



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

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No 4

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OUR 33RD YEAR OF SERVICE TO SMALL SCHOOL BANDS IN TEXAS

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

RODNEY BENNETT



March is here already! The ATSSB All-State Symphonic and Concert Bands were fantastic, and the All-State Jazz Ensemble concert was terrific. The conductors of the All-State ensembles were Dr. Michael Golemo (Director of Bands—Iowa State University), Symphonic Band, Mr. William Owens (Composer and retired Music Educator), Concert Band, and Mr. Noe Marmolejo (Director of Jazz Studies—University of Houston), Jazz Ensemble. These gentlemen did a masterful and inspiring job with each band.

ATSSB continues to commission new works for concert band and jazz ensemble. The 2024 ATSSB All-State Concert Band premiered "To Sail the Majestic Seas," with Composer William Owens conducting. The All-State Jazz ensemble premiered "Solstice Samba," composed by Aaron Lington during their concert. These two fine compositions will be welcome additions to the repertoire for the respective ensembles.

Most of us recently completed UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, and hopefully, your students had successful performances. Preparation for the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest has been started, and contests will be underway shortly, with all regions using the new sight-reading procedures—best wishes for inspiring musical performances.

The ATSSB All-State seating auditions would only happen with the work of Kristi Flusche (Groesbeck HS), the All-State Chair Auditions Coordinator. She did a masterful job organizing the auditions and providing timely information to the judges and monitors. A special thank you to all the ATSSB members who served as monitors and judges for the all-state seating auditions; you are the ones who made the audition experience a success for our students. I would be remiss if I did not shout out to Colin Anderson and Marc Nicholson for their work in the office on the computer side of the auditions to keep everything running smoothly. We also want to thank Christina Smith for coordinating the All-State section rehearsals and each section teacher who gave up time during the convention to work with the students. The work you did helped make the performances outstanding musical events.



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PRESIDENTS COLUMN

CONTINUED

Congratulations to all of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series winners. Your performances inspire us all to continue improving our bands and making beautiful music. If you have not been a participant in the OPS competition, consider entering and letting others hear the outstanding work being done in the small schools of Texas.

I want to acknowledge the members of the ATSSB executive board: Jenny Bartley - 1C Representative from Grand Saline; Brian Tillman, 1A Representative from Irion County; and Bonnie Anderson from Littlefield, continuing as the 3A Representative. The following board members were re-elected to continue to serve: 2C Representative Christina Smith from Center, 2A Representative Brian Sours from Tenaha, and 4A Representative Marc Nichelson from China Spring. Our outstanding executive board always has the best interests of our students, directors, and the ATSSB organization in mind when making decisions.

We had the fourth installation of the ATSSB Hall of Fame following the General Membership meeting on February 10. Inductees were: Fred Pankratz, George Strickland, and Robert Vetter. These men are icons in the Texas band world and are all former ATSSB presidents. Congratulations to each of you and your families for a most well-deserved honor.

ATSSB is in great hands with the leadership of Kenneth Griffin, Executive Secretary, and members of the State Executive Board.

I am very humbled to serve as President of ATSSB. It is a tremendous honor, and I look forward to continuing to serve the association, directors, and students of the small schools of Texas. Please don't hesitate to ask if I can ever assist you or your students.



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT-ELECT COLUMN

ANGIE LISS

Seeing so many of you at the convention in February was so good! The ATSSB concerts were fantastic! I won't begin to name names, but thank you to everyone who organized, judged, and stepped in wherever needed to make it all happen! There are many moving parts to a successful clinic/concert; every effort is sincerely appreciated. If you are interested in helping in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me, and we will find a place to plug you in! I know I love getting any and every opportunity to help and interact with the students. They are genuinely grateful for all that is done for them, and I love hearing their stories about how much the experience means to them.

Congratulations to Fred Pankratz, George Strickland, and Bob Vetter on being inducted into the ATSSB Hall of Fame. These gentlemen are some of the finest in our organization, and I was honored to be a part of the ceremony celebrating them!



I know you've been going non-stop since the convention with solo/ensemble and preparations and performances for UIL Concert/Sight-Reading! As will always be my reminder during the spring, remember to be flexible and COMMUNICATE with sponsors and coaches. Our students are almost always involved in multiple activities and events in the small school setting. There will inevitably be conflicts and/or miscommunications. Advocate for your students and help them navigate those conflicts. Educate coaches and sponsors, and again, be flexible. Often, we have a little more wiggle room with our events than athletic events will. It is okay to be the one making concessions. We can {almost} always work out the conflicts. Remember your students' best interests, and it will pay off.

