



1991-2006

# ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Celebrating 15 years of service to small school bands in Texas

2117 Morse Street

Houston, Texas 77019

(713) 874-1151

## ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XIV, Number 3

December, 2005

### ATSSB Executive Committee

**Steven Moore, President 2005-07**

Lindale High School  
P.O. Box 370  
Lindale, Texas 75771  
(903) 881-4086  
email: mooresw@lind.sprnet.org

**Rob Toups, President-Elect 2005-07**

Canton High School  
1100 West Hwy 243  
Canton, Texas 75103  
(903) 567-5483  
email: RKLML@aol.com

**Ed Lowes, Immediate Past-President**

P.O. Box 179  
La Grange, Texas 78945  
(979) 968-6089  
email: ed\_lowes@yahoo.com

**Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary**

Association of Texas Small School Bands  
2117 Morse Street  
Houston, Texas 77019  
(713) 874-1151 (voice & fax)  
email: atssbexecsec@houston.rr.com

**Sherry Poteet, Class C/CC Representative 2005-07**

Gilmer Junior High School  
(979) 968-6089  
Gilmer, Texas 75644  
(903) 843-3051  
email: poteets@gilmerisd.org

**Randy Hunsaker, Class A Representative 2004-06**

Stratford High School  
P.O. Box 108  
Stratford, Texas 79084  
(806) 366-3339  
email: randy.hunsaker@stratfordisd.net

**David Rollins, Class AA Representative 2005-07**

Denver City High School  
601 Mustang Drive  
Denver City, Texas 79323  
(806) 592-5980  
email: david.rollins@dcisd.org

**Jim Jones, Class AAA Representative 2004-06**

Center High School  
658 Roughrider Drive  
Center, Texas 75935  
(936) 598-1536  
email: jjones@longview.net

### President's Column

by Steven Moore



Greetings Colleagues and Friends,

Well we are entering the holiday season and my favorite time of the year. I really love getting together with family and friends and of course a little time off. But before we get to that we have to finish up football season, Christmas concerts, parades, and of course All Region Tryouts. This is surely one of our busiest times of the year. Even though we are busy this can be a great time for

our programs to be visible to the public. Be sure to take advantage of performance opportunities and showcase your program.

Speaking of All Region Tryouts, many regions have already completed their auditions and most will occur during the last two weeks. Lets all be careful to follow all procedures during these tryouts. We have had several things happen the last couple of years that required State Board intervention. Lets all work to have a smooth audition process at all levels. If we all follow the procedures with no variances, we can defend our actions and be fair to all involved. I do want to thank all the Region, Area and State Coordinators in advance for your work with tryouts and help with the Convention in February.

I am very excited about our clinicians for this convention. With Col. Bourgeois, Paula Crider and Rick Stitzel as our clinicians, I believe that our concerts will be second to none. Be sure that you plan on attending the concert. It will be one you will not want to miss.

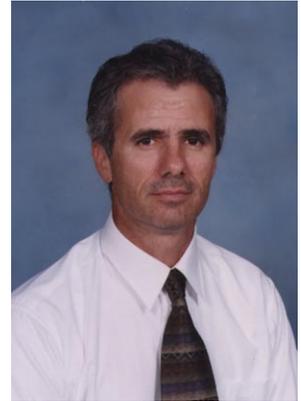
I hope that the rest of your semester is great. Good luck to you and your students at your upcoming auditions, concerts and parades. Most of all remember to enjoy making music.

Sincerely, *Steven Moore*

## President Elect's Column

by Rob Toups

On behalf of the leadership of the ATSSB, I wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season. We are all looking forward to a much needed rest and time to spend with our families and friends. As music educators we spend so much time beyond the "call of duty" working with students, school and community. Now that the games are over, it's time for the Christmas concert, all region tryouts, the community parade.....it just doesn't seem to stop! BUT, that's what we signed up for, and when the tasks are complete it is such a good feeling of accomplishment.

