



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

Volume XXXIII

No 2

Updated September 12, 2023

BEGINNING OUR 33RD YEAR OF SERVICE TO SMALL SCHOOL BANDS IN TEXAS

ATSSB enjoyed another exciting and productive year in 2022-23. It was evident from the number of members we had in our thirty-first year (1362, up from 1302 in the previous year) and from the quality of the 2023 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 with band programs are participating members of the Association.

The All-State Band Clinic was a positive one. Dr. BJ Brooks from West Texas A&M University led the Concert Band. Dr. David Allen Waybright from the University of Florida led the Symphonic Band, premiering ConnectUS by Carol Brittin Chambers (commissioned by ATSSB for this performance). Steve Owen from the University of Oregon led the Jazz Ensemble, premiering Oolagoob by Steve Owen (commissioned by ATSSB for this performance).

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 will be 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-third 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.

\$1000 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship

The ATSSB State Board of Directors created the \$1000 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship in 2014 and nine 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, David Uribe from Wheeler High School in 2022, and Matt Smith from Gladewater High School in 2023. 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 8, 2024, to apply with the scholarship recipient being announced at the ATSSB General Session February 9, 2024.

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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PRESIDENTS COLUMN

RODNEY BENNETT



"It" has begun. There are many "its" that we are doing again. We finished our summer camps, and now the "real it" has started. Marching season has begun: school, learning drill, first marching shows, and, for some, the bus trips. Believe it or not, "it" has begun in all of the glory. 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 ." I am happy to report that we accomplished that goal and more in the first week. If the weather cooperates, marching band would be much more enjoyable. It is my sincerest wish that all of you have a productive and successful marching band season. So many lessons can be learned from this one enterprise – teamwork, precision, physical strength, mental acuity, leadership, work ethic, and many other positive aspects.

Congratulations to all the concert bands that received honors in the OPS competition. Special thanks go to Collin Anderson for his dedication and commitment to this event. Also, I'd like to thank all who served as panel chairs and adjudicators for the state level of OPS.

Let me also congratulate all the directors and their respective bands who participated in the TMEA Honor Band process. A special congratulations to our 3A State Honor Band is Mineola High School – Jim Best, Director, and our 1C State Honor Band Anahuac MS – Morgan Contreras, Director. Special recognition also goes to Tenaha HS Band – Brian Sours, Director, for their selection as the first small school invited ensemble to perform at the 2024 TMEA Convention. We are looking forward to hearing your groups at the convention in February.

As this school year begins, I realize how fortunate we are that we have the opportunity to teach band at our respective schools and positively impact our student's lives. We will still experience challenges but press on to create exciting performances for our students and audiences. Do your best to stay healthy and energetic for your students.

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. Also, refer to the ATSSB website for audition materials and errata.

It is with deep honor and pride that I serve ATSSB as President. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or problems.



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT-ELECT COLUMN

ANGIE LISS

Another year is off and running! I hope everyone has been successfully managing this heat! Wow, it's hot outside! I don't know about you, but I can now add "wet bulb temperatures" as another thing I didn't learn in the College of Education. But in all seriousness, please take care of yourself and your students. This heat is brutal and can sneak up on us very fast if we don't stay hydrated, etc.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, as well as placed, in the OPS and Honor Band contests. There are amazing things happening in our programs, and I love that we can showcase those things and then celebrate the successes!

Of course, don't forget to get your ATSSB and TMEA memberships renewed in order to be able to register students for auditions and participate in those contests this year. It is so important that everyone be a member and be involved in our organization.

I challenge you to look for ways you can be involved in your region. If you are new to the profession, get involved and contact experienced directors for mentorship. And if you are a seasoned veteran of the profession, don't be afraid to learn new tricks. I have the privilege of providing piano accompaniments for many of our area band students at solo contests, and I learn so much from being in other director's band halls. I encourage you to also reach out to other directors and spend a day or two observing them. It is fun to see different ways of doing things!

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to help and support you in any way I can! Here's to a great start to a great year!!





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PAST PRESIDENT COLUMN

MATT KNIGHT



Hello from West Texas!!

Well, we're at it again! I know the summer flew by for most of us. I hope you got some well-deserved rest and time away from the band hall. We all need it.

I hope you had a great time at TBA! There are lots of great opportunities to learn in clinics and visit with colleagues. Congratulations to TBA President Daniel Allen and the Board of Directors of the TBA for an outstanding Convention. Always a good time in San Antonio.

Please continue to keep Jenny Bartley, our class C Rep, in your prayers. She and her husband, Mike Bartley (ATSSB Past President), were walking back to the hotel from the DCI San Antonio show when she was hit by a car. She has been in a rehab institute since August 9th. She is doing much better and hopes to move home very soon to continue her recovery. Please continue to lift them up!