As always, I am truly honored to serve this organization and am here to help you in any way I can. Do not hesitate to reach out!



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PAST PRESIDENT COLUMN

MATT KNIGHT



Greetings from West Texas!

I hope all is well. I hope everyone had a great TMEA Convention! It is always great to catch up with old friends, learn from others, and recharge before the push for the contest.

Congratulations to all of our ATSSB all-state students. Outstanding Concerts were given by our ATSSB All-State Symphonic Band, ATSSB All-State Concert Band, and the ATSSB All-State Jazz Band. The concerts were genuinely exceptional!! Special thanks to Kristi Flusche for organizing our all-state auditions and to Christina Smith for organizing our all-state sectionals. Also, thanks to all of our All-State Band and Percussion organizers for all the work behind the scenes to make the bands a huge success. We could not do it without you!

Congratulations to Christina Smith (2C State Rep), Brian Sours (2A State Rep), and Marc Nichelson (4A State Rep) on being reelected to their positions. Each of you is a valuable member of our association and does an outstanding job serving the small school students of Texas.

It was an honor to be part of this year's ATSSB Hall of Fame induction for Fred Pankratz, George Strickland, and Robert Vetter. Each of these three men has given so much to our association. ATSSB is what it is today due to them. On a side note, I was saddened to see several people choose to leave the meeting before the Hall of Fame induction. I know TMEA is a busy time, and we all have much to accomplish, but do you need those 15 minutes? We must remember to "Take care of the important before the urgent."

I know we are all hitting the grind right now. We have finished the Solo and Ensemble and are working on our Concert & Sightreading evaluation. We are looking forward to Spring Concerts, Spring Trips, and TSSEC. For most of us, Spring Break is the only break between now and the end of the year. As we start this busy time, remember why you do what you do. It is not about the trophies on the shelf but about the kids! Take care of them. Have fun with them. Remind them why they love music. Remember, most of the kids don't do it for music. They do it for you. Next, take care of yourself. We all know our jobs are essential, and we usually put our students first, but take time for yourself. (This is something I could do better). Find things to do outside of school and make them a priority. Taking care of yourself and making time for your family will make you a more effective teacher.

Please join me in thanking ATSSB President Rodney Bennett, President-Elect Angie Liss, Kenneth Griffin, and the rest of the executive board for all the work they do for our small school kids. We are truly blessed to have people of this quality representing each one of us. Please let me know if there is anything you need that I can do for you. I hope each of you enjoys a great spring!

Matt Knight



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY COLUMN

KENNETH GRIFFIN

Another great ATSSB All-State experience under our belts. There are so many people to thank for its success:

To all participating ATSSB band directors who encouraged their students to audition at the region level, only to continue working with them to compete at the Area level, then plan and arrange for their trip to San Antonio for the All-State Band – and serve as adjudicators at all levels, taking their students to the auditions and getting them home again safely.

To our Region Coordinators among our twenty-two regions who secured audition sites, arranged for judging panels, assigned directors to the panels with links to the audition software, oversaw the adjudication process, paid expenses for site hosting, maintenance, and cleanup, reported results and filed paperwork after the auditions, and maintained ATSSB membership on the region level all year.

To the five Area Coordinators (Mike Bartley, Area North; Joe Hewitt, Area East; Marc Nichelson, Area Central; Emerico Perez III, Area South; and Don Summersgill, Area West) who planned the Area auditions, secured a host site, assigned directors to panels and links to the audition software, oversaw results, reported results, paid for all associated costs, oversaw the distribution of Area patches, collected Area fees and much more in the background. Quick shout-out and a huge THANK YOU to Emerico Perez for his service as Area South Coordinator for the past few decades and whose school is moving to 5A – you will be missed!

