BAND DIRECTOR’S SUPPORT NETWORK

Phi Beta Mu is an International Bandmaster's Fraternity that was started in 1938 by Colonel Earl D. Irons, who was Bandmaster and Chairman of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Arlington. Colonel Irons envisioned an organization that would honor outstanding band directors whose dedication and devotion to their profession were paramount. The purpose of the fraternity is to promote our profession by honoring deserving individuals and providing support and services to members of our profession.

To become a member of PBM a director

* must have taught for at least 10 years
* should currently be , or have been, the conductor of a consistently superior performing band
* show evidence of leadership and/or made a significant contribution to our profession
* and be respected by other members of the profession, be ethical, be moral and be financially sound.

A couple of years ago the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters' Fraternity started the Band Directors' Support Network and we would like to encourage everyone to become involved in this program. If you are already a member of Phi Beta Mu, please go to [www.pbmalpha.org](http://www.pbmalpha.org/) (link can also be found on the TMEA website) to volunteer to help directors in your district, region or area. If you are not a member of PBM, but would like to have someone with years of experience and a wealth of knowledge to help you this coming school year, go to the website to request services from the BDSN.

The BDSN is currently offering three types of services which include free clinics, class coverage or mentoring. The help you request might be a one time free clinic with a Phi Beta Mu member with “talk time” afterward that would include suggestions on ways to improve rehearsals, communication skills or music selection. You could also ask a Phi Beta Mu member to cover your classes while you observe another director in your area or you might just be looking for a mentor you could call or email when you wanted to discuss an instructional, student or parent issue. Each director throughout the state can request one service from the BDSN each school year and on the website you can search through a database of Phi Beta Mu members offering their services. We hope that you will take advantage of these free services being offered by Phi Beta Mu.