

# The Rhapsody

Winter 2013-14

Official Publication of the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association



**Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association**  
Est. 2007

The RHAPSODY is a publication of the TBSAA, a non-profit organization.

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Submissions to the RHAPSODY can be made at any time to [tbsaa@tbsigma.org](mailto:tbsaa@tbsigma.org).

## Holiday Greetings from the Chair of the Executive Council

*H*appy Holidays!

First and foremost, thank you for supporting the Tau Beta Sigma and the TBSAA with your membership. The TBSAA Executive Council is working hard this biennium to find fun and interesting ways to support our members! Our goal is to give you more opportunities for fellowship, social and professional networking, and continued support of our college & university bands.

There has been a change with the TBSAA membership dates that I would like to inform you about. In the past, the membership year would run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. After the voting that took place in August, the membership voted to change the membership year to June 1<sup>st</sup>

to May 31<sup>st</sup>. With that being said ALL current memberships will be extended until May 31, 2014.

This biennium, the Executive Council is growing our standing committees to involve greater numbers of TBSAA members in decisions about what programs and opportunities to offer. The association's standing committees are: Membership, Service, Communication, Special Projects, and Finance. Please contact us at [tbsaa@tbsigma.org](mailto:tbsaa@tbsigma.org) to add your name to the growing number of TBSAA members joining our committees.

Again, thank you for your continued dedication and support for the sorority and the TBSAA. Tau Beta Sigma for greater bands!



Amanda Dickson, TBSAA Chairperson

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## taubetasigma alumni association

### What the New Membership Year Means for You...

In August, the TBSAA membership voted on several amendments to the constitution. Included as a change to the membership year, which now runs from June 1 to May 31st.

For all current alumni and

friend members, that means their paid membership for 2013 has been extended for five additional months, until May 31, 2014.

Effective immediately, any new memberships will also cover the entire 2014 membership year

through May 31, 2015. Remember that alumni must be a member of the TBSAA and/or a Life Member in order to attend a district or national convention. If you have any questions, email [tbsaa@tbsigma.org](mailto:tbsaa@tbsigma.org).



## A Midlife Reboot

by Holli Hartman, Zeta Delta

*In this first installment of Alumni in "First Person," Holli Hartman from the University of Kansas talks about going back to school almost 20 years later and finding a home again in Tau Beta Sigma.*

I was initiated into Tau Beta Sigma in 1989. Yeah, that was when we still had 'pledges' and pretty much only female members. What a revelation it was to go to a national convention and meet male members! I served in several chapter offices, a district office and went to lots of district conventions and two national conventions (yeah, that was when they were still on college campuses too!). Like many Tau Beta Sigma alumni, when I graduated from the University of Kansas in 1995, I thought my band and TBS life was done. I was ready to move on into my working life and, in those pre-Facebook days, you really had to work at it to keep in contact and involved with Tau Beta Sigma. I kept in contact with my chapter, Zeta Delta, for a few years, helping start an alumni email list, but as the group of actives I 'grew up' with graduated and moved on, my activity and involvement tapered off. I moved to Washington, DC, went to grad school, and life went forward without band and Tau Beta Sigma.

When my company went through a merger in 2009, I was laid off and eventually moved back home to Lawrence, KS. I tried for about a year to find work, but like a lot of people in the midst of the particularly bad years, had no luck. So what to do? Make a change! A complete change. I decided to shift to a totally different career path and went back to engineering school at my alma mater, Kansas. I was terrified. I was 40 years old! What was I thinking, going back to school and in engineering too! It had been 20 years since I'd taken a calculus or physics class, but I knew that if I wanted to make a good, stable future for myself, this was the path to take.

I am very lucky to have a supportive mother who enabled me to take classes full time and to only have to work a part time campus job; without her, I wouldn't be able to do it. There is another group I wouldn't have been able to do it without –

the Zeta Delta chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. I decided right away to try and play in KU's University Band - a band of non-music majors, music majors learning second or third instruments, and community members; a band of people who just like to have fun playing music – and knew I would probably meet a few of the chapter members, but figured I would not be too involved. I would be busy with classes. I was so much older. I wouldn't like hanging out with a bunch of twenty-somethings. Boy, was I wrong.

