



ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands
Volume VIII, Number 1
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PLEASE NOTE
We have a new address!

ATSSB
401 Hampton Court
Longview, TX 75605-4736
(903) 753-1573

President's Column by *Rowie Page*

Getting organized to write my second to last column for the ATSSB newsletter it is hard not to reflect on how the Association has changed and matured in the seven years I have been a member. Even though I was not one of the founding charter members, I was on board by the first audition, and even had two students certified to area auditions. Vivid memories of that year are still with me, and it is hard to believe that seven concerts are history!

The growth in the scope of our association is no more evident than in the length of our concert - with all of those introductions. We have always tried to recognize those members who make ATSSB happen. Kenneth and all presidents have tried to put a list together making sure not to leave anyone out. This was not difficult with only one band and no OPS, etc.; however, this year we heard your concerns about the length, and I am sure George will take them to heart next year. Recognition will come in a different manner - ribbons on badges or some other form. The concert will be shorter!



The ATSSB/TMEA Dialogue Committee is further evidence of the growing stature of ATSSB. This committee forged a proposal in one day, which bridged differences that took eight or more years to generate. It is with regret that I must report to you today that the committee's proposal will not be implemented in 1998-99 school year. There are several items to address before we come to a final agreement. First, though, a little background.

When the question of TMEA membership was brought up in the Dialogue Committee, ATSSB members pointed out that requiring TMEA membership to audition for an ATSSB band would require dual membership. We felt like we could not agree to force TMEA membership on our members. The TMEA members of this committee understood our feelings, and after a lengthy discussion we decided to leave this matter unanswered. It was pointed out that most, if not all, of our members were TMEA members voluntarily. Each of us in the room remembered the TSTA/NEA travesty all too well, and the final effect on TSTA! We were convinced that if we were to proceed with the proposal this problem would work itself out in time.

In their June 15th meeting, the TMEA Executive Board addressed the proposal for the first time. They approved most aspects of the Dialogue Committee's proposal, but they added a TMEA membership requirement for all-region entry. The ATSSB Executive Committee then met by conference call and voted unanimously to table the proposal until this and several other smaller issues were resolved. The State Board of Directors will discuss this issue at the July meeting and it will be reported in the ATSSB general membership meeting as well. If necessary another vote could be taken at the February general membership meeting.

Your executive committee is committed to the alignment effort. When a proposal is adopted it must be palatable to our membership. The executive committee felt like the proposal from the Dialogue Committee was acceptable and could be recommended to the membership. The changes made by the TMEA Executive Board cloud the issue enough that rethinking is in order. TMEA president Barbara Perkins has been advised of our stance on all matters, and we, as always, remain open and available to any dialogue.

With some minor changes covered in the 1998-99 update, all procedures for ATSSB all-state auditions will be the same as in the past. Please be sure to place your update in the front of your PAL, then read it and follow it throughout the audition process. Keep it handy and refer to it often.

Also please read the other columns in the newsletter as they are all full of information you will need throughout the upcoming year. This is our only means of transmitting vital information to you and it is important that you are informed. Being better informed could prevent most problems the leadership deals with.

I hope each of you have a restful and invigorating summer. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio in. Don't forget the OPS tape sessions on Sunday afternoon and be sure to stop by the ATSSB booth to say hello.

President-Elect's Column by *Gene Strickland*



By the time this newsletter is received, I will have participated in two UIL Prescribed Music List (PML) Committee meetings this summer. The appointed committee is charged with compiling the lists for the PML that will be used for the school years beginning in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002. Currently the committee has deleted some titles off each grade listing. Also, we have found multiple movement songs that allow certain movements to be performed by smaller classification bands and have added those to the graded lists. We spent three days in Austin adding new publications to each of the grade lists. Prior to the Austin meeting, I listened to 505 new selections that various publishers submitted. During the Austin meeting, the committee listened to 44 more new selections. When I arrived home, I found four more boxes of music to evaluate, and the boxes keep coming! We are attempting to place a total of 100 songs on the grades 1 and 2 lists. Grades 3 and 5 should have a significant increase, while grade 4 will increase some. Serving you on this committee has been a very rewarding and

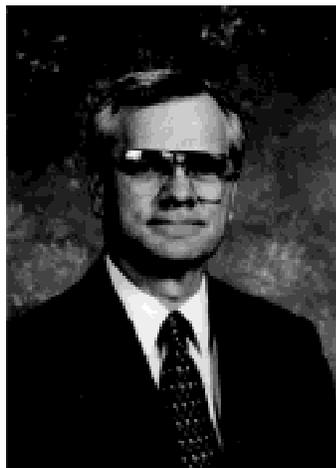
growing experience for me. I have gained knowledge about some of our country's greatest literature and composers. It is now easy to listen to a selection of music and know if it is suitable for UIL competition. I want to encourage you to still offer suggestions to the committee. Remember that the best way is to provide a score and a recording of each song you wish to be considered and mail your request to each committee member. The committee is listed on the ATSSB web site at www.atssb.org. The PML Selection Committee will meet again in November.

Remember to check the web site and the newsletter for corrections to our audition material. If you think you have found another error, let me know.

I hope you have had a great summer. Your students will be glad you took a break away from the band hall. If you have not taken a break yet, please take one now. You will do much better during summer band, fall classes, and marching season!

Call on me if I can help you in any way.

Executive Secretary's Column by *Kenneth L. Griffin*



Like Ronnie, I am disappointed that we were unable to align our All-State auditions with TMEA this year. The ATSSB Executive Committee was unable to approve the latest TMEA proposal since it differed from the ATSSB/TMEA Dialogue Committee Recommendations that you, the membership, approved by your vote this past April. This issue will be discussed in detail by your State Board, in future Newsletters, on the Web Site, and at the General Session at TBA. A vote may be taken in February to determine if you want to align with TMEA in 1999-2000 under their guidelines.

Don't forget to pay your dues before you enter students in ATSSB auditions. Membership renewals for 1999 are enclosed with this Newsletter. Please take a minute and look it over. 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). Mail the renewal to: ATSSB; 401 Hampton Court; Longview, Texas 75605-4736. The new telephone number for ATSSB is (903) 753-1573. Those of you who have already paid your dues for next year should have a note to that effect in red on your renewal application. If I missed one, just check for information changes and send it to me only if you have changes to report.

Try to attend the ATSSB-sponsored clinic at TBA: "Creative Approaches to Developing Feeder Programs in Small Schools" with John Canfield from Rusk Junior High School as the Moderator.

Enclosed you should find an Update (on blue paper) for the Prescribed Audition List (we will be using Year C) along with the June Newsletter. You should put it at the front of your PAL and discard the green colored pages and any

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(Executive Secretary's Column, Continued from Page 2):

old pages being replaced. 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 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. Col. Alan Bonner will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band and John O'Reilly 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 on Monday, July 27. 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 27 in the Convention Center, in CC102. Please make plans to attend if you will be at TBA.

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. 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 (be sure to let us know your new address!).

The ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

by *Don Thoede*, State Chair



I am writing this article on June 1, 1998, and I can't help but wonder how many tapes have been entered in competition for the 1998 Outstanding Performance Series. I hope you all had great performances at your UIL Contest or at the Non-UIL Contest you might have entered, and therefore have submitted your tapes to your Region Coordinator by the June 1 deadline. It would be fantastic to have twice as many entries this year! Since Class C and Class CC are no longer competing against each other, I anticipate more participation in the Class C category. I wish all of you the best of luck!

I want to remind the Region Coordinators that a copy of Form 2, a Reimbursement Request form (if any), and all entry fees should be mailed to Kenneth Griffin at 401 Hampton Court, Longview, TX 75605-4736.

It is very important to remember that Entry Forms 1A, 1B, and 1C should accompany the winning tapes all the way to the State Chair. I mentioned that to the Region Coordinators at the State Board meeting back in February.

The format for the State taping sessions will be basically the same as last year. We will have to add a panel of 5 judges since we have added another classification. We will start the taping sessions on Sunday, July 26, 1998, in the convention center in San Antonio. Class C, Class CC, and Class A will begin at 1:00 p.m., and Class AA, and Class AAA will begin at 3:30 p.m. At the present time, I do not know the names of the rooms. They will be listed on the ATSSB Web site just as soon as I get the information. If you don't have access to the web site, feel free to call me. I should have that information soon.

I will need twenty-five judges plus five monitors for the taping sessions. I will be calling and asking some of our fellow directors to donate their time to help judge this very important event. I will try to get one judge from each Area on every panel. In addition, please make every effort to attend these taping sessions at TBA. I am sure you will get to hear some very fine bands.

I am very excited about the 1998 Outstanding Performance Series. I am sure we will again have some outstanding bands selected for our CD. The month of June should be an interesting one for all of us, especially if you have entered a tape. I am certainly looking forward to hearing the bands that make it to the State level.

Have a great summer!

ATSSB at TBA

Sunday, July 26

1:00 p.m. ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series

Class C followed by Class AA in CC Rehearsal Hall

Class CC followed by Class A in CC VIP Room

Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting in Fiesta Rooms D&E

ATSSB Office in CC105

Monday, July 27

7:00 a.m. ATSSB SBOD Breakfast meeting Majestic Room, Ramada Emily Morgan

2:00 p.m. ATSSB Genreal Session in CC102

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

July 27, 1998

Change ARTICLE III of the Constitution by adding:

HONORARY LIFE - An Honorary Life Membership shall be awarded to all Past Presidents of the Association. Honorary Life Membership may also be awarded to persons deemed worthy by unanimous decision of the ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting in a regular session. If bestowed on an individual currently holding an Active Membership, all privileges of Active Membership will continue for life.

Change ARTICLE I, SECTION 3 of the By-Laws

from: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP shall be open to any individual currently serving as a band director or assistant director in a class A, AA or AAA high school in Texas or is a band director or assistant director in a junior high or middle school which feeds a class A, AA or AAA high school as defined by the University Interscholastic League. Payment of the prescribed dues will allow the individual to participate in ATSSB activities, the right to vote and hold office, admittance to meetings upon compliance with registration requirements, and to enter students in grades 9-12 in the audition process leading to membership in the ATSSB All-State Band. A Regular Member who retires may continue Active Membership so long as dues are kept current.

to: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP shall be open to any individual currently serving as a band director or assistant director in a class A, AA or AAA high school in Texas or as a band director or assistant director in a junior high or middle school which feeds a class A, AA or AAA high school as defined by the University Interscholastic League. Payment of the prescribed dues will allow the individual to participate in ATSSB activities, the right to vote and hold office, admittance to meetings upon compliance with registration requirements, and to enter students in grades 9-12 in the audition process leading to membership in the ATSSB All-State Band. A Regular Member who retires may continue Active Membership so long as dues are kept current. **An Honorary Life Member who was an Active Member on receipt of Life Membership may continue Active Membership so long as he or she notifies ATSSB annually their wish to continue active participation (at which time the Executive Secretary will issue a current-year membership number).**

Rationale: This is an honor bestowed on persons giving two to four years of their life to leading ATSSB. The establishment of this policy will also align ATSSB with other state associations in awarding this honor.

All-State Housing Coordinator Apprentice Wanted

Anyone interested in learning how to be the ATSSB All-State Housing Coordinator for the year 2000 should contact Jennifer Willison in Canadian at (806) 323-5608 or by email at jennifew@tenet.edu. You would be responsible for coordinating rooms and Floor Monitors during the clinic. You would receive a free room during the convention for helping her and learning how to be the Coordinator for the following year.

