



1991-2003

## ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Celebrating 12 years of service to small school bands in Texas

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# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XII, Number 3

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### President's Column

by Gary Robbins



#### *Happy Holidays*

The holidays are finally here. This semester has really flown by. It seems like yesterday we were getting ready to start summer band. By the time you get this article the semester will nearly be over. Please take time during the holiday season to encourage your band students to use their talents to play seasonal music during special events being held in your community. Try to promote as many students as possible. With music in such demand during this time of year, it is an excellent opportunity to promote your program through the celebration of the spirit of the holidays. There are several places in which they may have the opportunity to play. There are service clubs, churches, retirement homes, as well as downtown businesses.

#### *Auditions*

If the holidays are upon us, it means auditions are taking place or have taken place. By now most of you have finished your region auditions. I hope if you used the "Filemaker Pro" program at the region level, everything went well. Remember, at the Area level, everyone MUST use this program. If you are an Area Coordinator, please make sure you completely understand this program. I would like to thank all of the Region Coordinators as well as the Area Coordinators for the work they do and are doing to help these auditions run smoothly.

#### *ATSSB/TMEA Leadership Meeting*

During the middle of October, Robert Stovall called me to see if we (ATSSB) wanted to have a general dialogue meeting. I thought it was a great idea, so TMEA Executive Board Members Jeff Laird, Kerry Taylor, and Robert Stovall met with ATSSB Members George Strickland, Ed Lowes and myself. The meeting was very positive. Mr. Stovall suggested that we have these meetings at least once, if not twice, a year. One meeting will take place every July before the TBA Convention, and a second meeting (if necessary) will be scheduled in the fall.

The meeting covered topics ranging from the enrollment of current small schools to the shortage of band directors in the smaller schools. There was also discussion about the newly formed ATSSB All State Jazz Band. I am glad that Robert had the idea for the two leaderships to have a time to sit down and visit. With these meetings, I feel like the ATSSB and TMEA

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leadership can better address the common concerns of all students in the state.

#### *State Convention/Clinic*

As we approach the clinic in February, I am getting more and more excited. Our clinicians this year are Francis McBeth and James Barnes. I have seen the commissioned piece by Barnes, and it looks well written. I cannot wait to hear it played.

The convention clinic and concerts take a lot of preparation and planning. Our State Chair Audition Coordinator this year is Steven Moore from Lindale High School. Steven ran a smooth audition at last year's convention. Running the computers again will be Neal Sutton from Atlanta High School. I am sure these two men and their helpers will make our state auditions run professionally. I would also like to thank the band and percussion organizers as well. These individuals give up an entire convention to make sure our students have a positive all state experience. Thanks to all who help!

#### *Last President's Article*

These last two years have gone by quickly! It seems like I just got started being your President. It has been a pleasure serving you. When I took office, I asked for your prayers as well as your support. I feel like I have received both. Because without both of these things, I would not have been able to lead this great organization as effectively. I only hope that I have led in a professional and positive way. The future leadership of this great organization is in good hands with Mr. Ed Lowes. I wish for you to support him as much as you have me.

Please take time to vote in the elections at TMEA. Your future depends on it. Take time to attend the meeting and then make your choice for your class representatives as well as your new President Elect.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you, *Gary M. Robbins*

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

by Ed Lowes

First of all let me say **Congratulations** to Rob Toups and his staff along with the Canton High School Marching & Concert Band students. It is truly an amazing level of fine arts skills for those students to achieve so much excellence. We should take a few hours of workshop sessions with the directors of this fine group. And to the other fine band programs in the state... Congratulations to Robinson, Canyon, Crystal City, Wylie, Pearsall, and Princeton for making the finals. I know that it is very difficult to get out of some of these area competitions to advance to state and then here comes Canton doing everything so well. I can't wait to hear their performance in February.

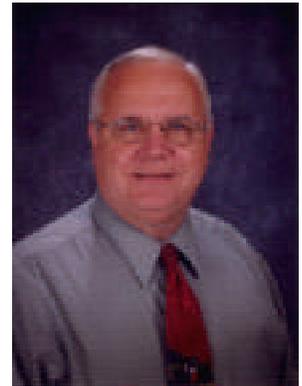
Did everyone get their 60% discount on returning rain-ponchos before the deadline? Boy did I save the local drill team this year. I ordered their rain-ponchos on Thursday and had them protected from the rain on Friday.

I told my kids to work harder before the rainy season hits. At least you could be inside working on musical skills. When you read this letter we may have played our 44<sup>th</sup> or 48<sup>th</sup> football game & half-time performance. I understand the stress that the Sealy & Westlake bands have faced each year. I congratulate the teams across the state that allowed many of our bands to perform before thousand of fans. This is an important community service. Have you also been able to work with your region band students weekly? Have you worked on your plans for competing while also performing at games? How about Christmas concerts or a local parade? How do you balance your local needs without burning out your students? Let's watch what the TMEA committee comes up in regards to the marching band season.

