

## **Election Nominations**

### **Vice President (Incumbent Clayton Parker)**

Clayton Parker, nominated by Alice Aldridge of NW Cabarrus HS

### **Treasurer (Incumbent Steven Christman)**

Riley Pagett, nominated by Joshua Potter of Providence HS and Tom Padgett of White Knoll HS

### **Secretary-Communications (Incumbent Tracy Smith)**

Tom Padgett, nominated by Chaz Paxton of Pickens HS

Tracy Smith, nominated by Susan Winfree of Ardrey Kell HS

### **State Representative (Interim Incumbent Jeff Bridges)**

Jeff Bridges, nominated by Chaz Paxton of Pickens HS

Josh Kiser, nominated by Andy Entrekin of Laurens D55 HS

## **Proposals**

### ***By-Laws and Constitution***

#### **Proposal #1 – Submitted by Cody Crawford, CWEA Board of Directors**

Eliminate the positions of Judge Coordinator (Color Guard) and Judge Coordinator (Percussion) from the Executive Board of Directors. Going forward, all Judge Coordinators will serve as members of the Advisory Council.

**Rationale** - The Judge Coordinators are tactical, paid positions to the circuit. Their focus should remain with the duties of their position, not with the overall management and administration of the organization. Additionally, the Board of Directors must have oversight of the performance of the Judge Coordinators. The Judge Coordinators should continue to advise the Board of Directors on decisions as members of the Advisory Council.

**Financial Impact** – There is no financial impact for this proposal.

---

**Proposal #2** – Submitted by *Cody Crawford, CWEA Board of Directors*

Grant the authority to the Board of Directors to update the job descriptions of each board member to more accurately reflect the position's responsibilities.

**Rationale** – With the extensive growth of the circuit over the past several years, many members of the Board of Directors have taken on additional roles and responsibilities to the circuit beyond what is currently prescribed in our by-laws. In order to aid the membership, as well as the board members, to understand the roles and responsibilities of each position within the Board, we should update these descriptions.

**Financial Impact** – There is no financial impact for this proposal.

---

**Proposal #3** – Submitted by *Jamey LaFevers, Revelation Percussion*

That there be designated seats on the board for Colorguard, Percussion, and Winds. These positions could either be in addition to or instead of the state representatives seats. I would leave that at the discretion of the board.

**Rationale** - As it stands now it is very possible that there would be no voting representation for one or more of our divisions. It just so happens that we have board members who are percussion representatives but if those roles are filled by non-percussion people there would no representation for percussion and or winds on the board (other than the judge coordinators) I propose that the executive board would be organized in the following manner:

President  
Vice-President  
Director of Events  
Secretaries (2)  
Treasurer  
Judge Coordinators (2)  
Colorguard Representative  
Percussion Representative  
Winds Representative  
Optional: State Representatives

The colorguard, percussion, and wind representatives would be tasked with being chairperson of their perspective advisory boards. They would organize the discussion of these advisory boards and bring their issues and or concerns to the executive board. They should

also serve as leaders on the education committees for each division. They should be required to have ensembles in CWEA.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #4** – *Submitted by Jamey LaFevers, Revelation Percussion*

If an ensemble wins their class and turns down their seat on the advisory board the seat should automatically be offered to the next place finisher. It should not be up to the discretion of the executive board as to whether or not it is offered to someone else.

**Rationale** - It should not be up to someone's discretion as to whether or not we offer seats on our advisory panel. That opens the door for manipulation and discrimination. Membership should have representation from the class whether or not the winner wants to represent the class.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #5** – *Submitted by Jamey LaFevers, Revelation Percussion*

There should be a seat on the advisory board for each competitive class.

**Rationale** - If we as a circuit deem it appropriate to have all of the classes that we have then all of those classes should be represented. Our goal should be to encourage participation by as many people as possible in the advisory panel discussions.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #6** – *Submitted by Riley Padgett, Newberry HS*

CWEA will adopt Robert's Rules of Order at every meeting.