Some of the very first people I met in 'Uni' Band were members of Tau Beta Sigma (Amazing what digging out the old TBS sweatshirts can do). They invited me to rituals, to the weekly after-meeting dinners at Applebee's, to social gatherings and they became people I saw on campus, people I could wave hello to and stop to chat with and that made a huge difference. Being a non-traditional student, it has been harder for me to get to know the students in my classes and knowing that I had a 'group' made the next 3 ½ years enjoyable. I found myself getting involved with more than social activities – I helped out at marching festivals, traveled to Midwest District events and met even more wonderful people, I worked concession stands, plus I even made it to my first National Convention since 1995. There were rough spots, yes, as I learned to balance my desire to be involved, to help and to guide with the need to let the actives do their thing in their way, but I have gotten to know lots of good alumni who are helping show me new ways to take part, and I look forward to being able to be more involved after graduation.

The new friends I've made among the actives of Zeta Delta are as close to me as any I made as an active and have brought me 'back to the fold' in ways I never foresaw. They have rejuvenated me and made me a better person. We have laughed, cried, argued, road-tripped, slept eight to a room wherever there was a spot, bared our souls to each other, and become sisters in the best sense of the word. Not many people get a chance to do that with two groups of Sisters so far apart in time, and it just proves the line that "With my sisters, I am best."

*"I knew that if I wanted to make a good, stable future for myself, this was the path to take."*



Holli (r.) with Julie Kuhlman in the K.U. band during her first stint in college.

# From the desk of the National President of Tau Beta Sigma...

At the 2013 National Convention in Springfield, the national chapter elected Dr. Nicole Sanchez of the Delta Eta chapter as the 35th National President of the Sorority. She sends holiday greetings to the members of the TBSAA...

Sisters:

It is hard to believe that we are already heading into the month of January. The fall semester came to an end so quickly, but before we close the books on another successful year, I wanted to reach out to you on behalf of the National Council to give you an update on the status of the Sorority.

Last fall, after months of testing, Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma launched our Online Membership and Reporting System (OMRS). This system replaces all paper reports that were typically mailed in, and allowed for online completion and approval of reports and other Sorority-related paperwork. We are constantly looking at ways that we can improve the OMRS, and have started working on Phase 3 updates to the system. We hope that we can continue to enhance the quality and accessibility of this system in order to benefit our members.

This past summer Tau Beta Sigma chapters across the nation gathered in Springfield, Massachusetts for our biennial National Convention, in conjunction with Kappa Kappa Psi. It was a very successful convention, kicked off by the

performance of the National Intercollegiate Band with guest Conductor Anthony Maiello. The world premier of *Redacted*, by our commissioned composer John Mackey, was the highlight of the concert. Other highlights from National Convention included the awarding of the Grace and A. Frank Martin Top Chapter Award to the Eta Delta Chapter at Howard University, inspiring workshops and speakers, and the election of the 2013-2015 National Council. In July 2015 we will be in Lexington, Kentucky, and I hope you will plan to attend another amazing convention.

The National Council has hit the ground running for this biennium, and is working to provide tools to help support our over 3,600 members and 142 chapters. Currently our National Guide to Membership Education and Chapter Operations Handbook are receiving a facelift and updates based on recommendations from the National Chapter at National Convention. These should be available for our students in early December. Our National Program Guides are also being updated and student chats are scheduled once a month. Additionally, we are working with two colonies that will soon join the ranks as new chapters in the Sorority. We are also making



Dr. Nicole Sanchez, National President, (left) with Leslie Twite of the TBSAA Executive Council.

plans to dedicate the Wava Memorial Gardens this summer, in honor of our late Founder, Wava Baner Turner Henry, at our National Headquarters in Stillwater, Oklahoma. We also continue to strengthen our relationship with our Board of Trustees and Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association Executive Council, essential components of the Tau Beta Sigma Leadership Team.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Tau Beta Sigma through your membership in the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association. We are all here to build better bands and help our members grow in leadership, musicianship, and service. Tau Beta Sigma for Greater Bands!

In the Bond,  
Nicole Sanchez, PhD  
Tau Beta Sigma  
National President  
2013-2015



## Congratulations!

The TBSAA is happy to announce that Shelly Pearse married Eric Degenhardt on June 8, 2013, in Lawrence, Kansas.

Both Eric and Shelly were initiated into the Zeta Delta chapter at the University of Kansas in the fall of 2009!



