

From the Board

Bruce Beach, 2015-16 TBA Past President



As I write this article, my final article, the school year is well under way. I hope that everyone is off to an incredible start. As you begin the journey again (or for the first time) just remember, it is a privilege to teach young people music. So teach everyday from the heart and to borrow from David Puckett's clinic title this summer, "Teach like your hair is on fire!!"

I can never thank enough those who played a part in the 2015 TBA Convention/Clinic. I have said from the beginning that it is a team effort that presents the best music education convention in the world. This year's Board of Directors Richard Herrera, Steven Moore, Jeff King, Chico Portillo, John Morrison and Phil Clements are the ultimate professionals who thoroughly understand the needs of band directors. Thank you guys for your help and friendship!

The TBA staff is also an incredible group. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the convention runs smoothly. Executive Director Mike Brashear, Robin Tovar, Justin and Kimberly Young, Charlie Munsell and Chuck Kuentz. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication! Brian Merrill, TBA Academy Coordinator, and Frank Troyka, Student Day Coordinator, have each worked diligently for several years putting together these incredible events with huge success. Thank you so much Brian and Frank.

The Spouses activities this year were a tremendous success because of the hard work of my amazing wife Alma and Spouse Liaison Priscilla Brashear. The activities they put together were a homerun and will be remembered for years to come. It was fun watching them plan and prepare for their important part of the convention. If your spouse didn't go, they really missed out!

I wish I could list everyone who presented a clinic or brought a demo group to the convention. What a tremendous job these people did pouring their hearts out to provide information and material that the clinic participants could immediately take home and put into practice. Thank you for your contributions—not only to the convention, but to music education in general.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the community groups that performed for us: El Paso Wind Symphony, Naperville Municipal Band, The Woodlands Concert Band, Carrollton Wind Symphony and the Lone Star Symphonic Band. All of these groups sacrificed time, money and energy to perform wonderful concerts for the convention. On a bit of a sidebar here, I truly feel these groups are simply the next step for our students as they progress through their school years. After graduating college or trade school, many of our students still want to play! They have been

trained so well by all of you; it seems a waste not to push them to these groups. So the next time one of your former students tells you they miss playing, send them to one of these fine groups. (You might want to tell them to practice a bit first!!)

As I close, I want to go back to my opening statement about teaching from the heart. Remember why you started teaching—for the money, right? No, because someone early in your life gave of themselves or maybe spent some time with you. They did this because of their love of music and teaching. Take a moment and think about all the young people you influence as you teach music every day. Really think about it as you start that next fundraiser or climb the steps of that yellow dog for that next football game. Are you doing all of it from the heart? I hope so!

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your president. TBA is in great hands as President Steven Moore begins his tenure. He has wonderful plans already in place for the 2016 Convention/Clinic. Make your reservations! Have a great year and God Bless!

Remember: teach like your hair is on fire!!!!