



# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands  
Volume VII, Number 2  
September, 1997

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## Greetings from ATSSB!

Dear Colleague:

This Newsletter is being sent to all A, AA, and AAA schools in Texas in addition to the private schools that are members of ATSSB by virtue of their enrollment and memberships paid to date. We wanted all schools to know what is happening in ATSSB and to give all small school directors an opportunity to join with us in a united front for the benefit of small school bandmen across the state.

ATSSB enjoyed another exciting and productive year in 1996-97. It was evident from the number of members we had in our sixth year (661) and from the quality of the 1997 **ATSSB** All-State Bands that our organization was "sensitive to the needs and interests of A, AA and AAA band programs in Texas."

Our first experience with two All-State Bands was a positive one with Dr. Tim Lautzenheizer conducting the Symphonic Band and Dr. Gary Garner leading our first-ever Concert Band in wonderful performances.

We invite you to join **ATSSB** and hope that we can help you in your task. Please copy or clip the membership form on page 2 and return it with your dues to the address indicated. A membership card and receipt will be returned to you as soon as possible and your name added to the roster of your **ATSSB** Region Coordinator (see list elsewhere in the Newsletter) so you can be kept up to date on **ATSSB** activities.

We hope you will get actively involved in **ATSSB** - or at least communicate your desires and suggestions to the State Board of Directors through your Region Coordinator (or directly to the Executive Committee).

We hope to see another banner year for **ATSSB** as we grow together as unified small-school band directors and we want you to be a part of it. We finished the 1996-97 membership year with 86% of the eligible schools in Texas as paid members of the Association. Thank you for your continued support of small-school bands in Texas.

### President's Column

by Ronnie Page



Having just returned from San Antonio where we had a very productive state board meeting and a standing room only crowd for the general membership meeting, the excitement of a new year blossoms once again. As is becoming customary with ATSSB we had some very positive things occur.

Our Outstanding Performance Series showcased some truly outstanding performances. The first CD will be available sometime this fall. This collection will be a real tribute to the excellent teaching in small schools in Texas. Congratulations to all who were represented with a tape in San Antonio. A listing of the winners is found elsewhere in the newsletter. My "hat is off" to Don Thoede for the outstanding

job of pulling it all together. Don's job for this year continues with the gathering of the individual tapes and biographical data for the CD.

David Smith and his panel held a very informative clinic pertaining to organizing a successful band program in a single director school. Their collective experience in dealing with everyday problems the single

(Continued on Page 2)

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

director faces will help many young directors cope with those difficulties. Thanks to each of you for your time spent preparing this presentation.

TMEA president Tom SoRelle was a guest for the breakfast meeting of your state board. Tom brought the message that he wanted ATSSB input concerning the current restructuring of TMEA. As the last agenda item the question was put forth to the board and after lengthy and enlightening discussion it was decided that we would ask Fred Pankratz to report our feelings to the TMEA Blue Ribbon Committee. Fred was appointed to the committee to represent small schools as well as the panhandle region. The board asked five specific things of TMEA. These are listed below with some background where necessary.

1. **Allow free entry to the TMEA exhibits for ATSSB all-state students.** We currently pay a \$5.00 per student fee for this privilege at a cost to the association of over \$1,000 per year.
2. **Publish our advertisement in the convention program at no cost.** Current cost - \$190.00.
3. **Include all ATSSB activities in the convention program.** Currently only the general session and concert are listed.
4. **Inaugurate an ATSSB liaison** to work with the TMEA leadership, and include a column from the liaison in the Southwestern Musician. The ATSSB president would serve in this capacity.
5. **Take no action that would prohibit any student from any class school the opportunity to participate in the TMEA audition process.**

There was some speculation that the recommendation of two 5A bands and one 4A band would be made eliminating all small school students. ATSSB opposes this proposal for obvious reasons.

Interesting demonstrations were held at both the state board meeting and the general membership meeting. Attendees were asked at each meeting to raise their hand if they were a TMEA member. Many hands went up, so many in fact that we asked anyone who was NOT a TMEA member to raise their hand. There was not one hand raised in either meeting indicating non-membership in TMEA. Any assumption that ATSSB members have left TMEA is misguided!

