



Michigan Color Guard Circuit

Annual Reports

Board of Directors & Coordinators

Spring 2020

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President Report - 2020 Season

To the membership of the Michigan Color Guard Circuit,

It has been an honor to serve you in my first two-year term as President during the 2019 and 2020 MCGC Seasons. To be able to watch the Circuit from this perspective has really been special for me, as well as eye opening. To see all of the working parts and people that provide such a wonderful experience for our young performers has been truly inspiring. This has made me want to grow in this role and 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 growing in my role as well as continuing to build the best Circuit in the country. Covid-19 has obviously disrupted our personal lives, but it also caused such heartache for all of us involved in MCGC. This put quite a bit of strain on me and the Board of Directors 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. 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.

The Board of Directors volunteer their time to create the best version of the Michigan Color Guard Circuit possible. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank them for their time and effort. If this is your last season on the Board, on behalf of the Circuit, thank you for your service! It hasn't always been easy, but I can honestly say that each of the discussions were filled with love for the activity and in hopes of making the right decision for the Circuit as a whole.

In my time as President, I have had the opportunity to learn much about the circuit and the inner-workings. There have been many moves for continued growth, structural moves to help run the circuit properly, 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. I also started the work to standardize Board meetings and retreat so that it isn't unexpected each new year. 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. For these above mentioned actions as well as all of the actions I am unable to mention in this report, 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.

By no means was this season perfectly run, but that isn't to say though that there weren't perfect hours, days or weeks. I do think that this season was a huge success in a number of ways, but I can't go without saying that 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 neighbors than enemies. To act as fans of our competition, as we are all here 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. 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.

I can't wait to see you all soon. #growMCGC

Daniel Walsh
President
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

Vice-President of Color Guards Report – 2020 Season

Happy 45th anniversary to MCGC! The 2020 season was shaping up to be a successful and exciting season.

Membership- 90 units

JRA-13
SRA-22
IRA-6
SAA-11
IAA-9
SA-12
IA-8
Collegiate-6
SO-1
SW-1
IW-1

Unit Promotions

Congratulations to both Stoney Creek (SAA to SA) and Elysian (IAA to IA) on their class promotions this season!

WGI Participation

MCGC was represented at the following WGI Regionals in 2020

- Indianapolis
- Chicago
- Flint

Congratulations to all semi-finalist, finalist, and class champions:

Southgate (SRA), Novi (SRA), Grand Blanc (SRA), Lamphere (SRA), Valkyrie (IRA), Flushing (SA), Southgate (SA), Rockford (SA), Troy (SA), Novi (SA), Lake Orion (SA), Hudsonville (SA), Jenison (SA), State of Art (IO), m.Pure (IO), Odin (IO), Walled Lake Central (IO), Plymouth-Canton Educational Park (SW), and Interplay (IW)

Fall Clinic and Education

This seasons student clinic was held at Lakeland High School on November 3, 2019. We had 46 students attending along with a few staff members. Multiple sessions were held throughout the day for attendees to choose from including flag, sabre, rifle, dance, as well as across the floor exercises with equipment. The day started with a group warm up/stretch block and then breakout sessions continued throughout the day exploring each piece of equipment at different levels. The day ended with a show-and-tell of all the new things they

learned. A huge THANK YOU to our amazing clinicians this year Whyll Piqu, Jennifer Batsios, and Adam Bogema.

It was decided at board retreat this past season to try and go another route with circuit education. Staff members were invited and encouraged to attend the adjudication training session that was held the same day as the student clinic and there were a few that attended. It was my hope to be able to have 2 webinars early this past season, but unfortunately, they fell through. The plan was to do something in the summer of 2020 and I had been planning on a “how to” type of clinic for staff members. At this point, that is on hold as we are unaware of what the state restrictions will be due to COVID 19.

One of my goals this season was to send out emails over the season that covered specific topics. Emailed topics this season included: Field Day and what you need to know, First Show Reminders (how to prepare your first show of the season), Getting the most out of critique, and the last one was on Range, Variety and Depth in your production. I did get some positive feedback from membership on these emails and my goal is to continue to do the same next season. There were also education opportunities shared on the MCGC staff/directors Facebook page during and after the season for everyone to take advantage of.

Advisory Board

This was the first year MCGC explored having a guard advisory board in the circuit. There is still a lot of gray area in regards to the “responsibilities” of the AB and I feel this needs to continue to be worked out. There was a lot of good discussion within the group and items of concern were brought to the BOD attention. Looking forward to seeing what we can continue to develop in the future. Thank you to those that volunteered their time in the inaugural season of the AB!

