

ATSSB Newsletter

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In our 35th year serving Texas small school bands

Greetings from ATSSB!

ATSSB enjoyed another exciting and productive year in 2024-25. It was evident from the number of members we had in our thirty-fourth year (1423, up from 1399 in the previous year) and from the quality of the 2025 ATSSB All-State Bands that our organization has maintained our original goal to be "sensitive to the needs and interests of small school band programs in Texas." Most small schools in Texas that have band programs are participating members of the Association.

The All-State Band Clinic was a positive one. Dr. J. Eric Wilson from Baylor University led the Symphonic Band, premiering **TACHYON** by Julie Giroux (commissioned by ATSSB for this performance). Dustin Seifert from the Eastern New Mexico University led the Concert Band. Ron Wilkins, New York musician and S.E Shires Trombone Artist, led the Jazz Ensemble, premiering **PLAYAS SING, SINGAS PLAY!!** by Ron Wilkins (commissioned by ATSSB for this performance).

We invite you to join ATSSB and hope that we can help you achieve your goals this year. You can download the application from the ATSSB website (<https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/App.pdf>). You can also open the application online and enter your data using your computer before printing it. Or you can use the online application process to join and use your credit card to pay dues (<https://www.atssb.org/atssb-membership-application-form/>). A membership card and receipt will be emailed to you and your name added to the roster of your ATSSB Region Coordinator so you can be kept up to date on ATSSB activities. If you wish to have students participate in ATSSB activities this year, you must also become a member of TMEA (<http://www.tmea.org>) because the two organizations have unified the audition process for membership in Texas All-State Bands.

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 start our thirty-fifth year of service to small-school bands, growing together as unified small-school band directors, and we want you to be a part of it. Thank you for your continued support.

President's Column

by Angie Liss



ANGIE LISS

I hope this finds you well and settling into the rhythm of a new school year. Summer seems to vanish faster every year, and before we know it, the calendar is full of rehearsals, football games, and all the “back-to-school” energy that fills our band halls.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at TBA in San Antonio. That week always leaves me recharged—it’s a chance to reconnect with old friends, share ideas with colleagues, and soak up the inspiration that comes from being around people who love band as much as we do.

I want to extend a special thank-you to SARC and Christina Smith for the tireless work on the Prescribed Audition List. The PAL is the backbone of our audition process, and maintaining it requires an incredible amount of detail, thought, and care. Countless hours went into making sure it’s accurate and useful for both students and directors. Please take time to read through it and familiarize yourself with the updates—our students deserve the best audition experience we can provide.

Congratulations are also in order for the OPS winners and the finalists in the TMEA Honor Band process. The quality of music-making represented there is inspiring. You continue to make your communities proud, and I am amazed year after year by the standard of excellence across our small-school programs. That success is a direct reflection of the work happening in your band halls every single day.

As we dive into the fall semester, many of us are already knee-deep in marching band season—early morning sectionals, after-school rehearsals, Friday night football games, and everything in between. For small-school directors, the challenge often comes in the sheer variety of hats we wear. One minute you’re fixing a broken reed or restringing a marimba; the next you’re lining up buses, coordinating with coaches, or teaching beginner classes in between marching rehearsals. It’s a lot to juggle, but it’s also what makes our work so meaningful. We don’t just teach—we shape programs, build traditions, and guide students through experiences that will stick with them for life.

And then there are those moments we live for: when the drill finally clicks, when the band comes off the field after their first Friday night, or when the freshmen suddenly “get it.” Those little victories are worth celebrating, and I hope you’ll take the time to savor them this season.

Of course, if you’ve read any of my columns before, you know what’s coming next: take care of yourself, too. Directors are often the first to arrive and the last to leave, and it’s easy to burn out without even realizing it. Self-care doesn’t have to be elaborate—it can be as simple as going for a walk, calling a friend, or giving yourself permission to rest without guilt. It’s okay to let that email wait until tomorrow or to silence the phone for an evening. A healthy, balanced director is a stronger leader, and your students will benefit when you’re at your best.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to lean into one of the greatest strengths of ATSSB: the support and camaraderie of colleagues who understand the unique joys and challenges of small-school band. Whether you’re celebrating a big win, struggling through a tough rehearsal, or just trying to keep the buses running on time, remember—you’re not alone. Even if you’re the only director on your campus, you’ve got a network of people who understand exactly what you’re going through. Don’t hesitate to reach out for advice, encouragement, or even just a chance to vent. If I can’t help, I’ll connect you with someone who can.

Thank you for the countless ways you serve your students, your schools, and this profession. I’m grateful to stand alongside each of you, and I can’t wait to see the great things your bands will accomplish this year.

Here’s to a fantastic school year—one filled with growth, good music, and moments worth remembering.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angie Liss". The script is fluid and cursive.

Executive Director's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



KENNETH GRIFFIN

2025 OPS Things just seem to get better and better for the Outstanding Performance Series. OPS State Chair Collin Anderson did a great job organizing the process and overseeing the State Adjudications at TBA. Congratulations to the participants and winners this year. The new process of submitting entries was much improved thanks to Frank Coachman and Collin.

ATSSB HALL OF FAME Initiated at the 30th Anniversary Luncheon during the 2021 ATSSB All-State Clinic in Melissa, members are inducted in February during the ATSSB General Session if selected from nominations received by the previous November 1. See the [Hall of Fame Guidelines](#) and [Nomination Form](#) online if you would like to nominate someone for this prestigious honor.

LOST CARD? If you have misplaced your new ATSSB membership card, you can go online to retrieve it and your receipt. Just go to <https://www.atssb.org/membership/> to type in your last name, then the last four digits of your Social Security number. You will get a pdf file of your card and receipt. Should you have any problem accessing it, email me and I will get it to you promptly (atssb@att.net).

STATE OFFICERS Class 2C/3C, 2A and 4A Representatives are up for election in February. Nominee biographies will be published online in the December Newsletter and voting will take place electronically in January to select the top two candidates (unless one person wins the majority of the electronic votes). Look for a link to vote through your professional email address you listed when you joined or renewed this year. Ballots will be sent out in January for all three of these positions. If there is no clear winner, the top two receiving votes will be on a paper ballot at the General Session (tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 213 of the Convention Center.

Want to serve as an ATSSB officer? Volunteer to help in region band auditions (as a judge, a clinic host, clinic organizer, etc.) and respond positively when asked to run for a region office. Your service will encourage members to nominate you for state office (Class Representative or President-Elect). If you would like to serve in an appointed leadership role (Area Coordinator, OPS State Chair, State Chair Audition Coordinator, State Jazz Coordinator, All-State Band Organizer, etc.), let the President know via email of your interest in the position. If you would like to be considered for the appointed position of Executive Director, notify the President who will inform the Executive Committee of your interest, then when the position is up for review (at TBA in odd years so that will take place in 2027), your name will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration. Just so you know, the Executive Committee is charged with this review every two years, but is also charged with replacing the Executive Director in case of a vacancy for any reason.

