

## **Executive Secretary's Column**

by *Kenneth L. Griffin*

I would like to encourage each of you to approach your superintendent with your own version of the resolution I used here in Van that recognizes ATSSB at the local level so your students can participate in ATSSB activities this year (see page 20). In past years, the Commissioner of Education kept a list of approved organizations (UIL, ATSSB, TMEA, etc.) that were allowed to utilize school days for competitions, etc. within the 10-day rule (with extensions for all-state activities). While each local board is allowed to adopt the list from past years, THEY DO NOT HAVE TO, so you need to make an effort to get ATSSB sanctioned by your local board of trustees by resolution.

Please look over any materials you receive from your Region Coordinators regarding auditions. The region auditions determine the Area Candidates from each of the regions in the state. Be sure you are aware of eligibility requirements and that you have taken care of all of the necessary paperwork (ATSSB membership, region entry fees, forms completed, etc.) in advance of auditions.

If you have students who are selected to audition at the ATSSB Area auditions January 11, make sure each one brings Form 11 and Form 15 properly completed and signed to the audition. Otherwise, they will not be allowed to audition at the Area level. These forms will be given you either at the Region audition or sent to those involved by the Area Coordinator when sending Area audition information.

Hotel space is at a premium of course in San Antonio, especially since we are housing twice the number of students this year, so make sure that you fill out Form 14 at Area securing space in the Ramada Emily Morgan Hotel for the clinic in San Antonio if you have a student selected for All-State. You may use Form 14 at Area to reserve a room for you (and others if you wish to share) at the same hotel as long as the rooms last.

Our ATSSB 4-Year All-State Scholarship is doing well now as contributions are continuing to come in (see the report elsewhere in the Newsletter). We have received donations from Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14, 16, and 19 along with a donation from an individual band

(Continued on page 5)

("Chart Your Band To Success", continued from page 16):

their performance, and they place a colored mark in the appropriate box beside their name. As you can imagine, the students who are prepared and confident will show up first. The others will not come until compelled. The students who come in early will almost all make I's. Even if we have to correct some minor flaws we will give them a I. Having these students very close to perfection early will make them much easier to polish in rehearsal. If they need a little more work, we give them a II and expect them to come back and raise it to a I! If the problems only happen in a certain place, we make a note on the back of their part and only hear that part on their return.

OK - what about the rest of the band? When I feel as though I've gotten all of the easy ones (Ha!) I merely set a deadline. At this point, the judging standards are tightened a little also. It is with this group that we begin to see more II's and III's. A II means minor memory or accuracy troubles, a III, more of the same.

Now, what about that last bunch - the reluctant seventh and eighth graders, those last chair children just enjoying being part, and the occasional capable player that just flat procrastinates? This is the group that will not even show up for the deadline! Now that I have a part-time assistant, he will pull these during band class until each is heard. This is often where IV's and V's unfortunately appear on our chart.

Once we've "charted" each band member, the real work begins. We focus two ways. For those students that have II's or III's, we keep them coming back again and again, pulling them up to their highest potential. The students change their ratings on the chart each time they receive a

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State Board of Directors  
Breakfast Meeting  
7:00 a.m.  
July 22, 1996

Majestic Room, Ramada Emily Morgan Hotel, San Antonio

The State Board of Directors of the Association of Texas Small School Bands met for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. in the Majestic Room of the San Antonio Ramada Emily Morgan Hotel.

Present at the meeting were Alfred Angerstein, Pat Autrey, Rick Ball, Mike Bendiksen, Sandy Brown, John Canfield, Jeff Comp, Lonnie Dooley, Alan Gregory (for Jesse Lotspeich), Kenneth Griffin, Mike Hardy, Bill Harrison, Ed Lowes, Mark Melton, Ronnie Page, Fred Pankratz, Forrest Perry, Greg Rose, Elmer Schenk, David Smith, James I. Smith, Scott Stephenson, Don Stockton, Dennis Teasdale, Don Thoede, Ron Welborn, Eric Wharton, and Jennifer Willison. Also in attendance was Betty Ingham, a guest of Sandy Brown. Not present were Founding Charter Members Dwayne Bishop and John Gibson, Region XII Coordinator Craig Hunt, Region XV Coordinator Tom Stirzaker, Region XVI Coordinator Richard Herrera, Area A Coordinator Charley Cross, Area B Coordinator Louis Thornton, and Class A Representative Gene Conway.

