

The Ripple Effect

Daniel Allen, 2022-23 TBA President



Welcome back as we start the 2022-23 school year! I hope the beginning of your school year has gone smoothly and that you are settling into your daily routines. What a blessing it is to not only be a Teacher in Texas, but specifically a Band Director! I am reminded daily that I “get” to teach Band rather than I “have” to teach Band. As Band Directors, we “get” to share the joy of music with our students and teach them so many important life lessons along the way. As with all Teachers, the positive influence we have on our students creates a long-lasting ripple effect.

Mother Teresa said, “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to make many ripples.”

That ripple effect can be an opportunity for positive change for so many in your community. Here are just a few examples:

• **Your Band Students** - This is our MOST IMPORTANT opportunity. We can provide the social emotional connection through Band that can be the difference in a student’s life. I truly believe that my middle school Band Director, Max Tunnel, and my high school Band Directors: Jim Edgeton, Jeff King, and Kevin Baker provided such a strong, supportive environment that allowed me to thrive.

• **Your School Campus** - Your Band Program has the opportunity to create so many positive ripples throughout your school. Through

formal performances on your campus, simple impromptu small group performances for office staff, pep rallies, special school events, sporting events, etc., your school community and the school culture will have lasting positive effects.

• **Your Neighborhood Community** - Those ripples you are creating in your Band Program are definitely felt throughout the local community. You might have Band Students that are working at local businesses or serving as volunteers in much needed situations. Your performances, as mentioned earlier, provide a social and emotional connection not only for the student performers, but also for the community that experiences the music.

Being in Texas, we are also so blessed to be part of such a strong, supportive organization as the Texas Bandmasters Association. TBA has and continues to create those influential ripples for over 75 years! I would like to congratulate Roland and Jackie Sandoval on an incredible 75th Anniversary convention this past July! What a tremendous celebration of TBA past and present! *Bravo!!*

I would also like to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to Phil and Amy Clements as they complete their years of service to TBA. Their leadership through uncharted territory during the pandemic was inspirational.

I would like give a big TBA WELCOME to our new Sergeant-at-Arms, Amanda Drinkwater, and her husband, Rob Myers. We are excited to have them on the TBA Team! And of course, TBA would simply not function without the leadership and dedication of Mike Brashear, Executive Director and Robin Williams, Office Administrator/Exhibit Manager. Their tireless devotion and work ethic is an incredible example of positive influence through the ripple effect.

I am truly honored to serve as President of TBA as we prepare for TBA 2023. Plans are underway for an incredible convention experience full of wonderful clinics, inspiring performances, and our Feature Composer, Julie Giroux! My wife, Ruth, has also begun planning activities with the Spouse and Family Board so that the entire Family can enjoy the TBA experience! So, start planning now to attend TBA on July 20-22 with our Welcome BBQ happening on Wednesday July 19.

Thank you for all that you do for your students and for Texas bands! Remember, you are creating positive ripples EVERY SINGLE DAY in your community. Have a great year and I look forward to seeing you at TBA!