

**Texas Bandmasters
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From the Board

Chico Portillo, 2017-18 TBA President

By now, you have returned to the band hall and have started the new school year. I want to wish you a successful and rewarding year. Whether it is your first year in the classroom, your last one before retiring, or any year in between, *keep teaching our students to love and respect quality music and to perform it at the highest possible level.* I also want to acknowledge and wish the directors and students who were affected by Hurricane Harvey all the best as you try to put your communities back together.

My sincere thanks and congratulations to Presidents Jeff and Leslie King on planning and implementing a wonderful 2017 TBA Convention/Clinic. I want to thank TBA Executive Director Michael Brashear and the TBA staff which consists of Robin Tovar, Exhibitor Manager, and Justin Young, Director of Information Technology, for all of their hard work and dedication to putting on the biggest summer music convention in the country. In addition, I want to recognize a few other people who make the TBA convention come to life—Pricilla Brashear for her important role in helping with all of the Spouses events, Chuck Kuentz and Charlie Munsell for their behind the scenes work with all of the clinics and concert events, Sue Kuentz for her help with the numerous financial tasks, Tom Harrington for his work with the TBA Academy, and Frank Troyka and his crew for the awesome Student Day events.

As we do each year, we bid a fond farewell to one of our Board members. Steven and Monica Moore leave us after seven years of dedicated service. Their love and caring leadership was an example to us all and they will be missed. As Steven and Monica leave, we welcome George

and Karen Little as the new Sergeant-at-Arms. George is the Director of Bands at Lufkin High School. They have two daughters Sally and Dottie, and son Luke. We look forward to their time on the board and know that they will make great contributions.

I cannot say enough about the Professional Development Clinics that TBA sponsors across the state. These clinics are designed to move the convention out to you. Please review the schedule on the outside cover or online. If you have clinic ideas or a possible presenter, let us know so that we can make these PD opportunities available to your community.

The TBA Board has already begun preparing for the 2018 Convention/Clinic. Richard and Cheryl Floyd will be the Featured Clinicians. Frank Ticheli will serve as our Featured Composer. The President's Own United States Marine Band will perform and present clinics.

I am proud and humbled to serve on the Board of Directors of the Texas Bandmasters Association. I am also grateful to the other board members and the TBA staff for their dedication to our association. Thank you to Jeff, John, Phil, Roland, Danny and George.

Lastly, please let us know what we can do to make the 2018 convention what you want it to be. Simply submit clinic proposals for the convention by visiting our website and filling out the document.

Thanks again and have a wonderful school year!

