



# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands  
Volume VII, Number 3  
December, 1997

## President's Column

by Ronnie Page



Several important meetings are held in San Antonio each February. Our State Board of Directors, (SBOD), and State Audition Review Committee, (SARC), have been meeting prior to the membership meeting. The SARC committee meets prior to the SBOD meeting to make recommendations regarding the all-state audition process. This year we will add a committee composed of the class representatives that will review the OPS process.

In the past, the SBOD members have felt awkward attempting to make decisions without having consulted members they represent. With most regions holding clinic/concerts during the month of January, the SBOD felt they would have an opportunity to visit with their fellow directors if they knew what issues would be considered. The state board requested that newsletter publication dates be moved forward one month so that members might be informed of the most recent news prior to region clinic dates. This newsletter will attempt to fulfill that purpose.

In addition, region coordinators and other members of the state board will be sent agendas for all meetings prior to the upcoming holidays. It is vital that we all take a vital interest in the affairs of our association. ATSSB was founded by ordinary directors like you and me, with a vision for what could be. Let's all pledge to stay informed of affairs and pursue active rolls. Take the opportunity to visit with your region coordinator, executive board, or area coordinator about any concerns during the area auditions and region clinics.

Region coordinators are encouraged to watch for the letter containing agendas, familiarize yourself with all items, and canvass your members at area tryouts and region clinics for their opinions. There are important issues addressed at every SBOD meeting. We can be assured there will be lively debate surrounding percussion auditions if nothing else! Surely this is a perpetual topic with any music association conducting a tryout anywhere in the universe. With the completion of the first OPS we have data we can compile to begin making intelligent decisions about its future.

While on the subject of the OPS, we just accepted delivery of the completed CD sets. Don Thoede had said that we were going to be proud of the two CD set and insert. He was privileged to travel to Dallas for the mastering and heard each of your winning performances. His reports when he returned were glowing. Kenneth has echoed his sentiments. I have not been privileged to see the finished product yet, but am anxious to see and hear it!

The next phase of the project involves getting the CD out to the radio community for broadcast. This will involve each of you that have independent or public radio stations in your area. Our contacts within the industry state we should hand deliver the CD to the station managers, (NOT program directors), with an explanation of the program. There are evidently thousands of CD's mailed to program directors requesting public service time. Consequently, our CD would likely wind up in the same place flyers advertising festivals do on non-trip years - in the trash!

If you have a radio station in your area, stop by the booth in San Antonio and pick up a CD. We will provide the CD and a letter for you to personally deliver to the station manager. If

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(President's Column, continued from Page 1):

you do not come to San Antonio, contact Kenneth and give him the call sign of the radio station. If it has not been sent a recording he will send you one by return mail. We would like a follow-up report so we can determine the broadcast time we have received.

After considering the final expenses for the production of the CD, the executive committee has determined the cost per CD for our members will be \$10 for the 2-CD set. Our intentions are to sell at or near cost, as this is not intended to be a fund-raising venture. Don negotiated a competitive price which should make the set attractive to all of us.

I wish all of you a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, peace and love. Enjoy friends and family while getting some well-needed rest for the soul. May Gods' blessings fill each of you and yours.

*Rowie Page*

By the way, UIL State Director of Music Activities Dick Floyd requested that ATSSB suggest directors to serve on the UIL PML Committee that will compile the UIL Prescribed Music List for the next four years. President-Elect George Strickland has been selected to fill this need. If you have any suggestions regarding literature for our programs, be sure to let George know. We appreciate the UIL asking ATSSB for input regarding this very important committee.



## President Elect's Column

by George Strickland



This is an exciting time of the school year. The holiday season as well as the tryout season is upon us. I love to hear the individual improvement each student makes on the audition material. I love to see the excitement and personal satisfaction each student expresses when results are posted after auditions. I love the atmosphere that is created when students from so many different schools get together to share and compare band programs, schools, and common goals. I hope your tryout season, as well as your holiday season is successful and blessed.

