

# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS  
VOL. 3 NO. 4



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

MR. FRED PANKRATZ

I hope the many hours of sectionals and rehearsals have paid off with a rewarding contest experience for both students and you directors. Continued best wishes as you tackle the next scheduled event.

Many thanks to those who made the ATSSB All-State Band come together culminating in an exciting performance. Grady Alberts, who was the Seating Auditions Chair and all you who helped judge those tryouts; Dennis Teasdale, John Ivie, and Kevin Kasper - Band Organizers; Don Stockton - State Tape Auditions Coordinator; Area Hosts - Bryant Harris, Neal Sutton, Lonnie Dooley, Jim Childers, and David Smith; and all the Region Coordinators, all of whom made the experience one which the students will never forget. Also thanks to John Gibson, Kenneth Griffin and Jennifer Willison for organizing the daily activities of our association.

Also a big thank you to John Gibson and those who served on the State Audition Review Committee (SARC); Ronnie Page - Overton, Richard Shanks - Grapeland, David Smith - Banquete, George Strickland - Glen Rose, and Dennis Teasdale - Jim Ned. By State Board action, this will become a standing committee chaired by the President-Elect. This committee is charged with continually reviewing auditions and All-State procedures to ensure the continued control and ability to change the process as we continue to grow. If you have questions regarding the

work of this committee, visit with one of the members or State Board members. I know they would discuss the business of this group.

With the election of the three At-Large Representatives, all classifications of schools have constitutional guarantees of representation. Those elected representatives are Rodney Bennett from Munday High School - Class A Representative; Elmer Schenk from Howe High School - Class AA Representative; and Ben Hoaldrige from Graham - Class AAA Representative. These men are welcome additions to the State Board and will help you communicate with that board. Give them a call of congratulations and give them your ideas for the improvement of ATSSB.

There are some very important elections facing our group in the next few months. At your spring meeting elections need to be held for Region Coordinators. This is important since these elected officers will be on the State Board and organizing the first round of auditions. As soon as your Region Coordinator is elected, they need to call Kenneth Griffin to let him know of their position, address, etc. At the fall meetings, nominations will be made from each region for the officers of President, President-Elect and Executive Secretary. Elections for these state offices will be held at the General Session in February. The leadership for the next four years will be selected, so give the election some serious thought. These elections provide a great opportunity for you to become more involved in your organization.

Your membership expires June 30. Join early so you don't miss any information about tryouts!

Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you at TBA!!!!

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S COLUMN

MR. KENNETH GRIFFIN

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF  
MY NEW TELEPHONE/FAX  
NUMBER: (903) 963-5841**

This packet should contain a 1994 Membership Directory and a membership renewal application. If you are missing any item, please call me and I will send you one immediately. It took a small army of bandmen a LONG time to collate, staple, coordinate, and stuff these packets and they could have easily left something out. Please pay your membership dues early so you will be sure to receive all of the information concerning errata, etc. in the October NEWSLETTER. It will only be mailed to paid members as of that date.

The third annual clinic-concert of the ATSSB All-State Band is successfully behind us. We are now looking forward to next year - hopefully more productive, more active and even more rewarding than the past one! Several individual directors have sought me out to relate how their band program has improved with their involvement with ATSSB. I hope that the coming years for ATSSB will do even more - in more varied ways - for your individual bandmen. Some of the suggestions for ATSSB involve-

ment have already been addressed and others are in the discussion stage.

**Interesting fact about the 1994 All-State Band:** the membership included 5 freshmen, 28 sophomores, 48 juniors, and 42 seniors.

A word about summer band camps: Call the camp director and ask if they give a full scholarship (all expenses paid) to ATSSB All-State students and tuition scholarships to ATSSB Area students. I called SFA in Nacogdoches and was told that only TMEA students were automatically awarded these honors, but that ATSSB students must submit a tape from which an individual determination would be made as to whether or not to award this type of scholarship. Therefore, check out what the camp offers and then encourage your students to go where they are wanted.

**Interesting facts about the 1994 All-State Band:** Of the 123 members, each of the 20 regions had an average of 6.15 students in the band. One region had 15 (the most) and two regions had none (the least). Each of the five Areas had an average of 24.6 in the band. Area A had 22, Area B had 23, Area C had 28, Area D had 27, and Area E had 23.

If you would like to purchase a set of the music used on the concert (ATSSB had to buy it!), we will sell it to you at half-price. We had to purchase two complete sets because of copyright laws. "Pineapple Poll" (\$18.00), "Wind Dancer"

(\$40.00), or "Burst of Flame" (\$18.00). Just call to let me know your interest and I will send it to you (if still available) with a bill. We still have a copy of Cajun Folk Songs (\$47.50) and the march British Eighth (\$7.50) if anyone wants them.

