



1991-2008

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Celebrating 17 years of service to small school bands in Texas

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ATSSB NEWSLETTER

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President's Column

by Rob Toups



Happy Holiday greetings to all! Now, let the fun begin as we work with students on All-Region music, prepare Christmas concerts and hand out solos and ensembles. Personally, I think the most enjoyable aspect of band directing is the variety of events and performances each school year. As we end marching season, we move on to something different with a feeling of renewal. I love it!

Hopefully, we have all read my recent release regarding the upcoming ATSSB All-State Band changes. I wish to reassure the membership that progress is going well as we continue to make plans for another great All-State experience for our students. Although nothing is ever perfect, I do feel an excitement and enthusiasm about the new rehearsal and performance venues. Please be reminded that the changes for All-State 2008 are only a start. ATSSB and TMEA are committed to providing the best possible resources for our students, including rehearsal schedules, venues, and housing. As new hotel space comes online, new and improved ideas emerge. One thing is for sure. Frank Coachman, Steve Andre, JD Janda and others at TMEA have shown so much care and interest in the well being of our 3A, 2A and 1A All-State students,

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not to mention the care and hard work from our own leadership. Our Executive Secretary, Kenneth Griffin continues to work diligently, patiently guiding me on detail after detail, helping me lead our Association through this time of change and adjustment. I am personally communicating with ATSSB State organizers, TMEA and all others who are critical to this process, so that all details are worked out before February.

Before closing, I must say how excited I was to be invited by the UIL Music Director, Richard Floyd, to represent ATSSB and assist in presenting the 2007 Texas State Marching Contest awards to the outstanding finalists in 1A and 2A. I was certainly proud to represent the Association, and watching the well-prepared bands compete at State was such a treat! I again congratulate the students and directors of 1A State Champion, Forsan High School Band and 2A State Champion, Queen City High School Band. Additionally, Sundown, Harper, Holliday and New Boston High School Bands are all very deserving medal winners. Every group competing at UIL State Marching Contest represents so much that is good in Texas schools and particularly ATSSB.

Much work on many issues and challenges continues within ATSSB. Thanks to the dedication of our membership, Region/Area coordinators, Organizers, Chairpersons, Officers and Executive Secretary, we can come together to hopefully satisfy all of our students' needs. We are a work in progress and only through a positive, tenacious yet patient approach to existing and future challenges, will ATSSB continue to thrive. Keep the faith, jump in and get involved!!!

Yours in Music, 

President-Elect's Column

by Robert Vetter



WOW! What a great State marching Contest! Congratulations to Forsan HS and Jimmy Rhodes (1-A State Champ) and Queen City HS and Chris Brannan (2-A State Champ)! Congratulations to all the 1-A and 2-A programs who were at the State Marching Contest! Keep "raising the bar" and working to be the best!

Some Regions have already had their Region Tryouts and some are about to tryout. Good luck to all as they begin the road to the All State Band. This is special time spent with your students. Get the most you can out of each one.

This year is definitely going to be the "year for change." As everyone is aware, we are no longer in the Scottish Rite. We are moving to the Convention Center and there will be many challenges that ATSSB will conquer. We appreciate everyone for being professional and working together.

New this year in San Antonio will be a student meeting with Dr. Tim Lautzenhaiser. This meeting

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will take place in the Convention Center Ballroom A. The meeting will be at 4:30pm, Wednesday, February 13. Please encourage your All State students to attend this meeting. Dr. Tim will have fantastic words of congratulations and encouragement for our All State students. Mark your calendar now and see that your kids get there.

Performing this year for the All State students will be the West Texas Jazz Orchestra. Appearing with them will be trombonist Ron Wilkens. Ron is a San Antonio musician who has truly mastered the trombone. The kids (and directors) are in for a big treat. This concert will take place before the general meeting for the All State students. The concert will be in the Menger Ballroom from 6:00 to 6:30pm.

