

ATSSB NEWSLETTER



Volume XV, No. 1, June 2005

(updated June 30, 2005)

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
Beginning our 15th year of service to small school bands in Texas

2117 Morse Street

Houston, Texas 77019

(713) 874-1151

ATSSB Executive Committee

Steven Moore, President 2005-07

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1100 West Hwy 243
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(903) 567-6561
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Ed Lowes, Immediate Past-President 2005-07
Retired

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Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
Association of Texas Small School Bands

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President's Column by *Steven Moore*



As I sat down to write this article it really struck me how fast the school year has gone by. It seems like just yesterday we started with the first step off for marching band and we are now giving the final cut off for the year. Now before you start planning for next year and trying to get everything ready to give that first "band a-ten-hut", be sure to take a little bit of time away from the band hall and refresh yourself. We all need a little down time. I hope that you have had a successful year and that you and your band students

have met all the goals that were set.

By now many of you know about Ed Lowes and his current diagnosis with cancer. Although the prognosis is not good, Ed plans to be aggressive with the fight. Lets all remember to keep Ed in our thoughts and prayers everyday. Faith can move mountains. I just want to thank Ed again for all he has done for ATSSB and the students of small school bands. He has served as both a Region and Area Coordinator as well as President-Elect and President of our association and has aggressively sought for the advancement of our association. I have enjoyed serving with him.

I would like to announce the appointment of a new committee: The All-State Clinician Selection Committee. This committee will begin its work this summer at TBA. The charge for this committee is to gather input from the membership across the state and to select a slate of All-State Clinicians to present to the state board for approval. This committee was created in order to enhance the selection process and give the membership a chance to submit names of possible clinicians and expand the pool of names in consideration. The committee

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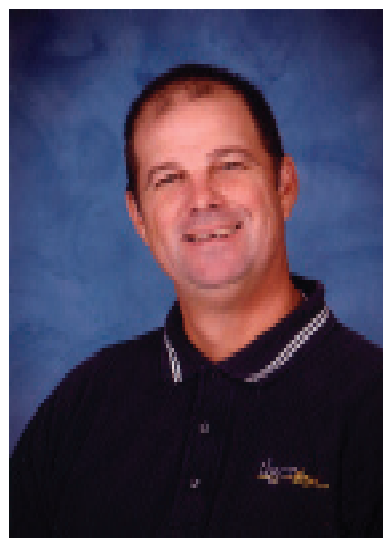
(Moore, continued from Page 1):

members are: Brent Cannon (chairman), Elmer Schenk, Mike Marsh, Jonathan Kelly, Carl Idlebird, and David Landry. If you have any recommendations, please contact these gentlemen and submit your names for consideration before TBA. I would also like to remind all Region and Area Coordinators or the designee that there is a mandatory training session on Thursday July 21st on FileMaker Pro 7. Frank Coachman will be doing the training and will give the necessary program files out at the training. Be sure to bring a laptop that has FileMaker Pro 7 already installed. The State Board meeting and breakfast will be Saturday morning in the Renaissance Room of the Menger Hotel followed by the General Membership meeting on Sunday after the TBA luncheon. Finally let me remind everyone that the web site is the official site for all ATSSB information and that all music, forms and errata can be downloaded from the web site. We will no longer have the printed PAL updates at TBA. So be sure to check the web site often.

In closing let me extend my thanks to the membership for allowing me to serve as your President. I will do my best to continue to represent you and the students of small schools to the best of my ability. Please feel free to contact me any time with your concerns and suggestions. It takes all of us working together to keep our association strong and on the cutting edge of music education. Have a great summer and best of luck to all involved in OPS.

All-State Jazz Ensemble Information by John Young

I know that it is the end of the school year and the last thing on your mind is All State Jazz Band. The problem is that it needs to be and you should have done these things listed below.



1. Contacted Mattei Music and ordered your Audition music for the 2005-06 school year at matteimusic@msn.com.
2. Handed the music out to your kids who are interested in auditioning for the band.
3. Remember in August to participate in your region jazz band or at least your area jazz band auditions.
4. JAZZ ENSEMBLE AREA CERTIFICATION DEADLINE: Saturday, October 8, 2005
5. JAZZ ENSEMBLE STATE JUDGING: Saturday, November 12, 2005

For all information regarding All State Jazz Band you need to go to the official site for all information. That site is <http://www.atssb.org/auditions.asp>.

Have a great summer and plan to attend TBA in July.

