

ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XII, Number 1

June, 2002



ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Beginning our 12th year of service to small school bands in Texas

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President's Column by Gary M. Robbins



I know everyone is busy and immersed in the activities of finishing another school year. It seems like just yesterday we were in the hot days of August practices and here we are in final days of the semester. I hope everyone had an enjoyable year of working with his or her students and have had some small, if not significant successes.

Now it is time to start thinking about next year's show, inventory, and starting those hot summer band practices again!

TBA CONVENTION

I am getting more and more excited about our time at TBA. I am putting together a symposium for ATSSB. I have decided to call it: *ATSSB Symposium – A Timeline: Past, Present, Future*. I want to thank all of the members who responded to volunteer for this symposium. We will conduct this on Saturday, July 27 in the Majestic Room at the Ramada Emily Morgan Hotel. Preliminary plans call for us to meet at 1:00 P.M. to begin discussion. The main subjects to be discussed are where we were, where we are, and where we are going. I know we will receive several ideas from those participating. As of now we have 31 volunteers from throughout the state. For those of you who have volunteered, I will be in contact with you as the plans get more finalized. Almost every region has representation. I know our organization will benefit from this symposium.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Robbins, continued from Page 1):

ONLINE ENTRY PROCESS

The State Board of ATSSB voted to require Area Coordinators to use the Filemaker Pro program developed by TMEA for auditions next year. Some of you may choose to use it at the region level this year. Check with your region coordinators to look into this possibility. Frank Coachman has been very generous with his time to help us work and understand this program. There will be a training session for Area Coordinators this summer. The region coordinators will become familiar with the program too. They are required to submit entries to area using this program. I believe this will be a helpful tool for making our tryouts run smoothly.

TMEA ALIGNMENT

This will be the first time we will use the new TMEA 7-Area alignment for the selection of honor bands. We hope this goes well. As you remember, the State Board voted to submit a recommendation to the new TMEA Band Division Vice President Kerry Taylor that TMEA use the current ATSSB 5-Area alignment to advance A, AA, AAA schools in the Honor Band process for reasons of parity. Since there are only five ATSSB areas, we have requested to advance three bands from each area to state. We have not heard anything from this recommendation. It is going to be interesting to see how using the TMEA 7-Area alignment works for small school bands. I know in our area, there are several strong 3A-band programs. I feel that there could be one or more top five caliber programs not get to leave our area. Some of you think we are using the ATSSB 5-Area alignment to choose honor bands. We are not. Make sure you know your region and area coordinators for TMEA. For those of you entering the honor band process, best wishes. We will continue to look into reasons why this recommendation has not been approved by TMEA.

I am excited to serve as your President. I hope I can continue to build upon our organization's fine tradition. Thank you for entrusting me to this position. Have a restful, relaxing and refreshing summer.

Gary Robbins

President-Elect's Column by *Elaine*

Wow! We had another successful musical year with ATSSB. The SARC committee meets at TBA. More details later... Did you thank your students for achieving your educational goals this year? Yes, NO...Now here is your end of the year test. What do poison_ivy, little_princess, CATE, & LTO have in common? More about that later...



(Continued on Page 2)

(Lowe, continued from Page 2):

This is the time to review and rethink what you did well and those musical fundamentals that need extra work and polish. Have you met your educational goals? Did your work fit into the campus improvement plans? Did you complete your projects on time? Did you reach out to every student in your band hall? If a student is giving you problems, have you taught them educational objectives? Do you know the difference between TAAS & the future TAKS?

This is the time to plan for the future. How will you better prepare your students for life careers? Will you stay in touch with your students this summer? Will you communicate with them by emails at camps? Are you sending out a schedule of activities for them and their parents to plan their summer? Will your students know your long-range goals? Will they receive their region scales & music before the summer?

Have you planned time for your family and your children this summer? This is the time to recharge your batteries and get your life back in order. Take the opportunity to do something special with your family. Vacations or short trips will help. Don't bury yourself in camps, drill designs, musical selections, costumes, or paperwork. Your family must come first.

As you can see the above questions will answer my first statement. Now back to my earlier statement. What do poison_ivy, little_princess, CATE, & LTO have in common? The first two are student type names (changed a little) but you get the point. CATE refers to Career and Technology Education. Will your students have educational training towards a career? Does the LTO or Long Term Objectives work for your students? How does this fit into your music program? Where are the music careers? Have you explained their future options? Do you have a web page of careers and jobs in the field of music education? Have you encouraged your students to become teachers or even music directors? All four items in the statement should be tied together. Give your students long term objectives in a musical setting.

