

# TBA News

**Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director**

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Greetings from the Texas Bandmasters Association! By now, you are well into the school year with marching drill taught, several games and pep rallies under your belt, daily classroom routines established, beginners started, and middle school concert music well under way. Congratulations on surviving the challenges of opening another wonderful school year. Whether you have taught many years or this is your first year to teach, there is always something special about the excitement of a new, fresh year: new beginnings, new possibilities, new students in your program, and yes, even new challenges. One of the great aspects of our profession is this opportunity to start with a fresh, clean slate each year. Set your expectations high—do not put a false ceiling on your students' potential. Most of the time, they will live up to your expectations, especially if you give them the tools they need. Now is the time of the year to dream big!



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TBA is committed to providing you with tools needed for success with your program. We are expanding our Professional Development Outreach Program throughout the year. See page 27 for the clinics that are currently planned. More will be added so please check our web site for current offerings. These clinics go beyond what can be offered at a convention because they provide six hours of time compared to a one-hour session at a convention. The cost is a minimal \$10 per attendee and six hours of CPE Credit is offered. Another way that TBA provides information for you is through our quarterly journal, the *Bandmasters Review*. In addition to information concerning the business of our association, you will find inspiring articles on instrumental and ensemble pedagogy, motivation, managing your booster club, and other topics relevant to the band world. Check the TBA

web site archives for articles from previous editions as well as clinic handouts from several years of TBA conventions.

I am pleased to give you a very exciting report on the "State of TBA." The convention this summer was a huge success in every way. Your president, Brian Merrill, and his board provided great leadership in planning this show. Attendance from Active Members, Retired Members, Spouses, College Students, and High School Students was up in each category from the previous year. There were also more booths in our Exhibit Hall than the previous year and we thank our Business Members for their support! Without them, we could not offer the type of convention to which we have become accustomed. As we continue to deal with a challenging economy, this is great news. THANK YOU for attending and helping TBA to remain strong.

In closing, I would like to offer a special thanks to Tom Bennett - TBA Featured Clinician, Frank Ticheli - TBA Featured Composer, all of our wonderful performing groups and student demonstration bands, and the many outstanding clinicians who give back to their profession by sharing their expertise with others. This willingness of band directors to help each other is what has made Texas bands the envy of the nation. Have a great school year!