

# What A Journey!

**Roland Sandoval, 2022-23 TBA Past President**

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## **The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.**

My first step with the Texas Bandmasters Association was gathering funds as a college music education major so I could attend this amazing event I heard about in my hometown of San Antonio that brings together the band directors of Texas. In 1985 I walked the exhibit hall floor, attended a concert by the 5th U.S. Army Band and of course, as a poor college student, I also ate plenty of free Blue & Gold sausage and World's Finest Chocolate at their booths. West Texas legend J.R. McEntyre was the Texas Bandmaster of the Year. I saw presentations by names I would come to know the rest of my career as a Texas band director—names like James Suddeth, Malcolm Helm, Barbara Prentice, Linda McDavitt, Frank Troyka, and Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser.

Thirty-seven years later on this journey, as President of this amazing organization, I introduced Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser to present the opening address of the 75th Texas Bandmasters Association Convention/Clinic. I was blessed to guest conduct a commissioned work celebrating the association's 75th anniversary performed by the United States Air Force Band of the West and witness the tradition of sharing knowledge, techniques, and demonstrations by wonderful Texas

band directors. The exhibit hall floor still represents so many fantastic companies here to support Texas band directors, students, and parents. The concerts presented world-class performers, composers and guest artists from every part of the state and nation.

In those 37 years, the TBA convention grew from 14 conductors and clinicians in 1985 to over 130 that presented to you this summer! WHAT A JOURNEY! That is why we "Celebrated the Music!" over this last year and will continue to see TBA thrive in the hearts, souls, and batons of Texas band directors.

Serving the band directors of Texas on the TBA Board of Directors is THE journey in my career I will cherish forever. I have been blessed to serve with so many inspiring music educators from every part of our state in that seven-year journey. I must thank "Team 75": Danny Allen, George Little, Reagan Brumley, Chris Yee, Jennifer Dillard, and Phil Clements. Their dedication is luminous, and their wonderful families contribute selflessly to give all an experience and journey that is motivating, rousing, and exhilarating. New president Danny Allen and his wife Ruth are already planning TBA 2023 and will continue to raise the bar for your experiences and professional growth and development.



Mike and Priscilla Brashear are such fantastic role models for all of us and, year after year, lead Team TBA with success stories that touch every county, metroplex, and small-town band hall in Texas. Behind the scenes Robin Williams, Charles Kuentz, Charlie Munsell, and Baylor Herrera ensure the logistics of such a major event run smoothly and create such great journeys of their own year after year for TBA.

There are traditions now that include the BBQ, boat rides down the San Antonio River, active member luncheon, and family events and excursions. Frank Troyka (who I first saw present in 1985) leads our unique and incredible Student Day, Richard Herrera leads our TBA Academy for New Band Directors, and David Vandewalker presents to band boosters. This year's featured composer Omar Thomas and featured clinician Professor Eugene Corporon were captivating! The impact and influence of these presenters and our yearly clinicians will influence generations of Texas band directors and students! Please visit the TBA website to view the 50th and 75th Anniversary Books that reflect the history and traditions of TBA year by year.

I must thank TBA Past President Phil Clements and his wife Amy for their tremendous guidance over this last year and leading our organization



*"Changing of the Guard"  
Daniel Allen and Roland Sandoval*

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through unprecedented times in 2020 and 2021. I am also thrilled to welcome new board member Sergeant-at-Arms Amanda Drinkwater and her husband Rob Myers. The future is bright, and I am so honored to welcome them...I have admired their work my entire career.

My journey with Jackie Sandoval started in our high school band and little did we know that 41 years after meeting, music and the band world would still be a daily part of our lives. She did such a beautiful job serving TBA with the spouse's board, organizing all unique and memorable family events and excursions. Thank you to Jackie and Nathan Sandoval for taking this journey with me!

## Sometimes it's the journey that teaches you a lot about your destination!

Your attendance and investment in yourself as a music educator WILL take you on your own special experiences and music making.

Thank you for being a part of TBA 75 and know I am forever grateful to serve and am here to support TEXAS BANDS and see where the next journey leads. I hope you have a GREAT school year and I look forward to see you in San Antonio in 2023!



**TBA 2022-23 Board of Directors**

Left to right: Michael Brashear, Daniel Allen, George Little, Reagan Brumley, Christopher Yee, Jennifer Dillard, Amanda Drinkwater, Roland Sandoval

## TBA Board of Directors 2022-23

### Daniel Allen President

Charles Q. Murphree PK-8  
499 Cabaret  
El Paso, TX 79912  
(915) 487-4227  
[dallenep@aol.com](mailto:dallenep@aol.com)

### George Little President Elect

Lufkin High School  
309 South Medford Drive  
Lufkin, TX 75901  
(903) 372-2733  
[glittle@lufkinisd.org](mailto:glittle@lufkinisd.org)

### Reagan Brumley Vice President

Lake Highlands High School  
Director of Bands/Fine Arts Coord.  
9449 Church Road  
Dallas, TX 75238  
(972) 741-9632  
[rabrumley@gmail.com](mailto:rabrumley@gmail.com)

### Christopher Yee Treasurer

Cedar Park High School  
2150 Cypress Creek Road  
Cedar Park, TX 78613  
(512) 940-6254  
[christopher.yee@leanderisd.org](mailto:christopher.yee@leanderisd.org)

### Jennifer Dillard Secretary

Knox Junior High  
12104 Sawmill Road  
The Woodlands, TX 77380  
(832) 515-3156  
[jdillard@conroeisd.net](mailto:jdillard@conroeisd.net)

### Amanda Drinkwater Sergeant-at-Arms

Lewisville ISD  
Director of Fine Arts  
1565 W. Main St. Entrance A  
Lewisville, TX 75067  
(214) 762-7722  
[akdrinkh20@me.com](mailto:akdrinkh20@me.com)

### Roland Sandoval Past President

San Antonio ISD  
Instrumental Music Coordinator  
514 W. Quincy St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78212  
(210) 286-5352  
[roljack@satx.rr.com](mailto:roljack@satx.rr.com)

### Michael Brashear Executive Director

Texas Bandmasters Association  
1002 Central Parkway South  
San Antonio, TX 78232  
210-492-8878  
[mbrashear@texasbandmasters.org](mailto:mbrashear@texasbandmasters.org)