

ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XIII, Number 1

June, 2003



ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Beginning our 13th year of service to small school bands in Texas

15310 Amesbury Lane Sugar Land, Texas 77478 (281) 494-2151

ATSSB Executive Committee

Ed Lowes, President 2003-05
La Grange High School
P.O. Box 100
La Grange, Texas 78945
(979) 968-4843
email: pres@atssb.org

Steven Moore, President-Elect 2003-05
Lindale High School
P.O. Box 370
Lindale, Texas 75771
(903) 882-9801
email: preselect@atssb.org

Gary Robbins, Immediate Past-President
Rusk High School
203 E. 7th
Rusk, Texas 75785
(903) 683-5533
email: ppres@atssb.org

Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
Association of Texas Small School Bands
15310 Amesbury Lane
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
(281) 494-2151
FAX: (281) 494-2151
email: execsec@atssb.org

Sherry Poteet, Class C/CC Representative 2003-05
Gilmer Junior High School
P.O. Box 40
Gilmer, Texas 75644
(903) 843-3051
email: msrep@atssb.org

Randy Hunsaker, Class A Representative 2002-04
Stratford High School
P.O. Box 108
Stratford, Texas 79084
(806) 366-3339
email: arep@atssb.org

Lonnie Baker, Class AA Representative 2003-05
Callisburg High School
148 Dozier Road
Gainesville, Texas 76240
(940) 665-7735
email: aaarep@atssb.org

Rob Toups, Class AAA Representative 2002-04
Canton High School
1100 West Hwy 243
Canton, Texas 75103
(903) 567-6561
email: aaarep@atssb.org

President's Column by



YOU MAY BE SITTING ON TOP OF A GOLD MINE

Have you ever considered the assets that you may have in your community? Your students? Your staff? Your administration? Your band parents? Your community citizens? We have been fortunate to serve the local community and the state associations at various levels for many years. After a long year of football games, playoffs, concerts, contests and other

patriotic activities, have you taken the time to talk to your community people as well as your principal? Have you just picked up the phone and talked to a parent about their child's work? I am talking about the many good things that happen in the classroom as well as out in the field. Your number one goal as a teacher is to educate your students musically. You must also communicate their successes to their parents and to the public. Did you know your community is supporting your program? **You may be sitting on top of a gold mine.**

Sometimes, we can get caught up with the negative events that happen from time to time and miss the successful experiences of our students. Did you guide your students in the ATSSB region band direction? Did you help select their musical choices for their UIL solos or ensembles? Did you help them pick ensemble members that would enjoy working together? Did you map out your goals and the time needed to reach them? Sometimes we may be thinking and talking as fast as a T-1 line, but students are listening only at the speed of a modem. Slow down and take the time to listen to your students,

(Continued on Page 2)

(Lowe, continued from Page 1):

your parents and your school. **You may be sitting on top of a gold mine.**

Your ATSSB association is always fine tuning the all-state experiences for your students. We have a dedicated group of educators that work together to see that the all-state competition is the best that it can be. Before you and your students qualify for the all-state event, make time to talk to each of your students and not just the gifted ones. You may be surprised at what they will say and do for you. It is important that your band works harder together as a team to reach your educational goals. Your group is only as strong as your weakest player. It takes the entire group to achieve that Sweepstakes Award. Of course every student is different and you must reach into that pocket of miracle answers that you received from your college training, region band workshops, team leaders, or other successful band programs in the area including the TBA, TMEA or ATSSB clinics. Did you attend any of the spring concerts that were planned in the area? Our region posted some 20 concerts in the month of May. This would be a good time for younger directors and experience veterans to learn new ideas. **You may be sitting on top of a gold mine.**

When you say something nice to your students, you will most always get a smile from them. This is one of the first steps to communicate successfully with your students. Be as positive as you can before you give a student any negative criticism. Your professional educational judgment should prevent any negative reaction from your students. Of course we should always be improving on our classroom management skills. Your teaching plans for the day should solve any issues. Your ATSSB association clinics should give you some answers needed to improve your program. The individual work and successes of each of your students help make your band grow musically. **You may be sitting on top of a gold mine.**

