

# ATSSB Newsletter

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In our 32nd year serving Texas small school bands

## Greetings from ATSSB!

ATSSB enjoyed another exciting and productive year in 2021-22. It was evident from the number of members we had in our thirty-first year (1302, up from 1247 in the previous year) and from the quality of the 2022 ATSSB All-State Bands 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.

The All-State Band Clinic was a positive one. Dr. Caroline Beatty from Texas State University led the Concert Band, premiering **RISING** by Cliff Jones (commissioned by ATSSB for this performance). Dr. Emily Threinen from the University of Minnesota led the Symphonic Band, premiering **THE ESSENCE OF MEMORY** by BJ Brooks (commissioned by ATSSB in honor and memory of Darin K. Johns). Russell Schmidt from the Valley Jazz Cooperative in Phoenix, Arizona, led the Jazz Ensemble.

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 process 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-second 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 the South Plains and West Texas! Hope everyone has had a great start to your year. It has been lots of fun seeing all the pictures posted on Facebook of your band halls and marching bands.

The highlight of our year so far the rain that is falling as I write this article!! We have not seen rain out here in quite a while. It is making marching rehearsals a little hard but music does come first. It is giving us a little more time for that. We will never complain about the rain (at least for a few more days)!

I hope everyone had the opportunity to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of Texas Bandmasters Association. The clinics, concerts, and exhibit area were all first rate. Hats off the TBA President Roland Sandoval, TBA Executive Director Michael Brashears, and the rest of the TBA State Board for an outstanding convention. Thanks to all the ATSSB directors that led clinics as well. It is always nice to see directors from our association sharing the tricks of our trade with others.

If you did not make it this year, plan to go next summer. There are always great things there for directors and their families. It is also a great opportunity to collaborate with colleagues. Very few people understand the life of the band director. TBA gives us a chance to lean on each other and recharge for the upcoming fall.

We once again had a great turn out for our OPS contest. Special thanks to Collin Anderson for all his hard work putting this contest together. He always does an outstanding job. Congratulations to all the bands and their directors who entered starting at the region level, advancing to the Area level, and to the state finalist and champions. There were great recordings at all three levels. We were truly excited to add the 1A classification this year to OPS. Many superior ensembles were represented. I am looking forward to hearing more of these excellent performances next year. Small school bands are truly alive and well! If you have not entered this contest before, you should try it. It is a great way to see where your groups stack up with others in the state.

We are truly blessed to have many great people serve our organization in so many different capacities. Our Region and Area Coordinators are the best around!!! Please visit with your Region Coordinator or Area Coordinator and ask how you can help. They do a ton behind the scenes. I am sure they are always looking for people to step in and help carry the load.

There are opportunities to serve on the state level as well. If you have experience serving as a region band organizer or a percussion organizer, perhaps consider serving as band organizer or percussion organizer for one of the ATSSB All State Bands. The position of Band/Percussion organizer is a two-year commitment—one year as apprentice and the second year as the actual head coordinator of your group or ensemble. The ATSSB President will appoint apprentice organizers in May 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. If this is something, you might be interested in or you have questions, please contact me [mknight@abernathyisd.com](mailto:mknight@abernathyisd.com).

I want to thank our executive board for all 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 Tillman (1A), Brian Sours (2A), Bonnie Anderson (3A), Marc Nichelson (4A), Rodney Bennett (Pres-Elect) and Eric Gray (Past-Pres). They are each willing to give of their time and knowledge to make things better for small school bands and their students in Texas. I know they each have a special heart for kids!! It is evident by everything they say and do.

Lastly, thanks to Kenneth Griffin for all he does and the many hats he wears. The countless hours he spends working for each one of us can never be repaid. We would not be where we are today without his leadership!

Once again, it is truly an honor to serve as president of this great organization. I never cease to be amazed at all the incredible teachers and students involved in our association. You are each truly special. If there is ever anything I can do help you, please let me know!

Hope everyone has a great fall and most of all, enjoy your kids! You are making a difference one day, one note, one child at a time. Leave a legacy.

*Matt Knight*

## Executive Secretary's Column

by Kenneth L. Griffin



KENNETH GRIFFIN

**2022 OPS** What a great comeback from the pandemic for the ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series! 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.