Advisory Board Members:

- Adam Bogema
- Jennifer Batsios
- Jeremy Neal
- Karen Plourde
- Killian Weston
- Renee Cole
- Roy Graves
- Sarah Moon-Musser
- Sharon MacDermaid
- Issa Lewis
- Mark Istrate
- MCGC Rep-Ryan Vaughan
- Megan Arreola

Topics of discussion during the season:

- Adding prop loading times on the schedule for events (should we?)
 - Decided this seems to be more of an issue for percussion groups but could be useful for guards as well.
 - Trying to mimic WGI setup is beneficial as well
- Ticket prices for champs/Reg A champs
- Other suggestions for Reg A champs
- Defining AA class
 - Brought up at board retreat to take to AB, however not much to discussed with it.
- Judge/Clinician – would it be ok to use designers and not just judges? Do you have a list of people you would like to see in this role?
- Regional A Championship
 - Needs to be the same experience the WGI guards get
 - use of the “black curtain”
 - Flushing being a viable option for Reg A championships with no answer on seating for members. Track seating not an option
 - Was seating ever discussed? No resolution provided from BOD
- Some positive feedback and suggestions for first time show host (Caledonia)
- Printing signage from MCGC packet was a problem. Files too small to use, need to brainstorm other options.
- Problem with groups not getting recaps for critique since scores were not being released until after awards
- Can critique start later?
- Dance songs before awards was a hit
- Contest schedule changes. It was suggested that if a group pulls out of a show, to not adjust the schedule the week of the show.

Suggestions for the future

- Sign up for a Zoom account for board of director use
- Brainstorm other ways of funding scholarship fund so that it can be separate from Field Day (sponsorships, donations, etc.)
- Look into having a “show day” mentor for new unit directors.
- Look into having smaller “townhall” type meeting through out the season (via zoom) to keep connected. Especially with AB
- With the unknowns for the future, I am suggesting to the BOD to allow a “letter of intent” to be submitted by schools that would be interested in holding a show next season but may not have the availability to actually get the reservation at this time. This would allow units to show interest but not fear being locked into something they may not be allowed to do by their school district.
- Need to seriously look at Reg A Championships and look at the opportunities to bring the guards back together on the same weekend.

- Create a “audition/clinic” calendar for all independent groups to be able to share their planned events in one location.
- Continue to share educational opportunities, emails, and depending on the future...plan something for summer training.

We are here to serve you, the membership. It’s been an “interesting” year, full of twists and turns that we could have never imagined. Overall, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be your Vice President of Color Guards. There was a lot to learn in this first year in this role and I look forward to taking it even further next year. Stay safe everyone.

Kim Kuhn
Vice-President of Color Guards
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

Vice-President of Percussion & Winds Report – 2020 Season

The 2020 season had 31 ensembles in the Percussion / Winds members of MCGC. In our membership we had: 2 Percussion Regional A ensembles / 10 Percussion Scholastic A ensembles / 7 Percussion Independent A ensembles / 2 Percussion Scholastic Concert A ensembles / 3 Winds Independent A ensembles / 2 Percussion Scholastic Open ensembles / 3 Percussion Independent Open ensembles / 1 Percussion Scholastic World ensemble and 1 Percussion Independent World ensemble.

Prior to shutting down the season we were able to still have 4 competition opportunities. Within these contests 28 different ensembles (90.3% of the membership) participated. Two different ensembles participated 3 times, 11 different ensembles participated 2 times and 15 ensembles participated once. 3 member units did not participate this season. We had 3 ensembles remove themselves from membership prior to the beginning of the season due to issues with rehearsal conflicts and member commitments.

The Regional A ensembles were determined to be fitting to class standards by the judging panels that viewed these ensembles.

It was planned that prior to the beginning of the season we would have 3 different educational videos produced and available to the membership. These were each to be interviews of key WGI Personnel and noted instructors from around the country. None of these took place due to the inconsistent availability of the clinician. If reelected to this position, this is still my plan for next year – however – getting solid contractual commitments.

Many educational and informational links were posted on the FB page of 'Michigan Percussion/Winds Directors and Staff'. There was always an avid following of these; most often there were 70-110 views of each post.

At last years' Spring Meeting the circuit added an additional Percussion / Winds Representative to the Board of Directors. Shortly after the meeting the 2 Reps and I discussed many items for the direction of the coming year. One main point we established at the beginning – *We were going to present ourselves as a Collaborative Leadership Team; that titles meant nothing to us, we were going to work as equals.* Also, at the Spring Meeting the Division Advisory Boards were established.

