

ATSSB Newsletter

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In our 31st year serving Texas small school bands

Greetings from ATSSB!

We have all seen unanticipated and troubling times over the past year and a half with the onset of COVID-19, the cancellation of school activities, the uncertainty of planned activities ... only to see them cancelled or postponed.

Even with all of the restrictions, ATSSB enjoyed another exciting and productive year in 2020-21. It was evident from the number of members we had in our thirtieth year (1247, up from 1237 in the previous year) and from the quality of the 2021 ATSSB All-State Bands that we were able to seat and allow to perform in Melissa June 9-12, 2021, that our organization has maintained our original goal to be "sensitive to the needs and interests of small school band programs in Texas." Most small schools in Texas that have band programs are participating members of the Association.

Almost two hundred directors and friends enjoyed a luncheon in McKinney on June 11 celebrating ATSSB's Thirtieth Anniversary. ATSSB Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin was announced as the inaugural inductee in the ATSSB Hall of Fame at the Luncheon.

The All-State Band Clinic in Melissa June 9-12 was a positive one with Dr. Mo Trout from Purdue University leading the All-State Jazz Ensemble opening the concert. Don Lefevre from West Texas A&M University led the Concert Band and Brian Balmages from FJH Music conducted the Symphonic Band, premiering his **Breaking Through** (commissioned by ATSSB). Be sure to listen to Balmages' comments at the performance [HERE](#). Melissa ISD was a gracious host, providing facilities for rehearsals, clinics, exhibits and performances in its new facilities. ATSSB is grateful to Melissa 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. Eighteen colleges and universities provided information and presented materials during a College Fair for the all-state students on Friday of the clinic, organized by Tammy Summersgill from Shallowater. There were eleven professional development clinics presented to overflow crowds of directors during the clinic, organized by Brian Sours from Tenaha.

We invite you to join ATSSB and hope that we can help you achieve your goals this year. You can download the application from the ATSSB website (<https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/App.pdf>). You can also open the application online and enter your data using your computer before printing it. Or you can use the online application process to join and use your credit card to pay dues (<https://www.atssb.org/atssb-membership-application-form/>). A membership card and receipt will be emailed to you and your name added to the roster of your ATSSB Region Coordinator so you can be kept up to date on ATSSB activities. If you wish to have students participate in ATSSB activities this year, you must also become a member of TMEA (<http://www.tmea.org>) because the two organizations have unified the audition procedure for membership in Texas All-State Bands.

We hope you will get actively involved in ATSSB - or at least communicate your desires and suggestions to the State Board of Directors through your Region Coordinator (or directly to the Executive Committee).

We start our thirty-first year of service to small-school bands, growing together as unified small-school band directors, and we want you to be a part of it. Thank you for your continued support.

President's Column

by Matt Knight



MATT KNIGHT

Greetings from West Texas! I hope everyone is off to a great start in the new school year. By now most of you have completed that first ball game. I don't know about you, but it was exciting to be back in the stands again and enjoying "Friday Night Lights." I know there are still some concerns in the air but I hope each of your programs are functioning as normally as possible.

If you did not get a chance to attend the Texas Band Masters Convention, you missed a treat. Hats off to TBA President Phillip Clements, Michael Brashears and the rest of the TBA State Board for an outstanding convention. Lots of outstanding clinics, vendors and performances. Most of all, it was great to have us all back together again. A special thanks to the TBA State board for presenting ATSSB a beautiful award honoring our 30 year anniversary at the TBA Business Meeting. It was a privilege for Kenneth Griffin, Collin Anderson,

and I to accept this award on behalf of all the small school directors and students of Texas that we serve. Great way to cap off the first 30 years!

On behalf of the ATSSB Executive board, I would like to thank you for your trust by the overwhelming support of the new ATSSB/TMEA Alignment agreement. There were many, many hours of Zoom meetings in June, July and August working to build a document that we could all be happy with. A special thank you to Eric Gray, Rodney Bennett and Kenneth Griffin as well as TMEA President John Carroll and the TMEA Presidents Committee for all the hard work putting the final details together on the agreement. We are excited about moving forward.

We are committed to having live auditions this fall. We will have some hoops to jump through, but in the end it will be worth it. Our Region and Area coordinators are the heart of our organization. This is also true of any school that is hosting one of our auditions. They each do an outstanding job and are going to be asked to do more this fall. I encourage every director to pitch in to help those people in your region and be open to anything "different" that you are asked to do. Our goal is to have live auditions this year, so it may take a little more work. Remember, we are doing it for the kids! Thanks to Frank Coachman and Andrew Denman who are designing web-based scoring for our auditions this year. Can't wait to see the new product and hear more about it. I know it will be great!!

I am so excited about the start of the ATSSB Hall of Fame. This was long overdue. Kenneth Griffin was the perfect person to be the charter member. We are excited about the prospect of new inductees coming to the Hall of Fame in February. Contact your Region Coordinator or look for information on the ATSSB Web site on how to nominate people that you feel need to be included in this prestigious group.

I want to thank our Executive Committee for all of their hard work this past year. You could not be represented by a better group of people. Gina Muela (1C), Christina Smith (2C/3C), Brian Sours (2A), Bonnie Anderson (3A), Jerry Whorton (4A), Rodney Bennett (President-Elect) and Eric Gray (Immediate Past-President). I am also excited to add Brian Tillman to our executive board as the new 1A Representative. They are each willing to give of their time and knowledge to make things better for small school bands in Texas. I know they each have a special heart for kids!! It is evident by everything they say and do.

Kenneth Griffin is the backbone of our organization. You could not say enough about what he does for ATSSB. ATSSB is better every day because of everything he does.

I am truly honored and humbled to serve as your President. If there is ever anything that I can do, please do not hesitate to ask. I hope you have a safe and rewarding fall!!

