

## THE OFFICIAL "SENZIG STREAM-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS" REGION MEETING MINUTES

TMEA/ATSSB Region 8 Meeting

Saturday, August 8, 2020

Meetings conducted online via Zoom.

The TMEA meeting began at 9:00 AM.

*Darrell Umhoeffer, TMEA Region 8 President:*

COVID-19 and Advocacy resources are available for all divisions.

New directors, or directors in new positions in the region, have been asked to put their name, position, and school email in the Zoom chat box.

Brent Colwell is no longer Region Vice President because he has retired.

Thoughts from Darrell:

Focus on the "Can"s and not the Can Nots.

Throw all your traditions and norms for teaching band out the window, and make your teaching work in our new COVID reality, instead of making COVID fit our box.

Keep yourself safe. If you're not safe and happy, your kids won't be safe and happy.

Keep your kids safe and happy as well.

TMEA Business:

There is very little financial change from the previous meeting.

Region 8's nomination for TMEA President Nominee is between Jed Ragsdale and Michael Stringer. The region voted to nominate Michael Stringer.

TMEA region officers need to be reelected since we did not do it in the spring; all region officers were reelected.

TMEA convention fees are still \$50. Please consider health insurance and liability insurance.

The TMEA convention in February 2021 is still set to happen in person at this time. Housing opens November 3rd, not October 1st, this year.

The spring TMEA/ATSSB region meeting will be Saturday, May 1.

TMEA Invited Ensembles will be announced Sept. 1. All TMEA events will be virtual until January. More details on auditions will be forthcoming at the end of August.

TMEA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is hard at work dealing with racial inequity in TMEA.

When you constantly see vendor emails in your inbox, please remember that vendor mailing list purchases support TMEA scholarships.

Please remember the Texas Future Music Educators and Distinguished Administrators Award.

Convention volunteers are needed - even if the convention is virtual! Contact Susan @ TMEA, or Darrell Umhoeffer, to help.

TMEA has set audition policies that allow remote learners participate in TMEA activities.

The TMEA/UJL/ATSSB Google Calendar is available on Darrell's webpage. It is constantly being updated.

*Tony Clines, UIL Region 8 Executive Secretary:*

Check the state UIL website and review ALL rules and procedures for UIL music events and COVID compliance. Also, frequently check the UIL Region 8 website.

When calculating region entry fees please use the form on the website, not the form on Texas Music Forms. Make sure you have the correct year on the form or your fees may be for incorrect amounts.

We have a large inventory of trophies left over from last year due to cancelled contests and we are not purchasing new trophies until they are needed. As a result, during this school year, you may not have a trophy at the event you compete at.

If your school district is interested in having Dorian (Charms Office) be a vendor, you must contact them directly.

POP scores must have permission from the copyright holder (NOT the vendor) to photocopy scores for judges. Please be ready to do extra research to stay in compliance on this issue.

For UIL Solo and Ensemble: 1,816 new titles were added to PML this year. Mixed Clarinet Trio, Double Reed Ensemble, Trumpet Choir, Drum Set Solo, Steel Band, and Mixed Miscellaneous Ensemble categories were added. Class 2 and 3 wind ensembles have significantly more works added, and some lists doubled in size. The New PML will debut on September 1.

**Very important:** If your school hosts spring events, check NOW with your admin to confirm that you will be allowed to host.

All of this morning's Zoom meetings will be recorded, and links to the meetings will be put on Darrell Umhoeffer's Region 8 page. Deb Barrick will also put together a spreadsheet with all new director/director change info for Darrell's page.

The TMEA Region 8 Band Division meeting began at 10:00.

*Bob Vetter, Texas Bandmasters Association Region 8 Representative:*

The virtual convention was a huge success. Handouts, all clinics, and CPE credit forms are still available on the TBA website. You can still go online, register, and access all clinics if you did not attend the virtual convention back in July.

Clinic recommendations for the 2021 TBA convention are being solicited.

*Bre Osborn, TMEA Region 8 Band Division Chair:*

Bre was reelected as TMEA Region 8 Band Division Chair.

Info on virtual auditions follows: much of this information will be the same for ATSSB, but not everything will be the same.

A program called Music First will be used for virtual auditions. Make sure your district does not have the Music First app locked or blocked on their servers.