Good luck to the lucky ones who are still getting to showcase their marching bands at the play-off games. Remember, these are the folks that "pay the bills." Do your best to present enjoyable, entertaining shows. Hopefully, in all the craziness, there is time to work up a Christmas Concert. Good luck to you and your students as they work for All State. See you in San Antonio,



PS If there are any suggestions concerning auditions, please send them to me so the SARC can look at them at TMEA.

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 5. Be sure when you go to Area that all forms are properly signed (**and notarized**) 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 **E. Zane Polson** and **John Young** for their service to ATSSB the last two years as Class A and AAA Representative to the ATSSB State Board of Directors. It is a time-consuming but necessary role that they played on the Executive Committee as it has tried to accommodate the needs of students and their directors.

I would also like to thank **Rob Toups** for his service to ATSSB as President this past year. Rob serves ATSSB at a fortuitous time. His alliances and associations with TMAA and TMEA leadership is a welcome tool in this time of transition for ATSSB. We see the history of ATSSB in the Scottish Rite passing as the venue has deteriorated past optimal use by a performing organization. The Cathedral still has its history and I hope it continues to exist, but the conditions for concert-goers was less than optimal even in past years, and has regressed to the point that we can no longer enjoy its space.

As you and your students experience this year's All-State clinic and concerts, please understand that we are all working hard to make it a memorable one. We are certainly open to suggestions for improvement and would welcome any constructive criticism regarding rehearsal space, performance space, hotel accommodations, etc. Believe me, MANY different scenarios have been investigated over the last four months since the decision was made regarding the Scottish Rite Auditorium. As President Toups has said, TMEA has provided much-needed guidance and help in providing the venues we now have available to us. As he also said, this is just the beginning - a new direction for ATSSB in alliance with TMEA in its effort to "promote and encourage small-school bands in Texas."



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You will find a schedule of rehearsals and performances in this newsletter. Please notice that the schedule is subject to change and will be kept up to date at <http://www.atssb.org/2008Rehearsals.pdf>. Please make an effort not only to 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 the same or similar products: Southwest Specialties (Craig Johnson - Midlothian) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; Probst Audio (Scott Probst - Ennis) = audio recordings of concerts on CD; Jordan Sound Productions (Gary Jordan - Bullard) = recording of concerts on tapes or CD and ATSSB Area etude performance CDs; Made To Order (Dick Nye - Lubbock) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; California T's (L. Steve Taylor - Lubbock) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc.; On Site Digital (Randy Bryant - Austin) - recording of concerts on tapes or CD; Stephen Henry Smart Music Consultant (Stephen Henry - Vanderbilt) = SmartMusic files of audition etudes; Mattei Music Services = All-State Jazz audition CDs; Audio Refinery (Carlos Casso) = digital recording of concerts; and Cauble Sportswear, Inc. (Rick Cauble) = T-shirts, caps, plaques, etc..

A reminder about **piccolo** and **E \flat clarinet**: If your flute or clarinet player makes the All-State Band at the Area auditions January 5 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 \$135 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 \$420 (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 11, 2008, or you will lose your reservation. **Each payment for housing MUST include a signed hotel tax exemption from from the school.**

We plan to hold our ATSSB **Business Session** in CC1 of the Convention Center at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 14. **Elections** for Class A and Class AAA 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. Remember that proxies are not allowed in these elections. A short biographical sketch and picture of each candidate for state office can be found in this Newsletter (if a biography and/or a picture was submitted).