Have you served your community? We did a patriotic service in Austin honoring veterans in our county this past month. After thinking about what else we could do on this holiday, we came up with several educational events that the students enjoyed. Have you thought about what would benefit your band students? How much pressure did you place on your students attending band rehearsals; signing up for region band; and solo & ensembles etc.? Re-think the needs of your students. We have just passed the Thanksgiving Season. I hope that you have thanked your students for their community service and active participation in our region, area & all-state band experiences. Remember our association is here to help you as you follow the path towards excellence.

Remember to vote for the nominees in Class C/CC Representative, Class AA Representative, & President-Elect. I want to thank Gary Robbins for his fine leadership as we continue to grow and meet the needs of every small school band program in the state. Thank your region officers that take the time to prepare for their region contests. The Area

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(President-Elect's Column, continued from Page 2):

Coordinators have a short time over the holidays as they work and prepare for the area contest in January. It is important to understand that until you give service to your school, your kids, and your association, you will not fully appreciate the time, effort and thought involved in making this a great association.

I appreciate everything that ATSSB has done for the kids in the state. The TMEA/ATSSB dialogue meeting was very cordial to ATSSB. We are working to make this an enriched environment for all of the students in Texas. I look forward to serving you as your ATSSB President. It is an honor to work with the finest people in the profession.

Best wishes,



## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



I hope the ATSSB audition process went well for all of you at the region level and that you are looking forward to Area January 11. Be sure when you go to Area that all forms are properly signed and completed, that you make hotel reservations for your students that make the All-State Band, and that you make housing plans yourself.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Gary Robbins** for his service to ATSSB for the last four years - two as President-Elect (and SARC Chair) and the last two as President. I look forward to working with him the next two years as he chairs the Past-President Committee. I would also like to thank **Sherry Poteet** and **Lonnie Baker** for their service to ATSSB as Class C/CC and Class AA Representatives to the State Board of Directors. It is a time-consuming but necessary role that they played as the Executive Committee of which they are a part has tried to accommodate the needs of students and their directors.

Our ATSSB All-State Band **Scholarship Fund** stands at \$ 50,124.20. This increase is due in large part to the 165 members thus far who joined after October 1 paying an additional \$25 in dues which went into this fund and from royalties paid by our Licensees. Many thanks to those 165 for their contributions! But please make an effort to not only thank our **Licensees** for their support, but also to use their services. These companies have paid a fee and are under contract to use the ATSSB logo and marks on their products. They pay a portion of their receipts to the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship. Please consider using them before any other companies offering their products: Southwest Specialties (Freddy Butlar - Midlothian) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; Probst Audio (Scott Probst - Ennis) = audio recordings of concerts on CD; Concertronics (William Collins - Victoria) = recording of concerts on tape or CD; Jordan Sound Productions (Gary Jordan - Bullard) = recording of concerts on tapes or CD and ATSSB Area etude performance tapes; Made To Order (Larry Wood - Lorenzo) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; California T's (L. Steve Taylor - Lubbock) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; Rehearsal Solutions (Robert McElroy - Bellville) = ATSSB Area etude performance sequence files; and On Site Digital (Randy Bryant - Austin) - recording of concerts on tapes or CD.

A reminder about **piccolo** and **E $\flat$  clarinet**: If your flute or clarinet player makes the All-State Band at the Area auditions January 11 and would like to play piccolo (flutes) or E $\flat$  Soprano Clarinet (clarinets), have them bring these instruments to San Antonio. After regular chair auditions are completed for flute/clarinet, we will hold separate auditions for these two instruments for each band from among those students interested in it that were selected for their respective bands. One piccolo and one soprano clarinet may be selected from among the Symphonic flutes and clarinets; also, one piccolo and one soprano clarinet may be selected from among the Concert flutes and clarinets. If no one auditions on these instruments from one, either, or both bands, then the instrument will not be used. A notice concerning this policy will be placed in the flute and clarinet packets they will receive at Area this year if they are selected for the All-State Band.

We will continue our **hotel reservation** practice. Each student that wishes to stay in ATSSB housing must pay a \$125 housing fee directly to ATSSB (the address will be on the housing form they complete at Area). ATSSB will then pay one check for the hotel rooms up front. If directors are able to reserve a room using ATSSB housing forms, they must pay for the room in one check directly to ATSSB in the amount of \$348 (split any way you can among directors sharing the room with you). Make sure you include the student name and school (or director's name and school). Remember to take care of this before January 31 or you will lose your reservation.

We plan to hold our ATSSB **Business Session** in the Scottish Rite Auditorium at 12:00 noon on Thursday, February 13. **Elections** for President-Elect, Class C/CC and Class AA Representatives to the State Board of Directors will be held at this meeting. I hope you can make plans to attend during the busy activities in San Antonio at that time of year to attend. Remember that proxies are not allowed in these elections. A short biographical sketch of each candidate for state office can

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(Executive Secretary's Column, continued from Page 3):

be found in this Newsletter.

