

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director

Greetings from the TBA office! By the time you receive this magazine, much of your spring semester will be complete. I hope that your performances at contests and concerts this spring met or exceeded the goals you set for your students earlier in the year. Hopefully the feedback and critiques from contests and festivals will help you evaluate your performances and develop a plan for further improvement.

While everyone certainly places a high level of importance on contest ratings and results, it is always important to remember how far your students progressed throughout the entire year. You alone are in a position to evaluate that progress. In most cases the excitement of the “1st Division” or “Best in Class” trophy fades rather quickly, but the memories of the great performances and of the daily rehearsals, sectionals, and all the work leading up to the performance last much longer. In many cases, some of the most memorable musical moments occur in rehearsals rather than in a performance. Therefore, it is always important to enjoy the process as well as the final product.

As you prepare your TO DO lists for May, don't forget to pre-register for the TBA Convention/Clinic to obtain your best value—the discounted pre-registration fee! I encourage you to register online and to reserve your hotel rooms now. Last year, most of the hotels sold out. With the DCI Southwestern Championship on Saturday, July 23, along with rooms needed for the TCDA and TODA conventions, I anticipate even more demand this year. DCI is offering a special ticket discount for TBA convention attendees. Information will be included in the email receipt you receive from TBA when you pre-register.

We are happy to highlight the 2016 TBA Convention/Clinic in this magazine. The convention opens Thursday,

July 21 and continues through Sunday, July 24. Because of the early date, you will be able to bring your entire staff to TBA and still return home in time to begin summer band on Monday, July 25!

We are very pleased to have Gary Green as Featured Clinician this year and Eric Whitacre as Featured Composer. In addition to individual clinics, they will present a clinic together on *Lux Aurumque* with the Air Force Band of the West as a demo group. Eric will also be conducting a 200 member TCDA Directors Chorus in a special performance of *Sleep* on the Air Force Band's concert Friday evening.

This year we are beginning clinics earlier at 11am on Thursday and will offer some repeat clinics on Sunday morning to allow attendees more opportunity for staff development. Once you see the list of clinics on pages 22 and 23, I think you will agree that this is one convention you cannot afford to miss. We have clinics designed for all directors regardless of what age group you teach.

The TBA Academy for beginning and inexperienced teachers will be on Thursday, July 21. Feedback was very positive from the 170 directors who attended last year. All beginning teachers can attend the TBA Convention/Clinic FREE their first year by registering and attending the Academy for \$85.

The TBA Student Day and Booster Training will be Friday, July 22. See pages 20 - 21 for information concerning these programs as well as our traditional family activities.

There is no better way to begin another school year than attending the TBA Convention/Clinic. Make plans now to attend!

