

# ATSSB NEWSLETTER



Volume XVII, No. 1, June 2007

(Updated July 18, 2007)

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Beginning our 17th year of service to small school bands in Texas

2117 Morse Street

Houston, Texas 77019

(713) 874-1151

## ATSSB Executive Committee

**Rob Toups, President 2007-09**  
Canton High School  
1100 West Hwy 243  
Canton, Texas 75601  
(903) 567-6561  
email: RKLML@aol.com

**Bob Vetter, President-Elect 2007-09**  
Reagan County High School  
1111 12th Street  
Big Lake, Texas 76932  
(325) 884-3714, XT322  
email: bvetter@esc18.net

**Jim Jones, Immediate Past-President 2007-09**  
Center High School  
658 Roughrider Drive  
Center, Texas 75935  
(936) 598-1536  
email: jjones@longview.net

**Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary (appointed)**  
Association of Texas Small School Bands  
2117 Morse Street  
Houston, Texas 77019  
(713) 874-1151 (voice & fax)  
email: atssb@att.net

**Brandon Garmon, Class C/CC Representative 2007-09**  
Gilmer Junior High School  
P.O. Box 40  
Gilmer, Texas 75644  
(903) 841-7662  
email: garmonb@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 2007-09**  
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's Column

by Rob Toups



Dear ATSSB membership,

Let me begin by apologizing for not having the Presidents column in the June newsletter. Better late than never, I suppose. Unfortunately, my mother is going through very trying times due to a serious illness. She is elderly and resides in Lafayette, Louisiana. Obviously, this is a top priority for my siblings and I. Going back and forth, juggling work and family is not easy, thus this overdue column.

I hope all of you are enjoying a restful summer.

August is fast approaching and our ATSSB membership continues to face ongoing challenges as well as opportunities for our school programs and students. The recent middle school physical education law, the changed start date for the 2007-08 school year, TAKS remediation and overcrowded school calendars (to name a few) require creativity and a renewed spirit of cooperation for all of us in Texas public schools. It is reassuring to me that our instrumental music students throughout the state are blessed with band directors and staff who are capable and willing to work harder and smarter adapting to challenges and change.

I wish to remind our membership of the general informational meeting which will be held on Saturday at TBA. As always, Participation by all in ATSSB is important and I appeal to you to attend this gathering. Look for time and location in the schedule of events. I look forward to visiting with colleagues, attending clinics and concerts, getting pumped up for the start of another school year. Lets start school rested and with undying optimism. See you in San Antonio!!!

Yours in music,

## President Elect's Column

by Bob Vetter



Another year has come and gone. Was it what you expected? Look back to see what you can do better.

Use the summer to rest and get ready for next year. Good luck to all who are entering OPS. These are the comments that everyone makes in this article. Following is what I really have to say:

This spring, my father past away. We were on a family ski trip in Colorado when we received the word. My Dad was fantastic! He exemplified everything a servant should be. He worked for and retired from the Post Office. His "real job" was raising kids. He loved young people and was involved in the lives of many. He would go to work very early and be home around lunch. I think the neighborhood kids thought our Dad did not have a job.

Dad was active in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Band Boosters and was a tremendous sports fan. (Soon after retirement and moving to the Kerrville area, he was the "Sports Booster of the Year" for Ingram HS Sports Boosters!) Many young people in the Hill Country area knew him affectionately as "Paw-Paw."

My Mom and Dad would attend every function my brother and sisters were in. Still to this day, Mom comes to everything our band does. Mom and Dad were at marching contest last fall and our Christmas Concert in December. Mom was at the Spring Concert two weeks ago.

At our Spring Concert, we played a special tribute to Dad. Rob Tucker from Howard Payne University, did an arrangement of "Be Thou My Vision." It featured a brass quartet with band accompaniment. My daughters, our tuba player and myself were the members of the brass quartet. It was extremely moving to honor Dad in this way.

Dad will be missed by many. He touched the lives of countless young people. He is my inspiration for teaching. This summer, remember to love and cherish those that are close to you. Rest and get ready for next year. Have a great summer!

## AAA State Representative's Column

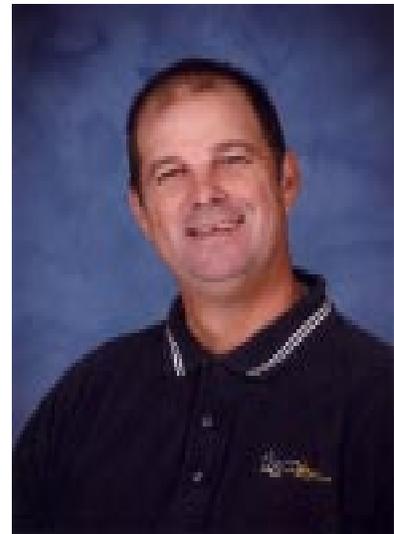
Schools out for us all and some of us are either relaxing or still taking care of business for August. We have all had our end of the year banquets, finished our show designs for that competitive UIL Marching Contest show and finished our recruiting of beginners and entering freshmen; not much difference between those two students. Both beginners and freshman are excited and scared of what to come in August. I think that as educators we must remember that our beginners are our future and that we are always recruiting and encouraging our students in band. If we are not recruiting and encouraging then we will not grow and or maintain our programs. We can get into a lull of thinking that our program will always be one that they will choose over that other class or sport.

