Texas Bandmasters Association 2014-15 Board of Directors

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From the Board

Bruce Beach. 2014-15 TBA President

By now, you have returned to the band hall, the practice field or parking lot and have started the new school year. I want to wish you a successful and rewarding year, whether it is your first or thirty-

first! Always keep things in perspective as you work in the trenches everyday; we are teaching our students to love and respect quality music and to perform it at the highest possible level. Try to keep that in mind as you deal with schedule changes, fundraising, upset

parents or a surprise request to perform by your principal!

My sincere thanks and congratulations go to Presidents Richard and Lucinda Herrera on another fantastic TBA Convention/Clinic. I think the 2014 convention will go down in the record books as one of the best. Attendees were afforded the opportunity for more clinics and demo groups than in previous years. Lucinda put together a wonderful set of events for the spouses and their family members. All in all, this was a wonderful convention of learning and fun.

I must take a moment to thank the incredible TBA staff for all they do to make the convention a success. Executive Director Michael Brashear leads with intelligence, organization and—most of all—care. We are fortunate to have him in that position every day. Then we have to thank Robin Tovar, our Exhibitor Manager, and Justin Young, our Director

of Information Technology—two of the best in the business! We cannot forget the volunteers who come in and help out—Priscilla Brashear, Sarah Brashear, Kimberly Young, and Gary Fair. Thank

you again to these faithful workers for a job well done!

With a convention as big as ours, dealing with audio/visual needs, equipment and all the performing venues can sometimes become a Herculean task. Chuck Kuentz and Charlie Munsell deserve a huge pat

on the back for covering these needs and all the details involved. Thanks guys!

Once again Brian Merrill, past TBA President, led the TBA Academy for new teachers with great success and this year had the largest number of people in attendance. I highly recommend that any new or young teacher attend this Academy next year. Introduce new or young teachers on your staff or in your area to this opportunity.

Great big thanks to Frank Troyka and his crew for the awesome Student Day. Nearly 1500 high school students learned how to be quality, caring leaders for their band programs back home. Let me encourage you to bring your students to this incredible, life-changing event.

As we do each year, we bid a fond farewell to one of our Board members. Alfredo Vélez and his wife Heidi leave us after seven years of dedicated service to the board and the band directors



From the Board, Bruce Beach

of this great state. Their love and caring leadership was an example to us all and they will be missed. As Fred and Heidi leave, we welcome Phil and Amy Clements as the new Sergeant-at-Arms. Phil, as many of you know, is the Director of Bands at Texas A&M Commerce. They have two sons, Steven and Sean. We look forward to their time on the board and know that they will make great contributions.

I cannot say enough about the Professional Development Clinics that TBA sponsors across the state. These clinics are designed to move the convention out to you. Review the schedule on the outside cover or online. If you have clinic ideas or a possible presenter, let us know so we can make plans. We are here to give you opportunities for success and hopefully these clinics will help.

The TBA Board of Directors has already begun preparing for the 2015 Convention/Clinic. We have secured James Keene, former Director of Bands at University of Illinois, University of Arizona and East Texas State University (now with Texas A&M Commerce) as our Featured Clinician. Mark Camphouse will serve as our Featured Composer. The Boston Brass will perform and present clinics. We have invited the El Paso Wind Symphony

as well as the Naperville Municipal Band from Naperville, Illinois. The Naperville Municipal Band has been in existence for over 150 years and has players ranging from 17 to 92 years of age!! One trombone player has been a member of the group for 63 years!!! The conductor, Ron Keller, has been a member and conductor for 50 years. This group has had a wonderful relationship with many conductors and composers over the years. I have asked Ron to present a clinic on the great circus conductor Merle Evans. Ron has great insight and stories about Merle and his time with the circus bands. By having this group perform at our convention, we hope they will "spread the gospel" of TBA and Texas bands back in Illinois!!!

As I close, I have to say how humbled I am to serve on the Board of Directors of the Texas Bandmasters Association. I am also grateful to the other board members and the TBA staff for their dedication and hard work. Thank you to Richard, Steven, Jeff, Chico, John, Phil and all the Past Presidents.

To the directors of this great state, please let us know what we can do to make the convention what you want it to be. Thanks again and please remember the impact we can have on the people in front of us every day.



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