

Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Inc.

Equipment 2019

Marci Carlberg – Caption Head



2019 was a successful year for MCGC color guards. In this caption there was significant growth from the previous year. The Scholastic A class was very competitive within our circuit. Training is growing and improving. On the national stage the SA class is unbelievably competitive. 25 teams scored a 90 or higher in Semifinals at World Championships. Those scores mean that those teams are ready for open class. Five of those teams didn't make finals. That is how strong SA is on a national level. So there is a lot to be said for our teams that made it to semifinals and with our SO and SW teams making semifinals that is a great accomplishment. So congratulations to all of our teams on a fantastic season.

We did have one person go through the trialing process for equipment. Karen Plourde has done all of Ecertify through level 300. She only needs to do the last section which is working with a WGI judge to pass the last level. She has done 5 shows this season and has run tapes and numbers. She has sent everything to me. We have had discussions during the season on her progress. She has improved tremendously though out the season. After our last discussion we both agree that another season of making tapes and running numbers is the path for the future. Karen is also working the Ecertify area of DA and will continue to prepare for that area. I believe Karen will be an incredible asset to this circuit as an equipment judge in the near future.

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Movement 2019

Kim Kuhn – Caption Head



Season:

2019 was another good season for MCGC. We are starting to see growth in more and more groups which is encouraging. This season, we were lucky to have an entire panel of WGI judges visit our state. They came in for the regional and stayed to adjudicate the contest at Lakeland HS the following day. This was a great opportunity for our members (especially those continuing on to WGI events) to get a read outside of local/regional judges and to get more feedback during critique sessions which are not always provided at WGI events. 17 units (of the 80 color guards in the circuit) took advantage of this great opportunity and attended that contest.

This year we only had 1 local adjudicator qualified in the movement caption. However, 2 perspectives worked very hard in their second year, showing promising growth in their caption, and will hopefully be ready to take the next step next season.

There were 2 units that utilized the clinician judge program in the movement caption this year which is an improvement from the past few years. Aside from our local training session in November, we were invited to attend a training webinar hosted by MEPA. This continued education is a great tool for all of our adjudicators.

Concerns:

Field Day is still a big concern. There seems to be more and more units each year that do not get a “full panel” of judges for feedback. This is especially true with captions that have a limited number of local qualified judges (ie: equipment and movement). This is a disservice to our membership.

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Movement 2019

Kim Kuhn – Caption Head



Besides the contest following the WGI regional, there were only 2 WGI roster judges brought in to our state the entire season to judge a contest, neither of them were on championships panels. The limited availability of judges due to time of our schedule release is one of the main causes of this. We really need to try and pull in more roster judges. This will only help our teams on the local and national level. Unfortunately, of the 17 teams that attended the contest the day after the regional...only 3 of those were units continuing to attend national events. This would have been a great experience for those units to get to have critique with those adjudicators. If we are able to schedule something like this in the future, I'd highly recommend groups, especially those continuing on the national stage, to take advantage of this opportunity.

Again, this year the adjudication manual seemed to be a “challenge” for groups to get a hold of.

It did not appear on the website and the rule book was not posted for sometime after the season had started. This really needs to be addressed in the future. This manual is imperative for staff/directors to read in the show development process....well BEFORE the season begins.

Recommendations:

Based on discussions with others, I submitted a rule proposal that may help with field day. I propose that the circuit hire a panel for that day. This will ensure there is coverage on every caption and we will be able to provide the best service to our membership.

We currently have an issue with our old set of DVR's not being able to connect to the current

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Design Analysis 2019

Mark Heather – Caption Head



Congratulations to our State Champions, and to those that went on to compete at the WGI National level.... Michigan was well represented once again in a variety of classes this year with a number of units making it to both the Semi-Finals and the Finals Round!

Our units have improved on developing variety and musicality in their design choices. As a circuit, some are still a little behind what we are seeing in depth and quality of excellence training, especially in our younger groups, but improvement was recognized this year in our A Class and up units.

Concerns:

I think our groups need to use the POC's on the back of the sheet when they are designing their shows as a reference. As judges, we use these bullet points to evaluate every performance and I am not convinced that our groups use these guidelines to assist them in keeping focused on designing a well rounded show, especially our lower classes.

MCGC DA Judges:

We are working on training our current and future judges in recognizing the various Design Elements within our sheets and to balance our comments between the upper box and lower box. MCGC had no new prospective judges for DA this year. Mike Passmore is developing well as a DA Judge. He will continue to focus on his dialog and recognition skills and is more comfortable with his numbers management.

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Guard General Effect 2019

Mark DeDeckere – Caption Head



From the perspective of the general effect caption, 2019 was quite a success! Two new judges Mike Robinson and Christina VanDam have hit the ground running adding value to teams across the state by providing great commentary and information for both of the staffs and performers. Our current GE judges had a chance to travel, visiting several other circuits (Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio, Carolinas, Florida, Texas, DC area, etc). These experiences are invaluable as they provide new perspective and a range of the national curve.