Congratulations to Brian Sours and the Tenaha HS Band for being the first ATSSB organization to be chosen as an "Invited Program Spotlight" for the 2024 TMEA Convention. We are so proud of Brian, his staff, and his students. We look forward to getting to enjoy his presentation.

I hope your summer band has gone smoothly and you are enjoying your band this fall. We all know that every band is unique and has its own personality. That is what keeps us from getting bored!! As we go through the process of starting school and getting into the groove, I hope you remember these kids! Standing in front of them each day is our honor and privilege. We don't ever need to forget how important each one is! Each of these students is the most prized possession for their parents (if they are lucky); for many of our students, though, they are their parents' afterthought. They deserve our best efforts and love in whichever category they fall in! Don't forget some of our kids love music, but most are in the band just because they want to be around you! As you end rehearsal each day, I challenge you to find that kid who is struggling and tell them something they did well today. Your words have more power than you will ever know!! Do one better: share that positive contact with their parent and tell them about the student's day.

I know marching band is on the front burners, but don't forget to start working on your all-region material. If you have not had your students audition for the ATSSB Jazz programs before, you are missing out. Your kids will love it. The audition music is always well done; you don't have to have a jazz program at home. Give it a try! Also, please look for opportunities to serve in your region and state level. Contact your region coordinator if you would like to help; they will put you to work!!

ATSSB is in great hands with outstanding leaders like President Rodney Bennett, President-Elect Angie Liss, our executive board, and Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin. Each one of these ladies and gentlemen are the best of the best. We could not ask for better small school bands in Texas.

If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

Hope you have a great fall!!!



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY COLUMN

KENNETH GRIFFIN

2023 OPS OPS State Chair Collin Anderson did another 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 sent to all OPS participants in 2023 (contact me at atssb@att.net if you submitted an OPS entry in 2023 but still need to get a link to the winning audio files).

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 retrieve it and your receipt online. 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. Nominee biographies will be published online in the December Newsletter. Voting will take place at the General Session (tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 220 of the Convention Center (check the TMEA convention program for updated times and meeting room) 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, 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.), inform the President 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 next take place in 2025), your name will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration. So that 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.

Continued on next page

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 - unless they wish to audition for the TMEA 5A or 6A Track on a color instrument. 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.

TFAA Texas Fine Arts Administrators (formerly 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. Christina Smith is the ATSSB liaison to this group so we can stay abreast of activities affecting us across the state. You can join also (<https://texasfineartsadmin.com>).

TRACKING Students advancing to Area will be designated by the Track they select (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. Ensure you are aware of eligibility requirements and that you have completed all the necessary paperwork (ATSSB membership, TMEA membership, region entry fees, forms completed, etc.) before 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 2023-24, your name and address are 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 will be used in the improv section of the recorded area auditions. See the current Year C Update online: <https://www.atssb.org/files/PAL-Files/YearCUpdate2024.pdf>

ADVANCING PAST REGION If you have students who are selected to audition at the ATSSB Area auditions on January 6, 2024, 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 (redesigned this year to be larger and colorful). If you have a student make State, they will receive a link from TMEA from which they will download the documentation required for All-State.

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WEBSITE Webmaster Marc Nichelson has done a great job managing the new website (and in his new role as ATSSB Newsletter Editor!). The website 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/>).

LENDING LIBRARY Collin Anderson at Groesbeck High School oversees the ATSSB Lending Library. This is where we send all All-State Music (concert and jazz) after the clinics, along with regions that send in their region music after their clinics. If you wish to borrow music for your school or region, check out the Loan Application and/or peruse the list online:
<https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/MusicLibrary.htm>

I want to send my best wishes for a successful fall semester. Please let me know if there is anything ATSSB can do to help.



The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands.

Any correspondence should be addressed to ATSSB; 2117 Morse Street; Houston, TX 77019.

You may also contact us on our Web Site (www.atssb.org) or email the Editor (Marc Nichelson) at mnichelson@atssb.org or call 713-874-1151.

Letters to the Editor will be published as space permits if signed and verified, although writers may remain anonymous by request.

Advertising is accepted for the ATSSB Quarterly Newsletter. The Newsletter is published online

each September, December, March, and June. See our advertising policy and costs:
<https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/AdPolicy.pdf>.



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STATE JAZZ COORDINATOR COLUMN

BRIAN DONNELL

Hopefully, your school year is off to a wonderful start!

The auditions for region jazz bands will take place over the next few weeks, so here are a few tips to find success.

Visit the jazz page - - - - - > www.atssb.org/jazz

On the page, you'll find a tips sheet for students, a checklist for region coordinators (updated August 31, 2023), a link to the rules page, a link to Buddy Mattei's site to order music, a list of regions that are listening to the area recordings, and more.