**ATSSB HALL OF FAME** Initiated at the 30th Anniversary Luncheon during the 2021 ATSSB All-State Clinic in Melissa, 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](mailto:atssb@att.net)).

**STATE OFFICERS** President-Elect, Class 1C, 1A and 3A Representatives are up for election in February. Nominee biographies will be published online in the December Newsletter and voting will take place at the General Session (tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 220 of the Convention Center. If there are more than two nominees for any office, an electronic ballot will be cast in January to narrow the field to two candidates for the live vote in February. YOU will receive an email notification with a link to cast your vote for the offices with three or more nominees and the top two nominees will be announced in an email to all members prior to the February meeting.

**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 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 so that will take place in 2023), 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](http://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!**

(Continued on page 4)

**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.

**TMAC** The Texas Music Administrators Conference is an organization of fine arts administrators with a common goal—the continued pursuit of excellence in fine arts education in Texas for all students. As we all know, most small schools do not have a separate Director of Fine Arts but the band director usually functions in that capacity. I am a member of this group so we can stay abreast of activities affecting us across the state. You can join also. Their current focus is to help provide districts with resources as they navigate TIA (Teacher Incentive Allotment). See the great article on this issue by Christina Smith in the June Newsletter.

**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 2022-23, 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 B Update online:

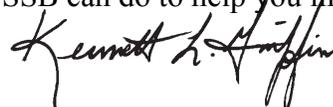
<https://www.atssb.org/files/PAL-Files/YearBUpdate2023.pdf>

**ADVANCING PAST REGION** If you have students who are selected to audition at the ATSSB Area auditions January 7, 2023, be sure to pay the \$25 Area fee to ATSSB (they do not owe this to TMEA) 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.

**PATCHES** Speaking of patches ..... there has been a proposal to redesign the Area patch, using color and redesigning the shape. The ATSSB Executive Committee is now tasked with receiving design suggestions from the regions (if they express a desire to do so) and/or individual members. If a change is to be made, a change will be made to ALL of the patches ATSSB uses (region/district, area, jazz region, jazz area). Adding color or increasing the size/shape of the patches will increase the cost of the patches (in most cases, almost doubling the cost), so that will be taken into consideration as the Committee comes up with a proposal that will be presented to the membership for approval.

**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 performance this past Thursday or Friday. 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 and have positive impact in the student’s lives. I am glad we are back in school with daily with in-person learning. Covid-19 is still here and can still pose challenges, but we press on to create exciting performances for our students and audiences. Do your best to stay healthy and energetic for your students.

Here in Olney we have the opportunity to team teach all of our band classes, grade 5 and up. If you are part of a multiple person staff, take the time to thank your colleagues for their work to make your program successful.

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.

ATSSB continues to serve the small school bands of Texas under 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.

Please be sure to check out all the information regarding auditions. Remember that Jazz Band tryouts are just around the corner, so get your dues paid and your students entered by the deadline date. Also refer to the ATSSB website for audition materials and errata.

My sincerest hope is that each of you and your students have a successful and memorable 2022-2023 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, written over a horizontal line.

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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](http://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 rates are available at <http://www.atssb.org/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>.

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## Immediate Past-President's Column

by Eric Gray



**ERIC GRAY**

Greetings to all the ATSSB directors! We are in full swing with our first Friday night marching performance behind us, music pass-offs in progress, uniform alterations, instrument issues, parents working in the concession stand, etc....it truly is a great time to be alive!!!

Now that September 1st is here, go ahead and get all your memberships current so there will be no issues when it is time to register your kids for their various tryouts. Also be sure to select the correct region music, Year B for ATSSB tryouts.

Let me encourage you to be cooperative across the board with your other teachers and coaches. As I am writing this, our AG department has our band truck headed to College Station to pick up 6 tons of chicken feed! I hesitated at first when they asked, but then reconsidered when I remembered that we are all truly in this together! Along those lines, look for ways to volunteer in the many facets of the ATSSB organization. Region auditions, state auditions, clinic host, etc. I really believe this is one of the greatest organizations in which we can be a part of so please reach out to your Region/Area/State

Coordinators and see what you can do to make their job easier.

