

ATSSB NEWSLETTER



Volume XXIII, No. 1, June 2013

Published online June 7, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

Beginning our 23rd year of service to small school bands in Texas

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President's Column

by John Young



It is just amazing that the years seem to go by so quickly. We have all taken care of our end of the year recruitment, concerts and many of us have taken kids to State Solo and Ensemble Contest. I love the TSSEC for the fact that it is the last event on the very busy May band calendar. Some of you still have a week left in school and June camps. I personally have a daughter getting married in June and the other going to college in August so our house is on an emotional rollercoaster as you can imagine.

When things start to slow down, take time to get away from the band hall and rest. Make time for your family, friends and yourself. Reflect on what needs to be "fixed" for next year, but get away and rest! I love reflection time it usually happens on the golf course for me, so please find some time to "charge up" for I am sorry to say that very soon you will be at it again. Shaping and molding young minds, assigning inventory, ordering shoes, gloves etc.....

Make plans to attend TBA. They have a great line-up of clinics, concerts and exhibits. The leadership of TBA is especially sensitive to ATSSB concerns and allows us to sponsor clinics as we can. Try to make TBA a part of your summer plans.

A special "Thanks" goes out to all who helped make this year a success. ATSSB is strong because of the great members we have. It is very encouraging to call on a colleague and hear them say "yes" to whatever we need. We have tremendous support from all across the state!

Hope you have a great summer.

Sincerely,

President-Elect Column

by Jim Cude

Whoa! I can't believe it is June 1st already. This year has flown by. It seems like it was only yesterday we were experiencing another first day of school. Today we enjoyed our end-of-school employee breakfast; we listened as our Superintendent reflected on the successes and the areas for improvement as this current school year has ended. As he spoke to us this morning, he impressed on me two very important aspects of this or any profession: He spoke to us about the need for reflection and relaxation.



Reflection is very important in order to improve on both the things we did well and the things we need to improve on for the coming years. I appreciate the candor with which my superintendent shared his thoughts on our district. This is important to each of us as we close the year and begin planning for a new year. We must look at the policies we enforced, the music we performed and even the way we interacted with students. I feel as educators we should always strive to be life-long learners and this evaluation is part of this process.

He also asked us to take some time this summer to relax and recharge before we return this fall. I believe as important as reflection and planning is, we need to find some time to relax. I encourage you to find time to focus on something other than work this summer. For me it is working in my yard. For you it may be something else.

Thanks to our SARC for taking time to make the necessary revisions to the Prescribed Audition List. Please take time to take a look at the revised PAL prior to auditions this fall.

Enjoy your time off and I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio at TBA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Cude', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



BULLETIN This just in: Next year 3A Team Tennis will be played during the Fall season. Since 3A Team Tennis is not officially UIL until 2014-15, they have interpreted the format to count as 3 tournaments for the entire process of District, Area, Region, and State. So UIL Marching Contests will take precedence over Team Tennis activities which will conflict with marching contests - region and area but the following year, both will be UIL activities, so students will have some choices to

(Continued on Page 3)

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

make come marching contest time. Just FYI.

Your membership expires on September 1. Please take a minute to look over your data as posted in the Directory online: <http://www.atsATSSB>. and click on the DIRECTORY 2013-14 link in the left sidebar. If your STATUS is CURRENT, you are paid for 2013-14. 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. 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 A and Class AAA Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session February 13, 2014. 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 C) is now available online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearCUpdate.14.pdf>. We do not mail a copy of the Update to all high school band directors and members with the September Newsletter (the ATSSB Website is the official document of ATSSB). The September Newsletter will be mailed, but only to include a free copy of the 2013 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. Robert W. Rumbelow (University of Illinois) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Charles Owen (University of South Florida), will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Dr. Timothy Rhea (Texas A&M University) will be the Concert Band clinician. The Concert Band will premier the winner of the 2014

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(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

ATSSB Composition Competition to be announced at TBA. This is also the premier of the newly realigned ATSSB All-State Concert Band as Class A and AA (with the exception of color instruments). The Symphonic Band is open to all ATSSB students who are in Class 3A or who select the 3A Track in their first audition at the region level (ATSSB or TMEA). All 1A and 2A students are automatically entered into the 2A (Concert Band) Track unless they submit a 3A Track (or 4A or 5A Track) Selection prior to their first region audition. Color instruments are considered Open Track, so auditions on those instruments remain unchanged. Chair auditions at State will be normal for color instruments with the top chairs going into the Symphonic Band and the others to the Concert Band, so there could be some Class 3A students in the Concert Band on color instruments. There will be separate 2A Track and 3A Track chair auditions at State simply to assign chairs.

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Patio Room of the Menger Hotel on Tuesday, July 23. 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 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23 in the Convention Center (CC210). 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).