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles may be submitted for consideration to the Editor by mail to 2117 Morse Street; Houston, Texas 77019, or by email to atssbexecsec@houston.rr.com. Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.



Immediate Past President Ed Lowes, Director of Bands at La Grange ISD for the past thirty-one years, was recently diagnosed with cancer in the right kidney and both lungs. He has retired and is resting at home under the medical supervision of the CTRC (Cancer Therapy and Research Center) in Austin.

Ed is in the process of qualifying for cancer treatments this summer. Ed served as President of ATSSB 2003-2005. Ed has taught thirty-three years in the public schools of San Antonio, Lockhart, La Grange and at Blinn College in Schulenburg.

Executive Secretary's Column by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth L. Griffin".

As band directors, we enjoy many years of productive and satisfying work with students, faculty, parents, and especially fellow directors we meet in competitions and professional gatherings (and yes, football games) each year. The joy we get from seeing the fruits of our labors outweighs our lack of compensation and the amount of time we spend each year with band-related activities. We also have the pleasure of making many new friends each year through these associations and especially through professional gatherings like TMEA, TBA, and ATSSB activities. One of the reasons I have enjoyed my role with ATSSB is the opportunity to get to know some real giants in our profession a little bit better - a little more personally. From Mike Marsh (the gentle giant!) through Fred Pankratz, Don Stockton, Ronnie Page, George Strickland, Gary Robbins, Ed Lowes, and now Steven Moore, I have been able to watch each one infuse ATSSB with their personality and leave their own mark on its history. I say all this to preface a few remarks about Ed Lowes. In case you haven't heard, Ed was recently diagnosed with cancer of the kidney and lungs. His prognosis is not good although he plans to battle it with aggressive chemotherapy this summer. I just wanted to publicly thank Ed for his service to his students in La Grange and Blinn College and to ATSSB over the past three years. He has done all he could to further the cause of small school bands in Texas with unflinching drive and constant attention to possibilities. As President, he presided at the first All-State Jazz Ensemble and has served faithfully on the ATSSB/TMEA Dialogue Committee, asking some tough questions and making bold suggestions for improving ATSSB's status in the professional community. All of us share in his successes, so now we share in a common concern for his health. Please keep Ed in your thoughts and prayers as he battles this dread disease in the



(Continued on Page 4)

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

coming months.

Your membership for 2004-05 expires on September 1. Please take a minute to look over your data as posted in the Directory online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Directory.05.htm>. Make a note of any corrections, especially if it says "NONE GIVEN" and fill out the application in this Newsletter with the changes and put it aside for payment when your school budget year begins (or go ahead and send in the check now while you are thinking about it). The State Board of Directors approved our first-ever dues increase for this coming year. Dues will be \$35. Just remember that after October 1, the dues increase to \$60 unless you are joining as an Associate Member or College Division Member (everything is the same, you just cannot run for office, vote, or enter students in any ATSSB competition). Those of you who have already paid your dues for next year are listed as follows: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Directory.06.htm>. If I missed one, just check for information changes and email them to me. A cover page showing your ATSSB and TMEA membership card must be sent with the initial entry forms for the first audition entered (ATSSB or TMEA). Don't forget that if you enter students in the Jazz Band competitions that audition deadlines are EARLY, so get your ATSSB and TMEA dues taken care of as soon as possible.

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class A and AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session February 16, 2006.

The Prescribed Audition List Update (Use Year E) is available online now:
<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearEUpdate.pdf>.

Now that the ATSSB Website is the Official Document of ATSSB, I will no longer mail a copy of the Update to all high school band directors and members with the September Newsletter as I have in the past. The September Newsletter - like all Newsletters now - is available online only as a pdf file. If you have lost or misplaced your PAL, I will have a few hard copies available at TBA, but after those are gone, you will have to download the page(s) you need from the Website.

This coming year, Col. John R. Bourgeois (USMC, Ret.) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Rick Stitzel from Tarrant County College will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble, Paula Crider from the University of Texas at Austin will be the Concert Band clinician, and Gabe Musella has been commissioned to compose a concert march for the Concert Band.

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Renaissance Room of the Menger Hotel on Saturday, July 23. 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 Sunday, July 24 in the Convention Center. Check the convention program for the location. Please make plans to attend if you will be at TBA. We will be voting on a Constitutional amendment at that time.

I hope to be able to visit with a lot of you at TBA. Please note the times the ATSSB table will be open for you to stop by. Good luck as you begin another year with your students, especially if you are at a new school (be sure to let us know your new address).