Finally, remember we are in this for the kids so put them at the forefront of every decision you make. They will remember these days that they spend with us the rest of their lives so please do everything you can to make them great!



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## Outstanding Performance Series

By Collin Anderson, OPS State Chair

Thank you to everyone who made the 2022 Outstanding Performance Series competition season a great success! Without the Region and Area Coordinators and those who judged at each level, OPS cannot function. Thanks to each of you that helped complete the season by giving of your time and energy.

It is still overwhelming thinking of having over 790 audio files from 288 performing organizations come through the entry portal this year. There were so many fine bands and great recordings to hear from our many small school bands in Texas. And, hopefully, both of those numbers will continue to increase in the years to come.

It was exciting to have the opportunity to add the 1A pilot competition this year and separate the 1A/2A category into separate competing classifications. The OPS Steering Committee will continue to evaluate the pilot, but has full intentions of the 1A category remaining separate again next season. Work is still being done to ascertain whether a Non-Varsity category can come to fruition in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners at the state competition held in San Antonio during the Texas Bandmasters Association convention in July! Plaques for our winners and 1st runners-up will be presented at the ATSSB General Session during the TMEA conference in February. Please plan to attend.

Though OPS was created 25 years ago through the work of Don Thoede and members of the SBOD, due to COVID we missed the 2020 season. Next year in 2023 we will celebrate hosting the 25th OPS Competition for ATSSB!

As always, it is an honor and pleasure to serve the members of ATSSB as the State Chair of the Outstanding Performance Series. Thank you to the State Board of Directors and you, the membership, for entrusting me with this opportunity to serve our great organization..



**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, Emma Aers from China Spring High School in 2021, and David Uribe from Wheeler High School in 2022. 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, 2023, to apply with the scholarship recipient being announced at the ATSSB General Session February 9, 2023.



**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.

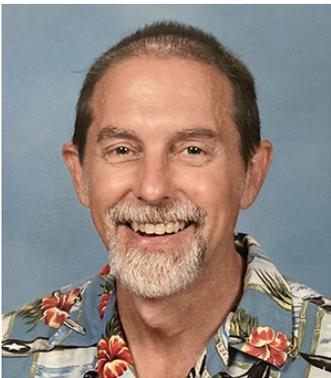
Seniors may apply by filing out an online application, attaching a resumé and statement. Applications will be reviewed by a committee which will select 3-5 finalists, from which the ATSSB Executive Committee will select the recipient.

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

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## Class 1A Representative Column

by Brian Tillman



**BRIAN TILLMAN**

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying this start of a new school year. First of all, THANK YOU for continuing to teach and share your love of music with the children of Texas. Reading about the huge personnel shortages many districts are facing makes me realize how much education many students are missing out on today. Thank you for being there for your students and your school!

Thank you to Collin Anderson and to our judges and monitors for running a very successful Outstanding Performance Series this past summer. And a special “shout out” to my fellow 1A directors that submitted recordings and helped inaugurate our 1A Pilot Program. I feel this was a great step in the right direction and I look forward to seeing it grow. With that in mind, I want to encourage even more 1A programs to participate. The challenges of maintaining a band in our smallest schools are many, and it can be easy for our programs to be overlooked, especially after football season ends. Participation in OPS and other spring time contests can add some needed “PR” and increase visibility (and

support) by your administration, school board, and community.

It is easy to get overwhelmed during this time of year with the pressures and stress of marching band, contests, and competitions, not to mention trying to teach beginners how to hold a flute or trombone correctly! Keep in mind that yes, music is important for its own sake, and yes, competitions can help bring out the best in your band, but ultimately it is the relationships we forge with and among our students that they will remember and that you will be remembered for. Many experts feel we are in the midst of a pediatric mental health crisis. Take heart in knowing you are providing a safe place and an emotional release for our young people and continue to monitor the emotional well-being of your students (and yourself!)

I wish you a very rewarding and happy year. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance, or if you have specific concerns or questions for the State Board.

