

# TBA News

**Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director**

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Happy Holidays from the TBA office! Congratulations on completion of your fall semester. I hope that you were able to reach and even surpass your goals for this semester. After all the concerts, contests, football games, pep rallies and other performances are complete, the one overall question we all want to answer is: Was this semester a success?

Much of your answer will depend upon your definition of “success”. I think it is very important for you as a band director to spend time deciding on YOUR definition of success. In many ways, this will determine how you steer your program and will enable you to maintain a healthy perspective throughout your career.

As the years progressed, I found myself altering my “success” definition. Early on, success was measured in “First Divisions”, winning contests, numbers of students placed in All-Region, etc. Even though the excitement of competition and winning trophies remained, later on I found myself much more concerned with individual student perceptions and attitudes. Taking time at the end of each semester to assess your students’ progress is very important, even crucial, to building an outstanding program. Are the students playing individually

better now than when the semester began? Is your band playing better? What specific progress was made on individual and ensemble basics? How much great literature did you expose to your students? Can your students sight-read better? Did your students further their overall appreciation for music? Did they further their music theory skills? Did they have fun playing their instruments? Did they enjoy making music with you? Did you enjoy making music with THEM? Are they better MUSICIANS? Are you??

Being able to answer these questions and reflecting on the progress of your program at the end of each semester will help you decide how successful you and your students have really been. Even though this success does not always translate into trophies or awards, this evaluation process is more important than all the contests combined. At the end of the day, who you need to please most is yourself, your students and their parents. If you are truly pleased with their progress, and they are playing well and enjoying it, you have been successful!



Be sure you communicate this success to your students at the end of the semester or year. It is very important for them to know

how you feel. They must be able to see the pay-back for their hard work. They must come to the conclusion that band was WORTH IT! Then they will leave the semester feeling good about their progress and feeling

successful. This will enable you to have great retention and continue to build your program. For more thoughts on defining “Success” see Randy Gilmore’s article on page 25.

TBA is pleased to recognize the marching bands which advanced to the Texas UIL State Marching Contest this year and performed on November 3 and 4 at the Alamodome. What a thrill it was to sit in the press box and observe so many great performances. All of those who qualified for state were “Winners” and we are happy to recognize everyone starting on page 28. Congratulations to all the students, directors, parents, schools and communities represented. The quality of bands and the standard of excellence seem to increase each year!

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This fall, several Texas bands have been recognized at the national level for their excellence. Five Texas bands competed at the BOA Grand Nationals and ALL FIVE were all named finalists. Many outstanding Texas groups will be performing at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago this month. Bands who were selected to perform at both of these events are listed on page 27. Congratulations to all these outstanding Texas bands! You continue to set the standard of excellence for band performance not only in Texas, but around the nation!

The TBA Board of Directors, led by President Richard Herrera, is already busy planning another great convention for next summer. The dates are Sunday through Wednesday, July 27-30. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Pre-registration for the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual TBA Convention/Clinic will be open on February 10, 2014. You can visit the TBA website to register at that time. A sneak preview of the many exciting clinics, concerts, and events being planned include the following:

The Sunday night concert will feature the **Canadian Brass**. This outstanding group is one you will not want to miss! In addition to their concert, they will be

involved throughout the convention with clinics for directors.

This year TBA is creating a **Focus on Middle School Bands** including a special clinic presented by **Cheryl**

**Floyd** with her **Hill Country Middle School Beginning Band**. Many other clinics for middle school directors will be presented including beginning instrument pedagogy, developing non-varsity bands, and running middle school programs. If you are a middle school band director, this year's convention will be a MUST ATTEND!

As always, TBA will continue to present clinics for the high school director. Outstanding marching band clinics will be offered by the **Forsan**

**Band** led by **Jim Rhodes** and the **Claudia Taylor Johnson Band** (North East ISD, San Antonio) led by **Jarrett Lipman**. Both of these programs are well-known for their success and will offer a wealth of information. Students will demonstrate tried and true techniques and provide attendees with insight into what makes their programs successful.

Here's wishing you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season! Enjoy your time off with friends and family!



### What Would You Like to See at the 2014 Convention/Clinic?

Do have an idea for a clinic you would like to see at the convention this summer?

Have you recently heard an excellent speaker?

The Texas Bandmasters Association is now accepting clinic proposals for the 2014 Convention/Clinic. Visit the website [www.texasbandmasters.org](http://www.texasbandmasters.org) to submit your suggestion online or to a TBA Board member (see page 3 for the list of 2013-14 members).