Ronnie Page gave the invocation and the Board enjoyed a buffet breakfast. President Don Stockton called the meeting to order at 7:22 a.m.

The minutes of the SBOD meeting February 15, 1996 were approved as printed in the April Newsletter after a motion by Dennis Teasdale and a second by Pat Autrey. The minutes of the called SBOD meeting February 16, 1996 were approved as printed in the July Newsletter after a motion by Greg Rose and a second by John Canfield.

Mr. Stockton asked Elmer Schenk to report on his committee meeting. The Study of Organizational Events Committee included Don Stockton, Don Thoede, Eric Wharton, Gene Conway, Fred Angerstein, Dennis Teasdale, Fred Pankratz, and Jesse Lotspeich. Its recommendation was that there should be an Area format in the solo-ensemble competition to allow time for small school students to memorize their solos because of their active simultaneous involvement

(Continued on page 7)

(Proposed Constitutional Amendment, continued from page 14):

office of Executive Secretary for any reason, the President shall appoint a replacement with the approval of the Executive Committee, subject to review by the State Board of Directors at its next scheduled or called meeting.

Rationale: Because the position of Executive Secretary is so critical to the functioning of the Association, it should be a position that can be more stable than one that has the potential of being changed every two years through election. This is in line with Executive Secretaries at the Region and State level of our other state organizations. By opening the position to Associate Members as well as Active Members, it will allow the selection of someone who has retired or has moved to a position that, while affording them the time to serve the Association,

### **Chart Your Band to Success**

by *Ronnie Page*

Small schools offer many advantages for educators. Each of us who teach in a small school know that the halls and campus are generally safer. I am reminded of that when I must stop at the guard house to identify myself and my purpose in order to visit my wife at the *larger* school where she has taught 23 years! We also are aware that classes are generally smaller, the atmosphere more relaxed, discipline is less of a headache, etc., etc.

However, for those of us involved in extra curricular programs, small schools present some unique challenges. One of the most disturbing is the lack of availability of our students. They are involved with so many activities that finding 10 young ladies free at the same time for a

(Continued on page 16)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

**Change ARTICLE V, SECTION 3 of the Constitution**  
from: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. The Executive Secretary shall assume office in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. The Executive Secretary shall be concurrently employed as a band director or assistant director in an A, AA or AAA high school in Texas.  
to: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. The Executive Secretary shall assume office in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. The Executive Secretary may be an Active or Associate Member of ATSSB.

**Change ARTICLE II, SECTION 3.(b) of the By-Laws**  
from: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TERM OF OFFICE. The Executive Secretary shall serve a term of two years. The term shall begin immediately upon election and shall last until his successor is duly elected.  
to: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TERM OF OFFICE. The Executive Secretary shall serve a term of two years, after which the appointment shall be reviewed by the State Board of Directors.

**Change ARTICLE II, SECTION 3.(c) of the By-Laws**  
from: ELECTION. The general membership of ATSSB shall vote by secret ballot in the Business Session on the office of Executive Secretary in odd-numbered years. If there is no clear majority, a secret ballot will be cast, with the individual receiving a simple majority of the total votes cast being declared the winner.  
to: ELECTION. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Association (minus the Executive Secretary) and approved by the State Board of Directors. The appointment is subject to review by the Executive Committee in odd-numbered years.

**Change ARTICLE II, SECTION 3.(d) of the By-Laws**  
from: VACANCY IN OFFICE. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Executive Secretary for any reason, the President shall appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term.  
to: VACANCY IN OFFICE. In the event of a vacancy in the

(Continued on page 15)

(SBOD Minutes, continued from page 6):

in numerous activities, so the Executive Committee had directed Don Stockton to write a letter to the UIL suggesting the Area format and offering ATSSB's assistance should it be needed since it is already set up in Area configurations. It was suggested that the Area competition include medium ensembles and that it be held in late March.

