

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director

Happy New Year from TBA! I hope you are returning to your job after a wonderful and restful holiday break. The new year is a time for reflection and planning as we look forward to a clean slate with endless possibilities. Many people make new year's resolutions such as better diet, weight loss, working out, joining a gym, and other health related items.

As I observe directors in our profession, I think the ONE resolution most needed is developing a healthier work-life balance. We all know successful band directors are dedicated to their students' success and commit many hours to their jobs. There is no shortcut to being a successful band director and it does take time. However, perhaps the answer is to work smarter, not harder. If you have a staff of directors, I encourage you to delegate more and share responsibilities. Allow your student leaders to take a larger role in the band program. Be better organized and refine your lesson plans to become more efficient-use every minute of rehearsal time wisely. Simply staying at the band hall several more hours a week (more than your competitors) is not the answer. Your students need

YOU to be at the top of your game. You must take care of yourself physically, emotionally, spiritually, and outside-of-band to function at your best for your students. Working harder and experiencing burnout is not in anyone's best interest. Make time for yourself whether it is with family, friends, or personal activities. Achieving a better work-life balance in 2023 is the absolute best thing you can do for yourself and your band program. Good luck – may you have your best semester ever!

The 2023 TBA Convention is Thursday-Saturday, July 20-23 and is shaping up to be a great one. Include these dates in your summer band calendar and take time from your rehearsals to gain this valuable professional development. You and your students will be glad you did-your band will perform better at the end of the season because you became a better teacher.

President Daniel Allen, the board and staff are finalizing TBA Convention plans. Larry Livingston will be our Featured Clinician and Julie Giroux is Featured Composer. The Navy Band from Washington D.C. will be performing along with The Air Force Band of the West,



The Kasetsart University Wind Symphony from Thailand, and the Spring Alumni Band. Please note:

- Online Registration and Housing Reservations will open Monday, February 20, 2023.
- TBA Welcome BBQ will be Wednesday – July 19, 6-9pm.
- TBA Academy for New Band Directors will be Thursday, July 20.
- TBA Student Day and Booster Training will be Friday, July 21.

Help us plan. Using the button on our homepage, submit your suggestions for clinics and clinicians (submission deadline February 1). Look for more exciting announcements as plans become finalized for the TBA 76th Annual Convention/Clinic. Enjoy reading the informative articles in this BMR. Have a wonderful spring semester!

Dr. William P. Foster Project

The College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), Music for All (MFA), and National Band Association (NBA) have joined forces as the Music Education Alliance to serve bands and music education in the United States. The most prominent collaboration to date is the Dr. William P. Foster Project collaborative initiative to support bands in historically underserved and under-resourced communities. The Foster Project focuses on three specific areas of support: An Awards Program, Mentorship and Best Practice Resources. Many Texas bands and directors have been selected in the past as award winners by The Foster Project. For more information and to apply please go to www.musicedalliance.org/william-p-foster-project.