

From the Board

Jeff King, 2016-17 TBA President

Today, I was kindly reminded from TBA Executive Director Mike Brashear that it was time for me to submit my article for the TBA *Bandmasters Review*. The first thing that came to my mind was, “*Where has the time gone?*” It seems like a very short time ago that my name was being called out at the annual Business Luncheon as the new TBA Sergeant-at-Arms. Over five years later, it is hard for me to believe that I am now the President of one of the largest and most powerful band organizations in the world. I am so grateful and humble for this opportunity to serve our fellow band directors across the state of Texas. Much like the strength and structure of an iceberg, our TBA organization has so many people that make this organization successful that you may not be aware of.

Although Mike Brashear may be very visible at our summer convention, what you see is only the tip of the iceberg. His behind the scenes hard work, leadership and guidance, has allowed the TBA organization to grow and become the strongest professional organization and advocate for our profession. Throughout my years on the board, I have witnessed Mike work with each board member to contribute their own unique ideas, all the while allowing this organization to move in a positive direction. Mike’s wife Priscilla has done the same for the spouses’ board for many years. Thank you Priscilla for all you have done and continue to do for TBA.

With that being said, I would like to recognize Immediate Past President Bruce Beach and his wife Alma for serving on the TBA Board so selflessly for the past seven years. One of the greatest benefits of serving on the board is that we get to collaborate and work with terrific people that share similar visions from across the state. It has been my pleasure to get to know Bruce and Alma along with some of their 27 foreign exchange students they have hosted since 1994. Thank you again Bruce and Alma for all you have done for TBA and I look forward to a lifetime of friendship with you both. As Bruce and Alma leave the TBA Board, I would like to welcome Daniel and Ruth Allen from El Paso as the newest board members. Coincidentally, Danny was one of my above average students I had the pleasure of teaching in my first year as a band director in Dallas, over 33 years ago. Danny

and his band director wife Ruth are going to make great contributions to the TBA Board.

The TBA Convention/Clinic ‘bar’ has been set very high with Past President Steven Moore and his wife Monica. All of the many great clinics, spouses’ events and the terrific concert by the Air Force Band of the West, combined TCDA Choir with guest conductor Eric Whitacre. WOW, what a great concert and convention!

There are some people that you may not know who work year round who are crucial to the success of our annual convention including TBA staff members Robin Tovar, Exhibitor and Advertising Manager, and Justin Young, Director of Information Technology. Past TBA President Brian Merrill has been organizing and running The Academy, a “must” for all band, choir and orchestra teachers new to our profession or new to Texas. Frank Troyka organizes our terrific high school student day. Two men that are literally behind the scenes making sure that things are running smoothly with logistics are Chuck Kuentz and Charlie Munsell. Last—but not least—behind the scenes is my wife Leslie of 32 years who keeps me grounded (as much as she is able), supports my endeavors and is unconditionally honest with me. This I need!

Planning for the 2017 TBA Convention/Clinic is in full force. Larry Livingston, distinguished conductor, educator, and administrator, and highly respected motivational speaker will be our TBA Featured Clinician. Brian Balmages, TBA Featured Composer, will be premiering a TBA commissioned grade level 3 piece which he wrote commemorating the 70th TBA convention. Wayne Bergeron, one of the most sought-after jazz musicians in the world will be featured as a clinician and performer.

If you have ideas for clinics that you would like to see, please submit your ideas online at the TBA website or contact your Region Representative or any TBA board member.

I hope that your school year is off to a great start and that you remember and thank all of the people in your organization and life that help support you to be the best that you can be.

