

ATSSB FOUR-YEAR ALL-STATE SCHOLARSHIP

Added Incentives for the Best of the Best!

by Wayne Smith

As Organizer of our ATSSB All-State Band at the 1995 Clinic and Concert in San Antonio, I was afforded the unique opportunity of hearing, watching, and getting to know our all-state students on an individual and personal level. It was an experience from which I drew much inspiration. It also reinforced my strong belief that much of the best teaching in the band business in this great state is occurring in our small schools.

Observing these young musicians' intensity of focus and joy of musical expression during these rehearsals set my mind to wandering toward possible avenues of recognition and reward for these kids other than the intrinsic joy of the all-state experience itself. While visiting with Kenneth Griffin during one of our breaks, I threw out the possibility of endowing a scholarship fund which would pay each of our four-year all-state students a \$1000 scholarship. Kenneth was very receptive to the idea and suggested that we get our thoughts organized and make a proposal (or, as I like to say, "Run it up the flagpole and see who salutes!").

The scholarship fund was proposed in July to the State Board of Directors and was unanimously approved. The State Scholarship Committee consists of myself as Chairman and each of the Area Coordinators as Committee Members. Criteria for earning this scholarship is simple - each student who makes the ATSSB All-State Band for each of their four years in high school will be awarded a \$1000 scholarship. This scholarship will be in the form of a check drawn from the scholarship fund payable to the student and the college or institution of higher learning of the student's choice, thereby requiring dual endorsement.

The scholarship fund is open and in need of contributions. If each of our ATSSB Regions were to donate \$1000 to this fund

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ATSSB NEWSLETTER

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President's Column by Don Stockton

ATTITUDE

How is my attitude? When I am ragging on some student for poor attitude, do I ever stop to think that his attitude may be a reflection of my own? Recently I was reflecting on how the attitude of kids has changed in the past 30 years. My conclusion was that in the old days students were more conscientious. Some incidents here at home have caused me to rethink this conclusion. I think that students are the same now as always. They just have more distractions now than they had years ago. Every so often I catch myself letting my frustrations control my emotions.

When I first came to Warren, the band had not made as high as a second division in UIL in over 12 years. I knew that my work was cut out for me. I also knew that I must be very tolerant of student mistakes. I was very careful how I explained to a student that he was playing with such a poor tone or so out of tune. I was

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CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE 1996-98

CLASS A REPRESENTATIVE

Gene Conway

(unopposed)

Mr. Conway is a graduate of Brownsville High School and received his B.M.Ed. from Sam Houston State University in 1964. He completed his M.S. in 1973 from Indiana University and his pre-doctoral studies at East Texas State University in 1985. His experiences as an educator include stints as Superintendent, Principal, and Music Director (Band, Orchestra and Choir). He is currently the band director at Wortham High School. His wife, Judith has her Ph.d. and is Director of Personnel with the Leander ISD. They have two grown children. Their daughter, Janet Harrah, lives with her husband Casey and their one-year-old daughter Lauren in Oklahoma City. Their son, Bryce, recently received his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Gene's band placed 8th in the TMEA Honor Band competition last year and advanced to Area this past fall. He has played trombone professionally and written short vocal and band compositions. He enjoys coin collecting and prospecting for gold. 

CLASS AA REPRESENTATIVE

Don Thoede

(unopposed)

Mr. Thoede has twenty-seven years' experience teaching with stints at Rockdale Middle School,

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Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth Griffin

By the time you receive this Newsletter, you will have already finished with Area auditions. I hope the 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 ATSSB All-State Band, but also for yourselves!

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 from among those students interested in it. Selection of piccolo or soprano clarinet has nothing to do with chair placement in the flute or clarinet section.