When you get a chance, be sure to thank our **Region and Area Coordinators** for their efforts in securing audition sites, hosts, audition chairmen, computer equipment and logistics, etc. Also, let's not forget to thank our **State Chair Audition Coordinator** (Steven Moore of Lindale) and all of his helpers and judging panels in advance of the work facing them as the two bands are seated. Our All-State **Symphonic Band Organizer** (Perry Morris of Giddings), All-State **Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer** (David Lambert of Robinson), All-State **Concert Band Organizer** (Cindy Mikel of Argyle), and All-State **Concert Band Percussion Organizer** (Cathie Cain of Garrison) still have a job ahead of them. The convention-clinic and concerts will take a LOT of preparation, advanced planning and organization. Rooms have been booked for you and your students, the Scottish Rite Auditorium has been reserved and liability insurance purchased for the time we will occupy it. Arrangements for police security in the auditorium have been made, stands and percussion equipment have to be provided before chair auditions begin on Wednesday night, programs have to be completed, badges for the students have to be made and personalized, entertainment for All-State students prior to the general meeting arranged -- not to mention many other activities taking place in the background as we prepare for the clinic. All of the people involved give so much of their time to make it a success. It would not be possible if it weren't for their dedication to the profession and the students in the All-State Bands who benefit from their efforts.

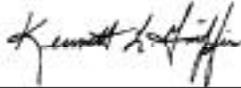
Since this will be our last communication before San Antonio, let me address those of you who will have students in the All-State Band for the first time. Please remember that many are in the "big city" for the first time. They will need **frequent contact** with you to allay their fears and keep them focused on their role as they represent not only ATSSB, but also their bands, school, and community. **Drop by rehearsals** often, especially at breaks, to see that they have a place to go and that they know what they may do in their free time. It also helps to have directors observing rehearsals at all times. Not only do we learn good rehearsal techniques from our fine clinicians, but also we can act as a restraining presence to students who might otherwise allow their attention to drift during rehearsals. There is certainly nothing wrong with leaning over a student with a cap on and quietly asking him or her to remove it -- or watching a section and noticing a student talking in a distracting manner and quietly asking them to stop. Our Organizers are with the band almost constantly, but we cannot expect them to be there every minute nor expect them to see every infraction of rehearsal protocol. Try to drop by and give a listen -- **and a hand**.

Our **corporate supporters** are so consistent in their desire to help provide shoulder patches, programs, "breakout" refreshments for the all-state students. They will be recognized in the all-state programs, but I just wanted to say an additional "Thank You" to them in advance for their contributions to the continued success of the ATSSB All-State Band.

We were all saddened to hear of the tragic death of **Dan Frels** and his wife in an accident. If you know of any other members or former members who have passed away, please let us know so we can recognize their passing to their fellow directors.

Be sure to visit with your Region Coordinators about issues you wish addressed at the State Board meeting coming up. One item concerns the ATSSB **Website Chatboard** and whether it should be restricted to ATSSB members only. Another item is a proposal to publish the Newsletter online quarterly, but only do a physical mailout in September when it is sent to all schools with the PAL Update each year. Make your opinions about these issues and others confronting ATSSB known to your representatives to the State Board so they can be discussed with a consensus from the membership.

Thank **all** of you for your continued diligence and hard work on behalf of the students in our small school programs. Keep up the great work.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Dan Frels, Cuero**

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles of interest to small school band directors will be published as space permits. Letters to the Editor from members will be published if signed, although writers may remain anonymous by request. Send all inquiries to: ATSSB; 15310 Amesbury Lane; Sugar Land, TX 77478-4180, fax them to (281) 494-2151, or email them to [execsec@atssb.org](mailto:execsec@atssb.org) with appropriate attachments.

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**Outstanding Performance Series**  
by Don Thoede, State Chair

The 2002 Outstanding Performance Series State Winners CD is now available. You may purchase the two CD set from Avant Recordings by using the order form below. The set contains all of the 2002 OPS State Winners plus the 2002 ATSSB All-State Symphonic and Concert Bands. The set sells for \$15.00. Please give this information to your band students so they will have the opportunity to purchase the CDs. You will also find an order form on the ATSSB website.



I want to remind the OPS winners and runners-up that their presence is expected at the General Session of ATSSB in February at the TMEA convention in San Antonio. It will be a pleasure and a privilege to present each of them with a beautiful plaque that they can keep and display for many years to come. If you cannot attend the meeting, please notify me several days in advance with the name of the individual who will be accepting the award on your behalf.

Keep in mind that all entry forms for the 2003 OPS competition will no longer be given to the Region Coordinators. You must now download the forms from the ATSSB website. You should be able to type all information onto the forms and print them from your computer. Be sure you print two copies since all information will be lost when you close out the screen. You will also find all information concerning entry deadlines, director's instructions, Region Coordinator's instructions, etc., on the ATSSB website. Please take the time to read those instructions very carefully.

