

Note to the membership:

I wish to express my gratitude on the part of the entire Association to all who participated in the all-state seating auditions in San Antonio. The audition process went without a hitch thanks to each of you. The efforts of Scott Stephenson in the computer room and Phil Sutherland assisting at the Scottish Rite Auditorium were also greatly appreciated.

"Thank you" does not pay much, but each of us know that we were part of a very successful fourth annual all-state experience which money cannot purchase anyway!

Ronnie Page,  
State Chair Audition Coordinator

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Association of Texas Small School Bands  
P.O. Drawer 1508  
Van, Texas 75790

Letters to the Association are encouraged and will be printed if signed, although writers may remain anonymous if requested. Content may be edited for length.



# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands  
Volume IV, Number 4  
April, 1995



## President's Column

by Don Stockton

I would like to take this column to thank each one of you who put your faith in me as the new President of ATSSB. I am determined to serve you in the tradition of our outstanding past presidents. If I can ever be of service, I am very willing.

Our Association is alive and very well! We have steadily gained more and more members each year. I think that this is because ATSSB gives the band directors in small schools recognition of a job well done that in the past was overlooked because they were from a small school. The time has come to demonstrate that classification has nothing to do with talent, accomplishments, and professionalism. Through ATSSB, the schools, directors, and students are beginning to receive needed recognition. Along with this recognition comes self-esteem and confidence.

Because of ATSSB, our accomplishments are being less and less overshadowed by larger schools. I think that our All-State Band is just the tip of a very large iceberg. I know that there are

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students should be offered the same summer band camp scholarships, etc., as any other all-state student. I enlist your help in this campaign. If you have connections with your local college or university, please write them and ask them to give our students equal opportunity. If your local institution already does, drop me a line and we will give them recognition in the newsletter. Let's seize the momentum and harness it for our students' welfare.

Remember: Youth make up only 25% of the world's population - but 100% of its future!



Spotlight on our All-State Students

Vicky Richardson

Vicky Richardson was the first chair french horn in the 1995 All-State Band. She is from Sonora High School and Wayne Warren is her band director. She drives 21 miles one way each week to study privately with Mike Marsh in Eldorado. She participates in band, track, basketball, cheerleading, UIL Literary, GAA's, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Spanish Club, and Student Council. Vicky is ranked number one academically in her class. Her other honors include All-District Band for four years, All-Region Band for four years, Area and All-State Band for two years, 1994 TSSEC Outstanding Performer, Lion's Club All-State Band for two years, All-American Cheerleader, All-District Honorable Mention in basketball, Student Council Secretary/Treasurer for two years, Junior Class Treasurer, Regional Track Qualifier, Miss Sutton County 1993, Homecoming Queen 1994, and State UIL Meet for three years.

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audition hosts and their army of assistants, parents and students who ran the auditions. It took all of us to make it work - and **make it work we did!** As glorious as the past has been, our future looks just as bright. Our 1996 clinician will be Dr. Robert Foster from the University of Kansas (we have also commissioned Dr. Foster to compose a grade 3+ work for the 1996 All-State Band). The 1997 clinician will be Dr. Tim Lautzenheizer (the nationally recognized motivational expert and gifted musician). In the works: we have sent a contract to Ed Huceby to be our 1998 clinician (we have also sent Mr. Huceby a contract commissioning him to compose a grade 3+ work for the 1998 All-State Band); we have sent a contract to John O'Reilly to be our 1999 clinician (we have also sent Mr. O'Reilly a contract commissioning him to compose a grade 3+ work for the 1999 All-State Band). So you can see that we have many fine years ahead of us! If you can think of an appropriate clinician for the year 2000, please let us know.

**Interesting facts about the All-State Band in general:**

Over the last four years, 4 made it as freshmen, missed it their sophomore year, then made it once again as a junior. 3 made it their freshman and sophomore year, then missed it their junior year. 14 made it as freshmen and sophomores. 7 made it as sophomores, missed it as juniors, then made it as seniors. 7 made it their sophomore and junior years, then missed it as seniors. 14 made it as sophomores, juniors, then as seniors. 37 made it as juniors and seniors.

As you are aware, housing costs in San Antonio are going out of sight (as is room availability for the clinic!). We have negotiated a three-year contract with Ramada Inn Emily Morgan Hotel that sets the room rate at \$104 per room - equally divisible

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591 paid individual High School, Assistant High School, and Middle School members): 91 class A (20.0% of the membership), 171 class AA (37.5% of the membership) and 194 class AAA (42.5% of the membership). We had over 80% of the eligible A, AA, and AAA high schools in Texas join as members this past year.

We still have the ATSSB enamel lapel pin available for you. We only have three of the large 10" ATSSB All-State Band patches left (I have ordered another batch and should receive them within a month or so). 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!

