

# ATSSB NEWSLETTER



Volume XXV, No. 1, June 2015  
Updated June 7, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Beginning our 25th year of service to small school bands in Texas  
2117 Morse Street      Houston, Texas 77019      (713) 874-1151

## ATSSB Through the Years

March 16, 1991 - 15 Founding Charter Members

1992 - 380 members  
1993 - 493 members  
1994 - 564 members  
1995 - 592 members  
1996 - 646 members  
1997 - 661 members  
1998 - 736 members  
1999 - 813 members  
2000 - 824 members  
2001 - 867 members  
2002 - 912 members  
2003 - 924 members  
2004 - 904 members  
2005 - 955 members  
2006 - 969 members  
2007 - 1002 members  
2008 - 1003 members  
2009 - 1008 members  
2010 - 1036 members  
2011 - 1070 members  
2012 - 1047 members  
2013 - 1112 members  
2014 - 1123 members  
2015 - 1167 members

## President's Column

by Jim Cude



I hope that you are ready for the end of the school year. May is such an exciting time of the year with concerts, banquets and graduations to attend. Your seniors are finally realizing that the real world is upon them. For most it has probably been a year full of both amazing moments of great joy and some times of trial and despair. The great thing about our profession is that we have so many opportunities to spend time with students and enjoy both the

good and the bad with them.

I have an idea for you as you begin the summer break. I suggest that you do something new and challenging this summer. I want to tell you briefly about something new I have recently begun. I decided to begin some jogging/active walking several times weekly to seek to improve my health. I am on month 3 of this process and have reached a goal that has been on my list for a couple of years. My goal was to run a 5K and have run 2 in the month of May. Your new challenge doesn't have to be running but anything new will give you a fresh perspective on life. I've used this challenge to talk with my students about the importance of setting goals and not giving up on them.

I know that many of you have concerns about the upcoming TMEA/UIIL realignment that is currently being discussed. The ATSSB leadership has been invited to be a part of this discussion and we will represent your interests as best we can. We will attempt to keep you informed as well.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio at TBA.

## President-Elect's Column

by Mike Bartley

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by and summer is upon us again! Watching our graduation ceremony on Friday night reminded me how quickly the years go by. It was great to see the happy faces of the seniors as they walked across the stage, but it was easy to remember those same students as young children first starting out in band. It also provided a chance for me to reflect as these seniors are moving on in their lives, so is the band program with a new set of seniors, a new set of freshmen, and a new set of beginners. I think the yearly rejuvenation is one of the best parts of teaching and helps us to keep going as educators!



Speaking of the years going by, this next year we will be celebrating 25 years of ATSSB! This will provide all of us a chance to celebrate our great organization at TMEA. I know the committee is hard at work in planning for the occasion and will share the details when everything is finalized. I am looking forward to it!

I hope everyone makes time this summer to get some rest, relax a little bit, and maybe even take a vacation with the family. We all know that as fast as the school year goes by, summer goes even faster!

I hope to see everyone at TBA!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Bartley".

## Class 4A Representative's Column

by Russ Rutherford



Another school year draws to a close, and we are already looking ahead to the next year. If your plate looks like mine, it is already overflowing with all of the preparation, selections, logistics and concerns about next year's band. Take some time for your seniors as they are leaving your program (even the ones that you may not be shedding quite so many tears over). Let them know how much you appreciate them sticking with the program. To borrow a concept from Dr. Tim, remember that to them, the band, in most cases, "is just not quite what it used to be." That's because to them, the folks that graduated when they were freshmen and sophomores were the ones that made the band "magic." They don't see that they were the magic for the younger students behind them.

Also, be sure to thank those Jr. High staff members that are making it all happen in order to give you great students. Far too many times I realize that there has been far too long of an interval since the last time I told them how much I appreciate them.

Lastly, of course, in the middle of all of the chaos, take some time to get away and do something with your family and/or loved ones. Remember, you don't do your students any good if you return to summer band still completely burned out.

Let me hear from you with your 4A concerns. I promise I'll check my email as soon as Brandon and I come in off the lake!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ Rutherford".

## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



Twenty-five years! It seems like only yesterday that John Gibson invited directors to meet in Abilene to discuss the formation of ATSSB. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then and it is good to see how ATSSB has grown to be a strong force and advocate for small-school bands in Texas. I am looking forward to the celebration in February.

