

ATSSB NEWSLETTER



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ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
Beginning our 22nd year of service to small school bands in Texas

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President's Column

by Brandon Brewer



What a wild time of year! All the Spring concerts, guard tryouts, region meetings, TSSEC, jazz concerts, rehearsing for graduation, performing at graduation, instrument check-in, instrument check-out, uniform check-in, guard uniform sizing, and band banquets. Let's not forget the 5th grader recruiting, beginning band testing, MS band auditions, finalizing next year's show music, ordering guard equipment, nailing down who will be in the HS band next year so that you can prepare next year's drill...

whew! I'm getting tired just typing this! All these things make May the craziest month of the school year. Trying to finish one year, while starting another can be MADDENING!

It's been three days since school ended and I've been at school for at least part of every one of them. When things start to slow down (hopefully tomorrow), I'm looking forward to spending some time with my wife and kids...going swimming, watching movies, playing video games, and going to Disney. The kids are headed to Grandma and Grandpa's house in a few weeks so the wife and I can get some rest. Whether it's a big family vacation to Jamaica or a small "stay-cation" at home, be sure you take some time this Summer to do something YOU want to do. Relax and recharge the battery while you can because before you know it you'll be covered from head to toe in sunscreen, talking through a Long Ranger, and praying the freshman were taught which foot is their left!

I hope that you have made plans to attend TBA. They always have a great line-up of exhibits, clinics, and concerts. Remember that TBA starts on Friday, July 20 and runs till Monday, July 23. I am so happy about this change because when I return home there will still be over a week before I start band rehearsal (I can always use a little "recovery time" after TBA).

(Continued on Page 2)

(Brewer, continued from Page 1):

Prior to TBA, our region coordinators will meet in San Antonio to prepare for next year. They will receive updates and additional training on the audition process. If you have suggestions for the 1A/2A All State Band Committee please contact President-Elect, John Young. His committee will be meeting just before TBA.

Good Luck to all of you involved with the OPS process this Summer. Be sure that you are following all the guidelines listed on the website. Also, be sure that you are prepared with one of the two clarinet books used for HS Bb Clarinet auditions this year. The ATSSB website has all the information you need.

Well, it's late and I'm trying to switch over to Summer-mode (a lot less working and a lot more late night TV watching). I hope Russ Rutherford at Celina is reading this, because this is about the time of year he calls to invite me on a fishing trip. Russ...I'm available, just let me know what time to be there and lunch is on me!

Have a great Summer!



President-Elect Column

by John Young

Congratulations on finishing another year. Another year added to your TRS (Texas Retirement System). This may have been year one or year forty-one. I want to urge all of you to take the time to evaluate the past year. This past year may have been one that exceeded all expectations in all areas or it may have provided you with struggles administratively, poor communication with parents, performances not up to your expectations, etc.... This is the time to take a step back and evaluate. Look at what you did well and what you can improve on. Evaluation of the past year should be an important part of your year-end duties. Yes you take time to check inventory, recruit for the upcoming year, clean up the band but do you take time to evaluate your year. I do not think that we can improve without being honest and look back at your good and bad decisions. We all make them and we need to try to limit the bad ones to improve our programs. We as educators want the experience for our students to be the very best so that they will return, improve and strive to be better each year in the program. How can they be better if we do not realize that we could be better and make those changes ourselves?



This summer will be a very busy one for some very dedicated members of ATBBS. The ATSSB Board has charged a committee that I am chairing to come up with a workable audition process for the "to be" formed A/AA ATSSB All-State Band. I am excited about this project and look forward to meeting with the committee over the summer and at our scheduled meeting at TBA in July. The members of the committee are your elected Class A, AA, AAA board members and additional chosen band directors from the state. They are: Brandon Brewer, Carroll Rhodes, Mel Hadderton, Mike Bartley, Steven Moss, Stephen Krupicka, Mike Devenport and Rob Toups. I am excited about the committee and their commitment to ATSSB and putting our students first in deciding this process. Please email me at john.young@wpisd.com if you have any input that you think is pertinent in these decisions. We have been asked to present a plan to the ATSSB State Board at TMEA in 2013.

I hope that you will have a restful June and July for August fast approaches.



Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin

Your membership expires on September 1. Please take a minute to look over your data as posted in the Directory online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Directory.12.htm>. Make a note of any corrections - especially if a category is blank - and fill out the application in this Newsletter with the changes (you need only list name and school and any changes - we already have the other posted data in the database) and put it aside for payment when your school budget year begins - or go ahead and send in the check now while you are thinking about it. Dues remain \$35, but remember that after October 1, the dues increase to \$60 unless you are joining as an Associate Member or College Division Member (everything is the same, you just cannot run for office, vote, or enter students in any ATSSB competition). Retirees who retire as an Active Member retain their Active Membership but dues are reduced to \$10 per year. Those of you who have already paid your dues for next year are listed as follows: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/Directory.13.htm>. If I missed one, just check for information changes and email them to me. A cover page showing your ATSSB and TMEA membership card must be sent with the initial entry forms for the first audition entered (ATSSB or TMEA). Don't forget that if you enter students in the Jazz Ensemble competitions that audition deadlines are EARLY, so get your ATSSB and TMEA dues taken care of as soon as possible. I email a copy of your card as soon as I receive payment of dues, so be sure we have an accurate email address for you and that your school does not block mail from this office (attachments trigger spamguards, so make sure we are allowed).



In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class C/CC and Class AA Representative to the State Board of Directors in addition to a President-Elect. The election will be held at the General Session February 14, 2013. After nominees have accepted their nominations, their pictures and biographies (if submitted) will appear in the online December Newsletter, so keep an eye out for that issue. Please get involved in the district, region, and area activities of ATSSB - and seek state office if you would like to serve at that level. It is a lot of work, requires a lot of time and effort, and entails constant contact with fellow officers, but the end results are very worthwhile (and obviously beneficial to our students and ATSSB in general).

The Prescribed Audition List Update (Use Year B) is now available online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearBUpdate.13.pdf>. We no longer mail a copy of the Update to all high school band directors and members with the September Newsletter. The September Newsletter will be mailed, but only to include a free copy of the 2012 OPS winners CD as a reference tool for our directors. All Newsletters are now available online as a pdf file. If you have lost or misplaced your PAL, you will have to download the page(s) you need from the Website.

This coming year, Dr. Peter Boonschaft (Hofstra University in New York) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Dr. Ronald McCurdy (University of Southern California), will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Larry Gookin (Central Washington University) will be the Concert Band clinician. The Concert Band will premier a Festival March by William Owens commissioned by ATSSB.

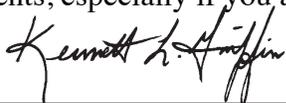
(Continued on Page 4)

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Patio Room of the Menger Hotel on Saturday, July 21. Your board includes all elected state officers, all Region Coordinators, all Founding Charter Members, Past-Presidents, and invited guests. If you would like to have input on matters relating to ATSSB State Board of Director activities, I would suggest calling or writing your Region Coordinator (or any state officer) and telling them of your concerns so they can advise the full Board.

We will have our ATSSB General Session at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 21 in the Convention Center (CC213). Please make plans to attend if you will be at TBA. This will be an informational meeting at which issues impacting ATSSB will be discussed.

I hope to be able to visit with a lot of you at TBA at the ATSSB table in the Registration Area. Please note the times the ATSSB table will be open for you to stop by. Good luck as you begin another year with your students, especially if you are at a new school (be sure to let us know your new address).



Past President Column Column

By Robert Vetter

WOW! What a CRAZY time of year! Concerts, festivals, auxiliary tryouts, placement auditions, state solo and ensemble, percussion concerts, jazz band concerts and finding time for family. It is just that time of year!

I sincerely hope you had a great year. When things start to slow down, take time to get away from the band hall and rest. Make plans for the family and try to take a trip where you don't have a large group (the band) with you. Reflect on what needs to be "fixed" for next year, but get away and rest!

Please make plans to attend TBA. They already have a great line-up of clinics, concerts and exhibits. DCI will be back so come enjoy the show and get some fresh ideas. The leadership of TBA are especially sensitive to ATSSB concerns and allow us to sponsor clinics each year. Try to make TBA part of your summer plans.

Prior to TBA, our Region Coordinators will meet in San Antonio to prepare for the coming year. We will receive updates and additional training on the audition process as well as coordinator duties. If you have concerns or suggestions, let your coordinator know. John Young, President Elect, and his committee are diligently working on finding a way to implement the 1A, 2A Band. Good luck to all who enter OPS and I wish all a safe, restful summer!



The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Articles may be submitted for consideration to the Editor by mail to 2117 Morse Street; Houston, Texas 77019, or by email to atssb@att.net. Be sure to visit the ATSSB Website at <http://www.atssb.org>.