Fred Pankratz questioned the date availability because of UIL conflicts and reserved dates, but it was decided that there was an available weekend in late March for the event to take place. After much discussion, it was decided that all that could be done regarding the item had been done until we heard from UIL on our suggestion. The committee next presented a proposal that listed criteria for regional contests and festivals that wished to use the ATSSB service marks and logo. After much discussion about the details of the criteria and the philosophical aspects of ATSSB involvement in this area, Jennifer Willison moved and Lonnie Dooley seconded that the Board not address this issue. The motion passed with 11 for and 9 against and the issue was dropped.

Rick Ball moved and Dennis Teasdale seconded that no one be allowed to use ATSSB service marks without ATSSB approval. The motion passes with 1 opposed.

After Fred Pankratz asked for clarification on the phrase "ATSSB approval", Mark Melton moved and Dennis Teasdale seconded that any concert that is the result of an ATSSB-sponsored audition is considered to be approved by ATSSB. Motion passed unanimously.

After further discussion regarding the solo-ensemble issue, Mike Bendiksen moved and Elmer Schenk seconded that the SBOD await a response from Richard Floyd regarding the Area format suggestion and that if the concept is approved and we are asked to assist, we do so. Motion passed with 11 for and 2 against.

In the Executive Secretary's report, Kenneth Griffin pointed out that each Area must use current forms and to pay particular attention to the Form 14's since they could not be duplicated.

Under new business, Kenneth Griffin moved and Don Thoede seconded that we pay a \$200 honorarium to Don Stockton for his presentation of an ATSSB-sponsored clinic at TBA. The motion

(Continued on page 8)

(SBOD Minutes, continued from page 9):

enough for our General Session this afternoon, noting that the rooms given us in past years had been too small for the membership.

Fred Pankratz moved and Ron Welborn seconded that we send a letter to Randy Story requesting adequate space and planning in the future for ATSSB at TBA. Motion passed unanimously.

In response to a question concerning Area fees, Kenneth Griffin responded that the fee would be \$15.

There being no further business, Mr. Stockton adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

General Session  
Association of Texas Small School Bands  
2:00 p.m.  
July 22, 1996  
Room 102, San Antonio Convention Center

The meeting was called to order by President-Elect Ronnie Page in place of President Don Stockton who had to attend a TMAA workshop scheduled at the same time as this General Session. Gary Robbins from Rusk gave the invocation.

Mr. Page introduced the head table: Class A Representative Gene Conway, Class AA Representative Eric Wharton, Class AAA Representative Don Thoede, and Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin. He also recognized special guests in attendance at the meeting: TMEA President Frank Coachman and UIL Director of Music Activities Richard Floyd.

The minutes were approved as printed in the July NEWSLETTER on a motion by John Canfield and a second by Bill Large.

The financial report was approved as printed in the July NEWSLETTER (after a correction noted by Mr. Griffin) on a motion by Mike Hardy and a second by George Strickland.

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(General Session Minutes, continued from page 10):

Mr. Page reported on action taken by the State Board of Directors:

Heard a report from the Study of Organizational Events Committee chaired by Elmer Schenk which included Don Stockton, Don Thoede, Eric Wharton, Gene Conway, Fred Angerstein, Dennis Teasdale, Fred Pankratz and Jesse Lotspeich. It made a recommendation that ATSSB allow contests and festivals following certain criteria to use the ATSSB service marks. The Board decided that this was not the direction ATSSB wished to take at this time and that no one may use the ATSSB service marks without prior authorization.

The committee also suggested an Area format for solo-ensemble competition. The Executive Committee of the SBOD directed President Don Stockton to write the UIL to suggest the Area format and offer ATSSB's assistance in its implementation should it be needed.

The Board approved a Licensing Agreement for businesses using the ATSSB service marks with proceeds going to the Scholarship fund.

