

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director



Greetings from the TBA office! Even though you will read this article in December, it is now the week before Thanksgiving and I find myself reflecting on many things I am thankful for. Along with many of you, I am most thankful for my family, friends, and the freedom we enjoy as Americans. I am thankful for my job, wonderful co-workers, dedicated TBA Board members and the opportunity we all have to serve the band directors in our state. The “band business” has been very good to me and I hope that all of you enjoy your time as a band director as much as I did. There is no greater profession than that of teaching, which provides us with the opportunity to have a positive impact on our students and affect the future of our country.

As I watched all of the bands perform at the UIL State Marching Contest, I was thankful to live in a state which produces so many outstanding bands. I am pleased to recognize all of these groups that qualified for state in this magazine and congratulate these students and directors for the standard of excellence achieved. We also have many groups traveling to Chicago to perform at The Midwest Clinic this December. Those groups are recognized on page 23.

When asked why Texas has so many great bands and why Texas is the best “band state”, I offer several reasons. Our UIL contest system encourages many groups to achieve excellence and rewards those groups by using a rating system at the region level to measure success rather than picking just one winner. In addition to assigning a rating, UIL judges offer positive critiques to help directors

improve their groups. The TMEA Honor Band system showcases the best of the best at the TMEA convention and, along with outstanding clinics provides learning opportunities for directors. TBA offers outstanding professional development clinics both at our convention and during the year through our Professional Development Outreach Program. Robert Floyd and his team do an amazing job of music advocacy and work endlessly with our legislators at the state level to protect and promote music education. Many outstanding Fine Arts Directors and Administrators work daily at the local level to ensure great arts programs in our school districts. However, the MAIN REASON that Texas has so many great bands is that we have so many GREAT BAND DIRECTORS, period. Now that’s something to be thankful for! Congratulations to all of you—keep up the great work!

In addition to publishing several informative articles in this magazine, we present a new blog from D’Addario, our TBA Professional Development Outreach Program sponsor. On the last two pages of this *Bandmasters Review*, we feature three articles focused on woodwinds, percussion, and fretted instruments. I hope you enjoy reading this blog and find all of our articles to be helpful.

Here’s wishing you a very restful and happy holiday season. I hope you enjoy some quality time off with your family and friends and come back refreshed and ready to start the spring semester.

What Would You Like to See at the 2016 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 2016 Convention/Clinic. Visit the website www.texasbandmasters.org to submit your suggestion online or contact a TBA Board member (see page 4 for the list).