State Jazz Coordinator Column

By Brian Donnell

Year B is the correct set for 2012-13 and is available for purchase at www.matteimusicsservices.com. Remember that we've added vibraphone to the drum set audition. Drummers will play vibes on "The Last Set" using the C lead sheet instead of playing brushes on drums. There's no need to purchase a new set since they will use the existing C lead sheet. A demo of a vibe solo will be added to the web page soon.



I would encourage everyone to participate in the audition process if you're an active ATSSB member. The charts are scored for groups to practice together, and the audition CD helps the students learn their music. This is perfect for schools that might now have a jazz program at their school. Contact your region chair to see when your region jazz auditions are being held!

Have a restful summer! Let me know if I can help in any way. Brian Donnell donnellb@greenhill.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Donnell".

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Thursday, July 19

2:00 pm-6:00 pm Region/Area Coordinator Training Session - Menger Hotel
1:00 pm-9:00 pm 1A/2A All-State Band Implementation Committee Meeting - Menger Hotel

Friday, July 20

10:00 am.-6:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area
1:00-5:00 pm **ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series**
Class C followed by Class AA - CC005
Class CC followed by Class A - CC004
Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting & Clinician/Commission Committee meeting- CC008
ATSSB Office - CC1067

Saturday, July 21

7:30-9:30 am State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Patio Room
9:30 am-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area (closed for General Session at 1:30)
1:30 pm **ATSSB General Session** - CC206

Sunday, July 22

7:30 am-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area (closed for TBA Luncheon)
9:00-11:00 am ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinics (percussion, flute, clarinet, bassoon) - CC008
1:00-3:00 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinics (saxophone, trumpet, horn, low clarinet)- CC008
2:00-3:00 pm TBA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - Marriott Riverwalk Salon C (OPS State Chair Don Thoede is one of the inductees)

Outstanding Performance Series

by Don Thoede, OPS State Chair



Here it is already time for the June Newsletter article. I can't believe that it has already been a year since I wrote the last June article. Where does the time go? I hope your school year was successful, and I wish you the best in this year's OPS competition.

We recently have had a few problems, and I want to mention this to those of you who enter the OPS competition. We have set deadlines for a reason, and all Region Coordinators know they have the right not to accept any entries that were mailed after the deadline. As a matter of fact, I encourage it. I have been a band director and involved in the public school business for 45 years, and I can come up with many reasons for missing a mailing deadline. I know how some business offices can take forever to cut a check, and how some Principals misplace a document that must be signed by a certain date, etc. As harsh as this may sound, that makes no difference. If the mailing deadline is missed, your entries will not be heard at the adjudication. The integrity of the Outstanding Performance Series must be maintained, and when we start bending or breaking rules for the convenience of our membership, then the integrity will be lost. I as the State Chair will not allow that to happen. In no way do I want a school to be disqualified, but rules are made for a reason, and we will continue to operate by the rules and guidelines set by this organization. Please try to understand and respect that.

I want to remind all Region and Area Coordinators that you have taken an oath that you will not leave your position until someone has officially taken your place. If you change schools, move to another city or state, retire, etc., that is fine, but please be sure that another individual has officially accepted that position. The Outstanding Performance Series cannot function properly if even one Region or Area Coordinator does not fulfill his/her duties. Surely you can see the major problem we could have if only one Region did not have a Region Coordinator to receive, collect, and adjudicate its CDs.

Region Coordinators must mail the advancing CDs to their Area Coordinators on or before June 10th. Area Coordinators must mail their advancing CDs to the State Chair on or before (preferably before) June 24th. As in the past, I will not have to sign for them so no signature will be required.

As soon as I receive all of the CDs from the five Area Coordinators, I will begin calling judges. If you judged at the State Adjudication last year, I most likely will not call you to judge again this year. I appreciate your willingness to judge. Without judges, none of this would be possible. Just so you know, I deliberately try to get as much experience on all of the state panels as possible. I mean no disrespect to our young band directors, but at the state adjudication, experience is very important.

All judges will receive an honorarium of \$75.00. I know it is not much for what you do, but it is the best we can do at this time. Also, all judges at the state level will have to attend a meeting with me at noon on Friday, July 20th, in the convention center. The adjudication sessions will begin at 1:00 pm starting with the Class C, CC, and AAA bands. The Class A and AA bands will be adjudicated at 3:00 pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

This is our 16th year of the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series! I hope you all have a great summer, and I will see you at TBA.