(Continued on Page 3)

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
**1997-98 Membership Application**

Please type or print

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ REGION # \_\_\_\_\_  
 TITLE (circle one): Band Director Assistant Director SCHOOL PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you the only band director for both high school and junior high in your district? \_\_\_\_\_ If "NO", please list the names of other directors in your district: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ FAX # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY & ZIP CODE (if different from school) \_\_\_\_\_ TMAA JUDGING AREA \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Until October 1, mail this completed form and a \$25\* check for dues payable to ATSSB to:

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**

Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary

P.O. Box 898

Big Sandy, Texas 75755

**\*NOTE:** After October 1, Active Member dues increase to \$50. A receipt and membership card will be returned to you. The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Associate Member dues are \$25 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$25.

date received	amount of check	check number	membership no.	type
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(President's Column, continued from Page 2):

I would like to echo Fred Pankratz' advice to the membership at the general meeting. He recommended that we each continue to belong to TMEA. We all know that Bob Floyd needs the unified support of every music educator in the state. His task is monumental and crucial to each of us, our students, and all future students. Fred also challenged us to become politically active in the affairs of TMEA, electing those officers in the band division and as president that endorse a philosophy that is impartial to all students no matter what size school they attend. Future newsletters will update you concerning any other developments.

Kenneth, members of the executive committee, and myself ask each of you in your varying capacities within ATSSB to be sure you READ, FOLLOW, and OBEY! Read ALL mailouts, procedures, instructions, etc. Next be sure to follow these to the letter. Then see to it that you, your staff and your students obey all rules within the audition process for our all-state organizations. Most problems that the executive committee deals with are brought about by ignorance of or not following procedure. Our procedures are simple and clearly stated, thereby easy to understand and follow. Let's make this an error free year!

As we begin a new year may we all be mindful of the many blessings that accompany the sweat, frustration, tension, endless hours, yellow busses, performances, excuses, lesson plans, jammed copy machines, region meetings, broken horns, rainy Friday nights and exhaustion we call "band directing". We are privileged to provide the potters' hands that are molding the world's future for a short while each day. Make those precious minutes count for something positive each day and your wages will be more than money could ever buy. Have a wonderful year!



## President-Elect's Column

by George Strickland

The new school year is in full swing now, and I hope that you are also. By now you and your students have at least two half-time performances behind you. I wish each of you continued success as your students' marching and playing skills improve.

A new school year means a new year of auditions. Please review ALL of the information in your PAL concerning tryouts and tryout material. Contact your Region Coordinator for specific information concerning material and scales to be used for your District and Region Band auditions. Put the green Snare Drum Rudiments page enclosed with this Newsletter in your PAL - it supercedes the printed rudiment page. Listed below are the current ERRATA for the "Year B" audition material. If you feel you locate other misprints, please contact me so that we can add the ERRATA to the official state-wide list.

A "Welcome Celebration" for our All-State students in San Antonio is beginning to shape up. We are planning a special registration "care package" for each of our All-State students which will include entertainment, coupons, maps, schedules, and goodies. I will try to give you more specific details in our next newsletter.

During our fall region meeting, Alan Reed, band division chairman, shared the following. I feel it is worth sharing with each of you.

"The most important thing about teaching music is that the students involved become better players and people because of the musical experiences they have. Whether the student qualifies at the region, area, or state levels, wins a 1st division rating at solo and ensemble, or wins sweepstakes with your band . . . the influence you have on your students must remain very important and special no matter what the results are."

May you have great success influencing your students with music!

### KNOWN ERRATA — YEAR B

FLUTE —Page 64, Allegro giusto: Line 3, measure 2, 12th note B should be a C#. Add a crescendo to the first 2 beats of line 10, measure 2 to the dynamic "forte" on beat 3. Add the dynamic "forte" on line 11, measure 2, beat 1.





## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin

Make sure you 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. Let me repeat Ronnie's timely suggestion - **READ YOUR INSTRUCTIONS** and follow all written procedures. If you are unsure about what to do or when to do it, call your Region Coordinator or any ATSSB officer for help.

If you have students who are selected to audition at the ATSSB Area auditions January 10, 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, 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. Contact Jennifer Willison (ATSSB All-State Housing Coordinator) in Canadian for further information regarding housing in San Antonio.

Our ATSSB 4-Year All-State Scholarship is doing well now as contributions are continuing to come in. We have received donations from Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 19 along with individual donations. 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". We have three students eligible to receive this scholarship this coming year (assuming they make it again!). 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.

I hope you all read over this Newsletter - especially the Q&O column on page 10. We really would like your opinions on these matters and I am sure the membership would enjoy or at least appreciate any amusing things that has happened to you, so email or write me with your comments. I will keep your name confidential if you request it.

Best wishes for a successful marching season.



## 1997 OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE SERIES

by Don Thoede, State Chair

It is official! The 1997 Outstanding Performance Series is a huge success! Winners have been selected in all classes, and the CD containing all of the winners and the ATSSB 1997 All State Bands will be released to the public in late October! We have come a long way since the inception of OPS in February. This is a fine example of what band directors from small schools can accomplish when they cooperate and work together to achieve the same goal. I congratulate you on a job well done.

