

ATSSB NEWSLETTER



Volume XVI, No. 1, June 2006

(Online June 2, 2006)

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Beginning our 16th year of service to small school bands in Texas

2117 Morse Street

Houston, Texas 77019

(713) 874-1151

ATSSB Executive Committee

Jim Jones, President Pro Tem 2006-07
Center High School
658 Roughrider Drive
Center, Texas 75935
(936) 598-1536
email: jjones@longview.net

Rob Toups, President-Elect 2005-07
Canton High School
1100 West Hwy 243
Canton, Texas 75601
(903) 567-6561
email: RKLML@aol.com

Steven Moore, Immediate Past-President 2006-07
Lindale High School
P.O. Box 370
Lindale, Texas 75771
(903) 881-4050, XT1134
email: mooresw@lind.sprnet.org

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
P.O. Box 40
Gilmer, Texas 75644
(903) 843-3051
email: poteets@gilmerisd.org

E. Zane Polson, Class A Representative 2006-08
Sunray High School
P.O. Box 240
Sunray, Texas 79086
(806) 948-4380
email: zane.polson@region16.net

David Rollins, Class AA Representative 2005-07
Denver City High School
601 Mustang
Denver City, Texas 79323
(806) 592-5980
email: david.rollins@dcisd.org

John Young, Class AAA Representative 2006-08
Wills Point High School
658 Roughrider Drive
Center, Texas 75935
(936) 598-1536
email: jyoun_wp@yahoo.com

President Pro Tem's Column by *Jim C. Jones*



As this school year comes to an end, graduation ceremonies come to close and inventory has been done. We must look at last year and see our strong points and analyze our weak points. Building on things that make our students successful and forming new strategies that can make our program grow in strength and number. This is way of life for each band director. Let us not forget the many supporters that each organization has. Keep in mind the administrators, the faculty, the boosters, the support staff and your hometown community. Many times we take so much for granted; we don't

take time to thank the untold number that makes our programs the real success that it is. So, at some point this summer, whether it is by e-mail, Thank You note or by word of mouth, take time to say "Thank You" to your many supporters.

During this time of year, one of my responsibilities consists of getting key personnel in place for the convention next year. We are so very thankful to have individuals that take on, not just one year, but up to three years of service. These individuals perform duties that are behind the scenes and are never thanked enough. Many of us take the concerts for granted and just like our general public, think the bands just appear and play wonderful. Countless time and effort are given by individuals who put in that extra effort so everything is in place. ATSSB and I would like to extend our sincere appreciation, to the following directors for helping make our students have a positive experience.

Area Coordinator - Perry Morris
Floor Monitor Coordinator - Mike Barnes
Symphonic Band Organizer - David Deluca
Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer - Bob McClure
Concert Band Organizer - Karen Dyre

(Continued on Page 2)

(Jones, continued from Page 1):

Concert Band Percussion Organizer - Gary Frock
Apprentice Organizer - Stacie Gist
Jazz Band Organizer – Tim Schodowski
UIL Sightreading Committee - Jonathan Kelly

Next years Outstanding Clinicians are:

Symphonic Band: Jerry Junkin, University of Texas at Austin
Concert Band: Bill Brent, Northwestern State University
Jazz Band: Jerry L. Hellmer, University of Texas at Austin.

Our students are very fortunate indeed to have this group of outstanding educators to share their knowledge and expertise.

It has truly been my privilege to serve ATSSB in my capacity and will do everything I can to advance our mission to promote, encourage participation in and maintain small school bands in the state of Texas.

AAA State Representative's Column

Let me thank all of you for electing me to the position of AAA State Representative. It is a great honor to represent our collective AAA schools in the finest band organization in our state. As I stated during the convention, our association puts kids first and that is what I am most proud of. I have had many opportunities to talk to many of our AAA members since then and want more input on the items that you see as good and those that you think could be enhanced to better serve our students.



If you have any concerns at all please email me at jyoun_yp@yahoo.com.

I will be looking forward to your positive and constructive ideas on any item that concerns our organization and improving our association to continue serving our kids even better in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Young". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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>.