***Interesting facts about the 1995 All-State Band:*** There were three seniors who had made the All-State Band four consecutive years: Sarah Boehm, trombonist from Sacred Heart, Oscar Diaz, trombonist from Ingleside, and Molly Lehrmann, clarinetist from Mathis. They were each given a certificate of achievement in a brief ceremony during the concert.

We have had an exciting four years with ATSSB. It has been especially rewarding for me to have worked with Mike Marsh, Fred Pankratz, John Gibson, Rodney Bennett, Elmer Schenk, Ben Hoaldrige, and now Don Stockton and Ronnie Page - not to mention all of the really great Region and Area Coordinators who really do all of the work in keeping the organization together - besides the band organizers, state taping coordinators, chair audition coordinators, percussion organizers, judges on region audition panels, Area panels, state chair audition panels, state taping panels, monitors at each audition level,

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## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin

This packet should contain a copy of this Newsletter (I guess it does, since you are reading this!) and a copy of the 1995 Membership Directory. The Directory lists all members, Regular and Associate, as of April 10, 1995. New this year in the back of the Directory is an alphabetical listing of the schools so you can determine who is at which school. If you can think of any other way this Directory could be helpful to you, please let me know in time to use your suggestions for next year's Directory. I know I use my Directory all of the time for the calls I make. I hope you use yours to stay in touch with each other. You will notice that there is not a membership renewal in this year's packet! This is because you voted to change the membership year to September 1-August 31 at the Business Session in San Antonio. I will mail a membership renewal to you with the July Newsletter. Maybe we can all turn in a PO to get our membership dues paid as soon after September 1 as possible this year!

***Interesting facts about the 1995 All-State Band:*** Three schools had 4 students in the band: Sweeny, Stanton, Sonora. Six schools had 3 students in the band: Brownfield, Crane, Greenwood, Lindale, Mathis, and Troup. Seventeen schools had 2 students in the band. Fifty-nine other schools had 1 student in the band.

It is hard to believe that we have actually had four All-State Bands! Each one seems to get successively better and more exciting. If you did not have a chance to attend the concert, be sure to order the beautiful 2-CD set that is available of all four years' concerts. John Hoover of Educational Recording Service has gone to considerable trouble and personal expense to

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complete a project "of the heart" in making these recordings available on a 2-CD set. He used the digital masters of all of the recordings (including the one made in 1994 by Gary Jordan) and put it all together for us. He called me almost daily with updates as the project developed - more excited each time he called. I think you will agree that this is really a "collector's item" and every school should have a set in their libraries. John said that he will make them available at our table at TBA for you to purchase if you don't order a set before then.

Educational Recording Service in Ozona is selling the recording of the 1995 All-State Band. If you wish to receive a compact disc recording ( a 2-CD set) of the 1992, 1993, 1994 and this year's 1995 concert, they will cost \$17 (for the 2-CD set) and can be ordered from:

EDUCATIONAL RECORDING SERVICE

P.O. BOX 1188

~~115 LIVE OAK~~

OZONA, TEXAS 76943

"Amen" to what Ronnie Page says in his column 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. Check out what the camp offers and then encourage your students to go where they are wanted.

**Interesting fact about the 1995 All-State Band:** The membership included 10 freshmen, 16 sophomores, 40 juniors, and 57 seniors.

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If you would like to purchase a set of the music used on the

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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. Pustza (includes many extra first parts that we had to buy for inclusion in the Area packets!) (\$40.00); Where Never Lark Or Eagle Flew (\$24.00); Hail To The Fleet (\$12.00). 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), Pineapple Poll(\$18.00), Wind Dancer (\$20.00), Burst of Flame (\$9.00), and the march British Eighth (\$4.00) if anyone wants them. James Curnow called and wanted me to let you know that Lone Star Celebration is now in print and can be purchased at your favorite music retailer.

**Interesting facts about the 1995 All-State Band:** The band had 65 females and 58 males.

Please let me know if you need to replace a Region Coordinator in your Spring Meeting because yours moved, etc. I need to have their name as soon as possible for our plans for 1995-96 (call me at 903-963-5841 and leave a message ). Your Region Coordinator is your region's representative on the State Board of Directors which makes all of the interim important decisions for you regarding ATSSB matters. Make sure he/she or a proxy attends each SBOD meeting! It would also be nice if each RC brought a mandate of opinion from each respective region so votes could be representative of each region of the state.

**Interesting facts about the 1995 All-State Band:** Of the 123 students in the band, 3 were from class A schools (2.4% of the band), 36 from class AA schools (29.2%), and 84 from class AAA schools (68.4%), all representing 85 different schools (18.7% of all member schools). Our membership breaks down into 456 schools represented (with

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by the number of people in the room. This is a good contract in that it does not progressively increase the rate for increased numbers in the room. However, it does not include the full American breakfast we have been used to receiving in the past. If you stop and think about it, if all four students in the room used their breakfast tickets in a \$100 room, the amount for the room dropped to \$68! This is why when Ramada Inn bought out the Emily Morgan they looked very closely at our bookings. Their original room rate went as high as \$128 per room, so I feel like we got the best rate we could. This contract also keeps Ramada Inn from raising the room rate more than 5% each year.