The Board authorized Executive Secretary Griffin to investigate the feasibility of selling advertisements in the Newsletter to allow its upgrading and to keep membership dues from increasing. Mr. Page encouraged the membership to send in articles for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter.

The bid from Educational Recording Service to record the All-State concert for \$10 per cassette tape was accepted.

In the Executive Secretary's report, Mr. Griffin announced that the enamel lapel pin was available for \$2. He reminded the membership that it must use current forms for all competitions this year, including the Form 14's which are individually numbered and could not be duplicated, so members should make sure rooms are reserved at the Area auditions. He announced the proposed program for the All-State Concert Band under the direction of Dr. Gary Garner: The Star-Spangled Banner by Sousa/Damrosch; Variations on an African

(Continued on page 12)

(General Session Minutes, continued from page 11):

Hymn Song by Quincy Villare; Americans We by Henry Fillmore, Symphonic Suite by Clifton Williams; The Band Song by Schuman; and an as-yet untitled piece by Fred Allen which is being commissioned by ATSSB for this performance. The Symphonic Band under the direction of Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser will perform: America arranged by Carmon Dragon; A Touch of the Earth by H. Owen Reed; Festive Overture by Dmitri Shostakovich; Lord of the Rings - The Hobbit by Johan DeMeij; and Semper Fidelis by John Philip Sousa.

Mr. Page reminded the membership about the new PAL format with updates. He also told them to be careful of errata - that the only official errata was that listed in the PAL, in the PAL update, or in the Newsletter. Some performance tapes available has different errata, so be careful that the student uses the official errata or points will be deducted at Area. Percussion rudiments were added to make the snare drum auditions more in line with wind instrument scales. The rudiments are to be played closed using the indicated sticking and repeated until told by the judges to stop.

The SARC committee will not meet until after the clinic in February to allow for input from the clinicians and all interested parties before addressing any adjustments that need to be made in the two-band format.

Mr. Page recognized the Class C Middle School TMEA Honor Band and runners up and the Class AAA Honor Band and runners up whose directors are ATSSB members.

There being no further business, Mr. Page adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

*The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles pertaining to small-school bands are welcome, as are letters to the Editor. You may request that your name be withheld, but all letters must be signed for verification and authentication purposes. Send all correspondence to:*

ATSSB  
P.O. Box 1508  
Van, Texas 75790

or email it to KL2000G@aol.com or klgriff@tenet.edu (I can download files better on AOL).

(SBOD Minutes, continued from page 8):

the computer-assisted audition procedures  
Region X has used the past few years and  
on which he is giving a clinic at TBA.

XI Mike Hardy moved and Jim Smith seconded  
that we present a constitutional amendment  
making the office of Executive Secretary an  
appointed one. The proposed amendment would  
be published in the Newsletter and voted on in  
the General Session in February. Motion  
passed unanimously.

XII No report (RC absent).

XIII The Region bank accounts have been transferred  
and a \$500 donation to the Scholarship Fund was  
in the mail.

XIV No report.

XV No report (RC absent).

XVI No report (RC absent).

XVII Announced a festival to be hosted by Tarkington  
next year.

XVIII Asked about the required rudiments and wanted  
the judges to be able to see the performers to  
make sure they were sticking properly.  
Ronnie Page replied that all possibilities had  
been considered by the SARC but that it would  
not be practical.

XXI No report.

XXII No report (RC absent).

Area reports then were heard:

A No report (AC absent).

B No report.

C No report.

D No report (AC absent).

(Continued on page 10)

(SBOD Minutes, continued from page 7):

passed unanimously.

Future clinicians and commissions were discussed and it was decided that we would actively seek Francis McBeth, David Holsinger, Arnold Gabriel, Allan Bonner, and Anthony Mason as future clinicians for the Symphonic Band. Commissions would be discussed at a later date.