ONLINE ENTRY Remember that entries for all-region band auditions (jazz, middle school or high school) must be done online. Go to the TMEA website (www.tmea.org), click on DIVISION, then BAND, then AUDITION ENTRY, then DIRECTOR LOGIN, then follow the prompts. You should end up on your profile page which will also list available competitions in which you are eligible to enter students. If a contest is not listed, contact your Region Coordinator to see why not (or when it will be available). **CAUTION DIRECTORS AND STUDENTS: Read all data regarding entries!**

AUDITIONS As you send in entries to ATSSB all-region auditions, remember that students from schools in class 1A, 2A and 3A are auditioning in the 3A Track to All-State and students in class 4A and all color

(Continued on page 4)

instruments are auditioning in the 4A Track. If you have a class 1A, 2A or 3A student who wishes to take the 4A Track - or any student wishing to take the 5A or 6A track - they **MUST** submit a Track Selection Form with their first audition entry (whether it is to ATSSB or TMEA) - color instruments do not need to submit a Track Selection Form since all color instruments are adjudicated in the 4A Track. **Remember that this year, we are only selecting 1 alto clarinet and 1 string bass for each Track, with alto clarinet auditions for All-State phasing out by the 2029-2030 audition year.** After Area, the second chair alto saxophone, second chair euphonium, first chair alto clarinet, and first chair string bass will record their Area etudes. Sunday after Area, a panel of judges will select 3 euphoniums and 3 alto saxophones in each Track to add to the sections at State. Another panel will select two alto clarinets and two string basses with the top-ranked student placed in the Symphonic Band and the next in the Concert Band. Also, please realize that since we are aligned with TMEA regarding auditions, directors will be held accountable regarding the policies and procedures which include an obligation to judge at region and area auditions.

TRACKING Students advancing to Area will be designated by the Track they selected (4A or 3A). The number allowed to advance in each Track is listed online as "All-State Band Profile". 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, TMEA membership, region entry fees, forms completed, etc.) in advance of auditions. Please see the updated ATSSB Officers and Organizers in this Newsletter (and keep up with changes online) and contact your Region Coordinator if you have any questions regarding auditions. If you are already a member of ATSSB for 2025-26, your name and address is in your Region Coordinator's database and you will be receiving emails regarding these auditions.

JAZZ This process remains unchanged. The only clarifications are that no mutes are to be used in the improv section of the recorded area auditions. See the current Year E Update online:

<https://www.atssb.org/files/yeareupdate2026.pdf>

ADVANCING PAST REGION If you have students who are selected to audition at the ATSSB Area auditions January 10, 2026, be sure to pay the \$25 Area fee to ATSSB (they do not owe this to TMEA) or they will not be allowed to audition at the Area level. All students who audition at Area will receive an Area patch. No forms are necessary at the Area auditions. If you have a student make State, they will receive a link to TMEA from which they will download documentation required for All-State participation.

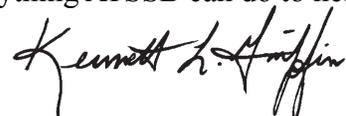
WEBSITE New Webmaster Brian Hecimovich has done a great job managing the website, coming up with a redesign and efforts to streamline the site for more efficient use. It is a treasure trove of information and forms needed for all aspects of the ATSSB audition and competition experience, so check it out and keep track of all updates as they are announced, especially the catch-all page:

<https://www.atssb.org/executive-secretary/atssb-a-to-z/>

SCHOLARSHIPS The two levels of ATSSB All-State Band scholarships require nothing of students except to make the band three of their four years in high school (\$500 Scholarship) or all four years of high school (\$2000 Scholarship). We now have two scholarships seniors can apply for: the \$1000 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship and the \$1000 Jeannie Griffin Memorial Scholarship. All applicants will be considered for both scholarships, but for the Jeannie Griffin Memorial Scholarship, preference will be given to students who additionally have choral or piano backgrounds. Make sure your senior bandsmen are aware of these scholarships and, if interested, have them apply before January 10, 2026 at:

<https://www.atssb.org/scholarships/>

Best wishes for a successful fall semester. Please let me know if there is anything ATSSB can do to help you in your task.



President-Elect's Column

by Brian Sours



BRIAN SOURS

I don't know about you all, but for me, the summer seemed to fly by! It's crazy to think that by the time you read this newsletter, we would have already played our first football game! I hope that your summer band experience went well and that you feel like you are starting your school year and marching season in a positive way. Here's to hoping you all nailed your drill and music goals for the first football game. If you felt like your summer band camp did not go as planned, if there were unintended interruptions, a large percentage of kids missing, or delays in learning, just remember that it is very rare to have the "perfect start." People will usually post positive moments on social media as they should, but that doesn't mean all is great! Social media should be the avenue to express moments of success and pride.

It has too often become a place for negative vibes... Just know that there are plenty of programs that face difficult situations all the time... They just don't always make it widely known. How you handle the negative situation is key. Finding positive in negative situations is challenging, but sadly without unfortunate events, we would likely show little growth... We progress the most after a disappointing experience. Always try to stay positive! "This too shall pass," and we will emerge from these negative situations stronger than ever.

I want to take a moment to thank the committees that met several times during the summer to get new rules and policies in place including voting to add an entirely new ATSSB All-State Percussion Ensemble for the very first time. If this is approved by the TMEA State Board when they meet in September, this ensemble will debut in February of 2027 in correlation with the TMEA Convention. I want to personally thank the members of the State Audition and Review Committee (SARC) for meeting via Zoom a few times over the summer to discuss and vote on items for the State Board meeting in late July. There were many items before the SARC, including the new All-State Percussion Ensemble, tracked color instruments, and the PAL revisions. I'd like to recognize the following members of the SARC for which I chair: Angie Liss (President), Rodney Bennett (Immediate Past-President), Eric Rath (4A/ Area West), Steven Rash (3A/ Area South), Elliott Ayo (2A/ Area East), Zach Sims (2A/ Area Central), David Andrus (1A/ Area West), Brandon Manuel (MS/ Area North), Bobby Castillo (Percussion/ Area East), Brian Donnell (Jazz Coordinator), and Kenneth Griffin (Executive Director). They spent over 5 hours spread over two Zoom meetings this summer. I also want to thank Christina Smith and Josh Kidd for their tireless, tedious, and laborious efforts in completely overhauling the entire PAL, which was no easy task!

I want to again thank Brian Hecimovich for taking on the enormous task of running and editing the ATSSB Website and taking on the role of Webmaster. He is already off and running and the website is looking really good! I hope you all have a great year full of goal achievements and growth! Know that "success" is relative... One person's definition of success is different from another. Also, remember to continue to find time to "relax, reflect, and rejuvenate" even during the school year!

Brian Sours

Immediate Past-President's Column

by Rodney Bennett



RODNEY BENNETT

A new school year has begun and back to the routine of rehearsals and classes. Summer camps in the rear view mirror and now the “real work” has started. Marching season – it has begun, school, learning drill, first marching shows, and for some, the bus trips. We tell our students that the goal for the first show is to: “Get on the field, do something positive musically and visually, get off the field, and no one gets hurt”. I am happy to report that we accomplished that goal and more the first week.

It is my sincerest wish that all of you have a productive and successful marching band season. So many lessons can be learned just from this one musical activity – team work, precision, physical strength, mental acuity, leadership, work ethic, and so many other positive aspects.