A word about housing: You must prepay for your room and/or your student's portion of the room at the Ramada Emily Morgan! The total cost (including applicable taxes from which we are not exempt) is \$78 per student (if four to a room) or \$105 per student (if three to a room) or \$312 per room for directors (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) and **Form 17** code number if you remember it (**A1, B3K**, etc. - don't worry about the code if you can't remember it; the most important thing to remember is to include your names and schools with the check you send. **Remember to take care of this before you go to San Antonio!**

Also, the room rate does **not** include breakfast this year. Not only did many not take advantage of this in recent

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(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from page 5):

years, the hotel tried to raise the room rates really high on us this year. We negotiated what I feel is a fair room rate, but had to delete the breakfast. The hotel will have a breakfast bar of fruit, juices, etc. in the lobby for sale at a reasonable price for those wanting something to eat or for those who do not want to go through a sit-down, ordered meal or buffet or go to McDonald's.

We plan to hold our ATSSB Business Session in the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 15. Elections for Class A, AA and AAA Representative 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 to attend. A short biographical sketch of each candidate can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I am sure all of you are breathing a little easier now that the audition process is just about over - I know I am, along with your Region and Area Coordinators and the State Taping Coordinator. However, the State Chair Audition Coordinator (Neal Sutton) and all of his helpers and the judging panels being organized, the All-State Band Organizer (Wayne Smith) and Percussion Organizer (Cathie Cain) still have a job ahead of them! The convention-clinic and concert take a LOT of preparation and advance planning and organizing. We have booked the rooms for you and your students, reserved the Scottish Rite Auditorium and purchased liability insurance for the time we will occupy it, Mike Hardy has made arrangements for temporary lighting in the auditorium, stands and percussion equipment have to be provided before chair auditions begin on Wednesday night, programs have to be completed (Mike Hardy, again), badges for the students have to be made and personalized (my wife Jeannie types them in) and TMEA stickers attached so

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(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from page 6):

the students can go to TMEA exhibits and activities, not to mention many other activities taking place in the background as we prepare for another successful 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 Band who benefit from their efforts.

I would appreciate it if you would go by several booths at the exhibits and thank FRUHAUF UNIFORMS for providing the All-State Band patch for each student and CALDWELL MUSIC COMPANY for providing the programs (for the fifth straight year). While you are there, go by CODA MUSIC and suggest that they include more UIL PML solos in their Vivace repertoire list!

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



Educational Recording Service in Ozona has been awarded the recording contract for the 1996 All-State Band. If you wish to receive a cassette recording of the concert, be sure to order one at the concert. They will cost \$10 each. If you forget to order one or need to inquire about previous recordings, they can be contacted at:

**EDUCATIONAL RECORDING SERVICE
P.O. BOX 1188
115 LIVE OAK
OZONA, TEXAS 76943**

The compact disc of the first four years of ATSSB All-State Band concerts is still available for \$17 from ERS. I am sure he will have a supply on hand for sale at the convention.

(Candidates, continued from page 9):

where he studied with Maurice McAdow. His experience includes four years as Granbury middle school band and choir director, four years as the Aledo High School band director and the last eight years as band director in Springtown. Since he went to Springtown, the high school band has grown from 43 to 105 members. They have earned four Sweepstakes Awards and advanced to the TMEA Area Honor Band competition in 1994. 31 members of the band were selected for the ATSSB All-Region Band this year. His wife also teaches at Springtown High School and both of their daughters, Jennifer and Bryce, are in his high school band. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, Optimist Club, and is listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers. He also serves in the music ministry at the First Baptist Church of Springtown as well as being a Sunday School teacher for adults. Mr. Perry states "I strongly feel that being a band director gives me a unique way to be involved in the lives of young people. I have believed in ATSSB since its beginning. In a short period of time, it has already made an incredible impact on small school bands. If elected to this position, I will do my best to continue to help this great organization to meet needs of many directors and students in our small school bands."

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CLASS AAA REPRESENTATIVE

Leon Steward

Mr. Steward attended Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown. He received his B.S. in Theory and Composition in 1981 and his M.M.Ed. in 1988 from Lamar University in Beaumont. He has been band director at West Harding from 1981 until 1990 and has

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rating, I asked the students whose fault it was. I led them to the decision that we just did not perform as well as we wanted. We needed more practice and smarter practice. I try to explain our ratings as they really are and the only person that can fix them is us.