To All-State Organizers (Justin Ketner, Symphonic Band Organizer; Zachary Sims, Apprentice Symphonic Band Organizer; Hunter Hale, Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer; Bana Estes, Apprentice Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer; David Rogers, Concert Band Organizer; Elliott Ayo, Apprentice Concert Band Organizer; David Speer, Concert Band Percussion Organizer; Chace LeBlanc, Apprentice Concert Band Percussion Organizer; and Michael Childs, Jazz Organizer. These directors give up most of their convention time getting the physical needs of each group ready to go, securing music folders and stuffing each with the assigned music, rehearsal schedules and anything else the clinician wants included, arranging for stand name tags so the clinician can call on students by name, securing equipment not provided by TMEA, arranging for snacks and water at breaks, overseeing each rehearsal to make sure students are there and cooperating with the clinicians and much more in the background.



To Kristi Flusche and the Groesbeck staff for running a smooth chair audition office on Wednesday evening and Christina Smith for coordinating the Section Teaching Staff for leading sectional rehearsals on Thursday morning. Thanks also goes to Brian Donnell, State Jazz Coordinator, for arranging for three clinicians to come in to work sectionals for jazz on Friday morning.

To TMEA for hosting the audition processes on their servers, arranging for hotel space for students and their chaperones, securing and organizing the Convention Center for clinics and rehearsals and, most importantly, the final concerts and much more in the background. Many thanks for so many years of dedicated service from Robert Floyd, TMEA Executive Director, who is retiring this year – he has been such a professional, calming influence on all fine arts over his tenure as Executive Director of TMEA and will be missed! Thank you also to Frank Coachman, Deputy Director, Andrew Denman-Tidline, TMEA Information Technologist, Kay Vanlandingham, Karen Cross and the entire TMEA staff in Austin for their tireless efforts on behalf of the TMEA membership.

To ATSSB leadership: President's Committee Rodney Bennett, Angie Liss and Matt Knight;; Class Representatives Jenny Bartley, Christina Smith, Brian Tillman, Brian Sours, Bonnie Anderson, and Marc Nichelson; State Jazz Coordinator Brian Donnell; OPS State Chair Collin Anderson; Webmaster and Newsletter Editor Marc Nichelson and so many others that stepped up to lead the way when asked. It has been a pleasure working with these directors this year.

A big THANK YOU to all these people plus the unnumbered hundreds who did things in the background to make all levels of ATSSB work seamlessly throughout the year.

It was my pleasure to emcee the ATSSB Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony after the General Session on Friday. We are fortunate to have had these gentlemen at the forefront in the development of ATSSB:



Fred Pankratz
ATSSB Hall of Fame
Class of 2024



George Stirckland
ATSSB Hall of Fame
Class of 2024



Robert Vetter
ATSSB Hall of Fame
Class of 2024

You can go to the ATSSB Hall of Fame Web page for details about each of these inductees.

Interesting fact about the 2024 All-State Bands: The bands include 12 freshmen (up from 10 last year), 49 sophomores (up from 42 last year), 87 juniors (down from 99 last year), and 158 seniors (up from 155 from last year).

Outstanding Performance Series – Be sure to check out the OPS web page carefully regarding the process for 2024. We are working toward making all winning recordings available online since the time we stopped producing CDs, so keep an eye on the website (and an email announcement) regarding those links when they become available (CDs are no longer produced).

Interesting fact about the 2024 All-State Bands: The bands included 96 females and 209 males.

DIRECTORY – An ATSSB Membership Directory is available on the Website (on the main page, hover your mouse over MEMBERS then ATSSB TMEA MEMBERS DIRECTORY and enter your last name and your six-digit current membership number (beginning with 24) to access the Directory. It lists all those who are Active and Current for the fiscal year (which ends July 31). Since the State Board has voted that the ATSSB Website is the official document, we no longer print the Directory (or anything else) for mailout. All documents must be viewed/printed/downloaded from the Website. We secured the Directory because advertisers were mining the contact data and besieging our members with advertisements.

APPLICATION – There is a Membership Application in this Newsletter and on the Website that you can download and use or give to your assistants or to share with neighbors. Membership renewal reminders are not sent, so use the one available online or linked here to join as soon as you can in the new budget year (although we surely do appreciate all the scholarship contributions you make when you join after October 1!). There is also a College Division Membership application available here and online. Give one to your senior bandsmen that might be considering music as a major or minor in college. Remember that dues are \$50. The \$25 late fee will continue to be added after October 1, so if you want to avoid the late fee, get your dues paid as soon as possible (you can use a school PO at any time, a check or money order or your credit card online). Marc Nicholson is working on an app to allow you to monitor and update your own profiles through our website and to perhaps use that link to pay your dues for the coming year.