Sincerely,

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

# State Board of Directors Meeting

7:15 a.m., July 21, 2022

Menger Hotel Minuet Room

**Present:** Region 22 Coordinator Anthony Alvarado, Class 3A Representative Bonnie Anderson, Region 6 Coordinator Josh Bailey, Region 2 Coordinator Daniel Balkema, President-Elect Rodney Bennett, Proxy for Region 24 David Bilyeu, Region 14 Coordinator Charles Cabrera, Region 11 Coordinator Leo Garza, Immediate Past-President Eric Gray, Executive Secretary and Founding Charter Member Kenneth Griffin, Proxy for Region 21 Grady Haffner, Region 29 Coordinator Brian Hecimovich, Region 10 Coordinator Russell Hopkins, Past-President Jim Jones, Region 15 Coordinator Benjamin Keltner, Region 7 Coordinator Josh Kidd, Region 16 Coordinator and President Matt Knight, Founding Charter Member and Past-President and ATSSB Hall of Fame Member Michael Marsh, Class 1C Representative Gina Muela, Region 18 Coordinator Ann Lowes Mueller, Region 8 and Area Central Coordinator and Webmaster Marc Nichelson, Past-President and Charter Member Ronnie Page, Region 23 Coordinator John Pritchett, Region 13 Coordinator Rod Rodriguez, Class 2C/3C Representative Christina Smith, Class 2A Representative Brian Sours, Past-President George Strickland, Proxy for Region 4 Sarah Thompson, Class 1A Representative Brian Tillman, Past-President and Charter Member Robert Vetter, Proxy for Region 1 Bryce Victory, Region 12 Coordinator Dr. Jennifer Voges, Region 12 Coordinator Dr. Jennifer Voges, Region 5 Coordinator Joe Walker, and Past-President John Young. Attending as guests were OPS State Chair Collin Anderson and UIL Assistant Music Director Gabe Musella. **Not present:** Past-President and Region 3 Coordinator and Area North Coordinator Mike Bartley, Past-President Brandon Brewer, State Jazz Coordinator Brian Donnell, Founding Charter Member John Gibson, Region 9 Coordinator Trent Graves, Area East Coordinator Joe Hewitt, Past-President Steven Moore, Founding Charter Member and Past-President Fred Pankratz, Area South Coordinator Emerico Perez III, Past President Gary Robbins, Founding Charter Member Elmer Scheck, Past-President and Charter Member Don Stockton, and Past-President Rob Toups.

Meeting **called to order** at 7:16 a.m. by Matt Knight.

The **Invocation** was given by Don Summersgill.

The **Oath of Office** was given by Kenneth Griffin.

**Minutes of the SBOD meeting** February 10, 2022, as printed in the March Newsletter were approved after a motion by Bryce and a second by Anthony Alvarado.

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 2022 OPS was active, with 789 entries from 288 different ensembles. He reported that the 1A pilot program separating them from 2A went well, although  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them came from one area, causing the Executive Committee to allow all region winners to advance to the State OPS Finals. Another issue under current study is the possibility of having a separate non-varsity category for high school and middle school but that would depend on the number of entries and the availability of adjudication rooms at TBA.

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 2022-23 will be as pre-pandemic with exceptions noted on the UIL website.

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

The sightreading pilot program in regions 6, 13, 15, 25, and 26 will be expanded next year to any region wishing to use the procedure.

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There are many more options in the PML which will go online September 1 with 150 additions to the solo-ensemble lists along with additions in all levels of band.

He encouraged participation in the UIL Chamber Music competition.

The State Marching Contest will be for 2A, 4A and 6A with the superintendents being polled to have all conferences each year at the State Marching Contest.

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

A new rule allows a non-participating student to intervene to repair electronic failures during the performance. Also, electronic cable may cross the sidelines so long as students do not cross them during the performance.

**The Website Report** was given by Marc Nichelson:

He asked Regions to keep their pages updated and to make sure each page of the individual region's site is titled with the name of that region.

Jim Jones gave a **NAMMB Report**:

He invited all to attend the NAMMB meeting that morning and outlined the coming contests for NAMMB at the pre-UIL, area and state levels with state being held at Baylor November 1.

Heard reports of **Standing Committees**:

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

Eric Gray reported that the **Past-President Committee** had no report.

