

ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XXI, No. 1, June 2011



ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS Beginning our 21st year of service to small school bands in Texas

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President's Column

by Brandon Brewer



I've watched the news reports, seen our ranting peers' Facebook status updates, and touched base with members across the state about the educational budget crisis. None of the news seemed real or had a face until I went through the process of hiring a new junior high band director position in the last couple of weeks. It was jolting to see the level of education, the tenure, and the accolades that filled the resumes pouring in from not just Texas, but all over the country for this humble job posting. Now, rather

than regurgitate the usual "Wow, what an amazing year" article, the rapidly changing needs of our membership during this crisis must be addressed

"Teaching is a profession that will give you job security." We've all heard it, maybe even said it to a bright eyed band director fresh from college. Now, no job is secure, not even teachers. Especially not those optimistically entering our profession on their "0" step this Fall. So how do you make sure your probationary contract eventually becomes a term contract? Every district is different, but there are some truths no matter where you go. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Come to your administration with several solutions in mind for any concern that you have to place before them. Be more than a "face" that people recognize from pep rallies. As an active member of your town, you can work to integrate your program into parades, organizational ceremonies, and community service. Continue your education for free by observing other teachers in your school during your conference period. Under no circumstances should you ever give lip service to the nay sayers that populate the teachers' lounge.

How to energize those that are continuing in a position while being asked to do more with less? Stipends and/or days are being lost with no change to job duties. Staffs and budgets are being cut to

(Continued on Page 2)

(Brewer, continued from Page 1):

the bare bones. Portions of programs are being cut entirely. One hopeful consequence of these frustrations will be greater creativity. Our field gives educators and students an outlet for the one thing drawing us together: creativity. If you can't afford to bring in a master teacher for your students, then utilize the Internet to find any of the many, many amazing videos of Master Classes that are available on YouTube, iTunes or University websites. If you can not afford a private lessons program at your one band director school, then co-op with another director at a nearby school. For every woodwind specialist, there is a brass specialist that would willingly swap lessons with you. Need a piece of music, but don't have the budget for it? Utilize the ATSSB Band Music Loan Library. These pieces are free for the asking to members. Just return the music in the same condition you received it when you have finished with your program.

As an organization, one of the greatest impacts of the educational budget crisis is the loss of highly qualified directors to the dreaded "RIF". No director coping with the loss of their career wants to hear how to make lemonade with their lemons. Instead, I would like to appeal to you to not let your talents go to waste. Remain active in music education through support positions. Volunteer with a local program that needs your talents. Use your new found time to be the mentor you always wished you'd had when you were starting out in teaching. What did you enjoy most about your time teaching? Could you turn that into a job that would allow you to be your own boss? Drill still has to be designed, instruments repaired, music arranged, bands judged, uniforms sold, etc... This may just give you the chance to never hear the term "RIF" again.

No matter which one of these struggles you are facing as the result of our economic uncertainty, know that you are not alone. You have the entire membership of ATSSB with you.



President-Elect Column

by John Young

I am sure your May was crazy. End of the year concerts, recruiting for next year's bands, marching band shows and drill, horn inventory and summer repair if you have any money. I just love the people who say to us "guess your year is over since football season is done", if they only knew.

I want to encourage you to take some time for yourself. I do not care if you are a first year teacher or a seasoned veteran, please takes some time for yourself and your family. If you let it, this job can consume you. You will be a better teacher if you do some things outside of your career for fun and enjoyment. One of my mentors 5 years ago said to me, "we all need some down time; make yourself do it; there will still be time to get ready when you're ready". I liked that comment.

TBA is another great opportunity for us to recharge right before the all important date of August 1st. I am already getting excited just thinking of the August heat!!! ATSSB will be trying to do some additional workshops for our special areas such as preparing auditions for All -State Band. Make sure you check the TBA web site for special ATSSB workshops. I am excited about the new things that ATSSB is doing to help you the director of such fine programs throughout our state.

Remember also to be involved in your regional and state politics. Make that call to your state representative and senator. I doubt that when you read this article that the state legislature has yet to make a final decision on the important issues of school finance. Be involved as an educator, citizen and parent if applicable. Do not sit idly by, letting others speak and you stay silent. We have to speak for the band programs of our great state and demand support.

