

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director

Congratulations on the completion of another successful school year! I hope that you have some down time planned and are able to enjoy your family and friends.

The TBA Convention/Clinic is coming soon: Thursday-Saturday, July 20-22. Pre-register before July 1 to take advantage of the discounted fee. Note the following changes:

- **The TBA registration area has been moved to the new lobby of the Convention Center.** You can access this area from Market Street or simply enter the convention center across from the Marriott, walk past Lila Cockrell Theatre and follow the signs.

- **The Exhibit Hall will be open Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Built into the schedule will be Exclusive Exhibit Hall time each morning

and afternoon. There will also be time to visit the exhibits after our Business Luncheon until they close at 3 p.m. Plan to spend more time in the exhibit hall this year! **The revenue generated from**

exhibitors is crucial to our financial strength as an organization. The exhibitors will continue to attend only if they see good support from our attendees. Let them know how much we appreciate their presence!

- The main entrance into the exhibit hall is from our registration area in the lobby. There is also a secondary entrance down the hall toward Lila Cockrell theatre. **For band directors, the easiest way to access the exhibits is down the escalator from the second floor where all our clinics are located.**

- **The marching band clinics and Active and Retired Members Luncheon can be accessed through the exhibit hall.** This entrance will be at the back of the exhibit hall close to the elevators.



TBA Celebrates 70 Years of Service

To mark this occasion, TBA commissioned Brian Balmages, our Featured Composer, to write a band piece. This work is titled “Infinite Hope” and will be premiered by the U.S. Coast Guard Band during their concert Friday evening. TBA thanks the following schools who participated in the consortium for this piece: Canyon Vista MS-Round Rock ISD; Cele MS-Pflugerville ISD; Cobb MS-Frisco ISD; Cockrill MS-McKinney ISD; Hornedo MS-El Paso ISD; Klein Oak HS-Klein ISD; Metzger MS-Judson ISD; Pearland HS-Pearland ISD; Rice MS-Plano ISD; Richardson ISD; Spillane MS-Cypress-Fairbanks ISD; Tays JH-Katy ISD; Tejada MS and Tex Hill MS-North East ISD; Valley View JH-Valley View ISD; and York JH-Conroe ISD.

I hope you will attend our TBA Active and Retired Members Luncheon and Business Meeting at noon on Saturday. In addition to taking care of TBA Business and hearing from our Bandmaster of the

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Year, Dr. Matthew McInturf, we will celebrate TBA's 70th Birthday. I encourage you to make time in your schedule to participate in the party!

I invited Al Sturchio, former TBA Executive Director, to share some of his memories from the early days of TBA (pages 6-7). Al was a student at St. Mary's University when he participated in the very first TBA Convention as a member of the reading band.

As military musicians were returning from World War II, many attended college and became school band directors. As band programs developed, directors felt a need to continue to improve their teaching skills and to share ideas with peers. This led to the formation of TBA in 1948. In the beginning, the TBA Convention was labeled as "New Music-Marching Band Clinic". Since there was no access to recordings of music, directors depended entirely on learning about new music during the Reading Band sessions. In order to learn the most up-to-date marching techniques, experts were invited to present their ideas

during the convention. TBA band directors participated in a Director's Marching Band which rehearsed outside in the Texas heat, while learning from the clinician. As you can imagine, the popularity of this format did not last long and the sessions moved inside to cooler surroundings!

Looking through all of our TBA convention programs from 1950 to the present day, one thing stands out to me: ***Texas band directors from the early days through the present have always been passionate about improving their teaching skills.*** Throughout our history, TBA has invited the most successful band directors from Texas and across the U.S. to share their expertise with convention attendees. Due to the outstanding vision from Past TBA Presidents and Executives, our association has grown from humble beginnings in 1948 to become the largest band director association in the U.S., presenting the most comprehensive summer convention.

Plan to attend the convention this year and become part of the TBA 70-year history. See you in San Antonio!