



# NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2024

Volume XXXIV

No 2

Updated September 3, 2024

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

## PRESIDENTS COLUMN

RODNEY BENNETT



"It" has begun. There are many "its" that we are doing again. We finished our summer camps, and the "real it" has started. Marching season – has begun: school, learning drill, first marching shows, and, for some, the bus trips. Believe or do not believe, but "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. Now, if the weather cooperated, the marching band would be much more enjoyable.

It is my sincerest wish that all of you have a productive and successful marching band season. This one enterprise offers so many lessons—teamwork, precision, physical strength, mental acuity, leadership, work ethic, and many other positive aspects.

Let's take a moment to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our concert bands in the OPS competition. Your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. A special thanks to Collin Anderson for his unwavering commitment to this event, and to all who served as panel chairs and adjudicators for the state level of OPS. Your efforts have truly made a difference.

I am thrilled to congratulate all the directors and their respective bands who participated in the TMEA Honor Band process. The 4A State Honor West Plains High School – Heath Nall - Director and 2A State Honor Band – Tenaha High School – Brian Sours – Director, we are eagerly looking forward to hearing your ensembles perform at the convention in February. Your performances are sure to be a highlight of the event.

Special recognition also goes to the Tenaha HS Band, directed by Brian Sours, for being selected to perform at the 2025 Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago.

On another note (pun intended), the ATSSB State Board has established a new scholarship named the "Jeannie Griffin Memorial" Scholarship. The initial funding of the scholarship has come from the following: ATSSB State Board \$5000.00, and an additional \$2500.00 from two regions and an individual, with another region pledging \$1000.00. The scholarship could become self-perpetuating if the remaining regions could fund \$500.00 per region. Specifics for the scholarship will be available on the ATSSB website.

Your contributions to the Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship and the ATSSB All-State Scholarships are greatly appreciated. Your support helps us maintain these awards at their current levels. I encourage you to consider making a donation to ATSSB to help us continue to provide these valuable opportunities to our students.

As this school year begins to unfold and move forward, I realize how fortunate we are that we have the opportunity to teach band at our respective schools and positively impact the students' lives. We will still experience challenges but strive to create exciting performances and learning opportunities 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 profound honor and pride that I serve as President of ATSSB. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or problems.



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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](http://www.atssb.org)) or email the Editor (Marc Nichelson) at [mnichelson@atssb.org](mailto: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>.



# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT-ELECT COLUMN

ANGIE LISS

I will try to make this short and sweet since I know how busy we all are this time of year and the last thing you want to do is spend time reading things I have written! (Besides, we all know you learned everything you need to be successful in your school's inservice!)

The new year is always exciting and a chance for a fresh start. Yet it seems no matter how prepared we are and how positive our attitude is, something unexpected or negative happens. It's easy to become frustrated in those moments. So here's a few things that we've experienced and how I try to approach them. I feel certain most of you have experienced many of these things and if you have a different approach that has worked for you, I'd love to hear it!

- There is always a student that doesn't show up at band camp or on your class roster that you were expecting, maybe even counting on. If you can, talk to the student to try to get a sense of why they changed their mind. Sometimes it's something that can be worked out but many times—dare I say most times—we have to do like Elsa and 'let it go'! It took me a lot of years to not take it personally and if I'm honest, sometimes I still do. But in most cases it is not in the best interest of the rest of the group to keep the student who quit the band.
- There is always a student that shows up for band camp but somewhere along the way, decides it isn't for them and changes their schedule. Treat this the same as you would the student in scenario #1.
- Coaches don't always understand that most of us don't have a "bench" we can pull from when our "starter" goes down or can't be there. When schedule conflicts come up—and they will—choose your battles very wisely. Advocate for your program obviously, but always keep the student and the bigger picture in mind. You may have to make some concessions at times but in my experience, giving a little on some things will usually work out for you in the long run on most things.
- In all scenarios you may face, focus on the students who did choose to be there. The motivations for every student may be different but they made a choice to be present. Build on that. Work with that. I've said many times over the years, "Give me 50 kids that really want to be there rather than 150 that are bought in only halfway." Teach the students you have. Rewrite the drill if you have to. And once again, let the other stuff go. EVERYONE will be happier in the end.



On a different note, make sure you and everyone else on your staff is joining ATSSB and doing their part for our organization! Your region coordinators need EVERY director to be involved in the activities of the region, whether judging tryouts, monitoring tryouts, organizing all-region bands, etc. Our students need you to be involved. So just do it! You'll be glad you did!