**Rationale** - While this is already the unofficial parliamentary procedure and is standard in many organizations, officially adopting Robert's Rules will ensure consistent meeting procedures and avoid potential conflict with unwritten precedent.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #7** – Submitted by Riley Padgett, Newberry HS

Eliminate the State Representative positions from the Executive Board, to be replaced with At-Large positions free of geographical restrictions. Incumbent State Representatives will complete their terms.

**Rationale** - The circuit has grown sufficiently that North and South Carolina are each well represented. State-specific issues have been largely resolved or replaced with region-specific issues. Rather than attempting to cater to geography on a more granular level (e.g. “Lowcountry Representative”, “Sandhills Representative”), with respect to the need for board members without procedural or business-critical roles within the organization, these positions would allow motivated and well-meaning circuit members to advocate for issues facing the membership.

**Financial Impact** – Minimal, owing to any hospitality-related costs specific to the composition of the Board of Directors.

---

**Proposal #8** – Submitted by Riley Pagett, Newberry HS

Restructure the Advisory Council in the following ways:

1. Divide into Color Guard and Percussion/Winds Advisory Councils, which will meet separately. No member may sit on both councils. Composition will be two members from each class.
2. Class champions will no longer automatically sit on their respective Advisory Councils. Rather, they will be automatically nominated one of their class’s positions (and may decline). Any unit representative may also put forward his or her name for a position with the Advisory Council in the appropriate class. Representatives will be elected at the conclusion of the Spring Meeting through CompetitionSuite. In the event of a tie for second place, runoff voting will decide the second representative.
3. Upon election at the Spring Meeting, each Advisory Council will meet briefly to appoint a Chair. The Chair of each Advisory Council is entitled to non-voting membership to the CWEA Executive Board. Incumbent members of the Executive Board may not chair an Advisory Council.
4. Should the Winds activity grow sufficiently within CWEA to necessitate a separate Advisory Council, this entity and its corresponding Chairship may be created by vote of the Executive Board at any time.

**Rationale** - While class champion groups deserve recognition and praise for their achievements in competition, those groups' directors are not necessarily the members most suited for or interested in the political and procedural duties of the Advisory Council. Currently, the Executive Board names members to the Advisory Council in the event of vacancies. This proposal would extend the membership the right to elect their own representatives.

Furthermore, the Chairs of the Advisory Councils are positioned to improve communication between the Board and the membership while advocating for the specific opinions and priorities of their constituencies. Separating the Advisors by activity prevents "turf wars" between activities and promotes healthy conversations among all interested parties while also providing a welcoming forum to workshop and refine proposals before submitting them to the Executive Board or body.

**Financial Impact** – Minimal, owing to any hospitality-related costs specific to the composition of the Board of Directors.

---

**Proposal #9** – *Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS*

Constitution

IV.

Letter A - add the wording "and Indoor Winds Ensembles"

**Rationale** - The current wording does not include the Winds division

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #10** – *Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS*

By Laws

VI. Governing Body

Elections

Change wording to the following:

Nominations for Director positions must be submitted at least 15 days before the Annual Spring Membership Meeting takes place in order for consideration to be given. Nominations for Director positions will not be accepted past 5:00 PM on the day of the deadline.

**Rationale** - Gives a set deadline for submission of nominations and is less ambiguous than the current wording.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

## ***Organization Administration***

**Proposal #11** – *Submitted by Jamey LaFevers, Revelation Percussion*

I propose that we realign our Percussion Scholastic A with National level A instead of calling it AA and that we call our current A class Percussion Scholastic Regional A.

**Rationale** - Our current system for classifying ensembles below Open class is very confusing. There is an established national standard for A class and we should realign our classifications with that standard. National or WGI PSA and CWEA PSA should represent the same basic skillset. If an ensemble does compete with that skillset yet they should be classified in a category that is not considered national. Calling those ensembles Regional A (like in colorguard) makes much more sense and is much less confusing to students, parents, administration, and the judging community.