Shelly & Eric Degenhardt

## Get MADD in honor of Dale Croston

by Wendy McCann, Tau



Marla Lewiski, Wendy McCann, and Dale & Lisa Croston in Springfield for the 2013 National Convention.

On September 27, Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi lost a member of the headquarters staff, Dale Croston. His friend Wendy McCann remembers Dale and his contributions not only to Stillwater Station, but also in the evolution of alumni engagement in the fraternity and sorority.

**D**ale Earnest Croston left us in late September. Our hearts and thoughts are with his wife Lisa, member of the TBΣ Board of Trustees, his son Jared, and the rest of the Croston family.

For the past couple of years, Dale served KKΨ and TBΣ as the National Chapter and Colony Education Coordinator, but has taken care of the maintenance and grounds at HQ since we moved to Stillwater Station in the early 1990s. He was a life member of the Alpha Chapter of KKΨ at Oklahoma State University, and an Honorary Member of KKΨ Southwest District, TBΣ National Chapter, and the TBΣ Alpha Chapter. Dale served on the National Alumni Association Board of Directors, including serving as Chair. His work on the NAA Board established the foundation that TBSAA & KKPsiAA were built upon.

Dale was a true brother and friend to all, and is greatly missed. His legacy is one of service and dedication to the brotherhood and sisterhood. He wasn't the guy in the

photos, because he was in the background getting the job done. He received many of the highest awards of Kappa Kappa Psi, and is one of their most recognized brothers. Dale never sought to win awards, but was recognized precisely because he didn't. He simply anticipated what needed to be done, and did it without being asked. Isn't that what we all strive to do?

At Dale's memorial service, we were asked to get MADD: Make a Difference for Dale. So I ask: what have you done lately for KKΨ and TBΣ? What can you do today, tomorrow, and beyond? I'm certain that Dale is smiling down on us now, waiting to see who will step up and serve in his absence.

He had the heart of a Cowboy, "Loyal and True." Let his service inspire you to Strive for the Highest and create Greater Bands! We miss you, Dale. Forever and always.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jared Croston Scholarship Fund (contact National Headquarters for details), the Boy Scouts of America, or the KKΨ and TBΣ National Headquarters Landscape Project.

Wendy McCann is a Life Member of the Tau Chapter at the University of Houston, and a past MWD Counselor.

*"(Dale) wasn't the guy in the photos, because he was in the background getting the job done."*

## New Faces on the TBSAA Executive Council

### Justin Brady

Epsilon Chapter  
Butler University



Initiated: 2003

Instrument: Saxophone

Home: Indianapolis, Indiana

Email: jbrady@tbsigma.org

**TBSAA Membership Chair**

### Skylar Buffington

Beta Sigma Chapter  
Purdue University



Initiated: 2007

Instrument: Saxophone

Home: Austin, Texas

Email: sky@tbsigma.org

**TBSAA Service Chair**

### Chris Foster

Tau Chapter  
University of Houston



Initiated: 1998

Instrument: Tuba

Home: Houston, Texas

Email: bandchris@tbsigma.org

**TBSAA Communication Chair**

## Hitting a Home Run with Finances in your Local Affiliate

by Leslie Twite

We are all at the point where National Convention is starting to be stored away as a distant memory, we on the EC have been thrilled with the contact you have been making with us, and the enthusiasm that you have shared to keep our fond memories from convention alive. This organization is bigger than one can explain, and I am personally ecstatic that so many more of you have decided to continue your legacy within the organization.

As finance chair of the alumni association, the most common question I receive is, "how do we set up our affiliate finances?" A close second is, "how much money do we

need/want to stay viable?" Here are three quick and easy tips to settle your financial assets for your affiliate.

Set up a bank account that provides easy accessibility, with president and treasurer having shared access. Make sure the bank account names can be transferred easily, as your membership base changes frequently. While it is fun to make a road trip at midnight on Friday night to get to a credit union in Rhode Island during business hours to do business, this is probably not your idea of a good time any more. This suggests that you should use a national bank with many locations. The National Headquarters can provide tax ID number this purpose, but you

must formally set up your affiliate first. Contact Di Spiva at NHQ to discuss this.

Decide on a budget before you start fundraising and charging dues. What do you want to support? Is there a scholarship you want to fund? Do you want to financially support your members in attending conventions? The sky is the limit with this one. This is an important discussion that needs to be addressed with your officer team before you move forward.

