

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Beginning our 11th year of service to small school bands in Texas

15310 Amesbury Lane Sugar Land, Texas 77478 (281) 494-2151

# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XI, Number 1  
June, 2001

**Gary Robbins, President 2001-03**  
Rusk High School  
203 E. 7th  
Rusk, Texas 75785  
(903) 683-5533  
email: pres@atssb.org

**Rob Toups, Class AAA Rep. 2000-02**  
Canton High School  
1100 West Hwy 243  
Canton, Texas 75103  
(903) 567-6561  
email: aaarep@atssb.org

**Darin Jolly, President-Elect 2001-03**  
Mabank High School  
124 East Market Street  
Mabank, Texas 75147  
(903) 887-9321  
email: preselect@atssb.org

**Lonnie Baker, Class AA Rep. 2001-03**  
Callisburg High School  
148 Dozier Road  
Gainesville, Texas 76240  
(940) 665-7735  
email: aarep@atssb.org

**George Strickland, Immediate Past-Pres.**  
Glen Rose High School  
Box 2129  
Glen Rose, Texas 76043  
(254) 897-4383  
email: ppres@atssb.org

**Rodney Bennett, Class A Rep. 2000-02**  
Munday High School  
P.O. Box 300  
Munday, Texas 76371  
(940) 422-4478  
email: arep@atssb.org

**Kenneth L. Griffin, Exec. Secretary**  
15310 Amesbury Lane  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478  
(281) 494-2151  
FAX: (281) 494-2151  
email: execsec@atssb.org

**Sherry Poteet, Class C/CC Rep. 2001-03**  
Gilmer Junior High School  
P.O. Box 40  
Gilmer, Texas 75644  
(903) 843-3051  
email: msrep@atssb.org

E  
X  
C  
O  
M  
M  
I  
T  
T  
E  
E  
C  
O  
M  
M  
I  
T  
T  
E  
E



# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands  
Volume XI, Number 1  
June, 2001

## President's Column by *Gary M. Robbins*



June. I was beginning to think that it was not going to get here. I think that it is almost harder finishing a year than it is getting one started. I hate doing inventory. The checking in of uniforms is always an experience for me. Why is it that some people have a hard time keeping up with all of their uniform parts? Of course, they did not lose or misplace their buckles; someone "stole" them. I always tell my students to go to the pawnshop to see how much band uniform buckles are selling for. No wonder they are getting "stolen," they are in such of a demand.

Graduation is another experience in itself. I would be curious to see how many small schools play for graduation and how many use a tape. It is so hard getting the students to commit to play. It is a sad experience to let go of the seniors. You look at them and remember them as that child that was in your beginner band class. My, how fast they grow. Being a small school band director, you can get very attached to these students.

OPS entries should be well on their way to being judged at the region levels. Don Thoede does such a wonderful job of getting this organized. I am thankful for the job that he does. This idea has been a great resource for me. Thank you region and area coordinators for handling your responsibilities so successfully. I cannot wait to hear some of the recordings that make it to the state level. I am always astounded at the quality of music being judged at state.

Thank you Greg Miller for filling in for Louis Thornton in Area North. We hope the best for a quick recovery for Louis. I know that he appreciates all of your thoughts and prayers for his healing. Greg, thank you for being willing to take over.

Besides Greg Miller in Area North, the other coordinators are Dave Smith - Area South, Don Stockton - Area East, Mike Glaze - Area West, and Ed Lowes - Area Central. I thank all of these gentlemen for their hard work and dedication to making ATSSB so successful.

The music education camp is going to be a reality this summer. Please encourage your students that are interested in majoring in music to attend this camp. I am so proud of my region (Region XXI). We decided to offer a scholarship to two students to attend this camp. When the applications were received, we had three very qualified students. It was hard to decide, so we decided to pay for all three students. I know that these students will be an asset to music education. I hope that this investment pays off and we see three future music educators come from this camp. Thank you Darin Jolly for your help and support getting this camp off the ground.

I hope that you will be able to get in some rest this summer. I wish for all of you a safe vacation time. If you are changing jobs, good luck in your new environment. I am glad that June is finally here. I just hope that July will take as long to get here!

Make plans to attend TBA in July. I hope to see you there, especially at the general session. Thank you for entrusting me to be your President. I am proud to serve ATSSB.

**President-Elect's Column** by 



Are you setting goals for yourself for the upcoming school year? Sit down, relax and spend a few moments in thought to make this next year a great one. Take advantage of this brief summer break for time off, self-improvement, and most of all, time with your family. Keep your priorities in the proper order.