The winners were announced at the General Session of ATSSB in San Antonio on Monday, July 28. I also put the final results on the ATSSB Website on Thursday, July 31. Be sure you check the website frequently for announcements.

For those of you who missed the General Session or do not have access to the website, I have listed the final results in this newsletter. Congratulations is in order for all of the State Finalists!

Listed on the following page is the 1997 OPS STATE RANKING of all the ATSSB bands that were adjudicated at

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(Outstanding Performance Series, continued from Page 4):

TBA. *The first place march and the first and second place concert selections will be put on the CD. IMPORTANT: The band directors with the first and second place march and the band directors with the first, second, and third place concert selections will be presented with an award at the General Session of ATSSB in San Antonio on Thursday, February 12, 1998.*

**CLASS C/CC MARCH:** *1, Greenwood MS(Midland), Richard Rhynes;* 2, Pittsburg MS, Sherry Poteet; 3, Taft JH, Craig Ewing; 4, Walker JH(Monahans), Jim Rhodes; 5, Rusk MS, John Canfield; 6, Whitesboro MS, Brian Weatherman; 7, Clifton MS, Bryan Ferrell; 8, Leon Taylor MS(Ingleside), Paul Larson; 9, Munday MS, Marilyn K. Bennett; 10, Somerville JH, Carl Idlebird.

**CLASS C/CC CONCERT:** *1, Walker JH(Monahans), Jim Rhodes;* *2, Pittsburg MS, Sherry Poteet;* 3, Atlanta MS, Larry Breashears; 4, Rusk MS, John Canfield; 5, Greenwood MS(Midland), Richard Rhynes; 6, Clifton MS, Bryan Ferrell; 7, Whitesboro MS, Brian Weatherman; 8, Whitesboro MS, Brian Weatherman; 9, Orange Grove JH, Gary White; 10, Clifton MS, Bryan Ferrell; 11, Greenwood MS(Midland), Richard Rhynes; 12, Leon Taylor MS(Ingleside), Paul Larson; 13, Taft JH, Craig Ewing; 14, La Grange MS, Ann Lowes.

**CLASS A MARCH:** *1, Wink HS, Tom Burns;* 2, Munday HS, Rodney Bennett; 3, Overton HS, Ronnie Page.

**CLASS A CONCERT:** *1, Happy HS, Shannon Dow;* *2, Happy HS, Shannon Dow;* 3, Munday HS, Rodney Bennett; 4, Munday HS, Rodney Bennett; 5, Overton HS, Ronnie Page; 6, Wink HS, Tom Burns; 7, Overton HS, Ronnie Page.

**CLASS AA MARCH:** *1, Timpson HS, Danny Burns;* 2, Rosebud-Lott HS, Joyce Vanderlip; 3, Howe HS, Elmer Schenk; 4, Krum HS, Carol Turner; 5, Hawkins HS, Lonnie Dooley; 6, Lockney HS, Jimmy Exline; 7, Randolph HS(Universal City), Richard Wilson; 8, Canadian HS, Fred Pankratz; 9, Somerville HS, Carl Idlebird; 10, Karnes City HS, Sandy Brown.

**CLASS AA CONCERT:** *1, Howe HS, Elmer Schenk;* *2, Howe HS, Elmer Schenk;* 3, Van Alstyne, David Gudel; 4, Rosebud-Lott HS, Joyce Vanderlip; 5, Hawkins HS, Lonnie Dooley; 6, Hawkins HS, Lonnie Dooley; 7, Timpson HS, Danny Burns; 8, Somerville HS, Carl Idlebird; 9, Lockney HS, Jimmy Exline; 10, Somerville HS, Carl Idlebird; 11, Randolph HS(Universal City), Richard Wilson; 12, Canadian HS, Fred Pankratz; 13, Canadian HS, Fred Pankratz; 14, Navarro HS(Geronimo), Roxanne Heckmann; 15, Randolph HS(Universal City), Richard Wilson.

**CLASS AAA MARCH:** *1, Gladewater HS, Mitchell Smith;* 2, Orange Grove HS, Eric Winterbottom; 3, Monahans HS, Tony Gibbs; 4, Pittsburg HS, Greg Rose; 5, Van HS, Kenneth Griffin; 6, Clifton HS, Don Thoede; 7, Taft HS, Roy Hinojosa; 8, Aledo HS, Tom Hall; 9, Brownfield HS, Richard Herrera; 10, La Grange HS, Ed Lowes.

