

# From the Board

**Tom Harrington, 2012-13 TBA Past President**

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The 2012 Convention/Clinic is in the books and I have many people to thank for their efforts to make our time in San Antonio such a success. It is one of the greatest assets of our profession that we gather together as band directors to become better teachers. I cannot think of many other professions where colleagues who sometimes compete with each other also freely give away their tricks of the trade. We do this just because we all feel that every child in Texas deserves our best. So, I am grateful for all of you who shared your advice this summer as a session presenter. Our profession benefits when you share your experience at the TBA Convention/Clinic.

Many thanks also go to the people who helped put on the convention. It was my great pleasure to work with Executive Director Mike Brashear and his staff who spent the year preparing the best convention possible. Also, I need to thank my wife Shelley who worked hard to create some new venues for the spouse's division. And I know that the Board of Directors joins me in thanking Frank Troyka for his work on the Student Day and Brian Merrill for his work on the TBA Academy.

There were many musicians who performed for us this year, all the way from a beginner trombone player to "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. Each of these people helped make a great experience for all of us. Thank you for helping to get our year off to a great start.

I have had a great time over the last five years getting to know our new TBA president Alfredo Vélez III. Fred has taught in Texas for over 30 years in both public school and at the college level. He has worked in the Metroplex, the Valley, and now in the Houston area. His experiences will help him to represent all of us when he is preparing for next summer's convention.

I'm going to take this last opportunity to share with you some ideas of what I think is important for all of us. Being a well-trained musician and an organized

administrator of your program will always remain on the top of this list; however, what may be harder to see is the importance of the quality of character.

## **Be a role model to teachers on your campus.**

Be involved, not only does this help your program by being included in campus-wide decisions, but it presents a good face to your band program in general. Be a team player.

**Be a role model in your profession.** Volunteer to help with region band. Don't gossip about others and their programs. Attend TBA and TMEA conventions and encourage young directors to attend as well.

**Be a role model in your community.** When I was a young teacher I knew this was important, but

when I became a parent of teenagers I really understood just how much parents talk about their kid's teachers, especially band directors and coaches. Parents speak well of teachers who inspire their children. Winning is important, but parents want their kids to love music and have a great day at school.

**Be a role model to your students.** Be very deliberate about the environment in your band hall. Treat kids well and find opportunities to be encouraging and complimentary. When your students feel safe and happy studies show they actually learn and perform better. Students who are excited about band will communicate it to their parents, siblings and friends. Always remember you are not just teaching music, you are also teaching kids. We are some of the only adults many students see year after year and for them, that makes us very special in their lives.

My wife Shelley and I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve on the TBA board. We appreciate your support and confidence and we hope that not only did you find the 2012 Convention/Clinic beneficial, but that you had a good time as well. I look forward to serving this last year and seeing all of you in San Antonio this next summer.