Be sure to check the 1997-1998 ATSSB Prescribed Audition List for current errata listings. Several members have contacted me concerning possible additional errata. All possible errata will be reviewed by the SARC during the February meeting. Each director and Region Coordinator should use only the errata listed in the PAL and this newsletter as "official" errata. Please do not penalize a student's audition if there is a question on the printed audition material that has not been addressed. Please do bring your questions to my attention so that the SARC can address it.

Plans are developing for our welcome gathering in San Antonio for the All-State band students. We have confirmed the performance of the San Antonio ISD All-District Mariachi Band for our All-State students. Over 600 students auditioned for this twenty-member ensemble. They have a very busy performance schedule as ambassadors for their city. Most recently they have performed overseas for a cultural festival. More information can be found in the Orchestra Division article of the October Southwestern Musician magazine. I can think of no better way to welcome our students from across Texas to San Antonio than with this cultural experience.

Again, best of luck to you and your students during auditions. May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*George Strickland*



## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



I hope the ATSSB audition process went well for all of you and that you made satisfactory room reservations - not only for your students that were selected for the All-State Bands, but also for yourselves!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gene Conway, Eric Wharton and Don Thoede for their two years of service to ATSSB as Class Representatives to the State Board of Directors. They have given much of their time and energies - and a lot of needed guidance - for our Association.

Our 4-Year All-State Band Scholarship Fund stands at \$9363.85. This increase is mainly because of the 100 members who joined after October 1, paying an additional \$25 in dues which went into this fund! Dues were increased to \$50 after October 1 by the State Board of Directors several years ago and we sent a reminder in the September Newsletter to all small schools in Texas. If you don't think this policy should continue, be sure to let your Region Coordinator (or any State Board member) know before we meet in February. I received only one complaint about the policy last year, but not one complaint at all from the 100 who joined after October 1 this year.

A reminder about piccolo and Eb clarinet: If your flute or clarinet player that made the All-State Band would like to play piccolo (flutes) or Eb Soprano Clarinet (clarinets), have them bring their piccs/effers to San Antonio. After regular chair auditions are completed for flute/clarinet, we will hold separate auditions for these two instruments for each of the bands 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 was placed in the flute and clarinets packets given them at Area this year.

The State Board of Directors has approved a change in the way we handle housing this year. Each student that opts to stay in ATSSB housing must pay a \$100 housing fee directly to ATSSB. ATSSB will then pay one check for the hotel rooms up front. If directors were 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 \$312 (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). The most important thing to remember is to include your names and schools with the check you send to Jennifer. Remember to take care of this before January 24 or you will lose your reservation!

We plan to hold our ATSSB Business Session in the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 12. Elections for Class A, AA, and AAA Representatives to the State Board of Directors will be held at this meeting, so I hope you can make plans around the busy activities in San Antonio at that time of year to attend. A short biographical sketch of each candidate for state office can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Now that the audition process is just about over, I want to commend our Region and Area Coordinators for their huge task of securing audition sites, hosts, audition chairmen, computer equipment and logistics, etc. Also, I want to thank our State Chair Audition Coordinator (Neal Sutton) and all of his helpers and the judging panels in advance of the work facing them as the two bands are seated. Our All-State Symphonic Band Organizer (Tom Hall), All-State Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer (Wayne Dannheim), All-State Concert Band Organizer (Daniel Aleman), and All-State Concert Band Percussion Organizer (Thomas Galvez) still have a job ahead of them! The convention-clinic and concerts (both of them!) 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 temporary lighting 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, TMEA stickers have to be purchased (\$5 each!) and attached to the badges so the students can go to TMEA exhibits and activities, 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.

