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**2012-13
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From the Board

Richard Herrera, 2012-13 TBA President Elect

Each year I have served on the TBA Board of Directors has been a memorable experience. Being Vice President last year was the most rewarding. It was my privilege to chair the Malcolm Helm Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is funded by contributions from TBA members. Through the generosity of our donors, the scholarship doubled in value from \$2000 to \$4000.

Twenty-eight outstanding men and women applied for this scholarship. Each one had a wonderful story to share about why they chose to study music and become educators. Each candidate wrote of their love of music, but more importantly, about the teachers that encouraged and motivated them to pursue a career in music education.

Their personal essays caused me to reflect on how we, as teachers, have the potential to empower and inspire young adults. The amount of time spent with our students has an immeasurable impact. It's imperative to be positive role models to our students.

Students find inspiration and acceptance in our "band family". As the director you are the head of the family. Each band member needs to "buy in" to the program. Allow students to be an active part of the evaluation process. One

of the best ways to facilitate this is by having each band member evaluate the program after every concert, contest, or grading period. Evaluation can be done in several different ways including a questionnaire, online survey, and group discussion. These techniques create student ownership of the program and encourage them to be involved in the assessment process. Try calling a "family meeting" and ask for student feedback and suggestions. For example, I'm asking students to evaluate our marching season. One of the most important questions I ask is, "What could the band directors have done differently in order for the band to achieve our goals? "Will you get some flippant wisecracking answers? Sure, that's part of the process, but for the most part, you will receive valuable feedback. In a beginner band setting, you might ask, "What do you feel was the most important fundamental we were trying to achieve the first six weeks and did we achieve it?" You will be surprised at some of the answers. Either way, you will get incredible responses and perhaps realize that you may need to change your teaching method or approach. Whether you take the students advice or not, this will help them feel like they have a voice in helping the band's successes.



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Texas Bandmasters Association, Inc. is to:

Continually assist its membership in achieving the highest standards of instrumental music education.



Promote the place and value of music education in our society and the important role instrumental music plays in our cultural, intellectual, and social lives.



Foster goodwill, fellowship and a collegial, fraternal spirit among its members.



Provide its membership with an annual Convention/Clinic which introduces new music, tried and proven teaching methods and materials as well as instruments and equipment.



Provide Educational Publications of instructional methods and materials for TBA members and aid them with their personal development and leadership.



Provide information for the university music student preparing to become a band director.

From the Board - Richard Herrera

Due to time restraints, this process does not have to include the entire band, but perhaps only the leadership team. The more your students are involved in decision making, the more successful they are in every rehearsal and performance venue. Successful directors evaluate their program on a daily basis. The students should evaluate themselves daily as well with director guidance. This is a recipe for success.

I hope you have had a successful first few weeks of school and have impacted the lives of many students. TBA President Fred Vélez wrote the following which

exemplifies what we all should strive for. He wrote, "The musical and educational process we provide our students, along with who we are as a person, is by far more impactful than the end musical product." Fred hit the nail on the head with that statement and a sentiment we should all live by as educators! Continue to remain a positive role model, a consummate professional, and most importantly, an inspiration to your students. You never know who will one day write about you as their inspiration of a positive educator. I wish you continued success throughout the year.



*2013 TBA Convention/Clinic
Sunday through Wednesday, July 21-24.
Online Membership, Registration, and
Housing opens February 11, 2013.*