No late or corrected entries will be allowed. There is no way to change entries after they are submitted.

All directors need to be available to judge so that regions won't have to hire judges.

Information for Honor Band submissions is on the TMEA website; please pay attention to requirements and details.

TMEA offers grants to fund in-person and virtual workshops for CPE credit for each TMEA region, up to 5 per year per region; please send ideas to Bre Osborn so we can take advantage of this.

*Tony Clines, UIL Band:*

There are new contests, pilots, rules, and committees, as detailed below:

There will be a new Marching Band Rules Advisory Committee this year.

Five regions will pilot new UIL Sightreading procedures; Region 8 is not one of them.

UIL will have a pilot UIL State Military Marching Band Contest for 2A, 4A and 6A bands.

There is a new UIL State Instrumental Chamber Music contest. Information can be found on the UIL Music website.

UIL has 4 new rules that pertain to marching band:

Wind instruments may be amplified only for up to 10 performers at a time.

For all classifications except 1A, bands must receive a 1st Division rating at region marching contest to advance to the Area contest.

Area Marching Band contests will be held each year, beginning this fall, for all non-advancing classifications 2A and higher.

At the UIL 5A and 6A State Marching Contests, there will now be 7 judges (4 music, 2 visual, 1 overall design).

Please follow COVID mitigation guidelines listed on the state webpage.

Anyone working with a marching band in any capacity must complete the UIL Marching Band Safety Training course.

Remember to submit your Marching Band Compliance Form and have students and parents complete their Marching Band Acknowledgement Forms.

For marching band, Pre-Participation Physicals are required before a student's 1st and 3rd years of participation; for 2020-2021 only, this requirement is waived if a student has had a previous physical.

In order to have a video recording made of your band at the UIL Region marching contest, you must complete the Educational Agreement on the state UIL webpage.

When registering your band for UIL Region marching contest on Texas Music Forms, you must now declare your intent to advance, and choose your track (military or "open class").

Entry fees will be higher this year to offset potentially fewer entries.

Darrell Umhoeffer and Tony Clines will draw for marching performance order after entries are received. Directors do not have to physically draw for order this year.

It is likely that bands will be asked to only be present at UIL Marching Band contests for their performance only; this means bands may not be allowed to come early or stay late to watch other bands perform.

Tony went over the following changes to marching band procedures that were emailed to band directions on August 6th:

- UIL had planned to utilize new region/area/state marching band adjudication sheets this year. However, UIL is now postponing implementation of these new adjudication sheets until at least the 2021-2022 school year.

- For this year, the minimum performance time has been shorted from five minutes to four minutes.
- For this year, the field entrance and setup times have been increased from five minutes to six minutes. Therefore, each band's announcement will begin with 45 seconds remaining on the six-minute field entrance clock. (NOTE: Tony Clines recommends that each participating band time their entry, and consider not entering the field as soon as the six-minute clock starts, to avoid having 2-3 minutes of "dead time" with students standing in place on the field waiting for the 45 second announcement to start.)
- For this year, field exit time has been increased from two to three minutes.
- For this year, marching band contest chairs may schedule bands at greater than 15 minute intervals.
- For this year, Area and State marching contests will consist of only one round and no Finals competition, and there will be no full band retreats held.

Based on survey results regarding which schools were planning to go to UIL Marching Contest this fall, the Executive Committee recommends that the 3A contest be combined with the 4A/5A/6A contest. Robinson and Killeen have both offered to host this contest because Midway cannot host on the preferred date of November 7. Directors voted for a preference of Robinson HS. The date and preferred site will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for finalization. The Executive Committee also recommends that the 1A/2A Marching Contest be moved to Saturday, November 7, due to potential bus transportation issues during a school day. La Vega cannot host on a weekend; Troy has offered to host this contest, and Teague has offered to host as a backup site if Troy cannot.

2A Area Marching Contest will be Thursday December 3 at Whitney. This is to avoid conflict with the UIL State Cross Country meet on Saturday December 5.

Hays HS and Bastrop HS have offered to host the 3A/5A Area contest and the 4A/6A area contest marching contest between them. Final sites will be determined soon.

The 4A/6A Area Marching Contest (held at either Hays or Bastrop) will be Saturday, December 5.

