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From the Board

Brian Merrill, 2009-10 TBA President

The 2010 Convention/Clinic is just about here. I want to thank all of the clinicians, conductors, performers, students, sponsors, and business partners as well as the TBA Board, Spouse's Board, and TBA Office for all of the effort, time, diligence, creativity, and financial and moral support put into planning for this event. I believe we work in a great profession, where so many are so generous with their time and their expertise.



Our convention really highlights this trait. Please join us July 25 - 28 for what should prove to be an informative, fun and inspiring three and a half days.

As you look through the Schedule of Events on pages 17-23, you will see a great line up with clinics, concerts, exhibits, student day, meetings, awards, and social activities. There are way too many for me to list in this article; however, I want to point out four aspects of this convention: "live" student demonstration groups, Sunday's schedule, repeat clinics, and honoring our heritage.

This summer's convention has seven sessions using student demonstration groups. Our featured clinician, Tom Bennett, will do three different sessions demonstrating young, intermediate, and advanced ensemble skill development with the NEISD Reagan and Johnson High School Bands. Jeff King will work with the NEISD Driscoll Middle School Band in the "Foundations" book. Students from

Queen City High School, Chris Brannon, director, and from Dripping Springs High School and Color Guard, Keith Lancaster and Derek Woods, directors, will each demonstrate methods, strategies and visual techniques for marching band. As you go through the Schedule of Events, take special note of these "live" clinics where you can hear and see for yourself techniques of effective teaching.

I would also like to draw your attention to Sunday's schedule. Please do not think of this as a "warm up" day. It is jammed packed full of things you will not want to miss, including concerts by the Carrollton Wind Symphony, Phantom Regiment, and the United States Air Force Band of the West. For fun, you can start Sunday morning with the golf tournament, tennis tournament or fun run/health walk. Sunday also includes Honor Band sessions, the Outstanding Performance Series, clinics on new jazz music and the jazz all-state etudes, sessions especially designed for college students, and outstanding clinics covering everything from starting woodwinds to brass essentials, from middle school "how to" to building student leaders.

There will be four "repeat" clinics offered to allow you a chance to attend more of the clinics you want to attend. Setting Beginner Priorities, Sculpting 101, Laying the Foundation for Stronger Fundamentals and Ensemble Skills, and Getting the Right Start to Your Year can be found on Monday or Tuesday, then all repeated on Wednesday morning. All of the Wednesday morning clinics are

From the Board - Brian Merrill, TBA President

intended for you to leave the convention not only informed, but refreshed and renewed and ready to get back to work.

There are three opportunities to attend sessions which honor wonderful directors who have influenced, taught, mentored, or inspired all of us: The History of UIL Music, The Legends of the Permian Basin, and the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Each of these will be quite special and a highlight of the convention.

The 2010 Convention/Clinic is ready and only needs one more thing: you! Your participation insures that our association will continue to grow, improve, and always play a major role in assisting Texas band

directors achieve the highest standards of instrumental music education. Our convention is a better convention when you are there. Your input and questions at the clinics add to the learning experience. The time you spend in the Exhibit Hall visiting with our Business Members encourages them to continue to provide and refine their product and to return summer after summer.

The directors that you meet from around the state, go home feeling better connected to their colleagues who face the same challenges and enjoy the same rewards. Please join us in San Antonio this summer as a valued member of the largest bandmasters association in the world.