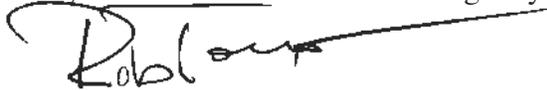


As we work with our students on the ATSSB All State tryout materials, I remind you that any newly discovered errata and or suggestions concerning audition materials may be submitted for review by the SARC committee. Simply submit to me, your region coordinator or any executive committee member, and it will receive a thorough review. The SARC committee is also reminded that we will meet at the TMEA convention in February. I will be in touch with time and place.

In closing, I wish to congratulate the Argyle High School Band and the Sundown High School band on winning the 2A and 1A UIL Texas State Marching Championships. Cindy Mikel, Mike Glaze and their outstanding staff of music educators work very hard and deserve this great honor. We are all very proud of you and your students !

Again, I wish you a Merry Christmas and God's Blessing on you and your family.

See you at TMEA !

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Toups".

## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



I hope the ATSSB audition process went well for all of you at the region level and that you are looking forward to Area January 7. Be sure when you go to Area that all forms are properly signed (**and notarized**) and completed, that you make hotel reservations for your students that make the All-State Band, and that you make housing plans yourself.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Randy Hunsaker** and **Jim Jones** for their service to ATSSB for the last two years as Class A and AAA Representatives to the ATSSB State Board of Directors. It is a time-consuming but necessary role that they played on the Executive Committee as it has tried to accommodate the needs of students and their directors.

Please make an effort not only to thank our **Licensees** for their support, but also to use their services. These companies have paid a fee and are under contract to use the ATSSB logo and marks on their products. They pay a portion of their receipts to the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship. Please consider using them before any other companies offering the same or similar products: Southwest Specialties (Paul Proctor - Midlothian) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; Probst Audio (Scott Probst - Ennis) = audio recordings of concerts on CD; Concertronics

(William Collins - Victoria) = recording of concerts on tape or CD; Jordan Sound Productions (Gary Jordan - Bullard) = recording of concerts on tapes or CD and ATSSB Area etude performance tapes; Made To Order (Dick Nye - Lubbock) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; California T's (L. Steve Taylor - Lubbock) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; and On Site Digital (Randy Bryant - Austin) - recording of concerts on tapes or CD.

A reminder about **piccolo** and **E♭ clarinet**: If your flute or clarinet player makes the All-State Band at the Area

(Continued on Page 3)

(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from Page 2):

auditions January 7 and would like to play piccolo (flutes) or Eb Soprano Clarinet (clarinets), have them bring these instruments to San Antonio. After regular chair auditions are completed for flute/clarinet, we will hold separate auditions for these two instruments for each band from among those students interested in it that were selected for their respective bands. One piccolo and one soprano clarinet may be selected from among the Symphonic flutes and clarinets; also, one piccolo and one soprano clarinet may be selected from among the Concert flutes and clarinets. If no one auditions on these instruments from one, either, or both bands, then the instrument will not be used. A notice concerning this policy will be placed in the flute and clarinet packets they will receive at Area this year if they are selected for the All-State Band. Col. Bourgeois has selected his transcription of Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral which requires a harp and organ, but Trey Gossett, band director at Van High School, has volunteered to play the synthesizer emulating both these chordal parts. Thank you, Trey, for your assistance.

We will continue our **hotel reservation** practice. Each student that wishes to stay in ATSSB housing must pay a \$135 housing fee directly to ATSSB (the address will be on the housing form they complete at Area). ATSSB will then pay one check for the hotel rooms up front. If directors are able to reserve a room using ATSSB housing forms, they must pay for the room in one check directly to ATSSB in the amount of \$396 (split any way you can among directors sharing the room with you). Make sure you include the student name and school (or director's name and school). Remember to take care of this before January 14, 2006, or you will lose your reservation.

