

ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV, Number 1

June, 2004



ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Beginning our 14th year of service to small school bands in Texas

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President's Column by *Ed Lowes*



Is the door open?

No, I don't mean that you are leaving or being asked to leave. That is too personal. My question is to you. **"Is the door open?"** Welcome to the end of another fine school term. You have survived the short or long football season, marching and concert contests, other special concerts and requests from your students, parents and administration. Did you strive for excellence? Did you make it? Well sometimes we all slip a little, but did you even try to get help from your neighbors? ATSSB? Or TMEA? Both organizations are designed to assist you in your all-state band experience. TMEA also does a fine job of keeping us informed during these crazy days of school funding. As the school draws to an end, you should have finished your OPS recordings for the May 20th deadline. Don't forget that your OPS recordings go to a different person this year. You may have entered the TMEA honor band process as well. Unless your region participates in large numbers, our seven area alignment will stay as it is today for the 3A honor bands. We continue to ask to be aligned as approved by UIL. The reason why we ask this is parity. You never know what is behind the next door of opportunity. **Is the door open?**

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(Lowe, continued from Page 1):

I really enjoy reading your comments on the NEW ATSSB chat board (<http://forum.atssb.org/discus.cgi>); however, it seems that at other chat boards some directors are never pleased with their contests or their students. Have you set realistic goals for your students and your programs? Did you ask for assistance from your principal or another local director? What are your classroom procedures when you have a problem? If you can solve these behavior problems, you will then have time to clean up your musical problems. You can't know everything in today's constantly changing environment. Have you been persistent with all of your requests? I asked my former superintendent if we could have a band trip, and he said no fifteen times. Now he did not say that all in one month ... or one year. Try asking for fifteen years. Never give up! He did say yes the next year. **The door was open.**

Your executive leaders attended the annual dialogue meeting between TMEA and ATSSB this past month. WOW! TMEA truly was interested in our musical growth. I am pleased to see that the leadership of TMEA is taking bold plans from their executive officers to get us more involved at the convention site. They are talking, and the ATSSB leadership is listening. Remember, they paid for the large state expansion of production and shipment of our ATSSB Video "A Note-Able Career." **Thank you TMEA.** Remember last year I asked the leadership of TMEA officers if we could have our general ATSSB business meeting in the convention center. Thank you, **Jeff Laird**, for allowing us to get our foot IN THE DOOR for our business meetings. We appreciate it! This allowed our ATSSB membership to attend workshops, visit the massive exhibit booths sponsored by TMEA and listen to our business meeting and candidates speak for various offices. ***Today we are having discussions about a convention performance site and time slots.*** Maybe the ATSSB all-state concert bands or the jazz ensemble will perform in the convention center. *That will depend upon ATSSB/TMEA leadership decisions and your voice by TBA.* You will never know what lies behind the next door, unless you, the band director take charge. Get INVOLVED. **The door is open.**

Your leadership of officers has been working on the plans for next years all-state concerts. Have you asked your region coordinator if he or she needs any help? Go ahead and take the plunge. Get involved. You will then see it may not be as difficult as you think to do a little extra work for the association and your music students. Did you know my ATSSB state salary doubled this past year? **No really**, we do it for **free** to serve you and our fine association. But did you know that our organizational membership changes a little each year, and that's a good thing. We want NEW fresh ideas to be discussed at our meetings. In order to do that, you need to talk to your regional officers. They need to hear your views on the all-state concert events. We heard from you on the state 1A/2A survey. For the 48% of directors who returned the survey, thank you. Steven Moore, preselect@atssb.org, our president elect, who will have these items discussed at their SARC committee this summer during TBA. **The door is open.**

A fine local student musician in my band program asked me if I would teach a music theory class at my high school. You know the process. You ask administration and they talk and you listen, but then we were granted the request. We had to find ten students to make the class. Well twenty-one students later, I am preparing my theory and history lesson plans at my 3A high school. I am honored to be asked to teach this music theory and history to students at my school. <http://www.la-grange.k12.tx.us>. In addition, I teach music theory & history at a local college <http://www.blinn.edu/schulenburg/index.htm> for those students to receive the three-hour fine arts

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(Lowe, continued from Page 2):

credit. If the local college administrator had not asked me to teach their young adults, our public may not have received the rich culture of a music education in today's society. **The door was open.**

I thank my wife, a band director, and my four gifted children who have blessed us with the joys of music at home and at all-state events. I am still teaching the beginning band, directing the high school band, teaching a college music class, playing piano for four of my six TSSEC students, and serving my second year as your ATSSB president. Thank you ATSSB membership. It is an honor to serve you. I love working in the 3A ATSSB/TMEA system. I believe that the extra time that I am giving to my high school students will help them excel in college. Do you have any extra time for your kids? Your association? You can do it. Get involved. You will never know **which door will open for you until you try.**

President-Elect's Column by *Steven Moore*



Ahhhhhhhhhhhh, the final bell has rung and school is out at last. I hope everyone has had a wonderful year and achieved all the goals set way back in the fall. Now, before you start working on next year's stuff, be sure to take a little time for yourself and your family. We all need a little down time. The Presidents Committee recently met with TMEA in Austin. I believe we had a good meeting and both organizations are reaching out to one another to do what is best for all of our students in Texas. These meetings are important because it reminds us of where we have been, where we are now and helps us to look ahead to where we need to be. I believe that it is important that both ATSSB and TMEA stay aligned and move forward together as a team. This helps to make both organizations stronger and ensures a positive future for all our

students in music education across the state.

I have enjoyed serving as your President Elect this past year and look forward to continued service during this next year. If you have not served the region, area or state as a volunteer or officer, let me encourage you to do so. It is both a rewarding and eye-opening experience. Speaking of that, let me remind you that we will be electing a new President-Elect and Class C/CC and AA representatives this next year. Be sure to nominate someone or even run yourself for one of these important offices.

I would like to thank the SARC for all their hard work this last year look forward working with you again this next year. **We will meet on Friday, July 23rd at TBA. I give you specifics on where and when as soon as all the details are finalized.** Please plan on attending this meeting as we have several important issues to discuss. Also everyone remember to send in any suggestions or recommendations concerning the auditions process to me in writing. This is the only way it can be on the agenda for TBA.

Finally I would like to thank Kenneth, Ed and Gary for all their leadership and guidance during my first year in office. It is an honor to work with these gentlemen. They represent this organization well. Have a great summer everyone and I look forward to seeing you at TBA.

All-State Jazz Ensemble Information by John Young

First of all allow me to thank Brandon Brewer of Princeton High School for doing such a wonderful job with last years inaugural ATSSB All-State Jazz Band. I am John Young and teach in Wills Point at Wills Point HS. I will be serving as the All-State Jazz Ensemble Coordinator. All-State Jazz Ensemble Auditions are much closer than you think. The music is available for jazz ensemble and is **Set D**. This music is available from Mattei Music Services at www.matteimusicervices.com. The first shipment of music was mailed out late April. If you have not received yours contact Buddy Mattei and I am sure he will get the music to you as quickly as possible.



We are very excited about the improved accompaniment CD for your students to play along with. I hope you like the changes made and if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to send them to me. Each instrument on the CD will play along with the full Jazz band minus their specific instrument. The quality is superb and should be a great help to all musicians involved. The biggest problems last year came from confusion on the Solo ad-lib section. I have outlined the concerns that have been mentioned. Please make sure that you understand the expectations of the recorded audition CD. Any CD that does not meet the requirements will be disqualified for the 2004 – 2005 school year.

There are some very important procedures that you need to understand before auditions happen in your Region on the Area level:

- ◆ Remember that it is Set D.
- ◆ After selection to the area level of the All-State Jazz Band audition you will need to follow the rules and guidelines of the PAL. There are suggested recording recommendations for the recording of AREA student audition CD's.
- ◆ All tonal instruments, which include guitar, bass, piano and all wind instruments will perform their solo ad lib to the C modal blues. Each instrument will play the changes three times. First time the student will play the solo as written. Second and third time the student will ad-lib on the changes.
- ◆ On Drum Set the student will play in time with the C Modal blues track for first time, second time the student will improvise on the solo, then the third time, the student will catch all written figures timed with synchronization kicks and fills.
- ◆ The other audition material is performed as instructed in the PAL.

Region Coordinators are the most important link to a successful All State Jazz Band auditions. The preparation for recording the Area students will be the responsibility of the region. If you have any questions about recording please consult the PAL. If you have any questions you may email me at jyoun_wp@yahoo.com and I will search for the correct answer for you.

I look forward to a smooth All-State Jazz band auditions next year. Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

The ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

by *Don Thoede*, State Chair



I am writing this article on May 18th, two days before the OPS entries are due. I hope that, due to the changes that have been made, every band director who enters the 2004 OPS competition will mail the CDs to the correct Designated Region Coordinator!

I want to remind the Designated Region Coordinators that the mailing deadline to the Area Coordinators is June 12th this year. In addition, the deadline for the Area Coordinators to mail CDs to the OPS State Chair is June 26th, not June 20th like it was last year. Those few extra days should make it a little easier to meet the deadlines.

If anyone is looking for names and addresses of the Region Coordinators, look in my article in the March Newsletter. They are all listed there. You should also be able to find the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Area Coordinators on the ATSSB website.

The OPS state adjudication will be held on Saturday, July 24, 2004, in the convention center in San Antonio during the TBA convention. The schedule is as follows:

- Class C, 1:00 pm, CC-005
- Class AA, 3:30 pm, CC-005
- Class CC, 1:00 pm, CC-004
- Class A, 3:30 pm, CC-004
- Class AAA, 1:00 pm, CC-006
- OPS Office – Room 1067

As always, I will be calling some of you to serve as judges. Since I need one director from all five Areas on each panel, plus one monitor on each panel, please be ready and willing to serve if called. Judges and monitors will be paid \$35.00 for their services.

Don't hesitate to call me if I can help you. See you at TBA!

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth L. Griffin".

Your membership for 2003-04 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.04.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

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(Griffin, continued from Page 4):

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.05.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 President-Elect, a Class C/CC and AA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session February 10, 2005.

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

If you don't get a chance to come to TBA, I will mail a copy of the Year D Update to all high school band directors and members of record with the September Newsletter (mailed first-class mail to the band director of 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, Anthony Maiello is returning for his third engagement as the clinician for the Symphonic Band. H. David Caffey will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble, and Fred J. Allen will be the clinician for the Concert Band. ATSSB has commissioned a grade 2+ piece from Fred J. Allen 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 Saturday, July 24. 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 26 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. Please note the times the ATSSB table will be open for you to stop by. 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 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 4229-4 Purdue Street; Houston, Texas 77005, or by email to KL2000G@aol.com. Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.

Class AAA Representative's Column by *Jim C. Jones*

I hope you had a great year and that next year will be even better. It's always nice to get that final concert over and begin thinking about next year's band. If you read the Leaguer, you noticed that you must have another form signed by the students for the marching band. So download it from the UIL site and include it in your summer mail out.



We have a lot of things going on in our organization. I am in the process of making a AAA director email file so that I might send you updates and get your input on the topics that are best for our organization. I know of no better way to represent you than to hear what you have to say. If you have changed your email address or have a summer email address, please send any corrections to me at jjones@longview.net.

We will be have our State Board of Directors meeting in July and if you have anything you would like for me to bring before them, please email me and I will be happy to bring it forward.

TMEA has met with some of the executive board and has extended some very beneficial items that will help our organization in many areas. There are some concerns that, when resolved, will benefit both organizations.

Once again it is my honor and privilege to serve you and if I can ever be of any assistance, please let me know.

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 _____ SCHOOL PHONE () _____ 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: _____ Are you new to this region? _____
 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
 4229-4 Purdue Street
 Houston, Texas 77005

I would also like to donate \$_____ to the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.
Dues may not be deductible, but any amount over \$25 is considered a fully-deductible contribution.

***NOTE:** After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$50 (the additional \$25 is deposited into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund). 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.

Future ATSSB All-State Band Clinicians and Composers

- Feb. 9-12, 2005 Anthony Maiello from George Mason Univ. - SYMPHONIC BAND
 H. David Caffey from the Cal. State Polytech. Univ. - JAZZ BAND
 Fred J. Allen from Stephen F. Austin - CONCERT BAND
 UNTITLED by Fred J. Allen (ATSSB commission)
- Feb. 9-12, 2006 Col. John R. Bourgeois (USMC, Ret.) - SYMPHONIC BAND
 Paula Crider from the Univ. of Texas at Austin - CONCERT BAND
 UNTITLED CONCERT MARCH by Gabe Musella (ATSSB commission)

If you have suggestions for future 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 2005 All-State Band!! You get a free room at the Emily Morgan Hotel for three nights during the Clinic.

Email Ramu Purdum at rcpurdum@cox-internet.com or give him a call at (903) 295-2080 for details or to reserve your spot.

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Friday, July 23

4:00-8:00 p.m. ATSSB table open in Registration area

Saturday, July 24

7:30-9:30 a.m. State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Renaissance Room

9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. ATSSB table open in Registration area

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

Sunday, July 25

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. ATSSB table open in Registration area

Monday, July 26

7:30 a.m.-noon ATSSB table open in Registration area

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

Paul Proctor
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