Timeline for results

- After your region auditions and area recording sessions, the files are uploaded to the TMEA site.
- The area listening/adjudicating panels will judge the recordings on Saturday, November 11.
- Results will be posted on the TMEA site for directors.
- There's a window for any appeals before the results are deemed official at 9 AM on Tuesday, November 14.
- The students seated in the All-State Jazz Band will receive an email and links to the music in November

Region coordinators:

The backing tracks for Area recordings will be available to the region coordinators. As in past years, the tracks will be available behind a password-protected page on the atssb.org/jazz page. I will email the password to the region coordinators in the next few days.

As always, it is a privilege to serve ATSSB, and I welcome the chance to visit with anyone who has an issue or question.

Have a great fall!

Brian Donnell
Greenhill School
bdonnell@atssb.org
www.atssb.org/jazz



Do you need to purchase one of the large 10" patches at state this year? They cost \$10 each (including postage).

Please use the order form online:

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





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OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE SERIES

COLLIN ANDERSON

I want to say a huge "Thank you!" to everyone who made the 2023 Outstanding Performance Series competition season a great success! Without the Region and Area Coordinators and those who judged at each level, OPS cannot function. Thank each of you who helped complete the season by giving your time and energy. And this year, with a huge technical glitch, thanks go to Marc Nichelson for helping resolve the issue quickly!

It is still overwhelming to think of 828 audio files from 332 performing organizations coming through the entry portal this year. There were many fine bands and great recordings from our many small school bands in Texas. And hopefully, both of those numbers will continue to increase in the years to come.

The 1A pilot category was continued with hopes of even more growth in the future. Discussion of adding a Non-Varsity category to the competition continues, but current numbers do not suggest taking immediate action. A poll of the organization through the respective Region Coordinators in the near future will help us determine the direction of this possible addition to the OPS competition.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners at the state competition held in San Antonio during the Texas Bandmasters 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.

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.



ATSSB Music Lending Library

Various regions send the music they purchase for all-region band clinics to Groesbeck High School after they use them so others can use the music in similar situations. We also send the All-State music to the Lending Library. If you would like to borrow a title, let them know. Contact Brian Boecker at Groesbeck High School, P.O. Box 559, Groesbeck, TX 76642 or call (254) 729-4117 between 10:10 and 11:00, fax him at (254) 729-5458, or email him at b.boecker@groesbeckisd.net. The only expense you will have is postage (both ways) as a courtesy to Brian and his staff. If you have music left over from an all-region clinic and would like to share it with other regions, send it to Groesbeck High School at the address above.

Here is the current list of titles available: <https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/MusicLibrary.htm>

We would like to thank Collin Anderson, Brian Boecker and the Groesbeck band staff for providing this service to ATSSB members.



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

WEBMASTER COLUMN

MARC NICHELSON



It is so much fun to watch all the success across our Small School Bands and broader band community. It is inspiring to see so many schools perform at such a high level! Congratulations to all of our OPS, Honor Band, and Invited Ensembles across the state. Thank you for continuing the tradition of excellence know for our wonderful Texas Bands!

With our fall season in full swing we hear the wonderful sounds of our Middle Schoolers returning from summer break, those interesting first sounds of our beginners, and of course MARCHING BAND. Remember to enjoy those moments with your students and savor each step of the process. A former student of ours used to say "soon one more time really does become one last time." Be present with your students and families and continue to offer the amazing experiences you do through your band program.

As your Webmaster and 4A Representative I want to express deep gratitude to everyone in the ATSSB Organization for allowing me to serve in such meaningful ways. As a student in the early stages of the ATSSB it has been so rewarding to give back to an organization that meant so much to me as a student.

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.
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.
4. I am also looking at digital media/site based locations (video clinics, podcasts, clinics at local schools, 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!



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2A REPRESENTATIVE

BRIAN SOURS

As I enter my 10th year in Tenaha and 15th year overall, I find myself reflecting on how much has changed since I started my career in 2009. Since 2009, UIL has added a 6A classification, added a separate 1A state marching contest, added a separate state marching contest for military-style marching bands, mandated physicals for all marching band students, and is once again allowing every classification the opportunity to advance to state marching contest every year for the first time since ATSSB was created 33 years ago! These are, of course, only a few of the major changes.

There have certainly been a lot of adjustments in UIL, but there have been an equal amount of alterations in ATSSB over that same time span, with many of those changes taking place in just the last few years. Since I've been on the executive board for the last 3+ years, our organization has added six more baritone chairs to our two All-State ensembles, added much-needed All-State organizer apprentice positions, increased pay for OPS judges, significantly revised our by-laws, added a separate 1A classification for the OPS contest, added an independent 1A Class Representative to the Executive Board, and significantly improved the look of our Area patch (to name just a few). Most of these changes took place during a trying time for ATSSB as we exited the fallout from the COVID pandemic, proving just how resilient ATSSB remains.