I want to remind the membership that judges for the OPS will now be paid a small honorarium. That was explained in detail in the September Newsletter which you can find on the ATSSB website. Please read that again so you will know the amount of the honorarium that you can expect. We wish it could be more, but maybe it will help a little. It is especially important that the Region Coordinators understand how much they can pay each judge. If you have questions, I will be glad to help you.

I hope you all have an enjoyable holiday season. See you in February. *Don Thoede*

**ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series  
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## ELECTION

President-Elect and Class C/CC and Class AA Representatives to the State Board of Directors for 2003-05 will be elected in the ATSSB General Session on Thursday, February 13, 2003 at 12:00 noon in the Scottish Rite Auditorium. Biographies of the nominees follow below. All Active Members may vote for President-Elect, but members may only vote on the candidates for the class schools in which they are actively involved. For example, if a member is at a class AA high school, then he or she may only vote for the class AA Representative in addition to President-Elect. Directors at C/CC may also vote for the Class AA Representative if their school feeds a Class AA school. Class AAA and class A high schools may only vote for President-Elect. An exception applies if a class A or AAA director is active in teaching at the junior high level; if so, they may also vote for the Class C/CC Representative.

### President-Elect



**Rodney Bennett** is completing his twentieth year as Director of Bands for Munday ISD. He holds a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls and a Master of Music degree from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico.

He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, ASBDA, NBA, Phi Beta Mu, TMAA, Music Teachers National

Association, the North Texas Church Orchestra, the North Texas "Hallelujah" Band, Big Band Bone (trombone choir), and the North Texas Directors Band. He is a life faculty member of Tri-M Music Honor Society, a life member of Kappa Kappa Psi, and is a former member of the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Bennett has previously served on the ATSSB State Board of Directors as Class A Representative (1994-96 and 2000-2002). He was a delegate to the 2002 ATSSB Symposium. He is the current TMEA Region II Band Chairman, having served since 1994. He has also served as TMEA Region II North Zone A-AA-AAA District Band Chairman. He served as a member of the UIL State Marching Band Contest Revision Committee as the Class A representative and currently serves on the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Young Bandmaster Committee in addition to serving on the TMEA Honor Band Revision Committee. He has been a member of the Munday High School Campus Improvement Team since 1994 and has also served on the Munday ISD District Committee.

Mr. Bennett has been named to the Who's Who in American Education (1996-97), Who's Who Among American's Teachers (1992, 1998, 2002), TMEA Class A Honor Band Director (1994, 2000), and was named Co-Citizen of the Year in 1993 by the Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. He was honored in 1994 and 2000 by the National Band Association with a Citation of Excellence. He was a 1996 recipient of the TMEA Scholarship for Graduate Study. He will

serve as a panelist and clinician for a clinic on small school bands sponsored by Phi Beta Mu for the 2000 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago in December, 2000. In 2001 and 2002, Munday ISD was recognized by the American Music Conference as one of the "Top 100 Communities in the United States for music Education."

Under his direction, Munday High School Bands have received nineteen consecutive first divisions in marching, sixteen Sweepstakes Awards, was named the 1994 and 2000 TMEA Class A Honor Band, were finalists in the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series since 1997 (first place awards in 1999 and 2000), and has been a UIL State Marching Band finalist nine times since 1987.

Mr. Bennett resides in Munday with his wife of twenty-two years, Marilyn. They have one son, Ronnie, a certified professional trainer, and one granddaughter, four-year-old Emma Grace.

"The Association of Texas Small School Bands has been a driving force in the advancement of small school bands for the past twelve years. It is my belief that my demonstrated leadership skills could be an asset to the office of President-Elect of ATSSB. I have an excellent working relationship with other leaders in the band profession, and believe that this can be a useful tool to assist ATSSB in accomplishing future endeavors."

**Judy Holleman** is the band director at Elkhart High School in Region 8. She graduated from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M-Commerce) and is currently pursuing a Master of Education degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. and has taught in Texas public schools for 10 years. All of her experience has been in 1A and 2A schools. She and her husband Richard



have been married for 7 years and they have three dogs and a cat - "however, none of them plays a musical instrument." She taught in Tennessee

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(President-Elect Nominees, continued from Page 6):

in Tennessee before coming to Texas to teach at Riviera High School from 1997-2000, then moving to Elkhart where she currently teaches. She is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, TMAA, and TCTA. Her bands at Elkhart were the OPS Concert winners in 2001 and 2002, have been TMEA Honor Band finalists in 2001, UIL State Marching Band finalist in 2001, and her bands have received the Sweepstakes Award in Elkhart and Riviera since 1998. "Since its inception, ATSSB has done an excellent job of promoting small school bands in Texas. I would like to be a part of leading this fine organization in its continuing efforts to promote the excellence of Texas' small school bands."