**Interesting fact about the 1994 All-State Band:** The 123 students were from 2 class A high schools (1.6% of the band), 27 class AA high schools (22.0% of the band) and 94 class AAA high schools (76.4% of the band). Our membership breaks down into 432 schools represented (with 564 paid individual High School, Assistant High School, and Middle School members): 89 class A (20.6% of the membership), 160 class AA (37.0% of the membership) and 183 class AAA (42.6% of the membership).

Remember that you need to elect new (or re-elect old) Region Coordinators in your spring region meetings. They will serve for two years. Please drop me a line to let me know who your new representative on the State Board of Directors is going to be from the respective regions (Regions Coordinators are automatically members of the SBOD).

**Interesting fact about the 1994 All-State Band:** In the three years we have had the ATSSB All-State Band, 6 students made the band last year as freshmen, but not this year as sophomores; 8 made it two years ago as freshmen but not as sophomores or juniors; 1 made it twice as a freshman and a sophomore, but not this year as a junior; 2 made it as freshmen, not as sopho-

mores, but then made it again this year as juniors; 9 made the band as sophomores for the first time last year, but then did not make it this year as juniors; 12 made it as a sophomore two years ago, but then not again either their junior or senior year; 1 made it twice as a sophomore and a junior, but not this year as a senior; 5 made it as a sophomore, not as a junior, then made it again this year as seniors; and 15 made the band last year for the first time as a junior, but did not make it again this year as a senior. Eight students have made the band all three years: juniors Sarah Boehm (trombone, Sacred Heart HS), Oscar Diaz (trombone, Ingleside HS), and Molly Lehrmann (clarinet, Mathis HS); and seniors Mary Anne Childers (trombone, Fredericksburg HS), Amy Friemel (clarinet, Canyon HS), Adrienne Pina (clarinet, Eldorado HS), John Michael Wallace (trombone, Crane HS), and Jenell Yates (flute, Ingleside HS). The seniors who made it the first three years were recognized with a certificate on during the concert. We will continue to recognize seniors who have made the band every year (next year only three are eligible: Boehm, Diaz, and Lehrmann).

Congratulations to Class A State Board of Directors Representative Rodney Bennett, Class AA State Board of Directors Representative Elmer Schenk, and Class AAA State Board of Directors Representative Ben Hoadridge on their election. I know they will serve you well and that our Association will

benefit from their insightful leadership the next two years on the State Board of Directors. I commend the regions for their nominations for these state offices. The slate of candidates was composed of worthy individuals - any of whom would have served our Association well - who will continue to be a vital force in our continued growth. I would also like to thank all of you who volunteered to keep ATSSB energetic and meaningful. Please stay involved in your Association - or, if you have not yet jumped in, GET INVOLVED! Let's all DO something about keeping small-school bands a significant experience for our students.

The 1993-94 Membership Directory included with this mailing is intended for your use to keep in touch with each other. We can enjoy more success if we treat our Association as a fraternity of brothers and sisters in the struggle to succeed in the small-school environment in Texas. Use it to suggest each other as judges for UIL Concert and/or Sightreading Contests (the only way we are going to get more small-school directors on the list!), for clinicians, for judges of UIL solo-ensemble contests, and as a source for information as you need it. Please note the following corrections to the TMAA list of our membership in the previous Newsletter:

Delete Doice Grant and Eddie Gellner.

Change the following (see Membership Directory for more details):

Bartley, Jerry  
CB, MB

Griffin, Kenneth  
Van High School  
AAA, CB, MB

Lewis, Aaron K.  
Colorado High School  
AAA, CB\*, MB\*

Thoede, Don  
Clifton High School  
AA, CB, MB

Add the following:

Henry, Van  
Elgin High School  
AAA, MB\*  
(512) 285-9725  
902 W. 2nd  
18  
(512) 929-9508  
Elgin, TX 78621  
baritone

Lenfest, Merle E.  
Yorktown High School  
AA, CB\*  
(512) 564-4225  
P.O. Box 487  
13  
(512) 564-3393  
Yorktown, TX 78164  
bari, tuba, trb

Sides, Ralph  
Sterling City HS  
A, MB\*  
(915) 378-5871  
Box 786  
7  
(915) 378-2070  
Sterling City, TX 76951  
baritone

**Interesting fact about the 1994 All-State Band:** There were 2 students from 2 different class A schools, 27 students from 19 different class AA schools and 94 students from 53 different class AAA schools. 46 schools had one student in the band. 17 schools had two students in the band. 9 schools had 3 students in the band. 2 schools had 4 students in the band. One school had 8 in the band. There were 75 different schools represented (compared with 84 last year). There were 67 females and 56 males in the band.

