



ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

NEWSLETTER

July, 1991

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

WELCOME TO ATSSB!! These are indeed exciting days. In 1920, TMEA was formed when a group of seven Texas band directors met in Waxahachie to form an organization that would "Promote more and better bands in the community and in Texas." This March, directors from across the state met in Abilene to form an organization which would promote music education in the small schools in Texas.

I have been a member of TMEA for 25 years. I am aware of the work which it has done and continues to do for music education in Texas and *will continue to support it with my membership*, but I believe the facts are **CLEAR and COMPELLING** that an association made up of small school directors themselves can most effectively address problems facing music education in the small school. In addition to the strong voice ATSSB will provide A-AA-AAA directors, the association will afford opportunities for sharing individual successes, expertise, and exchange of ideas which are vital to professional growth. Of course, one of the primary reasons ATSSB was formed was to recognize outstanding small school bandmen by awarding All-State honors to the best A-AA-AAA high school band students in Texas.

THIS YEAR ATSSB IS A FACT! We are a fully chartered and incorporated association under the laws of the state of Texas. We have entered our name and logo under trademark protection in Texas and have secured the services of attorneys for legal guidance and a CPA for accounting purposes.

Organizers have been appointed in 20 of the 22 UIL regions. Area hosts, dates, and sites have been secured and tryouts are now being planned beginning this Fall. A performance site near the riverwalk in downtown San Antonio has been reserved along with housing for all-state students and chaperones. The Scottish Rite Auditorium will be the site of both rehearsals and of the concert. It is a short block away from the Emily Morgan Hotel which will house the all-state students (The hotel is located next to the Alamo).

One of the most enjoyable aspects of establishing this association has been working with some extremely able, efficient, and knowledgeable directors from across the state and finding we have a common goal — To Educate Children and Further the Cause of Bands In Small Schools in Texas. We remain committed to that cause and welcome your suggestions and assistance as we continue to grow and serve.

Mike Marsh, President
Association of Texas Small School Bands



Vice President's Column

We are excited that an organization specifically for those of us in small school band programs is a reality. This is a result of several years work and demonstrates the organizational and leadership skills of many people who wanted to make a difference and do something positive for small band directors and their students. This organization is a chance for you to get involved and do something in a state band organization.

There are two very important areas of erroneous information circulating:

INCORRECT STATEMENT # 1— ATSSB is anti-TMEA. In all the discussions, philosophy as published, and even in our minds not once was the idea to be a rival of TMEA ever mentioned. TMEA has and continues to be an important, influential voice for music education in the entire country. Bill Cormack and other TMEA leaders have proved their commitment to the benefits of music education. We encourage everyone to join TMEA and be willing to hold office in TMEA. The input from small school band directors must be voiced. The fact remains that in these days of change that an organization specifically for the small school bands of Texas is needed.

INCORRECT STATEMENT # 2 — ATSSB is only a West Texas group and should not be supported statewide. The truth is that we have coordinators in each region of the state containing small school bands. Find out who your region coordinator is and offer your help and become involved.

I look forward to getting to know more of you in other areas of our state. Thank you for allowing me to serve as an officer of ATSSB.

Fred Pankratz, -Vice President
Association of Texas Small School Bands

Executive Secretary's Column

Like your President, I have been a member of TMEA for a long time (only twenty-four years though, Mike!) and have always been pleased with the efforts it has made in support of music education in Texas. However, I am very excited to be a part of ATSSB which will concentrate its energy and resources on only one segment of music education — the small school band program. As all of you know, we face problems (and sometimes benefits!) that large school band programs never have to consider: extensive sharing of students with other disciplines (choir, drama, speech and debate, athletics); bandsmen who must juggle a part-time (and sometimes a full-time) job with school, band and other activities; a lack of administrative input safeguarding our programs (no fine arts or music supervisor); parents who are very interested in the activities of their children and are not afraid to voice concerns or questions (a benefit if handled correctly!); and, among other things, a lack of help (no assistants, no private teachers or long distances to a metropolitan area for private teachers).

Mike has told you about our plans for the ATSSB All-State Band. Your board of directors has worked long and hard organizing the system of auditions necessary to accomplish this. The board has divided the state into twenty regions (bandsmen from UIL Region 17 must audition for their ATSSB Area through Region 19 and bandsmen from UIL region 20 must audition for their ATSSB Area through Region 3 because of the limited number of small school bands in these regions). A Region Coordinator has been named for each of the regions and an Area Coordinator and site has been selected for the coming year (their names are listed elsewhere in the newsletter). A Prescribed Music List has been prepared which lists two etudes, seven major scales and a chromatic scale which must be prepared for the auditions at the ATSSB Area.

You may pick up a copy of the Prescribed Music List along with the ATSSB Area audition rules and regulations at our table in the registration area at TBA. You can also pick up a membership application there (remember that you must be a member of ATSSB before you may enter a student in the audition process). We hope you will stop by to let us meet you, answer your questions and give you an ATSSB sticker to put on your TBA badge! If you are unable to come to TBA this year, contact your Region Coordinator for more details on auditions and/or membership applications.

With only two minor exceptions, I have received positive reactions to the formation - and obvious need - of ATSSB. If we can all work together for the improvement of the small band programs in Texas, we will see a resulting appreciation from other disciplines in the state for our commitment and dedication to music education not generally enjoyed by the majority of us at the present time.

