



# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands  
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PLEASE NOTE  
We have a new address!

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

## President's Column

by *Ronnie Page*



Ronnie Page

I cannot begin my column without hoping each of you is enjoying a restful, peaceful summer break. I know each of you is busy with band camps, summer moves, rummaging through the band hall at the new job, quality time with the family, etc., etc., but isn't it nice that this occurs sans bells!!! It is important to recharge our emotional systems and I encourage each of you to relieve that stress from the end-of-school syndrome. Never feel guilty about taking some time for yourself. Do something nice for YOU while you are off - YOU deserve it.

I feel like the July newsletter is the perfect time for a state of the association address. I can report that it is in great shape. We have just finished the first year with the exciting addition of the second all-state band. We enter the coming year with the addition of the new Outstanding Performance Series. As this column is written the region level auditions are complete with tapes forwarded to the area level. Final tape auditions will be held on July 27th. See Don Thoede's column for all the details.

We have seen development of a great ATSSB web page on the Internet, with a lot of "hits" seeking information or just browsing. I have received several email inquiries from the web site. Some have been from other states, just inquiring or encouraging. Along the lines of current technology, your executive committee held a meeting by teleconference on Monday June 2nd, making use of the Trans Texas Video Network (TTVN) operated by the Texas A&M System. The facilities were made available at no cost to ATSSB, and all of us felt it was a very feasible method for holding committee meetings. We may even attempt a full SBOD meeting with sites available throughout the state for SBOD members to attend. No one would have to travel very far to meet.

We are currently restructuring the entire all-state experience. With our newly appointed housing coordinator busy streamlining the hotel arrangements and George busy developing a "welcoming party" for the participants, I feel the students will feel special from the check-in forward. (If only Jennifer could arrange to rent two more elevators for the week!)

Financially our association is very strong for its age. We currently have most of one year's operating capital in the bank, a feat about which many older organizations can only dream. The reason for this proliferation of funds is the volunteer spirit we enjoy within our ranks. Our officers serve unselfishly, often personally absorbing phone and travel expense. They pay the full expense out of pocket to attend conventions, sometimes (as we know) only meagerly assisted by school travel budgets. Our region and area coordinators receive no stipend from the state organization, and those coordinators who are paid a stipend receive only a trivial amount.

Even our executive secretary serves as a volunteer for the most part. Kenneth's is a full time job, demanding more time each year. He gave the association his time freely for the first two years, and has received only a token salary since. We owe all of our financial well-being to this volunteerism. Make time to thank your past leaders for the time they spent on your students' behalf; the results are in and they are obviously gratifying.

Recently ATSSB has been afforded several opportunities to provide leadership in other areas. Richard Floyd has

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called on ATSSB on several occasions to provide input for one area or another. The most recent was a position on the Sightreading Music Selection Committee. Tom SoRelle consulted us regarding someone from small schools to serve on the Blue Ribbon Committee to review clinic/convention performances and selection procedures. Subsequently Fred Pankratz was asked to serve on that committee. The committee met on June 15th and 16th in Austin and will make several recommendations to the TMEA Executive Committee. Fred will report fully at our general membership meeting on July 28th, so be sure to attend. Randy Storie asked for input regarding the small school and middle school honor band panels for the final tape auditions in San Antonio and was furnished a full list of our members who are also members of TMAA.

On a personal note, one of my all-state students was given a scholarship to the Baylor band camp. At my suggestion he merely wrote a letter requesting a scholarship, and "BINGO". It worked out well for the Baylor folks also because he brought three other paying students with him. It was a win-win-win situation (the third win being the Overton band program - I have tried unsuccessfully for eight years to get someone to attend a high school band camp!).

All of these actions are indicative of the stature the association has acquired in its short history. We have found a needful function, fulfilled it in a professional manner, and are now observing our students and band programs benefiting enormously.

We can all be proud of these accomplishments. We are working on a series to be published in the fall newsletter which will share some of the history of ATSSB. Our ranks have grown tremendously since the first year when ATSSB surprised everyone and brought what many thought to be an impossible and unnecessary dream to fruition. Many of those founding members feel it is important to revisit those original goals and objectives. With their help we will try to retain that establishing spirit.

I look forward to a second successful year with two all-state groups, the release this fall of the first OPS CD, and working with Kenneth and the fine group of officers, coordinators, organizers and members that make ATSSB what it is. See you at TBA!



## Webmaster Report

by Tim Edins and Dr. Wayne Clark, ATSSB Technology Coordinators

For a short time, I have had the opportunity to monitor our domain statistics. Some interesting facts and figures on our Web Site:

13,886.50 average hits per week. A "hit" is a single request for information by one server to the atssb server. When you type in <http://www.atssb.org>, the server registers a "hit" for the logo, then the navigation bar, then the text, then any images listed, etc. Registering hits is the most common way servers chart usage.