**CLASS AAA CONCERT:** *1, White Oak HS, Wayne Smith;* *2, New Boston HS, James Coffman;* 3, Monahans HS, Tony Gibbs; 4, Greenwood HS(Midland), David Fortenberry; 5, Aledo HS, Tom Hall; 6, Ingleside HS, Ron Welborn; 7, Canton HS, Rob Toups; 8, Clifton HS, Don Thoede; 9, Brownfield HS, Richard Herrera; 10, Whitesboro HS, Pat Autry; 11, Ingleside HS, Ron Welborn; 12, Burnet HS, Mike Lewis; 13, Elgin HS, Patricia Templin; 14, Orange Grove HS, Eric Winterbottom; 15, Rusk HS, Gary Robbins.

I hope all of you will be present for the awards presentation at the General Session of ATSSB in February.

I have had some members ask me why we do not use scores when adjudicating the bands for the Outstanding Performance Series. I want to remind the membership that the bands are selected primarily on aesthetic standards. The quality of the band sound is the most important aspect. I brought this idea before the SBOD at the SBOD breakfast on Monday, July 28. A very strong majority of the board voted to not use scores. Therefore, we will not use scores in the adjudication process of the 1998 Outstanding Performance Series!

The membership can continue supporting the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series by purchasing the CD when it becomes available in late October. Kenneth Griffin, our Executive Secretary, will be handling the sales.

Be sure you enter your tape in the 1998 Outstanding Performance Series. New forms will be mailed to your Region Coordinators in the Spring. Let's all work together to make the 1998 ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series a real class act!



# A History of the Association of Texas Small School Bands

## Preface

Whether one believes in the idea of an all-state band for A-AA-AAA students or not, the success of the Association of Texas Small School Bands and the All-State Band produced by that organization lives in the students and small school band programs in Texas. From the first 123 students representing 80 high schools in 1992 to the 230 students representing 128 schools in 1997, this organization has afforded many a bona fide “all-state experience” playing under conductors and composers of national reputation. The success is also written in the lives of the many thousands who prepare for the ATSSB All-State auditions and therefore become more accomplished musicians. This is evident in the band rooms across the state and the region and district bands organized to give these improving musicians other performance opportunities. The success and history of ATSSB is due to the vision, integrity, and determination of not only the founding members and officers, but also the hundreds of directors who embraced the idea and discovered the impact that the Association and the all-state process could have on their band.

As you read this history of the Association of Texas Small School Bands, we hope that you will understand the commitment made to the A-AA-AAA band students in Texas by the many who started, contributed, or continue this ongoing quest for excellence.

Fred Pankratz  
ATSSB Founding Charter Member  
ATSSB Vice-President 1991-93  
ATSSB President 1993-95

## History

At a TMEA Executive Board meeting in 1981, Region 2 Chairman Lonnie Dooley made a request for a feasibility study to consider designating one of the existing All-State bands for 4A and down students only. This request was based on information that although half of the students in Texas attended schools class 4A and down, less than twelve percent of the students in the All-State Bands were from those classifications. Less than three percent were from 3A schools and down. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 55 to 6 to make the study. Lonnie asked what had to be done to get the issue before the general membership and Bill Woods responded by naming a committee to study the proposal. The committee returned a negative report and after some discussion, the measure failed. After 1981, the number of small school bandmen in the All-State Band continued to decline as the quality and quantity of private lesson programs in 4A and 5A schools increased, in effect eliminating small school students from an all-state experience.

In 1989, Mike Marsh, from Eldorado High School and TMEA Band Division Chairman of Region VII, sent a letter to small school band directors across the state. In his letter, he called for directors to petition their Region Band Chairs to call for a referendum on the creation of a small-school All-State Band at the TMEA Band Division meeting to be held in February. Scott Taylor (TMEA Band Division Vice-President) appointed a “Small-School All-State Band Committee” which met in February prior to the Band Division meeting. Because this committee brought a negative report to the Band Division (8 were against, 6 for, and 2 abstained), it was quickly set aside. Before the issue could be dismissed, Kenneth Griffin from Van High School made a motion that a committee be named to “study the feasibility of creating an All-State Band specifically for students from 1A, 2A, and 3A classification schools” and that the findings of this committee be reported to the band division for their consideration at the 1991 convention. The motion was quickly seconded and the motion resoundingly passed, so Taylor subsequently appointed members to the All-State Band Reorganization Study (ASBROS). Mike Marsh (one of the appointees) had sent out a questionnaire asking who in small schools was for or against the creation of a small-school All-State Band. He received 210 responses - 202 for and 8 against.

Frank Coachman took over as Band Division Vice-President (Scott Taylor moved on to TMEA President) and guided the ASBROS committee to come up with the proposal concerning the small-school All-State Band. However, Coachman added the inclusion of CCC students - something no one had proposed in initial discussions.