We plan to hold our ATSSB **Business Session** in CC1 of the Convention Center at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16. **Elections** for Class A and Class AAA Representatives to the State Board of Directors will be held at this meeting. I hope you can make plans to attend during the busy activities in San Antonio. Remember that proxies are not allowed in these elections. A short biographical sketch of each candidate for state office can be found in this Newsletter (if a biography was submitted).

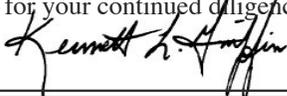
When you get a chance, be sure to thank our **Region and Area Coordinators** for their efforts in securing audition sites, hosts, audition chairmen, computer equipment and logistics, etc. Also, let's not forget to thank our **State Chair Audition Coordinator** (Eric Gray of Gilmer) and all of his helpers and judging panels in advance of the work facing them as the two bands are seated; also Rami Purdum from Harmony and Mark Melton from Union Grove are serving as **State Chair Auditions Office Co-Managers** this year. Our All-State **Symphonic Band Organizer** (Bruce Kenner of Sealy), All-State **Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer** (Ray Schneider of Flatonia), All-State **Concert Band Organizer** (David DeLuca of La Grange), All-State **Concert Band Percussion Organizer** (Bob McClure of Princeton), and All-State **Jazz Ensemble Organizer** (Mark Crim of White Oak) still have a job ahead of them. The convention-clinic and concerts will take a LOT of preparation, advanced planning and organization. Rooms have been booked for you and your students, the Scottish Rite Auditorium has been reserved and liability insurance purchased for the time we will occupy it. Arrangements for police security in the auditorium have been made, stands and percussion equipment have to be provided before chair auditions begin on Wednesday night, programs have to be completed, badges for the students have to be made and personalized, entertainment for All-State students prior to the general meeting arranged -- not to mention many other activities taking place in the background as we prepare for the clinic. All of the people involved give so much of their time to make it a success. It would not be possible if it weren't for their dedication to the profession and the students in the All-State Bands who benefit from their efforts.

Since this will be our last communication before San Antonio, let me address those of you who will have students in the All-State Band for the first time. Please remember that many are in the "big city" for the first time. They will need **frequent contact** with you to allay their fears and keep them focused on their role as they represent not only ATSSB, but also their bands, school, and community. **Drop by rehearsals often**, especially at breaks, to see that they have a place to go and that they know what they may do in their free time. It also helps to have directors observing rehearsals at all times. Not only do we learn good rehearsal techniques from our fine clinicians, but also we can act as a restraining presence to students who might otherwise allow their attention to drift during rehearsals. There is certainly nothing wrong with leaning over a student with a cap on and quietly asking him or her to remove it -- or watching a section and noticing a student talking in a distracting manner and quietly asking them to stop. Our Organizers are with the band almost constantly, but we cannot expect them to be there every minute nor expect them to see every infraction of rehearsal protocol. Try to drop by and give a listen -- and a hand.

Our **corporate supporters** are so consistent in their desire to help provide shoulder patches, programs, and "breakout" refreshments for the all-state students. They will be recognized in the all-state programs, but I just wanted to say an additional "Thank You" to them in advance for their contributions to the continued success of the ATSSB All-State Band.

Be sure to visit with your Region Coordinators about issues you wish addressed at the State Board meeting coming up. One item concerns **Realignment**. The State Board will be voting on Region and Area alignment for ATSSB activities. Make your opinions about this issue and others confronting ATSSB known to your representatives to the State Board so they can be discussed with a consensus from the membership.

Thank all of you for your continued diligence and hard work on behalf of the students in our small school programs. Keep up the great work.



# AAA Representative Column

by Jim Jones

Dear Fellow 3A Directors,

I hope everyone had a great football season and you are thankful to begin concert season.. Now we all can look forward to those Christmas concerts. I pray that everyone has a good Thanksgiving and will have a very Merry Christmas.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the 3A directors for allowing me to represent you for the past year and a half. I have the greatest respect for each regions chairman and area coordinators. They are doing a super job for our children.