I hope to see a lot of you at the convention.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth L. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

## 1997 Outstanding Performance Series

by Don Thoede, State Chair



The 1997 Outstanding Performance Series is complete! All winners were announced back in August, and now the 2 CD set is made and ready for distribution. I hope the membership will be as proud of the finished product as I am. The 2 CD set will be sold for only \$10.00. All 1997 winners from Classes C/CC, A, AA, and AAA, and the 1997 All-State Symphonic Band and All-State Concert Band are included on the CDs. If you are interested in purchasing the CDs, send in the order form below. Please remember that they are sold as a set and cannot be sold separately. We are still waiting, however, on the Mechanical License from some of the publishers, and as soon as we get it, the CDs will be mailed. Hopefully by the time you get this Newsletter, we will

have the permission we need to release the CDs to the public. Please support this very important part of ATSSB and purchase one of the CDs. Tell your students about it and encourage them to purchase them also. I am sure some parents out there would love to have one. If any one of you knows of a radio station that would be willing to play the CDs on the air, be sure you let Kenneth know so he can get a CD to you to give to the station manager. We want our music played by radio stations all over Texas. You can help us with this!

I want to remind the winners and the runners-up that they need to be present at the General Session of ATSSB on Thursday, February 12, 1998 for an awards presentation. If you cannot be present to accept your award, please designate someone to accept the award for you.

Now that the Outstanding Performance Series has had its inaugural year, let's work to make the 1998 OPS even better. Entry forms will be mailed to your Region Coordinators in March. Be sure you get your entry forms, read them carefully, and meet all of the deadlines. Remember that the Non-UIL Contest Approval Form must be completed and mailed to me on or before May 1, 1998. In addition, entry forms must be mailed to your Region Coordinator on or before June 1, 1998. I know this is only December, but you need to remember these deadlines. I had a lot of directors tell me in June and July that they would have entered tapes but the deadline sneaked up on them. Don't let it happen to you! We need you to enter your tapes in order to keep the OPS a worthwhile project.

I hope all of you have a very joyous Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year! See you in February.

*Don Thoede*



## 1997 Outstanding Performance Series CD Order Form

**Please type or print!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of CD sets you are ordering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 per CD set = Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form with your check to:**

**ATSSB CD  
P.O. Box 898  
Big Sandy, Texas 75755**

(Allow four to five weeks for delivery, pending mechanical license receipt)

## ATSSB Four-Year All-State Band Scholarship Update

We have \$ 9,363.85 in our Scholarship Fund as of December 4, 1997. Donors to date include:

ATSSB Region 1	\$ 400.00	ATSSB Region 7	\$ 500.00	Individuals	\$ 20.00
ATSSB Region 2	\$ 250.00	ATSSB Region 11	\$ 250.00	Licensee royalty	\$ 131.42
ATSSB Region 3	\$ 1,100.00	ATSSB Region 13	\$ 750.00	Interest to 3-14-97	\$ 364.43
ATSSB Region 4	\$ 1,000.00	ATSSB Region 14	\$ 500.00	1996-97 late dues	\$ 4,050.00
ATSSB Region 5	\$ 1,000.00	ATSSB Region 16	\$ 300.00	1997-98 late dues	\$ 2,500.00
ATSSB Region 6	\$ 1,000.00	ATSSB Region 19	\$ 250.00	Total deposited	<b>\$ 14,365.85</b>

### EXPENDITURES:

Account search fee	\$ 2.00
Scholarships paid:	
Sarah Boehm 1995 to St. Thomas University	\$ 1,000.00
Oscar Diaz, Jr. 1995 to Texas A&M, Kingsville	\$ 1,000.00
Molly Lehrmann 1995 to Texas A&M	\$ 1,000.00
Leslie Hunter 1996 to Baylor	\$ 1,000.00
Sarah Smith 1997 to Northeast State University	\$ 1,000.00
Total expenditures	<b>\$ 5,002.00</b>

Total in account as of 12-4-97 **\$ 9,363.85**

There are three students eligible to receive the ATSSB Four-Year All-State Band \$1,000.00 Scholarship if they are selected to the ATSSB All-State Band this year.

