

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director



As we approach the Holiday Season, this is a wonderful time to reflect on all the successes of the fall semester. For those involved in the marching band arena, congratulations on a wonderful season and for the positive impact you have on your students, parents and community. I am always amazed at the quality of the groups at the UIL State Championship. Not only are the shows more creative each year, the movement and playing skills on display continue to get better and better! We are happy to recognize those groups who performed at state beginning on page 27.

For middle school directors, congratulations on your achievements this semester with your performing bands and beginners. In my opinion, the most important work that takes place in our band world happens in middle school. This is where students form their playing habits and attitudes that follow them throughout their band careers. We all know of successful band students who were encouraged at just the right moment by their middle school director. If not for that encouragement, the student might quit and never be able to reach their potential. Thank you to all the middle school directors whose motto is NEVER, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP on any student.

Several groups from Texas will be performing at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago on December 19-22. Being selected to perform at Midwest is a huge honor and will be a highlight in the careers of all those performing. In addition to the student groups from Texas, two of our best community bands will also be showcased. We are looking forward to hearing these Texas groups at Midwest. See

page 25 as we recognize the Texas Midwest performances. In addition to these groups, several Texas band directors will be presenting clinics at Midwest. Congratulations to Midwest President Richard Crain and the entire board and staff on another great convention.

One of the highlights of 2018 TBA Convention/Clinic was our association with Young Band Directors of Texas (YBDT). I wish all of these young directors success as you prepare for your spring semester. YOU are making a tremendous positive impact on your students. Remember to reach out to the many directors who are willing to serve as mentors. One of the reasons that Texas has so many great bands is that, as directors, we are willing to share our information and best practices. The article on page 21 for First Year Directors will be helpful as you enter next semester. In our September *Bandmasters Review*, we published a wonderful article from YBDT, but failed to credit Katie Fehr for submitting the article. The corrected article is available on our website under the Resources tab.

I hope you enjoy reading the many wonderful, informative articles in this magazine. You will find a broad lineup of topics that should interest new and experienced directors for both middle school and high school programs. I wish you a Happy Holiday Season! Get lots of rest, have lots of fun with family and friends, and recharge for your best spring semester ever!

Mark Your 2019 Calendar:

February 11 • TBA convention registration opens online

February 2 • Professional Development Clinic

March 9 • Professional Development Clinic

July 25-27 • TBA Convention/Clinic