Your membership expires on September 1 this year, but the new membership year begins August 1 due to a Constitutional amendment changing the Fiscal Year to August 1-July 31. So if you plan to enter students into jazz auditions which are always early, be sure to join for 2015-16 as soon as you can to avoid errors while entering students (TMEA will not accept your membership number unless it is in the Directory as ACTIVE). Please take a minute to look in the Directory online: <http://www.atssb.org>. and click on the DIRECTORY 2015-16 link in the left sidebar. If your name is there and the STATUS is CURRENT, you are paid for 2015-16. If your name is not there, you have not paid dues for 2015-16. 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. The State Board voted to increase dues to \$50 beginning this last year, but remember that after October 1, the dues increase to \$75 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 \$25 per year. 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 and that your school does not block mail from this office (attachments trigger spamguards, so make sure we are allowed). Don't forget, most schools have new classifications due to the UIL renaming Classes 2A-5A to Class 3A-6A (Class 1A was split into 1A and 2A). Be sure your classification is accurate. If there is a discrepancy, be sure to let us

(Continued on Page 4)

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

know as soon as possible.

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class 1A/2A Representative and a Class 4A Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 202 of the Convention Center. 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.16.pdf>. We do not mail a copy of the Update to all high school band directors and members with the September Newsletter (the ATSSB Website is the official document of ATSSB). The September Newsletter will be mailed, but only to include a free copy of the 2015 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, Stephen Pratt (Indiana University) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band will play a march I have written as a tribute to ATSSB, commissioned by the Past-President Committee in charge of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of ATSSB which is chaired by Immediate Past-President John Young. Dean Sorenson (University of Minnesota) will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Robert Jorgensen (University of Akron) will be the Concert Band clinician which will premier the winner of the 2016 ATSSB Composition Competition which will be announced at TBA.

Jennifer Siler of the Kinkaid School has secured instructors for 30-minute clinics regarding the ATSSB audition etudes at TBA. These clinics will be given on Friday, July 24:

CC Room 210

9:00 a.m.	Percussion - Clinician: John Rice, Professional Musician
9:30 a.m.	Flute - Clinician: Kathy Daniel, Sam Houston State University
10:00 a.m.	Clarinet - Clinician: Dr. Andrea Harrell, Sam Houston State University

(Continued on Page 5)

(Griffin, continued from Page 4):

10:30 a.m. Bassoon - Clinician: Dr. Nathan Koch, Sam Houston State  
CC Room 212

10:30 a.m. Oboe - Clinician: Alecia Lawyer, Principal Oboe, Founder,  
Artistic Director, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra  
CC Room 213

10:30 a.m. Bass Clarinet - Clinician: Nancy Angerstein, Lee College  
CC Room: 210

1:30 p.m. Euphonium/Tuba - Clinician: Robert Daniel, Sam Houston  
State University

2:00 p.m. Trombone - Clinician: R. Ben Osborne, Sam Houston State

2:30 p.m. French Horn - Clinician: Russell Vogt, Episcopal High  
School

3:00 p.m. Saxophone - Clinician: Dr. Scott Plugge, Sam Houston  
State University  
CC Room 213

3:00 p.m. Trumpet - Clinician: Randy Adams, Sam Houston State  
University

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Minuet Room of the Menger Hotel on Saturday, July 25. 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 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 24 in the Convention Center (tentatively scheduled for CC210). 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, including plans for the 25th Anniversary celebration.

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).



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



As I am writing this article, I am wondering how many of you sent an optional flash drive along with your CDs when you mailed them to your Designated Region Coordinator. The idea of the flash drive was intended for nothing other than another source of backup in case both CDs would not play at any level of competition. That has happened only one or two times in the last eighteen years! The odds are that the flash drives will not have to be used. I certainly hope that is the case. If you take the time to listen to both of your CDs before you mail them, and they work properly, they should work properly at each level of competition. That being said, I wish all of you the best of luck in this year's 2015 OPS competition!

If you want to attend the OPS State adjudication sessions at TBA this summer, please be aware of the day and times. The sessions will be held on Thursday, July 23rd! The judges meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. in room 007. The adjudication will begin in all rooms at 8:30 a.m. The Class C bands will be adjudicated in room 004 followed by the Class 3A bands at 11:00 a.m. The Class CC bands will be adjudicated in room 005 followed by the Class 1A-2A bands at 11:00 a.m. The Class 4A bands will be adjudicated in room 007 followed by the SARC committee meeting. The OPS Office will be in room 1067. I strongly encourage you to attend these adjudication sessions. You will hear fine performances of some of our UIL literature. I hope to see you there!

I want all Region Coordinators to be sure and listen to all of the CDs that are advancing to the next level of competition. I am aware that some CDs are advanced due to lack of entries in a classification. Those CDs need to be listened to before they are mailed to the next level. It is imperative that we know all CDs were heard before they were shipped to the next level. If some of you have shipped CDs in years past without listening to them, please start listening to them. It could save us lots of problems at the Area and State competitions.