## Official Licensees

These companies have paid a fee and are under contract to use the ATSSB logo and marks on their products. Please consider using them before any other companies):

Southwest Specialties (Freddy Butlar - Midlothian)  
 Educational Recording Service (John Hoover - Ozona)  
 Probst Audio (Steve Probst - Ennis)  
 Concertronics (William Collins - Victoria)  
 Jordan Sound Productions (Gary Jordan - Leesburg)



## ELECTION

Candidates for Representatives to the State Board of Directors 1998-2000 are listed below and their biographies follow on page 6. The election will be held at the ATSSB General Session on February 12, 1998, in the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. Members may only vote on the candidates for the class schools in which they are actively involved. For example, if a member is the head director at a class A high school, then he or she may only vote for the class A Representative; but if he or she is also the only director of the C or CC middle school in the school district, then a ballot may also be cast for the C/CC Representative.

### CLASS A

Rodney D. Bennett - Munday High School  
 Lloyd Cook - Saltillo High School  
 Chuck Harris - Borden County High School

### CLASS C/CC

Marilyn K. Bennett - Munday Middle School  
 John Canfield - Rusk Middle School

### CLASS AA

Dennis Teasdale - Stamford High School  
 Don Carnathan - Ore City High School  
 Eric Wharton - Beckville High School  
 Kendel Hickenbottom - Wellington High School

### CLASS AAA

Greg Miller - Iowa Park High School  
 Wayne Smith - White Oak High School  
 Gary Robbins - Rusk High School  
 Gary Wells - Hamshire-Fannett High School  
 Don Thoede - Retired (Clifton High School)

## CLASS C/CC



**Marilyn K. Bennett** is the band director at Munday Middle School, a class C middle school in Region II and is the assistant director at Munday High School. She lives in Munday with her husband Rodney. They have one son Ronnie, who is a December 1997 graduate of Midwestern State University.

She is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TMAA, Mu Phi Epsilon, Pi Kappa Lambda, National Flute Association, International Double Reed Society, WBDNA, North Texas Wind Ensemble in Wichita Falls, North Texas Church Orchestra, is a life member of Tau Beta Sigma, and is a part-time member of the Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra. She serves as Secretary to the ATSSB Region II Coordinator, TMEA Region II Secretary and NZ All-District Band Secretary. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education from Midwestern State University. She is listed in the 1992 edition of Outstanding Young Women of America, Woman of the Year, and is listed in Who's Who in Mu Phi Epsilon.

The Munday Middle School Band was a 1997 Class C Finalist in the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series. While she served as assistant high school band director, the Munday high school band received 8 consecutive first divisions in marching and 6 consecutive Sweepstakes Awards; the high school band also was a state marching band finalist in 1993, 1995, and 1997, was the 1994 TMEA Class A Honor Band, and was a finalist in the 1997 ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series.

"As an elementary music teacher, middle school band director, and high school assistant, there is a challenge to meet the needs of all students at each particular level. This unique perspective enables me to view the problems of those "all-level" teachers. Interestingly enough, this is one of the basic reasons ATSSB was started - to meet the needs of all directors and students in the small school setting.

"It is exciting and gratifying to see the enormous successes ATSSB has achieved from its humble beginnings. With continued growth in membership, interest, and participation, ATSSB has become a dynamic force for music education in the small schools of Texas.

"ATSSB continues to find interesting and innovative methods to premiere the finest small-school bands; this is a tribute to the foresight and excellent leadership of the group. It would be an honor and tremendous pleasure to have an opportunity to continue the outstanding traditions of ATSSB."

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**John Canfield** is the band director at Rusk Junior High School, a class CC middle school in Region XXI. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, and TBA. He lives with his wife Mary and three children: seven-year-old Justin, four-year-old Jacob and one-year-old Jacy.

"The importance of a strong middle school band program has never been questioned; however, representation of middle school bands did not exist at the state level until now. It is imperative that all band students and programs be represented regardless of size and classification. The sooner we capture the attention and imagination of both our students and our parents, the longer we will be at the top of an increasingly growing priority list which includes academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities outside the school umbrella. Middle school is the best place to begin this process.

"Middle school band has been a priority in my 13 years of teaching. My experience and long association with ATSSB will help guide me as a middle school representative. With your vote we can start making a difference in ATSSB middle school bands."

