

## Texas Bandmasters Association

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# From the Board

## Tom Harrington, 2011-12 TBA President

I hope you have had a good start to your school year. My year has been like starting a new school since a boundary shift in my district has moved 1,200 students away from my school and moved in 800 new students. I am working hard to build new relationships with students and parents. I know the skills I have learned by attending TBA conventions over the last 24 years will be put to use. So far, we are off to a great start.

My youngest son, Adam, is starting to learn horn. He has been so excited he is just about to burst. I hope all of us can remember back when we were first starting on our instrument and remember the excitement we felt during that first year. On a personal note, my most humble thanks to the people who teach my children. You all are very special to me.

The 2011 TBA Convention/Clinic was a resounding success. President Don Haynes did an outstanding job planning a very practical convention for attendees. The schedule included concerts by the Boston Brass and Madison Scouts, a packed Exhibit Hall, Student Day, the Academy and about 60 clinics designed to specifically help the band director to be their best. There is no other opportunity in the country that offers this quality and the quantity of clinics. Congratulations to TBA Executive Director Mike Brashear, office staff Alfred Esquivel and Robin Tovar, and computer expert Justin Young for all their hard work this year to make the convention a “must

attend” event for band directors.

Each year we are sad to say goodbye to another board member. Most of you know Brian Merrill as an intuitive teacher and musician. Brian’s work at Duncanville



has set a bar many of us will try to reach. With his work with TBA, we have all benefited from Brian’s vision and dedication to our profession. His efforts to initiate projects and see them to their finish have helped make TBA an exemplary association. On

behalf of the TBA staff and board of directors, thank you Brian and Nancy Merrill for your service to our profession. We are happy to welcome Jeff and Leslie King of Duncanville to the Board. Jeff’s experience as a band director and his experience in the music industry will bring a wealth of knowledge to our association.

Let’s get back to the clinics for a moment. Each of us expects TBA to offer relevant and useful clinics to its members. We host clinics for both the high school and middle school band director. We host clinics on marching band, jazz band, teaching beginners, ensemble techniques and ways to reach all students in a variety of economic situations. This is a big challenge. If you have an idea for a clinic, chances are others would find it useful as well. We always want input from band directors about what they want to learn at the convention. Times change and our clinic offerings should reflect current

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trends. Even if you are a young teacher, we would appreciate knowing what you want to see. There are a couple of ways to send us your ideas. Call or email your region representative or a board member (contact information is on [www.texasbandmasters.org](http://www.texasbandmasters.org).) You may also submit clinic proposals on the home page via the online form.

Did you see how many TBA clinics offered GT credit? Many school districts require teachers to get GT credit as part of the required professional development hours. I earned a time equivalency “day off” with GT credit from earned at the convention.

Now is a good time to start planning to attend next summer’s TBA Convention/Clinic. We have already scheduled a concert with the “Presidents Own” United States Marine Band from Washington, D.C. We are very excited to sponsor this premier concert by one of our nation’s finest ensembles. Remember, that all military band concerts are free and open to the public. Based

on recent performances at Midwest and the American Bandmasters Association conventions, this will be an incredible performance. Members of the Marine Band will also be participating in clinics and some of the student day activities. Kevin Sedatol of Michigan State University will be the featured clinician. Kevin is a Texas native and spent much of his career as a college band director in Texas. Kevin and I were in the Spring High School Band together in the early 80s and it will be fun to bring him back to share some of his experiences.

Be sure to check the schedule of professional development sessions in your part of the state. A complete list can be found on the inside front cover of this *Bandmasters Review*. These sessions are only \$10 and are open to members and non-members alike. Thank you to Evans/Rico/Pro-Mark for their support which helps TBA keep the cost low for attendees. We hope you attend and bring a friend.

Best of luck with the remainder of your fall.

*TBA 2011-12 Board of Directors, from left to right: Mike Brashear, Don T. Haynes, Jr., Bruce Beach, Alfredo Vélez III, Tom Harrington, Richard Herrera, Steven Moore, Jeff King.*

