

TMEA General Session

Thursday, February 13, 2025

San Antonio, Texas

8:00 AM

TMEA President Jesse Cannon II called the General Session of the 2025 TMEA Annual Clinic/Convention to order at 8:24 AM.

The members of the TMEA Executive Board and staff were introduced and outgoing Vice-Presidents Jennifer Martin, Joshua McGuire, and Christopher Giles received commemorative plaques. Past-Presidents Bob Horton and Dana Pradervand-Sedatole were thanked for their years of service to TMEA.

Jennifer Martin and Joshua McGuire were introduced as candidates for the office of President-Elect and their video endorsements were viewed by those in attendance. Eligible members may vote online following the conclusion of the General Session until 6:00 PM on Friday, February 14, 2025. Election results will be disseminated through various channels, including the convention app, social media channels, and email notifications to the membership.

Attendees were reminded that eligible voting members had until February 21, 2025, to cast their votes on the proposed constitution amendment that would revise the duties of the TMEA Executive Director by adding the role of Corporate Secretary to ensure compliance with state and federal filing requirements.

Five students were recognized as the 2025-2026 TMEA multi-year scholarship winners:

Lily Reeves, Bill Cormack Scholarship
Victoria Phan, Past-Presidents Scholarship
Ellie Hale, Past-Presidents Memorial Scholarship
Caitlyn Jones, Executive Board Scholarship
Olivia Smith, Robert Floyd Scholarship

Past and present scholarship winners were asked to stand and be recognized. The Executive Board has allocated a total of \$245,500 for scholarships in the coming year.

A video produced by Texas Cultural Trust and narrated by Ray Benson, announced that TMEA has been named a 2025 recipient of the Texas Medal of the Arts in recognition of its leadership arts education.

Chairman Brad Buckley was awarded the TMEA Distinguished Service Award for his commitment to fine arts as part of the state's required curriculum. His wife, Dr. Susan Buckley, accepted the award on his behalf. She in turn presented Deputy Director Frank Coachman with a flag the flew over the capitol in celebration of his 25 years of service to TMEA.

President Cannon introduced Dr. Celeste Headlee, an award-winning journalist, author, and public speaker renowned for her expertise in effective conversation. She shared strategies for fostering meaningful dialogues and the art of listening and open-minded discussion.

President Cannon introduced President-Elect Shane Goforth who will assume the presidency following the convention. In appreciation, President-Elect Goforth thanked President Cannon and presented him with the Past-President's plaque and pin.

With no further business, President-Elect Goforth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:33 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Vanlandingham
Administrative Director

TMEA STATE BOARD MEETING

February 12, 2025

Henry B González Convention Center

5:15 PM

A buffet dinner was served, after which President Jesse Cannon II called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and led the State Board members in the TMEA Oath of Office. In attendance were:

TMEA Executive Board

Jesse Cannon II, President

Shane Goforth, President-Elect

Bob Horton, Past-President

Mike Howard, Band Vice-President

Jennifer Martin, Orchestra Vice-President

Carter Biggers, College Vice-President

Joe Muñoz, Executive Director

Brad Kent, Ex-officio Executive Board Member

TMEA Staff:

Kay Vanlandingham, Administrative Director

State Board Members Present:

Region 1: None

Region 2: Gary Keller, Alicia DeSoto, Denise Kenedy

Region 3: Ryan Forkner, Liz Shine, Heather Becker

Region 4: Arnie Lawson, Rebecca Hildreth, Austin Jesmore

Region 5: Brad Bonebrake

Region 6: Jeff Whitaker, Bryan Braue, Lyndsay Eiben

Region 7: Arielle Sword, Marilyn Bennett
Region 8: Amy Triggs, Deborah Barrick
Region 9: Erin Bodhaine
Region 10: Tami Goss, Christie Bean
Region 11: Richard Flores, Gilbert Sanchez, Jen Colton-Fowler
Region 12: Jay Martin, Kathy Mayer
Region 13: Neal Springer, Joseph Chen
Region 14: David Edge
Region 15: Dena Laurel, Dorina Kingston
Region 16: Josh Shaw, Scott Carter
Region 17: Kyle Norman
Region 18: James Malik
Region 19: Gary Hebert, Mike Allen, Anita Ladd
Region 20: Paul Doucet
Region 21: Rhonda Daniel, Nicole Stewart, Weston Fisher
Region 22: Bryan Andrade, Margarita Mendez, Adria Dunn
Region 23: Desiree Overree, Jeffrey Tipps
Region 24: David Simon, Katie Lewis
Region 25: Philip Obado
Region 26: Brittany Dacy, Justin Anderson, Andre Clark
Region 27: Justin Womack
Region 28: Guy McKinney, Elizabeth Stone, Melody Eriksen
Region 29: Alfonso Alvarado, Alejandro Jaime
Region 30: Brad Allen
Region 31: James Rees
Region 32: Lisa Holt, Adam Poynor
Region 33: Josh Taylor, Andrew Bailey

UIL Director of Music, Brad Kent brought the following report:

The band and orchestra sight-reading instruction period pilot, which was utilized in every Region for the past two years, will be utilized and evaluated again in every Region this spring. Statewide survey results from last year's participating directors indicated 96% favor the pilot process over the non-pilot process.