With today's challenges of extra class requirements as in the 4 by 4 or additional demands on students in activities outside of school, we have to be more understanding of our students time and demands that we place on them. I am not recommending that we not work hard, but work more effectively. I recommend that we all look at our time management of rehearsals during school and especially after school. I know that in Wills Point we share approximately 40% of our program with our athletic department. This can cause great stress on our students and our staff. Students want to please their teachers. They get torn between which is more important and how it affects the teacher student relationship. It is our job to work with our coaches in order to not place too much pressure on our students and require them to quit one activity for another. Usually these students are the hardest working students and deserve much praise in rehearsal for their commitment to band.

This fall will be a new experience for all of us. How we have decided to work out rehearsals for our long August will undoubtedly show itself in September and October. I encourage all of us to communicate with each other to see how we worked through this new summer schedule. There are many things educationally that separates band from other school activities. We as music educators have to remember that the competition is a good test for our program but the intrinsic learning that happens will be remembered by our students for a lifetime. I hope that you all have a successful summer band and school year. Remember to get some rest and spend some great quality time with your family for football season is approaching and lost family time is inevitable again.

Best of Luck for 2007-2008

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



## Executive Secretary's Column by



I have a new email address! Please use [atssb@att.net](mailto:atssb@att.net) to communicate with the State Office.

Your membership for 2006-07 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.07.htm>. Make a note of any corrections, especially if it says "NONE GIVEN" and fill out the application in this Newsletter with the changes (you need only list name and school and any changes - we already have the other posted data in the database) 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. Dues 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.08.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 A and AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session February 14, 2008. After nominees have accepted their nominations, their pictures and biographies (if submitted) will appear in the online December Newsletter, so keep an eye out for that issue. Please get involved in the district, region, and area activities of ATSSB - and seek state office if you would like to serve at that level. It is a lot of work, requires a lot of time and effort, and entails constant contact with fellow officers, but the end results are very worthwhile (and obviously beneficial to our students and ATSSB in general).

The Prescribed Audition List Update (Use Year B) should be available online soon: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearBUpdate.08.pdf>.

We no longer mail a copy of the Update to all high school band directors and members with the September Newsletter as we have in the past. The September Newsletter will be mailed, but only to include a free copy of the 2007 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, David Holsinger (Lee University) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Dr. Lou Fischer (Capital University Conservatory of Music), will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Robert Sheldon will be the Concert Band clinician, and has been commissioned by ATSSB to compose a grade 3+ piece for the Concert Band entitled "Choreography" which is inspired by dance gestures from contemporary theatre and ballet

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

productions.

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 21. 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 22 in the Convention Center. Check the convention program for the location. Please make plans to attend if you will be at TBA. This will be an informational meeting at which issues impacting ATSSB will be discussed.

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. 13-16, 2008 David Holsinger from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Dr. Lou Fischer from Capital University Conservatory of Music - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Robert Sheldon - CONCERT BAND and commissioned composer

Feb. 11-14, 2009 John Whitwell from Michigan State University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Mike Vax, International Artist for the Getzen Company - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Dr. William K. Wakefield from the University of Oklahoma - CONCERT BAND  
Philip Sparke has been commissioned to write a grade 2+ piece 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 [bmbarne@cablelynx.com](mailto:bmbarne@cablelynx.com).**

### **FYI, ATSSB at TBA**

#### **Friday, July 20**

10:00 am.-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area (closes at 5:00 for Dialogue Committee meeting)

1:00-5:00 pm

#### **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 21**

7:30-9:30 am

State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Renaissance Room

9:30 am-4:00 pm

ATSSB table open in Registration area (closes at 4:00 for TMAA Concert Band Workshop)

#### **Sunday, July 22**

7:30 am.-2:00 pm

ATSSB table open in Registration area

1:30 pm

**ATSSB General Session** (see convention program for location)

2:00-6:00 pm

ATSSB table open in Registration area (will not be open on Monday)

## Outstanding Performance Series



By now all CDs have been received by Designated Region Coordinators and will soon, if not already, be adjudicated. I want to remind all Region and Area Coordinators that only ATSSB-member directors may serve as judges. (The exception to that rule may be found on page three of the OPS Purpose and Procedure on the ATSSB website.) You might also want to refer to page three to review the procedure for honorariums that may be given to judges and to the Region and Area Coordinators. Just be sure that you familiarize yourselves with all of the procedures before you start asking for reimbursements. We have had some Region Coordinators in the past spend money for things that were not authorized, and then they expected to be reimbursed. I am sure they were not happy when they were told that they would not get

all of their expenditures refunded.

