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# ATSSB NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXI, No. 1, June 2021

Updated July 1, 2021, 8:40 a.m.

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**

**Beginning our 31st year of service to small school bands in Texas**

2117 Morse Street

Houston, Texas 77019

(713) 874-1151

**JUST ADDED JULY 1**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment - see Page 10**

**ATSSB All-State Band Clinic**

June 9-12, 2021

Melissa High School

**Saturday, June 12:**

**THE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**

*presents the*

**2021  
ATSSB  
ALL-STATE  
BANDS**



Melissa Performance Hall  
Melissa, Texas

Jazz Ensemble

Dr. Mo Trout, clinician

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Concert Band

Don Lefevre, clinician

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Symphonic Band

Brian Balmages, clinician

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

*Please silence all electronic devices during these performances and do not use flash photography while ensembles are playing.*

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

## President's Column

by Eric Gray

Happy summer everyone! Hopefully, you have finished or are in the process of finishing up your school year and the best part of all is that we made it through!!! When I think back to all the uncertainty we began with back in August, it really is a small miracle that we made it to June 2021. Fear is not a good place to dwell, and it looks like the worst is behind us. Onward to bigger and better things!



Speaking of...we are super proud to announce that the ATSSB All State Band Clinic and Concert is going to take place June 9-12 at Melissa High School. Plans are in their final stages, music is ready for auditions, clinics are being programmed, vendors are coming, and we are celebrating 30 years of ATSSB Friday at lunch! Please make plans to attend this dynamic and historic event if possible. It has taken many months of planning and work but to give our kids an opportunity to perform is something we felt was worth it. The entire ATSSB Executive Board has been working tirelessly to make this event truly special, reminiscent of the early days of ATSSB when that group of directors overcame seemingly insurmountable odds as advocates for the band students in the small schools. It is absolutely fitting to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ATSSB! A special word of thanks to Jerry Whorton for believing this event could take place and providing a venue in which to do it.

I am really looking forward to the anniversary luncheon Friday! Let me encourage you to take some time this upcoming year and learn about the history of ATSSB. Talk to some of the founding members and really listen to the challenges they faced and the opposition they encountered from almost every angle. I promise it will deepen your appreciation for the organization and for the people that stood their ground and did what they knew in their hearts was correct for students in the small schools. I have had many wonderful opportunities to hear how this organization was founded and it always humbles me and makes me even more appreciative of what we have available to our students. We must never take this for granted and we must always be mindful to stay true to our intent and purpose as we continue to grow as an organization.

Finally, spend some “down time” away from the school with family and friends. Read, relax, exercise, camp, fish... whatever “fills your tank” as we anticipate another great school year. To those of you that have retired or have moved up to larger classifications, please keep in touch and know the work you have done with ATSSB will never be forgotten. I hope to see you in Melissa and then again at TBA

Have a great summer!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

**President-Elect's Column**  
by Matt Knight

Wow! What a year! I hope this article find you, your family, and your students in good health and excited about the end of a crazy year!

First congratulations on making it through a year not like any other. You have accomplished so much and given so much to your kids just by making it through. You should be very proud!

We are so excited to be able to present the All State Clinic and Concert in Melissa June 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>! It is going to be fantastic!

We are super excited to allow our all state kids the chance to perform. Our clinicians Brian Balmages (Symphonic Band), Don Lefevre (Concert Band) and Dr. Mo Trout (Jazz Ensemble) are all excited to work with our students and will bring outstanding all state concerts. Chair auditions will be Wednesday evening and the first rehearsal will be Wednesday night. I can't wait to get started!! Don't forget the College Fair on Friday from 5:00-6:30 pm.

Directors, we have worked hard to have some special things for you as well. We have 11 different clinics being offered on Thursday and Friday. Please come, enjoy the clinics, enjoy being around the other directors, and recharge your batteries! CPE credit will be given for the clinics you attend. You will not find quality staff development like this offered anywhere else this summer at this price. We will also have commitments from several vendors that plan to have booths at our clinic as well. We have worked hard to present opportunities not only for the directors that are bringing all state kids, but for all of ATSSB. If you're anything like me, it will just be nice to be in the same room with people who speak the same language as we do.