The TMAA Executive Board has recommended that UIL begin a pilot process for the choir sight-reading instruction period. This pilot will begin this year for all choirs in Region 2, Region 6, Region 13, Region 15, and Region 26. At the conclusion of the 2025 season the pilot will be evaluated and consideration given for continued expansion.

The State Mariachi festival will be held later this month on February 20, 21, and 22 at the Seguin High School Performing Arts Center in Seguin and will feature the 97 qualifying groups.

The finals of the state instrumental chamber music competition will be held on March 29th at the Bastrop ISD Performing Arts Center. New for this year, there will be a string division and a wind division, with state champions crowned in each.

The UIL staff is discussing the possibility of a rule change that would allow one additional hour of marching band rehearsal for each non-school day in a calendar week. For example, four

school days would equal nine hours allowed outside the school day, three school days would equal ten hours allowed outside the school day. This change would allow a make-up rehearsal hour for each non-school day in a calendar week, all with the caveat that a band would still be under the state law limit of eight hours outside of the school day per school week. School week is defined as the morning of the first day of school in a week through the end of the last school day that week. This change would require legislative council action in June and Commissioner of Education approval, which is all possible in time for the 2025 season.

Please check to see that the Region's Music Advisory Committee representative positions are filled. Each Region should have three MAC members – one each from the band, vocal, and orchestra divisions. The annual agenda will be sent to the Region Presidents prior to the first Spring Region meeting. Agenda items will be considered at the Spring Region meeting and the three representatives should plan to attend the MAC meeting - which will be held in person at the summer conferences - to cast votes on behalf of the Region.

TMEA Executive Director Joe Muñoz reported on the following:

At the time of the State Board meeting, TMEA Active membership stood at 13, 589, Retired membership at 1,155, and College Student Membership at 3,481. Active members registered for the convention stood 9,788, Retired at 615, College Students at 2,889, and Out of State at 522.

The Exhibit Show boasts of over 500 companies with 1,400 booths reserved.

In the past year, the TMEA staff diligently worked to rebuild the convention app to improve performance. Session surveys are now included within the app.

Over 1,000 clinic proposals were submitted for consideration. Each proposal was reviewed and evaluated. In addition, all handouts and visual aids were reviewed by divisional committees prior to the convention.

This year's convention will feature performances by the US Army Herald Trumpets, an All-State Combined Ensemble Performance of "lift Every Voice and Sing," keynote address by Celeste Headlee, and the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers in concert.

During the General Session, Chairman Brad Buckley will be presented with the Distinguished Service Award and there will be an announcement that TMEA will receive the Texas Medal of the Arts for its leadership in Arts Education on February 26.

Ninety-one colleges/universities will participate in College Fair, with forty-six of those being from Texas. Forty-nine colleges/universities have signed up for College Night. Of that number, 30 schools are from out-of-state.

TMEA has welcomed a new software developer, Daniel Reinhuber, to its staff.

The Online Learning project was launched last October. To date, courses have been completed 264 times. The plan is for more courses to be added in April or May.

Last September the Executive Board allocated funds to be applied for the renovation of the TMEA building in Austin. Updates include new windows, paint, and carpet throughout the building.

The Executive Board has approved a legal audit of policies and the TMEA Constitution and By-Laws. On the recommendation of TMEA's non-profit legal counsel, a proposed amendment to the constitution was emailed to the membership ten days ago. The proposed revision does not represent a significant change but will bring TMEA in compliance with state and federal filing requirements.

The Executive Board has selected Lopez Negrete Communications to conduct a market research study. This study will inform TMEA on how to expand the reach of music education, promote fine arts to new consumers, and increase access for students in Texas.

Frank Coachman and Andrew Denman continue to make improvements to the audition entry and tabulation process.

The State Board of Educator Certification is contemplating a new Texas-specific performance assessment (TxTPA) as a replacement for the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exam. Currently SBOE is not considering a revision of the Fine Arts TEKS.

State Representative Brad Buckley has filed a bill in the House that would include \$1.4 billion to be set aside for Pre-K, Fine Arts and HS Career Advising.

TMEA is closing monitoring HB 1279, which imposes restrictions of DEI language in Texas public elementary and secondary schools.

Executive Director Muñoz encouraged members to contribute their ideas during the Region Report time on Saturday meeting.

President Cannon recessed the meeting at 6:18 PM.