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(ATSSB History, continued from Page 6):

In the ensuing 1991 Band Division meeting, several directors spoke for and against the proposal. Kenneth Griffin made a motion that the vote be taken to include only A, AA and AAA schools. His motion was ruled out of order by Frank Coachman and ballots were cast. The vote was 554 to 372 against the creation of a small-school All-State Band as presented by the ASBROS committee.

The frustration small-school directors experienced at that February meeting inspired John Gibson from Ballinger to immediately write a letter to several small-school directors asking if they would be interested in forming a small-school band association. The positive responses he received led him to invite directors across the state who had expressed an interest in small school bands to meet in Abilene.

The meeting was held in the Wylie High School band hall in Abilene, Texas, on Saturday, March 16, 1991. In attendance were: Rick Ball, West Texas High School in Stinnett; Mike Bendiksen, Montgomery High School; Dwayne Bishop, San Saba High School; Dale Cook, Whitewright High School; Lonnie Dooley, Hawkins High School; Jim Gibson, West Texas High School in Stinnett; John Gibson, Ballinger High School; Kenneth Griffin, Van High School; R. Michael Hardy, Mason High School; Barry Hurt, Sundown High School; Michael G. Marsh, Eldorado High School; Fred Pankratz, Canadian High School; Elmer Schenk, Howe High School; Derek Spitzer; Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps; Louis Thornton, Wylie High School in Abilene; and Jennifer Willison, Canadian High School.

A long afternoon of discussion centered around several topics, including: 1) the need for such an organization; 2) its purpose; 3) its philosophy; 4) its function - including the possibility of creating and maintaining an A-AA-AAA All-State Band; and 5) the need for immediate funds (it was decided that each one present would contribute \$100 to cover the expenses of getting started). It was agreed that the purpose of the association was not in defiance of or opposition to already established organizations, but was to more fully disseminate information to, and educate and refine the unique role of, small school bands in the state of Texas.

The organization was named the "Association of Texas Small School Bands." In discussion regarding the organization of ATSSB, it was decided that a Region Coordinator should be named to represent the association at the region level. These were either named from directors in attendance at that meeting or were to be secured at a later date.

Officers were elected for 1991-92:

Michael G. Marsh, President  
Frank Pankratz, Vice-President  
Kenneth Griffin, Executive Secretary

Mr. Griffin was directed to establish and maintain a checking account in the name of the association, to develop a professional rendition of the logo as adopted by the association, and to have letterheads and envelopes printed. Mr. Griffin was also directed to seek legal counsel regarding incorporation, tax-exempt status, our statement of philosophy (when completed and approved), the constitution and by-laws (when completed and approved), and liability insurance. Membership fees were then discussed and the annual fee was established at \$25 with two class of membership: Active and Associate.

It was decided that the Association would make plans to have an All-State Band clinic in San Antonio February 5-8, 1992. After objections about it being in conjunction with the TMEA convention, it was argued that it was also in conjunction with the Fat Stock Show and other lesser conventions, but that it would be difficult for small school directors to take off from school for the two events, and that most would remain as members of TMEA in addition to belonging to and participating in the activities of ATSSB. Motion carried. The concensus was that if at least 100 directors would participate the first year, the organization and the ensuing All-State Band would be successful. Actually, 380 directors joined that first year.

In April of 1991, a letter was sent to all A, AA, and AAA band directors in Texas inviting them to join the

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(ATSSB History, continued from Page 7):

Association. They were told that ATSSB would: 1) be a non-profit organization dedicated to the needs of students in Texas A, AA and AAA programs; 2) support and recognize excellence in A, AA and AAA band programs and the students involved in them; 3) be dedicated to the promotion and advancement of A, AA and AAA band programs; 4) promote music education in Texas A, AA and AAA schools and their supporting communities through their band programs; and 5) make every effort to organize a AAA All-State Band to recognize the individual excellence of A, AA and AAA band members in Texas.

The second meeting of the Association was held in Abilene on June 8, 1991 with the following in attendance: Rick Ball, Region I Coordinator; Ron Behrends, Region V Coordinator; Mike Bendiksen, Region IX Coordinator; Dale Cook, Whitewright High School; Lonnie Dooley, Region IV Coordinator; Glenn Doyle, Region VIII Coordinator; John Gibson, New Deal High School; Kenneth Griffin, Executive Secretary; R. Michael Hardy, Mason High School; Barry Hurt, Region XVI Coordinator; Ray Lashaway, McCamey High School; Howard R. Lewis, Jr., Timpson High School; Michael G. Marsh, President, Region VII Coordinator; Scott Mason, Region VI Coordinator; Bobby Overall, Region XXI Coordinator; Fred Pankratz, Vice-President; Elmer Schenk, Howe High School, Region III Coordinator; Gregory J. Siewert, Region XXII Coordinator; David G. Smith, Region XIV Coordinator; Don Stockton, Region X Coordinator; Louis Thornton, Region II Coordinator; and Jennifer Willison, Canadian High School. State Board members not in attendance, but secured for their role as Coordinator for their region, were: Mark Watley, Region XI Coordinator; Craig Hunt, Region XII Coordinator; Dan Frehls, Region XIII Coordinator; Ray Garza, Region XV Coordinator; Travis Hobson, Region XVIII Coordinator; and Jim Smith, Region XIX Coordinator.

