

ATSSB NEWSLETTER



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ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Beginning our 27th year of service to small school bands in Texas

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President's Column

by Mike Bartley



I am very excited about the arrival of Summer as it will give us all a chance to relax, recuperate, and rewind before we start again in August. These last few weeks of school have gone by so fast that they are just a blur. It seems as if there are more and more things to do every year at the end of school. I don't know how

we get everything finished sometimes. However, I am always glad to get started and see the students arrive again when it's time!

I hope everyone will be able to take some time to reflect upon their year and see what worked and what did not. I think this is very important as educators so that we can improve our programs and not allow them to become stale to us and the students. There are always things that went really well that we can feel good about, but I think we need to also spend some time on what we can improve.

For those entering OPS this year, I want to wish you good luck in this competition which grows harder every year as our bands in Texas grow stronger. I would also like to say good luck to Collin Anderson as he takes on

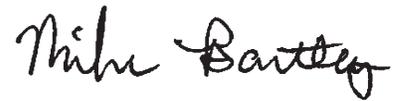
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(Bartley continued from Page 1):

the OPS process for the first time. I think we all need to give Don Thoede a big thank you for his work with OPS through the years, and I am sure Collin will do a great job in years to come. A few regions and areas are doing digital trials with OPS this year in hopes that we will be all digital in the future with OPS. I know many of you are excited about that, so I can't wait to hear how it turns out!

I would like to encourage everyone to attend TBA in July for wonderful clinics, concerts, exhibit hall, and a great time of fellowship. I'm sure the organizers are working hard to make this convention another success as always. I know I have a blast and it helps fire me up for the new school year! I wish you a relaxing summer with some much needed rest and family time!

See you in San Antonio!



President-Elect's Column

by John Rauschuber

Another year has gone by (well, we still have 2 more days of school once this is posted online)! I hope you've had a successful year and that you, your staff and students have met the goals that you set. The month of May was crazy with Spring Concerts, recruitment tour/testing for next year's beginners, show design, drill, inventory, etc... Don't you love when people say "Your year is over after football season, right?" The month of May is almost as crazy as August! Make sure you look back at what was successful this year and what you can improve on.



This year was an emotional struggle for the FISD Band Staff. In the span of 3 months we lost many people close to us. Our percussion director lost his bride of 9 months in a car accident, 2 teacher deaths and one past band student killed in an accident. This fall was an emotional roller coaster, but the love from our family, friends and colleagues has given us the strength to pick up and slowly move on. Thank you for the emails, texts, phone calls and letters.

Now that summer is upon us, take the time to get away from the band hall and enjoy some time with friends and family. If you let it, this job will consume you and burn you out. We all need some time to decompress and get energized for the Fall (I personally love the TBA convention to get pumped up). I am really looking forward to the summer trips with family. Dani and I are taking our travel trailer to the Davis Mountains for a week and plan on taking some other small trips too (Vegas, baby!!).

SARC committee members will be meeting at TBA. I will send you the exact time, date and room number later this summer. If anyone has a recommendation for the committee, please remember that you must submit it in writing (email is fine) to me before TBA. I look forward to your comments and suggestions.



Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



Your membership expires on July 31 this year, so if you plan to enter students into jazz auditions which are always early, be sure to join for 2017-18 as soon as you can to avoid errors while entering students. Check the Directory in the left sidebar of the website to see if you are a member for 2017-18. You must have a 2017-18 ATSSB ID to see the Directory (TMEA will not allow you to view the Directory unless you are an ATSSB member for 2017-18). If you are not yet a member for next year, fill out the application online:

(<http://www.123contactform.com/form-661949/Contact-Form>) with the changes (you need only list name and school and any changes - we

already have the other posted data in the database) and then send payment when your school budget year begins - or go ahead and send in the check or school Purchase Order now while you are thinking about it. Dues for Active Members are \$50, 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).

Be sure to check this link to see the region to which your ISD is assigned:

<http://align.tmea.org/index.php>

See the following link to see how ATSSB has organized the 33 regions into 22 regions and five areas: http://www.atssb.org/execsec/ATSSB_Area_Alignment_2016-18.pdf.

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class 2C Representative, 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 15, 2018, 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

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(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

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 B) is now available online:

<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearBUUpdate.18.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 2017 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, Brian Britt (University of Oklahoma) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Jay Saunders (University of North Texas) will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Matthew McInturf (Sam Houston State University) will be the Concert Band clinician. The Concert Band will premier the winner of the 2018 ATSSB Composition Competition.