A persistent rumor that we keep encountering is that ATSSB is a West-Texas organization. Let me assure you that our Association is well-balanced with proportionate representation from across our large state:

If we break Texas into five geographical regions equaling our current five ATSSB Areas, we find that our total 1993-94 membership of 432 A, AA and AAA high schools (with 564 high school, high school assistant, and junior high directors as paid members) is divided as follows:

**AREA A (WEST TEXAS, Regions 1,6,16,22): 16.5%**

**AREA B (NORTH TEXAS, Regions 2,3&20,5): 20.4%**

**AREA C (EAST TEXAS, Regions 4,10,17&19,21): 21.3%**

**AREA D (CENTRAL TEXAS, Regions 7,8,9,18): 24.1%**

**AREA E (SOUTH TEXAS Regions 11, 12, 13, 14, 15): 17.7%**

We can also break the state into three geographical parts with the following results:

**WEST (Regions 1,2,6,7,16,22): 31.482%**

**SOUTH (Regions 9,10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17& 19): 32.407%**

**EAST (Regions 3&20,4,5,8,21): 36.111%**

We still have the ATSSB enamel lapel pin available for you. Also, you might remind your all-state students that they can purchase the 10" ATSSB All-State Band patch. Send \$2 for each enamel pin and/or \$8 for each 10" patch to: ATSSB; P.O. Drawer 1508; Van, Texas 75790. Be sure to enclose name and address to where they are to be sent!

I received the following letter from Jared Spears:

Arkansas University  
2-15-94

Dear Ken:

Thanks again to you and all directors for inviting me to work with such a great group of kids and directors. This was one of the highlights of my musical career.

Be sure to tell all the ATSSB members that they are doing a great job of teaching.

I think your organization

is a wonderful addition & idea to music education throughout the USA - Keep up the good work!

Thanks again - Your friend in music & kids!

Jared Spears

I hope you all have a very restful, relaxing, and recharging summer so we can return to our responsibilities with renewed vigor and enthusiasm! I know I am already looking forward to what the new year will bring. See you at TBA.

**PLEASE!!  
HELP!!!**

**Elmer Schenk has alerted us that everyone should call or write Channel 13 or the PBS station in your area and tell them that you would like to see the Drumcorps International World Championships carried LIVE this fall. A delayed broadcast is better than none but specify a preference for a live broadcast. For now, they say they will consider carrying it if they get enough calls or letters and it would likely be broadcast on the sister channel 2. It is not a dead issue yet. The phone number is 214-871-1390. Students and parents can help call too!!!!**

**From:**  
**Mr. Jim Hutson**  
**Region 1 Band Chairman**

**Region 1**  
**Director's Band:**  
**A Hit!!!**

The band directors of Region 1 made history on January 22, 1994. For the first time, a Director's Band was included in the All-Region Band Clinic. Dr. Gary Garner of West Texas A&M University conducted the band, comprised of band directors and a few fill-in musicians from the university who completed the instrumentation.

While students rehearsed with their respective clinicians, the directors worked with Dr. Garner to prepare a concert. Participating directors enjoyed an in-depth study of rehearsal and performance opportunity, directors also gained firsthand exposure to several important works of band literature. The band initially sightread a number of works, then settled on a program for performance.

The band performed "Rolling Thunder", "Overture to Candide", the third movement from the "Second Symphony" by Hanson, "On a Hymn Song of Philip Bliss", and "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine". The concept was extremely well received. Over 400 All-Region Band members gained from the experience by hearing their own directors perform challenging literature after limited rehearsal. Dr. Garner was

most complimentary, saying, "I can't remember ever having more fun and I thought the band was absolutely dynamite."

A year ago, several band directors in Region 1 suggested the idea of a Director's Band at the All-Region Band Clinic. Region Band Chair Jim Hutson appointed a committee to study the matter. The committee found the idea feasible, and the project was born. All directors were invited and encouraged to participate, and most did.

The event was so enjoyable for all who participated that plans are already being made to repeat next year. There has been some talk of meeting several times during the year to read new music, make reference recordings, and perhaps play more concerts. The Director's Band has proven to be one of the best things the Region 1 Band Division has done in recent memory.