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

Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



KENNETH GRIFFIN

2021 OPS It was good to see the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series in operation once again, having been cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. OPS State Chair Collin Anderson did a great job organizing the process and overseeing the State Adjudications at TBA. Congratulations to the participants and winners this year. Look for the PDDs (Permanent Digital Downloads) links on the website when they have been mastered.

2021 ALL-STATE BAND The ATSSB All-State Band Clinic and Concert in Melissa June 9-12 was a huge success due to the amazing efforts of many, many people and the beautiful facilities provided by Melissa ISD. If you were able to attend, you have many fond memories to carry with you into the new year: 1) Really intense rehearsals by all three ensembles (the students were very focused during rehearsals - you could tell they really missed being together and were relishing every moment!); 2) Great clinics by outstanding clinicians with overflow crowds, organized by Brian Sours of Tenaha; 3) Really interesting tables at the College Fair where eighteen colleges provided materials and talking points to the all-state students on Friday of the clinic, organized by Tammy Summersgill from Shallowater; 4) Happy and busy exhibitors who offered their wares in an exhibit area (one travel company noted that this was the very first exhibit in the COUNTRY they were able to provide since the onset of the pandemic, so they were all happy to be there); 5) A celebration of success with the 30th Anniversary Luncheon, at which I was honored to be named as the initial inductee into the newly created ATSSB Hall of Fame! The luncheon was great, the speakers captivating, and the award humbling for me; 6) And the culmination - the only all-state performances in Texas took place on Saturday to a full house (with standing room only in the foyers - along with the performances live-streamed thanks to the help from Stephen Cox from Eastland). We really cannot say enough about how Melissa Fine Arts Director Jerry Whorton and his staff pulled off the event of the year!

ATSSB HALL OF FAME Initiated at the 30th Anniversary Luncheon during the All-State Clinic, members are inducted in February during the ATSSB General Session if selected from nominations received by the previous November 1. See the [Hall of Fame Guidelines](#) and [Nomination Form](#) online if you would like to nominate someone for this prestigious honor.

LOST CARD? If you have misplaced your new ATSSB membership card, you can go online to retrieve it and your receipt. Just go to <https://www.atssb.org/membership/> to type in your last name, then the last four digits of your Social Security number. You will get a pdf file of your card and receipt. Should you have any problem accessing it, email me and I will get it to you promptly (atssb@att.net).

STATE OFFICERS Class 2C/3C, 2A and 4A Representatives are up for election in February. Nominations for these offices are open through your region meetings, so be thinking about your fellow directors and who would serve best in these positions. Nominee biographies will be published online in the December Newsletter and voting will take place at the General Session (tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 207 of the Convention Center.

Want to serve as an ATSSB officer? Volunteer to help in region band auditions (as a judge, a clinic host, clinic organizer, etc.) and respond positively when asked to run for a region office. Your service will encourage members to nominate you for state office (Class Representative or President-Elect). If you would like to serve in an appointed leadership role (Area Coordinator, OPS State Chair, State Chair Audition

(Continued on page 4)

(Executive Secretary Column, Continued from page 3):

Coordinator, State Jazz Coordinator, All-State Band Organizer, etc.), let the President know via email or other contact of your interest in the position. If you would like to be considered for the appointed position of Executive Secretary, notify the President who will inform the Executive Committee of your interest, then when the position is up for review (at TBA in odd years), your name will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration. Just so you know, the Executive Committee is charged with this review every two years, but is also charged with replacing the Executive Secretary in case of a vacancy for any reason.

ONLINE ENTRY Remember that entries for all-region band auditions (jazz, middle school or high school) must be done online. Go to the TMEA website (www.tmea.org), click on DIVISION, then BAND, then AUDITION ENTRY, then DIRECTOR LOGIN, then follow the prompts. You should end up on your profile page which will also list available competitions in which you are eligible to enter students. If a contest is not listed, contact your Region Coordinator to see why not (or when it will be available). **CAUTION DIRECTORS AND STUDENTS: Read all data regarding entries!**

AUDITIONS As you send in entries to ATSSB all-region auditions, remember that students from schools in class 1A, 2A and 3A are auditioning in the 3A Track to All-State and students in class 4A and all color instruments are auditioning in the 4A Track. If you have a class 1A, 2A or 3A student who wishes to take the 4A Track - or any student wishing to take the 5A or 6A track - they **MUST** submit a Track Selection Form with their first audition entry (whether it is to ATSSB or TMEA) - color instruments do not need to submit a Track Selection Form since all color instruments are adjudicated in the 4A Track. Also, please realize that since we are aligned with TMEA regarding auditions, directors will be held accountable regarding the policies and procedures which include an obligation to judge at region and area auditions.

TRACKING Students advancing to Area will be designated by the Track they selected (4A or 3A). The number allowed to advance in each Track is listed online as "All-State Band Profile". The region auditions determine the Area Candidates from each of the regions in the state. Be sure you are aware of eligibility requirements and that you have taken care of all of the necessary paperwork (ATSSB membership, TMEA membership, region entry fees, forms completed, etc.) in advance of auditions. Please see the updated ATSSB Officers and Organizers in this Newsletter (and keep up with changes online) and contact your Region Coordinator if you have any questions regarding auditions. If you are already a member of ATSSB for 2021-22, your name and address is in your Region Coordinator's database and you will be receiving emails and/or mail-outs regarding these auditions.

JAZZ This process remains unchanged. The only clarifications are that no mutes are to be used in the improv section of the recorded area auditions (see the current [Year A Update](#) online).

ADVANCING PAST REGION If you have students who are selected to audition at the ATSSB Area auditions January 8, 2022, be sure to pay the Area fee or they will not be allowed to audition at the Area level. All students who audition at Area will receive an Area patch. No forms are necessary at the virtual Area auditions. If you have a student make State, they will receive a link to TMEA from which they will download documentation required for All-State.

WEBSITE Webmaster Marc Nichelson has done a great job managing the new website. It is a treasure trove of information and forms needed for all aspects of the ATSSB audition and competition experience, so check it out and keep track of all updates as they are announced, especially the catch-all page (<https://www.atssb.org/executive-secretary/atssb-a-to-z/>).