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** (Eric Gray of Gilmer) and all of his helpers and judging panels in advance of the work facing them as the two bands are seated; also Collin Anderson from Groesbeck, Mark Melton from Union Grove, and Bryant Harris from Iraan are serving in the **State Chair Auditions Office** this year. Our All-State **Symphonic Band Organizer** (Karen Dyre of Liberty Hill), All-State **Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer** (John Perrin of Liberty Hill), All-State **Concert Band Organizer** (Stacy Gist of Hutto), All-State **Concert Band Percussion**

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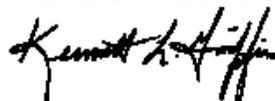
Organizer (Cathie Cain of New Diana), and All-State **Jazz Ensemble Organizer** (Tim Schodowski of Quitman) still have a job ahead of them. The convention-clinic and concerts will take a LOT of preparation, advanced planning and organization - all under new circumstances that none of them even imagined when they took the responsibility as an organizer. Rooms have been booked for you and your students, rehearsal and performance space has been arranged for all three organizations, 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 secured and sorted, 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 and "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. The Elmer and Anita Schenk Family Trust has made a donation to ATSSB to provide the all-state programs in the future. The donation has been invested and the interest will be used to provide the programs in the future. Thank you, Founding Charter Member Elmer Schenk, for your thoughtful gift to ATSSB.

Be sure to visit with your Region Coordinators about issues you wish addressed at the State Board meeting coming up. Make your opinions about issues 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.



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. Letters to the Editor from members will be published if signed, although writers may remain anonymous by request. Send all inquiries to ATSSB, 2117 Morse Street, Houston, Texas 77019; fax them to (713) 874-1151, or email them to the Executive Secretary at atssb@att.net with appropriate attachments.

Advertising is accepted for the Newsletter. See the Advertising Policy on our website:

<http://www.atssb.org/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>

Outstanding Performance Series

by Don Thoede, State Chair



I want to remind the 2007 OPS winners and runners-up that the presentation of awards will be at the ATSSB General Session on Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 12:30 PM in the San Antonio convention center. Due to the changes going on with the convention center right now, the time and place could change, so check your TMEA catalog when you register, just in case. Please make every attempt to attend that important session.

Be sure you read the 2008 March Newsletter very carefully! You should know by now that you will be sending your CDs, at the Region level, to different Designated Region Coordinators. This is the procedure that we will follow annually. The Regions that compete at the Area level will remain constant. The entry deadline at each level will not change. Also, your email address will have to be included on the entry form.

I want to remind the Region and Area Coordinators that if there are any changes in mailing addresses, or phone numbers, please contact Kenneth Griffin and me immediately. All Coordinators names, addresses, and phone numbers will be listed in the March Newsletter, so accuracy is of the utmost importance. It would really be helpful if Region Coordinators and Area Coordinators held those positions until June 26th, which is the deadline for all CDs to be mailed to the OPS State Chair.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas season and a joyous New Year! I will see you at TMEA in February.

Don Thoede

(Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the ATSSB Chatboard)

Has DCI Killed the Band Program?

One of the worst things to ever happen to music education in America has been Drum Corps International. Actually, DCI is not the problem. DCI is a very worthwhile activity that has provided some great entertainment over the years. The problem is that there are some high school marching band directors who try to copy the elite drum and bugle corps. Marching bands are not drum and bugle corps. They both have drums and they both march on a field, but there the similarity ends. Or at least it should.

A few years ago, marching band was just one tiny part of what band programs worked on. Concert band, jazz band, solo-ensemble, all-region, basketball pep-bands, spring trips, and parades were some of the events that were taken VERY seriously by band directors and their students. Marching contests were part of what we did, but they did not rule our curriculum for 6 months of the year. Equal emphasis was placed on every instrument in our bands and the "guard" (we old guys called them "flag lines") was something that some of the students did in ADDITION to playing horns.

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Drum corps and marching bands are two completely different entities. The instrumentation is different, the age levels are different, the organizational sponsorship is different, the rehearsal schedule SHOULD be different, the educational purpose is different, and the intended consumer is different. Drum corps are elite in the level of expertise of its individual members. If one cannot perform up to that level they are shown the door. This naturally raises the difficulty level possible with a corps. A school band must take all-comers. A director cannot remove a member if their best effort is of lesser quality than the rest of the band. A corps demands total surrender of the member's life for many months. The drum and bugle corps member has no other classes to prepare for, no church activities, no job, and no family events. They have nothing else to do except to prepare for the next competition. As a result, the DCI performances are extremely difficult and are nearly perfect in both music and marching execution. It is nearly impossible for a high school band to reach this level of perfection at the same degree of difficulty unless the students are giving up many other parts of their life. Because of these unreasonable expectations, many good student musicians are forced out of their school band programs because they want some diversity in their life experiences.