Interesting facts about the 2024 All-State Bands: Canyon and West Plains (Amarillo) each had 8 students make All-State; Commerce and Hidalgo had 6 student make All-State; Carter-Riverside, Davenport, Henderson, Pleasant Grove, and Raymondville each had 5 students make All-State; eight schools had 4 students make All-State; seventeen schools had 3 students make All-State; thirty-five schools had 2 students make All-State; and ninety-nine schools had 1 student make All-State. In all, 168 different schools are represented in the ATSSB All-State Bands.

PAL – The Prescribed Audition List includes all known (and SARC-approved) errata to date on each of the etude pages. The scales are up to date on the website, including the State Board mandated statement that scales are to be played "as written" and that "scales shall be performed in order without delay between scales" – so be careful your students play a whole note at the end of each scale and not finger through the scale before performing it without delay. Be sure you are using the current data from the Website since an Update will not be mailed or passed out at TBA like we used to do (remember that the Website is the official document). We will be using YEAR D in the PAL for auditions in 2024-25. Watch the Website for the Year D Update – and remember that percussion auditions are unified. Links will be updated as they become available.

Interesting facts about the 2024 All-State Bands: Of the 306 students selected for ATSSB All-State, 3 were from class 1A schools (.98% - down from 4 last year), 24 were from class 2A schools (7.84% - down from 32 last year), 109 from class 3A schools (35.62% - up from 104 last year), and 168 from class 4A schools (54.9% - up from 161 last year).

This year, recordings of the ATSSB All-State Bands will be available as a link online at no cost. As soon as the recordings have been mastered and mechanical licenses secured, the links will be posted on the ATSSB website. You may still order plaques and t-shirts from the event through [Pepwear](#). You may also order the large 10" All-State patch from this office (\$10 each includes shipping). Use the order forms in this Newsletter or online to get yours today.

Use your contacts at colleges and universities across Texas (and beyond) to make sure that they give scholarships (all expenses paid) to ATSSB All-State students and tuition scholarships to ATSSB Area students for their summer band camps like some colleges do. Check out what the camp offers and then encourage your students to go where they are welcomed. Several colleges have already contacted me wanting the All-State list so our students can be contacted about scholarship opportunities. More and more colleges are interested in our seniors each year.

Interesting facts about the 2024 All-State Bands: Of the 306 members, each of the 22 regions had an average of 14 students in the band. One region had 32 (the most) and two regions had 3 (the least).

Remember that Region Officers serve a two-year term, so if elections need to be held in your regions, go through the process in place to elect them. Be sure to let me know if you replace a Region Coordinator for 2024-25 in your Spring Meeting. I need to have their name as soon as possible for our plans for 2024-25 (call me at 713-874-1151 and leave a message). Your Region Coordinator is your region's representative on the State Board of Directors which makes all the decisions for you regarding ATSSB matters. Make sure they or a proxy attends each SBOD meeting. It would also be nice if each Region Coordinator brought a mandate of opinion from region members so votes could be representative of each region of the state. Keep an eye on your region's page and volunteer to help keep it up to date if you are into web publishing and would like to help. The ATSSB State Board will send each Region a Fall Agenda, listing items each Region needs to address, so watch for those items.

Seniors Nayati Ates, Cumberland Academy Jazz Bass Guitar; Melissa Becerril, Pittsburg 4A Clarinet; Heidi Bundick, Lake View String Bass; Tristan Castorena, Shallowater 4A Flute; Jack Cowart, Canyon 4A Trombone; Jose Estrada III, La Grange 4A Trumpet; Cameron Hesse, Lorena 3A Trumpet; Damien Horton, Center, 4A Tuba; Anika McNeely, Hereford 4A French Horn; Dylan Newcomb, Krum Jazz Trombone; Sabrina Pan, China Spring 4A Clarinet; Angel Perez, Ben Bolt 4A Clarinet; Henry Pruitt, Bethesda Christian 3A Trombone; Claire Ren, Monsignor Kelly 3A Flute; Mathew Ruggieri, Robinson 4A French Horn; Elia Salas, McGregor 3A Trumpet; Kayla Santos, Crane 3A Clarinet; Brianna Sofka, Shiner 3A Euphonium; Emma Sonnier, Cornerstone Christian 3A Clarinet; Liam Stayton, Canyon 4A Bass Clarinet; Kameron Townsend, Union Grove 3A Bass Clarinet; Kate Vest, Bushland 3A Clarinet; and David Villagrana, Big Spring 4A Clarinet each received the \$500 ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship for making the band three of their four years in high school. Seniors Madisyn Bedair, Gladewater 3A Clarinet; Zachary Conner, Big Spring 4A Trombone; Christian Garcia, Grulla Jazz Trombone; Ethan Kornegay, Wills Point 4A Tuba; Brynlee Miller, Canyon Bassoon; Anneliese Nash, Brock 4A Clarinet; Emily Overdirth, Maypearl 4A Clarinet; Ayne Park, Greenhill School 3A Flute; and Rafael Quilpas, Yoakum 4A French Horn each received the \$2000 ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship for making the band all four years in high school.