I propose the following realignment

PSA - Percussion Scholastic A - (basic skillset)

What we now call PSAA

This would provide a consistent platform and would allow consistent conversation about our classification vs WGI

PSRA - Percussion Scholastic Regional A- (developing skillset)

What we now call PSA

This is confusing when having conversations with anyone that participates nationally (judges, other instructors etc) because it does not accurately represent the skillset that is being evaluated. This classification more clearly illustrates that these groups are not national level A groups and are less developed than PSA groups.

This change would more accurately represent what is actually happening in these classes and would eliminate confusion. It will also aid in the education of the members and staff by clearly defining the classes in comparison to national level competition.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #12** – Submitted by Jamey LaFevers, Revelation Percussion

I propose that we refine the classification descriptions for percussion so that they more accurately represent the development of skillsets.

**Rationale** - Our current descriptions of the percussion classes is confusing. For instance, the words intermediate and advanced should not be in the description for A class ensembles.

A class ensembles should compete utilizing basic skills.

Open class ensembles should compete utilizing intermediate skills.

World class ensembles should compete utilizing advanced skills.

This is how the classes are defined on the national level and since we use the same sheets as WGI we should prescribe to the same descriptions as WGI.

Classifications below A class (novice, regional A) should be competing with developmental skills and we should clearly define that for our judging community as well as instructional community.

Proposed Verbage for classifications:

Sub A (regional A, Novice)

Ensembles are younger and less developed than A class ensembles. Here is where the novice or beginning student discovers the joy of performing with a developing skillset and realizes a sense of achievement as each skillset is learned. Evaluation will be on the WGI A Class Marching Sheet with consideration for the developing skillset.

PSA / PIA

Ensembles that are meeting the expectations for National level A and performing with fully developed basic skills. Some performers in the classification may be performing at a higher level and that should be expected as part of the educational process. The ensemble as a whole would be considered as using a basic skillset in the class. Here is where the student discovers the joy of performing with a basic skillset and realizes a sense of achievement as each skillset is learned. Evaluation would be on the WGI A Class Marching Sheet. Ensembles that compete at WGI events should compete in this class.

Hey

PSO / PIO

Ensembles are more experienced and the performers are expected to perform with an intermediate skillset. Some performers in the classification may be performing at a higher level and that should be expected as part of the educational process. The ensemble as a

whole would be considered as using an intermediate skillset. Here is where the intermediate student explores new challenges through performance and realizes a greater sense of achievement as each more complex skill is learned. Evaluation will be on the WGI Open Class Marching Sheet.

**PSW / PIW**

Ensembles demonstrate a high degree of advanced development. All of the performers contribute to the consistent high levels of performance being demonstrated. Here is where performers demonstrate an advanced skillset. These programs are unique and innovative and that is expected at this level. Some very sophisticated challenges are and should be placed on these performers. Evaluation will be on the WGI World Marching Class Sheet.

I am obviously open to rewording of some the verbage in these descriptions. The main idea is the consistent use of Developing, Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced in the descriptions of the classes.

The wording in the colorguard Regional A, A, Open, and World class descriptions are very close to this and we could use adjusted versions of those as well to have a more consistent verbage for the circuit.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #13** – *Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS*

Change the following wording in Color Guard Classifications

B. Novice Class (NOV) - The Novice Class is designed for the newest ensembles in our activity and is restricted to ensembles, performers and/or staff who are brand new to the activity. Performers in this class will display purely introductory skills with regards to vocabulary, technique and conceptual design. Evaluation for the Novice class will be based on the Regional A criteria. Color Guard units performing in the Novice class are eligible for promotion to the Regional A class. Units may only classify in the Novice class for one season.