I've had an interesting year and I am excited about my new job here at Mabank. Serving as the Mabank Director since March 19th, I'd like to publicly thank my Mabank Band, School Administration, Band Staff and Boosters for the great warm welcome they have given me this past semester. Also I'd like to thank George Strickland, Kenneth Griffin, Mike Lewis, Mike Brady, Don Stockton, John Mize and Howard Payne University Director Robert Tucker for all of their advice and help during my transition period from Coleman to Mabank. It's never easy to move, but with all of the support I've been given, it hasn't been too difficult. Thanks to all.

"SARC Season" is quiet for the moment. It is exciting to enter round II of our five year rotation of audition music. As your chairman of the State Audition Review Committee, I'll be in close contact with Kenneth Griffin and Gary Robbins as we hear requests and concerns from YOU regarding the ATSSB All-State tryout procedures. If you have ideas or comments, please voice it to me so that I can address it to the SARC committee this summer.

Plans and progress are underway for the first annual Future Music Educator's Workshop at Howard Payne University June 18-22 in Brownwood. ATSSB is endorsing this leadership camp as we encourage more high school students to go into music education. We are now beyond the "deadline", but feel free to contact me if you have students interested in majoring in music. We'll figure out a way to get them in there! See [www.bandcamps.com](http://www.bandcamps.com) for more information.

In closing I have another ATSSB Band Director spotlight. I'd like to recognize my good friend and mentor, Tom Burns of Santa Anna High School. Mr. Burns has taught for 25 years in class A and AA schools. He taught one year in a AAAA school and he assures me that small school teaching has been the best for him. The majority of his teaching has been at Royal High School in Brookshire (10 years) and at Wink High School (9 years). Currently he is semi-retired, teaching half a day in Santa Anna in Region 7. The other half of the day is usually spent on the golf course in Coleman. I recently observed his teaching there and folks...look out for Santa Anna this next year...it's gonna be great! When you observe the energetic, motivational Tom Burns teaching in the Band Hall or practice field, you can tell that his heart is definitely in what he's doing! Tom seeks a "student-centered" philosophy of music education and that is obvious in his teaching and his UIL record is amazing. When you hear the names of HIS band directors and mentors, you'll recognize a great hall of fame of directors that have had a great impact on band in Texas. In interviewing Tom, names like Joe Frank Sr. and L.M. Snavely surface in the conversation. Tom added that I'm probably too young to recognize those names.....YEP! Regardless, it is a joy to visit with Tom and his wonderful wife Linda and I am thankful for the brief time that we Jollys shared with the Burns in Coleman, Texas.

Have a great summer! See you at TBA.

## Executive Secretary's Column

*Kenneth L. Griffin*



Your membership renewal for 2001-02 is stapled inside this Newsletter (if applicable). Please take a minute to 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 or College Division Member (everything is the same, you just cannot run for office, vote, or enter students in any ATSSB competition). 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. A cover page showing your ATSSB and TMEA membership card must be sent with the initial entry forms for the first audition entered (ATSSB or TMEA).

**IMPORTANT:** Since ATSSB and TMEA Area auditions are on different dates this year (ATSSB on January 5, TMEA on January 12), it is **IMPERATIVE** that a track selection form be submitted if you plan on a student taking a TMEA track. Remember that it is assumed all A, AA, and AAA students are taking the ATSSB track unless a 4A or 5A track form is submitted with the first region audition entry -- ATSSB or TMEA.

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class A and AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session in February.

Try to attend the ATSSB-sponsored clinics at TBA as noted elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Update for the Prescribed Audition List (we start over now, using Year A) will be sent to each school with the September Newsletter by first class mail. You should put it at the front of your PAL and discard the yellow colored pages and any old pages being replaced. We will of course still have PAL's and the current update 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. There is a \$5 replacement fee if you are not a new member of ATSSB. 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 free replacement.

This coming year, Anthony Maeillo will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band and Robert W. Smith will be the clinician for the Concert Band. ATSSB has commissioned a grade 2+ piece from Robert W. Smith for the Concert Band. I am personally excited about watching Maeillo do his magic with the band again! Robert W. Smith is also one of my favorite composers.

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors breakfast meeting at 7:00 a.m. in the Ramada Emily Morgan Majestic Room on Tuesday, July 24. 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 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24 in the Convention Center. Check the convention program for the location. 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. 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 Thiede*, State Chair



The 2001 Outstanding Performance Series State adjudication is close at hand. For those of you who will be attending the TBA Convention, I want to remind you that the OPS State adjudication will be held at the San Antonio H. B. Gonzales Convention Center on Sunday, July 22, 2001. The Class C, CC, and Class AAA bands will be judged at 1:00 p.m., and the Class A and AA bands will be judged at 3:30 p.m. The room numbers have not yet been given to me, so look for the information in the magazine you will receive when you register at the convention. I have asked for the same rooms we used last year and hopefully that wish will be granted.

The public is encouraged to attend the sessions. I wish you all the best of luck!

I will be setting up sound equipment for the State adjudication at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning. I could use some help. I am taking volunteers -- anyone interested?