Future ATSSB All-State Band Clinicians and Composers

- Feb. 9-12, 2006 Col. John R. Bourgeois (USMC, Ret.) - SYMPHONIC BAND
Paula Crider from the Univ. of Texas at Austin - CONCERT BAND
Rick Stitzel from Tarrant County College - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
UNTITLED CONCERT MARCH by Gabe Musella (ATSSB commission)
- Feb. 14-17, 2007 Jerry Junkin from the Univ. of Tex. at Austin - SYMPHONIC BAND
Jeff Hellmer from the Univ. of Texas at Austin - JAZZ ENSEMBLE

If you have suggestions for future clinicians or composers, contact Brent Cannon, Chair of the Clinician/Commission Selection Committee. His home phone is (903) 882-8492 and his email address is brentcannon@yahoo.com.

All-State Band Floor Monitors Needed

- Volunteer now to be a Floor Monitor for the 2006 All-State Band!! You get a free room at the Emily Morgan Hotel for three nights during the Clinic.
- Email Susan Scott at scotts@lind.sprnet.org or give her a call at (903) 881-4050, XT1134 for details or to reserve your spot.

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Friday, July 22

10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

1:00-5:00 p.m.

ATSSB table open in Registration area

ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

Class C followed by Class AA - CC005

Class CC followed by Class A - CC004

Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting and Clinician/Commission Committee meeting- CC006

ATSSB Office - CC1067

Saturday, July 23

7:30-9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Renaissance Room

ATSSB table open in Registration area

Sunday, July 24

7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m.

3:00-6:00 p.m.

ATSSB table open in Registration area

ATSSB General Session (see convention program for location)

ATSSB table open in Registration area

Outstanding Performance Series



I was reading the ATSSB chatboard in the middle of June and noticed on several occasions that some directors were confused with the OPS procedure. Several directors did not understand why their CDs had to be sent to different regions and/or to different areas. Since their comments were made anonymously on the chatboard, I could not contact them to explain why some of the procedures involving the 2005 Outstanding Performance Series were different from last year. Since the adjudication process at the region and area levels has been completed, I would like to explain to the entire membership why the changes were made.

Last February, at the 2005 TMEA convention in San Antonio, the ATSSB State Board of Directors thought it would be a good idea to start sending OPS CDs to different regions to be adjudicated. It was discussed, voted on, and I was instructed to make the changes. In addition, I was asked by some of the State Board members if it would be possible to make the number of CDs entered at each adjudication level more equitable. In years past, some regions were having to hire several panels of judges and spend an entire day listening to CDs while some regions had much fewer CDs, and in some cases, none at all, to adjudicate. In order to accomplish the mandate made by the SBOD, and to achieve better equity at the region and area levels, it was necessary to make changes. It was changed so that each Area Coordinator would receive CDs from only four regions, and to maintain equity, some of the regions would have to come from different areas. Crossing area lines for the purposes of OPS is not a problem, especially since the goal of the Outstanding Performance Series is to get the best performances to the state level!

The procedure we used this year solved some problems for the Region and Area Coordinators, and that is good. In the process of solving problems for some, did the new procedure create problems for some as well? Of course, it did. I am sure that some of you had to travel farther in order to attend the adjudication, and some directors even mailed their CDs to the wrong region. However, I feel confident that these changes were for the best. Do I need to continue to improve the procedure for OPS? Of course, I do. Will there be changes for next year? In all probability, yes. Will it ever be a perfect system? NO! But I give you my word that I will continue to try to improve the way that the Outstanding Performance Series is structured so it can operate as smoothly as possible.

There is something that you can do to make this better for all of us. When you have a problem with OPS, and you have read the instructions very carefully, and you still don't understand how to do it, when to do it, or why you do it, just pick up the phone and call me. Tell me your problem and I will be happy to help you with it. Going to the chatboard and making some sarcastic comment only causes more problems and certainly will not solve yours. My home phone number is 254-675-6789. Please let me help you.

I want to congratulate all of the directors of those schools who have CDs advancing to the state level. You are to be commended for a job well done.

The OPS state adjudication will be held on Friday, July 22, 2005, in the Convention Center in San Antonio. The adjudication rooms are the same as they were last year. Class CC and Class A bands will be adjudicated in Room CC-004. Class C and Class AA bands will be heard in Room CC-005. The Class AAA bands will be in Room CC-006. The OPS contest office will be Room 1067.

All judges are required to attend a meeting at 12:00 noon in Room CC-006. Judges will receive a letter from me around July 15 with more details.