Since my election to the board I have tried to e-mail each 3A director and open the lines of communication so I might serve you better. There have been several concerns that I have received that I have begun working on. They are:

1. We would like to have our concert in a more spacious facility, located at the convention site.
2. Concerns abound dealing with sight-reading contest:
  - a. Middle schools reading the same literature as high school bands
  - b. Directors that judge sight-reading contest have information about the sight-reading piece that other directors do not have exposure to.
3. The UIL Executive committee of Superintendent have representatives that consist of Music Supervisors representing larger schools, yet smaller schools are not involved in contributing information that affect our students.

I am visiting with other 3A directors, board members and key people that can bring about changes that would benefit every small school in the state.

We need extend our gratitude to Kenneth Griffin that carries such a wealth of knowledge and shoulders the many details that makes our organization work in such a smooth and note worthy fashion.

Our sincere thanks go to Don Thoede for the time, concern and effort he gives to ensure that the OPS competition is fair, seamless and rewarding.

We have many, many members that put endless hours in, so our students will have a rewarding experience. Thank you again for letting me be involved in this enlighten and rewarding experience. Have a Super Holiday and my you stocking be stuffed with wonderful experiences, cheerful thoughts and an abundance of love.

Sincerely,



## Outstanding Performance Series Order Form for CD Sets 1997-2004

(2005 and future CD sets will not be available for public sale)

Please type or legibly print your name and mailing address below and mail this form with your check made out to "Avant Recordings" to:

---

---

---

---

---

**P.O. Box 1513**  
**Forney, Texas 75126**  
**(972) 564-3287 (voice)**  
**(972) 564-3289 (fax)**  
**avantrec@aol.com**

- Number of **2004** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of **2003** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of **2002** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of **2001** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of **2000** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of **1999** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of **1998** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of **1997** CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 per CD set = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$1.75 shipping = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** -----> \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Outstanding Performance Series by Don Thoede, State Chair



Marching season is over for most of you and I hope it went well for you. Now that you are getting involved in concert season again, I want to bring you up to date on the 2006 Outstanding Performance Series.

It is extremely important that you read the ATSSB website during the month of March. That is when all of the changes for the 2006 OPS entries will be shown on the website. Be prepared to mail your entries to different Region Coordinators, although some will remain the same. That is why you must read the website carefully. The entry deadlines will remain the same for each level of competition. In March, you will find a picture of a CD showing you exactly the information that needs to be put on the CD. Remember, the information must go on the CD, not the CD case! The addition of some new regions will change some things also. I will try to keep everything as simple as possible, and as always, when you have questions, just pick up the phone and call me or email me. I will be glad to help you.

I hope you all have a great holiday season and a very happy new year!

*Don Thoede*

### ELECTION

Class A and Class AAA Representatives to the State Board of Directors for 2006-08 will be elected in the ATSSB General Session on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 12:30 in Ballroom C1 of the Convention Center. Nominees who accepted their nomination and who submitted a biography and/or picture by publication follow below. All Active Members may vote only for the candidates for the class schools in which they are actively involved. Class AA does not vote on this ballot. Class C/CC Active Members may only vote for the Class A or AAA Representative if their school feeds that class high school.

Should nominees send biographies and/or pictures, they will be added as soon as possible and this Newsletter updated online.