Matt Knight gave the **State Jazz Coordinator** report for Brian Donnell who was unable to attend. He noted that this is Year B and that the music could be obtained from Mattei Music Services – and that if you already had the set from five years ago it was all still good. Steve Owen from the University of Oregon is going to be the clinician and ATSSB has commissioned him to write a jazz piece for the ensemble. The Area Jazz adjudications are posted on the ATSSB jazz page: Region 23 = alto sax, Region 2 = tenor and bari sax, Region 13 = trumpet, Region 10 – tenor trombone, Region 3 = bass trombone, Region 5 = rhythm, and Region 16 = drums.

**President's Report** by Matt Knight:

He thanked everyone for being there and for their service to ATSSB. He also thanked Collin Anderson for his great work with the Outstanding Performance Series.

He announced the clinicians for coming years:

2023 BJ Brooks from West Texas A&M University– Concert Band

David Allen Waybright from the University of Florida – Symphonic Band

ATSSB has commissioned Carol Brittin Chambers to write a piece for the Symphonic Band

Steve Owen from the University of Oregon – Jazz Ensemble

ATSSB has commissioned Steve Owen to write a piece for the Jazz Ensemble

2024 William Owens – Concert Band

ATSSB has commissioned William Owens to write a piece for the Concert Band

He announced that ATSSB was going to make a presentation to TBA Executive Director Mike Brashear and TBA President Roland Sandoval during the ATSSB General Session on Friday in honor of TBA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

He thanked the Executive Committee for their service and the many hours they spend on discussions and decisions for ATSSB.

He thanked Kenneth Griffin for his service to a round of applause from those in attendance.

**Executive Secretary's Report** by Kenneth Griffin:

Apologized for leaving ribbons at the ATSSB table in the Exhibit Area and told them to come by the

table to get them when they could.

Gave a **Scholarship Report** which showed a value of \$194,177.67 as of June 1, 2022, noting that ATSSB awarded 24 \$500 Scholarships and 12 \$2000 Scholarships this year, and that \$449,500 had been awarded to 531 individuals since 1997. Noted that the **Kenner Scholarship Fund** was valued at \$13,218.00 as of June 1, 2022, and that 8 \$1000 scholarships had been awarded in the last 8 years. The **Program Fund** was valued at \$21,667.36 as of June 1, 2022, 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 \$31,593.32. He noted that Regions 2,3,6,8,10,12,15, 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. He noted that Region 11 had suggested having a different area patch but that was referred to the Executive Committee.

There was no old business.

Under **new business**:

Region 15 moved, and David Balkema seconded that ATSSB add an All-State Percussion Ensemble mirroring TMEA in the process and numbers selected. After a short discussion, the vote passed unanimously. Mr. Knight noted that TMEA would have to approve it since the Alignment Agreement specified the procedure.

Brian Sours moved and Joe Walker seconded that ATSSB follow the TMEA procedure of selecting chair placement using a recording of the area audition material in the week following area. After a long discussion, the question was called, and a vote taken. The motion failed.

Reporting about Licensees, Mr. Griffin noted that 18 ACTIVE Licensees have paid \$277,176.23 into the Scholarship Fund beginning in 1997. That fund has expended \$449,500 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. He asked that regions take care that vendors at their events are official Licensees.

Regarding Fall Region Agenda items, Brian Sours made the motion to approve the agenda (attached). After a second by Jim Jones, the motion passed.

Bryce Victory moved and Jim Jones seconded that the time and place of the **General Session** is to be set for 2:15 p.m. on Friday, July 22, 2022, in CC213. Motion passed.

Kenneth Griffin moved that the bid from Probst Audio to record the 2023 concerts. After a second by John Pritchett, the motion passed.

There was no other new business.

Under **Region reports**:

Region 1: No report.

Region 2: No report.

Region 3: No report - Coordinator absent.

Region 4: No report.

Region 5: No report.

Region 6: No report.

Region 7: No report.

Region 8: No report.

Region 9: No report - Coordinator absent.

Region 10: No report.

Region 11: He wanted to continue the discussion regarding a new area patch and after an assurance that an email would be sent to all regions regarding the issue, withdrew a motion to change it. He had no report.

Region 12: No report.

Region 13: No report.

Region 14: No report.

Region 15: No report.

Region 16: No report.

Region 16: No report.

Region 18: No report.

Region 21: No report.

Region 24: No report.

Region 29: No report - Coordinator absent.