Another factor to consider is that a drum corps performs the same show all season. This poses no problem for the audience because it is mostly a different city with a different crowd each night. However, some high school bands perform the same show for the same audience 10 weeks in a row. It takes a REALLY dedicated parent to sit through 10 performances of the same show. No band director would schedule 10 weekly concerts in the spring and perform the same 4 tunes at every concert. It is unfortunate that, for the difficult shows some band programs attempt, this is the only way to get the performance level high enough to compete in marching contests. These programs win many trophies and build pride for a few people but are they creating musicians who see playing their horns as a life-long activity? Or do the students stop playing as soon as they can because they are sick of spending May to November on the same 8 minutes of music?

Drum and bugle corps should be something that entertain us as band directors and band students, but they should NEVER be something we try to totally emulate. That makes no more sense than a 2A high school football team trying to run a West Coast Offense.

Ed Grissom
Texarkana, Texas

ELECTION

Class A and Class AAA Representatives to the State Board of Directors for 2008-10 will be elected in the ATSSB General Session on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 12:30 in Ballroom C1 of the Convention Center. Nominees who accepted their nomination and who submitted a biography and/or picture by publication follow below. Only Active Members actively involved in Class A or Class AAA and Retired Active members may vote on these representatives.

Should nominees send biographies and/or pictures, they will be added as soon as possible and this Newsletter updated online.

Class A Representative



Jerry Barker is the director of bands at Eldorado High School in region 7. Prior to arriving in Eldorado, Jerry taught at Jim Ned (81-84), Van Vleck (84-91), Eden (91-95), Roscoe (05-00), and Coahoma (00-05). His wife, Morgan, passed away in 2003. He has two children: Morgan

(15) who is a freshman and plays the french horn, and Will (13) who is a 7th-grader and plays the trombone. Jerry is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA, and ATPE. His bands have received consistent first divisions in marching and concert competitions. The Eldorado High School Band just received its 24th consecutive first division in marching. His bands have been to Area five times, finishing as 2nd alternate to state in Area D this year.

"I have been a member of ATSSB since its beginning. I have been a strong supporter of its beliefs and goals and would like to be a part in furthering those goals. My 26-year teaching career has been spent in the small school setting. Twelve of those years were in class A schools. I believe this well qualifies me to represent class A schools because of my understanding of how a director has to work within this type of setting and my understanding of how class A fits into the ATSSB and TMEA structure."

Mike Glaze is the band director at Sundown High School in region 16. He is a 1991 graduate of Sul Ross State University with a Bachelor of Music degree. He has taught at Alpine High School (1991-97), Monahans Lathan Walker Junior High School (1997-99), and Sundown High School (1999-present). He is a member of the Association of Texas Small School Bands, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and Phi Beta Mu and

has served as ATSSB Area West Coordinator and currently serves as an ATSSB Region 16 Middle School all-region band coordinator.

His marching bands have advanced to the finals of the UIL state marching contest five times, placing among the top three on four occasions including two state championships. The Sundown band recently earned its 20th consecutive

UIL Sweepstakes award. His bands have twice represented Texas in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, DC. He serves as an adjudicator and clinician throughout the state.

"It would be an honor to represent the Class A bands of Texas in ATSSB. Having been a member of ATSSB since its inception in 1991, I believe our organization serves a vital role in increasing the quality of our state's small school band programs. As a class A band director, I understand the unique challenges we endure and the great rewards we reap by choosing to teach in Texas' smallest schools. If elected, I will actively seek input from our Class A directors on issues facing schools our size. Thank you for your consideration!"