Remember our All-State concert in the Scottish Rite Auditorium at noon on Saturday. Bob Foster will be the clinician and I think the concert will be very good. I hope that your student did well in the tryout process. I will see you there.



President-Elect's Column
by Ronnie Page

Now that we are "recharged" by a wonderful Christmas break, maybe we can "jump start" our students as we prepare for the Spring assault of area tryouts, solo & ensemble contests, concert contest, sight-reading evaluation, (sounds odd doesn't it?), band trips, etc. I am sure it will be an easier hill to climb than my 15 week football season, (and some of you did 16)!

I think it is important for us to personally thank our region and area coordinators for the splendid job they did for our students and ATSSB. Having been there I can assure you it is a position brimming with satisfaction, but unfortunately this comes only with a great deal of stress brought on by complaints and those few of us who fail to follow all written guidelines.

As of this writing only minor problems have arisen from region and area tryouts. This means procedures

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(Scholarship, continued from page 12):

for five years, then this fund would very likely grow to be self-funding. This is my idealistic but probably unrealistic goal. However, those Regions who have surplus funds will have a hard time finding a more worthy recipient than this scholarship fund. Our scholarship fund is also open to donations from individuals, corporations, booster clubs, and anyone else as well. Each donor will be recognized in our quarterly Newsletter.

The awarding of this scholarship will serve a variety of purposes. The prime purpose is, of course, the recognition of the best of the best of our small-school musicians - those who have made All-State for four years. A secondary purpose, however, is to encourage these same students to continue their quest for All-State status through ATSSB so that we have a truly representative All-State Band which features the best of our small-school musicians. Finally, when we as an association sponsor lofty activities such as this scholarship fund for our brightest and most talented students, we augment the professional integrity and credibility of our association. After all, where is the next generation of band directors for small schools coming from, if not from small schools?

Please encourage your Region Coordinator to remember to make a contribution to the ATSSB Four-Year All-State Scholarship. The first scholarships from this fund will be presented at the All-State Band Concert February 17, 1996 in San Antonio.

Send contributions to:
ATSSB Four-Year Scholarship Fund
P.O. Drawer 1508
Van, Texas 75790

Ed. Note: Wayne Smith is the Band Director at White Oak High School. He is the ATSSB All-State Band Organizer for 1995 and 1996 and is the Chairman of the ATSSB Four-Year All-State Scholarship Committee. Contributors to date include ATSSB Regions 2, 3, 4 & 19.



(President-Elect's Column, continued from page 3):

are being followed and professionalism has obviously prevailed. We can each prevent this position from being one of those "thankless jobs" with two simple words! THANK YOU! Reading it in this column will not suffice for a personal word from you.

State Audition Review Committee

The State Audition Review Committee will meet in February in San Antonio. The SARC will make final recommendations to the State Board for our five year list of audition etudes. This is a very important step for our association. Considerable time has been spent by members statewide on the preparation, beginning with those of you who chose the first year's material.

The committee will also consider any suggestions from the membership for improving our audition process. If you have recommendations for review by the SARC, put them in writing and send them to any committee member or me.

I look forward to seeing each of you in San Antonio next month, with each of us enjoying the results of our labor - another outstanding all-state band filled with superb students from exceptional small schools!



State Taping Audition

4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 1996 at the Karnes City High School Band Hall, Craig Hunt, Coordinator and host. The audition is open to the public. **No one is to call Craig Hunt for results!** Craig will notify Area Coordinators, who will notify their respective Region Coordinators. Aff students who have a tape in the process will receive a letter with all chair rankings. Students selected will receive a music packet and housing assignment.

