

## FOREWORD

# TOO MUCH WORK AND NOT ENOUGH TIME

**M**y undergraduate school prepared me with a great foundation for entering the classroom. However, 80% of the skills I use each day as a band director are the things I learned out of necessity and experience after my undergraduate training. In reality, only a third of my time as a high school band director is actually spent "making music." Returning e-mails, phone calls, administrative responsibilities, grades, literature selection, fundraising, recommendations, etc., take a large amount of time each day. With these thoughts in mind, I began asking myself these questions:

- What do I, the band director, have to do versus what has to be done that does not require a music degree?
- What are the tasks that I am not very skilled in completing?
- What things do I procrastinate doing because I don't enjoy doing them?
- What are the most time-consuming tasks that burn my time?

Several insights came to me: The answers to these questions are areas of my job where boosters can come to the rescue. When I get rescued, then the students and I can get back to making more music!

### IT BECOMES A WIN-WIN SITUATION.

The more time students and teachers spend studying and listening to music, the more musical they will be. The more time teachers have to teach, the more kids win. After all, that is why teachers do what we do; most teachers desire to make a difference in the life of a child.

*Boosters to the Rescue!* will explore how to successfully nurture a small army of volunteers. *Boosters to the Rescue!* resources found at [www.giamusic.com/boosters](http://www.giamusic.com/boosters) will provide ready-to-use Word, Excel, and PDF files.

IT IS SIMPLE:  
FIND,  
EDIT/CUSTOMIZE,  
PRINT, AND  
YOU ARE DONE.

These reproducible tools will save you time and enable and empower you in developing your own "Delegation of Delegation"!

## NOTES

This situation can have devastating consequences on the teacher and students. When teachers are overworked and under-appreciated, the student is the one who loses. Why? It is simple: There is only so much one person can give. It doesn't take long for one of two things to happen:

1. THE TEACHER CHOOSES WHAT TO DO DIFFERENTLY AND MAKES CUTS IN TIME AND ENERGY, OR
2. BURNOUT OCCURS.

In either scenario, the student loses!

## A DELEGATION OF DELEGATION

I, like many teachers, reached a point where regardless of what my heart desired for my program and my students, my body and my family said, "Enough! How much more can you continue to give?" The motto for my program is "dedication, excellence, and pride." My dedication was strong, but excellence and pride were difficult to maintain if I was forced to make cuts in the demand of my program. And as much as I want to believe it, I am not Superman or the young buck I used to be. As I reflected on the program and the various demands, I was forced to make some decisions. I reached one conclusion: I needed a delegation of delegation; I needed to develop a team, or small army, of people to assist me in providing a program of excellence. I was faced with two major obstacles. The first obstacle was how I would enlist the army as well as convince other people to help me accomplish my goals. The second obstacle involved a major personal problem. Yes, I confess. I am a band director with an anal-retentive, obsessive-compulsive ego! I had to be willing to "let go" and delegate. This fact translated into trusting someone else to do something as well as I would do it myself—or better! The goal was set. I had to discover

how to build some amazing teams of people who would be dedicated to excellence and create a sense of pride in what they do.

## NOTES

## THE DISCOVERY

What are some of the greatest creations or masterpieces of all time:

THE SISTINE CHAPEL?  
THE EIFFEL TOWER?  
THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA?

The reality is that all grand accomplishments were the efforts of a great team. One visionary may have masterminded these creations, but the final product was the result of some outstanding teams. These teams consisted of skilled craftsmen, engineers, laborers, managers, foremen, philanthropists, capital marketing specialists, and artists.

For example, Michelangelo is cited as the painter for the Sistine Chapel, yet the magnificent ceiling is the compilation of hundreds of painters and artisans under Michelangelo's guidance and vision. Thomas Edison is considered one of the world's most innovative minds of all time. In a 6-year period, he produced 4,000 patents, including the telegraph, telephone, phonograph, and the light bulb. When one stops and researches Edison, one discovers that Edison patents were often realizations of a 14-person team.

I definitely do not liken myself to the minds or talents of Edison or Michelangelo but trust I am smart enough to realize that there are lots of things to discover and learn from the masters. Their plans of action for their masterpieces were very complex. The attention to detail and preparation was enormous. The teams were strategically filled with personnel well suited for each specific task. I realized that my teams would need these same qualities and attention to detail if I wanted to yield success and excellence.