Best wishes for a successful fall semester. Please let me know if there is anything ATSSB can do to help you in your task.



President-Elect's Column

by Rodney D. Bennett



RODNEY BENNETT

Welcome to a new school year! I hope your summer band camps went well and you are off to a great start! Many of you have just finished your first show performance last week. We tell our students that the goal for the first show is to: “Get on the field, do something positive musically and visually, get off the field, and no one gets hurt”.

As this school year begins, I realize how fortunate we are that we have the opportunity to teach band at our respective schools. All of us endured a very difficult and challenging 20-21 school year. I am glad we are back in school with daily with in-person learning. I have already had challenges with my own HS Band and Covid-19. We are working through those issues and will press on. We have protocols in place to keep our students safe, and our band and other school programs functioning.

Here in Olney we are moving our beginner program to 5th grade, so this year we have the opportunity to have 2 sets of beginning band students (grades 5 and 6). It's been 16 years since I have taught fifth grade band and I am excited to return to having daily contact (and hopefully positive experiences) with those students.

I am often reminded of why we are music educators. Seeing the joy in the eyes of a beginner who finally gets “how” to play eighth notes, or the high school student who understands being part of a musical experience that makes the soul sing. We all enjoy the accolades that come with success, but it is not the trophy or medal that really matters. It's the journey and musical growth that takes place daily in our band halls.

On a different thought, please take the time to thank your mentors and colleagues who have influenced your career. We get so busy with the day-to-day job of educating our students that we neglect to say “thank you” to the people who have helped shape us in this incredible profession we call band directing. I am guilty of this, and many of the mentors whose council, knowledge, and friendship I cherish are no longer with us. I know I have not said “thank you” enough. Time does march on, and before you know it, decades have passed.

ATSSB is in great hands with the leadership of Matt Knight, Kenneth Griffin and members of the Executive Board. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve and learn from each of these colleagues.

My sincerest hope is that each of you and your students have a successful and memorable 2021-2022 school year. I look forward to serving the association, directors, and students of the small schools of Texas. If I can ever be of assistance to you or your students, don't hesitate to ask.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney D. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

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, Texas 77019. You may also contact us on our Web Site (www.atssb.org) or email the Editor (Kenneth Griffin) at 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 rates are available at <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>.

Immediate Past-President's Column

by Eric Gray



ERIC GRAY

It seems like a year has come and gone and we are still dealing with reoccurring problems due to Covid 19. Several school districts in this area have closed for the week and we are seeing more and more students out of our classrooms. Do the best you can with whoever you have available and give everything you have everyday! These are truly uncertain times but continue to show your determination to give your best to your students everyday.

We have enjoyed another summer band season and have our first marching performance under our belt. I think it was 96 degrees at half time but it is still August so I guess we should expect that! Remember to keep you and your kids safe, cooler temperatures are coming, right, please?!

Remember to get your membership dues and paperwork in early. Mind your deadlines! Don't let your students suffer because we are unprepared!

Be sure to reach out to directors in your area for help. We really do want our fellow directors and their students to succeed and us older guys would love to pass on some hard-earned knowledge and life experiences if they would help. There are lots of great mentoring programs out there as well, all yours for the asking.

Plans are still moving forward for in person auditions at every level so please stay up to date for any changes or modifications to the program. Be sure to pay close attention TMEA and ATSSB emails and updates.

Hang in there and keep giving your best everyday, no matter what life throws at you! You can do this!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gray".

Outstanding Performance Series

By Collin Anderson, OPS State Chair

Congratulations to all our 2021 Outstanding Performance Series winners! And thank you to all the directors that entered your band's recordings to participate in OPS this year! The contest was a great success, thanks to all of our Region and Area Coordinators and those who gave of their time to judge at the region, area, and state contests.

Our participation this season was down in numbers a bit from previous years, but with the situation of not being able to fulfill the 2020 OPS contest and many of us still reeling from the effects of the pandemic in our programs, that is understandable. My hope is that the 2022 season will flourish with even more entries than in years past.

Awards for our state winners will be presented at the Texas Music Educators Association annual convention in February at the ATSSB general session. Please make plans to attend this meeting in order to receive your awards. Visit the ATSSB website to see the results for this year's contest. There is a link on the main page of the website to the state results, or you may click on the OPS link at the top of the page; from there you can access not only the state results, but results from regions and areas as well.

Discussion will soon be underway within the OPS Steering Committee for the consideration of running a separate 1A contest in 2022. We want to best serve all of our schools and will determine if this is the best course of action for the future.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving ATSSB as the OPS State Chair!



COLLIN ANDERSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Collin Anderson".

\$1000 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship

The ATSSB State Board of Directors created the \$1000 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship in 2014 and six students have already been selected to receive the \$1000 award: Meagan Fowler from Canton High School in 2015, Caleb Cude from Whitesboro High School in 2016, Jacob Nance from New Deal in 2017, Donna Hyde from Kemp High School in 2018, Hailey Sherrill from Smithville High School in 2019, Daniel Bartley from Canton High School in 2020, and Emma Aers from China Spring High School in 2021. Applications are now being accepted from seniors in ATSSB schools interested in getting a teacher certificate and teaching band in a public or private school. Applicants have until January 9, 2021 to apply, with the scholarship recipient being announced at the virtual ATSSB General Session February 11, 2021.



**in memory of
Bruce Kenner**

Mr. Kenner was a band director in small schools all over Texas for 30 years and a proud member of ATSSB. His family wanted to continue his passion and love of music, teaching, and helping students for years to come. They wanted to honor him with this scholarship.

Seniors may apply by filing out an online application, attaching a resumé and statement. Applications will be reviewed by a committee which will select 3-5 finalists, from which the ATSSB Executive Committee will select the recipient.