Jennifer Siler from First Baptist Academy in Houston has secured instructors for 30-minute clinics regarding the ATSSB audition etudes at TBA. These clinics will be given on Friday, July 21:

CC Room 210

9:00 a.m.	Percussion: Matthew Holm, San Houston State University
9:30 a.m.	Flute: Cindy Walls, Houston ISD
10:00 a.m.	Clarinet: Dr. Tricia Card, Sam Houston State University
10:30 a.m.	Bassoon: Dr. Nathan Koch, Sam Houston State University
11:00 a.m.	Bass Clarinet: David Berndt, First Colony Middle School

CC Room 212

10:30 a.m.	Oboe: Season Summers, Sam Houston State University
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CC Room: 210

1:30 p.m.	Tuba/Euphonium: Fred Angerstein, University of St. Thomas
2:00 p.m.	Trombone: Ben Osborne, Sam Houston State University
2:30 p.m.	French Horn: Ronald Todd, Fort Bend ISD
3:00 p.m.	Saxophone: Dr. Scott Plugge, Sam Houston State University

CC Room 213

3:00 p.m.	Trumpet: Steve Warkentin, Sam Houston State University
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There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:15 a.m. in the Minuet Room of

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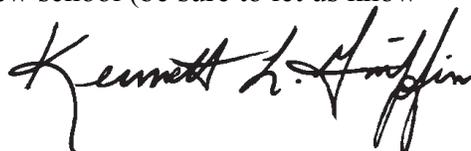
(Griffin, continued from Page 4):

the Menger Hotel on Saturday, July 22. 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 20 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.

Note from Brad Kent, UIL Director of Music: At its meeting on April 9th the UIL Medical Advisory Committee recommended that the UIL implement a required pre-participation health screening process for marching band students. This recommendation will be discussed and considered at the next meeting of the UIL Legislative Council in June. At this point, if a new rule is implemented we do not expect it to take effect until the 2018-19 school year. The UIL will post an announcement if this proposal goes into rule.

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).



FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Wednesday, July 19

6:00 pm-9:00 pm Region/Area Coordinator Training Session, TBA

Thursday, July 20

ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series (judges' meeting 8:00 CC008)

8:30 am-12:30 pm Class 1C followed by Class 3A followed by SARC Meeting - CC004
Class 2C followed by Class 1A/2A - CC005
Class 4A - CC008
ATSSB Office - CC006D

8:30 am-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Convention Center lobby

Friday, July 21

7:30 am-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area

9:00 am-3:30 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinics
(see convention program or elsewhere in this Newsletter for sites and times)

11:00 am-10:00 am ATSSB-Sponsored Clinic - "Designing Your Marching Band Production and Color Guard on a Budget", clinicians Nathan Ascano and Bob Royall- CC207

Saturday, July 22

7:15 am State Board of Directors meeting, Menger Hotel Minuet Room

7:30 am-3:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area (closed for TBA Luncheon)

4:30 pm ATSSB General Session - CC210

Outstanding Performance Series

by Collin Anderson, OPS State Chair



The 2017 OPS season is well underway! I am looking forward to seeing how each of your (and my) entries fare in the Region, Area, and State levels of competition this spring. By the time you read this newsletter, many of our Region adjudications will be completed.

Region and Area Coordinators may need to refer to page three of the OPS Purpose and Procedure on the ATSSB website to review the procedure for honorariums that may be given to judges and to Coordinators. Just be sure that you familiarize yourselves with all of the procedures before you start asking for reimbursements. We have had some Region Coordinators in the past spend money for things that were not authorized, and then they expected to be reimbursed, only for it to not be allowed.

If you are a Designated Area Coordinator you should refer to the March Newsletter to familiarize yourself with which regions are sending CDs to you. Be sure you have the CDs from all of the regions before you start your adjudication. If you do not receive CDs from one of those regions by the deadline, please check with the appropriate Region Coordinator. Possibly CDs were shipped but you never received them; we have had that happen in the past and would like for that not to happen again. Also, remember that Designated Region Coordinators must have the adjudication and mail all advancing CDs to the Designated Area Coordinators on or before, and preferably before, June 9.

The Designated Area Coordinators will forward all advancing CDs to the OPS State Chair – Collin Anderson, 608 E Walker, Groesbeck, TX 76642 – on or before (again, preferably before) June 23.

After each level of competition, the official in charge shall immediately mail, or e-mail, a copy of Page 14 showing a complete list of results to the OPS State Chair and to each director who entered a CD. This is very important, so please do this immediately after the adjudication.

Soon after June 23 I will be calling directors to serve as judges at the State adjudication. I have to find five judges and one monitor for each of the five classifications, so if I leave a message on your home phone about judging at the State level, please return my call as soon as possible.

This is our 21st year of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series, though my first as state chair, and every year has gone smoothly because our Region and Area Coordinators have done a marvelous job of following the guidelines and working very hard for the directors they serve. We all owe them our gratitude for their efforts. Thank you, Region and Area Coordinators!

We are excited to let you know that we are currently conducting a Digital OPS Pilot Study with Regions 1, 6, 16, and 22. Their digital uploads are being judged by Regions 24, 4, 14, and 18 respectively. Kenneth and I are working with the above Region Coordinators to determine how to make this process more accessible and streamlined for the spring of 2018 in order to make the OPS process completely digital!

As always, if I can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me. Please remember this – every time I get asked a question about how something is done, I have to get out the book and read the instructions! I do not carry all of that information around in my head. The point is, you are not expected to know all of the answers either, but you are expected to go to the website and read the guidelines. If we will all do that, the 2017 OPS will be the best yet. Have a great summer, and I will see you at TBA!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Collin Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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>.

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