Congratulations to all the concert bands that received honors in the OPS competition. Special thanks goes to Collin Anderson for his dedication and commitment to this event. Also a big thank you to all who served as panel chairs and adjudicators for the state level of OPS.

Let me also congratulate all the directors and their respective bands who participated in the TMEA Honor Band process. The 3A State Honor Band Raymondville ECHS – Benjamin Keltner - Director and 1C State Honor Band – Brewster School – Gerardo Reyes – Director. We are looking forward to hearing your ensembles perform at the convention in February.

As this school year begins to unfold and move forward, I realize how fortunate we are that we have the opportunity to teach band at our respective schools and have a positive impact in the students’ lives. We will still experience challenges, but we strive to create exciting performances and learning opportunities for our students and audiences. Do your best to stay healthy and energetic for your students.

Please be sure to check out all the information regarding auditions. Remember that Jazz Band tryouts are just around the corner, so get your dues paid and your students entered by the deadline date. Also refer to the ATSSB website for audition materials and errata.

It is with deep honor and pride that I am able to serve ATSSB on the Executive Board as Immediate Past President. Please do not hesitate to contact me if can be of service to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Bennett", written in a cursive style.

Class 3A Representative Column

by Jim Best



JIM BEST

This summer was filled with an incredible amount of positive momentum for small school band programs in Texas, and the performances included in the Outstanding Performance Series and TMEA Honor Band competition were nothing short of stunning! You made us all so proud, and the incredible standard demonstrated by all ensembles proved again that small school programs are capable of the highest level of professionalism and musical excellence. BRAVO!

And just like that, summer is over, and we are back into a brand-new school year! As we leap headfirst into one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year, I encourage you all to remember to take a step back and remember what is most important. Take time for yourselves, your families, your friends, and take care of your fellow directors. If you don't take care of each other, you can't take care of your students!

As we have approached the new year, I have heard many directors already having conversations about their district administration, so after much interaction, and many mistakes and successes in dealing with administration, here are some items that will hopefully be helpful

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in your efforts. The better we are across Texas in collaborating with our administration, the more that Band programs can thrive and grow in the current very competitive and challenging environment in education. Our administration and school boards across the state hold the keys to our future, and we need to keep them in our corner!

‘Playing the Game:’

- **Don’t ‘play the victim’!** This is the main mistake I’ve witnessed in my career. ALWAYS play the advocate and be positive. Too many directors do nothing but complain, and no administrator needs more complaints. Remember that negativity is the bulk of what they encounter daily, so positivity is refreshing! Enter the room with a problem AND a solution and be willing to justify why while being possibly the only positive person they have spoken with that day!
- **Educate them!** Most administrators will be more than willing to help if they can, but they don’t understand this whole crazy thing we call band, so they are naturally hesitant.
- **Invite them** to a rehearsal, marching contest, or more. Encourage them to see what we do on a daily basis and let them see how valuable it is for our students to be active participants in this activity!
- **Make frequent visits** that are NOT business related! Establish a relationship with them like you would any of your students. This builds trust, and when you need them to trust your professional opinion, they are more likely to listen and act!
- **Nothing happens quickly** in education! Be patient. Listen. Formulate short-term and long-term plans and then act on them. Follow up on conversations you have had and write everything down so you can share information and recall it in your meetings.
- **Justify, justify, justify.** You may have to wait as long as a year or two to get what you are asking for but stay at it and make it happen! Remember, ‘maybe’ doesn’t mean ‘no’!
- **Be an advocate!** Make sure they are aware of ALL of your victories in your program, both big and small! Everything from the big stage of the UIL State Marching Band Contest, all the way down to the cool percussion ensemble that your 6th grade band played at the Christmas Concerts! You are a walking promoter, and your administration is going to see only the picture that you paint for them!
- **Outfit them with band gear!** When you order band shirts, mugs, blankets, signs, and other cool ‘band swag’ make sure to include your administrators and get them outfitted to represent your program proudly as they attend contests, concerts, and other performances! It is always exciting to a student’s reaction when they see the principal walking down the hall on Friday wearing a band show shirt or spirit gear!
- **Be a team player!** Show up to sports events such as volleyball, baseball, and more. Attend Ag Shows for the FFA organization on campus, watch Theater performances, show up to Art exhibits, watch Robotics competitions, and more! Show your support for the district and students you have in your band hall OUTSIDE of your band hall, and you will see an immediate impact on your interactions with the School Board and Administration. By showing that you care about the WHOLE CHILD, you are showing genuine concern for what is best for the students, and the administration will respect that.

I sincerely hope you all have the best year of your career and I am so excited to see the great accomplishments ATSSB members achieve this year! Attend TMEA, TBA, and other Region and Area events, and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie with other directors across this incredible state. If you are missing out on that, you are missing one of the most important gifts our profession has to offer, and one of the most unique aspects of what we do!

Please feel free to reach out to me at bestj@mineolaisd.net if you have any questions at all! I will be more than happy to help, and I look forward to seeing you all this year! Best of luck, and safe travels!

Sincerely,



\$1000 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship

The ATSSB State Board of Directors created the \$1000 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship in 2014 and eleven students have already been selected to receive the \$1000 award: Meagan Fowler from Canton High School in 2015, Caleb Cude from Whitesboro High School in 2016, Jacob Nance from New Deal in 2017, Donna Hyde from Kemp High School in 2018, Hailey Sherrill from Smithville High School in 2019, Daniel Bartley from Canton High School in 2020, Emma Aers from China Spring High School in 2021, David Uribe from Wheeler High School in 2022, Matthew Smith from Galdewater in 2023, Anika McNeely from Hereford in 2024, and Justice Gonzalez from Lubbock Estacado in 2025. Applications are now being accepted from seniors in ATSSB schools interested in getting a teacher certificate and teaching band in a public or private school. Applicants have until January 10, 2026, to apply with the scholarship recipient being announced at the ATSSB General Session February 10, 2026.



**in memory of
Bruce Kenner**

Mr. Kenner was a band director in small schools all over Texas for 30 years and a proud member of ATSSB. His family wanted to continue his passion and love of music, teaching, and helping students for years to come. They wanted to honor him with this scholarship.

Seniors may apply by filing out an online application, attaching a resumé and statement. Applications will be reviewed by a committee which will select 3-5 finalists, from which the ATSSB Executive Committee will select the recipient.

If you have a senior in your band interested, have them complete the application at:
<https://www.atssb.org/scholarships/>

\$1000 Jeannie Griffin Memorial Scholarship

The ATSSB State Board of Directors created the \$1000 Jeannie Griffin Memorial Scholarship in 2024 to honor the late wife of ATSSB Executive Director Kenneth Griffin. Applications are now being accepted from seniors in ATSSB schools interested in pursuing a degree in music education. Applicants have until January 10, 2026, to apply with the scholarship recipient being announced at the ATSSB General Session February 10, 2026. Preference will be granted to students who additionally have choral or piano backgrounds, but all students will be considered.



**in memory of
Jeannie Griffin**

Mrs. Griffin was a Sweepstakes-winning high school choir director who majored in piano and organ performance and was a major contributor behind the scenes helping Mr. Griffin keep ATSSB running smoothly. Her presence will be missed in our Association.