I hope you all have a great summer and please remember to take some time for yourselves. Have a great summer.



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.11.htm>. Make a note of any corrections, especially if a category is blank 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.12.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 Class AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors. John Young was elected President-Elect and Steve Sanchez from Pearsall was named to complete his term as Class AAA Representative, and Carroll Rhodes' term as Class A Representative ends in February. The election will be held at the General Session February 9, 2012. 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 A) is now available online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearAUpdate.12.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 20101 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, Col. Timothy W. Foley (USMC, ret.) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Jeff Jarvis (California State University, Long Beach), will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Dennis Fisher (University of North Texas) will be the Concert Band clinician. The Concert Band will premier the winning composition in the 2012 ATSSB Composition Competition.

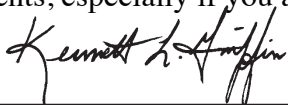
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(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

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

February 9-12, 2012 Col. Timothy W. Foley (USMC, ret.) – SYMPHONIC BAND
Dennis Fisher (University of North Texas) – CONCERT BAND
Premier performance of the Winner of the 2012 Composition Competition
Jeff Jarvis (California State University, Long Beach) – JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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

Sunday, July 24

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 25

7:30-9:30 am State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Patio Room
9:30 am-3:00 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. Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.

Outstanding Performance Series

by Don Thoede, OPS State Chair



By now, most of you are already out of school and are probably looking forward to spending some time with your families. I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

That being said, I want to remind the Designated Region and Area Coordinators that the next two OPS deadlines are June 10th and June 24th.

I had a few directors call me a few days before the May 20th deadline asking questions about OPS entries. I am glad they did. I feel certain some potential problems were avoided because they called. All ATSSB members were given a member number and that number is required on the entry forms. I strongly suggest that you be absolutely sure what your number is before you put a number on the entry form. Please don't guess at it! If anything on those entry forms is inaccurate, the Region Coordinators are within their rights to disqualify your entry. The Region Coordinators are doing an excellent job of not disqualifying entries, but it does happen, and they have my support when it does. To my knowledge, no entry has been disqualified this year!

As soon as I receive all CDs from all five Area Coordinators, I will be calling ATSSB members to serve as judges or monitors at the State Adjudication of the Outstanding Performance Series. As always, the State Adjudication will be held in the convention center during TBA. This year it will be held on Sunday, July 24th. If you agree to serve as a judge/monitor, you will be required to be in the convention center slightly before noon on that Sunday. Depending on the classification you will be judging, you could be free to leave around 3:00 pm, or you could be required to stay until 6:00 pm or later. All judges/monitors will receive an honorarium of \$75.00. If you served as a judge last year at TBA, I probably will not call you again this year. I try to put one judge from each area on each panel, and I strive to get as much experience on each panel as possible.

This will be our 15th year of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series! I want to wish all of you the best of luck in this year's OPS competition. See you at TBA.

Don Thoede

State Jazz Coordinator Column

by Brian Donnell

Hello everyone! My name is Brian Donnell and I am the band director at Greenhill School in Addison and have the privilege of serving as the State Jazz Coordinator. I am excited to serve and am here to help our members and students navigate the jazz audition process. The 2011-2012 jazz audition set is Year A, and can be ordered from www.matteimusicervices.com. The audition process is open to all of our ATSSB members, regardless of whether your school has a jazz band program or not. The audition CD that comes with the music is a great tool for the students to use as they learn their part, and the music is scored so that groups can practice together. If you have any questions at all regarding the audition process, please email me (donnellb@greenhill.org) or visit the jazz audition web page at www.atssb.org/jazz.asp. Have a great summer!

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 2012. 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. 7!

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. 7!)
2. Decide which director will be responsible for entering these rooms on Jan 9–10, who the designated chaperon will be for each student and take the worksheet(s) home to complete the entries.
3. Log in Jan. 9 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. 9-10, 2012 ONLY. The system will close at 4 pm on January 10th.

1. Log In

Go to 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

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

(Continued on Page 7)

(Coachman, continued from Page 6):

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. 23 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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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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