There were no **Area reports**.

Mr. Knight **adjourned** the meeting at 8:21.

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## Webmaster's Column

by Marc Nichelson

As we cycle back into marching band, I find myself appreciating so many little things. Those moments where students finally get a concept, those first sounds/excited beginners, and even those hiccups that invariably happen as school begins. Often times we get lost in the "hustle" of marching band that we lose sight of the wonderful little moments that surround us every day. I know I feel the pressures of what the fall brings and can allow those things to affect my interactions throughout the day. As we continue through our fall season make sure to make time for the "good things", the small moments, and just enjoy being around your students. Our ability to be the best for our students is paramount in the world today. We offer such an amazing experience through the medium of band and it affords so many wonderful moments for us to coach students, grow students, and ultimately see students succeed.



MARC NICHELSON

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'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).
4. I am also looking at digital media (both in terms of video clinics, podcasts, and even zoom hangouts) to continue adding opportunities for directors not only use our contests but have more wonderful resources given through our website. If you know of anything we can add PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

Thank you for what you do for your students day in and day out.

Best wishes



# Minutes of the February ATSSB General Session

The General Session of ATSSB met in CC213 on Friday, July 22, 2022, with approximately 210 in attendance. President Matt Knight called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Rusty Baldwin from Sonora gave the invocation.

Mr. Knight introduced the head table: himself, Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin, President-Elect Rodney Bennett, Class 4A Representative Marc Nichelson, 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 11, 2022, were approved as printed in the March Newsletter after a motion by Kyle White from Grand Saline and a second by Adrian Alonso from Palestine.

Reports from Standing Committees:

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

Immediate Past-President Eric Gray had no report from the Past-President Committee.

Brian Donnell, State Jazz Chair, could not attend but Matt Knight noted that this is Year B and that the music could be obtained from Mattei Music Services – and that if you already had the set from five years ago it was all still good. Steve Owen from the University of Oregon is going to be the clinician and ATSSB has commissioned him to write a jazz piece for the ensemble. The Area Jazz adjudications are posted on the ATSSB jazz page: Region 23 = alto sax, Region 2 = tenor and bari sax, Region 13 = trumpet, Region 10 – tenor trombone, Region 3 = bass trombone, Region 5 = rhythm, and Region 16 = drums.

OPS State Chair Collin Anderson announced the 2022 OPS winners and runners-up, noting there were 789 entries this year from 288 performing ensembles. He reported that the 1A pilot program separating them from 2A went well, although  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them came from one area, causing the Executive Committee to allow all region winners to advance to the State OPS Finals. Another issue under current study is the possibility of having a separate non-varsity category for high school and middle school but that would depend on the number of entries and the availability of adjudication rooms at TBA. He then read the list of 2022 OPS Winners and Runners-up.

In the President's Report, Mr. Knight thanked the officers, region and area coordinators and all who served ATSSB this year for their service.

He announced that the State Board had accepted the bid of Probst Audio to record the 2023 ATSSB All-State concerts.

He announced the clinicians for coming years:

- 2023 BJ Brooks from West Texas A&M University– Concert Band  
David Allen Waybright from the University of Florida – Symphonic Band  
ATSSB has commissioned Carol Brittin Chambers to write a piece for the Symphonic Band  
Steve Owen from the University of Oregon – Jazz Ensemble  
ATSSB has commissioned Steve Owen to write a piece for the Jazz Ensemble
- 2024 William Owens – Concert Band  
ATSSB has commissioned William Owens to write a piece for the Concert Band.

Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin gave a Scholarship Report which showed a value of \$194,177.67 as of June 1, 2022, noting that ATSSB awarded 24 \$500 Scholarships and 12 \$2000 Scholarships this year, and that \$449,500 had been awarded to 531 individuals since 1997. Noted that the Kenner Scholarship Fund was valued at \$13,218.00 as of June 1, 2022, and that 8 \$1000 scholarships had been awarded in the last 8 years. The Program Fund was valued at \$21,667.36 as of June 1, 2022 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 \$31,593.32.

There was no old business and no new business.

Mr. Knight adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

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## State Jazz Coordinator's Column

by Brian Donnell



**BRIAN DONNELL**

With region jazz auditions fast approaching, I thought I'd offer a few helpful tips.