### Class A Representative



Charles H. Sander is the Director of Bands and Elementary Music Teacher for the Harper Independent School District in Harper, Texas. Harper High School is a Region 11 Class A school in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. He has taught band in his native Texas for 17 years, the last 3 in Harper, where he is the only director and has

responsibility of students PreK-12. He has also taught in Waco, Yoakum, George West, Elkhart, and Smithville schools, with responsibilities for grades 5-12 in school sizes from AA-AAAAA as an assistant director, director, and head director. Prior to returning to Texas, Mr. Sander served as Director of Bands at Lake Arthur (LA) High School and as Graduate Assistant for Tuba and Band at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette). His bands have been consistent winners at UIL and festival competitions. His 2004 and 2005 Harper High School Bands had 2 selections (1 march and 1 concert) each year in the state finals of the

ATSSB OPS (finishing 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 11th). His band was a TMEA Honor Band Finalist in 2005 finishing in 6th place. The Harper High School Mighty Longhorn Band was a participant in the 2003 Texas State Marching Contest and the 2005 Texas State Wind Ensemble Contest.

Mr. Sander is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, and TBA. He has served as coordinator of the ATSSB Region 11 Jazz Ensemble Concert each of the past 2 years and is an organizer for the TMEA Region 11 Concert Band. In 1999, Mr. Sander served as the housing coordinator for the ATSSB All-State Band. He served as the Region 14 ATSSB secretary from 1993-1997. Mr. Sander is an Adjunct Faculty member at Schreiner University in Kerrville where he teaches low brass private lessons. Additionally, he performs as the principal tuba with the Symphony of the Hills in Kerrville. He and his wife Debbie have been married for nearly 21 years. Debbie does contract work with the Harper High School Band and other bands in the Hill Country area. They have two children, Courtney and Cameron. Courtney is a junior at Harper High School. She is the head drum major for the band, an All-State bass trombonist, member of the Student Council and National Honor Society. Cameron is a 5th grader at Harper Elementary School. He is a beginner on the tuba. The Sander family currently resides in Harper. "I look forward to serving the membership of ATSSB as

(Continued on Page 6)

(Class Representative Nominees, continued from Page 5):

your class A representative. Having taught in a variety of situations in different parts of the state, I feel that I can readily understand the intricacies faced by each of your locales and be your voice on the state board.”



Zane Polson is currently the band director in the small panhandle town of Sunray. He is in his seventh year as the director at Sunray Independent School District. Prior to teaching in Sunray, Zane taught for 18 years in small Texas schools including Friona, Daingerfield, Lockney, and Seymour.

Before becoming a head band director Mr. Polson was an assistant to Lonnie Dooley in Seymour and to Jim Parker in Friona.

Mr. Polson’s bands in Sunray have been successful in region, area and state-level evaluations. The success has included 4 consecutive sweepstakes, 5 consecutive 1st divisions at region marching contests, and 6 consecutive 1st divisions at region concert and sight reading evaluations. In 2003 and 2005 the Sunray Band was selected as a state finalist in the Class A TMEA Honor Band competition. The Sunray High School Bobcat Band has qualified for the Area A marching contest in 2001, 2003, and 2005.

On five different years Zane has served region 1 as the ATSSB All-Region Band organizer. In the region he has worked with many fine directors who have served in leadership positions on the ATSSB state board including Rick Ball, James Nance, Kevin Kuehler, Randy Hunsaker, and Fred Pankratz. With that experience Zane feels he is in a good position to serve the Class A band directors in the state.

Mr. Polson and his wife, Janis, are the parents of two daughters; Loran, a freshman trombonist, and Jessica, a beginning euphonium student.

## Class AAA Representative

Rodney Bennett is band director at Palacios High School in Region 13. Before coming to Palacios, Rodney Bennett completed twenty-three years as Director of Bands for Munday C.I.S.D. Mr. Bennett was awarded Bachelor of Music and Music Education degrees at Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls, Texas). He received a Master of Music degree



in December, 1997 from Eastern New Mexico University (Portales). At MSU, Bennett studied bass trombone and tuba with Robert D. Jorgensen (University of Akron). At ENMU, Bennett completed graduate hours in bass trombone and conducting with Dr. David Wilborn (Texas A & M University).