I will be contacting some of you to help with the adjudication. I need twenty-five adjudicators and five monitors. The monitors will have to run the equipment and keep the judges in line so it is a very important position! I also try to get one director from each Area on each panel. If you are an adjudicator or monitor, you will need to attend a 12:30 p.m. meeting, even if you don't start judging until 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating in this very important event please let me know ASAP. I will be contacting some of you and asking for your help. Please remember that this cannot be done without your help and cooperation.

Without insulting anyone's intelligence I want to refresh your memory about the purpose of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series. It is a program designed to recognize annually the most outstanding single performances of Class C, CC, A, AA, and AAA high school bands in Texas. The judges should select a winner based on how well a piece is performed, and not necessarily how difficult the piece is to perform. In other words, if a Class C band plays a Grade 1 piece and plays it flawlessly, then the judges should pick that performance over a Class C band that plays a Grade 4 piece and plays it out of tune, with poor balance, etc. Just because a band plays a lot of notes, does not necessarily mean that that band has the best performance! That is why no scores are ever used in the adjudication process! Judge only what you hear and select as a winner the most flawlessly played piece. If you serve as an adjudicator for the Outstanding Performance Series, please be sure you understand the importance of your position, and work strictly within those guidelines.

I hope you have a great summer. See you at TBA.

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS 2001-02 College Division Membership Application**

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ HOME EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form and \$10 for dues to:

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary  
15310 Amesbury Lane  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478-4180

Make checks payable to **ATSSB**

**NOTE:** College Division Membership entitles you to receive the ATSSB Newsletter (published quarterly) and to have your name listed in the ATSSB Directory. You will also be listed in the region, area and state database for selection to judging panels for ATSSB auditions. Only Active Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB.

**Please copy and share the college application above and/or the regular member application below with your recent band graduates and/or colleagues or directors of nearby schools to promote ATSSB membership in**

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS 2001-02 Membership Application**

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SS# \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ REGION # \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you are 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) \_\_\_\_\_ Texas Music Adjudicators Assn. member? Circle area:  
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_ CB MB O (add \* if supplemental)

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$25\* (\$10 for College Division Members) for dues to:

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary  
15310 Amesbury Lane  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478-4180

Make checks payable to **ATSSB**

**\*NOTE:** After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$50. A membership card and receipt 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 (College Student Member dues are \$10 all year). To enter students into competition leading to membership in the ATSSB All-State Band, you must be a current Active Member of the Texas Music Educators Association in addition to being a current Regular Member of ATSSB. Only ATSSB Active Members of may vote or hold office in ATSSB.

## Future ATSSB All-State Band Clinicians and Composers

February 20-23, 2002 Anthony Maiello, George Mason University - SYMPHONIC BAND

Robert W. Smith - CONCERT BAND

UNTITLED by Robert W. Smith (commissioned by ATSSB)

February 12-15, 2003 W. Francis McBeth, Ouachita State University - SYMPHONIC BAND

James Barnes - CONCERT BAND

UNTITLED by James Barnes (commissioned by ATSSB)

**If you have suggestions for clinicians or composers, contact your Region Coordinator or any state officer.**

## All-State Band Floor Monitors Needed

Volunteer now to be a Floor Monitor for the 2002 All-State Band!! You get a free room at the Emily Morgan Hotel for three nights during the Clinic.

Email Ronnie Page at [rpage@tyler.net](mailto:rpage@tyler.net) or give him a call at (903) 509-8597 for details or to reserve your spot.

## FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Sunday, July 22

1:00 p.m. **ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series (see convention program for locations)**

Class C followed by Class AA

Class CC followed by Class A

Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting

ATSSB Office

Tuesday, July 24

7:00-9:30 a.m. **ATSSB SBOD** Breakfast meeting Majestic Room, Ramada Emily Morgan

1:30-2:00 p.m. **ATSSB General Session** (see convention program for times and locations)

**"Successful Middle School Programs as Feeders to a Successful High School**

**Program"** chaired by Sherry Poteet, Band Director at Gilmer Junior High School, sponsored by ATSSB

**"Integrating Technology into Rehearsals and the Classroom"** chaired by Jennifer Willison, Band Director at Clarendon Middle School, sponsored by ATSSB

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles may be submitted for consideration to the Editor by mail to 15310 Amesbury Lane; Sugar Land, Texas 77478-4180, or by email to [KL2000G@aol.com](mailto:KL2000G@aol.com). Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.

## This is your June 2001 Newsletter

A Membership Renewal (if applicable) is stapled inside.

Don't forget the General Session Tuesday, July 24, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. in the San Antonio Convention Center.

Also, make plans to attend the ATSSB-sponsored clinics.



**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**

**15310 Amesbury Lane**

**Sugar Land, Texas 77478-4180**

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SUGAR LAND, TX 77478  
PERMIT NO. 435