The 3A/5A Area Marching Contest (held at either Hays or Bastrop) will be Saturday, December 12.

ALL of this information is based on information we know now, that could change at any time. Please let Tony know at any time if your situation changes or if you have any concerns.

*Darrell Umhoeffer, UIL Music Advisory Committee:*

The MAC met by email and the region's band division needs to vote on two items.

First proposal: Sub-non varsity bands will now sightread music 3 levels below their school's classification, not 2. (For example: a 5A SNV band would sightread the Level 2 music, instead of Level 3, with this proposal.) The proposal passed 73-2.

Second proposal: Create a Division 1 and Division 2 for the 6A State Marching Band Contest. The proposal passed 44-12.

The ATSSB Region 8 meeting began at 11:00.

*Marc Nichelson, ATSSB Region 8 Coordinator:*

This year we are using Year C, not Year B middle school audition music as erroneously indicated on the agenda.

The minutes were approved with a motion from Blake Vajert and a second from David Sprinkle.

*Sara English, Region Webmaster:*

Please update your directory info if necessary. She will be stepping down as webmaster and the region will need to nominate and elect a new webmaster.

*Stephanie Schmidt, Region Treasurer:*

There were no changes at all to region finances since May. No scholarship applications have been received, but the money is there if you want to take advantage of region scholarships. There will be an upcoming expense to repair the battery on a region-owned laptop.

*Tony Clines, UIL Region 8 Executive Secretary:* (Marc suspended the ATSSB meeting so Tony could be virtually present at the meeting to give information.)

Tony reviewed all marching band information for any directors who may have missed the TMEA Zoom meeting.

The only new information in our meeting: UIL Twirling will be September 19th at Fairfield HS as scheduled.

Keep in mind with the new 6 minute entry clock: you don't have to enter the field immediately when your band is called to the field at UIL. You may want to time your setup so your kids don't have to stand in place for 2-3 minutes before performing.

3A directors who were not present at the TMEA Band division meeting were given an opportunity to vote for Robinson or Killeen as the region marching site for the 3A-6A contest. All four new votes were in favor of Robinson. Tony announced that Troy HS (a 3A school) has been given permission by the state office to give their UIL performance at the conclusion of the 1A/2A contest they are hosting.

The Treasurer's report was approved with a motion from Lindsay Pfaff, and a second from Rebecca Kroll.

*Jon Schriver, ATSSB Region 8 Vice Admiral:*

This year's jazz clinician will be Alex Parker from Baylor.

If you are new to the region, please feel free to reach out to a mentor in the region.

Please make sure you are using the correct region website that is found at the state ATSSB website. (The correct Region 8 website is [www.atssb.org/region-8](http://www.atssb.org/region-8).) Marc or Sara will try and deactivate the old website. (By the end of the Zoom meeting, Sara English had already deactivated the old website.)

Marc explained for new directors that our region has two separate middle school band audition tracks. The "Groesbeck Zone" uses audition music that can be taught in full-class-at-once settings, while the "Robinson Zone" uses music that mimics TMEA MS auditions, chosen from etude books. There are three middle school all region bands in Region 8: the East Zone Symphonic Band (students qualify from Groesbeck Zone auditions), the West Zone Symphonic

Band (students qualify from Robinson Zone auditions), and the Combined Zone Concert Band (students qualify from both zone auditions).

Both middle school coordinators (Brian Boecker, Groesbeck Zone and Mark Dorsey, Robinson Zone) reported that all audition music and cuts were posted on the region's website.

*Region Coordinator's report, Marc Nichelson:*

ATSSB and Region 8 will use Music First for all auditions. There are additional steps to the entry process compared to previous years. **ALL** directors from schools entering will be needed to judge auditions. Judging will be done virtually via Zoom and Music First; scores will be forwarded from judging panels to Marc and Jon, who will tabulate and post results.

When you enter your information into the TMEA portal, you need to enter **ALL** directors and their emails. It slows down Marc's end of the process more than we realize if directors do not provide all available emails for potential judges. Take great care to spell student names correctly on entries, because there is no way to change this when data is transferred from the entry form to FileMaker Pro.

With Music First, students can record as many times as they want, and each time it will replace the previous "take". When the student clicks "Submit" they cannot make further recordings. Accompaniment tracks for jazz auditions are set up to play along with the "take" through onboard computer speakers, and headphones cannot be used when recording auditions.

