

# ATSSB NEWSLETTER



Volume XX, No. 1, June 2010

Updated Housing information 7-15-10 at 11:56 a.m.

## ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Beginning our 20th year of service to small school bands in Texas

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Houston, Texas 77019

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### President's Column

by Robert Vetter



Here we are, another end of the year. This one has been especially eventful for me. We leave tomorrow to take 40 kids to State Solo & Ensemble. The entire band will go to Florida when school is out and our daughter, Ashton, is getting married June 18<sup>th</sup>. We don't know if we are coming or going, but we sure are having fun!

When things start to slow down, take time to get away from the band hall and rest. Make time for your family, friends and yourself. Reflect on what needs to be "fixed" for next

year, but get away and rest!

As I mentioned earlier, our daughter is getting married. I have been blessed with an incredible wife, Leeann. She has been a fantastic partner and is the main reason our kids turned out the way they did. Ashton is marrying a great young man. His Dad was the Boys Basketball Coach at Reagan County, our former school. All this to say: small schools are special. Our kids did everything and had a great education. They got to experience things they never would have done at a bigger school. ATSSB has made it possible for our kids to be a part of an All State Band that is worthy of the title: **All State**.

Make plans to attend TBA. They have a great line-up of clinics, concerts and exhibits. The leadership of TBA is especially sensitive to ATSSB concerns and allows us to sponsor clinics as we can. Try to make TBA a part of your summer plans.

A special "Thanks" goes out to all who helped make this year a success. ATSSB is strong because of the great members we have. It is very encouraging to call on a colleague and hear them say "yes" to whatever we need. We have tremendous support from all across the State!

Hope you have a great summer and good luck to all who have entered OPS.

## President-Elect Column

by Brandon Brewer

I can't believe how fast this year has gone! I know everyone says that...but it's so true. I'm ready for our return from TSSEC and some well deserved family time.

While I'm sure swimming lessons, trips to the zoo, and baking Shrinky Dinks will fill most of my time, I still like to get ahead on some of those menial tasks that seem so small but also take up so much time in the Fall. Here are just a few tasks I like to tackle while the wife and kids are napping:



- You already have next year's calendar of football games, contests, parades, etc, so go ahead and complete the bus requests for those trips. Boy, does that help when I think I haven't gotten buses for region band auditions and I call transportation in a panic and they say, "Sure, we've already got you down!"
- Have you met with the sponsors of other organization to discuss sharing students for both practices and performances? One word of advice... **THE EARLIER THE BETTER!** Also, be sure to discuss dates for concerts, auditions, etc. The earlier you do this, the more likely you can reschedule or move an event or adjust to know you won't have certain students on certain dates.
- Have you or your boosters scheduled the band pictures for next year? Our picture must be done in the first few days of summer band so that the group photo gets in the football program. This means uniforms must be fitted and assigned starting day one of rehearsals. You can hide students who haven't gotten their marching shoes by the time you take the photo but don't miss this opportunity to promote your band at every home football game.
- Go ahead and make a set-up chart for how your band will sit in the stands at football games. A few kids may not show up and/or a few may move in, but if you've already got a rough draft a minor adjustment here or there is a breeze to complete before the first game.
- Email or send a list of dates to reserve practice fields, auditoriums, etc. before July for facilities you will use for the entire year. This will certainly make the preparation for performances much smoother and less stressful.
- Have the stand music prepared to pass out before August 1. Whenever you want to add a new tune all you have to do is ask your student librarians to pass it out to the band.
- Is next year's region band audition music ready to pass out? Have you picked the solos and ensembles that you would like your students to play for solo and ensemble? Are all of these in SmartMusic? Pick a "class" solo from each class level for each instrument. The next day after region auditions are completed, pass out a solo to everyone. This will allow you to work more effectively during class or before and after school and hear multiple students at one time. You can also do this with ensembles. You could have a "class" Class 1 brass ensemble and a "class" Class 1 flute quartet, etc. Boy, has this improved our TSSEC numbers and the students are always playing something!

These are just a few ideas that I have come up with, borrowed, or *stolen* from other directors over the years. Please feel free to use them if you think they will make the coming year move as quickly as this one has for me. As the old saying goes, the best three reasons to teach are June, July, and August...well...maybe *not* August! Now you can make them the best three months to prepare for the next year of teaching, too!

Have a Great Summer!

*Brandon Brewer*

## 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.10.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). Retirees who retire as an Active Member retain their Active Membership but dues are reduced to \$10 per year. Those of you who have already paid your dues for next year are listed as follows: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Directory.11.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 President-Elect and a Class AA Representative to the State Board of Directors. Brandon Brewer assumes the office of President immediately after the All-State Clinic-Concert in February and David Rollins is completing his third term as Class AA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session February 10, 2011. 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 E) is now available online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearEUpdate.11.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 2010 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, Larry J. Livingston (University of Southern California) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Chris Vadala (University of Maryland), will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Lowell Graham (University of Texas at El Paso) will be the Concert Band clinician. ATSSB has commissioned a work by William Owens which will be premiered by the 2011 ATSSB All-State Concert Band.

