

ATSSB Region 8 Fall Meeting  
Temple College  
August 5, 2023

Links for the meeting:

TMEA meeting agenda:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hJ-v3k7v6ddFTW-bvIh3AugKWLvyw93H>

ATSSB meeting agenda:

<https://www.atssb.org/files/Region-8/2023-Fall-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

Region 8 TMEA/UIL/ATSSB Google Calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r?cid=bWlkd2F5aXNkLm9yZ19wZzZyZm50YTdtdnVybXFrMjloazBnc25yb0Bncm91cC5jYWxlbmRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t&pli=1>

TMEA Region Meeting:

**Darrell Umheoffer, Region 8 President:**

Nominations were opened for TMEA President Elect. Nominees were Ramon Nino III from Northside HS in Fort Worth and Shane Goforth from North Shore HS in Pasadena. After a vote, Shane Goforth received the nomination from Region 8.

TMEA announcements:

Visit the TMEA website. If you have not done so already, please update your personal data, especially if you changed jobs or regions.

Membership fees have been raised to \$65, convention fees are still \$65, and audio online registration is \$10. The \$30 liability insurance is highly recommended. Next year's TMEA clinic and convention will be February 7-10, 2024. Housing opens October 5 at 6 AM.

The link to the Region 8 TMEA/UIL/ATSSB Google Calendar is listed above at the beginning of these minutes.

Legislative update: House Bill 100 had arts funding built into it, as well as other benefits for school funding, but it was pulled by its author when the Senate added school vouchers to the bill. The chair of the Public Education Committee, as well as the bill's author, live in Region 8. Be watching for emails from TMEA about the upcoming October special session that will deal with education. Please use PERSONAL emails to communicate with legislators, not school emails.

Dr. Sara Baker, dean of fine arts at Temple College and Region 8 Vice President, asks that if you are a new teacher, please follow the link or QR code in the meeting agenda to plug into mentoring and other opportunities.

**Tony Clines, UIL Region 8 Executive Secretary:**

Tony is celebrating his 50th year in music education this year! Darrell Umhoeffer has taken on the role of Associate Executive Secretary and will be in charge of organization and communication for choir and orchestra. The main reason this position has been added is the great number of UIL concert and sightreading entries from our region; we had 512 entries last year, most in the state of any region and far greater than many regions. We also host more UIL contests than most regions: three marching contests, 11 solo and ensemble contests, and 19

Concert and Sightreading contests. Darrell's new position will help take some of the work load off of Tony and make things smoother for everyone.

Charms/Texas Music Forms has been sold to Cut Time (for those that haven't heard the news yet); UIL has been assured that nothing is changing for this year. The UIL contest entry process will be the same this year, but it may change after that.

Each campus has a TEA code that you need to know for contest entries, so make sure you know your code; there were actually quite a few schools around the state that made up TEA codes for the State Solo & Ensemble Contest which created a number of bad situations.

Tony Clines' email is [tcreg8@gmail.com](mailto:tcreg8@gmail.com). Contact him with any questions you might have.

When you receive your Region Solo & Ensemble ratings printout, check for the 1C by your groups advancing to state! This can cause scheduling problems later at TSSEC if your events are not marked "1C".

Tony advises us to print out, rather than read online, the Constitution and Contest Rules which we are responsible for knowing and following.

For Band UIL Sightreading contest, you are allowed to use a metronome during your explanation period, but you have to bring your own; the host is not required to provide one.

If you wish to receive feedback from your explanation period during UIL Sightreading, you can ask the Compliance Officer at the contest.

Directors are required to obtain letters from publishers giving permission to copy or electronically download scores for Solo & Ensemble and Concert/Sightreading contests. This includes music that is permanently out of print (POP).

When checking the UIL Prescribed Music List, do not rely on Texas Music Forms to see if music is on the list or not; always check the official PML on the UIL website. Texas Music Forms is about 99% accurate, but you do not want one of your entries to be in the 1% that is not correct.

