

TBA News

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director



The 2021 TBA TOGETHER AGAIN Convention was a huge success! Our Active Membership was the largest since 2000, and Retired Members and Spouse/Family attendance was higher than 2019. To say that this convention was one which will be remembered for years to come would be a gross understatement. One of my fondest memories is recalling the joy and happiness I observed on faces as I visited with members during our Welcome Back BBQ. The ability to meet in person and experience the community we share as band directors was extremely uplifting and something I hope we will not take for granted in the future.

Your Board of Directors, led by President Phillip Clements, has gone above and beyond the call of duty these last two years. Each member served an extra year in their respective office because we were not able to elect new officers during our 2020 Virtual Convention. The board met over 20 times in zoom meetings (most lasting

3 hours) to plan for our 2020 Virtual Convention and the 2021 Convention. Their leadership helped keep TBA strong and healthy during these very challenging times.

Our clinicians were outstanding and offered much needed encouragement, excitement and practical knowledge to help directors prepare for the school year. Clinic sessions were well attended with directors logging in over 16,700 hours. Attendees were engaged in learning and thrilled to be able to visit with clinicians in person and network with colleagues. A special bonus for attendees this year is the On-Demand Content recorded by clinicians, available to TBA members until October 1.

Our concerts were outstanding and well received this year. Everyone was excited to return to live performances—ours were the first live concerts in Lila Cockrell since the 2020 TMEA Convention! We appreciate those who served as demonstration groups for our clinics and recognize

the special challenges these groups faced due to COVID restrictions this past year. Our Academy for New Band Directors organized by Richard Herrera was highly successful and offered young directors valuable information for beginning their careers. Frank Troyka organized an inspirational *Virtual Student Day*. We look forward to offering this in person next year.

More than ever before, TBA thanks our business members and exhibitors for being present at this year's convention, and Robin Williams for her outstanding work as TBA Exhibitor Manager. When we opened exhibitor registration in May, we knew several exhibitors would not be able to attend due to COVID concerns. What a huge success it was to have 377 booths representing 204 companies at our convention. Even with all the challenges this year, our exhibitors attended because they saw



Thank You TBA Board 2019-2021

the importance of meeting attendees face to face. The TBA website has more information about our exhibitors under the Business Members tab. We appreciate the support of our Premier Sponsor Perform America/Ultimate Drill Book, and our Patron Sponsors TMF and Conn Selmer.

One of the hallmarks of TBA that sets our convention apart is our focus on family activities at the con-vention. Our TBA Spouse Board, led by President Amy Clements, put together an outstanding array of activities for TBA spouses and families. Attendees enjoyed the food, fellowship, and activities that were offered.

TBA is proud to partner with YBDT to meet the needs of young band directors and was happy to welcome YBDT volunteer help with registration. I am proud to feature an article on page 16 by Taylor Gaskins who was the TBA 2018 Malcolm Helm Scholarship winner and is now a successful band director and proud member of TBA and YBDT.

FREE MONEY - Be sure to take advantage of ESSER funds that are now available to your programs. Mike Kamphuis (Conn-Selmer) has been successful in helping programs obtain these federal funds. You can spend the money with vendors of your choice. I know you are very busy with day-to-day challenges, but **DON'T MISS** this once in a lifetime opportunity! You must apply by December 31, 2021.

We are excited to plan our 75th Annual Convention/Clinic scheduled for July 21-23, 2022. Visit our website to submit your clinic suggestions.

Take advantage of the online resources that TBA provides by selecting the *Resources/Publication Archives* tab and search for Convention Handouts and BMR Articles dating back to 2002. Instructions for printing your CPE form are also on the website.

Have a great fall semester!

ESSER Funding Program

ESSER FUNDS – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief
Federal funding to support your band program • Applications due December 31, 2021

What is ESSER?

- ESSER is a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ESSER III).
- \$122 billion is going to states and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the operation of schools while addressing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- All funds from ESSER III must be spent by September 2024.

What is my timeline?

- If you have not asked about your district's ESSER plan, **NOW IS THE TIME!**
- All school district requests must be submitted by December 31, 2021.

Can these funds be used to support band programs?

- Some school districts are still submitting plans/requests. You may be eligible to receive funding for your music program.
- "ESSER FUNDS CAN BE USED TO IMPLEMENT OR EXPAND ARTS PROGRAMS, SUCH AS MUSIC PROGRAMS, INCLUDING PURCHASING INSTRUMENTS." (Quoted directly from the FAQs segment of the federal guidelines.)
- This is **YOUR** money to support **YOUR** program.

Who can help me navigate the application process?

- From Mike Kamphuis, Conn-Selmer Managing Director of the Division of Education: "We have been successful in helping many school districts access the ESSER FUNDS; up to \$2 million. Please contact us for further information while there is still time. We look forward to working with you."
- To set up an ESSER consultation, please contact Conn-Selmer at education@connselmer.com.

If I contact Conn-Selmer, do I need to purchase instruments exclusively from them?

- No, ESSER funding can be used with all preferred vendors your district uses to support music programs.