Mike Marsh and Kenneth Griffin reported on their trip to San Antonio to determine if there was a site for rehearsals and housing for the proposed All-State Band. After checking with area hotels (cost-prohibitive and unavailable ballrooms for rehearsals - Beethoven Hall too small and the Majestic Theater booked), they were directed to the Scottish Rite Auditorium. After visiting with the staff and booking space for the rehearsal and performance, they stepped out of the auditorium and noticed the Ramada Emily Morgan Hotel in the next block adjacent to the Alamo. Entering the hotel and visiting with the Sales Manager, they booked rooms for the all-state students during the clinic.

Final arrangements were completed regarding the organization of the Association, including the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws, region alignment, area alignment, audition procedures, color instrument taped audition procedures, selection of the Prescribed Music List for auditions for 1991-92, and the establishment of a quarterly Newsletter.

During the summer and fall of 1991, several meetings were held with the TMEA Executive Committee and officers to discuss: 1) using TMEA region band auditions to certify ATSSB Area students - denied; 2) using the state of Texas for ATSSB All-State Band patches (required no permission); and 3) allowing students to audition for both TMEA and ATSSB at the Area level (it was decided that ATSSB would hold Area auditions on the same date as TMEA but in different locations). Since that summer and fall, continuing discussion with successive leaders in TMEA leadership has: 1) allowed ATSSB All-State students access to TMEA exhibits and clinics (for a fee); 2) allowed ATSSB meetings and All-State Band concerts listings in TMEA programs; and 3) given the ATSSB membership the opportunity to hear candidates for TMEA office.

Since its inception, the ATSSB All-State Band has not only kept its ever-increasing number of members informed of small-school band activities across the state, it has also sponsored the ATSSB All-State Band:

The first ATSSB All-State Band met in rehearsals in San Antonio under the direction of Gary Lewis from the University of Michigan in February of 1992. There were 123 students in the band from 76 different A, AA and AAA high schools in Texas. There were 380 members of ATSSB the first year.

In 1993, the clinician was Myron Welch from Iowa State University. The 123 students came from 84 different schools. There were 493 ATSSB members.

The clinician for 1994 was composer Jared Spears from Arkansas State University and

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(ATSSB History, continued from Page 8):

ATSSB commissioned him to write ELDORADO specifically for the All-State Band (it was very well received and subsequently published by Counterpoint Music Publishing Company). The 123 students came from 74 different schools. ATSSB had 564 members that year.

James Curnow conducted the 1995 All-State Band and ATSSB commissioned him to write LONE STAR CELEBRATION (published by Curnow Publications). Three students were recognized at the concert for making the ATSSB All-State Band all four years. The 123 students came from 85 different schools. ATSSB had 592 members.

Robert Foster from the University of Kansas conducted the 1996 All-State Band and ATSSB commissioned him to compose ELEGY FOR SELENA (published by Wingert-Jones). One student was recognized for making the ATSSB All-State Band all four years and was given a \$1000 scholarship for the achievement (the fund was started in April of the previous year as the ATSSB 4-Year All-State Band Scholarship). The 123 students came from 87 different schools. ATSSB had 646 members that year.

1997 saw the addition of a second all-state band for ATSSB: the Symphonic Band was led by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser and the Concert Band was led by Dr. Gary Garner from West Texas State University. Fred Allen was commissioned by ATSSB to write ROMANZA SIMPLICE (in publication). One student was recognized for making the ATSSB All-State Band all four years and was given the \$1000 scholarship. Additionally, the ATSSB State Board of Directors voted to award the \$1000 scholarship to the original three students who had made the ATSSB All-State Band all four years. The 230 students came from 128 different schools. ATSSB had 661 members.

*(Contributors to this history include Lonnie Dooley and the first elected officers of the Association: Mike Marsh, Fred Pankratz, and Kenneth Griffin)*

### **Epilogue**

My initial reaction to ATSSB was probably like many of yours. I had a long and what I felt was a personal relationship with TMEA. I believed that a few disillusioned directors were over-reacting to the sound defeat we received at the band division meeting in San Antonio. I, too, felt frustrated and let down. However, this was TMEA, and I had a difficult time accepting the fact that there may be another way. I even went so far to discuss this "new dissident organization" with my superintendent, asserting that Overton would not be involved!

