

# From the Board

**Jeff King, 2017-18 TBA Past President**

---

As I write my last article for the *Bandmaster Review*, I cannot help but to reflect on my past six years serving on the Board of Directors for TBA. I can honestly say that serving the band directors of Texas has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my career. Working with and getting to know other board members from across the state has been gratifying on so many levels. We are all fortunate to be working in the best state in the country to be a band director. I have been fortunate to witness the growth and quality of band programs over my 34-year career. It is both inspiring and humbling to see the growth of quality band programs in Texas.

I am going to go out on a limb (because remember I am a “tree” guy) and thank all of the people who made the 2017 TBA Convention/Clinic a huge success. The combined efforts of our TBA Board/Spouses (Chico and Reagan Portillo, John and Dena Morrison, Phil and Amy Clements, Roland and Jackie Sandoval, Danny and Ruth Allen, Steven and Monica Moore as well as Leslie King), TBA staff members (Mike Brashear, Robin Tovar, Justin Young), extra convention help (Brian Merrill, Tom Harrington, Priscilla Brashear, Frank Troyka, Michelle Gordon, Charlie Munsell, Chuck and Sue Kuentz, Kim Young, Al and Jan Sturchio), clinicians, performers and the hundreds of convention workers all came together to organize, create and provide a fantastic convention. I hope you enjoyed the clinics and concerts as much as I did. We are very fortunate to work and live in a state where we have so many talented band directors and musicians who are willing to share their knowledge and talents. This mindset of volunteerism and selfless contributions back to our profession is what makes Texas the very best place to be a band director.

With the hundreds of volunteer hours from all of these selfless people, I am reminded of President John F. Kennedy’s famous lines from his inaugural speech on January 20, 1961, “**And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.**” He went on to say, “**My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.**”

This past June at a band director workshop at SMU, I asked the following:

1. Name 3 things that your administration can do to support your program.
2. Name 3 things that you can do to support your administration.

As we begin this new school year, I challenge you all to think about how you would answer these statements, especially #2. By supporting your local administration and school, we all benefit. We all want our programs to be the very best they can be and so do your administrators. **Ask not what your administrators can do for you, but what you can do for your administrators.**

Whether you are a new teacher, 30-year veteran or somewhere in-between, I believe that we all want to become the best band director that we can be. One of the best ways to do this is to observe other band programs and/or have one of the many great band directors in your area come work with your band. I am constantly reminded how much that I do not know and the tremendous resources that are available to me. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge from our retired band directors across the state. We are ultimately a mix of all of the band directors and other musicians that we have come in contact with.

In addition, attending the TBA Convention/Clinic every summer is one of the best ways to improve and grow as a band director. TBA President Chico Portillo is spearheading an excellent summer convention for 2018. I would like to welcome George and Karen Little to the TBA Board. These are terrific people that will make great contributions to our organization. Although Steven and Monica Moore have moved off the board, they will be dear friends and colleagues for life. Their dedication to TBA was endless.

The TBA Board and staff is here to serve you. I hope that everyone has a great year of teaching, finding the best in yourself, administrators and your students.

