

MCGC Board of Directors

Nominees 2020

President

Daniel Walsh

“It has been an honor to serve the membership of MCGC in my first two-year term as President. To be able to watch the Circuit from this perspective and to see all of the working parts and volunteers that provide such a wonderful experience for our performers has been truly inspiring. This has made me want to grow in this role and help MCGC be able to provide an even better, more professional, higher quality, and a more rewarding experience for all involved. I have great respect for everyone who has dedicated time to making MCGC what it is and I look forward to becoming a better President as well as continuing to build us into the best Circuit in the country.

Not only have I served as President for this past term, but I have also served as the WGI Representative for two terms previously as well as on the rules committee. I have been trained and certified as an MCGJA Judge, and have also worked with teams from all three divisions of the circuit, being a director for 14 years. I have been heavily involved in MCGC and hope this shows my dedication to this organization and its growth.

Covid-19 has obviously disrupted our personal lives, but it also caused such heartache for all of us involved in MCGC. In this position we needed to make informed, researched and quick decisions for the overall health of the Circuit. The physical health of us all yes, but also the financial health of the circuit. I know that there is quite a bit of unresolved feelings and competitive energy remaining and I hope that we can all take that and use it in future seasons. Because of this, it has given me a renewed passion to serve as President and make the next season the best yet. Looking back, I am very proud of the decisions we made and hope that the membership respects the difficulty of them, and that all of us can see that we are now in good shape moving forward, because of the decisions we made. Thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time.

In my time as President, there have been many moves for continued growth, structural changes to help run the circuit more effectively, and change to help the circuit become what we all want it to be. Some of the things that we have been able to do while I have been President include creating and implementing a complete overhaul of the Code of Conduct for all involved in MCGC as well as requiring Background Checks which will be expanded in this and future seasons to make sure our circuit stays a safe place. We also created the Color Guard Regional A Class Championships event which was an incredible success and allowed for all teams to participate in Championships ceremonies. I created a communication outline for the Board of Directors and Coordinators so that all communication from the Circuit is professional, to the point, and consistent. This past season was the first season with the Advisory Boards as a part of the circuit. I believe that this is an exciting new addition to our Circuit and I believe that the work we've done to promote this growth and support the Advisory Boards is a great start for future seasons. In my two-year term this isn't all that was accomplished, but I hope this shows

that as President, I am willing to do what it takes to make the Circuit a better place for performers and instructors alike, as well as judges, fans, and volunteers. For all involved.

There is a lot to learn from and a lot to discuss to better the future. I believe that with the help of the membership, the Board, Coordinators, and Committee chairs and members, we are very capable of providing the best Circuit in the country. As long as we are willing to try new and fresh ideas. To take a risk and step outside the box, and to reinforce systems that work well and are in place. As a membership, to do a better job of supporting each other in the Circuit. To act more as friends than enemies. To act as fans of our competition, as we are all here for the same reasons, to perform our very best. I believe that MCGC can be the Circuit that others want to model after, but in order to get there, we will need to put aside differences, respect each other, and come together for the common good, instead pushing away. I have many thoughts and plans to continue to help the Circuit become what we all hope it becomes and with this, I am excited to run again for President.”

Bob Green

“I have been involved in MCGC as a member director, contest host (often 2 times a year), and involved with both sponsoring our own groups (2 - 3 groups a season for many years) and also supporting the start up of NorthCoast Academy (as their first home school) and the return of Redline Percussion (their return after a couple years of not operating). I am heavily involved as a band director/supporter by serving as a truck driver, prop parent, roadie, and financial supporter for all of my groups in both the guard and drumline aspects of the circuit, and have always worked to support the MCGC Wind groups as well. I have been an instructor for all of our guard and percussion groups, drill writer, show designer, and in any and every way I have been needed. I have hosted MCGC annual clinics and MCGC meetings at Lakeland whenever I can/have been asked, and have worked to support MCGC in whatever ways I can over my 23 years at Lakeland High School. In terms of board experience, while I would be new to the MCGC Board, I have served on the Michigan Competing Band Association Board of Directors for over 21 years, having spent over 20 years consecutively as the President of MCBA. I am here to offer whatever I can to help the organization to be successful, supported, and to help it be the best it can be. I am here to serve the membership if I can in that capacity and I appreciate the opportunity to put my name in as a candidate.”