Currently there is one Perspective, Danny Walsh, he has done all the required seasonal training and now just has to complete E Certify Level 200 for qualification.

MCGC brought in quite a few out of state judges giving direction and influence based on other teams, circuits and experiences they have shared across the national stage, too.

As a judging community (“upstairs”) we are unanimous with rewarding training in the “A” class! We want to stress to all teachers, designers and directors in this class the importance of planning and building an achievable show for your students : soundtrack, staging, equipment/body combination, and make sure each planned moment or “effect” is understood (character, nuance, relationship to the theme/story). We love seeing this circuit grow and look forward to the 2020 season.

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Percussion Music Effect Report 2019
Bill Boswell – Caption Head



Effect Music seemed to go very smoothly through the entire season. We had 2 shows with local judges and commentary seemed well received at critique. Looking forward to a great 2020.

I am interested in continuing as Effect Music Caption Head.

Thank you all for a good MCGC season!

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Percussion Music Report 2019

Greg Cole – Caption Head



We have enjoyed some outstanding out-of-state judges in the Music caption this season. Our Percussion units are really getting high quality feedback from some truly inspiring analytical musicians.

We had no MCGJA prospectives in the Music caption this season.

It is truly an honor to serve the MCGJA and the MCGC Percussion Membership as a judges' caption head.

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Percussion Visual Effect Report 2019

Dave Pickett – Caption Head



The 2019 season for MCGC offered 7 competitions for percussion ensembles. Of that, 5 different individuals judged the caption. 3 of those were WGI Judges for Effect Visual (2 of the 3 are local to MCGC.) Also, 1 non-WGI judge was brought into MCGC from Florida to judge this caption and we used one additional judge (2 times) who is a local Michigan judge. The qualities of each of these judges is strong! The information given in their commentaries were true to the caption and beneficial to the ensembles in their content.

I am not aware of any feedback about any of these judges from our membership of MCGC. To my knowledge the membership was satisfied in the evaluation and work of each judge.

For the future: We have local judges here. Many who are crossover judges qualified to judge Effect for Color Guard as well as Effect-Visual for Percussion. I recommend that, to save costs for sponsors, we utilize these people more often. To require our percussion specific judges to travel over 2 or 3 hours annually in the winter to come to a MCGJA training session and then only get 1 assignment; is not fair to the judge. I believe that the quality of all of our local judges, for both percussion and color guard, is extremely high and that the value they can add to our membership is equal to the others. The only difference - the others have the letters W-G-I by their names.

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Percussion Visual Report 2019
Blair Kuhn – Caption Head



I would like to thank Juno for trusting me in the position of Percussion Visual Caption head.

2019 saw a dramatic change to the Percussion Visual Sheet, as WGI re-shaped the caption in order to clarify, re-calculate and re-define the visual caption. That change brought greater clarity to the caption and allowed the adjudicator to focus specifically on the blue print & performance itself. The Visual sheet was the last step in re-designing the sheets and still had some crossover into GE. This change eliminates those issues.

Unfortunately we do not have a strong number of qualified Visual caption judges and I encourage the caption heads in all captions to work for increased membership in MCGJA.

Due to the upcoming change in Judge Coordinator, I will not be able to continue as caption head. I look forward to helping fill the position with one who will help guide us forward.

A special congratulations to Juno on his years of service to MCGC. You are a large reason we have seen the success with our ensembles, instructors and educators.



T & P Report 2019 Phil Tanner – Caption Head

T & P was another good year.

We have had a few bumps but have overcome those items. All three judges in the T & P have been trained via the WGI Webinars and trying to get the feeling of a new way of doing business of not being the traffic cop. In 2020 we will be training one more T & P person to help relieve when we have multiple venues on a weekend. Looking forward to a great year. Thank You

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Winds Report 2019

Marc Whitlock – Caption Head



1) Review of the Season

In the Winds caption, we had three groups in MCGC: [The Diplomats](#), Divergent, and LSM. We were thrilled to have our Canadian neighbors [The Diplomats](#) compete in our circuit and they did a fine job in their first season with us. Divergent and LMS both competed at WGI and I can tell you that there was great improvement from both groups throughout the season, especially the last two weeks going in to WGI. Their performances were very respectable.

2) Improvement Suggestion

Just like last year, this is a fairly new genre/division/caption, perhaps we should discuss creating a clinic for prospective directors and staff about potential programming, setting up a foundation, keys to success, etc.

I would like to see MCGC invest more into this caption (not necessarily a monetary investment). No matter what the format, communication is key for the evolution of this division, and many groups may need our help. I am happy to serve and advise any existing percussion or guard that wishes to start a winds group.