As always, it is my honor to serve this organization. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. If I don't have the answer for you, I'll try to find someone who does! Good luck as we roll on with this busy, busy season!!



# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## PAST PRESIDENT COLUMN

MATT KNIGHT

Greetings from West Texas!!

Wow! Where has the summer gone!! I can't believe we are already going full speed again.

As I write this, we have just finished our first football game. By the way, it was 78 degrees at kickoff. In 31 years of teaching, I have never been to a 78-degree football game in August!

The instruments are put away, and the kids are gone. The band hall has a bizarre sound, silence. That does not happen very often here. As I look back on tonight, it is interesting to look at the many 1st that occurred. For 25 freshmen, it is their first time on the field at halftime. They were excited, scared, nervous, and relieved. The comments are great. Mr. Knight, this field does not look like our field! Mr. Knight, can we use our music? Mr. Knight, do we have to sit with our sections? Mr. Knight, how does it march first at home games, us or them? No matter how often you have gone through everything, kids are kids. That is why we love them!!

I always think about our freshman students at the first game, but what about our "Freshman Directors"? This could be a very scary night. I was fortunate to spend my first three years teaching with an outstanding director and mentor who taught me so many things without saying a word. The first game is about creating habits (traditions). What are the things that are important for you as director?

We are all going to look the same. In 1st few games, we will wear band shirts and band shorts. You may wear an Abernathy Hat in the stands but not at halftime. Next, how are we going to sit? Brass at the top, percussion in the middle, and woodwinds at the bottom. Seven Nation Army is played after the coin flip—the "Hey Song" on the kick. I want my kids involved involved in the game. We are going to play a short of some kind ever 1st down. We have our 3rd down short for offense and defense.

Now we hang on until halftime ("No, you can't go to the bathroom"). It hits 7:00 on the clock, so we head down to the end zone to get ready. I also put kids on warm-up arks, hit a few spots in the music, and talk through the show. I get my cheerleaders by about 2:00 on the clock, and my trainers will meet us after the halftime buzzer rings. Something essential in Abernathy is that we must "take care of the Important before the Urgent." We always circle around the ladder and pray before going on the field. True story: we were late to the warm-up area once, and I forgot to pray with our kids. I had a group of students refuse to go on the field until we prayed. Ladies and Gentlemen, we teach a lot more important things than music!! At the end of the game, we always clean the stands before we can leave. "Leave it better than you found it." Don't expect anything but your student's best. They will live up to the standard you set. It is easier to expect more and back off a little than the other way around. Find out the traditions for bands in your region if you need help figuring out what to do. Ask questions, phone a friend or neighbor down the road. There is not a wrong answer unless you don't ask the question. Hope everyone had a great first game and you got back to the band hall with as many students as you took to the game. LOL





# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## PAST PRESIDENT COLUMN

MATT KNIGHT

I am excited to announce the creation of a new ATSSB scholarship for music majors. The Jeannie Griffin Memorial Scholarship was created to honor the memory of Kenneth Griffin's late wife, Jeannie. For those of us lucky enough to have a spouse who is a music person, you know how truly special that is. Kenneth has been the heart and soul of ATSSB since its founding. Jeannie was with him every step of the way. There is no better way to honor both of them than to donate to this scholarship. My hope is every region would choose to.

Congratulations to all of the ensembles that participated in OPS this year. There are so many great bands and recordings. Thanks to Collin Anderson for once again doing a great job. Special congratulations to West Plains High School Band, Heath Nall, Director, for being named the 4A State Honor Band, and Tenaha High School Band, Brian Sours, Director, for being named the 2A State Honor Band. I can't wait to hear your concerts at TMEA 2025. The Tenaha High School Band will also perform at the 78th Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago in December 2024. If anyone sees Brian's luggage, let him know. He is going to be busy.

ATSSB is in great hands, as always. We are blessed with an outstanding executive board, and with leaders like Kenneth Griffin, President Rodney Bennett, and President-Elect Angie Liss, you could not ask for better people to take care of our organization.

I hope your year is off to a great start. Have fun with your kids! Remember, music is not the most important thing we teach—the kids are!! If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know!

Hope you have a great fall!!





# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY COLUMN

KENNETH GRIFFIN

2023-24 This past school year was a challenging one for me, with my wife's 10-week stay in ICU following surgery on April 9 – which knocked me out of teaching for the last months of school (missing contest and spring concerts), ending June 20, 2024, with her passing away from heart failure. I was and continue to be comforted with work (my school, where I teach part-time, and ATSSB, which is full-time!) and my family, friends, church, and the wonderful directors of ATSSB I work with each year.