**Steven Moore** graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1985. He received a Bachelor of Music in 1989 from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Education from the University of Texas at Tyler in 1995. He began his teaching career in Lindale as the middle school assistant from

1990-93, head middle school director from 1993-96, and as high school director from 1996 to present. He and his wife Monica have two daughters: Jami and Kaci. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, NAMMB, TMAA, and TCTA. He has served as the ATSSB State Chair Audition Coordinator, NAMMB Vice-President, TMEA Region XX! Secretary, was chairman of the TBA Nominating Committee and was a member of the UIL Sightreading Committee. He was an Eagle Scout. His bands have received consistent UIL first divisions, have been UIL State Marching Band participants, OPS finalists and runner-up, and have been TMEA Honor Band finalists.

"I am deeply humbled and honored by the nomination for the office of President-Elect of ATSSB. I believe in the mission of ATSSB which is the promotion of small school students, directors, parents, and administrators. ATSSB has provided many positive opportunities for my students and helped my program grow. If elected, I will do my best to serve the organization and try to give back to ATSSB as much as has been given to me and my students. The alignment of ATSSB and TMEA has been good. I believe that a good relationship between the two organizations is a must and makes both organizations stronger. I will work to keep that relationship strong. In addition, I will work with all

ATSSB officers and other organizations to give our small school students and directors a voice. Thank you again for the nomination and your support for the office of President-Elect."

### Class C/CC Representative

**Marilyn K. Bennett** is the Associate Director of the Munday High School Band, a class A school in Region 2. She is completing her thirteenth year in Munday having previously taught in Holliday and Dalhart as an assistant band director.



Mrs. Bennett holds Bachelor and Master of Music Education degrees from Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls). She is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, NBA, MENC, Women Band Directors International, Pi Kappa Lambda, Delta Kappa Gamma, Life Faculty Member and Chapter Advisor of the Mundy High School Tri-M Music Honor Society, North Texas Church Orchestra, and the North Texas Band Directors Band. She is also a life member of Tau Beta Sigma.

Mrs. Bennett was a delegate to the 2002 ATSSB Symposium and has served as a judge for the OPS area and state competitions. She has been a member of the TMEA State Board of Directors since 1991, currently serving as Region II Secretary, Region II North Zone Secretary, and as secretary to the TMEA Region II Band Division Chairman and Region II ATSSB Coordinator. She is on the Marching Band Supplemental List for TMAA. She is the Treasurer for the Wichita Falls Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon and has served as South Central 3 District Director and Province Governor for that organization. She is the Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Munday Elementary School and has served as a member of the Munday High School Campus Improvement Team.

Honors include Who's Who in Mu Phi Epsilon, Outstanding Young Women in America, Notable Women of Texas, Who's Who Among America's Teachers (1998, 2002), TMEA Class A Honor Band Director (1994, 2000), and National Band Association Citation of Excellence. She received an NBA Citation of Excellence in 2000 and was named Co-Citizen of the Year in 1993 by the Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

Under her direction, the Munday High School Concert Band (non-varsity) received superior and

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(Class C/CC Nominees, continued from Page 7):

excellent ratings in 1998 and 1999 in UIL concert and sightreading contests. In the spring of 2002, Munday Elementary School was named a Grammy "Select School" by the Grammy Foundation; in 2001 and 2002 Munday was named one of the "100 Best Music Communities" in the United States by the American Music Conference. The Munday Middle School Band was named a finalist in the Class C ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series. Munday Middle School participated at the state level in the Class C Honor Band process in 1997. The band has received superior and excellent ratings in U.I.L. Concert and Sightreading contest, and consistent superior ratings in concert and sight-reading at festivals.

Mrs. Bennett has been married to Rodney Bennett for twenty-two years. They have a son, Ronnie, a certified professional trainer and a four-year-old granddaughter, Emma Grace.

"The Association of Texas Small School Bands is to be commended for its contributions to the small school bands of Texas; it is truly a model for other states. As part of the 2002 ATSSB Symposium, it was a privilege to have an insight into some considered ventures for the future of ATSSB. It would certainly be a great honor to serve the Class C/CC bands, and to help realize some of these projected goals, thereby continuing the traditions of excellence already established in ATSSB."



**Sherry Poteet** is a native of Clarksville, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education from Texas A&M-Commerce. She served as middle school director in Pittsburg for 15 years where she was named "Teacher of the Year" in 2000. She is currently in

her third year as band director at Gilmer Junior High School, a class CC school in Region 4. She is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, TMAA, and Phi Beta Mu.

Ms. Poteet is an active clinician and adjudicator and has served ATSSB as the Class C/CC Representative to the State Board of Directors in 1998-2000 and 2000-2004, serving on the Outstanding Performance Series Steering Committee.

Her bands have received numerous first division in both concert and sightreading. They also received first place awards in the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000 and advanced to TMEA Area in Honor Band competitions.