Seniors may apply by filing out an online application, attaching a resumé and statement. Applications will be reviewed by a committee which will select 3-5 finalists, from which the ATSSB Executive Committee will select the recipient.

If you have a senior in your band interested, have them complete the application at:
<https://www.atssb.org/scholarships/>

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Any correspondence should be addressed to ATSSB; 2117 Morse Street; Houston, Texas 77019. You may also contact us on our Web Site (www.atssb.org) or email the Editor (Kenneth Griffin) at atssb@att.net 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. Advertising rates are available at <https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>.

Class 1A Representative Column

by Jesus Perez

Greetings! As we kick off the new school year, I want to take a moment to congratulate all of the OPS winners. I had a chance to sit in on some of the 1A recordings and was blown away at some of the literature that many of these bands are playing. Bravo! Also, major shout out to Brian Hecimovich for his hard work with the new ATSSB website. It looks fantastic!

Several years ago I was speaking with a band director whose band had recently won the gold in their classification at SMC. Expecting to hear that things were going smoothly, I asked him how things were going as he began a new year. I was very surprised to hear him describe that they were still facing many of the same issues that would be expected in a developing band program. Kids will quit; extracurricular activities will overlap; every coach, director, and sponsor is asking more and more from each student in their program. Do not be discouraged by these obstacles that are ubiquitous in our small school environment. Focus on the wins of the day, however few and small they may be at times.

Best wishes to you all this season! May your travels be safe and all of your deadlines met!



JESUS PEREZ



State Jazz Coordinator's Column

by Brian Donnell



BRIAN DONNELL

I hope that everyone's year is starting out great!

The Region jazz auditions are happening soon across the state, so if you have students interested in auditioning, contact your region coordinator to find out the entry deadline and other details.

The Area Jazz recordings will be done differently this year. TMEA notified us recently that the students auditioning will record their auditions directly onto the TMEA site. Your region coordinator will have details about the process.

Checklists for directors, helpful hints for students, and other information about the jazz process can be found on the website – www.atssb.org/jazz

A committee was formed earlier in the spring to begin looking at the audition set for next year - 26/27 - and the committee's recommendations will be presented to SARC in February. The bottom line for those interested is that schools will not be required to purchase new music if they already own the previous Set A. Changes are centering around readability and a new improv piece. Stay tuned!

Please text or email if you have any questions about the jazz band process.



Brian Donnell
bdonnell@atssb.org

Webmaster Column

by Brian Hecimovich

We are excited to announce the launch of our redesigned website: www.atssb.org. As your new web designer, my aim was to create a space that is functional, pleasant, and easy to navigate for all members and coordinators. The new design should make finding information simpler and hopefully give you a more pleasant experience navigating the page.

Acknowledgments:

Special thanks to Kenneth Griffin and Marc Nichelson for their essential support with information, setup, and ongoing troubleshooting. Marc's thorough documentation and availability ensures my ability to help give our website a functional and fresh look. If you are a coordinator or leadership position still needing access or an @atssb.org email, please contact me at brianh@atssb.org.



BRIAN HECIMOVICH

Ongoing Improvements:

Since launch, feedback has been positive. I am continuing to fix any broken links, polish formatting, and find new ways to make the site more accessible. As with any major update, there may be kinks to work out. Your feedback is both welcomed and invaluable.

Get In Touch:

Thank you for your ongoing support during this transition. Please send any questions or suggestions to me. I am committed to making our website as useful and user-friendly as possible.

Best regards,

State Chair Audition Coordinator Column

by Kristi Flusche



I hope everyone has had a fabulous start to their school year. As the year progresses and we are looking toward region and area auditions, please consider being available for the state auditions in February. In the coming months a Google form will be sent to directors to fill out to show interest in judging the state auditions at TMEA. Please keep in mind that you need to be available on Wednesday, February 11, at 4:00 pm when the monitor/judges meetings start.

Though I cannot take everyone that signs up, please know that I am thankful for your willingness to serve ATSSB and the talented students that make it to the All-State Band. I will also have an area to sign up if you would be willing and available to help set up and/or tear down the audition rooms. Those willing to help with setup will need to be available on Wednesday at 12:30 pm. Last year the auditions ran smoothly and in a timely manner thanks to all of our monitors and judges.

I want to wish you the best for a smooth and successful year.



OPS State Chair Column

by Collin Anderson

A HUGE “Thank you!” goes to all who made the 2025 Outstanding Performance Series competition season a great success! Without the Region and Area Coordinators and those who judged at each level, OPS cannot function. Thanks to each of you that helped complete the season by giving of your time and energy. I want to continue to offer my appreciation to Frank Coachman for helping us develop the new entry portal and adjudication system that greatly streamlined the process and saved us, particularly myself, a lot of time and energy throughout the competition, especially with the number of entries we now have. And, as always, thanks go to our illustrious Kenneth Griffin who does so much behind-the-scenes work in all things ATSSB, but helps me in numerous ways throughout the OPS process each year.

The competition continues to grow each year, as more and more great band programs provide us with fantastic recordings. This season gave us 402 performing ensembles, up from 329, and 1116 total pieces entered into the contest, up from 914.

Wow! I can only imagine how OPS may continue to grow in the future. The 1A and Non-Varsity categories, both MS and HS, continue to expand in number, and the NV categories will undoubtedly move from ‘pilot’ status soon.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners at the state competition held in San Antonio during Texas Bandmasters Convention in July! Plaques for our winners and 1st runners-up will be presented at the ATSSB General Session during the TMEA conference in February. Certificates are available on the OPS Webpage for download for all state participants, runners-up, and winners in each class and category.

As always, it is an honor and pleasure to serve the members of ATSSB as the State Chair of the Outstanding Performance Series. Thank you to the State Board of Directors and you, the membership, for entrusting me with this opportunity to serve our great organization.



ATSSB OPS State Chair

Director of Bands and Fine Arts, Groesbeck ISD

903-390-3271



COLLIN ANDERSON

State Board of Directors Meeting

7:15 a.m., July 24, 2025

Menger Hotel Minuet Room

Present: Region 22 Coordinator Anthony Alvarado, Region 2 Coordinator Daniel Balkema, Past-President and Area North Coordinator Mike Bartley, Immediate Past-President Rodney Bennett, Class 3A Representative Jim Best, Region 14 Coordinator Charles Cabrera, Region 1 Coordinator James Carter, Proxy for Region 11 Richard Cole, Region 3 Coordinator Marty Filip, Class 1C Representative Kristi Flusche, Region 11 Coordinator Leo Garza, Executive Director and Founding Charter Member and Hall of Fame Member Kenneth Griffin, Region 12 Coordinator Nichele Gonzalez, Region 21 Coordinator Craig Haynie, Region 29 Coordinator and Webmaster Brian Hecimovich, Region 10 Coordinator Russell Hopkins, Past-President Jim Jones, Region 15 Coordinator Benjamin Keltner, Region 7 Coordinator Josh Kidd, Region 16 Coordinator and Past-President Matt Knight, President and Region 24 Coordinator Angie Liss, Class 2A Representative Justin Mauldin, Region 18 Coordinator Ann Lowes Mueller, Region 9 Coordinator Jeff Parma, Class 1A Representative Jesus Perez, Region 23 Coordinator John Pritchett, Region 13 Coordinator Rod Rodriguez, Region 8 Coordinator Jon Schriver, Class 2C/3C Representative Christina Smith, President-Elect Brian Sours, Past-President and