Priscilla Gibson is the band director at Archer City High School in region 2. Her husband, Mark, and their two girls are the most patient and encouraging family she could wish for with her occupation. They love the band, football games, concerts, and only get fussy when the team goes into the playoffs and have an extended season! She grew up in Burkburnett, Texas, and graduated with honors with a Bachelor's in Music Education from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls.

Ms. Gibson has been a band director in Region 2 for 20 years: two years teaching elementary school, 7 years in a 4A program, and 11 years in 1A band

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programs. She has covered kindergarten through 12th grade and served on Campus Improvement Teams and Technology Committees for 15 years. She has been a TMEA member for 23 years which includes membership during college and an ATSSB member since its beginning. She has also been a TMAA member for several years. For

the last 4 years she

has served as Secretary for Region 2, Band Division secretary, and Region 2 ATSSB secretary.

Her bands have won many junior high and high school sweepstakes awards, participated in the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series and placed several times at the area level with both junior high and high school and at the state level once with the Archer City High School Band. Her Archer City band has competed at the state honor band contest and this year finished 6th in the finals of the State Marching Band Contest. They had their first ever All State Band member 2 years ago and have consistent Superior ratings at TSSEC including several Outstanding Performer recognitions.

"I love the small school setting. Knowing all the teachers, coaches, students, and parents plus being a part of the community is very special. In this setting it allows the band to be an integral part of the community and serve in many different ways. I believe it is important for students to understand that music is a way to serve and that is a special gift."



James Albert Higgs II is the band director at Covington High School in region 8. He is a 1992 graduate of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha, Oklahoma. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education with emphasis in instrumental music education and a minor in vocal music education. He holds the Master of Science

in Educational Administration from Lubbock Christian University and is currently completing the classroom work necessary for Superintendent Certification from The University of Texas of the Permian Basin. He is a member of TMEA, ATSSB, MENC, OMEA and TASSP. He taught six years in Oklahoma and is completing his tenth year in Texas. Mr. Higgs has spent his entire career in 1A and 2A schools. Twice in his career Mr. Higgs has started band programs from scratch. In his sixteen years as a successful educator, Mr. Higgs's bands have accumulated numerous honors in UIL or OSSBA contests. Individual students of Mr. Higgs have won numerous medals for solo/ensemble competition and many have competed on the state level in both Oklahoma and Texas. In Oklahoma, Mr. Higgs's Jazz band competed twice on the state level coming in fourth and sixth in Class 1A. Bands under Mr. Higgs's direction have qualified for and competed in area marching contests in Texas. Mr. Higgs has also organized and hosted invitational solo/ensemble contests, concert band contests and marching band contests. He has had two students make the ATSSB All-State Band. Mr. Higgs has also served as floor monitor for the ATSSB All-State Band. He is currently completing his fourth year as the Assistant Principal, Curriculum Director, School Safety Director, Band Director and History Teacher for Covington ISD.

Zane Polson is currently the band director in the small panhandle town of Sunray. He is in his ninth year as the director at Sunray Independent School District. Prior to teaching in Sunray, Zane taught for 18 years in small Texas schools including Friona, Daingerfield, Lockney, and Seymour. Before becoming a head band director, Mr. Polson was an assistant to Lonnie Dooley in Seymour and to Jim Parker in Friona.



Mr. Polson's bands in Sunray have been successful in region, area and state-level evaluations. The success has included 5 consecutive sweepstakes, 5 consecutive 1st divisions at region marching contests, and 8 consecutive 1st divisions at region concert and sight reading evaluations. In 2003 and 2005 the Sunray Band was selected as a state finalist in the TMEA Honor Band competition for "A" bands. The Sunray High School Bobcat Band has qualified for the

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Area A marching contest in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007.