Don't miss the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon on Friday at 1:00. It is not too late to get tickets. John Gibson (founder of ATSSB) and George Strickland (Past President of ATSSB) will both be speaking.

I want to say thank you to our All State committee chairs who have worked hard to put this week together. Brian Sours has done an outstanding job putting together all of our clinics!! Thanks to Angie Liss for putting together our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon. A special shout out to Don and Tammy Summersgill for putting together our College Fair for the kids. A big thanks to Rodney Bennett for organizing our vendors this year. Hats off to Mike Bartley for taking care of the student safety committee. Thanks to Christina Smith for putting together our all state sectionals and to Will Burks for taking care of our chair auditions. Also thanks to all people that served on these committee and helped the committee chairs. None of this would be possible without you!



(Continued on Page 4)

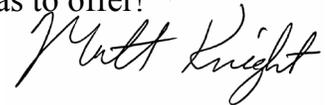
(Knight, continued from Page 3):

None of this event would be possible without Jerry Whorton and his staff. Jerry, thanks for being willing to take on this project and reminding us every time the Executive Committee met that this was all going to be possible.

Thanks to Eric Gray for all of your leadership and guidance since we started this project in September. We would not be here without you. Finally, if you have not reached out to Kenneth Griffin to say “Thank You!” lately, you have missed an opportunity. No one will ever know all he does behind the scenes. We would not be here today without him. On behalf of all of ATSSB, Thank You!!

Come support these kids! They represent the best ATSSB has to offer!

Can't wait to see you in Melissa!!



### Immediate Past-President's Column

by Mike Bartley



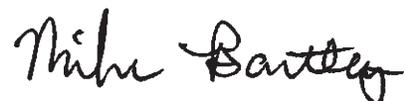
With summer approaching, it seems slightly out of place to be thinking about All-State, but it is about to happen in another week. I am excited that All-State is taking place and the students are going to have a chance to perform considering everything that has transpired over the past year! I think the event is going to be a great success and will show everyone the strength and commitment of ATSSB. I think we all should be proud of what we have accomplished, including members past and present.

I strongly encourage everyone to attend the clinics as they are going to be just as valuable as what we normally see at TMEA.

I also hope everyone has a chance to visit the vendors that are there as they need just as much support as anyone with what we have been through. I know they will love having people to talk to and getting back to a sense of normalcy. I highly recommend that everyone attend the 30th Anniversary luncheon. I think this will be a great time to reflect on what we have accomplished as an organization and what we can do in the future.

I think the best part of the upcoming week is the students. I am so glad that they will get to rehearse, perform, interact with each other, and be taught by some great clinicians just like normal. They deserve this more than anyone since their world has been turned upside down more than we can imagine!

Finally, I would like to give a big thanks to everyone that has had a part of putting this event together. There are so many people who have come together to make this a success, and so many more that will continue to work through and after the event as well. I truly believe this will be something that we can all be proud of so I hope to see you in Melissa!



## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



What an incredible year! Since March of 2020 (when my school let out for Spring Break, we had three contest tunes prepared to go right after Spring Break, then the bottom fell out!), we have seen a plethora of techniques to try to keep our students involved and progressing on their instruments. Virtual band just did not cut it for me! I did the usual things like playoffs using FlipGrid, assigning scales and playoffs to keep them actively engaged, but it could never substitute for in-person band! When we started school this past fall, we had to move our 65 students from a cramped band hall to the Cafetorium (students were fed lunch in their homerooms) where we spread out 6 feet apart. True, balance, blend, tuning, precision .... all went out the doors (actually never came in!), but we actually got a lot of things accomplished during the year, giving four performances (virtually .... video recorded and posted with a link for parents and friends) in addition to entering a festival virtually. Hopefully, this next fall, we can have a "normal" year of band!

