

ATSSB NEWSLETTER



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Beginning our 26th year of service to small school bands in Texas
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President's Column

by Jim Cude



At my school we are spending this week putting the wrap on another school year. I know many of you have already begun your summer break. One of the things on our “to do lists” as music educators is assess what we did well and what we need to do a little better. As you reflect I encourage you to think about the things you need to change but also take time to reflect on your students and the differences you've made in their lives. At times I

believe it is difficult to see student lives that you've impacted with the other pressing items on your plate.

We have the unique privilege to work with the greatest students in our schools. If you don't believe me check with your principal and see how many of your band students have been involved in discipline referrals. I believe our kids are great because we teach them so much beyond notes and rhythms. They learn how to interact with each other socially and how to work together for a common goal. We teach skills they cannot learn in other classes.

As for me I am thankful for great students, amazing colleagues and supportive parents. It has been a great school year, but I look forward to what the next year holds for me professionally. We have a saying in our band that we use often - it is “Don't Stop till its Perfect”. Of course if is never perfect which is why we keep striving for that goal everyday. I love the process because it causes you to strive for perfection everyday.

Have a great summer and I hope you will find time to recharge and come back for the next year with a new energy and passion for the greatest job.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Cude". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President-Elect's Column

by Mike Bartley

As another year draws to an end, it is always hard to believe how much there is to do in May. It seems like everything that needs to be done comes at us at one time. We are all frantically finishing this year's events while trying to plan for next year at the same time. It feels as if we are chasing our tails sometimes! In the midst of all of this chaos, we need to take time to enjoy all of the accomplishments our programs and students have attained during the past school year. Hopefully all of us can say our programs grew stronger, our students became better, and the compliments received were greater.



I know I try to find at least one new idea each year to introduce to the students and the program in order to progress. With summer upon us, hopefully all of us can take some time to ponder something different to introduce to our students when we meet again in August. I think the students enjoy new ideas, and these ideas help to keep things fresh in our programs.

I also hope that we can all find some time to relax with our families and friends over the summer break. We all need a little time to rejuvenate and recharge before summer band hits. Have a great summer and I hope to see everyone at TBA!

Mike Bartley

State Jazz Coordinator Column

by Brian Donnell



Contact Buddy Mattai for the current region/state jazz audition music. Region chairs will be given an updated audition CD to be used at the area recordings.

Coming to TBA? If so, get an early start on Saturday and don't miss the ATSSB-sponsored clinic at 8:00 AM in room CC 212. Titled, "Small Town Swing – Starting and Maintaining a Jazz Program in a Small School", Michael Childs (Stephenville) will offer tips, resources, benefits and strategies for a jazz program in our schools.

Master class opportunities for you and your students. Williamson Music is hosting a jazz education series beginning on June 11 that feature Stockton Helbing and other notable jazz educators. Contact Ray Gore at Ray.Gore@wm1st.com if you're interested in participating in these online (and FREE) streaming sessions!

Have a great summer! Contact me with questions or concerns. donnellb@greenhill.org

Brian Donnell

Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



Your membership expires on July 31 this year, so if you plan to enter students into jazz auditions which are always early, be sure to join for 2016-17 as soon as you can to avoid errors while entering students. Check the Directory in the left sidebar of the website to see if you are a member for 2016-17. You must have a 2016-17 ATSSB ID to see the Directory (TMEA will not allow you to view the Directory unless you are an ATSSB member for 2016-17). If you are not yet a member for next year, fill out the application online:

([http://www.123contactform.com/form-661949/Contact-](http://www.123contactform.com/form-661949/Contact-Form)

Form) with the changes (you need only list name and school and any changes - we already have the other posted data in the database) and then send payment when your school budget year begins - or go ahead and send in the check or school Purchase Order now while you are thinking about it. Dues for Active Members are \$50, but remember that after October 1, the dues increase to \$75 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 \$25 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).

Don't forget, a lot of schools are now in new regions due to the realignment, so check this link to see the region to which your ISD is assigned (ATSSB has organized the 33 UIL regions into 22 ATSSB regions): <http://align.tmea.org/index.php>. See the following link to see how ATSSB is organized into 22 regions and five areas: http://www.atssb.org/execsec/ATSSB_Area_Alignment_2016-18.pdf.

