

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director

Greetings from the Texas Bandmasters Association! Thank you for attending the 2011 TBA Convention/Clinic and supporting your band director association. Another great year with about 60 clinics, exciting concerts, and well-attended family and spouse activities.

Even with the challenges of state education funding, teacher reductions, and overall concerns with the economy, TBA remains strong with a healthy number of attendees and overall financial stability. The number of retired members, college students, band boosters, and Student Day attendees were each at a three-year high. Combined with Active Members, Spouses, families, performing groups, and exhibitors, our overall attendance of 6716 was up slightly from last year. TBA is alive and well!

Even though the TBA Board of Directors and I are always concerned about numbers and financial security, our primary focus remains on the first item in our mission statement: **assisting membership in achieving the highest standards of instrumental education**. The most obvious way we achieve this is to offer a

convention with clinics, concerts, and resources in our Exhibit Hall that meet the needs of band directors. To that end, we invite you to suggest clinic topics and clinicians using the link on our web site.

TBA also assists its membership through Professional Development Clinics during the school year. Because these clinics are longer than a one-hour convention session, additional material can be presented along with more interaction with the clinicians. Attendees generally earn 6 hours CPE Credit—all for only \$10.

Another TBA resource is our web site texasbandmasters.org. Check out our collection of 375 clinic handouts from 2002 to the present as well as articles from past *Bandmasters Review* magazines under the RESOURCES tab. Read the most current *Bandmaster Review* using the online flip version. By accessing the online version, you will be able to view Jason Tucker's expanded article. I hope you enjoy using our newly redesigned site.

TBA is continually changing and adding programs to meet the ongoing needs of the 21st Century Band Director. Our new Academy

was a huge success with over 80 attendees. We plan on continuing this program and count on you to help spread the word next year. Read more about the Academy on the next page.



I would like to offer my personal thanks to Paula Crider - Featured Clinician, John Mackey - Featured Composer, as well as all the clinicians, student demonstration groups, conductors and wonderful bands who performed and participated in the 2011 Convention/Clinic. What a wealth of talent was on display.

And finally, but certainly not least, is my thanks to all the TBA Business Members who support TBA through memberships, exhibit hall booths, and sponsorships. The partnership between Business Members and band directors and students has enabled Texas to enjoy the largest and best band world in the country. Please help me in thanking our Business Members.

Have a great fall semester!