I am so appreciative, humbled, and grateful to the ATSSB State Board of Directors for initiating the Jeannie Griffin Memorial Scholarship to honor her memory and for all she did in the background to support me in my work for ATSSB. This \$1000 scholarship will go to a senior in an ATSSB school each year. Preference will be given to students with choral and piano backgrounds in addition to their band activities (but all applicants will be considered). Jeannie was a Sweepstakes high school choir director and accomplished pianist and organist. She is greatly missed, but her memory lives on through this Scholarship.



2024 OPS OPS State Chair Collin Anderson did another great job organizing the process and overseeing the State Adjudications at TBA. Thanks to Chris Moix for his help securing judges for the State Adjudications. If you would like to help judge the State OPS entries, text or email Collin ([opsstatechair@atssb.org](mailto:opsstatechair@atssb.org)) or Chris ([moix@hillsboroisd.org](mailto:moix@hillsboroisd.org)) your desire to participate.

Congratulations to the participants and winners this year. Look for links to the winning files that will be sent to all OPS participants in 2024 sometime soon (contact me at [atssb@att.net](mailto:atssb@att.net) if you submitted an OPS entry in 2024 but do not get a link to the winning audio files by September).

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. Just go to <https://www.atssb.org/membership/> and type in your last name and 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** President-Elect and 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 Friday, February 14, 2025, 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.), 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 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.

**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!

**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 also join here: (<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 2024-25, 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. See the current Year D Update online:  
<https://www.atssb.org/files/PAL-Files/YearDUpdate2025.pdf>

**ADVANCING PAST REGION** If you have students who are selected to audition at the ATSSB Area auditions on January 11, 2025, 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. ATSSB All-State students also do NOT pay an All-State fee (TMEA students do, so do not be confused if you see an invoice for an All-State Fee). All students who audition at Area will receive an Area patch (redesigned last year to be larger and more colorful). No forms are necessary at the Area auditions. 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.

**WEBSITE** The Website has been undergoing transformations, so you will notice glitches and links not working as expected. Webmaster Marc Nichelson has done a great job managing the website and is working to rebuild it from the ground up. 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 is overseeing 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>

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth L. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.





# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## 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](http://www.atssb.org/jazz)

On the page, you'll find a tips sheet for students, a checklist for region coordinators, 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, a practice backing track for the improv piece – thank you to Ken Snow for making that for us! – 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 9.
- 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 12.
- 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](http://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](mailto:bdonnell@atssb.org)  
[www.atssb.org/jazz](http://www.atssb.org/jazz)





# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## ATSSB STATE CHAIR AUDITION COORDINATOR

KRISTI FLUSCHE

I hope everyone has had a fabulous start to their school year. As the year progresses and we are looking toward region and area auditions, please consider being available for the state auditions in February. In the coming months, a Google form will be sent to directors to fill out to show interest in judging the state auditions at TMEA. Please remember that you must be available on Wednesday, February 12, at 4:00 pm when the monitor/judges meetings start. Though I cannot take everyone who signs up, I am thankful for your willingness to serve ATSSB and the talented students who make it to the All-State Band. I will also have an area to sign up if you would be willing and available to help set up and tear down the audition rooms. Those willing to help with setup must be available on Wednesday at 12:30 pm. Last year, the auditions ran smoothly and on time, thanks to all of our monitors and judges. I want to wish you the best for a smooth and successful year.

Kristi Flusche  
ATSSB State Chair Auditions Coordinator



# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE SERIES

COLLIN ANDERSON

I greatly appreciate everyone who made the 2024 Outstanding Performance Series competition season a 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. I especially want to thank Chris Moix at Hillsboro HS, a fellow Region 8 member, who spent time this summer reaching out to the state judges so that I could actually enjoy a vacation and go on our church's mission trip.

It is still overwhelming to think of having 914 audio files from 329 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. Hopefully, both of those numbers will continue to increase in the years to come.

The 1A category was moved from being a 'pilot' and is now a regular category of OPS. This year, the Non-Varsity category was successfully started as a pilot. In the middle school non-varsity category, 28 marches and 49 concert selections were entered, and 31 marches and 62 concert selections were entered in the HS category. The increasing number of entries in the non-varsity categories is a promising sign of their potential growth, which we anticipate will lead to their transition from pilot status in the near future.