If you have a senior in your band interested, have them complete the application at:
<https://www.atssb.org/bruce-kenner-memorial-scholarship/>

Class 1A Representative Column

by Brian Tillman



BRIAN TILLMAN

Greetings fellow Band Directors and other Small School Band Stakeholders. (I've seen that word – stakeholders - a lot lately. I like it – so all inclusive!)

Being the “new guy” on the ATSSB Board, let me introduce myself. As you are probably aware, a motion was made and passed to separate the previously combined 1A/2A representative position. I am honored to be appointed as the 1A representative on an interim basis until the next elections are held. I have been a small school band director for 23 of my 27 years of teaching, currently in my 12th year at 1A Irion County High School in Mertzon. I am very aware of the uniqueness and challenges those of us in the “smallest of the small” schools face. That said, the rewards of teaching in this smallest of classifications are unique as well – we get to know our kids in a way that the “Big Program” folks may not get to experience. Yes, the challenges are many, but the rewards are greater.

As your representative, I'd like to encourage my fellow 1A directors to participate in all that ATSSB has to offer – especially Region Tryouts and OPS. It can be hard to find the time for these things, especially when so many of us must take on extra duties, drive bus routes, and seemingly share every band kid with every other organization in the school, but I'd love to see the 1A classification well represented in ATSSB events. You may feel like an underdog, but know that the experience you provide to your “above and beyond” type of musicians will pay off.

Finally, let me offer a word of encouragement to all of you as we seem to be headed into “uncertain times” again in regards to the pandemic that just won't leave us alone. I don't know about you, but I am a meticulous “planner” and have trouble dealing with uncertainty. However, this may be the world we live in for a while yet, so let me encourage you (and myself) to take it one day at a time, embrace the small victories, and always make the best decisions for the health and welfare of your students, your family, and yourself. I think it was John Lennon who said “Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.” Plan what you can, but don't forget to live and enjoy your life while you are at it.

Please let me know if I can offer any help to you during this marching band season. If I don't know the answer, I bet I can find it, or at least send you in the right direction. God Bless and Good Luck to us all!

Brian Tillman

Class 2A Representative Column

by Brian Sours



BRIAN SOURS

A year and a half ago, I was elected to become the 1A/2A Representative. Since that time, ATSSB members have witnessed a worldwide pandemic that has devastated and disrupted our lives (and continues to impact us). We also quickly adopted and adjusted to a digital All-State audition process last fall, celebrated the 30th anniversary of our organization, and hosted some of the first in-person music conventions, clinics, and All-State concerts in the nation since the pandemic started.

Just recently, there has also been an amendment to the constitution passed that added a 1A representative separate from 2A. The 1A members have asked for a few years to have separate representation and I was committed this year to seeing that it was brought up to the executive council and voted on by the membership.

Ultimately, the amendment passed, and Brian Tillman was appointed the interim 1A representative.

The 30th annual All-State Clinic and Concerts this past June was historic and inspirational. ATSSB proved to be one of the only organizations in the state that found a way to allow students to participate and enjoy their All-State experience during the 2020-2021 school year. It was delayed, but not denied! Special thanks to Jerry Whorton and Melissa ISD for hosting. In 1991, ATSSB had the determination, commitment, and tenacity to ensure that there would be advocacy for small schools. Despite all the obstacles, ATSSB still has that same spirit and resolve 30 years later!

Being a member of the ATSSB Executive Council as the 1A/2A Representative (and now the 2A representative only) continues to be full of in-depth discussions, vigorous debates, and complex decision making that takes place through regular email exchanges and weekly Zoom meetings. Nevertheless, I have enjoyed serving with the other representatives throughout the last year and a half. It has been an honor, and I look forward to serving out the rest of this term and longer if elected to do so. I hope that the 1A/2A members feel as though I have represented both classifications well and that the entire membership believes that the Executive Council has acted in our best interest as an organization. I know I speak for most of us when I say that I look forward getting back to in-person activities and “normalcy” soon!

Brian Sours

State Board of Directors Meeting

7:15 a.m., July 22, 2021

Menger Hotel Minuet Room

Present: Region 22 Coordinator Anthony Alvarez, Class 3A Representative Bonnie Anderson, Region 6 Coordinator Josh Bailey, Region 3 Coordinator Area North Coordinator and Past-President Mike Bartley, Region 7 Coordinator Brian Beeson, Region 14 Coordinator Charles Cabrera, Region 11 Coordinator Leo Garza, Immediate Past-President Eric Gray, Executive Secretary and Founding Charter Member Kenneth Griffin, Region 21 Coordinator Craig Haynie, Region 10 Coordinator Russell Hopkins, James Keltner – proxy for Region 15 Coordinator Benjamin Keltner, Region 16 Coordinator and President Matt Knight, Region 24 Coordinator Angie Liss, Founding Charter Member and Past-President Michael Marsh, Class 1C Representative Gina Muela, Region 18 and Composition Competition Coordinator Ann Lowes Mueller, Region 8 and Area Central Coordinator and Webmaster Marc Nichelson, Region 23 Coordinator John Pritchett, Region 13 Coordinator Rod Rodriguez, Founding Charter Member Elmer Schenk, Class 2C/3C Representative Christina Smith, Class 1A/2A Representative Brian Sours, Past-President George Strickland, Region 4 Coordinator Jay Sutton, Past-President and

(Continued on page 9)

(State Board of Directors Minutes, Continued from page 8):

Charter Member Robert Vetter, Bryce Victory – proxy for Region 1 Coordinator Kevin Kuehler, Region 12 Coordinator Dr. Jennifer Voges, Class 4A Representative Jerry Whorton, and Region 5 Coordinator Joe Walker. Attending as guests were OPS State Chair Collin Anderson, State Jazz Coordinator Brian Donnell, Area West Coordinator Don Summersgill, and UIL Assistant Music Director Gabe Musella. Not present: Region 29 Coordinator Bryan Anders, Region 2 Coordinator Asa Burk, Region 9 Coordinator Trent Graves, Founding Charter Members John Gibson and R. Michael, Founding Charter Member and Past-President Fred Pankratz, Charter Member and Past-President Don Stockton, Past-Presidents Brandon Brewer, Jim Jones, Steven Moore, Ronnie Page, Gary Robbins, Rob Toups, and John Young, and guests Area South Coordinator Emerico Perez, Area East Coordinator Joe Hewitt and TMEA Band Division Vice-President Dana Pradervand. Meeting called to order at 7:15 a.m. by Matt Knight.