**Interesting facts about the 1995 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 12 (the most) and one region 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 25, Area C had 27, Area D had 25, and Area E had 24.



I was sent the following job vacancy notification:

Royal ISD is looking for a band director (6-12), \$23,358 minimum - \$37,531 maximum + health insurance and benefits on a 198-day contract. Contact Donna Melton, Personnel Director; Royal ISD; P.O. Box 489; Royal, Texas 77466; telephone (713) 934-2248.

This brings up an interesting point. As most of you know, TMEA has a service we can pay for (it is just \$10 or so) in which they send you job vacancies as they receive them from the various participating districts. I am sure Royal ISD sent this

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## President-Elect Column

by Ronnie Page

Let me begin by saying how humbling it is to be elected to serve as an officer in our Association. I will do everything possible to make certain I am worthy of your trust. I eagerly anticipate the opportunities in the coming years, each presenting a chance to return something to music education which has done so much for me and my family.

I am especially thrilled to be in this position at a time when so many positive things are being said and written about ATSSB. These attitudes have developed because of leadership provided by past presidents Mike Marsh and Fred Pankratz, combined with Kenneth Griffin and his professional approach to all matters concerning ATSSB. We owe our very existence to these colleagues. In four short years they have helped form a very solvent, solid organization which is attracting much attention from both the leaders and general membership of other state-wide organizations.

As TMEA and TBA celebrate many years of service to the band students of Texas, it is interesting to look ahead and hypothesize about our role in 50 years. We lay the groundwork each day for our future. It is my hope that the year 2045 will find ATSSB serving the same needs as today - providing region and area tryout experiences for small-school band students, culminating in the ultimate, an all-state experience. I also believe ATSSB will promote small-school programs as great places to teach, not just entry-level jobs on the way up!

Our goals as an association should be many. One thing I am going to pursue is promoting our all-state students as being equal to that of any other all-state process. ATSSB all-state

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regions that have had separate contests for large and small classifications, but this is going to become the norm over the state instead of isolated events. Have you noticed that your voice is being heard more today than in the past?

I have been busy on the phone lining up directors to coordinate the areas, taping, chair placement, band organizers, and clinicians for the clinic that we are sponsoring at TBA. It is just amazing how cooperative you all are. Everyone is willing to help and give helpful suggestions. In most organizations, only a few do the work and many take the credit. ATSSB is different. It seems to me that everyone, and I mean EVERYONE is doing his/her share and asking to do more. That sure makes my job easy. Be sure to support our clinic at TBA. We are going to have a panel of directors who have all been responsible for their school winning the TSSEC Sweepstakes Award. There will be panelists from each class A, AA, and AAA. They will have some very interesting insights about how to "do band."

The more that I work within ATSSB the more I come to appreciate Kenneth Griffin, our Executive Secretary. He is the constant that has kept ATSSB going so smoothly these past four years. He must be the most organized person anywhere. He does the vast majority of the leg work needed to make things happen. Some examples are: making many phone calls to line up clinicians and composers for our future All-State clinics; making many phone calls to region, area, and tape coordinators; taking care of our finances; making all arrangements with the auditorium and hotel for our All-State Band; keeping up with all of our memberships; editing the newsletter - to only name a very few. The list just goes on and on. The next time that you see him, please give him a pat on the back and thank him for doing the work of many people. Thanks, Ken!



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notice to TMEA for inclusion in their listings, but I list it here simply because they sent it to me unsolicited (in that they must trust us to notify small school directors who might be looking for a move to another small school). As I am sure you are aware, there is a large number of us who choose to teach in small schools - for many good reasons. I am certainly not knocking those of you who wish to go on to larger schools and larger programs - more power to you and I wish you many successful years ahead. I just know that I have chosen to stay in small schools for my own reasons - none of which include opportunities (I have turned down a few) or abilities (I can name you many fine small-school directors who would flourish in large schools as well as they have in their chosen situations).



Our new President, Don Stockton, is a very successful teacher in Warren (I am sure you are aware of his many fine accomplishments which include AA Honor Band and twice winner of the TSSEC AA Sweepstakes Award) but would not advertise it. So let me take a moment to tell you that two of his students were selected for membership in the Sousa National Honors Band which is sponsored by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Flutist Amanda Zeller and bass trombonist Trent Stockton will fly (with Don chaperoning!) to Washington, D.C. in May for a clinic and concert under the direction of Col. John R. Bourgeois, director of the United States Marine Band.

As another side note about Don, he told me about his recent trip to Indiana and New York City with his son (Trent, the bass trombonist) for auditions at Indiana University, The Juilliard School of Music, and Manhattan School of Music. His experiences are hilarious - you must get him to relate them to you sometime!