The UIL Prescribed Music List can be found here: <https://www.uil texas.org/pml/>

Last year, all of Region 8's Concert & Sightreading judges utilized Texas Music Forms for evaluation sheets, and this will continue into the future. This also allows judge's sheets to be archived!

If your group will go to Concert/Sightreading evaluation in April, go to your school administrators NOW to check your contest date against your school's STAAR testing dates. Things will continue to be fluid and some contest dates may still change.

Homeschool students may enter UIL events IF your local district approves this participation.

However, there is a process your school must go through to allow home school student participation, so make sure this has been followed if you have homeschool students in your organization.

Unfortunately, entry fees will go up this year. Of the 33 regions in the state, there is only 1 region whose marching fee is less than ours, and 16 regions charge gate admission, which we do not.

Only 4 regions have Concert/Sightreading fees less than ours, and only 10 regions have Solo & Ensemble fees less than ours. We do our best to keep fees as low as we can!

Check the Region 8 website ([uilmusicregion8.com](http://uilmusicregion8.com)). All the forms you will need, all of the information on Darrell Umhoeffer's TMEA Region 8 website, and a UIL fee tabulation form are on the UIL Region 8 website.

**Darrell Umhoeffer, Region 8 President:**

With Darrell becoming Associate Region 8 Executive Secretary, we need to elect a new Region 8 TMEA president. Nominees were Garth Gunderson, Pam Hyatt, and Amy Triggs.

After a vote, Garth Gunderson was elected Region 8 TMEA President.

The next region meeting will be on May 4, 2024. Sites offered were Chapparral HS in Killeen and Rudder HS in Bryan; Chapparral HS was voted as the site for the spring region meeting.

TMEA Band Division meeting:

**Wylie Gore, Texas Bandmasters Association:**

TBA membership members remain strong. CPE forms are available for download at the website, as well as clinic handouts. Next year's TBA Convention will be July 25-27, 2024, with the welcome barbeque on July 24th.

**Tony Clines, UIL Band:**

There's a very unusual circumstance that will affect the 4A/5A/6A marching contest on October 14, in that there is a total solar eclipse from 10:30-2:00 on that day. We do not want any bands to have to give their UIL performance during the eclipse, so as a result, 4A bands will perform beginning at 8:30 AM. The order will not be the usual random draw but will instead be in order of proximity (shortest drive time) to the Midway HS stadium. When 4A bands are finished, the contest will take a break for the eclipse and 5A bands will begin performing at 1:30 PM.

All marching contest judges will be using CompetitionSuite this year.

A non-student may be permitted to intervene and address an electronics *malfunction* (not an performance adjustment) during a marching band's performance.

When entering your marching band, directors must select for Area advancement and select Open Class or Military track.

Get your UIL online safety training done - it is required. If a student has a heat stroke, UIL *will* check to see if you have done your training! This happened last year and the director in charge of the affected student did not complete their training until the day AFTER the student suffered a heat stroke. Don't be that director!

Students must have physicals for marching band every 2 years. However, 9th graders must have a physical even if they had one for 8th grade marching band participation. Practically speaking, students need a physical for their 9th grade and 11th grade years.

UIL will have 45 minute warmups for marching contest this year.

Announcements were made for the following fall contests:

Academy HS marching contest, September 30th.

Whitney HS, October 14th.

Troy HS, October 4th. This contest includes a 30 minute clinic with a judge.

Riesel HS, September 30th - this contest is geared towards small school marching bands.

Drums Along The Brazos drumline contest, College Station HS, November 11th.

ATSSB Region Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 11:49.

Minutes from Winter ATSSB meeting (January 2023) were approved with a motion from Chirs Moix and a second from Russell Holcombe.