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class 1C/2C Representative and a Class 3A Representative to the State Board of Directors along with a President-Elect. The election will be held at the General Session tentatively

(Continued on Page 4)

(Griffin, continued from Page 3):

scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 202 of the Convention Center. 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 A) is now available online: <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/YearAUpdate.17.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 2016 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, Joseph P. Missal (Oklahoma State University) will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. The Symphonic Band will play a piece commissioned by ATSSB from Johnnie Vinson. Ellen Rowe (University of Michigan) will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Jeff Gershman (Capitol University, Columbus, Ohio) will be the Concert Band clinician.

Jennifer Siler of the Kinkaid School has secured instructors for 30-minute clinics regarding the ATSSB audition etudes at TBA. These clinics will be given on Friday, July 22:

CC Room 210

9:00 a.m. Percussion - Clinician: John Rice, Professional Musician

9:30 a.m. Flute - Clinician: Kathy Daniel, Sam Houston State University

10:00 a.m. Clarinet/Low Clarinet - Clinician: Dr. Andrea Harrell, Sam Houston State University

10:30 a.m. Bassoon - Clinician: Nicole Haywood, Professional Musician

CC Room 212

10:30 a.m. Oboe - Clinician: Alecia Lawyer, Principal Oboe, Founder, Artistic Director, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

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(Griffin, continued from Page 4):

CC Room: 210

1:30 p.m. Bass Trombone/Tuba - Clinician: Everett Hinote, Sam Houston State University
2:00 p.m. Trombone - Clinician: R. Ben Osborne, Sam Houston State
2:30 p.m. French Horn - Clinician: Dr. Peggy DeMers, Sam Houston State University
3:00 p.m. Saxophone - Clinician: Dr. Scott Plugge, Sam Houston State University

CC Room 213

3:00 p.m. Trumpet - Clinician: Randy Adams, Sam Houston State University

There will be an ATSSB State Board of Directors meeting at 7:15 a.m. in the Minuet Room of the Menger Hotel on Saturday, 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 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 21 in the Convention Center (tentatively scheduled for 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, including the inclusion or exclusion of charter and magnet schools in ATSSB activities (see the article on page 8 in this Newsletter detailing the committee charged with coming up with a policy regarding charter and magnet schools).

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).



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>.

Outstanding Performance Series

by Don Thoede, OPS State Chair



The deadline for entering the 2016 OPS competition was May 20th. Since that time I have already had Region Coordinators calling to let me know that some of our directors did not follow the entry instructions shown on page 4 of the OPS forms. The instructions for entering are very clear. I wish I could do what is necessary to make our membership understand the importance of reading instructions! I have already had to disqualify several entries due to fact that the directors simply did not follow the instructions. The last thing that the Region Coordinators and I want to do is to disqualify a band director's entry. Please take the time to make sure that you use the correct form for each entry, and listen to the CDs before you mail them to make sure the name of your school is not announced (like they sometimes do at UIL contest) right before the band starts playing.

The date for the State Adjudication for the 2016 Outstanding Performance Series is Thursday, July 21st, in the San Antonio Convention Center. The judges' meeting will be held in room CC 007 at 8:00 AM. Please be punctual! The Class 1C bands will be heard in room CC 004 at 8:30 AM, and the Class 3A bands will be heard in the same room beginning at 11:00 AM. The Class 2C bands will be heard at 8:30 AM in room CC 005 followed by the 1A/2A bands in the same room at 11:00 AM. The Class 4A bands will be heard in room CC 007 at 8:30 AM followed by the SARC Committee meeting. You are all cordially invited to attend these sessions. I know you will hear some very fine bands.

I hope every Region Coordinator took the time to listen to every CD before advancing them to the Area level! In some cases, every classification does not have enough entries for a try-out so the CDs are just simply sent to the next level without having been heard. Please do not do that. I have had to disqualify some entries in the past because when heard at the Area level, the school's name was heard at the beginning. This is one of those times that the CD should have been disqualified at the Region level, not the Area level.

I will soon be contacting directors and asking them to judge/monitor at the State Adjudication. I want to put one judge from each Area on every panel. I always call the directors with the most experience first. Also, if you judged at the State level last year, I will not be calling you this year. All judges and monitors will receive a \$75.00 honorarium for their service.

I wish you the best of luck in this year's OPS competition, and I hope you have a restful summer! See you at TBA!