After several weeks of soul-searching and introspect, I came to the realization one day that this organization was for my students, and that I should not make a decision that would affect them based on my personal tenets. From that moment forward I have been an avid supporter of both the ATSSB concept and organization. My first meeting with the SBOD as region XXI coordinator that summer corroborated my feelings. I did not meet a group of dissidents, but the most professional and compassionate leaders one could hope for. I was sold within five minutes of entering the room, and the meeting had not even begun!

That fall the last Overton student to attend a TMEA audition made the Region XXI Junior High TMEA Band. She was the only Overton student involved. Even though I, like you, carry a current TMEA membership card in my pocket, I have not had a student involved in the TMEA process since that fall. That young lady graduated this past May after having been an ATSSB area qualifier her junior and senior years. Many things have changed since the year she and I attended a region clinic/concert by ourselves.

The past two years Overton region qualifiers have ridden a bus to the clinic/concert, and there were no spare seats. From the one seventh grade flute player to about 40 students a year in the high school and junior high region bands, the numbers have grown by 4000%! Each student that auditions improves the quality of the band, as well as their confidence and self esteem. Those that are successful in the audition and return for the clinic obviously acquire more of the same. In addition, roughly 10 students a year are progressing to the area level. What an incentive for the rest of them, and this is in addition to the skills the area qualifiers develop beyond regional competition.

(Continued on Page 10)

(ATSSB History, continued from Page 9):

Then there is the supreme accomplishment of being chosen for an all-state band. This has come to pass for four students in Overton. Three of these students are still in the band program. The benefits of an all-state experience extend far beyond the young men and women who make the trip to San Antonio. The skills they can acquire in three short days are incredible, and they each come home with renewed enthusiasm which spreads throughout the band. They are always eager to teach others what they have learned. These benefits are like interest on money in a savings account, the power is in the compounding, and these students are the compounding force.

Obviously I have found the band growing each year in maturity and ability. I am sure, like myself, you have found the same with the small school bands in your area. I attribute this in a very large part to their active participation in the ATSSB tryout process.

If it were not for ATSSB, my students would have a very limited all-region experience, and in all probability only a rare area experience. The all-state experience would be something we could only talk about. My students would have missed the boat entirely had I not made an early commitment to ATSSB. Like most of you I am thankful I did, and am grateful to those "dissident few" who had a vision from which Texas small school band students benefit daily.

Ronnie Page  
ATSSB President-Elect 1995-97  
ATSSB President 1997-99



Can you think of a **Q**uestion or problem that needs to be posed to our membership? Do you have an **O**pinion concerning these issues? If so, jot them down and mail or email them to the editor. Your name can be withheld at your request, but all correspondence must be signed (for membership verification) to be included in this column. Send replies or opinions to: ATSSB; P.O. Box 898; Big Sandy, Texas 75755. Our email address is **KL2000G@aol.com** and our telephone number is **(903) 636-4210**. I will start us off with a couple of items just to get the ball rolling:

1. Should homeschoolers be allowed to participate ATSSB activities? If not, why not. If so, how do you implement and justify the classification (A, AA or AAA) and director/sponsor membership requirement?
2. What amusing anecdote can you recall that happened to/with you and your band - on a band trip - in the band hall - on a concert - at a football game - at contest, etc.?

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the **A**ssociation of **T**exas **S**mall **S**chool **B**ands and is mailed under permit for Non-Profit Organizations at the United States Post Office in Big Sandy, Texas 75755. Address all correspondence to:

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Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary  
P.O. Box 898  
Big Sandy, Texas 75755  
(903) 636-4210 (voice or fax)  
email: KL2000G@aol.com

## Letters to the Editor

(We received this letter from Sarah Boehm, a 1995 recipient of the ATSSB Four-Year All-State Band Scholarship who made the ATSSB All-State Band in 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995 as a trombonist from Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville under the direction of Dennis Olsovsky. KLG)

*Mr. Griffin,*

*Just to let you know what I'll be doing with the funds that you have generously granted me, I am now a junior at the University of St. Thomas. I'm a music/music education major, studying trombone, voice, and piano. I'm in our jazz ensemble (with trombone and voice) and I'm also in three choirs. Unfortunately UST does not have any other bands so I've been playing with the Houston Concert Band which, until recently, has been under the direction of Dr. Ken Dye (with whom I had my first experience through ATSSB). After emerging unscathed from my two years of music theory, in addition to my core classes, of course. (UST is a liberal arts institution so I'm taking plenty of other courses besides music.) The University and the music department have been very good to me and I'm really enjoying what I'm doing here. I have quite a few scholarships and loans but I still have to work almost full-time hours so this scholarship will be very helpful.*

