

# This Too Shall Pass

**John Morrison, 2019-21 TBA Past President**

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It's almost unfathomable to think of where we are now as educators, retirees and exhibitors, compared to a year ago at this time. I certainly think we would have offered a much different set of convention clinic sessions for 2019 had we known what was around the corner for us in 2020. The beauty of TBA is that our team, led by President Philip Clements, pivoted on that dime and created what we think was an amazing week of content for our teachers, not only in Texas, but around the world.

I'll humbly admit that it was good to finish the "show", but in hindsight, I'll choose to treasure the memories that were created in the process. Here is a peak into my highlights of #TBA2020:

- Weekly Zoom meetings with the TBA Board of Directors and Mike Brashear that began in mid-March and lasted until the end of July. The conversation alongside these master educators that were constantly bringing solutions for not only our convention, but for our classrooms, was unmatched.

- I had the privilege of contributing in a clinic session with Mr. Preston Hazzard, Director of Fine Arts of Frisco ISD, and Mr. Ruben Adame, Director of Fine Arts of LaJoya ISD. The shared commitment to our staff and students that we serve in our ISDs was clear in our Zoom planning sessions and TBA clinic session this past July. I will fondly remember staring into the computer screen at these gentlemen, wishing for some sort of divine intervention, hoping that I will learn of some amazing anecdote for our "current situation". **What I honestly found in these conversations was humankind at its best. All star human beings, working tirelessly to problem solve and stand in front of the issues as an advocate for their students and staff.** I can't wait to see these giants, in-person, soon.

- The "TBA Legends Lounge". Wow, what a treat! Who would have known that we could have dreamt up a more exciting "social hour"?

My TBA board colleague, Danny Allen from El Paso, and I had the time of our life that Saturday evening. The opportunity to share a Facebook live Q&A with Texas Band icons Barbara and Rick Lambrecht, Fred Allen, Art Valdez, Don Haynes, Cindy Lansford and Richard Crain, was simply an honor that we won't soon forget. I think the message that Danny and I shared with the board is that we knew we couldn't create something on the scale of an in-person BBQ or Menger Bar experience, but, "I bet we could come close!" When I was able to go back and review the streamed video to see who all "checked-in" for the broadcast, I was simply overwhelmed. The thankful comments for co-hosting and more importantly to see the names of so many directors that we reached that "checked in" in the Facebook comments was inspiring.



Moving FORWARD this school year, I choose to remain a positive influence for all those that I serve.

I am going to continue to work hard for you and your colleagues to discover and share "new ways" of achieving excellence. Now is the time for us to work together, continue to share best practices, and recognize that what you do matters to students more than ever before. I look FORWARD to what our classrooms will look like three years from now, in a positive way. I have a feeling that things will be very exciting for both staff and students!

Just know that whatever you are facing this year that is "not normal" for you...**this too shall pass!**