Kenneth Griffin presented a proposed Licensing Agreement which would be sent to all persons using the ATSSB service marks. This agreement would require a 10% royalty on gross sales of any item using ATSSB service marks. The proceeds of these agreements would go into the Scholarship Fund. Fred Pankratz moved its acceptance and Jim Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The next item concerned reviewing and acting on recording bids. Only one bid was received to make the All-State Band recording - Educational Recording Service (John Hoover) in Ozona. The price per cassette tape was \$10.00 each. The bid was accepted unanimously after a motion by Pat Autrey and a second by Ronnie Page.

Region reports then were heard:

I No report.

II No report.

III Discussed the possible sale of tapes of all-state winners of the state taping auditions from the past five years. After much discussion and concern about possible litigation regarding students' claim for payment, Jennifer Willison moved and Fred Pankratz seconded that ATSSB must not be named anywhere on the proposed sale of tapes. Motion passed with 5 for and 4 against.

IV No report.

V No report.

VI No report (RC absent).

VII No report.

VIII No report.

IX No report.

X As President, Don Stockton reminded the Region and Area Coordinators to use the three-ring

binders Jennifer Willison asked if Room 102 would be large  
(Continued on page 9)

ATSSB 4-YEAR  
ALL-STATE SCHOLARSHIP REPORT  
OCTOBER 1, 1996

DATE	DONOR/ RECIPIENT	AMT DONATED/ AMT AWARDED	BALANCE
10-01-95	REGION 4	\$1,000.00	
			\$1,000.00
10-01-95	REGION 3	\$100.00	
			\$1,100.00
10-27-95	REGION 2	\$250.00	
			\$1,350.00
11-06-95	INTEREST	\$3.32	
			\$1,353.32
12-06-95	INTEREST	\$3.62	
			\$1,356.94
12-07-95	REGION 19	\$250.00	
			\$1,606.94
12-15-95	account copy fee	(\$2.00)	
			\$1,604.94
01-06-96	INTEREST	\$4.27	
			\$1,609.21
01-31-96	REGION 5	\$1,000.00	
			\$2,609.21
02-06-96	INTEREST	\$5.11	
			\$2,614.32
02-07-96	REGION 7	\$500.00	
			\$3,114.32
02-09-96	REGION 16	\$200.00	
			\$3,314.32
02-12-96	Reagan County HS Owl Band	\$20.00	
			\$3,334.32
03-06-96	INTEREST	\$8.24	
			\$3,342.56
04-06-96	INTEREST	\$8.61	
			\$3,351.17
05-06-96	INTEREST	\$9.54	
			\$3,360.71
05-28-96	REGION 14	\$500.00	
			\$3,860.71
06-06-96	INTEREST	\$9.62	
			\$3,870.33

("Chart Your Band To Success", continued from page 15):

sectional is as hard as convincing your superintendent you need that fourth new sousaphone!

We at Overton have been blessed with some success these last several years, and if I had to pinpoint the one tool I use to make it happen, I would point to the "Play-off Chart"(the chart is reproduced on page 19). Following is an explanation of how I use the chart. I hope it will help some of you overcome the small inconvenience we face of not being able to schedule sectionals. Scheduling a single student for 5 to 10 minutes is always possible, though sometimes requiring a little creativity.

My overall goal is to give every student a private lesson (or series of lessons if needed) to prepare their individual parts, checking both accuracy and memory. We are a military style marching band, and usually our drill will consist of two complete quickstep marches and half of a third. When we begin summer band, I attempt to narrow the list as to what we will play as quickly as possible. (I assume most corps style bands have an idea of music for their show even sooner, which is an advantage). As soon as I decide on the first march, I assign it to be played off, and place it on the 'chart'. The chart has each student's name on the left side (usually sorted by grade, but some years in score order). Beside each name are three wide columns, and the name of the first march is listed at the top of the first column. The second and third marches are added as they are decided. Each column is divided into 5 sub-columns, with headings of I, II, III, IV, and V at the top. The whole chart looks like a big grid.

