

# From the Board

Gary Robbins, 2008-09 TBA President

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## *Memories.*

That is the theme my wife Joan chose for the 2009 TBA Spouses Luncheon. She has been hard at work selecting colors, centerpieces, favors and other items to go along with her theme. The TBA Spouses Board puts a lot of time and effort into preparing for each convention. I appreciate the hard work they put into trying to prepare the best luncheon possible for our members. I hope you will encourage your spouse to attend this event at this year's convention.

## *Memories.*

TBA has given so many personal memories to me during my 30 years of being a member and attending the conventions. I can actually remember my first convention in 1979 as a first year teacher from East Texas. Bob Parsons, my friend and mentor, took me to the convention for my very first time. I was not financially able to attend during my college career. Bob took me "under his wing" and off we went. I could not believe all of the exhibit booths, concerts, clinics, and the sheer number of band directors who attended! Bob was very kind and patient with this 'ole small town country boy. Thanks Bob for all you have done and continue to do for me.



## *Memories.*

I remember fondly in 1986 taking my wife with me for the first time. We got married in March and attended the convention in July. We enjoyed concerts and other activities during our stay. We had gone to San Antonio for our honeymoon and stayed at the Emily Morgan Hotel.

Soon we were taking our two children, David and Rebecca, born in 1989 and 1991. We always used the convention as our vacation time. We would attend the convention activities during the day and then we would go as a family to the Zoo, Sea World, Fiesta Texas and other wonderful attractions that San Antonio has to offer.

## *Memories.*

Through the years I have learned so much from the great clinics and concerts that previous TBA Board of Directors organized. Little did I know that I would be helping prepare conventions in the future! I appreciate the clinicians who have shared their knowledge of our profession to those who are always willing to learn. I have applied much that I learned from the clinicians to my teaching career. The unique thing about the TBA Convention/Clinic is you not only learn from the clinicians, but you learn from your fellow

directors from around the state. Time and time again I have shared a meal or coke with a respected director who took time to impart their words of wisdom to me. So many lessons learned from all these people are not forgotten.

## *Memories.*

The basic form at of the TBA Convention/Clinic has not changed much in the 30 years that I have attended. This year the Board is actively trying to put together another memorable convention. I appreciate the clinicians who have agreed to share their experiences with us. Even though some things change, the one goal of TBA remains the same: give band directors the opportunity to learn the art of teaching band from fellow band directors.

## *Memories.*

I will take so many memories with me when I leave the TBA Board. I have been able to meet and become friends with other directors with whom I would have otherwise never had the opportunity to get to know. I am thankful I had a chance to serve in this capacity.

## *Memories.*

I invite you and your family to join Joan, our family, and me at the 2009 TBA Convention/Clinic. Come and enjoy this time and make some wonderful *Memories* for yourself.