**Rationale** - This wording better states the philosophy of this particular class

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #14** – Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS

Change wording for Color Guard Classifications

B. Scholastic/Independent Regional A Class (SRA/IRA) - This class is for the beginning performers who are new to the activity but have surpassed the requirements for Novice class. Performers in this class will display introductory and basic skills with regards to vocabulary, technique and conceptual design. This class is intended to encourage and develop the growth of units that are continuing to develop beyond the Novice level. Evaluation will be based on the Regional A criteria.

**Rationale** - More accurately states the philosophy of this class

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #15** – Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS

Change wording in "Placement Within and Movement Between Classes

A. There will be a Classification Committee (strike the word Promotion) consisting of six or seven (6 or 7) representatives that will review and discuss whether units will be promoted or reclassified. The Committee will consist of the Judge Coordinator(s), the CWEA Director of Events and four appointed at-large members (two to represent Guard and two to represent Percussion). The CWEA Director of Events will serve as the Chair of the Classification Committee.

**Rationale** - This will allow more flexibility in the appointment of qualified committee members to fill the committee.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #16** – Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS

Change wording in Placement Within and Movement Between Classes

B. Reviews for possible promotion will be triggered based on a target number for each respective class each week. The final score will NOT be the only criteria used for promotion consideration, but will be used to trigger review. If the trigger number is reached (in 3 out of 5 captions for guard and 2 out of 4 captions for percussion), the unit will be reviewed the following week by the Classifications Committee. The Classifications Committee will review the unit's video from the previous week and make a determination by consensus or majority

vote on the determinations for that particular unit. Every effort will be made to have a determination by the respective unit's next scheduled season show. If a determination has not been made by the unit's next scheduled show, they will continue to compete in their current classification until a determination is made. If a unit is promoted, the unit will perform in their same draw order within the new classification.

C. If a unit chooses to appeal a Classification Committee determination, the appeal must be sent in writing to the CWEA Director of Events within 48 hours of the notification of the Committee's determination. At this time, the appeal will go to the committee for further review and consideration. If a unit chooses to appeal, said unit will compete in their current class until a final determination is made.

D. Units in Scholastic A, National A, Scholastic Open, Percussion Scholastic A-Advanced, Percussion Scholastic Open and all Independent units can only be promoted at a WGI Regional and at that time, CWEA will recognize them as such. Member units who competed in the circuit the previous season will automatically be placed in the classification in which they ended the previous season. Units will be re-classified if needed after their first show of the season (Premier). Any subsequent promotions throughout the season will be considered as such. A unit can request to be reclassified by communicating such request to the CWEA Director of Events.

E. All units promoted during the season will receive special recognition at CWEA Championships.

F. The top 3 placing units from the Scholastic Regional A class will automatically be placed in Scholastic AAA for the subsequent season.

**Rationale** - More clearly defines our current classifications process.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #17** – *Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS*

I propose to take "Event Partner Responsibilities" out of the CWEA Handbook and move them to a more comprehensive stand alone document for Event Partners.

**Rationale** - A more comprehensive document/handbook is needed for Event Partners. Additionally, there is no need to have this information in the CWEA Policies and Procedures Handbook.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #18** – *Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS*

Color Guard Classifications

D. Scholastic/Independent A Classes, letter d

Take out the sentence "If you attend a WGI Regional and make finals, you may be moved into this classification from a lower class"

**Rationale** - Units who do not qualify for National A by attending only one Regional should be considered for promotion to Scholastic A after making Finals, not National A.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #19** – *Submitted by Chaz Paxton, Pickens HS*

Color Guard Classifications

D. Scholastic/Independent A Classes, letter c

Take out the sentence "Nationally competitive teams (teams competing at WGI Regionals or World Championships in the A Class shall compete here).

Add "Units not in Scholastic A or Scholastic National A who attend a WGI Regional and make finals will be automatically reviewed by the Classifications Committee for possible promotion."