As the students play off, they are given a rating on

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(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from page 4):

(Reagan County High School Owl Band). If your region has any discretionary funds - or if any individuals would like to contribute to this tax-exempt scholarship fund, please send your checks to me at the state office with the designation on the check that it is for the "ATSSB 4-Year All-State Band Scholarship Fund". Don't forget that this tax exemption also applies to estates - so you can even will your estates to it! We only have one student eligible to receive this scholarship this coming year (assuming the student makes it again!), but in coming years the number should increase with larger numbers selected to All-State. So please keep the scholarship in mind each year as you end up with any fund balances your region feels it can contribute to this worthy cause.

A personal word about the proposed changes to the Constitution. These changes come to the membership with the approval of the State Board of Directors. As you can easily read, the rationale for the changes involves the possibility of using a retired band director for the position and placing the responsibility on the State Board of Directors for securing this person's service. Although the position would not be an elected one in the future, it is my intention to continue as your Executive Secretary. However, events occurring in my professional life might change my professional status (as close as I can say it at this time!). I have always said that the position is anyone's if the membership would like a change, but no one has ever come forward with the desire to serve in this capacity. We have many capable members who could do the job (many could do it better than I), but I am flattered that you think I am doing well enough that you would not desire a change at the present time. Thank you for your support of my efforts on behalf of ATSSB, but thank you also for your dedication to the profession and the Association -without you and the very strong leadership we have had at all levels, we would have floundered in the first few critical years.

Best wishes for a successful marching season.



("Chart Your Band To Success", continued from page 17):

higher rating. For those students who earned the lowest ratings, we do the same, realizing their highest potential may be just learning a few of the fingerings! We try to set realistic goals for each, then are firm in our demands that they meet them. At some point, I try to assess our progress and define the minimum overall rating required to be assured a spot in the contest drill. Only those students who have met their minimum goals will miss school to attend contest - a good incentive. Our concert contest play-off chart follows much the same guideline, but as you can well imagine, is not as traumatic for the student (or the director!).

Those of you teaching by yourselves are asking how to accomplish this? Let the kids schedule themselves, then expect them to show up! I did it for years by myself. I readily admit an assistant takes a big load off, but it can be done in a one director situation. We listen before school, during lunch, break time, any time. Our lessons never last over five to ten minutes, It is always possible to schedule time with an individual if you are creative enough.

Over time, this method has been accepted and is expected by the band members. I usually feel by the time we attend contest I am getting all I can from each individual. I go home most days soon after the last bell rings, my chart a little more complete and the kids happily involved somewhere else on campus!



## **President-Elect's Column**

by *Ronnie Page*

May I wish each of you the indispensable energy and patience as you saddle up for another trail ride into the glowing sunrise of yet another school year. There are things we can be certain of in this pursuit we share: one, each year is a unique experience with a familiar cast of characters; and two, it will offer a genuine adventure!

There are several things that need to be clarified in regards to our PAL. I have listed each concisely in the errata section of the newsletter. Permanent corrections will be sent with next year's update; however, be aware that the notice in this newsletter is official.

I anticipate the upcoming year for ATSSB to be one of our most exciting yet challenging ones. We will face the challenge head on and act when necessary with caution yet resolve. Plans are being discussed now to develop a method for evaluating and nurturing the All State clinics. I am also sure the SBOD will have a full agenda, as usual, for the February meeting in San Antonio. From the very beginnings of our organization, changes have come from needs as seen by members like you. If there is something you think needs to be addressed, let your region coordinator, class representative, or one of your officers bring it to the SBOD. I can assure you, it will be considered.

In closing, I wish you the smoothest year of your career. May each of you touch some life in a positive way, for when that occurs,

### **ATSSB Prescribed Audition List Errata**

CLARINET: p. 26, No. 24. The last note of line one should be an Ab.

SNAREDRUM: The snare drum rudiment page involved so many corrections we felt it essential to reproduce it entirely to make the changes clearly understood (see back of cover page). Please use the reproduction to make sure you comprehend the following changes: Rudimental roll should be played as a 17-stroke roll. Tempo on 5-stroke roll should be 132. Tempo on Flam Parradiddle should be 116-126. Tempo on Double Paradiddle should be 116-126, with accent added on the first note. Lesson 25 - the sticking should not alternate, and an accent should be added to the last note. All rudiments should be played closed and repeated as instructed by the judging panel.