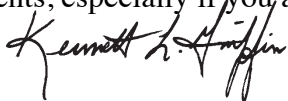
(Continued on Page 4)

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Patio Room of the Menger Hotel on Monday, July 26. Your board includes all elected state officers, all Region Coordinators, all Founding Charter Members, Past-Presidents, 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 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26 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 at the ATSSB table in the Registration Area. 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. 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  
                          Chris Vadala from the University of Maryland - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Feb. 9-12, 2011    Col Timothy W. Foley (USMC, ret.) - SYMPHONIC 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](mailto:dtodd@craneisd.com)**

### **FYI, ATSSB at TBA**

#### **Sunday, July 25**

10:00 am.-5:00 pm    ATSSB table open in Registration area (may close at 5:00 for Dialogue Committee meeting)  
1:00-5:00 pm        **ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series**  
                          Class C followed by Class AA - CC102  
                          Class CC followed by Class A - CC006  
                          Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting & Clinician/Commission Committee meeting- CC007  
                          ATSSB Office - CC1067

#### **Monday, July 26**

7:30-9:30 am        State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Patio Room  
9:30 am-3:30 pm    ATSSB table open in Registration area  
3:00 pm              **ATSSB General Session** - CC213

#### **Tuesday, July 27**

9:15-noon            ATSSB table open in Registration area

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](mailto:atssb@att.net). Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.

## Outstanding Performance Series

by Don Thoede, OPS State Chair



Many of you are out of school now and I know you are looking forward to having some time to spend with your families, and probably stay out of the band hall for a while. I hope you all have a nice and relaxing summer.

Since May 20<sup>th</sup> has come and gone, the first step of the 2010 Outstanding Performance Series has begun. I hope most of you entered your bands' performances into the OPS competition. Please remember that the next two deadlines are June 12 and June 26 respectively.

It might be a good idea for all Region Coordinators and Area Coordinators to read my article in the March Newsletter again just to be sure they know exactly how to calculate the honorarium for the OPS judges. I mentioned in the March Newsletter that judges' honorariums had changed, so all Coordinators need to be familiar with that process. Here is a link to the Newsletter:  
<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/March10.pdf>

I will need judges again at the OPS State Adjudication at TBA in San Antonio. I have to get one judge from all five areas on all five panels, plus five monitors. Just so you know, if you judged at the State Adjudication last year, I will not call you this year.

Last year we had the fewest problems we have ever had with entries. I am certain it was because everyone read the guidelines very carefully. I certainly hope that continues. I have had some calls from a few of you about entries, etc., and fortunately, everything has been fine. As long as you contact me with your questions before the deadlines, I will do everything I can to solve your problems.

Good luck in the 2010 OPS competition!

*Don Thoede*

## TMAA Concert and Marching Band Workshops Offered

These workshops are being presented for those who might wish to attend so as to free up more of their time during TBA and TMEA conventions. Please pass this information on to HS and JH Band Directors in your region. To register, participants simply need to let the presenter know by email they plan to attend. The cost of each workshop will be \$20.00.

David Lambert, President of the Texas Music Adjudicators Association, will be presenting a concert band judging workshop at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at Cy Falls HS in the Cypress Fairbanks School District (9811 Huffmeister Road; Houston, TX 77095-2307). Emails should be sent to: [dlambert55@comcast.net](mailto:dlambert55@comcast.net)

Ronnie Rios, Marching Band Vice-President of the Texas Music Adjudicators Association, will be presenting a marching band judging workshop at 1:00 PM on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at Harlingen HS (1201 E. Marshall Street; Harlingen, TX 78550). Emails should be sent to: [ronnierios@yahoo.com](mailto:ronnierios@yahoo.com)

Mark McGahey, Concert Band Vice-President of the Texas Music Adjudicators Association, will be presenting a concert band judging workshop at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at Timber Creek HS in the Keller ISD (12350 Timberland Blvd; Keller, TX 76052). Emails should be sent to: [mark.mcgahay@kellerisd.net](mailto:mark.mcgahay@kellerisd.net)

## **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 2011. All ATSSB All-State members and their designated chaperons will be assigned to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The three ATSSB All-State organizations will 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 Jan. 8!**

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. 8!)
2. Decide which director will be responsible for entering these rooms on Jan 10–11, who the designated chaperon will be for each student and take the worksheet(s) home to complete the entries.
3. Log in Jan. 10 to enter these students into rooms and provide credit card billing information.

*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. 10-11, 2011 ONLY. The system will close at 4 pm on January 11<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **1. Log In**

Go to [www.tmea.org](http://www.tmea.org), use the All-State Housing link and log in with your TMEA Member ID and Password

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

(Continued on Page 7)

(Coachman, continued from Page 6):

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**.

*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, 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, 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. 24 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.**

## Official Licensees

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(800) 299-8325  
far103flyer@yahoo.com



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### **Mattei Music Services**

Buddy Mattei  
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McKinney, Texas 75071  
(972) 838-2443  
matteimusic@attwb.net

### **Stephen Henry**

SmartMusic Consultant  
P.O. Box 25  
Vanderbilt, Texas 77991  
(361) 284-3226, XT1220  
srhenry@tisd.net



**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. Retiree and College Division dues are \$10 all year. 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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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) \_\_\_\_\_

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