The Invocation was given by Don Summersgill of Shallowater.

Mr. Knight suspended the agenda to allow OPS State Chair Collin Anderson to give his report so he could attend the OPS judges' meeting:

Mr. Anderson reported that the OPS committee was looking at separating 1A/2A into separate categories as a pilot project and would bring a recommendation to the State Board in February. Minutes of the SBOD ZOOM meeting February 31, 2021, as printed in the March Newsletter were approved after a motion by Brian Beeson of Burkburnett and a second by Mike Bartley of Canton.

Under the reports of Special Committees:

Mr. Knight introduced UIL Assistant Music Director Gabe Musella who gave a UIL report:

He thanked the Board for the invitation to attend on behalf of himself and Dr. Kent.

UIL activities for 2021-22 will be as pre-pandemic with exceptions noted on the UIL website.

House Bill 547 set a policy that homeschoolers may participate in public school activities if adopted by the individual ISD.

Please note current COVID guidelines on the UIL website.

The sightreading pilot program will go forward in regions 6, 13,15,25, and 26. After a question from the Board, he assumed the combined ATSSB regions will be involved in the pilot: 6, 13/17, 15/28, 24/25, 18/26.

There are many more options in the PML which will go online September 1 with 15 additions in Grade 1, 6 in Grade 2, 7 in Grade 3, 11 in Grade 4, and 8 in Grade 5.

All UIL Solo-Ensemble codes have been updated.

Mariachi contests will take place in 5 regions with a 7-judge panel, advancing only traditional mariachi bands to State.

The State Marching Contest will be for all conferences this fall with 1A, 3A and 5A on November 1,2,3 and 2A, 4A and 6A on November 8,9,10.

Check the UIL website for the physical requirements and timelines, hours allowed in summer marching practices.

The new Marching Band adjudication sheets may be reviewed online and will use 3 judges at region, 5 at Area (3 marching, 2 visual) and 7 at State for 5A and 6A (4 marching, 3 visual).

The advisory committee will be meeting to discuss rule changes for marching band after this fall.

The Website Report was given by Marc Nichelson:

He asked Regions to keep their pages updated, noting that they can insert a Google calendar very easily using WordPress by Googling how to do it – or to contact him so he can guide them through the process.

Be sure to let us know of broken links or outdated links. The site is huge with many pages simply transferred from the old site which might result it duplicate pages – one of which would be outdated, so let us know.

The Website account has \$850.50 in it. He has updated the vendor accounts for banner ads.

Heard reports of Standing Committees:

President-Elect and SARC Chair Rodney Bennett had no report.

(Continued on page 10)

Ann Lowes Mueller, Coordinator of the Composition Competition, announced that the committee had reviewed seven entries but had not come to a decision regarding a winner as yet. The adjudication committee included Clifton Jones, Stephen Krupicka, Willie Owens, Wayne King, and Gabe Musella.

Eric Gray reported on behalf of the Past-President Committee that the ATSSB All-State Band Clinic and Concert in Melissa June 9-12 was a resounding success. Every aspect was outstanding due to the hard work of the Executive Committee and Jerry Whorton. He thanked Mr. Whorton, his staff and Melissa ISD for hosting the event – resulting in a round of applause for them.

He told them of the induction of Kenneth Griffin as the Inaugural Inductee into the ATSSB Hall of Fame – also resulting in a round of applause.

State Jazz Coordinator Brian Donnell noted that Dr. Mo and the Jazz Ensemble had a great time. Dr. Mo is originally from Texas, having taught at UNT. He noted that Russell Schmidt from the Valley Jazz Cooperative will be the clinician for 2022.

The Area Jazz adjudications will be posted on the ATSSB jazz page: Region 29 = alto sax, Region 9 = tenor and bari sax, Region 15 = trumpet, Region 24 – tenor trombone, Region 6 = bass trombone, Region 7 = rhythm, and Region 8 = drums.

He reminded Regions that they need to submit Form 9 showing how many auditioned when they send their Area checks.

President's Report by Matt Knight:

He thanked the committees that planned the All-State Band Clinic in Melissa:

- Brian Sours – Professional Development
- Christina Smith – Sectional Teachers
- Angie Liss – 30th Anniversary Luncheon
- Tammy Summersgill – College Fair
- Don Summersgill – Photo Backdrops
- Jerry Whorton and his staff – Facilities and support
- Band Organizers and others who made it all possible

He thanked the Executive Committee for the hours of meetings and planning to bring it all together.

He asked that Region and Area Coordinators read and respond to all emails, polls and votes.

Executive Secretary's Report by Kenneth Griffin:

Gave a Scholarship Report which showed a value of \$189,842.57 as of June 1, 2021, noting that ATSSB awarded 19 \$500 Scholarships and 5 \$2000 Scholarships at Melissa in June, and that \$424,000 had been awarded to 490 individuals since 1997. Noted that the Kenner Scholarship Fund was valued at \$14,462.15 as of June 1, 2019, and that 7 \$1000 scholarships had been awarded in the last 7 years. The Program Fund was valued at \$26,006.07 as of June 1, 2021 and that dividends from that fund have consistently paid for all-state programs since the fund was started with a donation from the Elmer and Anita Family Trust. Noted that the Commission Fund was valued at \$25,560.67 and that we have paid for the commission from Brian Balmages. He noted that Regions 2,3,4,5,6,10,11,13,14,15,18, and 22 have Region Rules on file but the rest will not have access to the audition entry process until they submit their updated rules. He gave out a patch order form for the year.