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## CLASS A



**Rodney Bennett** is the band director at Munday High School, a class A school in Region II. He lives in Munday with his wife Marilyn. They have one son Ronald, who is a senior at Midwestern State University.

He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, ASBDA, TMAA, Phi Beta Mu, TBA, NBA, is a life member of Kappa Kappa Psi, and is a member of North Texas Wind Ensemble in Wichita Falls, the North Texas Church Orchestra, "Celebration Big Band" - First Baptist in Wichita Falls, and is a part-time member of the Wichita Falls Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Bennett's bands in Munday have received 14 consecutive first divisions in UIL Marching Contests, 11 UIL Sweepstakes Awards, was the 1994

(Continued on Page 7)

(Nominee biographies, continued from Page 6):

TMEA Class A State Honor Band, Finalist in the 1997 ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series, and UIL State Marching Contest Finalist 7 times (2nd in 1997). He is listed in *Who's Who in American Education* and *Who's Who Among American Teachers*. He holds a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from Midwestern State University and is a candidate for a Master of Music degree in music education from Eastern New Mexico University. He served ATSSB as Class A Representative to the State Board of Directors from 1993-1995.

"ATSSB has been a great asset to the small school bands of Texas. I believe my career in class A has given me the insights into the challenges facing directors of class A bands. As a representative of Class A directors in the Association, I would use my experience to help better the organization for the success of our students and our bands."

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**Lloyd Cook** is currently teaching band at Saltillo High School, a class A school in Region IV. He and his wife Barbara have four children: David, Diane, Donna, and Douglas. They all went to East Texas State on a band scholarship and are still active in music. He and Barbara have 7 grandchildren. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha, CBDNA, and TAMS.

He has 48 years' experience teaching band in Arkansas and Texas, including stints in Corpus Christi, Graham, Irving, Carrollton, Southeastern State, North Texas State, Sul Ross, and Dallas Baptist College. He has a B.M., M.M. and Ph.D. from North Texas State. He has also been Fine Arts Director for Birdville ISD and Garland ISD. After he moved to East Texas to retire, he began band programs for several small schools on a part-time basis, including Harts Bluff, Chapel Hill, Saltillo, and Sulphur Bluff. He has served as Region Chair, Contest Chair, and Region Executive Secretary for several different regions in addition to serving on the UIL State Rules Committee for 6 years. His bands over the years have won numerous first divisions and Sweepstakes Awards in addition to performances all over the nation.

"I am more than willing to contribute anything I can to ATSSB from my years of experience. Thanks for considering me for this important position."

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**Chuck Harris** is in his second year as the band director at Borden County High School, a class A school in Region XVI. He lives in Gail with his wife Amy and daughter Kenedy. He teaches K-12 music and band and also directs the one-act play. He previously taught in Dublin, where his bands received the first back-to-back first division in marching in the school's history. They also qualified for the Area Marching Contest twice. He first became a member of ATSSB while in Dublin and hosted the junior high all-district auditions twice. The past three years, he has served as a monitor or judge at the All-State seating auditions.

He is a native of Texas and grew up in small schools around the state, learning the trombone from his band director (and father), Bryant Harris. He graduated from Sonora High School in 1989 and attended Sul Ross State University (where he studied with John Faraone), and graduated from Texas Tech University in 1993.

"I have a good working knowledge of ATSSB and its audition process. I have grown up knowing the directors who started the organization. My father served a term as Vice-President of ATSSB and was also an Area Coordinator. My main concern is that some of the younger directors will begin to take stock in ATSSB so that the organization will continue to grow. I would appreciate your vote for Class A Representative to the ATSSB State Board of Directors."

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## CLASS AA



**Don Carnathan** is the band director at Ore City High School, a class AA school in Region IV. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, NAMMB, and is a supplemental adjudicator for TMAA. His bands have received consistent first divisions in marching, concert, and sightreading contests.