Don Thoede

ATSSB All-State Housing

by Frank Coachman, TMEA Deputy Director

TMEA is proud to host the online housing system for the directors and members of the TMEA/ATSSB All-State Bands for 2013. All ATSSB All-State members and their designated chaperons will be assigned to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The three ATSSB All-State organizations will rehearse in the Hyatt Regency. The Symphonic Band will use Regency East Ballroom, the Concert Band the Regency West, and the Jazz Ensemble the Rio Grande Ballroom.

The housing system will open the Monday after Area auditions in January. It will be imperative that all five ATSSB Area hosts send their respective FileMaker Pro tabulation results file to TMEA via email on the Saturday evening of the area audition date.

The process for registering students and chaperons for ATSSB All-State housing is:

Room Planning — Complete Jan. 14!

1. Once All-State students are selected at Area auditions, use the worksheets provided by the Area Chair/Host and work with other directors to plan rooms with four students before leaving the audition site. (on Jan. 12!)
2. Decide which director will be responsible for entering these rooms on Jan 14-15, who the designated chaperon will be for each student and take the worksheet(s) home to complete the entries.
3. Log in Jan. 14 to enter these students into rooms and provide credit card billing information.

The housing system will allow you to select students assigned to you, or, from your campus, your district, Region, or Area. To select students other than yours, obtain agreement from their directors (their contact information will be listed with their students in the housing system).

Online Entry: Jan. 14-15, 2013 ONLY. The system will close at 4 pm on January 15th.

1. Log In

Go to www.tmea.org, use the All-State Housing link and log in with your TMEA Member ID and Password

2. Enter Billing Information/The hotel choice is set to Hyatt Regency

(Continued on Page 7)

(Coachman, continued from Page 6):

Enter your credit card information for your student and chaperon rooms.

You must provide a credit card to secure the reservation. The final bill does not have to be paid with this card.

Click **Save Information**.

*If another director entered your students, you will need to make your own chaperon reservation and the chaperon name **MUST** match that of your students' chaperon designation.*

3. Verify Your Students

Click **My Student List** from the Navigation Links and verify that your All-State students are listed. *If they are not, contact TMEA, (888) 318-8632, x109 or x102*

4. Create Rooms

Click **My Room List** from the Navigation Links

Select gender for the room and click **GO**.

Your student list will display. Select students for the room and enter the chaperon's member ID or 0 for a non-member.

Click **Create Room**.

*For more students, click the drop-down to display students from your campus, district, region or Area. Click **GO**. To select someone who is not your student, to gain agreement.*

5. Create Your Chaperon Room

Go to the **Create a Room** section. Select Chaperon. Click **GO**. Enter your Member ID. You can enter other IDs or other non-TMEA member names for this chaperon room. Click **Create Room**.

If another director entered your students, and you aren't sharing a chaperon room they create, create your own chaperon room. A room will not be assigned for you. Your hotel choices and order must match your students'.

6. Print Your Room List

Go to **My Room List** and use your browser Print to print this page for your records. You will be notified via email by Jan. 28 of room assignments and confirmations.

Log Out of My TMEA

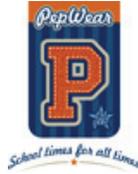
Should you need assistance during this process contact TMEA (Frank Coachman or Andrew Denman) at 888-318-8632 and use extension 400.

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ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS Membership Application

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.
If renewing, only enter name and school and ANY CHANGED DATA (all the rest is already in the database).

NAME _____ SS# _____ - _____ - _____
SCHOOL _____ CLASS _____ REGION # _____
TITLE _____ SCHOOL PHONE () _____ Best time to call _____
Are you the only band director for both high school and junior high in your district? _____ If there are others in your district, please list their names: _____ Are you new to this region? _____
SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ FAX # () _____
CITY & ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____
HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____
CITY & ZIP CODE (if different from school) _____ CELL # () _____
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) _____

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$35* for dues to:
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary
2117 Morse Street
Houston, Texas 77019

Are you a judge listed with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association? If so, please circle your area of certification:
CB MB O (add * if supplemental)

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

Dues may not be deductible, but any amount over \$35 is considered a fully-deductible contribution.

***NOTE:** The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$60 (the additional \$25 is deposited into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund). A membership card and receipt will be returned to you. Retiree and College Division dues are \$10 all year. Associate Member dues are \$35 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$35. To enter students into competition leading to membership in an ATSSB All-State Band, you must be a current Active Member of the Texas Music Educators Association in addition to being a current Regular Member of ATSSB. Only ATSSB Regular Members of may vote or hold office in ATSSB and submit entries in the Outstanding Performance Series. ATSSB membership is held on an individual basis and is nontransferable.

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