Kenneth Griffin, Executive Secretary
Association of Texas Small School Bands

ATSSP AREA TRYOUT COORDINATORS 1991-1992

January 4, 1992

AREA A

(Regions 1, 6, 16, 22)

Site: Sundown High School, Sundown

Area Coordinator: Barry Hurt

AREA B

(Regions 2, 3 & 20, 5)

Site: Carroll High School, Southlake

Area Coordinator: Ron Behrends

AREA C

(Regions 4, 10, 17 & 19, 21)

Site: Stephen F. Austin State University,

Nacogdoches

Area Coordinator: Lonnie Dooley

AREA D

(Regions 7, 8, 9, 18)

Site: Troy High School, Troy

Area Coordinator: Glenn Doyle

AREA E

(Regions 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

Site: Banquete High School, Banquete

Area Coordinator: Dave Smith

MEMBER LETTER

I would like to question press coverage and exposure of usually the largest group of students on our campuses. These groups SAT and ACT scores almost always average higher than the national average, and whose members, even when they excell, are still thought of as second class citizens. A group that tries to bring beauty to our statistical lives, the Band.

Band students start in the summer when football players start their 2-a-days, but continue well through May, working just as hard, and as proud as any athlete. One would be foolish to assume that the band is for those who couldn't make the football team. That rumor was conceived by insecure fathers who aren't well educated and tend to shy away from the truth. On the contrary, the sheer composition of a good band program builds character and a well-honed, competitive edge that the student will carry throughout life. One would also be foolish to assume that no one wants to hear about these programs.

Many people picture bands as the "out of step, and out of tune" nerds playing a "bad rendition of *My Way*" with a conceited air-head trying to twirl a baton. One has only to take an honest look at a good program and the commitment that it takes. They would be amazed, and probably shocked. Anyone who has ever worn band shoes will understand how hard band kids really work.

How about music itself, now called music education by the education community? To make an obvious point, imagine a wedding, funeral, movies, or even television without music. Where would our patriotism be without music to stir our feelings?

Take a look at the class of people who participate in, and listen to good music. Any society in history that has flourished, has placed a strong emphasis on music and the arts. Look at the Greeks, the Romans, the Orientals, and the Germans. (If you don't believe that the latter two are flourishing, take a look at the cars that rich people drive!)

In closing, after seeing some of the insignificant garbage that is covered by the press, I challenge the press to upgrade itself and start covering some of the "Halftime Heroes" and hear their stories and best memories. It seems that we need to recognize, and nurture **all** excellence, including music, as well as academic and sports achievements.

Howard Lewis, Member
Association of Texas Small School Bands

If you have ideas for teaching small school bands or surviving as a small school band director, please mail an article to Fred Pankratz, Vice-President, ATSSB.

ATSSB REGION COORDINATORS 1991-1992

REGION	COORDINATOR	REGION	COORDINATOR	REGION	COORDINATOR
1	Rick Ball West Texas High School Box Y Stinnett, TX 79083 (806) 878-2457	2	Louis Thornton Wylie High School 4010 Beltway South Abilene, TX 79606 (915) 695-1910/6870	3 & 20	Elmer Schenk Howe High School Box 130 Howe, TX 75059 (903) 532-5222, ext. 127
4	Lonnie Dooley Hawkins High School P.O. Box L Hawkins, TX 75764 (903) 769-3917	5	Ron Behrends Carroll High School 1201 N. Carroll Avenue Southlake, TX 76092 (817) 488-8917	6	Scott Mason Crane High School 511 W. 8th Street Crane, TX 79731 (915) 558-2631
7	Michael G. Marsh Eldorado High School Box 578 Eldorado, TX 76936 (915) 853-2705	8	Glenn H. Doyle Troy High School Box 409 Troy, TX 76579 (817) 774-9211	9	Mike Bendiksen Montgomery High School P.O. Box 1475 Montgomery, TX 77356 (409) 597-4344
10	Don Stockton Warren High School Box 190 Warren, TX 77664 (409) 547-3503	11	Mark Watley Medina Valley High School Drawer P Castroville, TX 78009 (512) 538-2514	12	Craig Hunt Karnes City High School 110 West Southline Karnes City, TX 78118 (512) 780-2437
13	Dan H. Frels Cuero High School 401 Park Heights Drive Cuero, TX 77954 (512) 275-2772	14	David G. Smith Banquete High School Box 369 Banquete, TX 78339 (512) 387-8588	15	Ray Garza Santa Rosa High School Box 368 Santa Rosa, TX 78593 (512) 636-1123
16	Barry Hurt Sundown High School P.O. Box 1110 Sundown, TX 79372 (806) 229-3021	18	Travis Hobson Caldwell High School 302 N. Thomas Caldwell, TX 77836 (409) 567-9506	19 & 17	Jim Smith Tarkington High School Route 6, Box 130 Cleveland, TX 77327 (817) 774-9211
21	Bobby Overall Winona High School P.O. Box 318 Winona, TX 75792 (903) 877-2449	22	Gregory J. Siewart Clint High School P.O. Box 779 Clint, TX 79836 (915) 851-2344		

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