Vice President of Percussion and Winds

Dave Pickett

"What you may know: I have been VP of P/W for 4 years. During that time, active involved membership of P/W at meetings has greatly increased. We have created a continually active Advisory Board where members are becoming more involved with the direction of our circuit and our divisions. I have been a WGI Percussion Judge for an accumulated 14 years; having judged for MCGC for over 35 years. I am an active, involved individual who wants to continue with the growth of Percussion & Winds in Michigan, and, there is more work that I want to do to make the circuit better for ALL ensembles. I care!

What you may not know about me: I hold two undergraduate degrees, which I earned simultaneously, from Western Michigan University with majors in Music Education and Business

Administration. My Master's degree is from Michigan State University in the field of Percussion Pedagogy (the teaching of percussion methods.) Former Timpanist with the Flint Symphony. Percussionist with Macomb Symphony. Marched with DCI finalist drum and bugle corps. Former Assistant Director of Bands at Sterling Heights, MI, Stevenson High School, Utica School District. Currently assist as the staff Percussion Specialist for the Romeo School District, Romeo, MI, the Chippewa Valley Schools, Clinton Twp., MI as well as New Haven School District, New Haven, MI. I have written and instructed the music book, the percussion book and/or designed the drill program for over 175 different high school bands across the US since 1985. In 1999 I created my own business, DPMusic-Total Percussion; where I teach, write music, and present educational and motivational clinics for students and educators of all levels across the US. I have performed concerts, clinics, and adjudicated music ensembles in over 30 different states and 4 countries. I began teaching marching techniques and designing marching drills during my first year in college. I have judged for: WGI Percussion, DCI, DCA, BOA, MAPS, RMPA, SCPA, IPA, TCGC, GCGPC, NTCA, LMGPC, CWEA, NCPA. I have judged for the Michigan Competing Band Association and the Michigan Color Guard Circuit (for both color guard and percussion) for over 35 years!"

James Sparling

"I think I possess the ability to continue to create change for the betterment of the Percussion & Winds Divisions within MCGC and for MCGC as a whole. I served on the MEPA Board of Directors in 2009 and have been an active part of MCGC since 2014. If elected, I promise to be an excellent communicator, great organizer and leader, and a constant advocate for the needs of the Percussion & Winds divisions.

I will make sure any issues from the Percussion & Winds units are brought forth with purpose, direction, and most importantly, tangible action. My end goal is not only to continue the fostering of a better experience for the Percussion & Winds units, but also to be an active part of progressing the entire Michigan Color Guard Circuit forward."

Treasurer

Craig Rizzi

"I have served as the MCGC Treasurer for the past two years and have worked to provide efficient, friendly service to the circuit. I am familiar with budgeting, the accounting software, and standard processes that have been followed by MCGC in the past. As a board member, I always look to find ways to streamline the process and better serve the unit directors and staff. I would be happy to continue serving in this capacity and welcome any feedback from the circuit on ways that we could make the unit registration and payment process as painless as possible for directors and staff!"

WGI Representative (Color Guard)

Megan Arreola

"Hello! I've decided to nominate myself for WGI Representative. I believe in order to grow this circuit we need new ideas and fresh faces! I also have 14 years of combined performer and instructor experience with WGI. I would love to help guide new directors and members through the WGI process. It can be scary doing a regional for the first time or even going to world championships! I have the experience and knowledge to help on all aspects of WGI and that is why I think I'd be a great addition to the board."

Percussion and Winds Representative 2

Joe Kuerzi

"I have been involved with the circuit since percussion began in the winter of 1993. Been involved with numerous groups in different classifications throughout my time within the circuit. One of the founders of the MCGC Advisory Boards. Member of the MCGC Hall of Fame since 2012."

Zack Novicki

"I have experience in winds, guard, and percussion, so I'd bring a unique perspective to the board as someone who can see through more than just one lens. I have been on the WGI Winds Advisory board for six years, and have served a two-year term on the winds steering committee."