Keep a log of your student emails if they give them to you. Communicate on summer rehearsals, practices, meetings, by using the Internet. Keep it professional and not personal. Avoid the chat rooms, but an email would be appropriate if the students gave you their email address for the summer notification. Parents will appreciate knowing what your plans are for the future. I would mail copies of schedules in a handbook for all parents. This hard copy handbook would be nice, but again things change and the calendar may lead the parent and student in the wrong direction. This is where the electronic media will help you. Keep your kids up to date.

Now as we prepare for our TBA convention, don't forget to attend concerts and listen to the wonderful groups. Enjoy the music. And since I am speaking of music, don't forget to review the PAL and check the errata sheet. Our members of the SARC committee have been contacted and will review items coming up for consideration. This committee will meet after the 3A OPS series. Committee members need to check your emails prior to attending the TBA convention. Have a great summer and a restful vacation with family.

Ed Lowe

Executive Secretary's Column by *Kenneth L. Griffin*



Your membership renewal for 2002-03 is stapled inside this Newsletter (if applicable). Please take a minute to look it over. Mark any corrections, fill out all the blanks (especially if it says "NONE GIVEN") and put it in a safe place to be paid when your school budget year begins (or go ahead and send in the check now while you are thinking about it). Just remember that after October 1, the dues increase to \$50 unless you are joining as an Associate Member or College Division Member (everything is the same, you just cannot run for office, vote, or enter students in any ATSSB competition). Those of you who have already paid your dues for next year should have a note to that effect in red on your renewal application. If I missed one, just check for information changes and send it to me only if you have changes to report. A cover page showing your ATSSB and TMEA membership card must be sent with the initial entry forms for the first audition entered (ATSSB or

TMEA).

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a President-Elect, a Class C/CC and AA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session in February.

The Prescribed Audition List is being revised, updated, edited, and proofread and will be published in time for TBA. The Update (Use Year B) will be included in the front of the reprinted PAL. This newly revised and updated PAL will also be sent to each school with the September Newsletter. If you don't get a chance to come to TBA, I will mail a copy of the Prescribed Audition List to everyone who joins as a new member after that time (if I have not already sent the PAL to the generic band director at all schools). I will be glad to send you another copy if you misplace yours after TBA - just call or drop me a note and I will respond as soon as possible. There is a \$5 replacement fee if you are not a new member of ATSSB. We had these PAL's printed and collated professionally, but it is very possible that an error was made - a page left out, facing the wrong way, stapled wrong, etc. Let me know if you find an error and I will send you a free replacement.

This coming year, W. Francis McBeth will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band and James Barnes will be the clinician for the Concert Band. ATSSB has commissioned a grade 2+ piece from James Barnes for the Concert Band.

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors breakfast meeting at 7:00 a.m. in the Ramada Emily Morgan Majestic Room on Tuesday, July 30. Your board includes all elected state officers, all Region Coordinators, all Founding Members, and invited guests. If you would like to have input on matters relating to ATSSB State Board of Director activities, I would suggest calling or writing your Region Coordinator (or any state officer) and telling them of your concerns so they can advise the full Board.

We will have our ATSSB General Session at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30 in the Convention Center. Check the convention program for the location. Please make plans to attend if you will be at TBA.

I hope to be able to visit with a lot of you at TBA. Good luck as you begin another year with your students, especially if you are at a new school (be sure to let us know your new address).

The ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

by *Don Thiede*, State Chair



I want to remind the membership that the state adjudication of the 2002 OPS will be held at the H. B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio on Sunday, July 28, 2002. The Class C, CC, and Class AAA bands will be judged at 1:00 p.m., and the Class A and AA bands will be judged at 3:30 p.m. The adjudication of the Class C and Class AA bands will be held in CC-005, while the Class CC and Class A adjudication will be held in CC-004. The Class AAA bands will be heard in CC-006. The OPS Office will be in room 1067. Your attendance at those sessions is welcomed and encouraged.

As you know, I will need thirty adjudicators/monitors for the state adjudication, therefore I will be contacting some of you in the near future and asking you to serve in that capacity. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and necessary for the continued success of the Outstanding Performance Series. Congratulations to the directors of the bands that have reached the state level of the OPS. I wish them all the best of luck on July 28th.

I hope you enjoy your summer. I will see you at TBA.