These senior scholarship recipients were given a plaque in a brief ceremony between the performances of the Concert and Symphonic Bands and the Jazz Ensemble concert. This makes one hundred sixty students who have received the four-year scholarship (the first twenty-three received a \$1000 scholarship until 2003 when the three-year \$500 scholarships were started, and the four-year award was raised to \$2000) and four hundred fourteen who have received the three-year scholarship. Since 1992, \$513,500 in scholarships have been awarded to 606 individuals (7.42 % of those selected to ATSSB All-State have received a scholarship).

Interesting facts about the 2024 ATSSB All-State Band: Over the last thirty-two years, 8,170 students have been awarded All-State honors by ATSSB.

In your spring meetings, be sure to nominate state officers for next year: President-Elect, Class 1C, 1A and 3A Representatives to the State Board of Directors 2025-2027.

My thanks to all of you for what you have done to make ATSSB what it is today.



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Any correspondence should be addressed to ATSSB; 2117 Morse Street; Houston,
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You may also contact us on our Web Site (www.atssb.org) or email the Editor
(Marc Nicholson) at mnichelson@atssb.org or call 713-874-1151.

Letters to the Editor will be published as space permits if signed and verified,
although writers may remain anonymous by request.

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costs:

<https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>.



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STATE JAZZ COORDINATOR COLUMN

BRIAN DONNELL

What a terrific All-State clinic/concert! Congratulations to the students on their outstanding performance. Along with a variety of charts, the band premiered this year's commission, "Solstice Samba" by Dr. Aaron Lington (San Jose State University). Nice work to everyone!

If you did not get an opportunity to visit one of the rehearsals with our clinician, Mr. Noe Marmolejo (University of Houston), you missed an intense and positive rehearsal where the students were challenged to perform at a high level.

A special note of appreciation to our band organizer this year, Mr. Michael Childs (Stephenville), who took care of our clinician, students, and directors during the four days of rehearsals and performance. So very organized. Thank you, Michael, for all your work to help make the event run so smoothly!

Also to our sectional leaders who worked with our students on Friday morning. Mr. Mike Korson (University of North Texas) with our saxophones, Mr. Erick Matta (freelance trumpet player) with our trumpets, and Dr. William Ford (Tarleton State University) with our trombones. The students were fortunate to spend time with you.

Lastly, a huge word of thanks to Mr. Kenneth L. Griffin, who continues to do an amazing job for our association, its directors and our students. His attention to details is legendary, and the work he does behind the scenes, while largely unnoticed by most folks, is especially appreciated by those of us who are on the coordinator and organizer side of things. Thank you, Kenneth!

Looking ahead:

- 1) The State Board of Directors approved an addition to our jazz rules relating to piano and guitar auditions. Students auditioning on piano can use an electronic/digital keyboard, but the patch setting must be piano. Those students auditioning on guitar must not use effects pedals.
- 2) The audition music for 2024-2025 is available at www.matteimusicsservices.com/atssbjazz
- 3) If your region has a new coordinator this spring/summer, please reach out to me if you have any questions about the jazz audition process. I'm here to help!

I continue to be honored to serve ATSSB, and hope everyone has a terrific finish to the school year!

Brian Donnell
ATSSB State Jazz Coordinator
Director of Bands
Greenhill School
bdonnell@atssb.org





MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE SERIES

COLLIN ANDERSON

The 2024 Outstanding Performance Series competition opens on March 1st! While only a few of you will have recordings ready this soon, please take time to go onto the OPS webpage and familiarize yourself with the instructions for entering OPS.