(Candidates, continued from page 8):

Rockdale High School, Highland Park High School, Gainesville High School with the last nine years at Clifton High School. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, and TMAA. He has served in all classifications as an adjudicator and clinician for marching band, concert band and sightreading in many areas of the state. His concert bands have been in the TMEA finals on four different occasions. His marching bands have been in the State Marching Contest six times, placing 8th, 5th, 4th, 3rd twice, and 2nd this year. His Clifton bands have received eight consecutive Sweepstakes and his jazz ensembles received a first division at TSSEC twice in recent years. Many of his students participate and excel in UIL solo-ensemble competition and in ATSSB Region and Area auditions, with one student advancing to the ATSSB All-State Band. He was nominated for the UIL Denius Award and has been recognized as the most outstanding UIL sponsor at Clifton High School. The local newspaper presented him with "The Old Mill Award" recognizing dedication, persistence, and devotion to the community of Clifton. Mr. Thoede states "I believe that I can provide some expertise for our needs and can do so in a professional manner. I pledge to carry out my duties as the AA State Representative of ATSSB to the very best of my ability."



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CLASS AAA REPRESENTATIVE

J.B. Perry

Mr. Perry went to public school in Weatherford where he was a student of Ray Toler in junior high and Henry Schraub in high school. He received his music education degree at the University of North Texas

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very tolerant of missed notes and rhythms when we sightread. I was very careful how I presented myself to them. I tried to set an example for them to copy. That is exactly what they did.

Not so long ago I caught myself going on and on about a missed key signature. I had worked myself up pretty good. After all, this was the 'Warren Band'. You know, the band that is not supposed to make mistakes - the one that reads so well. Wow!! How success changes our perspective on things. I wonder how much damage I have caused and how many students I will lose because of my arrogance? I really have to work on my attitude every day. I must remember how we got to a position where we expected to earn a first division instead of hope for a second.

To sum up all of these words, I have some advice for myself and other directors. A positive answer is better than 100 rebuttals. A caring tone of voice gets the students' attention much better than a scream. Students want to know when they are making mistakes. They don't want to be criticized (in a negative manner). I can go on, but you already know all of the sayings. The point is that I must be positive and understanding. How do I want my principal and superintendent to treat me? Don't our students deserve the same?

My last thought is how do I handle ratings and tryout results? When I was young and stupid, I once thought that the judges just did not like me or the town in which I was teaching. How foolish! This is the worst thing that we can relay to our students. A real friend of mine once told me that the students will believe what I tell them about our ratings. He told me that when I started taking responsibility for our ratings, they would go up. That is exactly what they did. When we made a low

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been at Orangefield since that time. At Orangefield, he directs all high school band and choral activities. Under his direction, the Orangefield band received the first Sweepstakes Award in the school's history. The first All-State students in the school's history also came from his band the last two years. His jazz ensemble has qualified for TSSEC every year he has been at Orangefield. The choir program has 32 members and has placed at least 9 students in the All-Region Choir each year. He is a composer for band, choir and various ensembles with 27 published works. He plays french horn with the Symphony of S.E. Texas and with The Regal Brass (a professional brass quintet). He also serves as the stage manager for the symphony. He has hosted the Region X ATSSB Auditions for the last four years and serves as the band organizer for Region X. He has served on the UIL Advisory Committee for Region X. He lives in Bridge City with his wife Beverly and one-year-old daughter Bethany.

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CLASS AAA REPRESENTATIVE

Eric Wharton

Mr. Wharton is director of bands in Elkhart. He is a graduate of Abilene Christian University where he studied with Charles Trayler and John Whitwell. He taught junior high bands in Coahoma and Ozona, working with Larry Kingsley and Kelly Glaze. He also assisted Bob Parsons in Jacksonville. He is married and has two children.. He is a member of the Elkhart Church of Christ. While in Abilene, he served as Orchestra Librarian, Orchestra President, and Student Assistant for the ACU band. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, Phi Mu Alpha, TBA, and IJAE. He enjoys a round of golf whenever he gets a chance.