Make sure you put June 9-12, 2021 on you calendar. You need to try your best to make the ATSSB All-State Band Clinic and Concert if at all possible. At least come on Friday for the ATSSB 30th Anniversary Luncheon in the Sheraton McKinney Throckmorton Ballroom at 1:00. Door prizes include gift cards of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$250! ATSSB Founder John Gibson will give opening remarks and ATSSB Past-President George Strickland will be our keynote speaker. You may order tickets ahead of time by clicking [HERE](#), or you can pay \$15 at the door. The luncheon is sponsored in part by Kaleidoscope Adventures, Inc. We appreciate Kaleidoscope Adventures, Inc. for their support. They also donated director badge holders and lanyards. Jerry Whorton and his staff at Melissa have done an amazing job planning and providing the wonderful facilities for our use. We appreciate Melissa ISD Superintendent Keith Murphy, Melissa High School Principal Kenneth Wooten, Fine Arts Director Jerry Whorton, and the entire Melissa Band staff for their contributions to the success of this clinic. I hope to see you there!

Your membership expires on July 31 so if you plan to enter students into jazz auditions which are always early, be sure to join for 2021-2022 as soon as you can to avoid errors while entering students. If you are not yet a member for next year, fill out the application online [HERE](#). You need only list name and school and any changes - we already have the other posted data in the database. 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 spam guards, so make sure we are allowed). While you are at it, go ahead and join TBA so we can see you there, too!

Be sure to check the link (click [HERE](#)) to see the region to which your ISD is assigned. See the following link to see how ATSSB has organized the 33 regions into 22 regions and five areas (click [HERE](#)).

(Continued on Page 6)

(Griffin, continued from Page 5):

You may have noticed that we have a new secure website. If you are having difficulty finding forms or data you need, you can always check out the link at the top of the home page "ATSSB A-Z" which can help you find what you are looking for. If you have suggestions on how we can improve the site's usefulness, send it to our Webmaster, Marc Nichelson (mnichelson@atssb.org). Also let us know if any links are not working or are out of date.

In your fall region meetings, you need to nominate a Class 2C Representative, a Class 4A Representative, and a Class 1A/2A Representative to the State Board of Directors. The election will be held at the General Session tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 11, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 206 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 (click [HERE](#)).

The September Newsletter is no longer mailed. We used to mail it to include a copy of the OPS winners CD as a reference tool for our directors. Of course, last year we had no OPS competition due to the corona virus pandemic. Future OPS winners will be distributed via a Permanent Digital Download (PDD). All Newsletters are now available online as a pdf file.

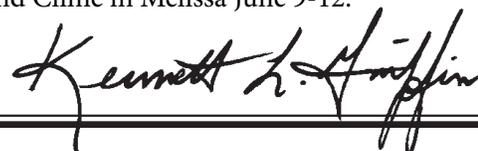
This coming year for the 2022 All-State Clinic, Dr. Emily Threinen, University of Minnesota, will be the clinician for the Symphonic Band. Russell Schmidt (Valley Jazz Cooperative) will be the clinician for the Jazz Ensemble. Dr. Caroline Beatty from Texas State University will be the Concert Band clinician. The Concert Band will premier the winner of the 2022 ATSSB Composition Competition which also receives a \$1500 award.

Jennifer Siler from The Village School in Houston has secured instructors for video clinics regarding the ATSSB audition etudes. These videos will be available during the TBA July 22-24, 2021:

Flute: Laura Kuscer, Sam Houston State University  
Oboe: Alecia Lawyer, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra  
Bassoon: Kristen Jensen, The University of Texas at Austin  
Clarinet: Nathan Williams, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra  
Bass Clarinet: David Berndt, First Colony MS, Fort Bend ISD  
Saxophone: Scott Plugge, Sam Houston State University  
French Horn: Ronald Todd, Horn Instructor, Fort Bend ISD  
Trumpet: George Chase, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra  
Trombone: Ben Osborne, Sam Houston State University  
Tuba/Euphonium: Jerome Stover, Sam Houston State University  
Percussion: Jesús Pacheco, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, Houston  
String Bass: Grace Lewis, Collegia: Houston

Your ATSSB State Board of Directors will meet in July during TBA. 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.

