

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director



Greetings from TBA! I hope this finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe during this challenging time. Thank you for your service as a band director this year! Your positive influence and dedication are needed now more than ever. YOU may be the reason that some of your students are able not only to survive, but thrive in this unprecedented year!

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has approved an additional TBA scholarship to be awarded beginning in 2021. This scholarship will be named the Alfred F. Sturchio Scholarship in recognition of the outstanding contributions that Al has made to the Texas band world and to TBA. Details, including the opportunity for you to contribute, will be posted on our website next spring.

Because of our Virtual Convention format last summer, TBA was not able to hold our annual business meeting. To deal with this and other challenges, TBA President Phillip Clements formed a Past Presidents Ad Hoc Committee to offer solutions to our board. Special thanks to the following committee members: Harris Brinson, Don Haynes, Brian Merrill, Rey Meza, Steven Moore, Cody Myers, Chico Portillo, and Charlotte Royall. The committee made the following recommendations:

I. Because the 2020 convention was held in a virtual format and the general membership did not attend an in-person business meeting, a vote for a new slate of officers was not possible. The Ad-Hoc Committee recommends that the 2019-2020 Board of Directors remain in their current positions for the 2020-2021 term. A slate of officers, presented

by the nominating committee, should be voted on by the membership in 2021. The voting shall be either in-person or in a digital format.

II. The following amendments to the TBA Constitution were suggested to address future situations:

Force Majeure

A Force Majeure shall be defined as: A superior or irresistible force compelling an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled and which is beyond the control of any member or agent of the Texas Bandmasters Association. This shall include, but not limited to, severe weather, acts of war, acts of God, medical pandemics, or related emergencies. In the event a Force Majeure threatens operations of the organization, the Board of Directors shall be empowered to employ all manner of discretion and execute remedies available to ensure the continued operations of the organization. During this period, the policies and protocols of governance articulated in the bylaws, and those accepted as normal operations, shall be subject to Board interpretation which may compel employment of said discretion and remedy. Remedies may include, but are not limited to, postponement or cancellation of the annual convention, host a convention via a digital platform, conduct the annual business meeting in a virtual format, allow for the membership to vote in a digital format.

This empowerment shall continue only for the period of the Force Majeure. Aspects of remedies under-taken during the Force Majeure may extend

past the period of the Force, but those aspects

apply only to those situations initially and directly affected by the Force Majeure.

Loss of a Board of Directors Member

In the event that a member of the Board of Directors cannot fulfill their term, the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall be empowered to employ all manner of discretion and execute remedies available to ensure the continued operations of the organization. During this period, the policies and protocols of governance articulated in the bylaws, and those accepted as normal operations, shall be subject to Board interpretation which may compel employment of said discretion and remedy.

At the TBA Board of Directors meeting on September 13, the board unanimously approved these two recommendations. At the July 2021 convention, the membership will vote on the two amendments. While we are planning for an in-person convention in July 2021, if we must have another Virtual Convention, a new slate of officers will be voted upon digitally.

Along with the current board, I am hopeful that we will be able to meet in person for our July 22-24, 2021 Convention/Clinic. Please save these dates on your calendar! With the news concerning vaccinations that may be available early next year, this hope seems more possible. Please stay safe and healthy during the upcoming holiday season.