New for the 2024 season, OPS will have two pilot competitions: a MS non-varsity category (1C-3C) and a HS category (1A-4A). Details regarding the competition will be on the OPS webpage as well as in the OPS Handbook, linked at the bottom of the OPS webpage.

Entry deadline is Saturday, May 18 by 11:59 pm. All portions of your OPS entry (Verification Form, audio uploads, and payment) should be completed by this time.

The following links to upload paperwork and complete your entry on the OPS webpage are available:

Audio Files (link also provided in Online Entry Portal)

Verification Form (signed and completed)

Purchase Order (should a check not be not be available by the 18th)

Pay Online (via credit card - if PO/check is an issue by deadline)

Non-UIL Festival Forms (if submitting a new venue)

Please secure a purchase order number early, and if a check cannot arrive before the May 18 deadline, upload a copy of your purchase order OR pay via PayPal online as mentioned above.

Region adjudication will be completed and entries certified to Area by midnight on Saturday, June 8. Area adjudication will be completed and entries certified to State by midnight on Saturday, June 22. State adjudication will be July 25 at the Texas Bandmasters Association convention in San Antonio. A judging matrix of regions and areas will be available on the OPS webpage once decided.

Certification of Advancement forms will be emailed by the OPS State Chair following each level of adjudication to show which entries advanced from region to area and then to the state OPS contest. A link will be available on the OPS webpage to view results once posted following each level of adjudication.

All information needed for your entry will be input through the Online Entry Portal. Once you have completed input of the required information, the official Verification Form and an OPS invoice will be emailed to you after your submission in the entry portal. The link to upload your .WAV files can be found in multiple locations: a link provided immediately after the online entry submission, in your confirmation email, or on the OPS webpage. You only need to upload the audio files though one of these options.

Carefully observe the FILE NAME protocols as delineated on the OPS webpage. The FILE NAME for your .WAV file will be created for you in the online entry portal. COPY this FILE NAME and use it to label your audio file! Use the correct Area designations (N, S, E, W, C), as well as make sure to label each .WAV file to match your Verification Form (e.g. marches are 1A, first concert selection is 1B, second concert selection is 1C).

Editing of any recording to be submitted is not allowed, except to remove any vocal announcements at the beginning (particularly a March selection) that could identify the name of the competing school and/or to remove applause following a piece.

You will receive verification emails for both finalizing your Verification Form information and for completing your .WAV file uploads. However, also check the Completed OPS Entries link on the OPS webpage which will indicate that all portions of the entry have been properly received and documented (this is not an up-to-the-minute resource, but will be updated as often as possible).

If there are any questions or issues while entering OPS this year, call or email me! 903-390-3271/opsstatechair@gmail.com
Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our fantastic organization as the OPS State Chair.



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

ALL-STATE AUDITION CHAIR

KRISTI FLUSCHE

Greeting colleagues and friends. I would like to say a huge "Thank You!" to everyone who played a role in the state chair auditions this year. There are a few people that I want to extend a personal thank you to: Rodney Bennett for asking and putting your trust in me to run the state auditions; Kenneth Griffin and Eric Gray for your expertise and answering all my texts, calls and emails so that the auditions would run smoothly; Anna Jo Knight for being a sounding board throughout the months on a multitude of subjects, the Gilmer band staff for helping with set up; directors in the tabulation office, Collin Anderson, Marc Nichelson, and Eric Senzig, for covering the technical aspect of the auditions. Though not a director, I am thankful for Melanie Anderson who made sure all the food and drinks were set up and covered throughout the auditions. And, finally, to the directors who stepped up to judge and monitor the auditions, thank you for your time listening and guiding our students during the audition process.