Future ATSSB All-State Band Clinicians and Composers

Feb. 12-15, 2014 Dr. Robert W. Rumbelow (University of Illinois) - SYMPHONIC BAND
Dr. Timothy Rhea (Texas A&M University) - CONCERT BAND
Chuck Owen (University of South Florida) - JAZZ ENSEMBLE

If you have suggestions for future clinicians or composers, contact Daniel Todd, Chair of the Clinician/Commission Selection Committee. His school phone is 432-558-1036 and his email address is: dtodd@craneisd.com

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 C is the correct set for 2013-14 and is available for purchase at www.matteimusicsservices.com. The jazz webpage is up to date, so check there for more details:

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 not have a jazz program at their school as yet. 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

Saturday, July 20

1:00 pm-5:00 pm Region/Area Coordinator Training Session - CC208

Sunday, July 21

10:00 am.-6:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area

8:00 am-noon **ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series**

Class C followed by Class AA - CC004

Class CC followed by Class A - CC005

Class AAA followed by SARC Meeting & Clinician/Commission Committee meeting- CC212

ATSSB Office - CC1067

9:30 am ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (percussion) - CC103A

9:30 am ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (horn) - CC101

10:00 am ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (tuba) - CC101

1:00 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (bass clarinet) - CC101

1:00 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (clarinet) - CC103B

1:30 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (trumpet) - CC103B

1:30 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (trombone) - CC101

2:00 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (flute) - CC103A

2:00 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (oboe/saxophone) - CC102

2:30 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinic (bassoon) - CC101

Monday, July 22

7:30 am-5:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area

Tuesday, July 23

7:30-9:30 am State Board of Directors meeting - Menger Patio Room

9:30 am-4:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area (closed for TBA Luncheon)

4:30 pm **ATSSB General Session** - CC210

Outstanding Performance Series

by Don Thoede, OPS State Chair



The first step of the 2013 Outstanding Performance Series has just been completed, and advancing CDs will soon be on the way to the Area Coordinators. Congratulations are in order for those schools that have advanced. Good luck at the Area level and State levels.

For those of you who wish to attend the OPS State adjudication sessions at TBA, please note that the times and room assignments have changed from last year. This year we will begin with a judges meeting at 8:00 am in room CC212. The adjudication sessions will begin in all rooms at 8:30 am.

The Class C and Class AA bands will be heard in room CC004.

The Class CC and Class A bands will be heard in room CC005, and the Class AAA bands will be heard in room CC212. The SARC Committee meeting will immediately follow the AAA band adjudication session in room CC212. The OPS office will be in room CC1067. All of you are strongly encouraged to attend those sessions. Programs will be provided. You will hear some very fine band performances of our UIL literature. I hope to see you there.

I want to caution you about how you reproduce the copies of the CDs that you send to your Region Coordinators. I suggest that you have them professionally reproduced with the hopes that they will play in almost all playback systems. If you reproduce them on your computer, the chances of them not playing on other playback systems are greatly increased. If a Region Coordinator cannot get them to play at the adjudication session, and this does happen, your band will not be allowed to compete. Please keep this in mind for next year. Our Region Coordinators do everything they can to get all CDs to play on their playback systems, but it is not their fault if the CDs won't play. When a Region Coordinator calls me and tells me that all efforts have failed to get the CDs to play, I have no choice but to disqualify that school. There is no other choice. We use three professional playback systems at the State adjudication and keep one extra for a backup. In years past, I have had to take CDs from several of the schools to all three playback systems before I could get the CD to play. Fortunately, it played on the third system. Please do everything you can to make sure that your CDs will play in most systems before they are mailed to your Region Coordinator.

I will be calling directors soon to ask them to judge at the State adjudication at TBA. I try to get experienced directors on those panels. We always use five panels with one monitor for each panel. We do pay our judges, at all levels, a \$75.00 honorarium. I hope you all have a wonderful summer, and I hope to see you at TBA!

Don Thoede

ATSSB Composition Competition

by Bob McClure, Composition Competition Coordinator



The 2014 ATSSB Composition Competition is in full swing, and as I write this article, the deadline is just hours away. This cycle has seen entries from all over Texas, as well as Florida, Virginia, California, and Oklahoma. I fully expect to receive a few more, as composers take advantage of submitting all materials electronically. The final judging will take place at TBA, and will see a panel of composers who are respected in their craft, as well as directors from ATSSB who are very respected as well. We will announce the winner, as well as any honorable mentions, at the ATSSB General Session this July, during the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention. I am very excited to see the level of literature that is being submitted for this year's contest. It is an honor to seek out, and be able to promote literature for small school bands that is both fun to listen to, as well as educationally viable for our students. I look forward to seeing all of you at the General Session in July!

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 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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