

# From the Board

**Phillip Clements, 2014-15 TBA Sergeant-at-Arms**

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I am very excited and humbled to be asked to serve the directors of Texas as a member of the Board of Directors for TBA. I can still remember my first trip to San Antonio for All-State as well as my first trip to the TBA convention upon graduating from college. I have always admired the Texas Bandmasters Association as an organization that has the unique ability to tie together the traditions of the past with a vision for the future. Over the years, the organization and the convention have served so many by providing an opportunity to reconnect, recharge, and be reminded that we belong to a larger society of difference makers. At the convention I have had the wonderful opportunity to learn from some of the most influential teachers in our profession, to collaborate with marvelous musicians, and to give back to the profession through clinics and presentations. I am looking forward to continuing to serve our state and the profession as a member of the Board of Directors.

As a university band director I enjoy the responsibility of helping to shape the future music educators of our state. Students entering our profession now have many more teaching tools at their disposal than ever before. With so much emphasis in our society on technology and speed, it is more important than ever that we make sure that musical ability, mastery of content and the ability to communicate, inspire and motivate are the most important tools our young teachers develop as they

enter our profession. I have been excited to watch as TBA developed the Academy for young teachers to assist with this continued growth.

I firmly believe that when we teach students about music at any level, we are offering them an opportunity



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to be part of a wonderful community. We have all heard enumerated many times the benefits for students who are part of a band program, but I think that we often forget what enormous benefits there are for us as educators. I often tell students that I am privileged to work in a profession where I get to do what I love—share my knowledge and passion for music with others. While your students will continue on in any number of different professions, they will undoubtedly remember and be affected by the passion for music and learning that you demonstrate each day. We all have the opportunity each day to inspire those around us. Who could ask for a better thing to do with our lives?

I know that the Texas Bandmasters Association will continue to be a wonderful resource for us all as we learn how to be better music educators, better musicians, and better leaders. My wife Amy and I look forward to serving TBA

and working with the outstanding educators on the Board of Directors in the years to come.

I wish you a wonderful year and thank you again for the opportunity to assist TBA in helping you achieve your professional goals and continuing the wonderful tradition of band in Texas.