I solicited for members of the Percussion / Winds Advisory Board and received a great response. 19 volunteers, representing 16 different ensembles (50% of our membership) stepped up to actively participate! We held a conference call discussing with all the direction we, as the P/W Adv Board, wanted for the circuit. In so doing we came up with 8 different objectives (Project Teams) for our board. In sending out the sign-up sheet we had from 3-6 sign up for each team (many signing up for as many as 3 teams.) These teams were 'Guided' by our 3-member Leadership Team (the 2 reps and me.) The 8 Project Teams are: Facilities / Education – Welcome Packet / Field Day – Scholarships / Corporate

Sponsorships / Judge Review / New Championships Site / Rule Book, Separation by Division / &, Recruitment – Marketing.

The Advisory Board of the Percussion / Winds Divisions of MCGC were impressively active! Some development took place prior to the season but most of the work has taken place toward the end of the season and after the cancellation of the season. Prior to the season the Facilities Team worked with our Contest Coordinator to partner in identifying host facilities that would work with the various needs of Percussion / Winds, to consider traffic flow as well as warm up space. Also, prior to the beginning of the season, with the cancellation of Field Day (due to weather); the Field Day – Scholarship team moved on to other team challenges. After the season, the Judge Review Team worked with our Judge Coordinator to understand the workings of training and hiring of judges and how to better offer feedback. The Rule Book Separation Team has created a proposal which will be on the Rule Change vote at our Fall Meeting. The Championship Site Team sent out a survey to the membership to get honest opinions on our current championships site; and, the possibility of looking at something new. The Recruitment – Marketing team met several times (virtually) discussing how to motivate growth within the circuit and how to inform the state High School Bands as to Who We Are and How We Can Help Their Programs. Discussions included meeting with a representative of MEPA, out of Ohio, on expanding the Winds Divisions. Also, meeting with the leadership of MCBA, discussing how we can, as a complete circuit, partner with them to support and grow both organizations. All teams are still active in expanding their research and support of the Percussion / Winds Divisions and all MCGC.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as Vice President of Percussion & Winds for the past 4 years – and especially, with the interaction of membership, this past year was amazing! I hope to continue leading and motivating the Percussion & Winds Divisions of MCGC for years to come!! I could not ask for a more pro-active group, working strongly together to benefit MCGC!!!

Dave Pickett
Vice-President of Percussion & Winds
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

Secretary Report – 2020 Season

Overview

This year was full of new challenges as I took on a new position and became part of the Board of Directors for the first time. My goals upon accepting the position included increased transparency in communication and furthered focus on customer service. While my predecessor and the previous Board certainly worked towards these goals and made great strides, I felt that even more could be achieved. It was a great honor to be given the chance to serve the circuit in this way.

Communication

My first order of business, after familiarizing myself with the various platforms the circuit and the Board uses to communicate, was to organize the materials left to me by my predecessor. The Secretary email account is now fully organized and easily searchable for necessary information. Likewise, outdated information, such as old insurance/scholastic eligibility forms, is easily removable and can be replaced with newer information.

I primarily see my role as a support to the other Board members, particularly those who represent and frequently communicate with our circuit members (the MCGC/WGI Representatives for color guard, the two Percussion/Winds Representatives, and their respective Vice-Presidents). To that end, it seemed essential to create a master list of units and their contact information to facilitate easy communication between the Board and units. I used Google Sheets to share this information with the Board in a user-friendly, easily updatable fashion.

At the beginning of the year, BEE Pro (established by my predecessor) was used to create and customize professional and attractive email templates. However, not too long into the season, BEE Pro lost its ability to cooperate with Gmail, with no fix in the foreseeable future, so we closed our BEE Pro account and simply used Gmail and Competition Suite to send emails. We are considering, as a Board, whether we want to use a different platform, or continue on as we have been.

Record-Keeping

This was the first year we, as a Board, decided to solicit proof of insurance forms and/or scholastic eligibility forms through Competition Suite as opposed to emailing them to the Board. This worked very well, for the most part, and allowed at-a-glance assessments of who has submitted their necessary forms and who has not. It made it very easy to follow up with units who still needed to submit their information, and kept all the forms in one convenient location.

Future Goals

Goals for next year include increased communication with committee chairs and the development of transition protocol for outgoing and incoming Board members.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it was an honor to serve the Board and the entire Michigan Color Guard Circuit in this role for the first time. While all new positions require adjustment, my predecessor did a fine job in preparing me for the position. I'd like to thank my fellow Board members, coordinators, and

committee chairs for their support and hard work this year, and all the circuit members for our pleasant and professional dealings all season long. Thank you for making this circuit the best it can be, in spite of the serious challenges posed by COVID-19!

Issa Lewis
Secretary
Michigan Color Guard Circuit

Treasurer Report and 2019-20 Fiscal Year Summary

Well, to say that the 2020 season was the most irregular in recent memory would certainly be an understatement. Nothing about this report will be normal, but considering the circumstances, I think that goes without saying.