Get your students involved in individual and group events. Allow them to perform on a spring concert or the local lions club meetings. As always remember to keep your students invested time to a minimum. Now we are faced with issues of documentation from each parent and student in regards to the 8 hour week. *If we were all doing the least amount of time needed to meet our goals, then we would not have to be regulated.* Again be sensitive to your students as well as teach them the values of hard work in order to achieve success. Keep your administration informed of issues and events. They have many activities to monitor as educational leaders in the school. Keep your parents informed by email, web pages, newsletters, phone calls and public announcements during concerts. Your community will support you when they see the successes of your students. This may take time and years. You will be the only person responsible to make this happen. **You may be sitting on top of a gold mine.**

Once you have achieved the level of musical success that you desire, your students will want to be a part of your successful band program. You must give it some time and stay consistent in your methods of teaching fundamentals. Urge your students to audition for one of the region bands. Attend the convention workshops and monitor the ATSSB clinicians at your local region band clinics. Guide your students into the proper level of music for their UIL competitions. *After you have done this for some time, your students, principal, parents and community will be proud of your work.* **You will be sitting on top of a gold mine.**

Remember your association can not fix all of the educational issues that we face from day to day, but we are here to provide you with a quality educational experience at the all-state level. Don't forget to join EARLY with your ATSSB association dues. Your all-state jazz students will audition in October so your membership fees should be paid in August. Region jazz coordinators will want your membership paid early for the October deadline. Please remember to not allow this adjustment of time to hurt the scholarship funds. Remember to get some rest this summer before the new season begins and plan ahead for an exciting year.

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>.

President-Elect's Column by *Steven Moore*



Spring Concert, Band Trip, State Solo and Ensemble, Graduation and INVENTORY! I believe that the end of the year is one of our busiest times. Our annual Spring Concert and Spaghetti Dinner in Lindale is a very busy night. Every band in the program performs (8 bands) along with all the State Solo and Ensemble performers. I was rushing around trying to get everybody in the right place, making sure everyone performs on schedule, and generally coordinate everything. While getting one of the ensembles ready to perform one of my students looked at me and said "Tell me again why I should be a band director." That really hit home with me and got me thinking about the way I was portraying the profession to my students that evening. It is important that even in the busy times our students see us enjoying the job that we are doing. We are the best (or worst) promoters of our profession. If we want to ensure the continued success of our profession, we must promote what we do so that our best students will go on to fill our shoes in the future. This story does have a happy ending because the student I mentioned before is going to college and is majoring in music.

I hope that you have had a great year. Now that summer is here be sure that you get away from the band hall and take that much needed break. We all need a little time just to kick back, relax, and spend time with our family and friends. Have a great summer and I'll see you at TBA.

SARC committee members remember that we will meet at TBA. I will contact you this summer about dates and times. If anyone has a recommendation for the committee remember that you must submit it in writing to me before TBA. I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

The ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

by *Don Thiede*, State Chair



By the time you read this article, the competition for the ATSSB 2003 Outstanding Performance Series will be in full swing. I wish you all the best of luck.

I want to remind the Region and Area Coordinators to refer to the ATSSB website for the OPS guidelines about judges' honorariums, expenses, etc. Please follow the guidelines very closely. If you have questions, feel free to call me.

As most of you already know, the State OPS competition will be held on **Saturday, July 26, 2003**, at the convention center in San Antonio. I will need twenty-five judges and five monitors to help with the judging. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. As always, I will need one judge from each Area on each panel, and one monitor for each panel.

The judging schedule is:

1:00 PM	Class C	Room 005
	Class CC	Room 004
	Class AAA	Room 006
3:30 PM	Class A	Room 004
	Class AA	Room 005

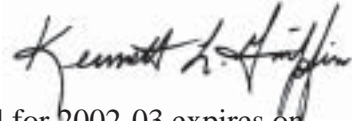
As always the public is invited and encouraged to attend these sessions. Programs will be provided at each session.