**From:**  
**Dr. Sim Flora**  
**All-Region Jazz Clinician**

**Introducing:**  
**The World's**  
**Greatest**  
**Music Teacher**

**How can you become the**  
**World's Greatest Music**  
**Teacher? Start with teaching**  
**improvisation-- in any style!!**

**The creative process--what can**  
**it do for ME?????**

1. IT'S FUN!!!!
2. Allows me to express myself musically-- I'm the composer.
3. Can make me a more sensitive ensemble player because:
  - A. I understand how musical composition works because I improvise--I am personally familiar with the tools.
  - B. I hear sounds with "new ears."
4. Can help my intonation.
5. Can make a better reader!
  - A. Figures that play as a creative musician, I "own." They are much easier to recognize. Besides, I now see how they fit.
  - B. Time, rhythm vs. notes
6. Can increase my technique and use of extremes of the instrument.
7. Can literally improve every aspect of my musicianship.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Sim Flora teaches at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He travels the globe promoting jazz improvisation as an essential element of a complete music education. If you would like more information write:

Dr. Sim Flora  
School of Music  
Ouachita Baptist Univ.  
Arkadelphia, AR  
71998-0001

**From:**  
**Elmer Schenk**  
**AA At-Large Representative**

## **Instrumentation in Small School Bands**

Teaching in the "AA" school has its own unique problems to overcome. One common problem is instrumentation. With an average 250 students enrolled in high school, a band of 50 (high school students) is a very healthy percentage of the school.

Let's begin with a basic scenario. If you had only one student, it would be preferable for that student to play trumpet or cornet in order to play the service songs (school and fight song, charge, and the Star-Spangled Banner). If you had a second student, this person should play a tuba. There are many things that could be done with this simple melody and bass combination. This would be an extreme example of instrumentation, but it helps to put into perspective what our basic priority must in order to survive in the small town band.

For the third student, I would suggest a trombone player for a counter-melody. The next two musicians I would add would complete a brass quintet. A substantial set of literature would now be available for this particular instrumentation.

The sixth person would preferably be a percussionist, especially with public relations in mind. Adding one more trumpet, trombone, and baritone would create the basic instrumentation for most modern marching band arrangements. And, let's face it, marching band, being the most visible band organization to the public, needs to be the first priority when public support is needed. If each individual was a capable musician, this basic 9 instrumentation would be a sufficient school performance organization. My next suggestion would be to double this exact instrumentation for four reasons:

1. Continuity - Unfortunately, some will graduate each year.

2. Safety - What if one person is sick, or has "the" excuse and cannot attend the performance.

3. Sonority - The first test by your community is whether or not the band can be heard on the field (crowd noise in small towns can be overpowering - count on the cows to let loose or the train that's right behind the visitors side to its run at halftime)

4. 18 makes a great medium ensemble in February.

Once this instrumentation has been established, you can begin adding woodwinds. One flute (pic) and two clarinets would be a nice addition to this first basic performance ensemble (21).

Here lies the basic problem. When a small school band group of 21 performs, what does the instrumentation usually consist

of---50% sax and drum, 25% other woodwinds, and an overworked and overexposed token trumpet or two. Almost always missing is an adequate bass line balance. Would you really prefer to hear an alto sax instead of a french horn play the horn line? Now the question becomes "How do I have more control of the instrumentation?"

1. Do not start beginner students on instruments you do not need!

2. You have the right to start no saxes, just as you have the right to start no accordions. As the coach has the right to choose one quarterback, you may select your instrumental stars.

3. The facts of life are - the students who play the horns you need most will quit or move away, and those playing the horns you need least will move in and stay forever.

4. You must start at least 3 tubas and 3 trombones in order to keep one of each until they reach their first year of high school. Start many more if you hope to have a senior.

5. Generally, if you start one beginning flute player per year, you will have 4 in high school.

6. A drummer can learn to play "AA" literature in one year - wind embouchures take longer to develop.

7. Bassoons are great but let's get the basics first.

8. Oboes can be deadly. I know your college band had some, but can you afford the multiple problems they present? Scan the entire 2A list and see



how often either bassoon or oboe have an essential part. How many people in your entire town even know what they are? Some sacrifices have to be made for the good of the whole, and I think this is the place to start. At the 3A level, instrumentation presents less of a problem and oboe and bassoon are more likely to be included in the literature.

9. A band with 51% middle school students is not a high school band. Establish high school responsibilities with high school students. Middle school students drive potential high school students away.