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ATSSB Hall of Fame Member George Strickland, Region 4 Coordinator Jay Sutton, Charter Member and Past-President and ATSSB Hall of Fame Member Robert Vetter, and Region 5 Coordinator Joe Walker. Attending as guests were OPS State Chair Collin Anderson, State Jazz Coordinator Brian Donnell, TMEA Band Division Vice-President Mike Howard, UIL Assistant Music Director Gabe Musella, Area South Coordinator Steven Rash, and Area West Coordinator Don Summersgill. **Not present:** Past-President Brandon Brewer, Founding Charter Member John Gibson, Past-President Eric Gray, Founding Charter Member Michael Hardy, Area East Coordinator Joe Hewitt, Charter Member and Past-President and ATSSB Hall of Fame Member Michael Marsh, Past-President Steven Moore, Past-President and Charter Member Ronnie Page, Founding Charter Member and Past-President Fred Pankratz, Past President Gary Robbins, Founding Charter Member and Hall of Fame Member Elmer Schenk, Past-President and Charter Member Don Stockton, Past-President Rob Toups, and Past-President John Young.

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Mrs. Liss asked **TMEA Band Division Vice-President Mike Howard** for a report since he had to leave to meet with TMEA Honor Band judges.

- He thanked ATSSB for inviting him to address the Board and noted that the 3A Honor Band would be selected today and the ATSSB Spotlight invited band both would be announced later this afternoon.
- He noted that the TMEA Mentoring Network was active and thriving. If interested in participating, contact Andrew Denman at TMEA to offer your services and you will be paired with a local director for mentoring.
- Online learning modules are currently active for CPE credit. If you have a topic you would like to offer, be sure to submit the topic online.
- He noted that the ATSSB/TMEA Dialogue Committee met Wednesday morning and the cooperative effort of both Associations is progressing amicably.

Mrs. Liss then called on **UIL Assistant Music Director Gabe Musella** who gave a UIL report:

- The choir sightreading pilot is available for all regions this year.
- The updated Prescribed Music List will be released September 1 with over 300 new Grade 1 and 2 pieces added.
- The State Marching Contest will feature Class 1A, 3A and 5A the first week and Class 2A, 4A and 6A the second week.
- Area sheets for 4A/6A have been revamped, simplified to match the sheets at State. There is a clinic at TBA to explain the sheets.
- The 8-hour rule has been amended to add one hour per day of official school breaks, not to exceed 13 hours.
- He reminded directors of the training certificate that needs to be on file and to review heat safety guidelines now in effect.
- The new law allows homeschoolers to participate in school activities and the ISD must opt out if they do not want to allow it.

Mrs. Liss then called on **Collin Anderson, OPS State Chair**, to give a report so he could go meet with OPS judges.

- There were 1109 total individual entries this year from 413 different ensembles.
- Most responses he got were that the members were happy with the new platform and those in attendance agreed.
- Reporting region and area results still needs tweaking, but he will work with Frank to expedite the process.
- He understands the concern about judge qualifications and is working to see that is addressed.
- He asked those present to continue to encourage OPS participation, noting that the non-varsity entries have really made an impact.
- He expects the OPS Advisory Committee will recommend dropping the “Pilot” tags soon.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 a.m. by **Angie Liss**.

The Invocation was given by **Matt Knight**.

The Oath of Office was given by **Kenneth Griffin**.

Minutes of the SBOD meeting February 13, 2025, as printed in the March Newsletter were approved after a motion by Matt Knight and a second by Jim Jones.

Mrs. Liss then introduced **Jim Jones** who gave a NAMMB report:

- NAMMB will meet Friday at 9:15 in CC313.

- Retreat will be August 9 at True Vine Brewery in Tyler.
- There will be a pre-UIL Marching Contest-Clinic at Longview High School on October 11. Each band will have a 30-minute clinic with a judge.
- The State Military Marching Band Contest which is now a UIL-sanctioned event will be October 27 with 3A, 5A and 6A. 1A, 2A and 4A will be October 29.

Mrs. Liss reported that the Executive Committee met without Mr. Griffin in attendance and voted to move that **Mr. Griffin be reappointed** for a two-year term with a \$2,000.00 cost-of-living increase. Motion was seconded by Russell Hopkins. Motion passed.

Heard reports of **Standing Committees**:

Hall of Fame Chair Kenneth Griffin reported that 9 persons are now in the ATSSB Hall of Fame and nominations are open for February's induction.

Rodney Bennett reported he had six past-presidents agree to serve on the **Kenneth Griffin Exemplary Band Program Committee**. After a short discussion, the Committee moved and George Strickland seconded to make the award for a band PROGRAM, not a high school or middle school. Motion carried. The nomination forms would be updated online.

Mr. Bennett noted that the **Outstanding Contributor Award** nomination forms are available online.

President-Elect and SARC Chair Brian Sours thanked the members of his SARC: Eric Rath, Steven Rash, Elliott Ayo, Zach Sims, David Andrus, Bobby Castillo, and Brandon Manuel. Also serving as advisors were Angie Liss, Brian Donnell, Rodney Bennett, and Kenneth Griffin.

- Motion by committee with a second by Josh Kidd to accept the PAL revisions submitted by Christina Smith which updated the PAL. After a long discussion regarding the percussion warmup, Joe Walker moved and Mike Bartley seconded to revert the percussion warmup rules to the previous year wording, allowing percussion in the holding room a 30-second warmup after every five students to match wind auditions. Motion carried.
- Motion by committee with a second by Joe Walker to track color instruments so the 3A Concert Band is totally from 1A-2A-3A schools. After a long discussion, Steven Rash moved and Craig Haynie seconded to delay implementation until the 2026-27 school year. Amendment was accepted, question called and the motion passed with one dissent.
- Motion by committee with a second by Joe Walker to accept the proposal made with the ATSSB/TMEA Dialogue Committee to add a 10-member ATSSB All-State Percussion Ensemble beginning in the 2026-27 school year pending approval in September of the TMEA State Board. One additional percussion in each track will advance to Area and one additional percussion in each track will be selected for All-State. Percussionists selected to ATSSB All-State will get a two -week window to practice a combination of Area etudes and All-State music, then record an audition through the TMEA platform. Students will be placed into chair order, then students will meet on a Zoom meeting and asked if they want to be in the Percussion Ensemble or Band with first choice by first chair, etc. Motion carried.

Past-President Chair Rodney Bennett had no report

Brian Donnell gave the Jazz Report:

- The Year E Jazz Music Set was available for purchase from ATSSB on the Jazz page online.
- He thanked the SBOD for voting to purchase all five years of the audition music from Mattei Music Services, noting that we should be able to recoup the entire amount by this time next year. With the purchase of the copyrights, we can adjust the music to make it easier for the students without causing directors to re-buy the set. He has a committee working on updating Year A audition music to make it easier to read and understand, adding a lead sheet.

Brian Hecimovich gave a Website Report:

- He is revamping the website and it should be live soon.
- He plans to make a video for Region and Area Coordinators to be able to edit their pages easier using

Elementor.

