

From the Board

Steven Moore, 2011-12 TBA Secretary

Greetings from the Texas Bandmasters Association. Let me begin by saying congratulations to TMEA Immediate Past President Ross Boothman, TMEA Executive Director Robert Floyd, the TMEA Board, and the rest of the TMEA Staff for putting together a wonderful 2012 TMEA Convention. What a great group of clinics, clinicians and concerts! One of my favorite parts of the convention is the concerts. I would like



to congratulate all the Honor Bands and College Bands that performed. I thought you all performed well. Thanks for your commitment to excellence and fine music. I always leave TMEA refreshed with new ideas and ready to go back home and get to work to make my band better.

If you did not get a chance to go to the general sessions and hear the keynote speakers Ed Huckabee and Carl St. Clair, you missed a treat. How motivating to hear Mr. Huckabee talk about the importance of school music programs and advocate music education in public education! In the second general session we were inspired by Carl St. Clair as he talked about the impact public school music and music teachers had on his life. He said “It is every young child’s birth-right in this state and country to

have the power, heart and creative spirit of music in their lives.” Mr. St. Clair has risen to the heights in music. He began taking piano lessons, then became a trumpet player in the Yoakum HS Band, and then made the Texas All State Band one year and the All State Orchestra the next. Now he is a respected conductor and teacher throughout this country and the world. When he described what

influenced him the most, he talked about his teachers and how his directors from the small town of Yoakum, Texas set him on the path he follows today. What an inspirational individual and story.

As I think about these keynote addresses, it makes me believe that it is up to us as teachers and directors to be the advocates for our programs and to inspire the next Carl St. Clair who is sitting in our band halls. Some things that we can do are foster positive relationships with our administrators, teachers, and students; train our student leaders to be servants; inspire excellence in our students every day; and create an environment in our band halls that is supportive and caring—where the students have ownership in the program.

By now some of you have already been to UIL and most are still “in

the heat of battle”. Spring is full of concerts, contests, festivals and trips. It often amazes me when January rolls around and folks say, “Now that football season is over you get a little down time.” Little do they know that January through May is our busiest time of the year. I want to extend to you my best wishes and hope that your spring is successful. Most importantly, I hope that you are able to enjoy the process as you prepare and are able to help your students become better musicians and citizens. Remember that although we all like to be the best and to win, that is not the prize. The prize is when you exit that stage and you know that you and your kids did the best they could. There is no feeling like it. When your students look back on the process, was it enjoyable? I hope that your answer is yes.

Finally, let me say that I am looking forward to our upcoming TBA Convention/Clinic in July. The Board of Directors has been working hard on your behalf to bring you an event that will motivate, educate and inspire. We have a great line up of concerts, clinics and clinicians that you don’t want to miss. Please remember that the Convention/Clinic is on the weekend this year, Friday, July 20 to Monday, July 23. So make your plans to come and don’t forget to bring the family. There is something to do for everyone. Have a great spring and see you in San Antonio.