Vary your fundraisers. As a band director, I have personally had success with providing music related services, as well as selling products that promote our organization. Re-



Leslie Twite, TBSAA Finance Chair

member what you want to make, and make goals towards that. Things like musical telegrams at conventions, to TBS playing cards, the opportunities are endless!

Hope this helps, and feel free to contact me at [lesler@tbsigma.org](mailto:lesler@tbsigma.org) with any questions or concerns. I am here to serve you, and you are all worth it!

## Special Projects Update by Tamara Henry

The Special Projects Committee is working hard this biennium to award and recognize sisters doing phenomenal service and projects in their community. Last biennium we awarded the first Distinguished Alumni Award to Bev Cohen, a selfless sister who has dedicated many years of service to the sorority. The Distinguished Alumni award will continue to be awarded biennially at each National Convention.



Tamara Henry, TBSAA Special Projects Chair

This biennium the TBSAA Special Projects Committee is developing grants for Association members in the areas of Music Programs, Professional Development, and Sorority Service. Our first grants will be awarded in March 2015 with criteria, applications and grant amounts announced in Fall 2014. More information will be available from Executive Council members at each of the district conventions in the spring.

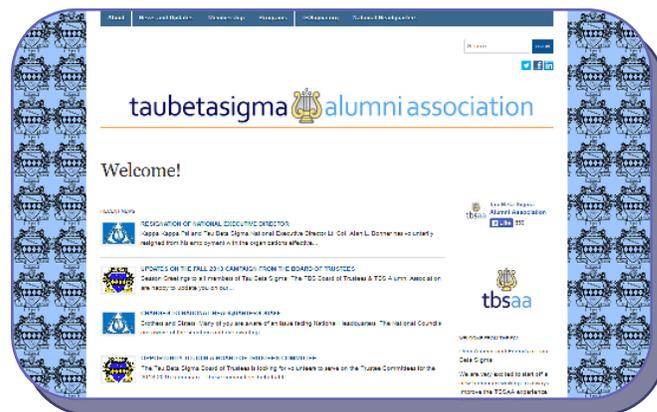
Last but not least, the committee is planning some events to get our members out and about having fun with one another. During the Wava Memorial Garden Celebration the committee will be organizing alumni-focused and social events for all those in attendance. The committee

is also exploring another trip during 2014, so stay tuned.

I am excited to work with the following project leads:

- ◇ Distinguished Alumni Award – Allison Leeman
- ◇ Grants – Marcus Wyche
- ◇ Alumni Trip – Bev Cohen

Please check in on our Facebook page and group and through the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni website for all the exciting opportunities we have for you to serve and participate as an alumnus. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact me at [tamara@tbsigma.org](mailto:tamara@tbsigma.org).



## The New TBSAlumni.org by Chris Foster

With the start of a new biennium, earlier this fall the TBSAA unveiled a new design for our website. Our website is designed to be a one-stop hub for alumni activities. On the front page we have included our most recent new posts. We are dedicated to regularly updating the site with news from around the Sorority. Over the next year, we will be expanding further by adding documents and learning tools for our growing base of affiliate groups.

In the coming weeks, I will be

soliciting new members for the TBSAA Communication Committee in order to provide feedback, oversight, and input for the TBSAA's online presence, including Facebook, Twitter, and our website. If you have a background in communications, or if you have an interest in helping us craft our message, please email me at [bandchris@tbsigma.org](mailto:bandchris@tbsigma.org).

Be sure to follow the TBSAA:



### 3 Ways to Reconnect With Your Sisters Right Now!

Like many of you, I have struggled to stay involved with Tau Beta Sigma as an alumnus. Despite good intentions, developing our personal and professional life often fills most our time. But no matter how far away I grew from TBS, I always remembered how vital they were to developing my character and that the bonds I made were for life.

I joined the TBSAA Executive Council as a way to give back to the organization. With the rest of the council, I am excited to discover how we can develop a positive alumni experience for our members. Look for new ways to connect and be involved as an alumnus over the next year. But for now here are three easy things you can do to stay connected right now!

#### 1. Just Say Hey!

With Facebook, it's easy to know

what your college friends are doing without ever talking to them. It's time to change that bad habit. So stop what you are doing and take a minute to reach out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Perhaps a chapter member who moved away, or someone you bonded at convention with over a decade ago. This can be as easy as a private Facebook message, text, or even a phone call. Though with the holidays coming up it is the perfect time to return to the tried and true snail mail. It will make you just happy to send the messages as it will them to receive it.