On five different years Zane has served region 1 as the ATSSB All-Region Band organizer. In the region he has worked with many fine directors who have served in leadership positions on the ATSSB state board including Rick Ball, James Nance, Kevin Kuehler, Randy Hunsaker, and Fred Pankratz. With that experience Zane feels he is in a good position to serve the "A" band directors in the state.

Mr. Polson and his wife, Janis, are the parents of two daughters; Loran, a junior trombonist, and Jessica, a 7th grade euphonium student.

Class AAA Representative

Jim Cude is the director of bands at Whitesboro High School in region 5. He is beginning his 21st year of teaching and his sixth year at Whitesboro High School. Mr. Cude began his band career as a student in San Antonio and is a graduate of Marble Falls High School. He received his Bachelor of Music Education from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas in 1987. Mr. Cude



has spent his entire teaching career in Texas small schools. He was previously the head band director at Roby High School, Roscoe High School, Hamlin High School and Breckenridge High School. His bands have consistently received the highest ratings in UIL Competition.

Mr. Cude is the Director of Bands and Fine Arts Department Chair at Whitesboro High School. He directs the Marching Band and the Honors Band and assists in the band program at Whitesboro Middle School. Under his direction, the Whitesboro High School Band has advanced to the State Marching contest in 2002, 2004 and 2006. They were a finalist in 2004. The Whitesboro High School Band was also named Class A Champion at the Bands of America Super-Regional in San Antonio. Under Mr. Cude's direction, the Whitesboro Band has performed in Los Angeles, Orlando, Winter Park, and Washington, D.C. Mr. Cude is a member of TMEA, ATSSB, TMAA and Phi Beta Mu. He is active as an adjudicator and clinician in Texas and Oklahoma.

Mr. Cude and his wife, Linda, a Business

Teacher at Whitesboro High School, have been married for 22 years, and they have two children: Lauren is a sophomore at Whitesboro High School and plays horn in her dad's band. Caleb is an active 4th grader and participates in sports. The Cude's are active members in First Baptist Church.

"I am honored to be nominated to represent the AAA bands of Texas as the ATSSB AAA Representative. ATSSB has done so much to help raise the musical standards for music in Texas. My students have been well-served by ATSSB and I know it has helped improve the musical standards of our band program."

David Lambert

is the band director at Robinson High School in region 8. He is a graduate of Ennis High School and Stephen F. Austin State University. Lambert has taught for 16 years with the past 7 being in Robinson. Bands under his direction have won 14 Sweepstakes awards, placed as high as 1st runner up in the State Marching Contest, 1st runner up in the TMEA honor band competition, and 1st runner up in the ATSSB OPS series. Lambert has served as the Region 8 ATSSB coordinator for the past three years and has hosted the Area Central ATSSB auditions for the last seven. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TMAA, National Society of High School Scholars, and a Golden Apple Award winner. Lambert and his wife Lesley are the proud parents of Hillary, a junior clarinetist and Drew, a freshman percussionist.



"It would be a privilege to represent the 3A directors from the great state of Texas. ATSSB has been such a wonderful influence for my students and if I am given the opportunity to serve, I will represent and help the 3A schools to the best of my ability. Thank you for your consideration."

Paul Nájera is the band director at Carthage High School in region 21. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Nájera was raised in a family of nine. He attended Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, where he earned a Bachelor of Music Education Degree with All-Levels Certification. Mr. Nájera was blessed with the opportunity to student teach in the Hardin-Jefferson School District, under the direction of Miss.

(Continued on Page 11)

(Nominees, continued from Page 10):



Diane Baker and Mr. Ross Boothman. Miss. Baker's realistic approaches to teaching, as well as her professional relationship with her students were especially influential to Mr. Nájera and his goals. Both in college and still currently, Mr. Waymon Bullock continues to be an invaluable source of support and "mentorship" to Mr. Nájera.