Stephanie Schmidt, treasurer, gave her report. A great number of checks were sent to her this year that were supposed to be sent somewhere else (ATSSB memberships, OPS entry fees, TMEA convention registration, etc). *Please* check the addresses your business office has on file for various vendors to make sure your checks go where they're supposed to go! The other major item of interest was a decrease in fund balance from the beginning of last school year to the beginning of this year. The main reason for this decrease was the cost of lunches at the All Region clinic and concert; this cost was about \$5000 greater than what we took in from contest entries. Stephanie stated that if the number of All Region entries isn't sufficient to support the cost of lunches, she may ask directors to pay for their own lunches. Rebecca Kroll then made a motion to shift the cost for lunches back to directors, who will pay a set amount based on the number of students they will bring to the clinic and concert; directors will bring a check to ATSSB Region 8, and Stephanie will write a check from Region 8 to the Groesbeck Band Boosters for providing lunch. Chris Moix seconded the motion, which passed and will be effective this year.

### **Tony Clines, UIL Band:**

We are required to have alternate weather dates for UIL marching contests. 1A and 3A bands could have their weather date a week later, but 2A bands do not have that option due to their Area contest being just four days later. For this reason, the alternate weather date for both contests will actually be Tuesday, October 17th with the contest being on Wednesday the 18th. If weather looks like it will become an issue the week of UIL marching contests, Tony will communicate with all affected directors as to which date will be used. We have never had to hold a contest on an alternate weather date before, but we need to be prepared for the possibility of doing so.

Tony asked the directors if they really want 45 minutes of warmup time at UIL marching band, and the overwhelming opinion is that that is too much warmup time.

For spring UIL Concert and Sightreading contests, Tony collected data on which schools have spring breaks during which weeks. Based on his survey, the West Zone 1A-4A contest at Cameron HS will be February 28th and 29th, and the East Zone 1A-4A contest will be March 6th and 7th. Also, to balance the contests and keep both contests only two days long, several schools will switch zones for this year. Here is the list of which schools will perform in which zone for UIL Concert & Sightreading in 2024:

#### Cameron (West) Zone, February 28-29:

Axtell, Bosqueville, Bruceville-Eddy, Chilton, Crawford, Holland, Itasca, Moody, Riesel, Rosebud-Lott, Academy, Cameron Yoe (2 bands), Franklin, Lorena, McGregor, Rogers, Troy (2 bands), China Spring (3 bands), Gatesville (2 bands), Jarrell (2 bands), La Vega (2 bands), Robinson (2 bands), and Salado (2 bands).

#### Groesbeck (East) Zone, March 6-7:

Coolidge, Covingtonk, Meridian, Bremond, Centerville, Dawson, Hubbard, Iola, Italy, Kerens, Leon, Marlin, Mart, Normangee, Valley Mills, Wortham, Anderson-Shiro, Blooming Grove,

Buffalo, Clifton, Elkhart, Fairfield (2 bands), Groesbeck, Mexia, Rice, Teague, West, Whitney, Connally (2 bands), Hillsboro (2 bands), and Madisonville (2 bands).

Rachel Berg, Region 8 webmaster, reports that the calendar is updated and that music for both middle school zones has all been uploaded. The Groesbeck zone has the right etudes (Year C) even though it is mislabeled as Year B. If you have any contest you want advertised on the website, email your flyer and information to Rachel and she will post it to the website.

Jon Schriver, Region 8 vice coordinator, asked directors to make sure you have the right year of music for your students.

Kristi Flusche, Groesbeck Zone MS coordinator: Everything is posted on the region website. The committee to look at the French horn etudes decided not to make any changes to the Year C audition music.

Mark Dorsey, Robinson Zone MS coordinator: Make sure you have the right books for your etudes. Holla atcha boi if you have any questions.

**Marc Nichelson, ATSSB Region 8 Coordinator:**

Directors can enter students with only one ATSSB membership on staff, but each director MUST have an individual membership to vote on anything. One director or head director with an ATSSB membership does not qualify all staff members to vote or participate in meetings! The same also applies to OPS entries; a middle school director without an ATSSB membership cannot use their high school director's membership to enter their middle school band in OPS. Head band directors must enter students for their ensembles. It is infuriating (in Marc's words) for Marc and Jon when they have to correct and move entries from the high school audition file to the middle school audition file, or vice versa, when the wrong director from the wrong campus enters students into the wrong contest.