#### 2. Join a TBSAA Committee

Our standing committees are hard at work, planning new programs and ways to improve alumni relations. Want to get involved? Email [tbsaa@tbsigma.org](mailto:tbsaa@tbsigma.org) for more information. Committees include Special

Projects, Membership, Communication, and Service.

#### 3. Join (or start) an Affiliate!

Affiliates are the best way to stay connected with alumni from your chapter or district. Affiliates host social and networking events, service projects and other ways for alumni to get involved.

#### CURRENT TBSAA AFFILIATES

ANSWER (SWD)

- Delta Alpha
- Epsilon Psi
- Eta Rho
- Mid-South
- Midwest District
- North Central District
- Northeast District
- Psi
- Psi Sigma
- Southeast District
- Theta Mu

by Justin Brady



Justin Brady, TBSAA Membership Chair & Vice Chair of the E.C.

#### Interested in joining an affiliate?

Just email [tbsaa@tbsigma.org](mailto:tbsaa@tbsigma.org) the affiliate you wish to join and we will put you in contact.

#### Don't see the affiliate group you are looking for?

To learn more on how you can start an affiliate group visit [www.tbsalumni.org/local-affiliates](http://www.tbsalumni.org/local-affiliates).

Honoring Our Founder

TAU BETA SIGMA  
NATIONAL HONORARY BAND SORORITY

Since the passing of our beloved Wava Banes Turner Henry, the national leadership of Tau Beta Sigma is working collaboratively to create a Memorial Rose Garden to honor our Founder. Our vision is to have a beautiful reflection garden and park that will honor Wava for many years to come, all to be located at our National Headquarters in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The plans include a black granite pedestal dedicated to Wava, benches for reflection and meditation, a rose garden and other garden flowers and shrubs.

We are still seeking donations for any amount for the Wava Memorial Gardens. All donations from \$1 - \$999 will be recognized in our publications and in the National Headquarters list of contributors. Donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized physically in the park. If anyone is interested in making a donation of \$1,000 or more, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees.

Groundbreaking for the memorial is planned for March of 2014 as part of our Founders Day activities. A Wava Memorial dedication will be hosted in July 2014 during the District Leadership Conference for student leaders in honor of the 75th Anniversary of Wava's journey in founding Tau Beta Sigma. Our goal is to raise \$40,000.00 for the Wava

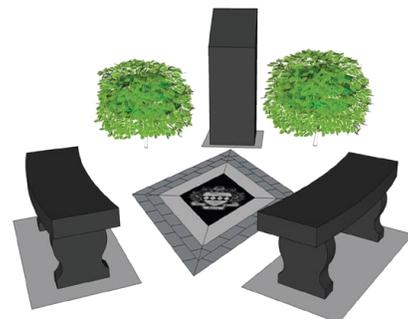
Memorial Garden, and so far we have achieved 75% of our goal!!!

Make your donation by March 26, 2014 to receive on-site recognition.

Donate Online:  
[www.tbsigma.org](http://www.tbsigma.org)

Donate By Mail:  
Tau Beta Sigma  
National Headquarters  
P.O. Box 849,  
Stillwater, OK 74076-0849

Thank you in advance for your donations, support and efforts towards the completion of the Wava Memorial!





## LaShika Williams— Sometimes You Find Your Passion in Unexpected Places

In 2007, when LaShika Williams graduated from North Carolina Central University with a BS in criminal justice, she wasn't certain what career path she wanted to pursue. Like most college graduates, she was ready to move into the world and find that grown-up income. Positions in her specialty of probation and parole were few and far between. Thanks to the ups and downs in the economy, LaShika would find her way into becoming an up and coming businesswoman in Durham, North Carolina.



LaShika Williams, second from left, with other past SED Presidents in 2013.

LaShika Reneé Williams was initiated into the Epsilon Lambda chapter of Tau Beta Sigma on March 6, 2003. While at North Carolina Central, LaShika played contrabass clarinet in the wind ensemble and

trombone in the NCCU Marching Sound Machine Band. She served Epsilon Lambda as President, VPSP, and Historian.

Many Sisters from the Southeast District will remember LaShika from her three years as a district officer. She was elected SED VP of Membership two times and served as the 2008-09 SED President.