"It is a great honor to be nominated for this position to serve the students and directors in the small schools of Texas. I have spent my entire 21 years of teaching in class AAA and AA schools in East Texas and am well aware of the daily challenges and frustrations that each of us face; but more importantly, I appreciate and treasure the rewards that we receive when our students succeed as a result of our efforts and their determination. The ability for any of us to call our neighbor for help, advice, a piece of music, or even to borrow an instrument - and still compete in a friendly, although intense rivalry - goes to the heart of what sets us apart from many of our colleagues. If elected, I look forward to serving on the State Board with the other directors for whom I have the utmost admiration and respect."

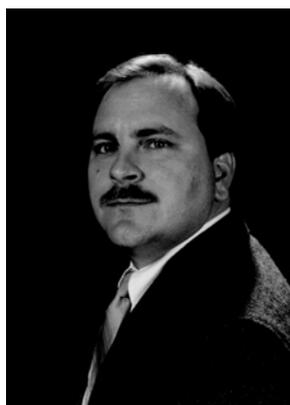
(Continued on Page 8)

(Nominee biographies, continued from Page 7):

**Kendel Lewis Hickenbottom** is the band director at Wellington, a class AA school in Region I. He is a member of ATSSB and TMEA. His wife Elizabeth has a degree in elementary education with a minor in music. They have two children: four-year-old Alyssa and two-year-old Keenan. The Wellington band received the Sweepstakes Award in 1995 after growing from 18 to 81 members. He has had several TSSEC performers and two all-state students (one in TMEA choir, the other in ATSSB band). He serves as the Region I ATSSB Concert Band Organizer this year.

"I am in my seventh year of directing a AA band at Wellington High School. I have struggled to build a program from 18 to 81 and I know what it is like to teach in a AA school. I am also a percussionist and feel that this may be of benefit to ATSSB. I push for the best from my students and hope for the best from everyone. ATSSB is a strong and important part of our students' lives and I feel that I can only improve as a band director if elected to this position."

**Dennis Teasdale** is the band director at Stamford High School, a class AA school in Region II. His wife Eliese is a medical technologist in Stamford. He had two children and four grandchildren. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, Phi Mu Alpha, TCTA, TMAA, and is a life member of Kappa Kappa Psi. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech. His Stamford band was the largest AA band in the state. His bands have been consistent Sweepstakes winners and advanced to the Area contest this year.



**Eric Wharton** is the band director at Beckville, a class AA school in Region XXI. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, and IJAE. His wife Michelle teaches elementary music in Beckville and they have two children: seven-year-old Aaron and four-year-old Bethany. Before he came to Beckville, he was a student assistant for John Whitwell at ACU and was an assistant for Kelly Glaze, Larry Kingsley and Bob Parsons. He has served as the class AA Representative to the ATSSB State Board of Directors for the past two years.

"I have enjoyed participating in the development of ATSSB as we prepare for the future and providing opportunities for the students in Texas. As representative, I have attended and participated in all committees in which I have been seated. I do not want to be elected based on the success or failure of my students. Please know that I am willing to work as hard as necessary to promote the success of the students in our schools in Texas. I look forward to having a chance to serve ATSSB for another term."

## CLASS AAA



**Greg Miller** is the band director at Iowa Park, a class AAA school in Region II. His wife Gail teaches first grade in Iowa Park. He and Gail have three children: nineteen-year-old Kyle, fourteen-year-old Zachary, and eleven-year-old Grant.

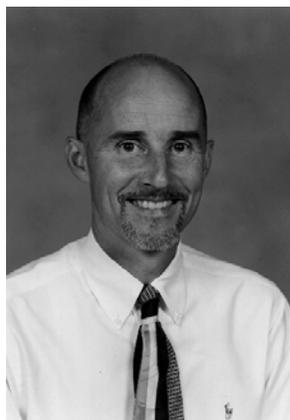
He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, TMAA, ATPE, and Phi Beta Mu. He has a B.M.Ed. from Howard Payne University and an M.M. from East Texas State University. He taught in Iowa Park for three years, then Roscoe High School for three before returning to Iowa Park where he has taught since 1979. He has served in various TMEA offices in Region II. He was selected as the Outstanding Educator of the Year in 1986 by the Iowa Park Chamber of Commerce and is active in local district and campus committees. His bands have earned numerous Sweepstakes Awards and is a consistent participant at the Area B Marching Contest, having advanced to the State Marching Contest twice, placing in the finals both times.