1 - Even though one of the demo recordings uses flugelhorn, nobody should play flugel at the area recordings for all-state.

2 - No electronic drums, no valve trombones, no trumpet mutes, no electronic wind instruments allowed either.

3 - The improv selection is a great way to introduce improvisation to younger students, and utilizing other scales and different modes will challenge the more advanced players. Oftentimes, the all-state clinician will begin the first rehearsal with a Bb or F blues tune just to see where the players are with their soloing skills. Listen to the demo recordings for ideas, as well as searching for examples on YouTube, like Dr. Andrew Allen from Midwestern State who has a series of videos for Set B that are helpful.

4 - encourage your students to audition!

The jazz webpage is updated. [www.atssb.org/jazz](http://www.atssb.org/jazz)

All the best to your students as they begin their audition trek!



bdonnell@atssb.org

## ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund

Value of scholarship fund 7-31-21 .. \$ 188,284.52\*\*

Scholarships awarded Fiscal Year 2022:

17 3-Year \$500.00 scholarships  
6 4-Year \$2,000.00 scholarships

### RECEIPTS

345 Memberships after 10-1 ..... \$ 8,625.00  
Individual donations received ..... \$ 1,100.00  
Dividends ..... \$ 9,168.22  
Licensee royalties ..... \$ 15,208.02

Scholarships redeemed and paid to date this Fiscal Year ..... \$20,500.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS ..... +\$ 34,101.24

There are 17 \$500 and 6 \$2000 scholarships awarded in 2022 that are unclaimed to date = \$ 20,500.00 encumbered.

### EXPENDITURES:

Scholarships paid ..... -\$ 46,268.10

\*\*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.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES ..... -\$ 46,268.10

Value of scholarship fund 7-31-22 .. \$ 191,299.57\*\*

## ATSSB FINANCIAL REPORT

July 31, 2022 - end of fiscal year 2021-2022

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

### RECEIPTS:

Dues ..... \$ 65,935.00  
Jazz fees ..... \$ 12,800.00  
Area fees ..... \$ 53,925.00  
OPS fees ..... \$ 48,900.00  
Late fees (paid to Scholarship) ..... \$ 9,525.00  
Licensee royalties (paid to Scholarship) .. \$ 15,208.02  
Program Fund Dividends ..... \$ 1,604.04  
All-State receipts ..... \$ 160.00  
Miscellaneous receipts ..... \$ 32,252.15  
Patches ..... \$ 17,520.10

TOTAL RECEIPTS ..... \$ 257,829.31

AVAILABLE FUNDS ..... \$ 402,858.41

### EXPENSES:

All-State expenses ..... \$ 24,544.77  
Area expenses ..... \$ 13,390.25  
Audit ..... \$ 1,600.00  
Commission Fund ..... \$ 16,780.00  
Executive Secretary stipend ..... \$ 55,000.00  
Hall of Fame ..... \$ 575.44  
Internet ..... \$ 1,086.04

Jazz Ensemble expenses ..... \$ 6,340.00  
Kenner Scholarship Expenses ..... \$ 25.00  
Misc. Transfers & Expenses ..... \$ 9,216.65  
Office expenses ..... \$ 5,513.71  
Officer & Org. Expenses .... \$ 4,167.54  
OPS expenses ..... \$ 32,010.77  
Patches ..... \$ 28,341.65  
PayPal, Square fees ..... \$ 2,425.90  
Postage ..... \$ 26.99  
Programs and Transfers ..... \$ 3,597.70  
Refunds ..... \$ 1,040.96  
Scholarship transfers ..... \$ 46,268.10  
State Board of Director expenses ..... \$ 1,810.88  
TBA expenses ..... \$ 2,160.00  
Telephone ..... \$ 1,134.16  
TMEA ..... \$ 70.00  
Website ..... \$ 1,525.29  
TOTAL EXPENSES ..... -\$ 258,651.80