All of these advancements by UIL and ATSSB have benefited ATSSB students. These changes have also provided more opportunities for 2A schools. Over the last three years, my goal as a 2A representative has been to truly represent our classification well by advocating for what is best for 2A schools (and 1A schools when I was a 1A/2A representative). I supported all of these innovations to ATSSB over the last 3+ years. I put forth the proposals for the separate 1A OPS contest and 1A representative position (which have been advantageous in building support for our 1A band programs overall). I have greatly enjoyed representing 2A and supporting policies that place 2A on a more equal footing. I also understand the unique situations our 1A/2A schools face because I have only ever taught in 1A/2A.

I will continue to promote plans that are in the best interest of all ATSSB schools, especially our 2A bands. I look forward to supporting additional programs that are currently up for consideration by the State Board, such as adding separate high school and middle school non-varsity classifications to OPS, adjusting instrumentation to remain consistent with modern compositions, and potentially adding an ATSSB All-State percussion ensemble in the coming years. All of these things will strengthen ATSSB and benefit our 2A students. As always, if you are a 2A director, please feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or concerns. The future of ATSSB continues to be bright! I hope you all have a great year!



Brian Sours



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

TEXAS FINE ARTS ADMINISTRATOR ASSOCIATION JIM DREW

Dear ATSSB Members,

I'd like to introduce to you the Texas Fine Arts Administrators, Inc. (TFAA) organization, share how our organization can support you, and ask you to consider joining our group.

About 250 fine arts administrators from across Texas hold active membership in TFAA, formerly the Texas Music Administrators Conference (TMAC). TFAA is a non-profit professional association that exists to equip leaders to advance high-quality fine arts education for all and is committed to advocating for more access to fine arts education; collaborating through professional learning opportunities; consciously supporting students, educators, and programs; developing partnerships between school districts and arts organizations; and holding students' potential for achievement at the center of our decision-making.



Many of you serve as the de-facto or named fine arts leader in your district or school. We highly value the work you do for your students and fine arts staff, and we hope that our mission and core principles resonate with you. We'd love to welcome you as TFAA members, where you can take part in the professional learning opportunities we offer.

Each year, TFAA holds three main opportunities for professional growth and collaboration: the Fall Conference; the TMEA Roundtable, and the TBA Roundtable. This year's Fall Conference will be held at the Marriott Austin South on November 1-3, and is packed with professional learning geared toward leadership development.

Additionally, as a TFAA member, you can attend monthly fine arts administrator meetings held regionally around the state: Northwest Texas (Panhandle & Plains), West Texas (El Paso and far West Texas), the Rio Grande Valley, Central Texas (San Antonio and Austin), Houston and East Texas, or Dallas-Fort Worth.

We want all fine arts leaders to have a seat at their district's table where important decisions are made, and relevant, timely information buys us a seat at that table. TFAA's professional learning sessions will arm you with the information you need to advocate not only for your own program, but also the other fine arts programs in your district. In the constantly changing educational world, TFAA provides the resources you need to navigate this complex terrain. Our members can offer answers to complex questions that your district's school board, superintendent, or administration may ask.

This year, we will offer relevant and engaging sessions at our Fall Conference related to growing sustainable fine arts programs, navigating the Teacher Incentive Allotment, addressing human resources issues, budgeting for sustainability, and advocating for weighted funding for fine arts courses at the Texas Legislature. Additionally, Robert Floyd will offer TMEA and TAEC updates, Dr. Brad Kent will provide a UIL Music update, and you will hear from representatives of all the Texas fine arts associations. You also will have time to collaborate with other leaders who may have solved some of the same problems that you currently face in your district.

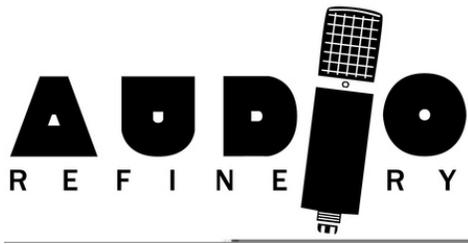
Membership and Fall Conference Registration are available at this link: <https://texasfineartsadmin.com/members/>.

Please consider joining our network of dedicated fine arts leaders that promote and support fine arts education and educators through collaboration, networking, and the sharing of best practices, so that every child in Texas is assured of receiving quality instruction in the understanding, appreciation, creation, and performance of the four artistic disciplines.

Regards,
Jim Drew
TFAA President

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