If you are a Designated Area Coordinator you should know which regions are sending CDs to you. Be sure you have the CDs from all of the regions before you start your adjudication. If you do not receive CDs of one of those regions by the deadline, please check with that Region Coordinator(s). Maybe CDs were shipped, but you never received them. We have had that happen in the past and we would like that not to happen again. Also, remember that Designated Region Coordinators must have the adjudication and mail all advancing CDs to the Designated Area Coordinators on or before (and preferably before) June 12.

The Designated Area Coordinators will forward all advancing CDs to the OPS State Chair (Don Thuede, 2502 White Street, Clifton, TX 76634, 254-675-6789) on or before (and preferably before) June 26.

After each level of competition, the official in charge shall immediately mail a copy of Page 14 showing a complete list of results to the OPS State Chair and to each director who entered a CD. This is very important, so please do this immediately after the adjudication! Also, when you post results online, be sure to only mention the name of the school and not the name of the tune; however, you may list the form number of the advancing tune if not a march (1B or 1C).

Very soon after June 26 I will be calling directors to serve as judges at the State adjudication. I need five judges and one monitor for each of the five classifications, so if I leave a message on your home phone about judging at the State level, please return my call as soon as possible.

This is our 11<sup>th</sup> year of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series (can you believe it?) and every year has gone more smoothly than the previous year. I am convinced it is because our Region and Area Coordinators have done a marvelous job of following the guidelines and are working very hard for the directors in their regions and areas. We all owe them our gratitude for their efforts. Thank you, Region and Area Coordinators.

As always, if I can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to call me. Please remember this - changes are made annually in the procedure that is used for the Outstanding Performance Series, and almost every time I get asked a question about how something is done, I have to get out my book and read the instructions! I don't carry all of that information around in my head. The point is, you are not expected to know all of the answers either, but you are expected to go to the website and read the guidelines. If we will all do that, the 2007 OPS will be the best yet. Have a great summer, and I will see you at TBA!

*Don Thuede*

## State Jazz Coordinator Column

by Ellis Kilgore

Hello! I am Ellis Kilgore, ATSSB State Jazz Coordinator. I believe that Jazz is an integral part of our American history, and that it is our responsibility as educators to expose our students to this form of music. 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 an even 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 those 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.

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. 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.

Also, remember that your students can be in both Region Jazz and Region Concert Bands! Your students are eligible to qualify for All-State Concert Band unless they have already qualified for All-State Jazz Band. In other words, it is possible to have a student qualify for Area Jazz and All-State Concert in the same year.

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! Having a 2A band in my background, 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 B. 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 2007-2008 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 B.
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/JazzRules08.pdf>). All audition material MUST BE performed as instructed in the PAL.

Region Secretaries are the most important link to 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](mailto:atssbjazz@yahoo.com)) and I will be happy to help you in any way I can. Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

## All-State Band Floor Monitors Needed

Volunteer now to be a Floor Monitor for the 2008 All-State Band!! You get a free room at the Emily Morgan Hotel for three nights during the Clinic.

Email the State Office ([atssb@att.net](mailto:atssb@att.net)) or give us a call at 713-874-1151 for details or to reserve your spot.

## ATSSB Official Licensees

**Music T's**  
 Craig Johnson  
 1031 Eastgate Drive  
 Midlothian, Texas 76065  
 (877) 899-1919  
 www.music-ts.com

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

**Mattei Music Services**  
 Buddy Mattei  
 202 Covey Lane  
 McKinney, Texas 75071  
 (972) 838-2443  
 matteimusic@attwb.net

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

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

**Audio Refinery**  
 Carlos Casso  
 2600 Paramount Blvd., Ste. G5  
 Amarillo, Texas 79109  
 (806) 355-0072  
 www.audiorefinery.net

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

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

**Stephen Henry**  
 Smart Music Consultant  
 P.O. Box 25  
 Vanderbilt, Texas 77991  
 (361) 284-3226, XT1220  
 srhenry@tisd.net

**Cauble Sportswear, Inc.**  
 Rick Cauble  
 3209 Commercial Drive  
 Midland, Texas 79701  
 (800) 299-8325  
 far103flyer@yahoo.com

### 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) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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)

**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:** The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. 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. 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.