Executive Secretary's Column by 

Your membership for 2005-06 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.06.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). Due remain \$35, but 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.07.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. I email a copy of your card as soon as I receive payment of dues, so be sure we have an accurate email address for you.



In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class AA and C/CC Representative to the State Board of Directors in addition to the President-Elect. The election will be held at the General Session February 15, 2007.

The Prescribed Audition List Update (Use Year A) is available online now: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearAUpdate.07.pdf>.

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 will be mailed, but only to include a free copy of the 2006 OPS winners CD as a reference tool for our directors. All Newsletters are now available online as a pdf file. If you have lost or misplaced your PAL, you will have to download the page(s) you need from the Website.

This coming year, Jerry Junkin (the University of Texas at Austin) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Jerry Hellmer, also from the University of Texas at Austin, will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Bill Brent from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana will be the Concert Band clinician, and David Holsinger has been commissioned to compose a grade 2+ piece 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 22. 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 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 23 in the Convention Center. Check the convention program for the location. Please make plans to attend

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(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

if you will be at TBA. This will be an informational meeting at which issues impacting ATSSB will be discussed.

One item regarding all-state next year needs your careful attention. The TAKS test is during All-State next year. Tenth graders will be taking the ELA test on Tuesday and the rest of the week is for make-up only. This should not be a problem. But you probably should tell your campus coordinator early on that you will be unavailable for assisting with make-up testing since you will be at the convention. Counselors usually run those tests.

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).

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Friday, July 21

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

ATSSB table open in Registration area

1:00-5:00 p.m.

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 22

7:30-9:30 a.m.

State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Renaissance Room

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

ATSSB table open in Registration area

Sunday, July 23

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

ATSSB table open in Registration area

1:30 p.m.

ATSSB General Session (see convention program for location)

2:00-6:00 p.m.

ATSSB table open in Registration area

Future ATSSB All-State Band Clinicians and Composers

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

Bill Brent from Northwestern State University - CONCERT BAND

David Holsinger- commissioned composer for Concert Band

Feb. 13-16, 2008 David Holsinger from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee -

SYMPHONIC BAND

Dr. Lou Fischer from Capital University Conservatory of Music in

Columbus, Ohio - JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Robert Sheldon - commissioned composer for the Concert Band

If you have suggestions for future clinicians or composers, contact Mike Barnes, Chair of the Clinician/Commission Selection Committee. His home phone is (903) 295-6656 and his email address is bmbarnes@cablelynx.com.

Outstanding Performance Series



As you know, the May 20th deadline for entering the 2006 OPS competition has come and gone. At this time, I have received only one phone call from a Region Coordinator asking me what he should do with CDs that he received that were not supposed to be sent to him. I had a feeling that there would be at least one who failed to read the instructions carefully. I guess if it happened only one time, we can consider ourselves lucky.

I want to ask the Region Coordinators that they not put information on their web pages about who advanced to the next level of the competition until they are sure the adjudication of the CDs was absolutely accurate. I am not trying to insult anyone's intelligence here, but errors have been made in the past. I respectfully ask that all information be 100 percent accurate before posting for all to see. Also, list only the names of the schools that advance, NOT the names of the songs! In addition, Region

Coordinators, please be sure that you mail the CDs to the Area Coordinators **before** June 12th, if at all possible. The deadline to the State Chair, from the Area Coordinators, is June 26th, but I will be delighted to get them several days before that, if possible. All CDs that are mailed to me should be marked "Signature not required". Sometimes the delivery people don't leave the boxes if I am not home. Fortunately, I am never far away from Clifton when CDs are headed my way from the Area Coordinators, but I do leave the house occasionally, and that is usually when deliveries are made.