There was no old business.

Under new business:

The Executive Committee met and voted to make the motion to renew Kenneth Griffin's appointment as Executive Secretary for 2021-2023. After a motion by Angie Liss, the motion passed.

Reporting about Licensees, Mr. Griffin noted that 16 ACTIVE Licensees have paid \$264,110.66 into the Scholarship Fund beginning in 1997. That fund has expended \$424,000 since then due in part from donations from regions and individuals and that blessed late fee for dues! We also have done very well in our brokerage accounts over that span of time.

Regarding Fall Region Agenda items, Mike Bartley made the motion to approve the Agenda. After a second by Brian Beeson, the motion passed.

Mr. Knight reported that the Dialogue Committee met Wednesday evening and, after an amicable meeting, agreed on terms for the new Agreement. The Executive Committee approved it and it will be published online. Brian Donnell asked that the Jazz Ensemble be added to the commission rotation. Mr. Knight referred the proposal to the Executive Committee for discussion.

Rod Rodriguez moved and Bryce Victory seconded that ATSSB accept the proposal from Pepwear to be the All-State Vendor for a three-year term. After a short discussion, the motion passed.

Marc Nichelson moved and Bob Vetter seconded that the time and place of the General Session is to be set for 2:15 p.m. on Friday, July 23, 2021, in CC205. Motion passed.

Kenneth Griffin presented the ATSSB Hall of Fame Guidelines and Nomination Form for discussion and moved as Committee Chair to adopt the. After a second by Bob Vetter, the motion passed.

There was no other new business.

Under Region reports:

1. No report.
2. Coordinator absent.
3. No report.
4. No report.
5. Congratulated former Region Coordinator Chris McLellan for his selection as UIL Executive Secretary for Region 7.
6. No report.
7. No report.
8. Thanked all involved for making the ATSSB All-State Clinic happen.
9. Coordinator absent.
10. Thankful for in-person events. No report.
11. No report.
12. No report.
13. No report.
14. No report.
15. Thank you for making ATSSB All-State work.
16. No report.
18. Thank you for your concerns and expressions of sympathy, especially Christina Smith. No report.
21. Coordinator absent.
22. No report.
23. No report.
24. Ditto on the thank you's for All-State.
29. No report.

There were no Area reports.

Mr. Knight announced that the Constitutional Amendment splitting the 1A/2A Representative office had passed. He appointed Brian Tillman to the position of Class 1A Representative to the State Board of Directors for 2021-2023. Brian Sours will complete the term of Class 2A Representative to 2022.

He then adjourned the meeting at 8:15.

Minutes of the February ATSSB General Session

The General Session of ATSSB met in CC205 on Friday, July 23, 2021, with approximately 180 in attendance. President Matt Knight called the meeting to order at **2:15 p.m.**

Mike Bartley from Canton gave the invocation.

Mr. Knight introduced the head table: himself, Executive Secretary **Kenneth Griffin**, President-Elect Rodney Bennett, Class 4A Representative Jerry Whorton, newly-appointed Class 1A Representative Brian Tillman, Class 2A Representative Brian Sours, Class 1C Representative **Gina Muela**, 3A Representative **Bonnie Anderson**, Class 2C/3C Representative **Christina Smith**, and Immediate Past-President **Eric Gray**.

The **minutes** of the General Session February 7, 2021, were approved as printed in the March Newsletter after a motion by **Kyle White** from Grand Saline and a second by **Angie Liss** from Howe.

Reports from Standing Committees:

Rodney Bennett, President-Elect and SARC Chair, had no report.

Ann Lowes Mueller, Composition Competition Coordinator, announced there was no immediate winner in the 2022 competition and that results will be posted online.

Immediate Past-President **Eric Gray** reported that the ATSSB All-State clinic and concert in Melissa was tremendous. After months of study and planning by the Executive Committee and Jerry Whorton's offer to host the event, things progressed smoothly and the event was a tremendous success. Thanks to Brian Sours for arranging Professional Development and exhibitors, Tammy Summersgill for arranging the College Fair, TMEA for their resources during the audition process, and to all of those who had a hand in the production of the event.

OPS State Chair **Collin Anderson** announced the 2021 OPS winners and runners-up, noting that winning files would be available to 2020-21 and 2021-22 ATSSB members as a free PDD (Permanent Digital Download) on the website when mechanical licenses had been procured.

In the **President's Report**, Mr. Knight reported on State Board of Director action: Kenneth Griffin was reappointed as Executive Secretary for a two-year term; He thanked the committees that planned the All-State Band Clinic in Melissa:

- Brian Sours – Professional Development
- Christina Smith – Sectional Teachers
- Angie Liss – 30th Anniversary Luncheon
- Tammy Summersgill – College Fair
- Don Summersgill – Photo Backdrops
- Jerry Whorton and his staff – Facilities and support
- Band Organizers and others who made it all possible

He thanked the Executive Committee for the hours of meetings and planning to bring it all together.

Executive Secretary **Kenneth Griffin** reported on the status of the scholarship and program funds. He reported that the All-State clinic in Melissa had 344 registered director, 297 students, 646 total attendees that registered. 174 attended the 30th Anniversary Luncheon on Friday at the McKinney Sheraton Hotel. Eighteen colleges and universities provided information and materials for students at a College Fair on Friday organized by Tammy Summersgill from Shallowater. There were eleven professional development clinics provided for overflow crowds organized by Brian Sours from Tenaha.

There was no old business and no new business.

Mr. Knight then adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m. after a motion by Kyle White from Grand Saline.

Webmaster's Column

by Marc Nichelson

To all our membership, YOU ARE ROCKSTARS. You are out there being AMAZING serving your students, your schools, and your communities. Keep up the fantastic work you are doing and know there is MUCH appreciation for you and what you are doing to serve those students in your program. I am sure you will have a GREAT year, not because it's going to be easy, but due to your diligent efforts and making things work for your students.