Mr. Bennett is a member of Phi Beta Mu, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Association of Texas Small School Bands, American School Band Directors Association, National Band Association, Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), North Texas Church Orchestra, North Texas Directors Band, Big Band Bones (trombone choir) and North Texas “Hallelujah” Band. Bennett is also a life member of Kappa Kappa Psi and former member of the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Bennett is the current TMEA Band Division Chair for Region II, a position he has held since 1994. He has also served as TMEA Region II North Zone A-AA-AAA District Band Chairman. Bennett has also served on the ATSSB Board of Directors as the Class A representative (1994-1996, 2000-2002). He has served in various capacities for TMEA, ATSSB, U.I.L., and Phi Beta Mu. Mr. Bennett has presided and served as a clinician for workshops for region honor bands, TMEA, TBA, and the Midwest Clinic (Chicago, Illinois).

Mr. Bennett served as a member of the Munday C.I.S.D. District Committee and the Munday High School site-based management team. He served as interim site administrator at Munday High School from August through September 2003. Bennett also served as Faculty Advisor for the MHS Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and co-sponsored the Fellowship of Christian Musicians student group at Munday High School.

Bennett has been named to Who’s Who in American Education (1996-1997), Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers (1992, 1998, 2000, 2005), TMEA Honor Band Director in 1994 and 2000, and was named Co-Citizen of the Year in 1993 by the Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. He was honored by the National Band Association in 1994 and 2000 with the Citation of Excellence. Mr. Bennett was a 1996 recipient of a Texas Music Educators

(Continued on Page 7)

(Class Nominees, continued from Page 6):

### Association Scholarship for Graduate Study.



Jim Jones is the Band Director at Center High School in Region 21. He is a graduate of Gilmer High School and received his bachelors and masters degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. He began his teaching career at Center and then moved to Pittsburg where he served as Director of Bands for the next seven years. After one year in administration,

he returned to music and moved to Cleveland where he served as Director of Bands for 13 years. He then taught in Carthage before taking his current position as Director of Bands in Center. His bands have received numerous Sweepstakes Awards and have been chosen outstanding in their class. He is an active clinician and adjudicator. His bands have performed at Disney World, Disneyland, the Nation's Capitol and at the White House. He was TMEA Region X Band chairman, National Association of Military Marching Bands president and on the State Nominating Committee for the Texas Bandmaster Association. He is a member of ATSSB, Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternity, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, TMEA and president of the Stephen F. Austin Lumberjack Band Alumni Association. He is the University Interscholastic League Representative for Region XXI and was the past 4A representative to the Region XXI Executive Committee. "It would be my honor and privilege to represent the 3A directors of the state. I feel that ATSSB is such a positive influence in each of our student's musical environment. We need to develop our positive attributes even further and set new goals in such a way that our organization stays on the forefront of our profession. If given the opportunity, I feel I could represent and help the 3A schools in a postive manner. I have spent a majority of my life in a 3A setting and would be honored to continue to represent each of you at the state level."

Bobby Richardson is the band director at Sabine High School in Region 4.

Mike Sheffield is the band director at Canyon High School in Region 1. Mike Sheffield is in his sixth year as director of bands at Canyon High School and in his eleventh year of teaching. He spent three years as



assistant director of bands at Randall High School (also in the Canyon Independent School District), and two years as director of bands at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo.

Mr. Sheffield is a 1988 graduate of Canyon High School, where he studied music with Ken Carriere. He attended West Texas A&M University (then West

Texas State University) through 1995 where he studied percussion with Dr. Susan Martin Tariq and performed with the symphonic band and marching band under the direction of Dr. Gary Garner and Mr. Don Lefevre. Mr. Sheffield was one of the first to participate in a year-long student teaching project, traveling to Midland to student teach at Lee H.S. with Randy Storie and Midland H.S. with Cody Myers.