TMEA STATE BOARD MEETING

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Henry B González Convention Center

9:30 AM

President Jesse Cannon II called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. Executive Board members and TMEA were in attendance:

TMEA Executive Board:

Jesse Cannon II, President

Shane Goforth, President-Elect

Bob Horton, Past-President

Jennifer Martin, Orchestra Vice-President

Carter Biggers, College Division Vice-President

Joe Muñoz, Executive Director

TMEA Staff:

Frank Coachman, Deputy Director

Kay Vanlandingham, Administrative Director

State Board Members Present:

Region 1: Ginger Denney

Region 2: None

Region 3: Heather Becker

Region 4: None

Region 5: Brad Bonebrake

Region 6: Jeff Whitaker
Region 7: Marilyn Bennett
Region 8: Amy Triggs
Region 9: Ken Labonski
Region 10: None
Region 11: Jen Colton-Fowler
Region 12: Jay Martin, Kathy Mayer
Region 13: Neal Springer, Joseph Chen
Region 14: David Edge, San Juanita
Region 15: Dena Laurel
Region 16: Scott Carter, Cryse Bodine-Proxy
Region 17: Kyle Norman
Region 18: None
Region 19: Gary Hebert, Mike Allen
Region 20: None
Region 21: Tom Mensch-Proxy
Region 22: Bryan Andrade, Margarita Mendez
Region 23: Jeff Tipps, Anne Guess
Region 24: Katie Lewis
Region 25: Philip Obado
Region 26: Andre Clark
Region 27: Justin Womack
Region 28: Guy McKinney, Elizabeth Stone
Region 29: Alfonso Alvarado
Region 30: Alyson Holley, Megan Sisk
Region 31: None
Region 32: None
Region 33: Josh Taylor

Many Regions thanked the Executive Board and staff for a wonderful convention. Others expressed gratitude for the convention app.

Region 6: Members expressed dissatisfaction with the convention housing process.

Region 11: Orchestra Division members want to participate in Region 12 rather than Region 29. They cited travel expenses and reduced funding as key factors behind the request.

Region 14: Reported that they needed 33 more chairs for their Region meeting.

Region 16: Reported that an incident took place between a homeless person and a TMEA chaperon and student in front of the Rivercenter parking garage, close to Margaritaville. The homeless person approached the adult and spit in his face. There was minimal contact, but there was no police presence in the area.

Region 16 report from Josh Shaw: The previous two years we have presented data to the board regarding a disparity in the representation in our All-State Ensembles, specifically the 5A All-State Band. As a brief reminder, the data presented was pre-COVID as the global pandemic changed the landscape of education and participation. In 2019 81.2% of public schools in Texas were eligible for Title 1 funds, meaning that 40% or more of the students qualify for free and reduced lunch. However, only 37% of our 5A All-State ensembles represent 81.2% of our public schools. Also discussed was the increasing enrollment in the 5A and 6A school districts as UIL continues to increase enrollment cutoffs while TMEA has continued to utilize the same instrumentation sets and ensemble numbers putting a chokehold on the number of students who can qualify for an All-State organization.

In our most meeting the statement was made to provide solutions, because the allotment system was there to provide equity. I will be honest with the board. Maybe I'm just uneducated. But in layman's terms Equality is treating everyone the same while equity provides what people need to be successful. The speaker stated that he believes that allowing a percentage of an initial actual auditioned students to determine an allotment for every area is quite literally treating everyone equally without consideration of external factors. We tell our Government that kids from public schools are not worth less. I would like to say that students from urban and rural communities are not worth less. Students from Title I schools that represent 81.2% of our public schools are not worth less. Equity and equality are not successful alone, they must be considered together. We were also asked to provide solutions in our previous meeting.

As I presented in 2024, the classification numbers have increased in 5A and 6A over the past 6 years. I do believe the allotment implementation was over a decade ago as stated in our previous meeting. In a decade UIL has increased numbers at least 3 times for classification enrollments. Schools have moved from 5A to 6A, 6A to 5A, and so on. Yet we as an organization have not adapted. One solution presented was the creation of another 5A state ensemble. Along with the creation of this ensemble would be the consideration of not allowing 5A students to audition on the 6A track. This would create more seats for our 6A schools AND more seats for our 5A schools. See utilizing equity and equality together means that you don't take something from someone else to create opportunity. Other solutions could be the creation of State Chamber Ensembles. If a student wins their room at Area, they should qualify for an All-State position.

Do many regions struggle with the inequity of the allotment system. I believe that answer is obvious. Are there solutions, absolutely. If we get creative and come up with solutions, who wins? The kids! These are hard conversations with even more difficult discussions. I believe the answer is simple and the implications and challenges presented by the simple answer are many. The logistical and procedural impacts are not lost on me, or my colleagues. However, we must stand up for all kids, from the entire state. We ask that you consider the data, consider the inequity, and consider the potential solutions. Thank you for a wonderful convention and for working so diligently for each of us and our regions!

Region 23: Request to add a Guitar Division

Region 28: Band Division proposed that excerpts be used for All-State chair placement.

Region 22: Asked the Board to consider moving the All-State Meeting later in the day due to travel time.

Region 33: Requested that TMEA consider creating a Sightreading Competition with state finals being held during the TMEA Annual Clinic/Convention.

President-Elect Shane Goforth presented a report from the IDEA Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10: 03 AM