I hope to visit with many of you during the ATSSB All-State Band Clinic in Melissa June 9-12.



## State Jazz Coordinator Column

by Brian Donnell



We are looking forward to seeing the students and directors in Melissa for the All-State Jazz Band rehearsals and concert. If you are a director of an all-state jazz student, be sure they have their music printed out for the rehearsals and any other items needed, such as mutes, sticks and mallets.

Between visiting the clinic sessions, be sure to spend some time in the jazz band rehearsals as Dr. Mo Trout, Purdue University, leads the band through its practices.

Looking ahead to jazz auditions in 2021-2022, the music for Set A is available from Buddy Mattei, and the link to purchase the music is on the [www.atssb.org/jazz](http://www.atssb.org/jazz) page.

The auditions for region jazz band happen relatively early in the school year, so encourage other directors in your region to have their students tryout and enter the all-state process. Having a seated performing region band is not a requirement for students qualifying for area or earning a chair in the all-state jazz band! If your region does not have a region jazz band, and you have students who are interested in auditioning, contact your region coordinator to see how to enter and progress through the process.

See you in Melissa!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Donnell". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian Donnell  
bdonnell@atssb.org

## Outstanding Performance Series

by Collin Anderson, OPS State Chair



Even though I am knee-deep in sorting the 470+ audio files and building adjudication spreadsheets while traveling to Florida on a band trip, I AM excited that we get to conduct our Outstanding Performance Series for the 2021 season. Though entry numbers are down a bit from most years, they are way up from last year, about 470 more!

All of the following instructions/information is also available on the OPS Web page:

Region-level entries will be judged and certified to Area by midnight on Saturday, June 12.

Entries will be certified to State by midnight on Saturday, June 26.

State adjudication will be July 22 at the TBA convention in San Antonio.

A Certification of Advancement for will be emailed by the OPS State Chair following each level of adjudication to show which entries advance from region to area to state.

If there are any questions or issues while entering OPS this year, call or email me. My telephone number is 903-390-3271 and my email address is opsstatechair@gmail.com.

Thank you, as always, for the opportunity to serve you and our fantastic organization as your OPS State Chair.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Collin Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Any correspondence should be addressed to ATSSB; 2117 Morse Street; Houston, TX 77019. You may also contact us on our Web Site (<https://www.atssb.org>) or email the Editor (Kenneth Griffin) at [atssb@att.net](mailto:atssb@att.net) or call 713-874-1151. Letters to the Editor will be published as space permits if signed and verified, although writers may remain anonymous by request.

Advertising is accepted for the ATSSB Quarterly Newsletter. The Newsletter is published online each September, December, March, and June.

See our advertising policy and costs at:

<https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>

## Webmaster's Column

By Marc Nichelson

Congratulations on finishing the year that we will FOREVER remember as one of the most trying years in many of our careers. I know you have earned a well-deserved time of rest as we all recharge for the 2021-2022 school year. Remember to take some time for yourself this summer! I know many of us are excited to return to some sort of “normal”, but let’s be mindful of the lessons learned during COVID and return more balanced as people and educators.



Website Projects Currently in the works:

1. We are beginning to build out our footprint on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram). To celebrate 30 years, we would like to feature stories of awesome success stories that have come from our Small School Band Programs. These could be non-music related success stories from students who have gone on to do GREAT things as adults, or music educators that have moved through the small school ranks and became a respected educator in our state. You can submit contact information of people you feel like fit this description at <https://www.atssb.org/atssb-featured-person-submission/>
2. I'd also like to know if some of you would be willing to help submit materials we can publish to our social media that would help small school band directors. These could be teaching resources, videos you've made giving a clinic on certain items, etc... This would be specific to Small Schools and something our audience would find beneficial to use in their programs. If interested please contact me at [mnichelson@atssb.org](mailto:mnichelson@atssb.org).
3. If you know of any business that would be interested in beginning an advertising relationship with us please have them contact me at [mnichelson@atssb.org](mailto:mnichelson@atssb.org).