I will be calling some of you to judge at the State Adjudication in San Antonio, which will be Friday, July 21, 2006, in the convention center. The judges meeting will begin at 12:00 noon and the playing of the CDs will begin at 1:00 pm. Keep in mind that all judges and monitors will receive an honorarium of \$60.00! I will need a total of 25 judges and five monitors. Everyone is invited to attend the sessions. We have tried to keep this part of the State Adjudication as traditional as possible. We have used the same rooms since we started this almost ten years ago. The Class C (Room 005), Class CC (Room 004), and Class AAA bands (Room 006) will be adjudicated at 1:00 pm. The Class A (Room 004), and the Class AA (Room 005) bands will be adjudicated at 3:30 pm. All judges are asked to report to Room 006 a few minutes before 12:00 noon. The OPS office will be Room 1067. I will mail a letter to all judges a week or so prior to July 21st with all the information you will need.

You might want to refer to the OPS section on this web site from time to time to make sure that you have followed all of the instructions, especially the Region and Area Coordinators. If it makes you feel better, I wrote the instructions and I have to read them all of the time to make sure I follow them too!

As always, if I can help you, don't hesitate to contact me. I hope you all have a great summer!

Don Thiede

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 Mike Barnes at mbarnes@cablelynx.com or give him a call at (903) 323-7735 for details or to reserve your spot.

State Jazz Coordinator Column

by Ellis Kilgore

Wow, how summer has flown by! It seems like just a few days ago that I was saying goodbye to my band, and now it's almost time to start up again full speed! I am Ellis Kilgore, ATSSB State Jazz Chairman and, if you haven't heard, I have changed positions since my last contact with you. I have moved from Malakoff to Burkburnett, where I am Head Band Director/Fine Arts Coordinator for the District. I know you are busy, but before you move on to your next email, please "hear me out".

Jazz is an integral part of our American history, and I believe that it is our responsibility as educators to expose our students to this form of music, even if it is only to a slight degree. If you don't have a jazz band in your school, the Region Jazz clinic and concert is the perfect way to expose your students to this genre! And if you do have a jazz band in your school, then your students have even a better chance of experiencing success at these auditions! Not to mention, any time that we can increase our students' desire to practice, that's a very positive thing for our band, and these preparing for these auditions can do just that! I believe that jazz should be embraced on the high school level, as it is on the University level. And I believe that we owe it to our kids to prepare them in the best possible way for their lives after high school graduation.

I'm sure you're tired of hearing my sales pitch – it's just that I'm very passionate about this subject. If not for jazz, I would not be where I am today, and I would like for my students to have the opportunity to develop that passion and potential in their own musical lives.

Region Jazz auditions often slip up on us before we realize it. The auditions take place in September, and that's right in the middle of marching season! However, I am a firm believer that better musicians make better bands, and more rounded musicians make more rounded bands. If you plan for just a bit of extra time to help your kids with their jazz auditions, even during summer band, they can be successful in these auditions.

You do not have to have a background in jazz in order to have your kids participate in the Region/State jazz experience. You're not even required to have a jazz band in your own school! Coming from a 2A band, I know how difficult it can be to maintain a jazz band in your school. However, the ATSSB jazz auditions are for any high school band student who can play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or rhythm instruments. It is an excellent way for students to experience a concert and clinic at the Region level, whether or not they qualify for the All-Region Concert band. It's also another avenue for your better students to qualify for All-State.

This year's music will be Set A. You may place your order today (<http://www.matteimusicervices.com>).

Each instrument on the CD is able to play along with the full Jazz band minus their specific instrument, for practice purposes. The quality is superb and should be a great help to all musicians involved. Please make sure that you understand the expectations of the recorded audition CD. Any CD that does not meet the requirements will be disqualified for the 2006–2007 school year. If you have any questions on this, do not hesitate to contact me. I'll be happy to help in any way I can.

There are some very important procedures that you need to understand before auditions happen in your Region on the Area level.

1. Remember that this year is Set A.
2. After selection to the area level of the All-State Jazz Band audition you must follow the rules and guidelines of the PAL.
3. Please familiarize yourself with the rules and guidelines (<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/JazzRules.07.pdf>). All audition material MUST BE performed as instructed in the PAL.

Region Secretaries are the most important link to a successful All State Jazz Band auditions. The preparation for recording the Area students will be the responsibility of the region. If you have any questions about recording please consult the PAL. If you still have questions you may email me (atssbjazz@yahoo.com) and I will be happy to help you in any way I can. Thank you and have a wonderful Summer Band!

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.