Website Projects Currently in the works:

1. As always please let us know if something on the site is not functioning the way it is intended or a resource you'd like to see on the website.
2. I would also like to celebrate some of our Small School Bands during September on our social media pages. If you would like to have your band featured, please email mnichelson@atssb.org with a blurb (doesn't need to be more than a paragraph) about the program as well as a picture of the band. Can be a group shot or an action shot.
3. 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.
4. 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.



MARC NICHELSON

I would like to wish everyone success during this fall semester in everything that you do. As stressful as these last few years have been the profession needs amazing people like you who have stepped up and are serving kids regardless of the situation. It is my honor to serve alongside such amazing educators as you.

#ATSSBStrong,

State Jazz Coordinator's Column

by Brian Donnell



BRIAN DONNELL

Hope everyone's start to the school year has been fantastic!

Region Jazz auditions are right around the corner! Be sure to check out the jazz web page for all the information you need to help your students have a successful audition.

This year uses Set A, which is the same as we used in 2016/2017 auditions.

The ATSSB Executive Committee has voted to cooperate with TMEA and set our Area Jazz Adjudication on Saturday, November 13, 2021. Please note that the area auditions will be adjudicated by the following regions.

Alto sax - Region 29 (central)

Tenor/Bari sax - Region 9 (east)

Trumpet - Region 15 (south)

Tenor Trombone - Region 24 (north)

Bass Trombone - Region 6 (west)

Rhythm section (piano, guitar and bass) - Region 7 (north)

Drums - Region 8 (central)

As always, text or email if you have questions or concerns.

Brian Donnell

bdonnell@atssb.org

972.628.5498 (office...you can text to this number)

ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund

Value of scholarship fund 7-31-20 ... \$ 150,752.45*

RECEIPTS

345 Memberships after 10-1 \$ 8,625.00
 Individual donations received \$ 300.00
 Dividends \$ 8,519.65
 Licensee royalties \$ 6,682.47

TOTAL RECEIPTS +\$ 24,127.12

EXPENDITURES:

Scholarships paid -\$ 14,000.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES -\$ 14,000.00

Value of scholarship fund 7-31-20 .. \$ 188,284.52**

Scholarships awarded Fiscal Year 2021:

19 3-Year \$500.00 scholarships
 5 4-Year \$2,000.00 scholarships

Scholarships redeemed and paid to date this Fiscal Year \$12,000.00

There are 14 \$500 scholarships awarded in 2021 that are unclaimed to date = \$ 7,000.00 encumbered.

**Value of fund fluctuates with market, but fund pays dividends per share per month regardless of stock value. Dividends are reinvested in the fund. Money is withdrawn from the fund to pay expenses as needed.

ATSSB FINANCIAL REPORT

July 31, 2021 - end of fiscal year 2020-2021

Amount in checking account 7-31-20 \$ 113,901.33

RECEIPTS:

Dues \$ 59,525.00
 Jazz fees \$ 12,680.00
 Area fees \$ 51,900.00
 OPS fees \$ 30,000.00
 Late fees (paid to Scholarship) \$ 9,850.00
 Licensee royalties (paid to Scholarship) .. \$ 6,682.47
 Program Fund Dividends \$ 1,075.08
 Kenner scholarship donations \$ 100.00
 All-State receipts \$ 16,985.09
 Miscellaneous receipts \$ 22,562.22
 Patches \$ 20,962.25
 TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 232,322.11

AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 346,223.44

EXPENSES:

30th Anniversary Luncheon \$ 4,710.53
 All-State expenses \$ 41,354.18
 Area expenses 6,010.53
 Audit \$ 1,500.00
 Commission Fund \$ 10,370.00
 Composition Competition \$ 500.00

Executive Secretary stipend \$ 42,500.00
 Internet \$ 995.17
 Jazz Ensemble expenses \$ 6,380.49
 Kenner Scholarship Transfers \$ 1,100.00
 Office expenses \$ 4,163.59
 Officer & Org. convention expenses \$ 3,656.81
 OPS expenses \$ 19,523.55
 Patches \$ 19,485.39
 PayPal, Square fees \$ 2,501.57
 Postage \$ 126.15
 Programs \$ 930.20
 Refunds \$ 1,440.00
 Scholarship transfers \$ 30,907.47
 TBA expenses \$ 1,270.00
 Telephone \$ 1,038.34
 TMEA \$ 40.00
 Website \$ 475.48
 Zoom \$ 214.89
 TOTAL EXPENSES -\$ 201,194.34

BALANCE:

Amount in checking account 7-31-21..... \$ 145,029.10

Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund value as of 7-31-21 \$ 13,655.51**

Commission Fund value as of 7-31-21 \$ 25,652.69**

Elmer and Anita Schenk Family Trust Program Fund value of fund as of 7-31-21 \$ 25,159.87*

*Dividends are paid to ATSSB to pay for programs each year.

2021-2022 ATSSB Officers and Organizers

Officers

Matt Knight, Abernathy (2021-2023)	President
Rodney Bennett, Olney (2021-2023)	President-Elect
Eric Gray, Gilmer (2021-2023)	Immediate Past-President
*Kenneth L. Griffin, Houston (appointed 2021-2023)	Executive Secretary
Gina Muela, Littlefield (2021-2023)	Class 1C Representative
Christina Smith, Center (2020-2022)	Class 2C Representative
Brian Tillman (appointed until 2023)	Class 1A Representative
Brian Sours, Tenaha (2020-2022)	Class 2A Representative
Bonnie Anderson, Littlefield (2021-2023)	Class 3A Representative
Jerry Whorton, Melissa (2020-2022)	Class 4A Representative