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. Certificates are available on the OPS web page for download for all state participants, runners-up, and winners in each class and category.

It's always an honor and a pleasure to serve the members of ATSSB as the State Chair of the Outstanding Performance Series. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the State Board of Directors and to you, the membership, for your trust and for giving me this opportunity to serve our esteemed organization.



# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

## WEBMASTER COLUMN

MARC NICHELSON



As we embark on this new school year, I wish all our ATSSB members the best for your programs and students. The challenges of heat, freshmen marchers, schedule conflicts, and administrative directives can be challenging. Yet, amidst these hurdles, it's crucial to remember why we began this journey: our deep love for music and our commitment to sharing it with our youth and communities.

In the small school band environment, we have a unique opportunity to make a personal impact on our students and communities. Focusing on mentorship, individual student needs, and being a wise and caring presence is not just essential, it's a privilege. Our goal extends beyond Friday night performances or contests. Whether our bands are large or small, well-equipped or not, every child willing to join is given a chance to thrive, and our dedication to their growth can leave a lasting mark.

Remember, it's not about the size of the band or the challenges we face—it's about touching lives through mentorship and passion. Let's not get bogged down by attendance numbers or scheduling conflicts. Instead, let's embrace creativity, teach life skills through music, and enjoy the journey with our students and colleagues.

Lastly, as professionals, being involved in the ATSSB at the Region and State level is crucial. This organization supports our programs immensely, and our presence and participation are vital. Let's commit to being there and contributing. Good luck this year, and I look forward to seeing you in February!

Website Projects Currently in the works:

1. Small school oriented Podcast covering topics we are seeing across the spectrum in small school bands. Please email me if you have anyone who'd like to act as a sponsor or if you have someone who you think would be a great person to interview.
2. 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).
3. Job Board Upgrade and Membership services area of the website is currently in the works!
5. 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!

## 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. Logos contain links to their website so just click to visit (or obvious contact information is given).



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







# SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

## ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund

Value of scholarship fund 7-31-23 ..	\$ 193,684.15**
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
423 Memberships after 10-1 .....	\$ 10,575.00
Individual donations received .....	\$ 244.31
Licensee royalties .....	\$ 13,867.32
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS .....</b>	<b><u>+\$ 24,686.63</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Scholarships paid .....	-\$ 22,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....</b>	<b><u>-\$ 22,500.00</u></b>
Value of scholarship fund 7-31-24 ..	\$ 215,835.10**

Scholarships awarded Fiscal Year 2024:  
 17 3-Year \$500.00 scholarships  
 7 4-Year \$2,000.00 scholarships

Scholarships redeemed and paid to date this Fiscal Year ..... \$22,500.00

There are 11 \$500 and 5 \$2000 scholarships awarded in 2024 that are unclaimed to date = \$ 15,500.00 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, 2024 - end of fiscal year 2023-2024

Amount in checking account 7-31-23 .....	\$ 181,020.99
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Dues .....	\$ 65,525.00
Jazz fees .....	\$ 13,920.00
Area fees .....	\$ 54,100.00
OPS fees .....	\$ 56,760.00
Late fees (paid to Scholarship) .....	\$ 10,575.00
Licensee royalties (paid to Scholarship) ..	\$ 13,867.32
Miscellaneous receipts .....	\$ 27,354.81
Patches .....	\$ 16,037.76
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 258,139.89</u></b>
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS .....</b>	<b>\$ 439,160.88</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
All-State expenses .....	\$ 21,294.91
Area expenses .....	\$ 16,038.81
Audit .....	\$ 1,600.00
Commission Fund .....	\$ 12,065.00
Executive Committee .....	\$ 218.25
Executive Secretary stipend .....	\$ 60,000.00
Hall of Fame .....	\$ 386.53
Internet .....	\$ 1,066.64
Jazz Ensemble expenses .....	\$ 7,770.50

Kenner Scholarship Expenses .....	\$ 1,026.00
Office expenses .....	\$ 5,957.99
Officer & Org. Expenses ....	\$ 5,450.13
OPS expenses .....	\$ 32,558.35
Patches .....	\$ 17,431.64
PayPal fees .....	\$ 2,939.23
Postage .....	\$ 23.55
Programs and Transfers .....	\$ 1,528.00
Refunds .....	\$ 965.00
Scholarship transfers .....	\$ 47,161.38
State Board of Director expenses .....	\$ 995.55
TBA expenses .....	\$ 496.89
Telephone .....	\$ 868.18
TMEA .....	\$ 411.50
Website .....	\$ 3,542.88
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b><u>-\$ 240,446.03</u></b>

### BALANCE:

Amount in checking account 7-31-24 ..... \$ 198,714.85

**Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund** value as of 7-31-24 ..... \$ 12,533.70\*\*

**Commission Fund** value as of 7-31-24 ..... \$ 47,938.82\*\*

**Elmer and Anita Schenk Family Trust Program Fund** value of fund as of 7-31-24 ..... \$ 24,775.71\*

\*Funds are withdrawn to pay for programs each year.





# PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## Proposed ATSSB Constitutional Amendment #1 for 2025-26

Change ARTICLE III, Membership from:

ATSSB membership shall be defined according to the following categories: ACTIVE (RM, CM, FCM, Retiree) - A current director or assistant director of a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school band in Texas or a current director or assistant director of a junior high or middle school band which feeds a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school band in Texas as defined by the University Interscholastic League by counting enrollment in grades 9-12 (or proportionate enrollment if the high school does not encompass grades 9-12; i.e.: if a high school has only one grade in it, its enrollment would be multiplied by 4; if two grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by two; and if only three grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by 1.333), or a current director or assistant director of a private middle school through the eighth grade, or anyone who has retired from any of these positions as an Active Member. These schools must be certified by the Texas Education Agency or an accrediting agency approved by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC). Payment of the prescribed dues will allow the individual the following privileges: Participation in ATSSB activities, the right to vote, the right to hold office, and admittance to scheduled or called General Sessions upon compliance with registration requirements.

To:

ATSSB membership shall be defined according to the following categories: ACTIVE (RM, CM, FCM, Retiree) - A current director or assistant director of a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school band in Texas or a current director or assistant director of a junior high or middle school band which feeds a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school band in Texas as defined by the University Interscholastic League by counting enrollment in grades 9-12 (or proportionate enrollment if the high school does not encompass grades 9-12; i.e.: if a high school has only one grade in it, its enrollment would be multiplied by 4; if two grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by two; and if only three grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by 1.333), or a current director or assistant director of a private middle school through the eighth grade, or anyone who has retired from any of these positions as an Active Member. These schools must be certified by the Texas Education Agency or an accrediting agency approved by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC). **A middle school that matriculates any students to a 5A or 6A school will not be eligible to participate in ATSSB activities.** Payment of the prescribed dues will allow the individual the following privileges: Participation in ATSSB activities, the right to vote, the right to hold office **under the provisions of Article I, Section 3, ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP in the BY-LAWS** and admittance to scheduled or called General Sessions upon compliance with registration requirements.



# PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## Proposed ATSSB Constitutional Amendment #2 for 2025-26

Change ARTICLE V, State Government, SECTION 2, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT from:

The President-Elect shall assume office in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. The President-Elect shall be a current Active Member of ATSSB. The President-Elect shall be chairman of the State Audition Review Committee.

To:

The President-Elect shall assume office in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. **To be elected to this office, the** ~~The~~ President-Elect shall be ~~a current Active Member of ATSSB~~ **concurrently employed as a band director in an ATSSB-eligible school.** The President-Elect shall be chairman of the State Audition Review Committee.



# PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## Proposed ATSSB Constitutional Amendment #3 for 2025-26

Change ARTICLE I, SECTION 3, ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP in the BY-LAWS from:

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP shall be open to any individual currently serving as a band director or assistant director in a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school in Texas or is a band director or assistant director in a junior high or middle school which feeds a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school as defined by the University Interscholastic League by counting enrollment in grades 9-12 (or proportionate enrollment if the high school does not encompass grades 9-12; i.e.: if a high school has only one grade in it, its enrollment would be multiplied by 4; if two grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by two; and if only three grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by 1.333), or a current director or assistant director of a private middle school through the eighth grade. These schools must be certified by the Texas Education Agency or an accrediting agency approved by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC). Payment of the prescribed dues will allow the individual to participate in ATSSB activities, the right to vote and hold office, admittance to meetings upon compliance with registration requirements, and to enter students in grades 9-12 in the audition process leading to membership in the ATSSB All-State Band. A Regular Member who retires may continue Active Membership so long as dues are kept current. Payment of the prescribed dues will allow the individual to participate in ATSSB activities, the right to vote, the right to hold office, and admittance to scheduled or called General Sessions upon compliance with registration requirements.