ATSSB Symposium - A Timeline: *Past* - Present - **Future**

Plans are almost complete for the ATSSB Symposium to be held in San Antonio Saturday, July 27, 2002, from 1:00-8:00 p.m. in the Ramada Emily Morgan Hotel Majestic Room. Delegates from each region and Area have been invited to attend to bring a grass-roots approach to an in-depth examination of ATSSB to see where we were, where we are, and - more importantly - where we need to be going. Long-range plans for ATSSB activities will be discussed and initiated for dissemination to the general membership before action is suggested to the ATSSB State Board of Directors.

If you would like to be a part of this process, contact your Region Coordinator for details or to see if you could be your region's delegate to the Symposium.

The Symposium will be led by Gary Robbins. ATSSB appreciates the sacrifices that will be made to come to San Antonio a day early for TBA so this important Symposium can be an effective tool for continued growth and maturity of our Association.

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS 2002-03 Membership Application

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.

NAME _____ SS# _____
 SCHOOL _____ CLASS _____ REGION# _____
 TITLE _____ SCHOOL PHONE () _____ Besttime to call _____
 Are you the only band director for both high school and junior high in your district? _____ If there are others in your district, please list their names: _____
 SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ FAX # () _____
 CITY & ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____
 CITY & ZIP CODE (if different from school) _____ Texas Music Adjudicators Assn. member? Circle area:
 MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____ CB MB O (add * if supplemental)

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$25* for dues to:
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
 Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
 15310 Amesbury Lane
 Sugar Land, Texas 77478-4180

Make checks payable to **ATSSB**

***NOTE:** After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$50. A membership card and receipt will be returned to you. The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Associate Member dues are \$25 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$25. To enter students into competition leading to membership in the ATSSB All-State Band, you must be a current Active Member of the Texas Music Educators Association in addition to being a current Regular Member of ATSSB. Only ATSSB Regular Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB and submit entries in the Outstanding Performance Series.

Please copy and share the college application below and/or the regular member application above with your recent band graduates and/or colleagues or directors of nearby schools to promote ATSSB membership in your region.

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS 2002-03 College Division Membership Application

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.

NAME _____ SS# _____
 COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____ Anticipated Graduation Date _____
 SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ SCHOOL PHONE () _____
 CITY & ZIP CODE _____ SCHOOL EMAIL _____
 PERMANENT ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE () _____
 CITY & ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL _____
 MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

Address to which you want the ATSSB Newsletter mailed: _____ School _____ Permanent
 Mail this completed form and \$10 for dues to:
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
 Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
 15310 Amesbury Lane
 Sugar Land, Texas 77478-4180

Make checks payable to **ATSSB**

NOTE: College Division Membership entitles you to receive the ATSSB Newsletter (published quarterly) and to have your name listed in the ATSSB Directory. You will also be listed in the region, area and state database for selection to judging panels for ATSSB auditions. Only Regular Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB.

Future ATSSB All-State Band Clinicians and Composers

- February 12-15, 2003 W. Francis McBeth, Ouachita State University - SYMPHONIC BAND
James Barnes - CONCERT BAND
UNTITLED by James Barnes (commissioned by ATSSB)
- February 11-12, 2004 Jim Keene from the University of Illinois - SYMPHONIC BAND
Kevin Sedatole from the University of Texas/Austin - CONCERT BAND
UNTITLED by Elliot Del Borgo (commissioned by ATSSB)
- February 9-12, 2005 Fred J. Allen from Stephen F. Austin - CONCERT BAND
UNTITLED by Fred J. Allen (commissioned by ATSSB)

If you have suggestions for clinicians or composers, contact your Region Coordinator or any state officer.

All-State Band Floor Monitors Needed

Volunteer now to be a Floor Monitor for the 2003 All-State Band!! You get a free room at the Emily Morgan Hotel for three nights during the Clinic.

Email Mike Barnes at milowbean@aol.com or give him a call at (903) 323-7735 for details or to reserve your spot.

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Sunday, July 28

1:00 p.m. **ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series**
Class C followed by Class AA - CC005
Class CC followed by Class A - CC004
Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting - CC006
ATSSB Office - CC1067

Tuesday, July 30

7:00-9:30 a.m. **ATSSB SBOD** Breakfast meeting Majestic Room, Ramada Emily Morgan
1:30-2:00 p.m. **ATSSB General Session** (see convention program for location)

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles may be submitted for consideration to the Editor by mail to 15310 Amesbury Lane; Sugar Land, Texas 77478-4180, or by email to KL2000G@aol.com. Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.