"I am flattered to have been nominated to serve as the AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors of ATSSB. I look forward to serving the membership and helping ATSSB achieve the worthy goal of strengthening the small school band programs across our state."

**Gary Robbins** is the band director at Rusk High School, a class AAA school in Region XXI. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, and TBA. He lives in Rusk with his wife Joan and two children: eight-year-old David and six-year-old Rebecca.

(Continued on Page 9)

(Nominee biographies, continued from Page 8):



**Wayne Smith** is the band director at White Oak High School, a class AAA school in Region IV. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, TMAA, and serves on the White Oak City Council. His wife Rome is music teacher for Gladewater ISD and is the Region IV Elementary Division Chair. His daughter Sarah is the 1997 recipient of the ATSSB 4-Year All-State Band Scholarship and is a music major at Northwestern University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. His son John Paul is a senior at White Oak High School and is an ATSSB Area Bass Trombonist. Mr. Smith's bands at White Oak have been Sweepstakes and was First Place in the 1997 ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series in Class AAA Concert. He served as the ATSSB All-State Band Organizer in 1995 and 1996, is the Chair of the ATSSB 4-Year All-State Band Scholarship Committee, and is the Region IV ATSSB All-Region Band Clinic/Concert Coordinator.

"It has been my pleasure to serve the students of White Oak ISD and Region IV through my affiliation with ATSSB. I have been fortunate to observe the larger function of the Association through my experience as All-State Band Organizer and as Chair of the ATSSB 4-Year All-State Band Scholarship Committee. I will look forward to serving the unique interests of Class AAA bands across the state as your ATSSB Class AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors."



**Don Thoede** will retire from active duty on January 1 as the band director in Clifton, a class AAA school in region VIII. He and his wife Joan have one married daughter, Karen. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, and TMAA. His is the winner of the 1996 Denius-UIL Sponsor Excellence Award. His Clifton bands earned nine consecutive Sweepstakes Awards and was a State Marching Contest finalist five times. His band was also a finalist in the 1997 ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series and was a TMEA Honor Band finalist three times. He is the current Chairman of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series.

"Although I will be retired on January 1, 1998, I will remain active as a clinician, UIL adjudicator and woodwind teacher throughout the state. The fact that I will be retired will allow me the extra time that I need to devote to the ongoing process of making the Association of Texas Small School Bands a better organization for the band directors and band students in Texas."



**Gary Wells** is the band director at Hamshire-Fannett, a class AAA high school in Region X. His wife Judy teaches third grade at Hamshire-Fannett Elementary. They have two children: Alex, a sophomore music education major at Lamar University; and Beth, senior drum major of the Hamshire-Fannett band and a member of the 1997 ATSSB Symphonic All-State Band.

He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, TCTA, and Phi Beta Mu. He is Past President of the Arkansas Bandmasters Association and was the 1976 National ASBDA Stanbury Award winner. He built the Hamshire-Fannett band from 19 to its current 105. The band is a consistent Sweepstakes Award winner.



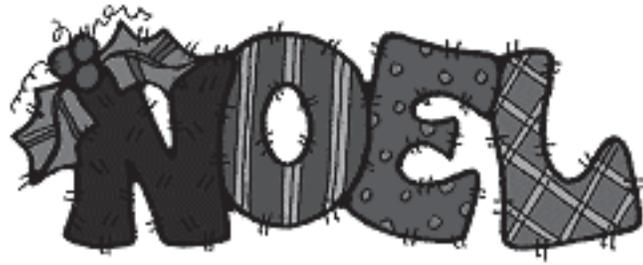
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This is your December 1997 Newsletter  
Don't forget the General Session Thursday, February  
12, 1998 at 11:30 a.m. in the Scottish Rite Auditorium.