- They will be able to use their usual logins, etc.
- He encouraged all to use their ATSSB emails for official ATSSB business but try to send emails to their members using both their personal and professional email addresses to ensure delivery.
- He noted the Job Board is obsolete, so he moved that we delete the Job Board and refer everyone to the TMEA Job Board. Brian Sours seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report by Angie Liss:

- She noted this was a whirlwind season since February and thanked Brian Sours, Brian Hecimovich, Justin Mauldin, Jay Sutton and Jon Schriver for accepting appointed positions. She also noted Jeff Parma as the newly-elected Region 9 Coordinator.
- She thanked the SARC for all their efforts and deliberations.
- She reported that the ATSSB/TMEA Dialogue Committee meeting Wednesday was fruitful and positive., renewing the Alignment Agreement for four years, with meetings every two years and more often as needed.
- They agreed to positively present ATSSB's request to add a Percussion Ensemble beginning in 2026-27 to the TMEA State Board in September.
- She and Brian met with Kenneth Griffin to get a behind-the-scenes look at the setup he has in place. They noted that ATSSB is fiscally sound and that plans are in place for succession as needed.
- She noted she is available at all time – to contact her with questions or suggestions or concerns.

In the **Executive Secretary's Report** by Kenneth Griffin, rather than list the brokerage account balances, he reported on the State of ATSSB:

- He noted that ATSSB has 5 brokerage accounts with a total value as of June 30 of \$332,679.90 in addition to a checking account balance of \$202,088.80. In this last Fiscal Year (ending July 31), we had \$295,821.45 in income and \$293,762.50 in expenses.
- Licensees have paid royalties totaling \$331,922.99 since 1997, while we have awarded \$527,000 in scholarships (not all claimed) since 1995 (we operated on a donation basis the first two years until the royalty system was initiated).
- So ATSSB is on a strong financial standing, looking to a future of growth and achievement thanks to the work of our leadership and each region and area working tirelessly for the advancement of small school band programs in Texas. He said he is proud of you all.

There was no old business.

Under new business:

Joe Walker moved and Matt Knight seconded that the **Fall Region Agenda Items** be approved. Motion passed.

Joe Walker moved and Rod Rodriguez seconded that the bid to record the 2026 All-State bands be accepted. Motion passed.

Russell Hopkins moved and Joe Walker seconded that the State Board of Directors makes the motion in the General Session to approve the Constitutional Amendment changing the title of Executive Secretary to Executive Director. Motion passed..

Russell Hopkins moved and Joe Walker seconded that the ATSSB General Session be set for Friday, July 25, 2025, at 2:15 PM in CC213. Motion passed.

There was no other new business.

There were no Region or Area reports:

Mrs. Liss adjourned the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

Minutes of the February ATSSB General Session

The General Session of ATSSB met in CC213 on Friday, July 25, 2025, with approximately 110 in attendance. **President Angie Liss** called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM and Jay Sutton gave the invocation.

Mrs. Liss introduced the **head table**: Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin, President-Elect Brian Sours, 2C/3C Representative Christina Smith, 4A Representative Jay Sutton, 2A Representative Justin Mauldin, 3A Representative Jim Best, 1A Representative Jesus Perez, 1C Representative Kristi Flusche, Immediate Past-President Rodney Bennett, and herself as President. She also recognized TMEA officers in attendance Executive Director Joe Munoz and Deputy Director Frank Coachman.

She asked **Frank Coachman** to come to the podium and Kenneth Griffin read a tribute to him, thanking him for his 26 years of service to TMEA and ATSSB. President Liss presented him with an award engraved "To Frank Coachman in recognition of outstanding leadership and dedication to Texas music education, with sincere appreciation for unwavering support of ATSSB." After a round of applause, President-Elect Brian Sours presented a commemorative baton with the case engraved "To Frank Coachman from ATSSB 2025." Frank received a long ovation from the membership.

The **minutes of the General Session** February 14, 2025, were approved as printed in the March Newsletter after a motion by Joe Walker and a second by Kyle White.

There were no Special Committee reports.

Under **Standing Committee** Reports:

President-Elect Brian Sours thanked his SARC for their work this year: Eric Rath, Steven Rash, Elliott Ayo, Zach Sims, David Andrus, Bobby Castillo, and Brandon Manuel. Also serving as advisors were Angie Liss, Brian Donnell, Rodney Bennett, and Kenneth Griffin. He noted the SARC had met for over five hours via Zoom to come up with the updates for the Prescribed Audition List, most of which were housekeeping changes to bring the document into alignment and agreement with itself and audition procedures. He especially recognized Christina Smith for her work in revising and updating the document for presentation to the SARC.

Rodney Bennett, Chair of the Past-President Committee, reported that the Kenneth Griffin Exemplary Band Program Award had been updated to recognize band programs, not individual bands. The nomination forms are now available on the website. The Outstanding Contributor Award nomination forms are also available on the website..

State Jazz Coordinator Brian Donnell reported that the Year E Jazz Files are available for sale by ATSSB online. He was happy that ATSSB voted to purchase the copyrights from Mattei Music Services for all five years and that the cost should be recouped within a year. He has a committee working to revise Year A to make it easier to read and simpler in the audition process along with adding a lead sheet. All of the changes should not cause the ones who purchased Year A music and files to have to repurchase anything. Be sure to check the Jazz page online for updates and details regarding jazz auditions this year.

OPS State Chair Collin Anderson reported that the new platform was smoother and easier to use and that the 2025 OPS had 1109 total individual entries this year from 413 different ensembles. He recognized those who had helped with judging, monitoring or support, then read the list of winners and runner-up in each class:

- Class 1C 1st Place Concert Winner - Anahuac Middle School, Morgan Contreras, Director
- Class 1C 2nd Place Concert Winner - Mineola Middle School, Dagoberto Gonzalez, Director
- Class 1C Concert Runner-Up - Westwood Middle School, Brenna Wilkinson Absolom, Director
- Class 1C March Winner - Anahuac Middle School, Morgan Contreras, Director
- Class 1C March Runner-Up - Mineola Middle School, Dagoberto Gonzalez, Director
- Class 2C/3C 1st Place Concert Winner - Kennedale Junior High School, Meghan Lockwood, Director
- Class 2C/3C 2nd Place Concert Winner - Moore Middle School, Heather McHenry, Director
- Class 2C/3C Concert Runner-Up - Sabine Middle School, Chance James, Director
- Class 2C/3C March Winner - Gilmer Junior High School, Christopher Witt, Director
- Class 2C/3C March Runner-Up - Calallen Middle School, Jared Dunn, Director
- Class 1A 1st Place Concert Winner - Water Valley High School, David Andrus, Director
- Class 1A 2nd Place Concert Winner - Leverett's Chapel High School, Amanda Johnson, Director
- Class 1A Concert Runner-Up - Leverett's Chapel High School, Amanda Johnson, Director
- Class 1A March Winner - Water Valley High School, David Andrus, Director
- Class 1A March Runner-Up - Leverett's Chapel High School, Amanda Johnson, Director
- Class 2A 1st Place Concert Winner - Union Grove High School, Andy Thompson, Director

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(General Session Minutes, Continued from page 14):

- Class 2A 2nd Place Concert Winner - Union Grove High School, Andy Thompson, Director
- Class 2A Concert Runner-Up - Santo High School, Mark Belding, Director
- Class 2A March Winner - Shelbyville High School, John Kennon, Director
- Class 2A March Runner-Up - Carlisle High School, Chris Clifton, Director
- Class 3A 1st Place Concert Winner - Yoe High School, Jon Schriver, Director
- Class 3A 2nd Place Concert Winner - Raymondville EC High School, Benjamin Keltner, Director
- Class 3A Concert Runner-Up - Winnsboro High School, Cameron Warren, Director
- Class 3A March Winner - Raymondville EC High School, Benjamin Keltner, Director
- Class 3A March Runner-Up - Santa Gertrudis Academy, Raymond Mendez, Director
- Class 4A 1st Place Concert Winner - Davenport High School, Jeffrey Keyes, Director
- Class 4A 2nd Place Concert Winner - Celina High School, Jon Weddle, Director
- Class 4A Concert Runner-Up - Aubrey High School, Jason Noyes, Director
- Class 4A March Winner - Sulphur Springs High School, Spencer Emmert, Director
- Class 4A March Runner-Up - Fredericksburg High School, Brian Hecimovich, Director
- High School Non-Varsity 1st Place Concert Winner - Davenport High School, Michale Lehmann, Director
- High School Non-Varsity 2nd Place Concert Winner - Celina High School, Jacob Hille, Director
- High School Non-Varsity Concert Runner-Up - Davenport High School, Michael Lehmann, Director
- High School Non-Varsity March Winner - Celina High School, Jacob Hille, Director
- High School Non-Varsity March Runner-Up - Krum High School, Ryan Farris, Director
- Middle School Non-Varsity 1st Place Concert Winner - Lindale Junior High School 7th Grade, Jaylon Stewart, Director
- Middle School Non-Varsity 2nd Place Concert Winner - Lindale Junior High School, Emma Piyakhun, Director
- Middle School Non-Varsity Concert Runner-Up - Alvarado Junior High School, Michaela Dvorcek, Director
- Middle School Non-Varsity March Winner - Sulphur Springs Middle School, Zachary Griffin, Director
- Middle School Non-Varsity March Runner-Up - Danville Middle School, Nichele Gonzales, Director

Mrs. Liss noted actions taken by the State Board:

- Reappointed Kenneth Griffin for a two-year term along with a \$2000 cost-of-living increase.
- She thanked Christina Smith for her work in updating the PAL to align wording across the document and unify language regarding auditions, judging and monitoring. Be sure to check the updated judge and monitor instructions. There were two changes – one changed the warmup to the first note of the scale or etude for no more than five seconds. The other allows percussion to have a 30-second warmup in the holding room every five students, aligning their audition with winds.
- Approved separating all instruments by track in 2026-27. Color instruments will record at Area, with three selected for the 4A Track and two for the 3A Track. Alto clarinet and string bass tracks were approved in February so that each track records and only one will be selected in each track with alto clarinet removed from advancing to Area as of the 2029-30 school year.
- Voted to move funds from brokerage accounts to the Jeannie Griffin and Bruce Kenner Scholarship Funds to make them fully funded.
- Accepted the bid of Probst Audio to record the 2026 All-State concerts.
- Reaffirmed adding an ATSSB All-State Percussion ensemble in 2026-27. One additional percussion will advance from Region to Area and one additional from Area to State in each Track. After selection to All-State, they will be given audition material to practice for two weeks, then submit a recording for ranking purposes. After that, they will meet by Zoom and select in order of chair which ensemble they wish to be in: Percussion Ensemble or All-State Band. This addition is awaiting TMEA approval in September.
- She noted the amicable ATSSB/TMEA Dialogue Committee meeting held Wednesday, noting the Alignment Agreement was updated to a four-year term with meetings every two years or as needed when called by either ATSSB or TMEA.
- She thanked Brian Hecimovich for accepting the appointment as ATSSB Webmaster.

Executive Secretary's Report by Kenneth Griffin:

- In lieu of a brokerage account update (which can be seen in the September Newsletter), he gave a State of ATSSB Report.
- He noted that ATSSB has 5 brokerage accounts with a total value as of June 30 of \$332,679.90 in addition to a checking account balance of \$202,088.80. In this last Fiscal Year (ending July 31), we had \$295,821.45 in income and \$293,762.50 in expenses.
- Licensees have paid royalties totaling \$331,922.99 since 1997, while we have awarded \$527,000 in scholarships (not all claimed) since 1995 (we operated on a donation basis the first two years until the royalty system was initiated).
- So ATSSB is on a strong financial standing, looking to a future of growth and achievement thanks to the work of our leadership and each region and area working tirelessly for the advancement of small school band programs in Texas. He said he is proud of you all.

There was no old business.

Under new business, the State Board of Directors voted to make the motion to approve the Constitutional Amendment changing the title of Executive Secretary to Executive Director. After a second by Matt Knight, the motion passed.

Mrs. Liss then adjourned the meeting at 2:56 PM.

ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund

Value of scholarship fund 7-31-24 .. \$ 215,835.10**

Value of scholarship fund 7-31-25 .. \$ 221,735.19**

RECEIPTS

380 Memberships after 10-1	\$ 9,500.00
Individual donations received	\$ 100.00
Licensee royalties	\$ 14,365.83
TOTAL RECEIPTS	+\$ 23,965.83

Scholarships awarded Fiscal Year 2025:

15 3-Year \$500.00 scholarships
8 4-Year \$2,000.00 scholarships

EXPENDITURES:

Scholarships paid	\$ 23,500.00
Scholarship plaques	\$ 519.50
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-\$ 24,019.50

**Value of fund fluctuates with market, but fund pays dividends per share per month regardless of stock value. Dividends are reinvested in the fund. Money is withdrawn from the fund to pay expenses as needed.

Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund value as of 7-31-25 \$ 13,770.09**

Jeannie Griffin Memorial Scholarship Fund value as of 7-31-25 \$ 13,206.20**

Commission Fund value as of 7-31-25 \$ 58,630.88**

Elmer and Anita Schenk Family Trust Program Fund value of fund as of 7-31-25 \$ 24,743.62*

*Funds are reinvested then withdrawn to pay for programs each year as needed.

ATSSB FINANCIAL REPORT

July 31, 2025 - end of fiscal year 2024-2025

Amount in checking account 7-31-24 \$ 198,714.85

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$ 71,430.00
Late fees (paid to Scholarship)	\$ 10,600.00
Jazz fees	\$ 14,160.00
Jazz File Sets Sold	\$ 5,920.00
Area fees	\$ 53,645.00
OPS fees	\$ 67,425.00
Licensee royalties (paid to Scholarship) ..	\$ 14,365.83
Miscellaneous receipts	\$ 41,659.18
Patches	\$ 16,616.44
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 295,821.45

AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 494,536.30

EXPENSES:

All-State expenses	\$ 22,695.73
Area expenses	\$ 14,823.59
Audit	\$ 1,650.00
Commission Fund	\$ 19,445.00
Executive Committee	\$ 947.19
Executive Secretary stipend	\$ 60,000.00
Hall of Fame	\$ 135.78
Internet	\$ 1,066.64

Jazz Ensemble expenses	\$ 28,950.02
Kenner Scholarship Expenses	\$ 550.00
Office expenses	\$ 3,840.25
Officer & Org. Expenses	\$ 4,826.53
OPS expenses	\$ 46,570.80
Patches	\$ 18,430.00
PayPal fees	\$ 3,932.16
Postage	\$ 106.18
Programs	\$ 1,566.00
Refunds	\$ 2,808.00
Scholarship transfers	\$ 36,314.77
State Board of Director expenses	\$ 2,424.21
TBA expenses	\$ 1,712.81
Telephone	\$ 924.09
TMEA	\$ 135.00
Website	\$ 4,784.13
TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$ 294,279.31

BALANCE:

Amount in checking account 7-31-25 \$ 200,256.99

2025-2026 ATSSB Officers and Organizers

Angie Cavender Liss, Howe (2025-2027)	President
Brian Sours, Tenaha (2025-2027)	President-Elect
Rodney Bennett, Olney (2025-2027)	Immediate Past-President
*Kenneth L. Griffin, Houston (appointed 2023-2025)	Executive Director
Kristi Flusche, Groesbeck (2025-2027)	Class 1C Representative
Christina Smith, Center (2024-2026)	Class 2C/3C Representative
Jesus Perez, Cross Plains (2025-2027)	Class 1A Representative
Justin Mauldin, Sundown (appointed 2025-2026)	Class 2A Representative
Jim Best, Mineola (2025-2027)	Class 3A Representative
Jay Sutton, Pleasant Grove (appointed 2025-2026)	Class 4A Representative

Region Coordinators

1 James Carter, Dumas	8 Jon Schriver, Cameron	15/28 Benjamin Keltner, Raymondville
2/31 Daniel Balkema, Pilot Point	9/33 Jeff Parma, Cleveland	16 Matt Knight, Abernathy
3/20 Marty Filip, Quinlan	10/19 Russell Hopkins, Jasper	18/26 Ann Lowes Mueller, La Grange
4 Jay Sutton, Pleasant Grove	11 Leo Garza, Carrizo Springs	21 Craig Haynie, Henderson
5/30 Joe Walker, Godley	12 Nichele Gonzales, Danville	22 Anthony Alvarado, Clint
6 Brittany Cole, Pecos	13/17 Rod Rodriguez, Stafford	23/27 John Pritchett, Bellville
7 Josh Kidd, Graham	14 Charles Cabrera, Robstown	24/25 Angie Liss, Howe
		29/32 Brian Hecimovich, Fredericksburg

The SBOD (enclosed by the border) includes as voting members the following active Founding Charter Members(*) who are not presently serving as officers: *John Gibson (Founder), *R. Michael Hardy, *Michael Marsh, *Fred Pankratz, and *Elmer Schenk. Serving as ex-officio members of the SBOD are Past-Presidents Mike Bartley, Brandon Brewer, Eric Gray, Jim Jones, Matt Knight, Steven Moore, Ronnie Page, Gary Robbins, Don Stockton, George Strickland, Rob Troups, Robert Vetter, and John Young.

Area Coordinators, Area Audition Sites (Regions encompassed) - Site Telephone

- Area **West** Coordinator: Don Summersgill, Levelland HS (1,6,16,22) - 806-789-3551 (cell)
- Area **North** Coordinator: Mike Bartley, Ranchview HS (2,3,7,24) - 972-989-0363 (cell)
- Area **East** Coordinator: Joe Hewitt, Tyler Chapel Hill HS (4,9,10,21) - 903-330-6548 (cell)
- Area **Central** Coordinator: Joe Walker, Robinson HS (5,8,18,23,29) - 903-780-7971 (cell)
- Area **South** Coordinator: Steven Rash, Calallen HS (11,12,13,14,15) - 361-537-6191 (cell)

All-State Band Organizer Consultant	Justin Ketner, Winona
All-State Symphonic Band Organizer	Justin Mauldin, Sundown
All-State Symphonic Band Apprentice	Mark Belding, Santo
All-State Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer	Hugh Grubbs, Graham
All-State Symphonic Band Percussion Apprentice	Joshua Leslie, Amarillo
All-State Concert Band Organizer	John Bratton, Panhandle
All-State Concert Band Apprentice	Mandy Keene, Ganado
All-State Concert Band Percussion Organizer	Darshan Jhaveri, Rivercrest
All-State Concert Band Percussion Apprentice	Jeff Johnson, Millsap
All-State Jazz Ensemble Organizer	Devin Sipes, Pleasant Grove
All-State Jazz Ensemble Organizer Apprentice	Chris Partridge, Boyd
All-State Band Seating Tryout Organizer and Office Manager	Kristi Flusche, Groesbeck
All-State Band Section Rehearsal Coordinator	Christina Smith, Center
ATSSB State Jazz Ensemble Coordinator	Brian Donnell, Addison
ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series State Chair	Collin Anderson, Groesbeck

Dates to Remember

JAZZ ENSEMBLE REGION AUDITIONS must take place between the second Saturday in September and the third Saturday in October.

AREA JAZZ deadline for Area recordings is 11:59 pm the third Saturday of October.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE DESIGNATED SET ADJUDICATIONS are to take place on Saturday, November 8, 2025.

AREA CERTIFICATION DEADLINE December 13, 2025; Dual certification selection deadline December 15, 2025.

AREA: Saturday, January 10, 2026.

ALL-STATE CLINIC: February 11-14, 2026.

Randall D. Standridge (composer and clinician – CONCERT BAND

UNTITLED by Randall D. Standridge (Commissioned by ATSSB)

Dr. Richard M. Heidel (University of Iowa) – SYMPHONIC BAND

Tito Carrillo (Texas State University) - JAZZ ENSEMBLE

UNTITLED by Tito Carrillo (Commissioned by ATSSB)

ALL-STATE CONCERT Saturday, February 14, 2026: Concert Band at 8:30 a.m. in the Lila Cockrell Theatre; Symphonic Band after the Concert Band in the Lila Cockrell Theatre; Jazz Ensemble at 1:00 p.m. in the Hemisfair Ballroom 1 of the Convention Center.

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:



PepWear
 1540 High Meadows Way
 Cedar Hill, Texas 75104
 855-737-9327
 customorders@pepwear.com



Cauble Sportsweat, Inc.
 3209 Commercial Drive
 Midland, Texas 79701
 800-299-8325
 far103flyer@yahoo.com



Audio Refinery
 3604 Mockingbird Lane
 Amarillo, Texas 79109
 806-355-0072
 audiorefinery@me.com



The Amusement Park Recording Studio
 2601 Boston Avenue
 Lubbock, Texas 79410
 806-787-2636
 ideafactory@fariswheel.com



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



Texas Music Festivals, LLC
 803 Inspiration
 Pharr, Texas 78577
 956-499-4002
 erez6052@sbcglobal.net



DAVE LANE PRODUCTIONS
Dave Lane Productions
 2504 McCoy Road
 Carrollton, TX 75006
 davelaneproductions.com
 972-221-3283



KyleMac Music
 6800 Cherry Sage Ct.
 Arlington, Texas 76001
 KyleMacMusic@gmail.com
 817-680-6043