I will be contacting directors soon and asking them to judge/monitor at the State adjudication. I must have one judge from each Area on every panel. Just so you know, I always try to get as much experience on each panel as I can. Also, if you judged at the State level last year, I will not be calling you this year unless I cannot fill every panel. I also need monitors. If you would like to serve as a monitor, please give me a call. All judges and monitors will receive a \$75.00 honorarium for their service.

Most of you should know that we are trying to develop an all-digital OPS for 2016. A pilot program has been initiated using Regions 1, 6, 16, and 22. They are sending in CDs just like everyone else, but they are also uploading digital .WAV files to a server so we can study the feasibility of discontinuing the use of CDs in the future. The digital world is upon us so we might as well try to make OPS work digitally. We will let you know how it goes.

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

*Don Thoede*

## Immediate Past-President's Column

by John Young

This is always the time that I chuckle at these comments from my teaching family and administrators. "You must be glad your year is over and can relax". That is so funny to me for no one understands what May brings for us. Maybe our spouses do? Spring Concerts, placement auditions, UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest, Drum Major and Section Leader placements as well as Beginner Recruiting, High School Band recruiting, finalizing show design, uniform design and those dreaded Props!!!! Yes we are just coasting in May. It is CRAZY for sure.



When things start to slow down, take time to get away from the band hall and rest. Try to make time for yourself and family. Take a trip that does not include a bus full of kids or a mandatory stop at Buc-ee's to see how fast you can do the restroom break. I love my band kids but we all need a break from them to regroup and think about the last academic year. "Evaluate the past and plan for the future" is a great way to improve your program for the years ahead.

Please plan on your attendance to TMEA in 2016. ATSSB will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary. We will have some special events planned to recognize the growth and importance of ATSSB in our great state. Please 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. If you have concerns or suggestions, let your coordinator know. Good luck to all who enter OPS and I wish all a safe, restful summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Young".

## FYI, ATSSB at TBA

### Thursday, July 23

1:00 pm Clinic - "Building Success in the Small School Band" - CC214AB  
1:00 pm.-6:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area  
8:30 am-12:30 pm **ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series** (judges' meeting 8:00 CC1067)  
Class 1C followed by Class 3A - CC004  
Class 2C followed by Class 1A/2A - CC005  
Class 4A followed by SARC Meeting & Clinician/Commission Committee meeting- CC007  
ATSSB Office - CC1067

### Friday, July 24

7:30 am-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area  
9:00 am-3:00 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinics  
(see convention program for sites and times)

### Saturday, July 25

7:30 am State Board of Directors meeting, Menger Minuet Room  
9:30 am-4:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area (closed for TBA Luncheon)  
4:00 pm ATSSB General Session - CC210

## Official Licensees

These companies have paid a fee and are under contract to use the ATSSB logo and marks on their products. They pay a royalty on products they sell using ATSSB logos and service marks. Please consider using them before using any other companies for similar services:

### PepWear

1031 Eastgate Drive  
Midlothian, Texas 76065  
(972) 723-7033  
www.pepwear.com



### Probst Audio

P.O. Box 8018  
Ennis, Texas 75120  
972-878-6018  
info@ProbstAudio.com

### Jordan Sound Productions

P.O. Box 170  
Bullard, Texas 75757  
JordanSP@aol.com  
903-539-6485 (telephone)



903-956-0230 (fax)



### ON SITE DIGITAL

1303 Darter Lane  
Austin, Texas 78746  
512-699-7223

webmail@OnSiteDigital.com



### Cauble Sportswear, Inc.

3209 Commercial Drive  
Midland, Texas 79701  
(800) 299-8325  
far103flyer@yahoo.com



### Audio Refinery

3604 Mockingbird Lane  
Amarillo, Texas 79109  
(806) 355-0072  
audiorefinery@me.com

### WEST SIDE RECORDING STUDIO

702 Coggins Point Way  
Sugar Land, Texas 77479  
281-300-8897



http://www.westsiderecording.com

### Mattei Music Services

202 Covey Lane  
McKinney, Texas 75071  
(972) 838-2443  
matteimusic@attwb.net



### The Amusement Park Recording Studio



2601 Boston Avenue  
Lubbock, Texas 79410  
806-787-2636  
ideafactory@fariswheel.com



### California T's

1611 University  
Lubbock, Texas 79401  
(800) 763-1071



### Texas Music Festivals, LLC

803 Inspiration  
Pharr, Texas 78577  
956-499-4002  
perez6052@sbcglobal.net



David Lane Productions  
2594 McCoy Road  
Carrollton, Texas 75006  
972-221-3283

dave@davelaneproductions.com



### Southwest Emblem

300 Conrad Hilton Avenue  
Cisco, Texas 76437  
254-442-2500



http://www.southwestemblem.com