

From the Board

Reagan Brumley, 2018-19 TBA Sergeant at Arms



On behalf of my wife, Cayce, and our daughters, Scarlett and Noelle, please accept our family's thanks in advance for the opportunity to serve you over the coming years as a member of the Texas Bandmasters Association Board of Directors. I fell madly in love with our profession many years ago and want nothing more than to give something back to it, though it can be only a fraction of what it has given to me.

In contemplating the many wonderful experiences I had at the 2018 TBA convention and how they might help me be at my best for my students this school year, I was drawn back to the same word over and over again; *legacy*. I was overwhelmed with gratitude for the legacy left by Eddie Green and Gary Garner while sitting in their joint clinic hearing them talk about their formative years as teachers and experiences that have guided them through the years. I was struck with the same sense of reverence I've had since I was an aspiring band director every time I had the privilege of stopping to shake hands with an older director whose work I have strived to emulate with my own students. In both the formal clinic setting and in chance encounters in the exhibits, I found myself learning new things—from pedagogical methods to issues I need to know and think about concerning literature I'm considering

for my students from masters of the craft who have blazed the trail for the rest of us. After lots of thought about these great directors and their own teaching legacies, I found myself with feelings of not only gratitude for their work and willingness to share, but with a spirit of obligation and inspiration to do my very best to carry on the unique and exceptional legacy of Texas bands and their amazing directors. Carrying on this legacy can be done in many ways, with the thoughts below being just a few:

Think of the directors who inspired you to pursue this noble profession often, and do your best to incorporate their best traits into your work with your students. This is especially useful on tough days, and has helped me work through frustration over seemingly endless tasks that don't really involve teaching and get me back in touch with what I fell in love with: great music and imparting its wonders to students.

Always have band director heroes, which can only be gained by regularly listening to or viewing recordings of the work of the legends in our field. If you have identified those heroes, reach out to them. I have invited countless heroes of mine to a meal to just talk with them and learn, and I have yet to find one who wasn't glad to be asked and completely forthcoming with their information.

Give intentional thought to your own legacy. When you put the baton away for the last time, what will your students, band parents, and colleagues have taken from you? This is a daunting question with which to grapple. There are many days that I don't like the answers I come up with when considering this about myself, but the act of taking inventory of what my legacy would be if I stopped teaching today forces me to hold myself to account, both as a pedagogue and more importantly, as someone who impacts the schooling of many children every day.

I truly hope that you are as excited about another school year working with students as I am. We all know we'll have some incredible highs through the year and some days you wish not to repeat, but in both cases, keep reflecting on the legacy of this special profession of ours and let your place in it continue to inspire you, and thus, your students. My best wishes for a fruitful school year for you!