Our Web Site had 11,994 total hits June 8-13 (a partial week). There were 19,648.86 average Kilobytes transferred per week. 15 states connected June 8-13. 2 countries connected June 8-13 (US & Canada). June 9 was the highest usage day between June 8-13.

The usage graph shows a steady usage incline, meaning that more and more are visiting the site each day. There is not much that this information can be used for, but it is interesting to follow.

You may access the site at <http://www.atssb.org> on the Internet.

Webmaster1@atssb.org (Tim Edins) and Webmaster2@atssb.org (Dr. Wayne Clark)



## President-Elect's Column

by *George Strickland*



George Strickland

downtown map, and TMEA concerts which might interest students during their free time. Also, we will securing area restaurant information which will appeal to our All-State students. Plans are being made to have a performance group entertain the students as they gather in the Scottish Rite Auditorium and await audition instructions. Our hope and intent is to add to the ultimate experience of the All-State musicians and help them sense the honor they have achieved.

Please plan to attend the ATSSB-sponsored clinic and the general membership meeting during TBA. Also, plan on stopping by our booth on the exhibit floor. As you organize your music and drill for the '97 UIL competition, remember that the length of all shows is reduced to eight minutes. All of us will have some adjusting to do. See you in San Antonio at TBA.

George Strickland  
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## Executive Secretary's Column

by *Kenneth L. Griffin*



Kenneth L. Griffin

Don't forget to pay your dues before you enter students in ATSSB auditions. Membership renewals for 1998 are enclosed with this Newsletter (note the increased dues after October 1!). If you lose this renewal form, just cut a check for the dues (\$25 before October 1) and mail to me (let me know of any changes in address, etc. - also let me know your major instruments and your email address for our database).

Try to attend the ATSSB-sponsored clinic at TBA: "How To Organize A One-Person Band Program" with David Smith from Banquete as the panel chair as the clinician.

Enclosed you should find an Update (on green paper) for the Prescribed Audition List (we will be using Year B) along with the July Newsletter. You should put it at the front of your PAL and discard the canary colored pages. We will of course still have PAL's available for new members at our table at TBA (or for old ones who lose theirs!), so plan to stop by and pay dues, pick up a PAL or just visit a while. If you don't get a chance to come to TBA, I will mail a copy of the Prescribed Audition

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(Executive Secretary's Column, Continued from Page 3):

List to everyone who joins as a new member after that time. I will be glad to send you another copy if you misplace yours after TBA - just call or drop me a note and I will respond as soon as possible. We had these PAL's printed and collated professionally, but it is very possible that an error was made - a page left out, facing the wrong way, stapled wrong, etc. Let me know if you find an error and I will send you a replacement.

This coming year we will continue to have two all-state bands. Dr. Anthony Maiello from George Mason University will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band and Ed Huckleby will be the clinician for the Concert Band from whom we have also commissioned a new work for the Concert Band. The piece will be premiered at the concert, so make plans to attend.

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors breakfast meeting at 7:00 a.m. in the Ramada Emily Morgan Majestic Room. Your board includes all elected state officers, all Region Coordinators, all Founding Members, and invited guests. If you would like to have input on matters relating to ATSSB State Board of Director activities, I would suggest calling or writing your Region Coordinator (or any state officer) and telling them of your concerns so they can advise the full Board.

We will have our ATSSB General Session at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 28 in the Convention Center. Check your program for the room. Please make plans to attend if you will be at TBA.

Please take a minute and look over the 1997-98 Membership Renewal form enclosed. Mark any corrections, fill out all the blanks (especially if it says "NONE GIVEN") and put it in a safe place to be paid when your school budget year begins (or go ahead and send in the check now while you are thinking about it!). Just remember that after October 1, the dues increase to \$50 unless you are joining as an Associate Member (everything is the same, you just cannot run for office, vote, or enter students in any ATSSB competition). **I had them printed before I had a new address, so you will not find where you should mail the renewal: ATSSB; P.O. Box 898; Big Sandy, Texas 75755.**

I hope to be able to visit with a lot of you at TBA. Remember that TBA is essentially over on Tuesday, so we will in all likelihood close down the table that afternoon. So make plans to drop by before then if you can. Good luck as you begin another year with your students, especially if you are at a new school like me (be sure to let us know your new address!).

## The ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

by *Don Thoele*, State Chair



Don Thoele

By the time you read this, all taping sessions for the Outstanding Performance Series will have been completed except for the State taping sessions at TBA. At the present time we will use two rooms in the Convention Center for the taping sessions and one room for the tabulation. The sessions will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall and in the VIP Room. The tabulating will take place in Room A. Signs will be posted stating which classes will be in which rooms. Please arrive early enough to find your room and be seated before the sessions begin. Winners will be posted outside Room A approximately 30 minutes after the classification as been judged. Winners will also be posted in the ATSSB Booth. I have received some very positive feedback from our directors stating how excited they are about the OPS. Try to make the taping sessions if you can. You will get to hear some very fine small school bands. See you at TBA!