

76th Annual Convention Report

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Greetings from the TBA office! I am excited to share with you a report of the 76th Annual TBA Convention/Clinic. It is our goal to meet the needs of band directors at our convention and to help attendees prepare for another exciting school year. Memorable highlights from our TBA Convention are:

- **THE OPENING SESSION** - The Spring ISD Alumni Band provided exceptional music, beautifully prepared, and Larry Livingston offered an inspiring message and challenges for attendees. The spirited performance of "76 Trombones" from the Music Man in honor of our 76th Annual Convention is a moment I will never forget. Special thanks to the 76 band director trombonists and to Reagan Brumley who organized and rehearsed the group. Filling the aisles with so many trombonists to join with the Spring ISD Alumni Band created a TBA memory now in the books!
- **CONCERTS by the U.S. Navy Band and the Air Force Band of the West** were fantastic! TBA has a long-standing relationship with our nation's top military bands, and we look forward to hosting them for our attendees each year.
- **The Spring ISD Alumni Band's concert** for a packed audience of band directors and student day attendees was outstanding. What a treat to hear this group and be inspired by their list of guest conductors—all Texas band director icons!
- **The Kasetsart Winds from Bangkok, Thailand** played an important role in this convention. Their concert was truly amazing as they shared an inspired performance of traditional band literature as well as music from Thailand. Student ensembles performed at our BBQ, the band served as a demo group for an outstanding clinic and performed a moving tribute to honor deceased TBA members at our business luncheon. Saturday afternoon, this group performed at the DCI show and that evening, enjoyed the outstanding performances of the

world class drum corps. These university students and their conductors, the university staff and administrators, and the Thailand U. S. Ambassador from Washington DC all experienced TBA's outsized TEXAS HOSPITALITY.

- **Over 65 clinics** were offered by outstanding clinicians including Larry Livingston, Featured Clinician and Julie Giroux, Featured Composer. Many clinics utilized incredible demonstration groups. The overall result was a balanced curriculum providing CPE credit for beginning, middle and high school directors.
- **Networking and reconnecting** with colleagues and making new friends during the convention is an important part of the TBA experience.

Each year, I get asked about attendance and the current state of TBA. With directors feeling pressure to start summer band earlier each year, some are concerned that TBA convention attendance might be lower than it used to be. Sharing some historical perspective may be helpful. In the 2000's our average Active Paid Yearly Membership has been 2148 with 2328 being a yearly high and 1909 a yearly low. This year's Active Paid Membership was 2127, which is very much in line with our average. Average Retired Yearly Membership is 180 and this year's Retired Membership was 210. While we always are striving to increase our attendance, our primary focus is to provide the very best possible summer convention for band directors anywhere in the U.S.

Simply put, we believe there is no other summer music convention in the country that

THE FOLLOWING IS A RECAP OF 2023 Attendance:

Active and Retired Directors
and family members
over 2600

Academy for New Band Directors
over 80

Clinic attendee counts
over 13,500 hours
of professional development earned

Student Day
over 550 students

Booster Training
over 325 band boosters
from **52** schools

Performing ensembles
and demo groups
over 1275 members

227 Business Member companies
with a great presence in the exhibit hall

. . .

TOTAL TBA ATTENDANCE
including exhibitors,
performers, and members
over 6500

offers so much for so many! THANK YOU to all who attended and participated in TBA 76! The current State of TBA is extraordinarily strong indeed. If you were not able to attend this year, make plans to carve out the dates in your summer calendar for TBA 2024—you can't afford to miss out!

As a TBA member, you can help us determine our future. We have begun plans for our 77th Annual Convention scheduled for July 25-27, 2024. Visit our website to submit your clinic suggestions and contact your TBA Region Representative or one of our board members to make suggestions. Take advantage of the resources that TBA provides by selecting the Resources/Publication Archives tab and search for Convention Handouts and TBA Bandmasters Review articles dating back to 2002. Instructions for printing your CPE form are also on the website.

Have a great fall semester!