To:

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP shall be open to any individual currently serving as a band director or assistant director in a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school in Texas or is a band director or assistant director in a junior high or middle school which feeds a Class 1A, 2A, 3A, or 4A high school as defined by the University Interscholastic League by counting enrollment in grades 9-12 (or proportionate enrollment if the high school does not encompass grades 9-12; i.e.: if a high school has only one grade in it, its enrollment would be multiplied by 4; if two grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by two; and if only three grades, its enrollment would be multiplied by 1.333), or a current director or assistant director of a private middle school through the eighth grade. These schools must be certified by the Texas Education Agency or an accrediting agency approved by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC). Payment of the prescribed dues will allow the individual to participate in ATSSB activities, the right to vote and hold office, admittance to meetings upon compliance with registration requirements, and to enter students in grades 9-12 in the audition process leading to membership in the ATSSB All-State Band. A Regular Member who retires may continue Active Membership **as** long as dues are kept current. Payment of the prescribed **Retiree** dues will allow the individual to participate in ATSSB activities, the right to vote, ~~the right to hold office~~, admittance to scheduled or called General Sessions upon compliance with registration requirements, **and hold an appointed office. If the retiree is a current State officer, they may remain in office until the end of the prescribed term.**





# PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## Proposed ATSSB Constitutional Amendment #4 for 2025-26

Change ARTICLE V, State Government, SECTION 4, AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES from:

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

To:

One representative from each Class (1C, 2C/3C, 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A) shall assume office in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. Each of the six representatives shall be voting members of the State Board of Directors. **Each Representative must be concurrently employed in the school ~~Class-school~~ classification they represent when they are elected. Should a Representative move to a different ~~Class~~ school classification, the President shall name a replacement to serve out the term of office until a new one can be elected. Should a Representative retire from the ~~Class~~ school classification they represent, they may, at their option, complete the term of office. Should they resign the position on retirement, the President shall name a replacement to serve out the term of office until a new one can be elected.**

Change Article II, SECTION 4(a) from:

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

To:

DUTIES OF THE AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES. Each of the six At-Large Representatives (one from Class 1C, one from Class 2C or 3C, one from Class 1A, one from Class 2A, one from Class 3A, and one from Class 4A) **must be concurrently employed in the ~~Class~~ school classification they represent when they are elected. ~~and~~ They** shall serve as voting members of the State Board of Directors so as to maintain a balance of opinion among the different ~~classes~~ **classifications** of schools. **Should a Representative move to a different ~~Class~~ school classification, the President shall name a replacement to serve out the term of office until a new one can be elected. Should a Representative retire from the ~~Class~~-school classification they represent, they may, at their option, complete the term of office. Should they resign the position on retirement, the President shall name a replacement to serve out the term of the office until a new one can be elected.**

## ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS Membership Application

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.  
If this is a membership renewal, only enter name and school and ANYTHING THAT HAS CHANGED.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Last four SS# \_\_\_\_\_ TMEA # \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ REGION # \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_  
If a public middle or junior high school, what high school does your school feed? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many directors are on the band staff in your ISD? \_\_\_\_\_ New to this region? \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ FAX# \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE (if different from school) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL# \_\_\_\_\_  
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$50\* for dues to:

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary  
2117 Morse Street  
Houston, Texas 77019

Are you a judge listed with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association? If so, please select your area of certification: \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.**

Dues may not be deductible, but any amount over \$50 is considered a fully-deductible contribution.

I would also like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

Donations to this scholarship are fully deductible.

**\*NOTE:** The membership year runs from August 1 to July 31. After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$75 (the additional \$25 is deposited into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund). A membership card and receipt will be returned to you via email, so make sure you have a valid email address. Associate Member dues are \$25 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$25. To enter students into competition leading to membership in an ATSSB All-State Band, you must be a current Active Member of the Texas Music Educators Association in addition to ATSSB. Retired Members dues are \$25. Only ATSSB Active Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB and submit entries in the Outstanding Performance Series. ATSSB membership is held on an individual basis and is nontransferable.

## ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS COLLEGE DIVISION APPLICATION

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 SS# \_\_\_\_\_  
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
PERMANENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address to which you want the ATSSB Newsletter sent: \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent

Mail this completed form and \$25 for dues to:

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary  
2117 Morse Street  
Houston, Texas 77019

Make checks payable to **ATSSB**

**NOTE:** College Division Membership entitles you to have your name listed in the ATSSB Directory. You will also be listed in the region, area and state database for selection to judging panels for ATSSB auditions. Only Regular Active Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB.