

# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

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ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY: MIKE MARSH

Another year is coming rapidly to a close. Contest, for most of us is over, and spring trips and spring concerts are in the works. It is a time for reflecting on the successes and upon the failures of our programs, and for planning new strategies to improve our operations. For ATSSB the year has been an unqualified success. There are areas in which we can improve, however, and the after action reports which many of you returned to me, while including much praise for the overall operation of the association, also offered suggestions for improvement in specific areas. I can assure you that your comments will be given thoughtful consideration by the Executive Board as planning for the coming year takes place.

I urge each of you to attend the upcoming region meetings, as much that is of importance for next year will be discussed and decided. The election of region coordinators and the setting of dates and locations for region tryouts are deserving of your serious attention.

ATSSB will hold a general membership meeting as well as several committee meetings during TBA this summer. I encourage your attendance at this convention, not only for the business meetings which are vital to our association, but for the opportunity to attend clinics and exhibits and generally, "recharge your batteries" before school starts.

One item of great importance on the agenda at the general membership meeting will be a proposed constitutional change to Article II, Section 2.(c). This concerns the election of the Vice President. The constitution states that "...The general membership

shall vote in the Business Session on the office of Vice-President in even numbered years." It is proposed that this be changed to read "...The general membership shall vote in the Business Session on the office of Vice-President in odd numbered years." This will make the terms of office of President, Vice-President, and Executive Secretary concurrent.

The membership will also hear and vote on a report by the All-State Instrumentation Committee which will meet prior to the General Membership Meeting.

We are presently working with the new TMEA leadership to bring about a healing of the relationship between our two organizations. I have had several phone conversations with Don Hanna and with Bill Cormack and I feel that a solution can be found that will be acceptable to the membership of both ATSSB and TMEA.

I hope each of you has a relaxing and stress free summer. See you at TBA!!

## EXECUTIVE SEC. COLUMN

BY: KEN GRIFFIN

This column will be a hodge-podge of miscellaneous details as we begin our second year. It is somewhat hard to believe that so much - on such a grand scale and in such a successful manner - has transpired since this time last year!

One feedback we received from our February Newsletter was from Dick Floyd of the UIL. He asked if we as small-school directors had experienced any problems with TSSEC (because of my mention that ATSSB might want to sponsor a state solo-ensemble contest). I told him that many directors had felt that their students could not receive a fair evaluation of their performance in competi-

tion with the large school students (who are generally private-lesson oriented, etc. - much the same reasons we started the ATSSB All-State Band). Mr. Floyd's response was that the UIL and TSSEC was interested in making the contest experience a rewarding and educational one for all students in all classes and that if we experienced any problems he would appreciate a note or suggestions for improvement.

We still have some of the music used on the concert which we will sell at half-price: Flourish for Wind Band - \$16; Sussex Mimmers Christmas Carol - \$12.50; Chester - \$25; Shostakovich's Folk Dances - \$25; British Eighth - \$7.50; and Cajun Folk Dances - \$47.50. Call or write and I will send it to you with a bill.

Membership renewals for 1993 will be coming to your homes soon. If you need to wait until the next budget year to your dues, fine. Just please hold on to the renewal, noting and correcting any missing or erroneous information so we can keep our files up to date. Remember that you must be a member for your students to be eligible to enter to competition for the 1993 ATSSB All-State Band. Entries will not be accepted at the Region level unless the student's director is a member AT THE TIME OF ENTRY.

We are in an enviable financial state because so much interest in the organization was generated last year - and because a lot of things were donated (patches, programs, etc.). We should continue to operate in the black because several companies have expressed an interest in supporting our cause (Membership #AM1 is already spoken for - Jent's House of Music in Lubbock!). Look for a completed financial report in the July Newsletter in time for our Business Session at TBA.

I hope a lot of you can come by our table at TBA to pick up your Prescribed Music List for auditions for 1992-93. This will save us a lot of postage (I will mail a copy to every paid member of record as of August 1 who was not able to come to TBA, then mail a copy with membership cards as directors join during the year if they were unable to come to TBA).

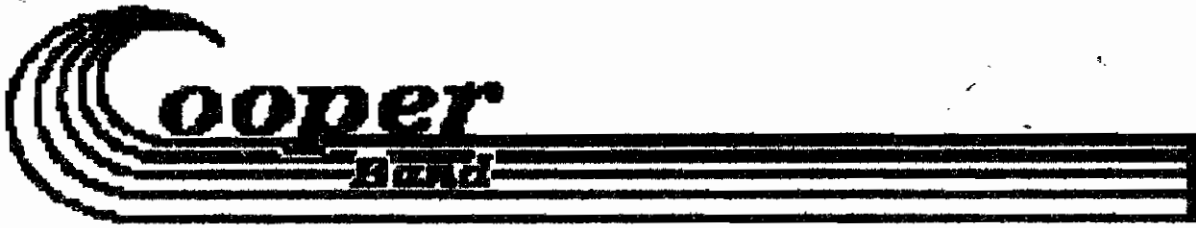
I am going to let Mike keep you informed about negotiations with TMEA. In the meantime, we must make plans for an even bigger year as we try to improve on what really worked remarkably well! - our ATSSB All-State Band! We already have rooms booked at the Emily Morgan and the Scottish Rite Auditorium reserved for the ATSSB All-State Band February 10-13, 1993. We will probably handle room reservations a little differently next year to make it easier for all of us. We are in the process of getting better light in the auditorium so the kids will not strain their eyes!

Until July - and TBA - I hope you have a fruitful end of school and a restful summer!

# HAVE A GREAT SUMMER



Suddenly, second-chair granite rock's jealousy of first-chair granite rock becomes uncontainable.



Dear Mr. Pankratz,

February 24, 1992

I am writing to you and the membership of the Association of Texas Small School Bands because of a growing concern about the relationship of ATSSB and the future of music education in the state of Texas. I am not trying to down play the hard work and substantial achievements of the organization. It is very gratifying to see the small school directors congregate as one voice and discuss similar problems and seek solutions. I believe that the confidence and realization of the small school directors voting power is very important and should always be stressed in the future.

My concern is focused on the rhetoric of many directors that see TMEA as an enemy that is not concerned with the day to day work of the small school bands. I would like to point out the endless hours that are spent by Mr. Cormack and the TMEA staff to insure our very existence. Although ATSSB has accomplished many positive things in the past year, I would ask that the membership not lose sight of the ever existing threat of the elimination of music education in the public schools. In a time when funding cuts can easily be directed at our very programs, we must remain a unified voice by keeping our support with TMEA. Although the small school directors do not share all the same problems and needs as their larger counterparts, the need to keep music education alive is a common issue.

As band directors and professionals, we must all vote and support what is best for our students. It is very important that the stability of the TMEA organization not be threatened or even appear to be weakened over issues we create within. ATSSB has proven many of the doubts about a small school all-state band to be unfounded. It is time to put aside the differences about the all-state issue and continue to support a unified band division defending music education as an integral part of the public schools. I ask that you fight for your convictions, but not at the expense of music education as a profession.

Sincerely,

Jon Locke

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