**William W. (Bill) Harrison** is a 1968 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School in Midland, Texas. He completed his Bachelor's of Music Education from Baylor University in 1972, specializing in secondary education. There he was a member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha fraternities. Upon



graduation, he began working in Belton ISD as junior high band director. During his tenure in Belton, he met and married his wife, Susan, and earned a Master's of Education with a Music Supervisory Certificate from North Texas State University in 1978. In 1979, Bill accepted the directorship at Rosebud-Lott High School and Junior High School bands, where he was the only director. While in Region 8, Mr. Harrison was instrumental in establishing a Small School Region Band for Class AA. He moved to Edna, Texas in 1988 as the high school band director with a full time junior high band director. He was an early supporter of ATSSB and served as the ATSSB Region Chairman in Region 13 for four years. He also has judged at district, area and all state tryouts for many years. Bill began as the junior high band director in Palacios ISD in 2001. He is now in his second year with the district. Bill and his wife of 28 years, Susan, live in Edna, Texas. They have four children. Mr. Harrison is presently in his 28<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. "ATSSB has been an important organization to the small schools of Texas. The founding ideas and ideals need to be carried on and maintained. New ideas for the junior high band programs of small schools need to be investigated and addressed. This is the reason why I am running for the office of class C/CC representative to the state board."

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### Class AA Representative

**Lonnie Baker** is in his seventh year as the band director at Callisburg ISD, a class AA school in Region 5. His 19-year career began as assistant band director to Robert Garza at Myra Green Middle School in Raymondville. He also taught four years at Santa Anna ISD, a class A school in Region 7, and seven years at Quanah ISD, a class AA school in Region 2.



(Continued on Page 9)

(Class AA Nominees, continued from Page 8):

Mr. Baker has served as ATSSB Assistant Region Coordinator and is currently ATSSB Class AA Representative to the State Board of Directors. He is an active UIL adjudicator and clinician. With a history of building successful small school band programs, Lonnie believes his greatest accomplishment is the number of his students who continue with music after high school and those who have chosen music education as their career.



Stephen Henry is the Director of the Industrial High School Band in Vanderbilt, a class AA school in Region 13. He is in his fourteenth year of band directing. He is married to Maria Henry, and has two sons, Ray (7) and Jake (3). They are all active members of St. Paul

Lutheran Church in Edna. He received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Angelo State University in 1987. He graduated from Sabinal High School in 1983, where his family operates a Centennial farm and ranch (having been in one family for over 100 years).

At Angelo State University, Mr. Henry studied Musicology under Dr. Doreen Grimes. During his Junior and Senior years there, he worked as Dr. Grimes' Undergraduate Teaching Assistant. Dr. Grimes is a renowned composer and musicologist. Mr. Henry studied tuba under instructor Ed Surface; voice and conducting under Paula Homer. Ms. Homer is currently the director of Opera at the University of North Texas.

Mr. Henry was in the A.S.U. Golden Ram Band for all four years of college under the direction of Mr. Harris Brinson. Mr. Henry performed under Mr. Brinson's baton both at TMEA with the Ram Band, and at TBA with the ASU Band Camp Director's band. Mr. Henry also did the majority of his music education training under the watchful eyes of Mr. Brinson.

Mr. Henry attended the University of North Texas and worked on his masters degree from 1988-90. While there, he worked towards a Master of Music Theory. While at UNT, Mr. Henry was a graduate assistant for Professor Henry Gibbons, and toured and performed with many ensembles.

Mr. Henry has 68 division I awards to his record. His bands have won numerous UIL sweepstakes awards. His bands have been in the ATSSB OPS finals once, and the TMEA Honor Band Area contest twice. He has served as the TMEA

Band Division Chair for Region 13, and is currently the ATSSB Region 13 Coordinator.

Mr. Henry's hobbies and interests outside of his teaching area include hunting, fishing, golf, tennis, and racquetball. He raises cattle and maintains a small family ranch near Cuero.

Carl E. Idlebird is the Director of the Somerville High School Band, a class AA school in Region 18. He has taught band in Texas for twenty-two years, the last eleven in Somerville. He taught in College Station for twelve years where his bands were consistent first division winners in UIL and festival competitions.



His jazz bands were also selected as winners at many invitational festivals and UIL State Solo-Ensemble competitions. His Somerville bands have received nine consecutive first divisions in Marching, four consecutive appearances at the Area marching Contest, six consecutive UIL Sweepstakes Awards, and three Outstanding Bands awards in invitational festivals in Louisiana, Florida, and Colorado. They also placed third and tied for fifth in the last two TMEA Honor Band competitions. They have entered and placed in the top ten with at least one selection in the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series for the last four years, placing first in OPS in 2000 and runner-up the last two years.

Mr. Idlebird graduated from Bryan High School. He received a Bachelor of Music Education and a Master of Arts in Music Theory/Composition from Sam Houston State University where he studied with Dr. James Marks. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TMAA, and IAJE. He is the Assistant to the pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Bryan. His duties include preaching as well as coordinating and directing music activities. He is enrolled as a Master of Divinity student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

He and his wife Ursula have been married twenty-one years. Ursula teaches computer at Somerville High School. They have two sons, Jeremy and Jason. Jeremy is a junior at Somerville High School where he is an all-state drummer, quarterback of the varsity football team, and a state qualifier in the 300-meter hurdles. Jason is a freshman trombonist who is also a running back on the varsity football team and is a varsity basketball player. The Idlebird family currently resides in College Station.