If you are interested in past winners, take a look at the ATSSB website. Archives of past winners, runners-up, and more are listed.

OPS CDs for 2002 and past years are still available for purchase. Contact Avant Recordings, P.O. Box 1513, Forney, TX 75126, 972-564-3287, for information and CDs. They sell for \$15.00 for a double CD set.

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

Executive Secretary's Column by



Your membership renewal for 2002-03 expires on September 1. Please take a minute to look over your data as posted in the Directory online:
<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Directory.03.htm>.

Make a note of any corrections, especially if it says "NONE GIVEN" and fill out the application in this Newsletter with the changes and put it aside for payment 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 are listed as follows:
<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Directory.04.htm>.

If I missed one, just check for information changes and email them to me. 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). Don't forget that if you enter students in the Jazz Band competitions that audition deadlines are EARLY, so get your ATSSB and TMEA dues taken care of as soon as possible.

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class A and AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session in February.

The Prescribed Audition List Update (Use Year C) is available online now:
<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Year.C.Update.pdf>.

If you don't get a chance to come to TBA, I will mail a copy of the Year C Update to all high school band directors and members of record with the September Newsletter (mailed first-class mail to generic 'BAND DIRECTOR' at each A, AA or AAA high school in Texas. If you have lost or misplaced your PAL, I will be glad to send you another copy 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, Jim Keene will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band, Shelly Berg will be the clinician for the new Jazz Band, and Kevin Sedatole will be the clinician for the Concert Band. ATSSB has commissioned a grade 2+ piece from Elliot Del Borgo for the Concert Band.

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Renaissance Room of the Menger Hotel on Monday, July 28. 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 Monday, July 28 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).

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS 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 _____ SCHOOLPHONE (____) _____ Best time 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) _____
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

Are you a judge listed with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association? If so, please circle your area of certification:
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 an 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 of may vote or hold office in ATSSB and submit entries in the Outstanding Performance Series. ATSSB membership is held on an individual basis and is nontransferable.

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 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 _____ SCHOOLPHONE (____) _____
CITY & ZIP CODE _____ SCHOOL EMAIL _____
PERMANENT ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE (____) _____
CITY & ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL _____
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

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 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

Feb. 11-12, 2004 Jim Keene from the University of Illinois - SYMPHONIC BAND
Shelly Berg from the Univ. of Southern California - JAZZ BAND
Kevin Sedatole from the Baylor University - CONCERT BAND
UNTITLED by Elliot Del Borgo (commissioned by ATSSB)

Feb. 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 mbarnes@springhill.esc7.net or give him a call at (903) 323-7735 for details or to reserve your spot.

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Friday, July 25

2:00 p.m. Registration

Saturday, July 26

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

Monday, July 28

7:30-9:30 a.m. **ATSSB SBOD** meeting Renaissance Room, Menger Hotel

1:30-2:00 p.m. **ATSSB General Session** (see convention program for location)

ATSSB Licensees

Please consider using these businesses' services if you need them. They pay a 10% royalty on all items using the ATSSB logo and service marks into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.

Music T's

Freddy Butlar
1031 Eastgate Drive
Midlothian, Texas 76065
(800) 430-3226
music@flash.net

Jordan Sound Productions

Gary Jordan
601 Ralson Street
Bullard, Texas 75757
(903) 894-7320
JordanSP@aol.com

Probst Audio

Scott Probst
210 W. Belknap
Ennis, Texas 7519
(972) 878-6018
ProbstAudio@aol.com

Made To Order

Larry Wood
Route 1, Box 6
Lorenzo, Texas 79343
(800) 223-4511

California T's

L. Steve Taylor
1611 University
Lubbock, Texas 79401
(800) 763-1071

Concertronics

Wilbur Collins
202 Cherokee Lane
Victoria, Texas 77901
(512) 575-1521

ON SITE DIGITAL

Randy Bryant
1303 Darter Lane
Austin, Texas 78746