Mr. Nájera's bands have consistently earned First Division ratings and Sweepstakes Awards at UIL Marching and Concert/Sightreading Contests. His students have also been competitive in TMEA & ATSSB tryouts on the Region, Area, and All-State levels. Along with these events, Mr. Nájera's students have also been successful at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest throughout the years. Over the years, his bands have traveled, performed, and competed in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, Orlando, Florida, The Bahamas, Nassau, New York City, and Cozumel, Mexico. Mr. Nájera has been selected twice for the National "Who's Who Among American Teachers" publication. He is currently in his sixth year as Vice-President for Region 21 and also serves on the State Board for the Texas Music Educators Association. He serves as President for the National Association of Military Marching Bands. One of Mr. Nájera's proudest professional moments was when he was honored in February of 2006 and was inducted into Phi Beta Mu, an International Honorary Bandmasters Fraternity.

Mr. Nájera's professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA), Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB), National Association of Military Marching Bands (NAMMB), Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), and Phi Beta Mu (International Honorary Bandmasters Fraternity).

Mr. Nájera has taught in the Kirbyville, Longview, Lufkin, and Carthage School Districts. He has been happily married for sixteen years to his beautiful wife Johjania, Principal at Carthage Primary. They have two sons, Adiel, 10, and Johniel, 5. They are members of St. Williams Catholic Church in Carthage. As a family with a busy schedule, they enjoy spending time together and traveling in search of new adventures.

John Young

is the band director at Wills Point High School and is the Music Supervisor for Wills Point in region 3. He received his Instrumental Music Education Degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR and his Masters of Education Administration from Texas A&M @ Commerce. John is currently in his 11th year at Wills Point.



The Wills Point band has represented itself well within in the state of Texas with 7 consecutive UIL Sweepstakes awards and placing in the UIL State Marching Contest 5th place in 2005 and 2nd place in 2007. The band program in Wills Point currently has grown to nearly 175 in high school and almost 400 in the junior high. John and his staff of band directors are committed to music excellence in Wills Point and the state of Texas.

John and his wife Tracy have two daughters, Emily and Claire. He is a member of ATSSB, TMEA, TBA and TMAA. John also serves his community by being a member of Kiwanis and teaching Junior High Sunday school at First Baptist Church of Wills Point.

"I am honored to have been nominated to serve a second term at the ATSSB AAA representative. I have enjoyed my past term and interacting with the board of directors. I especially have enjoyed meeting the many directors from our very large state. I think that this term will be a very important term. The movement of our all-state bands to the convention center will be one that will be positive and need direction from the board. The input of all members will be appreciated and required for success in the upcoming years. If elected, I will do my very best to serve our organization to the best of my ability. I will look forward to giving back to ATSSB as much as it has given me over the past years. We are a student-centered organization and one that continues to strive for improvement in all areas of service to our music community. I would be honored to have your support for the office of AAA Representative."

All-State Jazz Coordinator Column



We have selected another ATSSB State Jazz Band, and it just seems to keep getting better and better! Our overall entries were up by more than 10% for the second year in a row, and we are looking to have another high-quality All-State Jazz Band this year! I would like to put in a very special word of “THANK YOU” to all of the judges who worked to pick the best high school jazz musicians in the state. The audition listening sessions were all more than six hours in length, and some of the students were more prepared than others (if you get my drift)! The service to the state that the judges provided is very much noted and appreciated.

I would like to especially thank Bob McClure of Princeton, who worked many extra hours to make the audition process run smoothly. Bob helped with everything from providing lunch for the judges to helping to organize hundreds of forms to inputting the results in the computer. I would also like to thank Brandon Brewer of Princeton for graciously allowing us to use his facilities for the adjudication process.

If you see any of these individuals, please show them your appreciation. The judges for the 2008 ATSSB All-State Jazz Band were:

Monte Ashcraft, Mike Bartley, Charlie Bradberry, Paul Bramlett, Chris Burk, Brian Donnell, Michael Farmer, Todd Felty, Howard Galletly, Sean Hill, Richard Holbrook, Jonathan Kelly, Denise Kennedy, Mike Marsh, Doug Morris, Ken Muckelroy, Greg Perkins, Elmer Schenk, Tim Schodowski, Derek Sneed, and Jerry Whorton.