After graduation, LaShika worked in the insurance industry for three years, building her finances in the hopes of working her way into a promising career. An unexpected layoff in 2011 forced her to reevaluate her plans. No one ever plans on being unemployed and the shock knocked LaShika off her stride. As the weeks passed into months of job searching, LaShika felt depressed and lost.

Her thoughts led her back to her time as a Sister of Epsilon Lambda. The values and ideals of Tau Beta Sigma lead us to stay cheerful through adversity. "I couldn't let my

misfortunes destroy me—I had to find something to do," she says. Her mind turned to what made her passionate. She thought about how much joy she gets from cooking and her reputation among her chapter as a great cook. Inspiration led her to launch a cupcake business out of a friend's kitchen!

From the humble start, Sweet Savory Cupcakes has become a thriving business for LaShika. It's moved from a fun hobby to her life's passion. "I love making people happy when they eat my food," she says, "I can't explain it, but it feels good to know that I made someone smile with sugar and spices." Today, LaShika is working toward a master's degree in psychology, with an emphasis in industrial/organizational psychology. In time, as Sweet Savory Cupcakes



Epsilon Lambda sisters with Wava

grows, she plans to apply her training to create a comfortable working environment.

After spending some time away, LaShika is very happy to be involved with Tau Beta Sigma again through the TBSAA. "TBS is responsible for a lot of my adult friendships and I want to be a part of other Sisters getting the same experience. LaShika is proud to be a founding member of the new Southeast District Alumni Association affiliate.

If you'd like to learn more about LaShika Williams and her business Sweet Savory Cupcakes where the motto is "It's a meal... In a CUP-CAKE!" visit the website [sweetsavorycupcakes.weebly.com](http://sweetsavorycupcakes.weebly.com) as well as their Facebook page.



TBSAA congratulates Erin (Kilduff) Halat, Zeta Upsilon, upon her graduation with her Masters in Music Education from Kent State University!



The Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association is proud to welcome our newest affiliate group:

### SOUTHEAST DISTRICT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

For more information about joining, contact Rachel Kerley, SEDAA Membership Chair, at [rachelmkerley@gmail.com](mailto:rachelmkerley@gmail.com)



Congratulations to Megan (Pinke) Awender, Alpha Theta, and her husband Adam, on the birth of their daughter Lilly Margaret (7 lbs. 14 oz.) on November 16th!!

# The Last Word

## Keeping the Momentum Going

In my position at the University of Arizona, I've been involved in helping develop a new product for students and advisors. It's a new type of technology which can elicit quite a bit of feedback. While the project is complete for Phase I, in the process, we've been out talking with departments about what the system can do and what they wish it could do for further phases. I often find myself saying that they can always ask for something, but I can't guarantee that we can make it happen. Sometimes the requests are minor... other times it would take a significant amount of time. I follow it up by saying that we need and want to hear from them. We want to make a system which meets their needs and can't do so without their participation.

I'd like to ask all members of the TBSAA to think about that. The organization you're in...is it doing everything you want it to do? Tau Beta Sigma is an ever-changing and ever-evolving organization based on the needs of our stakeholders now and in the future. As an organization, we have the excitement and motivation right around National Convention. We leave with charges for our leaders and new ideas and projects. You know exactly what I mean...it's that TBS geek out with chants and singing and MLITB and the momentum for action. Then we all start to slip. School, family, life, employment...it all starts to happen.

You charge your leaders to take care of the business and keep that momentum going, right? And you

have an Executive Council ready to do that. They're planning and building and setting up processes and programs to build on previous work from other leaders before them along with what you've charged them to do.

They are ready to do more for you. To compare the timeline to the project I mentioned above, they are at the Phase I step of the biennium. There's SO much more they may be able to do if you ask. So, I have a charge for each of you. What is this madness? You aren't on the EC so why do you have a charge? You have a charge as a member of this organization, be that as a sister or a friend to be a part of this group and let your EC know what you want out of the TBSAA. Like the direction and want to see more? Ask. Don't like the



Kathy Godwin, Trustee

direction and want a change? Ask. Be involved. Offer suggestions. The EC may not always be able to do it right away, but they don't know what you need if you don't let them know.

Keep that same momentum and drive you had from your time as a student and your time at convention so TBSAA can achieve the potential we all know it can for this biennium and beyond.

## National Convention Memories