Flute (4A)

Chair: Cristalia Burse, Tahoka HS, Alison Hamilton, Clifton HS,
Anna Jo Knight, Abernathy HS
Janelle Saad, Anthony HS
Mamie Sprinkle, Kemp HS
Monitor: Idalia Medina, Roger HS

Flute (3A)

Chair: Megan Seymore, Alvarado HS
Christy Henson, Hereford HS
Amile Honstein, Carrizo Springs HS
Johanna Reynolds, Gatesville HS
Jordan Sundermann, Rosebud-Lott HS
Monitor: Camden Sidenstricker, A.C. Blunt MS

Oboe & Bassoon (4A/3A)

Chair: Wylie Gore, Robinson HS
Kerry Hughes, Rice HS
Elias Elizalde Jr., Hebbbronville HS
Pamela Langley, A.C. Jones HS
James Trammell, Valley Mills HS
Monitor: Jennifer Essary, Academy HS

B-flat Clarinet (4A)

Chair: Gina Muela, Littlefield HS
Jennifer Condon, Stanton HS
Rene Rosales, La Pryor HS
JustanVance, LorenaHS
Stormy Semich, Whitney HS
Monitor: Michelle Palmer, Salado HS

B-flat Clarinet (3A)

Chair: Rachel Berg, China Spring HS
Norma Martinez, Robstown Early College HS
Crystal Senzig, Riesel HS
Elisha Lozano, Alice HS
Dr. Nora Mosby, Connally HS
Monitor: Elizabeth Wilson, Franklin HS

Alto, Bass, Contrabass Clarinet (4A/3A)

Chair: John Gaertner, Kilgore HS
Logan Duschatko, Commerce HS
Michaela Cole, Glen Rose HS
Griffin Holt, Wills Point HS
Kyle Popovec, Lorena HS
Monitor: Jacob Laster, Carthage HS

Alto, Tenor, Baritone Saxophone (4A/3A)

Chair: Charles Cabrera, Robstown HS
Tony Gonzalez, Perryton HS
Robert Palermo, East Bernard HS
Patrick Atkins, La Vernia HS
S. Mae Trevino-Mendez, Santa Gertrudis Academy HS
Monitor: Eduardo Solis, Pleasanton HS

Trumpet (4A)

Chair: Matt Daily, Brock HS
Daniel Balkema, Pilot Point HS
Marcus Oliver, Shallowater HS
Kara Wallace, Commerce HS
Michael Williamson, Mathis HS
Monitor: Clayton Capello, Pettus HS

Trumpet (3A)

Chair: Scott Cross, Farmersville HS
Chris Moix, Hillsboro HS
Steven Garcia, Alice HS
Brian Miears, Caddo Mills HS
Blake Vajgert, Salado HS
Monitor: Ramon Sanchez, Carrizo Springs HS

F Horn (4A/3A)

Chair: Whitney Sims, Shiner HS
Emily Chenoweth, Canton HS
Joseph Hewitt, Chapel Hill HS
Abbigail Jones, Needville HS
Abigail Ramsey, Needville HS
Monitor: Travis Dent, Rosebud-Lott HS

Tenor Trombone (4A/3A)

Chair: Richard Cole, Pecos HS
Travis Bryant, Early HS
Michael Casas, Sabinal HS
Benjamin Keltner, Raymondville ECHS
Robert Thomas, Clifton HS
Monitor: JaAnna Balboa, Fredericksburg HS

Euphonium/String Bass (4A/3A)

Chair: Jose Sanchez, Gatesville HS
Harvey Davidson, Palacios HS
Larry Firmin, Industrial HS
James Beeson, Bosqueville HS
Marcos Cuellar, H.M. King HS
Monitor: Chris Cooper, La Grange HS

Tuba (4A/3A)

Chair: Rustin Honeycutt, Troy HS
Brian Hecimovich, Fredericksburg HS
Mike Wilson, Whitney HS
~~Meriko~~ Konegay, Wills Point HS
John Winebrenner, Wimberley HS
Monitor: Ryan Thornberry, Rockport-Fulton HS

Percussion (4A)

Chair: Marc Christy, Kemp HS
Brenna Gournay, Pilot Point HS
Joseph Guzman, Taft HS
Matthew Hernandez, Jourdanton HS
Matt Nelson, Clifton HS

Percussion (3A)

Chair: Eric Rath, Canyon HS
Lance Finley, Needville HS
Christopher Koenig, Lake Worth HS
William Ross, Chapel Hill HS
Tyler McClendon, Davenport HS
Monitor: Krystal Michal, Robinson HS

There were many positive things that took place this year that we can build upon to make the ATSSB All-State experience memorable for all involved. I am happy to be asked to serve as the audition chair coordinator and look forward to serving ATSSB in the future. Wishing everyone a successful year as we move forward.