We are constantly searching for ways to improve the entire ATSSB All-State Jazz procedure. Please email me at atssbjazz@yahoo.com if you have any suggestions for how to make improvements! I already have some points that I hope will be discussed at TMEA this year, and we are always looking to get better!

Happy Holidays! Good luck as you move into concert season!

Ellis Kilgore
ATSSB State Jazz Coordinator

2008 ATSSB All-State Band Rehearsals

The Symphonic Band will rehearse in the Menger Ballroom at all times. The Concert Band will rehearse in the Menger Patio Room on Thursday and Friday, then the Menger Ballroom on Saturday. The Jazz Ensemble will rehearse in the Hyatt Regency Rio Grande Ballroom Thursday and Friday, then the Convention Center Ballroom A on Saturday if needed for a microphone check.

WEDNESDAY, February 13, 2008:

4:30 p.m. All-State Band members may attend a presentation by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser in CC Ballroom A

6:00-6:30 p.m.: The West Texas Jazz Orchestra will perform for ATSSB All-State students in the Menger Ballroom from

	SYMPHONIC BAND	CONCERT BAND	JAZZ ENSEMBLE
All-State Student Meeting	6:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	
Music Reading Session			7:00-8:30 p.m.
Chair Auditions for Bands	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	

THURSDAY, February 14, 2008:

Organizational Rehearsal	8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	8:15 a.m.
Break	9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.
Rehearsal	9:45 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	11:45 a.m.

ATSSB GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING at 12:30 p.m., CC Ballroom C1

Rehearsal	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	2:45 p.m.
Break	4:15 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Rehearsal	4:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	4:45 p.m.
Supper 6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	6:15 p.m.	

FRIDAY, February 15, 2008:

Rehearsal	8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	8:15 a.m.
Break	9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.
Rehearsal	9:45 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 a.m.	12:00 noon	11:45 a.m.
Rehearsal	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	2:45 p.m.
Break	4:15 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Rehearsal	4:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	4:45 p.m.
Supper	6:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.

Concert Band will vacate the Patio Room; Jazz Ensemble will vacate Rio Grande Ballroom

SATURDAY, February 16, 2008:

Rehearsal	10:30 a.m.*	8:15 a.m.*	7:30 a.m.**
Break and dress for concert	12:15 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	8:15 a.m.
Rehearsal			10:00 a.m.**
Concert	3:15 p.m.**	3:15 p.m.**	11:00 a.m.
	*in Menger Ballroom	**in CC Ballroom A	

This schedule is subject to revision. Check the website for an updates: <http://www.atssb.org/2008Rehearsals>.

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ATSSB at TMEA

Wednesday, February 13, 2008:

- *Checkin at Emily Morgan Hotel (all students must get badges at the Emily Morgan Hotel) beginning at 1:30 p.m. (or whenever rooms are cleaned and ready for occupancy) in the Lower Level Lobby.
- *All-State students are invited to a presentation by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser to all TMEA and ATSSB All-State students at 4:30 p.m. in the Convention Center Ballroom A
- *West Texas Jazz Orchestra performs for assembling ATSSB All-State students 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the Menger Ballroom
- *All-State student meeting 6:30 PM at Menger Ballroom (Jazz Ensemble students excused to prepare for music reading session to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Hyatt Rio Grande Ballroom)

Thursday, February 14, 2008:

- *ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:30 AM in the Menger Renaissance Room
- *ATSSB General Session and officer elections 12:30 PM - Convention Center CC1

Saturday, February 16, 2008:

- *ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble Concert at 11:00 AM in the Convention Center Ballroom A (open to the public with no admission charge)
- *ATSSB Concert and Symphonic Bands Concert at 3:30 PM in the Convention Center Ballroom A (open to the public with no admission charge)