Don Thoede

Immediate Past-President's Column

by John Young

It is truly amazing that another year has passed. Honestly I wish that I had two more weeks to do the things I need to do. The kids are gone, auditions are done, beginner recruitment completed, inventory checked and repair has been sent. I guess this means it is summer and a little time for decompressing, family and golf!

I hope that you had a successful end of the year and to you who have retired: CONGRATULATIONS! To you who have moved on to other jobs in our field, I pray that you are successful and happy in your new place of work. For those of you who are staying right where you are, I as well hope and pray that it was a successful year and you can see the fruits of your labor continue to be positive. Wherever you are in this, I hope that you will remain a member of ATSSB. As a retired member it will keep you in the loop, and as a director of a band program that our association serves you will continue to be a member of the greatest organization in the state of Texas serving small school bands. We have many members that are 5A and 6A that understand the importance of ATSSB and continue to support with their Associate membership.

Please make plans to attend TBA. They already have a great line-up of clinics, concerts and exhibits. Try to make TBA part of your summer plans. Our Region Coordinators will meet in San Antonio to prepare for the coming year. We will receive updates on the audition process as well as coordinator duties. If you have concerns or suggestions, let your coordinator know. Mike Bartley, President-Elect, and his committee are diligently working on finding a way to improve specific items on how we can as an association serve our membership better.

Have a great summer and see you in San Antonio.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Young".

FYI, ATSSB at TBA

Thursday, July 21

8:30 am-12:30 pm ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series (judges' meeting 8:00 CC007)
Class 1C followed by Class 3A followed by SARC Meeting - CC004
Class 2C followed by Class 1A/2A - CC005
Class 4A - CC007
ATSSB Office - CC1067

9:30 am-6:00 pm ATSSB table open in Registration area

1:30 pm-2:30 pm Clinic - "Building a Successful Program in a Small School" - CC214AB

Friday, July 23

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

9:00 am-3:30 pm ATSSB All-State Audition Music Clinics

(see convention program or elsewhere in this Newsletter for sites and times)

Saturday, July 25

7:15 am State Board of Directors meeting, Menger Hotel Minuet Room

8:00 am-9:00 am Clinic - Small Town Swing - Starting and Maintaining a Jazz Program in a Small School", Michael Childs, Clinician - CC 212

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

4:00 pm ATSSB General Session - CC210

Class 1C/2C Representative's Column
by Marilyn Bennett

Happy summer to all!

What a great year for ATSSB as we celebrated our 25th anniversary! As a member since the inception of ATSSB, there have been many changes in the original organization, but one goal has always been at the forefront – providing students from small schools across the state of Texas an opportunity for success.

It has been a great experience for hundreds of students at all levels, from junior high through high school, to have been afforded an opportunity to perform in honor groups throughout the state. They have performed great music under the best conductors, and have made memories that will last a lifetime.



ATSSB has definitely made its mark in Texas, but it also gratifying to know that other states have modeled what our founders originally put in place. We owe a huge debt to all those who made all of these dreams come true.

Best wishes to all who have entered the OPS process - another great project so faithfully monitored by Don Thoede. Don, we are grateful to you for your dedication in making OPS such a great experience for all participants.

To all of you--best wishes for a wonderful and restful summer. Take time for yourselves and your family; too soon it will be time to begin it all again.

See you at TBA!

Marilyn K. Bennett

Charter/Magnet School Participation in ATSSB

Recently a new proposal has come from UIL regarding the classification of charter and magnet schools. This is a topic that ATSSB is very concerned about and has spent much time discussing over the past few years. ATSSB President Jim Cude formed a committee which has been discussing this situation for the past several weeks. Currently, this committee feels it is in the best interest of ATSSB to not allow charter and magnet schools to continue in the organization. The General Session at TBA will include time to address questions and concerns on this subject. The committee will then put a proposal together to be voted upon at TMEA in February 2017. The committee members are Mike Bartley from Canton, chairperson (mbartley@cantonisd.net), John Young from Wills Point (john.young@wpisd.com), Kathy Johnson from Argyle (kjohnson@argyleisd.com), Brandon Brewer from Princeton (bbrewer@princetonisd.net), and Bob Vetter from Robinson, now retired (bvetter@esc18.net).

If you have an opinion regarding this issue, feel free to contact a member of the committee to express your views. The best contact is an email that is short and to the point.

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