Mr. Sheffield resides in Canyon (10 miles south of Amarillo) with his wife of 13 years, Michele, and his two children, Ryan, 7, and Erin, 3. Bands under his direction have earned numerous first divisions and sweepstakes. The CHS marching band was recognized as a state finalist at the last two contests, finishing in the top three. The symphonic band at Canyon was recognized as the 2005 Honor Band for 3A. He is an active clinician and adjudicator in Texas and Oklahoma. He is a member of TMEA and ATSSB.



Steven Smith is Director of Music and High School Director of Bands for the Groesbeck Independent School District in Region 8. Steve is currently in his 23<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching and has taught previously at Cuero, Huntsville, Victoria, Daingerfield, Paul Pewitt, and Thrall High Schools.

Steve is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, and TMAA. He has served as ATSSB Region 13 Jazz Chairman, TMEA Region 13 President, Region Concert and Jazz Band Coordinator, and has been a member on the TMEA State Board. He has served as a Region Band Clinician and has judged at numerous concert and solo and ensemble contests. His bands have been consistent UIL First Division winners and have won several Best In Class and Grand Champion

(Continued on Page 8)

(Class Nominees, continued from Page 7):

Awards both in concert and marching band.

Steve is married to Kim Smith, who serves as Associate Director of Bands at Groesbeck High School. They have two children, Lindsay, who is a Freshman Music Major at Tyler Junior College and Kelsey, who is in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and plays French Horn at Groesbeck Junior High.

In response to this nomination, Steve stated: "I am honored to be nominated for the office of Class AAA Representative for ATSSB. The current and past members of the State Board of Directors have done an excellent job in making sure the opinions of all small school bands have been heard and acted upon. I feel that my experience in both small and large school bands will be very beneficial in this position, and if elected, promise to faithfully represent all AAA band directors and their programs from across Texas."



John Young is band director and Music Supervisor in Wills Point, Texas at Wills Point High School. He received his music degrees from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR. He also holds a Masters in Education Administration from Texas A&M @ Commerce. John is currently in his 9th year at Wills Point. Prior to this position, John spent six

successful years at his alma mater, Parkway High School in Bossier City, LA. That band earned numerous first divisions in regional and state events.

Under John's leadership and an excellent staff the Wills Point High School Band has earned its first UIL Sweepstakes award and has maintained a streak of five since the first. Placing 5th place at the UIL State Marching Contest in 2004 was another first for the Tiger Band. The band currently has 150 in high school

and almost 300 in the junior high. At the same time that this growth has occurred, so has the success of the band. The Wills Point band staff are committed to music excellence in Wills Point and the state of Texas.

He is currently the ATSSB State Jazz Chair and in charge of all aspects of auditions for the all-state jazz band for the past two years. He has worked closely with the state board of directors and the executive secretary.

John and his wife Tracy have two daughters, Emily and Claire. He is currently the ATSSB State Jazz Band Chair and a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA and TMAA. John also serves his community by being a member of Kiwanis and serving as director of Adult Handbell Choir at the First Baptist Church of Wills Point.

"I am honored to have been nominated by our Region for the AAA State Representative position. Serving as State Jazz Chair for the past two years I have learned about the operation of ATSSB. I have a strong desire to serve our association and facilitate its strength and stature within the state. ATSSB has provided many positive opportunities for my students and me, and has assisted in the continued growth of our program. If elected, I will do my very best to serve our organization to the best of my ability and give back to ATSSB as much as it has given me over the past years. We are a student-centered organization and one that continues to strive for improvement in all areas of service to our music community. I would be honored to have your support for the office of AAA Representative."

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles of interest to small school band directors will be published. Letters to the Editor from members will be published if signed, although writers may remain anonymous by request. Send all inquiries to ATSSB, 2117 Morse Street, Houston, Texas 77019; fax them to (713) 874-1151, or email them to [atssbexecsec@houston.rr.com](mailto:atssbexecsec@houston.rr.com) with appropriate attachments.

Advertising is accepted for the Newsletter. See the Advertising Policy on our website: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>