## **A Message from TMEA President Robert Stovall**

Earlier this school year, members of the ATSSB and TMEA Executive Board met to discuss issues that concerned both organizations. The meeting proved to be both beneficial and one of confirmation. A positive relationship that had somewhat diminished over the past few years was once again ignited, as enthusiastic and optimistic dialogue was the focus of the day. I would like to thank President Gary Robbins, President-elect Ed Lowes, Past President George Strickland, and ATSSB Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin for their time, valuable input, and passion and commitment toward music education.

As with any organization, things change over a period of time. New people in leadership roles with new issues, and new ideas enable organizations to advance and grow in many different ways. Thus is the case with both ATSSB and TMEA. It is common knowledge that both organizations continue to grow in membership. I choose to believe the growth is due to our involvement in several diverse areas: legislature, school administration, and because of the strength and leadership in the twenty-four TMEA regions.

Because of the UIL re-classification formula, we are seeing drastic changes in enrollment for class 3-A and 4-A schools. It was not long ago that the minimum of a 3-A school was 700 students. Now that number has risen significantly to 899. Likewise, the maximum for a 4-A school was 1,500 and now it has recently changed to 1,899. Although the number of schools per classification stays relatively the same (approximately 225 schools per classification) the enrollment figures continue to rise. How does this effect ATSSB? I would think this UIL scenario allows for continued potential growth for ATSSB. As a result of these continuing rising numbers, ATSSB quite possibly could one day have schools with an enrollment of 1,000. Also, with this current formula, ATSSB will have more 1-A and 2-A school members. Currently, there are approximately 560 schools in these two classifications. As ATSSB enters it's next decade, these demographics could be a factor.

Additionally there are geographic concerns regarding enrollment. Just recently, an education service center relayed an astonishing figure to Area A principals. Over the past two years, school enrollment has dropped twelve percent in parts of west Texas. ATSSB and TMEA need to join together to help these areas of declining enrollment. We must come up with a plan that will inspire new and experienced band directors to teach in these smaller communities. Together, we can instill the importance of teaching in a small rural community. With time and communication between the two organizations, the groundwork can be put into place for this dilemma.

Coming from a small 4-A soon to be 3-A school district, I can honestly say that I understand the importance of establishing music in small schools. I have spent 21 of my 24 years in a small school. Small schools have unique problems than that of large school districts. As a member of TMEA, I can honestly say that many times, TMEA has been my resource for the problems that face small schools. TMEA has helped both my choral program and our band programs in times when we stood to lose ground. With this renewed commitment and common bond of helping ALL music programs, I know that both ATSSB and TMEA will strive to assist and provide all they can for any school district regardless of size. In this new decade of ATSSB, I am confident that many problems facing us can be eradicated due to the joint efforts of both organizations. After all, we must remember, both ATSSB and TMEA stand for a quality music education for all students in Texas.

As President of TMEA, I congratulate the many outstanding band directors of small schools. You truly go that extra mile for your program. I encourage you to continue in your quest for excellence. It will only enhance the importance of music education in your schools and communities. Please know that both ATSSB and TMEA are collectively available to offer assistance with your program when asked. Here's to a continued successful relationship with ATSSB and TMEA.

## **Arts Education Day at the Capitol**

On March 3, 2003 the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education (TCQAE) will host its fourth Arts Education Day at the Capitol. The day will be a celebration of the outstanding arts (music, art, theatre and dance) programs throughout the state. Before the event, information about the day's events and the importance of the arts and arts education will be hand-delivered by arts students to state Legislators and the Texas Education Agency.

The event will culminate the TCQAE's marketing campaign-Unleash the Power of the Arts!-promoting fine arts education in Texas.

The marketing campaign included the production and distribution of a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Why Arts Education is Important!" The TCQAE also distributed thousands of CD's with the PowerPoint presentation to the Governor, key Legislators and Texas Education Agency personnel, Education Service Centers, arts and educational organizations, parent organizations, business leaders, arts supervisors and others.

Robert Floyd, Chair of the TCQAE and Executive Director of the Texas Music Educators Association stated "The

(Continued on Page 11)

(TCQAE, continued from Page 10):

member organizations of the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education (TCQAE) work in concert to serve as a common voice for the advancement of quality fine arts education for all students in Texas. TCQAE members strive to articulate the importance of student learning in the fine arts disciplines and communicate proven standards for quality arts programs in our schools."

The campaign also included the distribution a new booklet entitled What Every Parent, Administrator and School Board Member Should Know: Why the Arts are Important! (and,) Texas Fine Arts Education ACCORD. An education without the fine arts is not a complete education. This campaign tells our parents what they need to know to strengthen the importance of the arts in our students' lives: stated Loren McKibbens, chair of the Arts-in-Education Committee of the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers and new Commissioner of the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Students will give the CDs and booklets to our state leaders on Arts Education Day. The ACCORD states our beliefs in what quality arts education should be in every school in Texas. This document includes: defining the fine arts; curriculum issues; scheduling; professional development; college education and teacher preparation; students with disabilities; Gifted and Talented/magnet schools; and, financial support for the arts in our schools

The events will start at noon in the Capitol Rotunda. A variety of activities and outstanding student performances are planned. Last year over twenty-five student groups performed, including jazz bands, string quartets, Mariachis, dance ensembles, theatre performers, and many other award winning groups.