### BALANCE:

Amount in checking account 7-31-22..... \$ 144,206.61

**Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund** value as of 7-31-22 ..... \$ 13,683.17\*\*

**Commission Fund** value as of 7-31-22 ..... \$ 32,845.88\*\*

**Elmer and Anita Schenk Family Trust Program Fund** value of fund as of 7-31-22 ..... \$ 22,383.60\*

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

# 2022-2023 ATSSB Officers and Organizers

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 (2022-2024) .....	Class 2C/3C Representative
Brian Tillman (appointed until 2023) .....	Class 1A Representative
Brian Sours, Tenaha (2022-2024) .....	Class 2A Representative
Bonnie Anderson, Littlefield (2021-2023) .....	Class 3A Representative
Marc Nichelson, China Spring (2022-2024) .....	Class 4A Representative

### Region Coordinators

1 Kevin Kuehler, Borger	8 Marc Nichelson, China Spring	15/28 Benjamin Keltner, Raymondville
2/31 Daniel Balkema, Pilot Point	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, Pleasant Grove	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 Josh Kidd, Graham	14 Charles Cabrera, Robstown	24/25 Angie Liss, Howe
		29/32 Brian Hecimovich, Fredericksburg

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), \*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, Levelland HS (1,6,16,22) - 806-789-3551 (cell)
- Area **North** Coordinator: Mike Bartley, Ranchview 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 .....	Jay Sutton, Pleasant Grove
All-State Symphonic Band Apprentice .....	Dago Gonzalez, Mineola
All-State Symphonic Band Percussion Organizer .....	Donald Myers, Redwater
All-State Symphonic Band Percussion Apprentice .....	Hunter Hale, Atlanta
All-State Concert Band Organizer .....	Don Summersgill, Shallowater
All-State Concert Band Apprentice .....	David Rogers, Hale Center
All-State Concert Band Percussion Organizer .....	David Speer, Wink
All-State Concert Band Percussion Apprentice .....	Anthony Aguilar, Slaton
All-State Jazz Ensemble Organizer .....	Steven Rash, Odem
All-State Jazz Ensemble Apprentice .....	Adam Bodine, Shallowater
All-State Band Seating Tryout Organizer .....	Will Burks, Brownfield
All-State Band Seating Tryout Office Manager .....	Kristi Flusche, 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

### 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 12, 2022.
- AREA CERTIFICATION DEADLINE: December 10, 2022.
- AREA: Saturday, January 7, 2023
- CHAIR AUDITIONS: Students selected to ATSSB All-State Band will record and upload their Area audition January 9-12, 2023.
- CHAIR ADJUDICATIONS: Adjudication panels will access the recordings and place students in chair order January 14, 2023.
- CHAIR RESULTS: January 15, 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 8-11, 2023.
- Dr. BJ Brooks, West Texas A&M University – CONCERT BAND
- Dr. David Allen Waybright, University of Florida – SYMPHONIC BAND
- UNTITLED** by Carol Brittin Chambers (Commissioned by ATSSB for this premier performance)
- Steve Owen, University of Oregon - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- UNTITLED** by Steve Owen (Commissioned by ATSSB for this premier performance)
- ALL-STATE CONCERT Saturday, February 11, 2023: Concert Band at 8:30 a.m. in the Lila Cockrell Theatre; Symphonic Band after the Concert Band in the Lila Cockrell Theatre; Jazz Ensemble at 1:00 p.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



KyleMac Music  
6800 Cherry Sage Ct.  
Arlington, Texas 76001  
KyleMacMusic@gmail.com  
817-680-6043



### Cauble Sportswear, Inc.

3209 Commercial Drive  
Midland, Texas 79701  
800-299-8325  
far103flyer@yahoo.com

### WEST SIDE RECORDING STUDIO

702 Coggins Point Way  
Sugar Land, Texas 77479  
281-300-8897

http://www.westsiderecording.com



**The Amusement Park Recording Studio**  
2601 Boston Avenue  
Lubbock, Texas 79410  
806-787-2636  
ideafactory@fariswheel.com



### Texas Music Festivals, LLC

803 Inspiration  
Pharr, Texas 78577  
956-499-4002  
perez6052@sbcglobal.net



### Southwest

EMBLEM  
SINCE 1960

swinfo@southwestemblem.com

### Southwest Emblem

PO BOX 350  
Cisco, Texas 76437  
254-442-2500

### Levo Audio Visual, LLC

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Cedar Park, Texas 78613  
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levoav@gmail.com



### TeamIP

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