

# From the Board

**Gary Robbins, 2009-10 TBA Past President**

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With all of the “back to school” sales, tax free weekend sales, summer vacations ending, and summer band schedules finished - it is time to start the 2009-2010 school year! I hope each and every one of you had time this summer to rest and relax. Now it is time to set and achieve some new goals for the new school year. Most of you have had a chance to already put your new marching show on the field for 3 games or more. I hope it is coming along as planned.



I was very pleased with the 2009 TBA Convention/Clinic. We, the TBA Board, were worried that the economy would be a major concern for the convention. I am happy to report that it had little effect on our convention. There were only 8 fewer booths sold this year than last year. Attendance was up in some areas and our Student Day was a HUGE success! There were 1,300 students in attendance on Student Day. We were anticipating 300-500. Frank Troyka did an amazing job putting this event together. His great planning and schedules kept the students involved in a wide range of activities.

I am always amazed at the quality of the clinics at TBA. The clinicians did an outstanding job presenting their topics. I say, “THANK YOU” to each and every one of them. I appreciate their expert presentations and knowledge of their subject as they planned and prepared for their presentations. There was good attendance at each clinic that I had the opportunity to attend. There were 100 to 700 in attendance at any given clinic. Directors could find just about any topic related to band directing and teaching that they needed.

I am very appreciative to everyone who had a part in presenting the 2009 TBA Convention/Clinic. Each member of the TBA Board had their stamp somewhere in the convention. I especially appreciate the encouragement offered by many past presidents of TBA. Their emails and phone calls meant a lot to me. The TBA Board is fortunate to have such a fine cohesive office staff. Robin Tovar, Alfred Esquivel, and Justin Young did an outstanding job getting it all put together. Thanks staff for a job “well done!”

The person who made it all happen was Mike Brashear. Mike is so organized and professional in putting it all together—getting concerts, equipment, rooms, clinics, sound equipment, food functions, etc. One will never understand the planning that has to take place for a convention of our size to come together. Mike did a wonderful job of making it happen. I look forward to the future of TBA with him as our Executive Director.

Joan and I could never thank everyone for their help as we both prepared for this convention. I remember Past President Charlie Munsell telling me when I first got on the board that it would be a fast ride and I would be President before I knew it. Charlie, you were right!

It has been a privilege and honor to serve the band directors of Texas. Now I look forward to this year with Brian Merrill as our President. I have enjoyed getting to know Brian and his wife Nancy these past few years. TBA is in capable hands under their leadership.

Have a super 2009-2010 school year!