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From the Board

Tom Harrington, 2010-11 TBA President Elect

Last year was one of the most rewarding years to date I have had on the TBA Board of Directors. Every year has been rewarding as I serve the band directors in Texas, but last year was my turn to administer the Malcolm Helm Memorial Scholarship. I was privileged to be able to learn about several outstanding—and I mean truly outstanding—college student applicants. In addition to being a good student and musician, each had a wonderful story to tell about why they wanted



to become a band director. Each student's letter spoke of his or her love for music; but more importantly, the letter described the people that inspired them to become a teacher.

Because of the quality of applicants, I wish TBA could offer a larger scholarship. When the scholarship was initiated, \$2,000 was a lot of money. In fact, it paid for a complete semester at a state university. Now with the deregulation of tuition rates it is just a drop in the bucket. The primary source of funding is through contributions from band directors. Being aware that band directors do not have the deepest pockets and are already being asked to fund many worthwhile projects has urged me to think about alternative sources of funding. The new goal should be to find revenue sources from outside our community of teachers.

Here is where you can help! Each one of you has contact with many band parents and some of them are in a

position to assist. Also, companies are looking for worthy community projects to support and you might have a parent who knows who the contact person is in their corporation. Even better, they might be the person who reviews requests for charitable giving. We would like your help to put TBA on their radar. Your contact with that executive is a vital first step in turning our call from cold to warm. If you are aware of anyone who is in a position to help, TBA has made it easy for you to get the message out.

We have prepared a helpful and easy to read brochure that will explain the Helm scholarship and what TBA is about. To request a brochure, call the TBA office at 210-492-8878 or e-mail Robin Tovar at robin@texasbandmasters.org.

TBA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible and 100% of monies donated to the scholarship goes to the endowment. As an endowment, the money will help fund the scholarship each year.

Many younger band directors have never heard of Malcolm Helm, after all it has been almost 20 years since he passed. I only had the opportunity to meet Malcolm once; he was a concert judge at my very first UIL competition in 1991. Even as time passes, it is fitting we continue to remember Malcolm Helm's dedication to teaching band. Your support of the scholarship is a wonderful way to honor his life while helping support our future teachers.