*I was also wondering if there is any way that I can have some participation with ATSSB still. ATSSB has been influential in my musical experiences and I would like to give something back to the organization. Please let me know if there is any way that I can be of service.*

*Thank you for everything!*

*Sarah Boehm*

(We received this letter from a member with his membership dues. He did not sign it - and I am sure it came from other sources but thought you might enjoy it anyway. If you know the source, let me know and I will credit it next time. KLG)

Dear Editor,

I'm fed up with these teachers and their hefty salary guides. What we need here is a little perspective. If I had my way, I'd pay these teachers myself - I'd pay them baby-sitting wages. That's right - instead of paying these outrageous taxes, I'd give them \$3.00 an hour out of my own pocket. And I'm only going to pay them for 5 hours - not coffee breaks. That would be \$15.00 a day - each parent should pay \$15.00 a day for these teachers to baby-sit their child. Even if they have more than one child, it's still a lot cheaper than private day care. Now how many children do they teach each day - maybe twenty? That's  $\$15 \times 20 = \$300$  a day. But remember, they only work 180 days a year! I'm not going to pay them for all of those vacations!  $\$300 \times 180 = \$54,000.00$ . (Just a minute, I think my calculator needs batteries.) I know - now you teachers will say what about those who have ten years' experience or a Master's degree? Well, maybe (to be fair) they could get the minimum wage and instead of just baby-sitting, they could read the kids a story. We can round that off to about  $\$5.00/\text{hour} \times 5 \text{ hours} \times 20 \text{ children} = \$500$  a day  $\times 180$  days. That's  $\$90,000.00$  ... UHH? Wait a minute, let's get a little perspective here. Babysitting wages are too good for these teachers. Did anyone see a salary guide around here?

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT!



## State Board of Directors

Ronnie Page, Overton High School	President
George Strickland, Glen Rose High School	President-Elect
Kenneth Griffin, Big Sandy High School	Executive Secretary
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### Region Coordinators:

1	James Nance, Perryton HS	11	Michael Hardy, Somerset HS
2	Dennis Teasdale, Jim Ned HS	12	Sandy Brown, Karnes City HS
3/20	Elmer Schenk, Howe HS	13	Bill Harrison, Edna HS
4	Greg Rose, Pittsburg HS	14	Eric Winterbottom, Orange Grove HS
5	Pat Autry, Whitesboro HS	15	Tom Stirzaker, La Feria HS
6	Jesse Lotspeich, Crane HS	16	John Odom, Floydada HS
7	Scott Stephenson, Ballinger HS	17/19	Jim Smith, Tarkington HS
8	Jeff Comp, Academy HS	18	Ed Lowes, La Grange HS
9/23	Alfred Angerstein, The Kinkaid School	21	John Canfield, Rusk MS
10	Don Stockton, Warren HS	22	Forrest Perry, Van Horn HS

Founding Charter Members: Rick Ball, Mike Bendiksen, Dwayne Bishop, Lonnie Dooley, Kenneth Griffin, Michael Hardy, Michael Marsh, Fred Pankratz, Elmer Schenk, Louis Thornton, and Jennifer Willison.

- Area A Coordinator: Britt Gordon, Sundown High School (1,6,16,22) - (806) 229-2511
- Area B Coordinator: Louis Thornton, Wylie High School (2,3&20,5) - (915) 690-1189
- Area C Coordinator: Mark Melton, Panola County JC (4,10,17&19,21) - (903) 693-2027
- Area D Coordinator: Jeff Comp, McLennan CC (7,8,9&23,18) - (817) 750-3486
- Area E Coordinator: David Smith, Banquete High School (11,12,13,14,15) - (512) 387-8588

All-State Symphonic Band Organizer	Tom Hall, Aledo High School
All-State Symphonic Percussion Organizer	Wayne Dannheim, Kennedale High School
All-State Concert Band Organizer	Daniel Aleman, Pearsall High School
All-State Concert Percussion Organizer	Thomas Galvez, Medina Valley High School
All-State Band Seating Tryout Organizer	Neal Sutton, Atlanta High School
All-State Housing Coordinator	Jennifer Willison, Canadian Middle School

*Use your Membership Roster for telephone numbers or addresses*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

AREA CERTIFICATION DEADLINE: Saturday, December 13, 1997

AREA: Saturday, January 10, 1998

ALL-STATE CLINIC: February 11-14, 1998  
 Anthony Maiello, George Mason University, Symphonic Band  
 Ed Huckeyby, Concert Band

ALL-STATE CONCERT: Saturday, February 14, 1998 at 11:30 a.m. in the Scottish Rite Auditorium (Concert Band first, followed immediately by the Symphonic Band)