 ½ days of nothing but BAND! I met so many leaders in our profession and learned so much at the clinics and concerts. Equally important was the networking and forming of lifelong friendships with my peers. Just as much was learned during informal sessions such as the barbeque, browsing the Exhibit Hall, and "bull sessions" in the hotel.

TBA NEEDS YOU! If you are a young teacher and have never attended, make it a priority to check us out this summer—you will be glad you did! If you are a head director and instructional leader of your staff, bring them all with you. What a perfect opportunity to spend time with your staff and recharge your batteries to get ready for another school year. See you this summer!