**Rationale** - Cleans up wording and makes the delineation between Scholastic A and National A more clear.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #20** – *Submitted by Susan Winfree, Ardrey Kell HS*

The board of directors should review and revise the class descriptors to more accurately define the definitions of each competing class.

**Rationale** - With the tremendous growth that has occurred in the circuit over the last few years, it is imperative that the expectations for each level of classification are clearly defined. This will help instructors when determining which class to register their students in

for the upcoming year while also helping our classification committee when determining movement between classes.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

## ***Rules***

**Proposal #21** – *Submitted by Garrett Deal, A.L. Brown HS*

In order for a student from a CWEA member high school with a competing ensemble to participate in an independent group, they must first received Band Director approval.

**Rationale** - Too many times, students leave their high school programs to perform in independent units for reasons other than pursuing higher level performance opportunities. This rule change would give Directors the opportunity to build their groups around experienced performers, therefore leading to further whole-group development and education. In the event a student performs at a level way beyond that of their home high school, a Director in good conscience should release that student to perform at a higher level independent ensemble.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #22** – *Submitted by Jen Barton, Byrnes HS*

Add an additional Scholastic Regional AA Class, below the current Regional A Class.

**Rationale** - With increased description and increased competition on the multitude of the classes judged on the A Class judging sheet, the Regional A Class has become a catch-all of units that are past the point of needing to be in the Novice Class and who are deemed not ready for the A sheet, either by the judging community or by their own internal evaluation. The stigma of the A sheet, in part, stalls out the top of the Regional A Class - clearer descriptors and definitions of AAA and AA Class are needed, desperately - and creates a backlog of units in Regional A. There additionally is an unnecessarily wide range of skills, performance ability and design in Regional A, making week to week contest dynamics completely unpredictable and evaluations of the competitive portion of the activity impossible. Adding a Regional AA Class allows the units that are newly promoted out of Novice Class to compete in an appropriately designed competitive class. This would also create a more equitable balance of the class at similar developmental levels - leveling out the wide variety of skills, performance and design quality in the class.

**Financial Impact** – The units already attend the shows, so the only cost is of an additional class of trophies at each regular season show (\$36 per show) and trophies and medals at Circuit Championships (\$150 for trophies, and approximately \$135 for medals (3 units averaging 15 members)) for Championships.

---

### ***Circuit Championships***

**Proposal #23** – *Submitted by Riley Pagett, Newberry HS*

Simplify the Championships scoring and awards process so that groups' competitive rounds directly correspond to their awards divisions. Each round will honor first, second, and third place scorers in addition to the overall class champion.

For example, "Charlotte High School" competes in Scholastic AAA in the third round. They score second in their round and fourth overall in the class. Under current awards procedures, the group would receive the "Silver Medal, Gold Division". In the proposed system, they would receive "Silver Medal, Round 3".

**Rationale** - The current process takes the natural competitive groupings, which were themselves based on season-long competitive growth and ranking, and then abandons them in favor of a round-robin division grouping. It is a relic of a time when judging panels were less reliable and philosophically aligned throughout the course of the competitive season. Unfortunately, it is also an opportunity for human error and significant post-show confusion. Recaps are released by competitive round, completely removed from the actual awards placements. Each year, CWEA staff and board members field the same series of questions, often from very emotional directors, students, and staff, because of the opaque nature of the awards procedures.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---

**Proposal #24** – *Submitted by Riley Pagett, Newberry HS*

Eliminate the "divisions" system from Championships award procedures. Each class will medal 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall.

**Rationale** - In addition to providing educational opportunities for young performers, this circuit's secondary role is to prepare groups for competition on a global level with Winter Guard International. The division system rewards lower-performing groups with additional medals. With 3 divisions, a class rewards gold, silver, and bronze medals all the way down to

9th place overall. Additional material rewards offer no inherent educational value while creating a philosophical incongruity or false expectation for groups competing in WGI.

**Financial Impact** – None.

---