If entries are done incorrectly, or are not entered until the day of auditions, a director will get one warning before they are no longer allowed to enter students into ATSSB contests; at that point, a district administrator would have to enter that school's students for future auditions. This is a statewide issue and this consequence was agreed upon by all region coordinators at the state level.

ALL directors from a school district must be present to judge at region auditions. Again, this is a state level issue, not just a Region 8 issue. You cannot call Marc a week before an audition and say you can't be there, and offer someone to judge in your place.

The deadline for entries is 14 days before the contest, and 7 days before the contest for late entry (remember that entry fees double for late entry). The check MUST be in Stephanie Schmidt's hands at the time your student auditions. If you tell her "the check is in the mail", she will call your district's business office to confirm this; last year Stephanie actually had an audition check mailed on December 7, after that band's ATSSB audition had taken place. Don't be that director!

The region band clinicians and organizers are listed in the agenda.

New directors and new-to-the-region directors, please email Marc with your contact info including major instruments.

State Outstanding Performance Series finalists were recognized. Collin Anderson (Groesbeck HS) is the state OPS chair if you have any questions!

State officer nominations: this year is for 2C/3C, 2A, and 4A State Representatives. (Marc Nicholson currently serves as the 4A State Representative). Rebecca Kroll nominated Rachel Berg for state 2C/3C representative; Crystal Senzig seconded the nomination which was approved by acclamation. Nora Mosby nominated Crystal Senzig for state 2A representative; Eric Senzig seconded the nomination which was approved by acclamation. Rachel Berg nominated Marc Nicholson for state 4A representative; Allison Hamilton seconded the nomination, which passed by acclamation.

Officer elections needed to take place for Treasurer (currently held by Stephanie Schmidt) and both Middle School Coordinators (Kristi Flusche and Mark Dorsey). Eric Wharton moved that all three of these officers be reelected. Marc asked for any other nominees for these offices; seeing none, Collin Anderson seconded the motion and all three officers were reelected by acclamation.

If you have any nominees for the ATSSB Hall of Fame, the nomination link is in the meeting agenda. If you have any pressing issues for the State Board of Directors, send them to Marc for consideration at the February meeting. Marc reports that currently, ATSSB is working hard to add an ATSSB All State Percussion Ensemble.

New business: Sara Vajert presented the report from the committee to study the French horn etudes for the Groesbeck Zone Middle School audition music. The committee recommended that the Year C audition music remain the same (as previously reported), and that the etudes for Years A and B should be lowered down to match the trumpet range. Sara moved that the committee's recommended changes be implemented; Rachel Berg seconded the motion and the changes were approved by vote.

Announcements of contests and festivals:

Riesel HS will hold a marching band contest on September 30th geared towards 1A-3A bands. CENTEX Honor Band is a great bridge to ATSSB auditions and is also geared towards 1A-3A bands. Auditions are January 10th/12th with a clinic and concert on January 20th.

Riesel HS hosts Solo & Ensemble contests on February 23 and May 3rd, primarily geared towards 6th thru 8th grade. For information on the Riesel Marching Contest, CENTEX Honor Band, or Riesel Solo & Ensemble contests, contact Crystal Senzig at [csenzig@rieselisd.org](mailto:csenzig@rieselisd.org).

McGregor HS will host pre-UIL concert and sightreading festivals on February 14 and March 20. For more information contact Tim Grace at [tgrace@mcgregorisd.org](mailto:tgrace@mcgregorisd.org).

Troy HS will host their marching contest on October 4, and this contest includes a clinic with one of the judges. The contest is close to full so enter soon if you're thinking about it.

Whitney HS will host their marching contest on October 14th. The entry fee is \$350 entry fee, meals are \$7, and they will have their usual prelims/finals format.

Academy HS will host their marching contest on September 30th. It will be a small school oriented contest with a prelims/finals format.

Madisonville HS will host their USBands contest on September 23rd, which includes a morning performance and afternoon clinic. They only have 2 spots left as of the day of the region meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 with a motion from Rachel Berg and a second from Kristi Flusche.