

# From the Board

**Jeff King, 2012-13 TBA Secretary**

As I find myself in my 29<sup>th</sup> year as a Texas band director, I sometimes look back and think “what if...” and wonder what the future holds for my students and me? Besides getting to sit in the front seat of a car when going out with my younger colleagues and buying a senior discounted ticket to hear the Chicago Symphony, getting older has its advantages. Allow me to explain.

Whether you are in your 1<sup>st</sup> year to teach or your 40<sup>th</sup>, everyone has a past, present and future. If we can learn from our past, both the positive and negative things—and not live in the past—we will enjoy teaching more. Let’s face it; teaching has its ups and downs. Over the years, I have found that how we deal with these ups and downs is vital to our overall success and happiness. Students must see their teachers as an adult in their lives that is caring, nurturing and not a person who lives in the past. Our students deserve an adult teacher who is stable and able to deal with the ups and downs that life sometimes brings.

At our recent Area Band Competition I had to console and explain to some very talented and extremely hard working students that this was not their time to make one of the TMEA All-State Organizations. We all have had to comfort and explain to our students the disappointments that sometimes go along



with competition. On this particular day, along with the consoling, a senior boy who just found out that he made the 5A All-State Band came up to me and gave me a hug so hard I think I might have broken a rib. He proceeded to jump up and down in a very presto tempo.

We must remember the Sir Walter Davies quote that is on the bottom of every honor band competition program. **“Competition... Not to defeat an opponent or to**

**win a prize, but to pace one another on the road to excellence.”** As the adult in our young people’s lives, we must help our students keep things in perspective. Unfortunately, it sometimes takes a much bigger tragedy or event for us to realize what really is “important” in our lives. Early in my career I was getting my band ready for contest, worrying about every possible detail. I received a call from my very good band director friend that his son had fallen off his shoulders and landed on his head. He was taken to the pediatric trauma center at Parkland Hospital in Dallas for care. After several hours of testing, my godson was released with just a big nasty bump on his head. Needless to say, I left that hospital not worrying about any band-related things. By the time you are reading this article, we will all be deep into our concert competition season. I would encourage everyone (myself included) to keep

## 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.

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things in perspective. The most important thing about teaching is our kids. Period!

During this busy contest season take time to step off the podium (physically and figuratively) and talk to your kids about something other than music. I know it is an old saying but it is true. "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

When I run into my past students (some in their 40s), I remember their faces, instrument and sometimes even their names. I don't always remember what pieces we worked on or what festivals and contests we attended, but I do remember their faces

and personalities. I feel very blessed to stay in touch with so many former students that I influenced in some small way. I have received way more in return than I could have ever imagined. They make getting older a pretty cool thing.

I hope to see everyone at the 2013 TBA Convention/Clinic this summer where we can all learn to become better band directors, colleagues and friends. TBA is our professional organization committed to serving all Texas band directors. I sincerely hope that everyone has a successful and positive end to your 2013 school year.



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

***A list of clinics is printed on the inside back  
cover. Also read pages 20-24  
for other convention activities.***