Kristi Flusche



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

WEBMASTER COLUMN

MARC NICHELSON



After returning from the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) convention, I am consistently impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of music educators throughout our state. The convention buzzes with educators eager to expand their skills and enrich their students' experiences. This commitment is not only reflected in the excellence of our bands statewide but also in the remarkable achievements of students in our All-State ensembles.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the educators who contribute their time and expertise to TMEA and ATSSB during auditions and the convention, as well as those who mentor the outstanding students showcased at each performance.

As we progress further into spring, we remain committed to enhancing the services provided on our website and empowering our regional, area, and state-level leadership to tailor our organization to better serve students and directors. Teaching band in small schools presents its own set of challenges, but it is undeniably rewarding work.

It is with great pride that I serve in the role of 4A State Representative, and I commend all the directors who selflessly dedicate themselves to serving our organization. Thank you for trusting me to represent the 4A Classification and for continuing to shape our beloved organization.

Website Projects Currently in the works:

1. Small school oriented Podcast covering topics we are seeing across the spectrum in small school bands. Please email me if you have anyone who'd like to act as a sponsor or if you have someone who you think would be a great person to interview.
2. I'd also like to know if some of you would be willing to help submit materials, we can publish to our social media that would help small school band directors. These could be teaching resources, videos you've made giving a clinic on certain items, etc... This would be specific to Small Schools and something our audience would find beneficial to use in their programs. If interested, please contact me at mnichelson@atssb.org.
3. If you know of any business that would be interested in beginning an advertising relationship with us, please have them contact me at mnichelson@atssb.org.
4. Job Board Upgrade and Membership services area of the website is currently in the works!
5. I am also looking at digital media/site based locations (video clinics, podcasts, clinics at local schools, and even zoom hangouts) to continue adding opportunities for directors not only use our contests but have more wonderful resources given through our website. If you know of anything we can add PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

Official Licensees

These companies have paid a fee and are under contract to use the ATSSB logo and marks on their products. They pay a royalty on products they sell using ATSSB logos and service marks. Please consider using them before using any other companies for similar services. Logos contain links to their website so just click to visit (or obvious contact information is given).



Jordan Sound Productions
601 Ralson Street
Bullard, Texas 75757
903-539-6485
JordanSP@aol.com



ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS Membership Application

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.
If this is a membership renewal, only enter name and school and ANYTHING THAT HAS CHANGED.

NAME _____ Last four SS# _____ TMEA # _____
SCHOOL _____ CLASS _____ REGION # _____
TITLE _____ SCHOOL PHONE _____ Best time to call _____
If a public middle or junior high school, what high school does your school feed? _____
How many directors are on the band staff in your ISD? _____ New to this region? _____
SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ FAX# _____
CITY & ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL _____
HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE# _____
CITY & ZIP CODE (if different from school) _____ CELL# _____
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$50* for dues to:

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
2117 Morse Street
Houston, Texas 77019

Are you a judge listed with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association? If so, please select your area of certification::

I would also like to donate \$_____ to the
ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.

Dues may not be deductible, but any amount over \$50 is considered a fully-deductible contribution.

I would also like to donate \$_____ to the
Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Donations to this scholarship are fully deductible.

***NOTE:** The membership year runs from August 1 to July 31. After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$75 (the additional \$25 is deposited into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund). A membership card and receipt will be returned to you via email, so make sure you have a valid email address. Associate Member dues are \$25 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$25. To enter students into competition leading to membership in an ATSSB All-State Band, you must be a current Active Member of the Texas Music Educators Association in addition to ATSSB. Retired Members dues are \$25. Only ATSSB Active Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB and submit entries in the Outstanding Performance Series. ATSSB membership is held on an individual basis and is nontransferable.

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS COLLEGE DIVISION APPLICATION

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

NAME _____ Last 4 SS# _____
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____ Anticipated Graduation Date _____
SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ SCHOOL PHONE () _____
CITY & ZIP CODE _____ SCHOOL EMAIL _____
PERMANENT ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE () _____
CITY & ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL _____
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

Email address to which you want the ATSSB Newsletter sent: _____ School _____ Permanent

Mail this completed form and \$25 for dues to:

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
2117 Morse Street
Houston, Texas 77019

Make checks payable to ATSSB

NOTE: College Division Membership entitles you 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 Regular Active Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB.