

ATSSB NEWSLETTER



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ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
Beginning our 19th year of service to small school bands in Texas

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President's Column

by Robert Vetter



WOW! What a CRAZY time of year! With, concerts, festivals, auxiliary tryouts, placement auditions, state solo and ensemble, percussion concerts, jazz band concerts and finding time for family. Hope you had a great year and are still sane!

When things start to slow down, take time to get away from the band hall and rest. Make plans for the family and try to take a trip where you don't have a large group (the band) with you. Reflect on what needs to be "fixed" for next year, but

get away and rest!

Make plans to attend TBA. They already have a great line-up of clinics, concerts and exhibits. The leadership of TBA are especially sensitive to ATSSB concerns and allow us to sponsor clinics each year. Try to make TBA part of your summer plans.

Prior to TBA, our Region Coordinators will meet in San Antonio to prepare for the coming year. We will receive updates and additional training on the audition process as well as coordinator duties. If you have concerns or suggestions, let your coordinator know.

We have made it through one year of the new "unified percussion" system. It seems to have been very successful. We will watch closely to be sure we are meeting the needs of our young people.

Remember, next year our students will not be staying in the Emily Morgan. We will house our students in the "old" Hyatt Regency. All of our groups will rehearse in this hotel as well. Be reminded that a designated chaperone must stay in the Hyatt Regency if you have students staying in that hotel.

Good luck to all who enter OPS and I wish all a safe, restful summer!

President-Elect Column

by Brandon Brewer

The Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest, an annual marker of another year under wraps, has passed. Like many of you, this is the time of year that I remember I have a wife, two kids, golf clubs, and a yard to mow. Summer, like each passing school year, seems to go by faster and faster. No sooner have I completed my 55th game of Candyland, then I look up to discover I should have already packed for TBA.

Let's face it, even the most diehard band directors need a break from student time. Reaching out to the new faces you encountered at the year's Region meetings is a great way to keep your focus and foster retention in our profession. Hot dogs are cheap, but throwing a few on the grill and inviting a newbie over to enjoy a meal and pick your brain is invaluable. As a newbie, your first years of teaching are a whirl of trying to stay a couple of days ahead of the kids. Step back for a second, and seek out a mentor. Just having a sounding board may cut down on the amount of time you spend in a whirl this Fall.

Just as I feel the urge to put the feet up and get my money's worth out of Netflix since there is no time to go to the movies during the year, our students are also clocking major hours on their Wii games and at their summer jobs. I want to encourage all of you to keep the momentum that you created this school year going throughout the summer. Don't let all those hours of hard work by both your students and your staff diminish during the break. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Hold a one day mini-camp for your high school band in June or July. This could be the first time the incoming freshmen will play with the upperclassman without the graduating seniors. It will be an eye opening experience for everyone (even you!).

Why not have a percussion cleaning day to prepare the equipment for next year's drumline. Upperclassmen can teach the younger students how to properly care for their equipment. The students get to know each other and the beginnings of a "relationship" have begun.

Take your students to a band camp and keep them playing this Summer. If that's not an option, set-up your own day camp at your school for your students and the students from schools in your area. Your high school students get a taste of leadership while working as counselors, private lesson teachers, entertainment coordinators, and "ringers" to fill-in for small or weak sections. All the students, both junior high and high school, will have a blast!

Summer is also a great time for you to get in some community service time with your programs. Adopt a highway, food pantry collection, fill the drum (or flag boot, or tuba case or...) traffic stop change collection for a charity of choice are all ideas that take minimal setup. Rent a band kid and rummage sales are ideas that can raise money for your December adopt an angel program.

All of your summer activities don't have to be work. Take your students on short field trips to concerts or drum corps shows. Have a swimming party at a nearby lake. Keep your group's comradery healthy and alive during this time while the students normally are apart.

Many of your underclassmen are spending their summer at home alone on MySpace and Facebook with texting being the only human conversation they may have in a day. Keeping those students growing and maturing through positive social contact will have long term positive results for your program as a whole. I don't have to tell you, band is a positive activity. The product of all our hard work is good and shouldn't be misconstrued as anything other than the productive citizen producing, standardized test score raising endeavor it is.



Brandon Brewer

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 2117 Morse Street; Houston, Texas 77019, or by email to atssb@att.net. Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.

Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin

Your membership 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.09.htm>. Make a note of any corrections, especially if it says "NONE GIVEN" and fill out the application in this Newsletter with the changes (you need only list name and school and any changes - we already have the other posted data in the database) 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. Dues remain \$35, but remember that after October 1, the dues increase to \$60 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.10.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 Ensemble competitions that audition deadlines are EARLY, so get your ATSSB and TMEA dues taken care of as soon as possible. I email a copy of your card as soon as I receive payment of dues, so be sure we have an accurate email address for you.



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 February 11, 2010. After nominees have accepted their nominations, their pictures and biographies (if submitted) will appear in the online December Newsletter, so keep an eye out for that issue. Please get involved in the district, region, and area activities of ATSSB - and seek state office if you would like to serve at that level. It is a lot of work, requires a lot of time and effort, and entails constant contact with fellow officers, but the end results are very worthwhile (and obviously beneficial to our students and ATSSB in general).

The Prescribed Audition List Update (Use Year D) is now available online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearDUpdate.10.pdf>.

We no longer mail a copy of the Update to all high school band directors and members with the September Newsletter. The September Newsletter will be mailed, but only to include a free copy of the 2009 OPS winners CD as a reference tool for our directors. All Newsletters are now available online as a pdf file. If you have lost or misplaced your PAL, you will have to download the page(s) you need from the Website.

This coming year, Mark Camphouse (George Mason University) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Glenn Kostur (University of New Mexico), will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Dr. Sarah McKoin (Texas Tech University) will be the Concert Band clinician. The Concert Band will premier Paramount Park by Eric Rath, the winner of the 2010 ATSSB Composition Competition.

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 27. Your board includes all elected state officers,

(Continued on Page 4)

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

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 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27 in the Convention Center (CC213). Please make plans to attend if you will be at TBA. This will be an informational meeting at which issues impacting ATSSB will be discussed.

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).



Future ATSSB All-State Band Clinicians and Composers

Feb. 10-13, 2010 Mark Camphouse from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia - SYMPHONIC BAND
Glenn Kostur from the University of New Mexico - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Dr. Sarah McKoin from Texas Tech University - CONCERT BAND
Premier of **PARAMOUNT PARK** by Eric Rath, winner of the 2010 ATSSB Composition Competition

Feb. 9-12, 2011 Larry Livingston from the University of Southern California - SYMPHONIC BAND
Lowell Graham from the University of Texas at El Paso - CONCERT BAND
William Owens has been commissioned to write a grade 2+ piece for the Concert Band

If you have suggestions for future clinicians or composers, contact Daniel Todd, Chair of the Clinician/Commission Selection Committee. His school phone is (432) 558-1036 and his email address is: dtodd@craneisd.com

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Saturday, July 25

9:00 am-5:00 pm **ATSSB Coordinator Training Session** - Menger Hotel

Sunday, July 26

10:00 am.-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area (closes at 5:00 for Dialogue Committee meeting)

1:00-5:00 pm

ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

Class C followed by Class AA - CC005

Class CC followed by Class A - CC004

Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting and Clinician/Commission Committee meeting- CC006

ATSSB Office - CC1067

Monday, July 27

7:30-9:30 am

State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Renaissance Room

9:30 am-3:30 pm

ATSSB table open in Registration area

4:00 pm

ATSSB General Session - CC213

Tuesday, July 28

8:15-9:15 am

Tips and Tricks to a Successful ATSSB Jazz Audition, Bob McClure, Clinician (sponsored by ATSSB)

9:15-noon

ATSSB table open in Registration area

Outstanding Performance Series

By Don Thoede, OPS State Chair



First of all, I want to wish all of you the best of luck in the 2009 OPS competition. I hope you all have some very fine recordings of your bands. Let's make this year's competition the best yet.

Since the entry deadline was May 20th, I want to remind the Designated Region Coordinators that the next deadline date is June 12th. I respectfully ask that if the adjudication and mailing of the CDs can be completed before that date, then please do so. That also goes for the June 26th deadline when the Area Coordinators have to send their advancing CDs to me. Since I have to find judges, put a program together, etc., the more extra days that I have before the State adjudication, the better. Obviously, the most important thing is to be sure the adjudication is done correctly.

I had a few questions from the membership before the May 20th deadline date. One was about having applause on the recording. It would be nice to have all applause removed from every recording, but

I understand that in some cases, that is not possible. Therefore, if the CD that you want to enter has applause on it, then feel free to enter it. However, be sure you never enter a CD that has the name of your school or mascot on it. You know, the one where Susan's mom yells out, "Go, Wildcats" during the last few measures of your band's best performance of the year. Don't enter that one!

Another question was about having an A Band and a B Band (call them what you will) at the same school. By all means, enter both of them. Just be sure that each band has a different name on the entry form. In fact, I think, in years past, we have had some 2nd bands ranked higher than the 1st bands from the same school. I must remind you that both directors must be members of ATSSB.

I also had a question about entering a CD from a band concert. Remember, you can enter a CD only from a UIL event, or an approved Non-UIL Contest (see p. 10 in OPS forms on website). CDs from any other performances are not allowed!

I have had more phone calls this year about OPS than I can remember from years past, and that is a good thing! I have encouraged you over the years to call me if you have questions, and you are now doing it. Thank, you! When it comes to OPS, there are no stupid questions.

I say this in every article that I write, and I am going to say it again. Please read the guidelines and follow them as closely as possible. I suggest you look at pages 2 and 3 in the Purpose and Procedure on the website. If you still have questions, call me. Email is good, but because of time restraints, I suggest you call first. My home phone is 254-675-6789. If no answer, leave a message then call my cell phone. My cell number is 254-386-6962.

I want to remind all directors who will have CDs reach the OPS State Finals in July that the "Director and Program Information Form 7" (found on page 25 in the OPS forms on the website) must be completed and returned to me on or before July 15th! That is information about your band program that I will use for the OPS State Winners CD that is made every year. I will mail the form to you in July, so please look for it in the mail, complete it, and return it to me. I must have that information in my possession before I leave for TBA! If I don't have it, all I can put on the OPS State Winners CD where your school is listed is "no information given". I don't want to do that and I think the winners probably don't want me to do that either.

I will be calling some of you in late June or early July to serve as judges at the State level. You should be aware that you will receive a \$75.00 honorarium for your services. The State adjudication will be held on Sunday, July 26, in the San Antonio Convention Center. I will need a total of 30 judges and monitors on that day. I usually do not use the same judges in consecutive years so if you served as a judge last year, I probably will not call you this year.

I hope you all have a great summer, and I will see you at TBA!

Don Thoede

ATSSB All-State Housing

by Frank Coachman, TMEA Deputy Director

TMEA is proud to host the online housing system for the directors and members of the TMEA/ATSSB All-State Bands for 2010. All ATSSB All-State members and their designated chaperons will be assigned to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The plans at this time are for the three ATSSB All-State organizations to rehearse in the Hyatt Regency. The Symphonic Band will use Regency East Ballroom, the Concert Band the Regency West, and the Jazz Ensemble the Rio Grande Ballroom.

The housing system will open the Monday after Area auditions in January. It will be imperative that all five ATSSB Area hosts send their respective FileMaker Pro tabulation results file to TMEA via email on the Saturday evening of the area audition date.

The process for registering students and chaperons for ATSSB All-State housing is:

Room Planning — Complete *before* Jan. 11!

1. Once All-State students are selected at Area auditions, use the worksheets provided by the Area Chair/Host and work with other directors to plan rooms with four students before leaving the audition site. (on Jan. 9!)
2. Decide which director will be responsible for entering these rooms on Jan 11–12 and take the worksheet(s) home to complete the entries.
3. Log in Jan. 11 to enter hotel choices, billing, and to enter these students into rooms.

The housing system will allow you to select students assigned to you, or, from your campus, your district, Region, or Area. To select students other than yours, obtain agreement from their directors (their contact information will be listed with their students in the housing system).

Online Entry: Jan. 11-12, 2010 ONLY. The system will close at 4 pm on January 12th.

1. Log In

Go to www.tmea.org/AShousing

Log in with your TMEA Member ID and Password

2. Enter Billing Information/The hotel choice is set to Hyatt Regency

Enter your credit card information for your student and chaperon rooms.

You must provide a credit card to secure the reservation. The final bill does not have to be paid with this card.

Click **Save Information**.

(Continued on Page 7)

(Coachman, continued from Page 6):

*If another director entered your students, you will need to make your own chaperon reservation and the chaperon name **MUST** match that of your students' chaperon designation.*

3. Verify Your Students

Click **My Student List** from the Navigation Links and verify that your All-State students are listed. *If they are not, contact TMEA, (888) 318-8632, x109 or x102*

4. Create Rooms

Click **My Room List** from the Navigation Links

Select gender for the room and click **GO**.

Your student list will display. Select students for the room and enter the chaperon's member ID or 0 for a non-member.

Click **Create Room**.

*For more students, click the drop-down to display students from your campus, district, region or Area. Click **GO**. To select someone who is not your student, **contact the director listed** to gain agreement.*

5. Create Your Chaperon Room

Go to the **Create a Room** section. Select Chaperon. Click **GO**. Enter your Member ID. You can enter other IDs or other non-TMEA member names for this chaperon room. Click **Create Room**.

*If another director entered your students, and you aren't sharing a chaperon room they create, **you must** create your own chaperon room. A room will not be assigned for you. Your hotel choices and order must match your students'.*

6. Print Your Room List

Go to **My Room List** and use your browser Print to print this page for your records. You will be notified via email by Jan. 25 of room assignments and confirmations.

Log Out of My TMEA

Should you need assistance during this process contact TMEA (Frank Coachman or Andrew Denman) at 888-318-8632 and use extension 400.

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Editor's Notes:

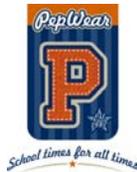
ATSSB appreciates TMEA for arranging housing and rehearsal space in the Hyatt for our ensembles. Frank Coachman has been actively assisting us in our efforts to provide a quality all-state experience for our students. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy the high level of professional affiliation ATSSB and TMEA has forged over the years and we look forward to a future of mutual cooperation. *KLK*

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info@royaldesignusa.com

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.
If renewing, only enter name and school and ANY CHANGED DATA (all the rest is already in the database).

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) _____ CELL # () _____
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$35* for dues to:
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
2117 Morse Street
Houston, Texas 77019

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)

I would also like to donate \$_____ to the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.

Dues may not be deductible, but any amount over \$35 is considered a fully-deductible contribution.

***NOTE:** The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$60 (the additional \$25 is deposited into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund). A membership card and receipt will be returned to you. Associate Member dues are \$35 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$35. 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.

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