The new virtual audition process has several dates directors need to be aware of. After the entry deadline, there is a 5 day "student upload period" for students to upload their virtual audition, a 2 day "director verification period" (directors are **required** to verify each student entry or it will not be judged), a "judging date", and a "results date".

Region Jazz Audition dates:

Entry deadline: October 2

Student upload period: October 3, 10AM until October 7, 11:59 PM

Director verification period: October 8-9

Virtual judging date: October 10

Results posted no later than: October 12

**\*\*Note:** if a student auditions on multiple instruments at any audition, the extra \$2.50 per entry added by Music First to host virtual contests must still be paid for each entry.

These dates were approved with a motion by Mark Dorsey and a second by Crystal Senzig.

Our region will not have to judge any Area Jazz auditions this year.

Area Jazz audition dates:

Student upload period: October 31 until November 4.

Director verification: November 5-6.

Virtual judging date: November 7.

Marc suggested that the Region Jazz clinic and concert be moved to Saturday, January 23 at China Spring HS so we can align with TMEA directives disallowing any in-person events before January 10. This suggestion was approved by acclamation.

Middle school audition dates (both zones):

Entry deadline: November 6.

Student upload period: November 7 until November 11.

Director verification period: November 12-13.

Virtual judging: November 14.

Results posted no later than: November 16.

These dates were approved with a motion from David Sprinkle and a second from Rebecca Kroll. Marc noted that the suggested middle school audition dates were moved to November so band directors could avoid being caught up in two audition processes in the same month.

High school dates needed to change from the suggested dates, due to a conflict with the 3A Area Marching Band contest on December 12. Marc's suggestions were: move the virtual judging date to Sunday December 13, push the audition back a month into November, or push the audition a week later in December. The following dates were approved with a motion from Brian Boecker and a second from Stephanie Schmidt:

High school audition dates:

Entry deadline: December 11.

Student upload period: December 12 until December 16.

Director verification period: December 17-18.

Virtual judging: December 19.

Results posted no later than: December 21.

Krystal Michal asked the question, how will timpani be judged as a part of the HS percussion all region audition? The answer from the state office is: unless schools are closed statewide and students cannot play on school timpani, all 3 rounds of percussion auditions (snare, mallet and timpani) will be judged. There is a provision to give snare and mallet rounds 150 points each and exclude timpani if schools are closed statewide when virtual auditions are held. Marc suggests that if your school is closed, but schools are not closed statewide, and you have a student wishing to audition on percussion, you should call directors at nearby schools that are still open and ask if you can record timpani auditions there. Students will be required to follow tuning procedures as a part of their virtual timpani audition and tuning will be considered in the overall timpani etude score.

The ATSSB Area fee schedule is different from TMEA, so please pay attention to the correct fee.

Reminder to directors - there are no Area cuts; students are required to play every scale and each etude in its entirety.

Perry Morris has retired and Marc Nichelson will be taking over as Area Central coordinator.

ATSSB Area Central audition dates:  
Student upload period: January 2-6.  
Director verification period: January 7-8.  
Virtual judging: January 9.  
Results posted no later than: January 11.

The Region 8 Clinic & Concert is at this time scheduled for Saturday, January 16.

Clinicians are:

Jeff Jones, HS Symphonic Band

Bob Vetter, HS Concert Band

Chris Brown, MS West Zone Symphonic Band

John Robertson, MS East Zone Symphonic Band

Lance Walker, MS Combined Zone Concert Band

Alex Jones, HS Jazz Ensemble (with this concert taking place on Saturday, Jan. 23.)

Reminders:

Entries will not be accepted without both ATSSB and TMEA cards. Printouts mailed with the entry form, or PDFs emailed to Stephanie Schmidt, are both acceptable.

Here are all the entry deadlines, together in one place:

Jazz - October 2

MS Band - November 6

HS Band - December 4

All checks should be made out to ATSSB Region 8 ATTN Stephanie Schmidt, and sent to:  
PO Box 879, Madisonville TX 77864. Payment MUST arrive no later than 7 days after entry.

Directors of qualifying students are required to be in attendance at the Clinic and Concert.