Region Coordinators

1 Kevin Kuehler, Borger	8 Marc Nichelson, China Spring	15/28 Benjamin Keltner, Raymondville
2/31 Asa Burk, Argyle	9/33 Trent Graves, Coldspring-Oakhurst	16 Matt Knight, Abernathy
3/20 Mike Bartley, Canton	10/19 Russell Hopkins, Warren	18/26 Ann Lowes Mueller, La Grange
4 Jay Sutton, Redwater	11 Leo Garza, Carrizo Springs	21 Craig Haynie, Henderson
5/30 Joe Walker, Godley	12 Dr. Jennifer Voges, Yoakum	22 Anthony Alvarado, Clint
6 Josh Bailey, San Angelo	13/17 Rod Rodriguez, Stafford	23/27 John Pritchett, Bellville
7 Brian Beeson, Burkburnett	14 Charles Cabrera, Robstown	24/25 Angie Liss, Howe
		29/32 Bryan Anders, Johnson City

The SBOD (enclosed by the border) includes as voting members the following active Founding Charter Members(*) who are not presently serving as officers: John Gibson (Founder), R. Michael Hardy, Michael Marsh, Fred Pankratz, and Elmer Schenk. Serving as ex-officio members of the SBOD are Past-Presidents Mike Bartley, John Young, Brandon Brewer, Robert Vetter, Rob Toups, Jim Jones, Steven Moore, Gary Robbins, George Strickland, Ronnie Page, and Don Stockton.

Area Coordinators, Area Audition Sites (Regions encompassed) - Site Telephone

Area West Coordinator:	Don Summersgill, Shallowater HS (1,6,16,22) - 806-789-3551 (cell)
Area North Coordinator:	Mike Bartley, Argyle HS (2,3,7,24) - 972-989-0363 (cell)
Area East Coordinator:	Joe Hewitt, Tyler Chapel Hill HS (4,9,10,21) - 903-330-6548 (cell)
Area Central Coordinator:	Marc Nichelson, Robinson HS (5,8,18,23,29) - 903-780-7971 (cell)
Area South Coordinator:	Emerico Perez III, Orange Grove HS (11,12,13,14,15) - 361-661-0303

All-State Symphonic Band Organizer	Justin Ketner, Winona
All-State Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer	Jim Best, Winnsboro
All-State Concert Band Organizer	Jay Sutton, Redwater
All-State Concert Band Percussion Organizer	Donald Myers, Redwater
All-State Jazz Ensemble Organizer	Steven Rash, Odem
All-State Band Organizer Apprentice	Stephen Cox, Eastland
All-State Band Percussion Organizer Apprentice	Gabe Hernandez, Greenwood
All-State Band Seating Tryout Organizer	Will Burks, Brownfield
All-State Band Seating Tryout Office Manager	Collin Anderson, Groesbeck
All-State Band Section Rehearsal Coordinator	Christina Smith, Center
ATSSB State Jazz Ensemble Coordinator	Brian Donnell, Addison
ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series State Chair	Collin Anderson, Groesbeck
ATSSB Composition Competition Coordinator	Ann Lowes Mueller, La Grange

Dates to Remember

JAZZ ENSEMBLE REGION AUDITIONS must take place between the first Saturday in September and the first Saturday in October.

AREA JAZZ recordings are to be uploaded to the TMEA server immediately after region jazz auditions.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE DESIGNATED SET ADJUDICATIONS are to take place on Saturday, November 13, 2021.

AREA CERTIFICATION DEADLINE: December 12, 2021

AREA: Saturday, January 8, 2022

CHAIR AUDITIONS: Students selected to ATSSB All-State Band will record and upload their Area audition January 10-13, 2022

CHAIR ADJUDICATIONS: Adjudication panels will access the recordings and place students in chair order January 15, 2022

CHAIR RESULTS: January 16, ATSSB All-State Band chair order published on the ATSSB website. ATSSB All-State students will receive online access to their parts in their respective bands.

ALL-STATE CLINIC: February 9-12, 2022

Dr. Caroline Beatty, Texas State University – CONCERT BAND

Premier performance of **UNTITLED** by Cliff Jones (Commissioned by ATSSB for this premier performance)

Dr. Emily Threinen, University of Minnesota – SYMPHONIC BAND

Russell Schmidt, Valley Jazz Cooperative, Phoenix, Arizona - JAZZ ENSEMBLE

ALL-STATE CONCERT Saturday, February 12, 2022: Concert Band at 9:00 a.m. in the Lila Cockrell Theatre; Symphonic Band after the Concert Band in the Lila Cockrell Theatre; Jazz Ensemble at 12:30 a.m. in the Hemisfair Ballroom 1 of the Convention Center.

Official Licensees

These companies have paid a fee and are under contract to use the ATSSB logo and marks on their products. They pay a royalty on products they sell using ATSSB logos and service marks. Please consider using them before using any other companies for similar services:

PepWear

1540 High Meadows Way
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104
855-737-9327
customorders@pepwear.com



On Site Digital

1303 Darter Lane
Austin, Texas 78746
512-699-7223
webmail@OnSiteDigital.com

Audio Refinery

3604 Mockingbird Lane
Amarillo, Texas 79109
806-355-0072
audiorefinery@me.com



Mattei Music Services

202 Covey Lane
McKinney, Texas 75071
972-838-2443
matteimusic@attwb.net

Jordan Sound Productions

601 Ralson Street
Bullard, Texas 75757
903-539-6485
JordanSP@aol.com



Dave Lane Productions

2504 McCoy Road
Carrollton, TX 75006
davelaneproductions.com
972-221-3283

Probst Audio

210 W. Belknap
Ennis, Texas 75119
972-878-6018
info@ProbstAudio.com

Probst Audio



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6800 Cherry Sage Ct.
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817-680-6043



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Sugar Land, Texas 77479
281-300-8897

http://www.westsiderecording.com



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2601 Boston Avenue
Lubbock, Texas 79410
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Texas Music Festivals, LLC

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Pharr, Texas 78577
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perez6052@sbcglobal.net



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