(President's Column, continued from page 1):

doing some interesting things in which the rest of us would be interested. Please take a few minutes and write down your ideas and solutions to share with our ATSSB membership.

The All Region try outs are upon us. Make sure that you are using the current list that was approved last February. We are using year A from the five year rotating list for AREA try outs. Be sure to pay close attention to the news letters for any errata to the current list. Remember that at AREA the scales can be played using music. I must commend Ronnie Page for his long hours of work on the SARC committee. He did a fantastic job! Thanks Ronnie! We have so many dedicated directors that spend many hours helping make ATSSB a great success. I would like to take this space to say that I appreciate each of you!

I always feel like that I need to share some little trick that has helped me through the years. Do you start beginners on horn? If you ever have, did you notice that the first few lessons were either too high or too low for the student? There is a solution to this problem. I start horn students but give them TRUMPET books. There are two real advantages to this practice. The student is able to play in a practical range and from the beginning learns to hear a 5th. The first time that I heard of this practice I thought that it was crazy. After I tried it, I discovered that the 5th was not a distraction and the horn players began from the beginning listening for the 5th of the chord. Try it, I think you will like it.

Listening to the 5th of the chord reminds me of my experience this past year at the State Solo Contest. One of my students was struggling to tune to the piano. We tried F and then we tried Bb with little success. The judge suggested that the piano play Bb while the student play F. Wow! What a difference! Why haven't I been doing this for the last 28 years? Because until last May, no one pointed it out to me. The judge said that we hear a 5th easier than a unison. After having tried it, I agree. No wonder the 'Horn on Trumpet' book trick works.

Good luck to each of you. Have a great year.



**NOMINEES FOR OFFICE FOR 1997-99**

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Gary Robbins, Rusk High School  
David Smith, Banquete High School  
Scott Stephenson, Ballinger High School  
George Strickland, Glen Rose High School

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Kenneth L. Griffin, Van High School

(The following is a letter I sent to my superintendent. The board subsequently adopted a resolution approving participation in ATSSB activities)

Dear Sirs:

I would like to request that the Board of Trustees sanction by resolution the Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) so our students can participate in Region, Area, and All-State Band auditions and clinics. In past years, the Association has been approved by the Commissioner of Education, but Chapter 76 of the Texas Administrative Code places the responsibility for this approval on the local board of trustees.

The Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt (Internal Revenue Service Employer Identification Number 75-2378100), publicly supported foundation (State of Texas Taxpayer No. 3-01146-8874-7), incorporated under the laws of the state of Texas (Charter #01193168-01). It was formed in 1991 and has most of the A, AA and AAA high school bands in Texas as participating members.

Thank you for your assistance as we continue to provide our students with opportunities to excel in instrumental music.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Griffin

**ATSSB NEWSLETTER**

Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands

Volume VI, Number 2

October, 1996

**President's Column**

by *Don Stockton*

TBA is behind us and we are really charged up for our new challenges. Each year brings new challenges and new solutions. I sure hope that you are charged and have a fresh attitude for this year. Did you know that our students are a reflection of ourselves? I have a favorite saying. Winners find solutions and losers find excuses. Several years ago I found myself directing band practice after school with only a hand full of students. Of those who were missing, five or six were football players, three or four were cheerleaders, two or three were on the volleyball team, and two or three had to work after school. This used to just ruin my rehearsals. This particular day, however, I remembered what a true friend, Jimmie Hudgins, had told me. Don't worry about who is not there, just teach those who show up and you will be successful. He was right. When I learned to think positive, good things began to happen. This caught on with the students and they quit worrying about who was not there and just worried about the moment. We began to have success. These students took on my attitude and began to work really hard. Result - 1st divisions. I am always trying to find a positive out of every situation.

Do you have a good idea or method that works? How about sharing with the rest of us? We would love to publish articles written by members. We are all hungry to find new solutions for small school problems. There are some very innovative directors in small

(Continued on page 2)