10. A minimum concert band size is 25 - between 11 to 24 is a medium ensemble.

Three examples of nice instrumentation are:

- 2 Flute
- 5 Clarinets
- 5 Cornets
- 3 French Horns
- 3 Trombones
- 1 Baritone
- 2 Tuba
- 3 Percussion
- 24 - A medium "Wind" Ensemble

- 3 Flute
- 8 Clarinet
- 1 Bass Clarinet
- 1 Alto Sax
- 8 Cornets
- 4 French Horns
- 5 Trombones
- 2 Baritones
- 2 Tubas
- 4 Percussion
- 38 - "Good" size team

- 3 Flute
- 9 Clarinet
- 2 Bass Clarinet
- 2 Alto Sax
- 1 Tenor Sax
- 9 Cornets
- 6 French Horn
- 10 Trombone/Baritone
- 3 Tuba
- 5 Percussion
- 50 Dream

## State Taping Results

### Oboe

- Lacey Proffitt - Elgin
- Tamara Bettcher - Elgin
- Joy Pittman - Lake Country
- Sunee Schaff - Mountain View
- Whitney Franks - Greenwood
- Emily Heinroth - Sweeny
- Jessica Ackers - Beckville
- Amanda Cook - Castleberry
- Stacy Long - Rusk
- Monica Loza - Zapata

### Bassoon

- Chelsea Boyd - Lake Dallas
- Brandon Cameron - Perryton
- Matt Hanson - Timpson
- Trisha Stewert - Clint
- Natalie Moore - Rusk
- Katie Thomas - Carroll
- Kara Watson - Goliad
- John Flores - Elgin
- Emmet Schramm - Gonzalez
- Jill McLeod - Centerville

### Alto Clarinet

- Natasha Quiroba - Glen Rose
- John Marsh - Atlanta
- Donna Drake - Ballinger
- Shanna Powell - Yorktown
- Rachael Maze - Union Grove
- Melody Carrasco - Crane
- Michael Lile - Castleberry
- Melissa Barth - Van Alstyne
- Tony Griffin - Crane

### Contra Clarinet

- Jamie Womack - Troop
- Brandon Garmon - Gilmer
- Marisol DeLagarza - Reagan Co.
- Farah Mitchell - Sacred Heart
- Jill Satsky - Rice
- Holly McIntogh - Glen Rose
- Paula Willington - Springtown
- Jennifer Andrews - Graham
- Anissa Jones - Canyon
- Alan Barnett - Crane

### Timpani

- Alan Myers - Lampasas
- Steven Stein - Bridgeport
- Greg Wurzbach - Hondo
- James Bush - Kirbyville
- Ryan Haseltine - Abernathy

### Tenor Sax

- DeAnore Harper - Corrigan-Camden
- Chris Whitlock - Gladewater
- Kim Singletary - Madisonville
- Anthony Dean - Sealy
- Michael Mimium - Canyon
- Heather Cadena - Crane
- Taylor Brandesky - Medina Valley
- Alisha Haverlah - Orange Grove
- Dianna Orender - Iowa Park
- Clay Starr - Brownsboro

### Bari Sax

- Jon McAdams - Hamshire - Fannett
- Erin Hefti - Iowa Park
- Chrystal Atkins - Rice
- Paige Rankin - Bangs
- Daniel Brown - San Augustine
- Kyle Nation - Ballinger
- John Bratton - Paducah
- Leslie Marcell - Greenwood
- Tony Elizalde - Refugio
- Kelly Hagler - Sanford-Fritch

### Bass Trombone

- Bryan Howden - Ingleside
- John Smith - Early
- Henry Soukup - Robinson
- James Jenkins - Van
- Chris Garrison - Orangefield
- Paul Buchanan - Coldsprings
- Chad Allen - Crane
- Rachel Fonseca - Sundown
- D. R. Sewell - Jacksboro
- Avery Bollock - Medina Valley

### Mallet

- David Davenport - Sonda
- Ruben J. Ramirez - Zapata
- Jana Fabriguze - Hardin
- Tony Shields - Anahuac
- Joe Gibbey - Sealy
- Glenn Melinda - Graham
- Armando Vargas - Carizzo Springs
- Bethney Lawrance - Eastland
- Erica Davidson - Grandview
- Staci Keene - Bonham
- Joanna Ballman - Lazbuddic
- Jason Rutledge - Robinson
- Carisa Barrera - Banquete
- Brandon Haynes - Greenwood
- Stefania Sensi - Fort Davis



**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**

**P.O. Drawer 1508  
Van, Texas 75790**