

From the Board

George Little, 2017-18 TBA Sergeant-at-Arms

Greetings from East Texas! I am thrilled to be a part of the Board of Directors for the Texas Bandmasters Association and I am looking forward to serving the band directors of this great state.

Transitioning from the relative calm of the summer months back into the rigors of summer band and starting school has always been a challenge for me. Gearing up to give students my best is easier some years than others. One thing that always helps me to get off on the right foot for a school year is going to the TBA convention. Attending clinics, visiting with exhibitors, and spending time with colleagues always teaches me something new. Whether you have never been, go every year, or have taken a few years off, I would like to encourage everyone to make time to attend next year's TBA convention.

One of the unique parts of my band heritage comes from the fact that I have been blessed to be a part of good band programs, both as a student and as a teacher, in geographically and economically diverse areas. My beginning band year was in Lewisville ISD at Delay Middle School where Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt was my band director and I had a private trombone lesson every week. Between 6th and 7th grade, my family moved to Overton, a small

1A school, where I was marching on Friday nights as a part of the high school band as a second year player. After graduating from SFA, I spent six years teaching at class CC Henderson Middle School where we started at least 180 beginners every year. Then I taught at 2A New Diana for 8 years where we had 150 students total in our band program grades 6-12. My journey brought me to 6A Lufkin just over one year ago, and I am reminded once again that good is good, no matter where you are.

While each of our band programs enjoy varying amounts of resources, vastly different socioeconomic makeup, and contrasting levels of support, our calling is to always strive to find a way to give our students their best chance at succeeding. ***No matter where you teach, focusing on doing things as well as they can be done, while whole heartedly serving students, is the key to success.***

I hope that all of you are off to a great start with your school year and I wish you the best with your performances this fall.



2017-18 TBA Board of Directors, left to right:
George Little, Daniel Allen, Roland Sandoval, Phillip Clements, John Morrison, Chico Portillo, Jeff King, Michael Brashear