Be aware that All State students must bring a wire stand to rehearsals.

No electronic devices will be allowed at All State auditions other than tuners and metronomes;  
however, electronic media may be used in lieu of printed music during the audition.

If you are interested in this year's Outstanding Performance Series contest, contact Collin  
Anderson, State OPS chair at [opsstatechair@atssb.org](mailto:opsstatechair@atssb.org).

It is our responsibility to know region rules.

Instrumentation for each All Region band is on our website.

All directors from participating schools must judge.

Officer nominations:

For the vacant office of Webmaster, Rachel Berg was elected with a nomination by Sara English  
(the current Webmaster stepping down) and a second from Jon Schriver.

For the office of Secretary, Eric Senzig was reelected by acclamation.

For the office of Vice Admiral, Jon Schriver was reelected by acclamation.

For ATSSB state officer nominations from the region, Freddy Gonzalez was nominated for State  
1C Representative with a nomination from Marshall Hughes and a second from Lindsay Pfaff.

Mark Dorsey was nominated by Rachel Berg for State 3A Representative with a second from  
Rebecca Kroll. Jon Schriver was nominated for State President-Elect by James Beeson with a



second from Stormy Kelley, with the stipulation that Jon must wear a giant sombrero during TMEA if elected.

Band and percussion organizers for the All Region Clinic & Concert are:

HS Symphonic Band: Wylie Gore/Krystal Michal

HS Concert Band: Rachel Berg/Josh Nowlin

MS West Zone Symphonic Band: Robin Williamson/Andrew Steck

MS East Zone Symphonic Band: **band and percussion organizers are still needed.**

MS Combined Zone Concert Band: Jose Sanchez/Michael Oreka

Our new Region Librarian is Rebecca Kroll. She will scan music for EVERY region band and upload it to Google Drive for directors to download for qualifying students.

Everyone needs to fill out the Directory Information form included in the agenda.

There was no new business for the meeting.

Announcements of contests:

Whitney will host a marching contest on October 24. It will likely be prelims only.

McGregor is NOT hosting a marching contest this year. Middle school concert/sightreading contest will be February 17, high school C/SR will be March 17 or 24. Refunds for last spring's March contests should have been mailed out, so email Tim Grace if you haven't received your refund yet.

Troy will host their contest on October 21 and there is a slight possibility the date will be moved.

There needs to be enough interest for the contest to make. Troy does have a new turf field.

Madisonville may host a USBands contest on Oct 31.

Crystal Senzig spoke for Centex Honor Band - they are currently looking at an online audition format. Her email is [csenzig@rieselisd.org](mailto:csenzig@rieselisd.org) if you would like more information.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 with a motion from Sara English and a second from Rebecca Kroll.

After the meeting, Marc was asked about equipment suggestions for recording auditions. He suggested to use a good USB audio interface and get a good quality XLR microphone.

Presonus sells a pack with all of this for about \$200.

Elizabeth Steel asked if students can record at home or at school: Marc says, either is fine.

Directors are allowed to be present during the recordings and Marc says that's a good idea.

Directors are expected to be professional and ethical with this new virtual, recorded audition process. And, there is no limit on the number of "takes" a student can record. When a student records a new "take", they have to delete the previous one, so that only one recording can be submitted.

[Helpful links from the region meeting:](#)

Recording of the entire ATSSB Zoom meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5cdrF4Df6ENQZHW52vbWqo6Xd7Kaaa80CRKr\\_MJmRnS2HgKqWca0WSXDdDFy0ZQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5cdrF4Df6ENQZHW52vbWqo6Xd7Kaaa80CRKr_MJmRnS2HgKqWca0WSXDdDFy0ZQ)

(password is =^v%.0dg)

Link to ATSSB Region 8's Google calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=YXRzc2lub3JnX2Inc3Rmdjl0cGt1bThoa2djZ2UwcnFmNW5zQGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>

Link to Area Central calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=Y19iZHNmaWlY3JrcWJhcjgzdTN0c2FkbDBvc0Bncm91cC5jYWxlbnRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t>

Link to the ATSSB Region 8 website:

<https://www.atssb.org/region-8/>

Link to the Fall 2020 ATSSB Region 8 meeting agenda:

<https://www.atssb.org/files/Region-8/2020-Fall-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>