On the South Steps of the Capitol from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m., additional student performances will be staged to allow a larger audience to participate in the day's events. In addition, outstanding student artwork from all across Texas will be featured in the Capitol Extension building as a part of the Texas Art Education Association, Youth Art Month Exhibit. Several performances may also take place in the House and Senate Chambers.

### ATSSB Four-Year All-State Band Scholarship Update

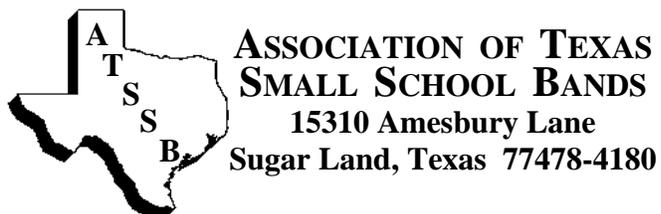
We have \$ 48,949.20 in our Scholarship Fund as of December 1, 2002. Donors to date include:

Region 1	\$ 2,000.00	Region 12	\$ 500.00	Interest to 12-01-02	\$ 2,522.77
Region 2	\$ 250.00	Region 13	\$ 750.00	1996-97 late dues	\$ 4,050.00
Region 3/20	\$ 1,100.00	Region 14	\$ 500.00	1997-98 late dues	\$ 3,475.00
Region 4	\$ 1,000.00	Region 16	\$ 300.00	1998-99 late dues	\$ 4,850.00
Region 5	\$ 2,000.00	Region 17/19	\$ 250.00	1999-2000 late dues	\$ 3,950.00
Region 6	\$ 1,000.00	Region 21	\$ 3,000.00	2000-01 late dues	\$ 5,250.00
Region 7	\$ 2,500.00	Individuals	\$ 173.00	2001-02 late dues	\$ 7,625.00
Region 11	\$ 250.00	Licensee royalty	\$ 22,641.85	2002-03 late dues	\$ 4,125.00
				Total deposited ----->	<b>\$ 74,062.62</b>

**EXPENDITURES:**

Account search fee .....	\$ 2.00
Plaques purchased .....	\$ 936.42
Scholarships paid:	
1995 Sarah Boehm (Sacred Heart trombone) to St. Thomas University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Oscar Diaz, Jr. (Ingleside trombone) to Texas A&M, Kingsville .....	\$ 1,000.00
Molly Lehrmann (Mathis clarinet) to Texas A&M .....	\$ 1,000.00
1996 Leslie Hunter (Eldorado clarinet) to Baylor University .....	\$ 1,000.00
1997 Sarah Smith (White Oak clarinet) to Northeastern State University (Louisiana) .....	\$ 1,000.00
1998 Nick Garcia (Orange Grove flute) to Texas A&M, Kingsville .....	\$ 1,000.00
Gerardo Loya (Muleshoe clarinet) to Angelo State University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Tavia Lee (Cisco bass clarinet) to West Texas A&M University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Jesse Lotspeich (Crane tuba) to Howard Payne University .....	\$ 1,000.00
1999 Rustin Horner Tom Bean trombone) to Southern Nazarene University .....	\$ 1,000.00
2000 Paula Adams Lake Country bass clarinet) to Tarrant County JC .....	\$ 1,000.00
Alex Autry (Aledo trumpet) to Texas Tech University .....	\$ 1,000.00
James Bigham (Ingram Tom Moore tuba) to North Texas State .....	\$ 1,000.00
Cody Goetz (Reagan County bass trombone) to Texas Tech .....	\$ 1,000.00
Morgan Weber (Yoakum trumpet) to Baylor University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Rehuth Sheth (Kinkaid bassoon) to Harvard University .....	\$ 1,000.00
2001 Sam Scallon (Rusk clarinet) to Stephen F. Austin State University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Larissa Ness (Van Vleck flute) to Southwest Texas State University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Joshua Bryant (New Boston trombone) to Texas Christian University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Julia Alemán (Pearsall clarinet) to Southwestern University .....	\$ 1,000.00
2002 Lacy Lee Brown (Whitesboro baritone) to Baylor University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Kevin Houck (Electra trombone) to Midwestern State University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Jeff Lotspeich (Crane French horn) to Texas A&M University .....	\$ 1,000.00
Total expenditures .....	<b>-\$ 23,938.42</b>
Total in account as of 12-1-02 .....	<b>\$ 50,124.20</b>

This is your December 2002 Newsletter  
It contains information regarding the upcoming clinic-convention  
February 12-15, 2003.



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