I look forward to connecting with many of you this summer at our ATSSB Clinic and Concert. I am excited to get to experience things in person again! As always, thank you all for what you do for students , you are making a difference in students' lives every day.

Best wishes,

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

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

Separate Class 1A/2A Representative into Two Offices - July, 2021

Amend Article V of the Constitution from:

**SECTION 4. AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES.** One representative from each Class (1C, 2C, 1A/2A, 3A, and 4A) shall assume office in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. Each of the five representatives shall be voting members of the State Board of Directors.

To:

**SECTION 4. AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES.** One representative from each Class (1C, 2C/3C, ~~1A/2A~~, 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A) shall assume office in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. Each of the ~~six~~ five representatives shall be voting members of the State Board of Directors.

Amend Article II of the By-Laws from:

**SECTION 4.(a). DUTIES OF THE AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES.** Each of the five At-Large Representatives (one from Class 1C, one from Class 2C, one from Class 1A/2A, one from Class 3A, and one from Class 4A) shall serve as voting members of the State Board of Directors so as to maintain a balance of opinion among the different classes of schools.

To:

**SECTION 4.(a). DUTIES OF THE AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES.** Each of the ~~six~~ five At-Large Representatives (one from Class 1C, one from Class 2C/3C, ~~one from Class 1A~~, ~~one from Class 2A~~, ~~1A/2A~~, one from Class 3A, and one from Class 4A) shall serve as voting members of the State Board of Directors so as to maintain a balance of opinion among the different classes of schools.

Amend Article II of the By-Laws from:

**SECTION 4.(b). NOMINATION.** At the Spring or Fall Region Meeting of odd years, each Region may submit one name for the office of Class 2C Representative, one name for the office of Class 1A/2A Representative, and one name for Class 4A Representative to be nominated for election at the forthcoming Clinic/Convention. At the Spring or Fall Meeting of even years, each Region may submit one name for the office of Class 1C Representative and one name for 3A Representative to be nominated for election at the forthcoming Clinic/Convention. The presiding officer of each Region shall file the name of the candidate with the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall notify each candidate of their nomination. If the nominated candidate does not accept the nomination by December 1 by submitting a biography and picture for the December Newsletter, the name(s) will be deleted from the list of candidates. Nominations for the office may be made from the floor.

To:

**SECTION 4.(b). NOMINATION.** At the Spring or Fall Region Meeting of odd years, each Region may submit one name for the office of Class 2C/3C Representative, one name for the office of Class ~~1A/2A~~ Representative, and one name for Class 4A Representative to be nominated for election at the forthcoming Clinic/Convention. At the Spring or Fall Meeting of even years, each Region may submit one name for the office of Class 1C Representative, ~~one name for the office of 1A Representative~~ and

(Continued on Page 11)

(Constitutional Amendment, continued from Page 10):

one name for 3A Representative to be nominated for election at the forthcoming Clinic/Convention. The presiding officer of each Region shall file the name of the candidate with the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall notify each candidate of their nomination. If the nominated candidate does not accept the nomination by December 1 by submitting a biography and picture for the December Newsletter, the name(s) will be deleted from the list of candidates. Nominations for the office may be made from the floor.

Amend Article II of the By-Laws from:

**SECTION 4.(d). ELECTION.** The general membership of ATSSB shall vote by secret ballot either in the Business Session or by email ballot at the option of the ATSSB Executive Committee on At-Large Representatives. If there is no clear majority, the winner is the candidate with the most votes, provided the runner-up has a shortfall from 50% that is at least double that of the leading candidate; if there is no such candidate, then a secret ballot will be cast between the top two with the individual receiving a simple majority of the total votes cast being declared the winner. Only Active Members who are involved with Class 1C schools may vote on the Class 1C At-Large Representative, only Active Members who are involved with Class 2C schools may vote on the Class 2C At-Large Representative, only Active Members who are involved with Class 1A or 2A schools may vote on the Class 1A/2A At-Large Representative, only Active Members who are involved with Class 3A schools may vote on the Class 3A At-Large Representative, and only Active Members who are involved with Class 4A schools may vote on the Class 4A At-Large Representative. Class 2C, Class 1A/2A and Class 4A Representatives shall be elected in even-numbered years; Class 1C and Class 3A Representatives shall be elected in odd- numbered years. Retired Active Members may vote on the Class Representatives of their choice. Proxy voting is not allowed in the election of At-Large Representatives.

To:

**SECTION 4.(d). ELECTION.** The general membership of ATSSB shall vote by secret ballot either in the Business Session or by email ballot at the option of the ATSSB Executive Committee on At-Large Representatives. If there is no clear majority, the winner is the candidate with the most votes, provided the runner-up has a shortfall from 50% that is at least double that of the leading candidate; if there is no such candidate, then a secret ballot will be cast between the top two with the individual receiving a simple majority of the total votes cast being declared the winner. Only Active Members who are involved with Class 1C schools may vote on the Class 1C At-Large Representative, only Active Members who are involved with Class 2C **or Class 3C** schools may vote on the Class 2C/**3C** At-Large Representative, only Active Members who are involved with Class 1A **or 2A** schools may vote on the Class 1A/**2A** At-Large Representative, **only Active Members who are involved with Class 2A schools may vote on the Class 2A At-Large Representative**, only Active Members who are involved with Class 3A schools may vote on the Class 3A At-Large Representative, and only Active Members who are involved with Class 4A schools may vote on the Class 4A At-Large Representative. Class 2C/**3C**, Class ~~1A/2A~~ and Class 4A Representatives shall be elected in even-numbered years; Class 1C, **Class 1A** and Class 3A Representatives shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Retired Active Members may vote on the Class Representatives of their choice. Proxy voting is not allowed in the election of At-Large Representatives.

*Rationale: Class 1A schools need representation on the Executive Committee.*

*See Page 12 for a support article from the current Class 1A/2A Representative, Brian Sours.*

# Support for a 1A Representative

by Brian Sours, Class 1A/2A Representative

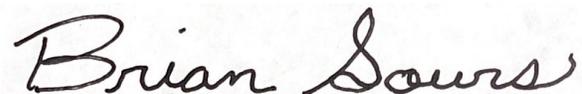
I have enjoyed serving as the representative for both 1A and 2A during the last one and half years, and I would have no problem continuing to serve both classifications. I have actually enjoyed getting to know and speak with several directors over the last several years in both classifications, and I have enjoyed fighting for the concerns of ATSSB's smallest schools.

Nevertheless, I feel as though it is time for there to be a separate 1A representative. Not only do I personally believe that 1A should have its own representative, but many of the 1A directors have expressed this in feedback on survey's I have sent out over the last couple of years. First off, 1A directors and band programs should have a representative that comes from and works in 1A schools. These 1A directors understand the uniquely different problems and concerns that happen within the walls of 1A schools.

Secondly, we should be continuing to help empower and grow the band programs in the 1A classification by giving them more opportunities to be represented at the state level. In the last several years, the 1A classification has been given its own state marching band contest which has encouraged 1A schools across the state to funnel resources towards rebuilding and/or restarting their band programs. Providing a 1A representative a seat at the table as a part of the ATSSB Executive Council and State Board would be another way of legitimizing 1A band programs in the eyes of school administrators and state officials.

Lastly, there is simply no need to limit or combine representation for the 1A and 2A classifications, especially if there are a significant amount of member schools in both classifications. It will not hurt the organization overall to have additional representation from our smallest classification present (and with voting privileges) at the Executive Council meetings and State Board meetings. Additional collaboration and input from a variety of diverse sources will only help us come to a better consensus.

Ultimately, adding a 1A representative will better serve the 1A classification, help continue to empower 1A directors and band programs, and make our overall organization stronger. Please consider voting "Yes" to the proposed amendment to the ATSSB Constitution splitting the 1A/2A representative position into separate 1A and 2A representative positions.



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