I will be calling directors and asking them to serve as adjudicators. Please understand that I must have your help, and I need one judge from each of the five areas on all five panels plus monitors. This is a total of thirty directors. Your help and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Let's work together to make the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series a very important part of our great organization. See you at TBA.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

July 23, 2005

Change SECTION 2 of ARTICLE VI

from: **SECTION 2. REGION OFFICERS.** Each Region shall elect a Region Coordinator who shall assume duties as set forth in the By-Laws.

to: **SECTION 2. REGION OFFICERS.** Each Region shall elect a Region Coordinator who shall assume duties as set forth in the By-Laws. **The Region Coordinator shall be concurrently employed as a band director or assistant director in a Class A, AA or AAA high school in Texas, or a current director or assistant director of a junior high or middle school band which feeds a class A, AA or AAA high school band in Texas as defined by the University Interscholastic League, or a current director or assistant director of a private middle school through the eighth grade, or anyone who has retired from any of these positions as an Active Member.**

Change SECTION 2 of ARTICLE III of the By-Laws

from: **SECTION 2. REGION COORDINATORS** shall be elected by the membership of ATSSB in regional meetings to be held annually to conduct the local business of ATSSB. He shall be a member of the State Board of Directors and shall call meetings, appoint committees as he may deem necessary and perform other duties pertaining to the presiding office. He shall encourage, solicit and enlist members within his region.

to: **SECTION 2. REGION COORDINATORS** shall be elected by the membership of ATSSB in regional meetings to be held annually to conduct the local business of ATSSB. **The Region Coordinator shall be concurrently employed as a band director or assistant director in a Class A, AA or AAA high school in Texas, or a current director or assistant director of a junior high or middle school band which feeds a class A, AA or AAA high school band in Texas as defined by the University Interscholastic League, or a current director or assistant director of a private middle school through the eighth grade, or anyone who has retired from any of these positions as an Active Member.** He shall be a member of the State Board of Directors and shall call meetings, appoint committees as he may deem necessary and perform other duties pertaining to the presiding office. He shall encourage, solicit and enlist members within his region.

Rationale: Eligibility requirements for election to region office should remain consistent with state elected offices.

ATSSB Licensees

Please consider using these businesses' services if you need them. They pay a 10% royalty on all items using the ATSSB logo and service marks into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.

Music T's
Paul Proctor
 1031 Eastgate Drive
 Midlothian, Texas 76065
 (800) 430-3226
 musict@flash.net

Concertronics
Wilbur Collins
 202 Cherokee Lane
 Victoria, Texas 77901
 (512) 575-1521

Made To Order
Larry Wood
 Route 1, Box 6
 Lorenzo, Texas 79343
 (800) 223-4511

Probst Audio
Scott Probst
 210 W. Belknap
 Ennis, Texas 75119
 (972) 878-6018
 info@ProbstAudio.com

Jordan Sound
Productions
Gary Jordan
 601 Ralson Street
 Bullard, Texas 75757
 (903) 894-7320
 JordanSP@aol.com

California T's
L. Steve Taylor
 1611 University
 Lubbock, Texas 79401
 (800) 763-1071

ON SITE DIGITAL
Randy Bryant
 1303 Darter Lane
 Austin, Texas 78746

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS Membership Application

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.

NAME _____ SS# _____ - _____ - _____
 SCHOOL _____ CLASS _____ REGION# _____
 TITLE _____ SCHOOL PHONE () _____ Best time to call _____
 Are you the only band director for both high school and junior high in your district? _____ If there are others in your district,
 please list their names: _____ Are you new to this region? _____
 SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ FAX # () _____
 CITY & ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____
 CITY & ZIP CODE (if different from school) _____
 MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

Are you a judge listed with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association? If so, please circle your area of certification:
 CB MB O (add * if supplemental)

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$35* for dues to:
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
 Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
 2117 Morse Street
 Houston, Texas 77019

I would also like to donate \$ _____ to the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.
Dues may not be deductible, but any amount over \$35 is considered a fully-deductible contribution.

***NOTE:** After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$60 (the additional \$25 is deposited into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund). A membership card and receipt will be returned to you. The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Associate Member dues are \$35 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$35. To enter students into competition leading to membership in an ATSSB All-State Band, you must be a current Active Member of the Texas Music Educators Association in addition to being a current Regular Member of ATSSB. Only ATSSB Regular Members of may vote or hold office in ATSSB and submit entries in the Outstanding Performance Series. ATSSB membership is held on an individual basis and is nontransferable.