A few highlights from the season to report:

- We purchased a new sound system for \$7,795. This replaces the old sound system that we had, which was decades old.
- We purchased awards for the 2020 Championships events for \$7,816. These awards will be used for the 2021 Championships events.
- All contest entry fees were refunded to the units for cancelled events (Stoney Creek, Jenison, West Bloomfield II, Lakeland II, and both Championships events).
- Because of the cancellation of the last four regular season contests and Championships, we lost about \$7,359 in flights for judges. We are attempting to recoup some of this cost by rolling the tickets over to next season, but we are not anticipating that we will be allowed to do so.
- To honor the judge's and contest staff's commitment to MCGC, we paid \$50 for each cancelled event to these individuals. This cost us a total of \$3,850.

We didn't set out to do anything new this season that would drastically affect the budgeting process, so nothing out of the ordinary came from that discussion last summer. The budget committee had **originally budgeted for a loss of \$11,110** for the circuit, due to the purchase of the sound system and

a few other items. We ended up with **a loss closer to \$20,500**. However, considering the circumstances and the purchases that will be rolled over to next year, this is not incredibly concerning to the Board.

After all checks are cashed, we will have around **\$53,400** in our checking account. Of that balance:

- \$11,500 is earmarked for scholarships
- \$2,900 is earmarked for technology purchases

This leaves us with an effective balance of about \$39,000 entering the 2020-21 fiscal year.

My recommendation for next year is to be as conservative as possible with spending, since we do not know what the future holds with the current public health emergency. As such, here is what I suggest:

- Continue to limit the number of percussion/winds shows to 5 or 6, since they only have a two show minimum. Make sure most of these shows occur toward the end of the season where they will be more heavily attended
- Consider offering fewer shows early in the season since (1) they are traditionally less attended and (2) units may need more time to train in the first part of the season than normal. Under normal circumstances, I would not suggest this. But perhaps this is something to discuss just for 2021?
- Remove the judge clinician program from MCGC contests. The feedback is helpful, but it is not widely used in an effective manner by units. Perhaps consider providing volunteer mentors who would be available to attend critique with new directors to help them get the most from the critique experience. This would save the circuit over \$2,000 annually.

Craig Rizzi
Treasurer
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

Category Report 2020

6/1/2019 through 5/31/2020

5/6/2020

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Account	Description	Memo	Tag	Amount
INCOME				-20,582.07
Advertising				-70.00
Badges				-801.55
Championships				-14,309.26
awards				-7,816.16
entries				0.00
facility				-475.40
judges				-4,614.20
supplies				-647.56
tickets				-755.94
vendor				0.00
volunteers				0.00
Competition Suite				-120.00
Contest Coordinator				-5,138.04
Contests				-4,506.81
Caledonia				-437.79
Chippewa Valley				-145.28
COVID Pay				-3,850.00
Hudsonville				-1,508.75
Jenison				-2,013.50
Lakeland				653.07
Lakeland II				0.00
Milford				713.90
Novi				2,236.48
Plymouth				-10.70
Reeths Puffer				-238.40
Stoney Creek				-442.50
Troy Athens				44.84
West Bloomfield				1,232.52
West Bloomfield II				-740.70
Copyright-Licensing				-773.26
Dues				12,700.00
Education				-1,365.84
General Contest Expenses				3,854.60
Incorporation Fees				-125.00
Judge Coordinator				-5,190.24
Online Overage				0.49
Planning Weekend				-1,807.27
Reg A Championships				-298.90
Rulebooks				-620.10
Sponsorships				0.00
Trailer				-1,027.36
Treasurer				-244.76
Web Site				-41.97
Wifi				-696.80
OVERALL TOTAL				-20,582.07

Net Worth - As of 5/6/2020

Account	5/6/2020 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	53,399.72
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	53,399.72
TOTAL ASSETS	53,399.72
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Overpay	150.00
Scholarships	11,492.76
Technology	2,878.89
TOTAL Other Liabilities	14,521.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES	14,521.65
OVERALL TOTAL	38,878.07

MCGC Budget Worksheet								Notes
	2016	2017	2018	2019 budgeted	2019	2020 budget	2020	
units	120	117	126		121	120	127	
units attend champs	107	107	104		108	110	n/a	
Accountant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Advertising			-96	-120	-188	-120	-60	
Badges	-994	-611	-605	-800	-692	-700	-801	
Bank Charges	-103	-105	-25	-100	0	0	0	
Board Meeting	-34	0	-39	0	0	0	0	
Championships								
awards	-9336	-11300	-9429	-10000	-8834	-9000	-7816	can be used next year
curtain	-1150	-1100	-1150	-1150	-1150	-1150	0	
entries	18550	18725	18550	18550	13475	13300	0	
facility	-16751	-17851	-18500	-18500	-16962	-17500	-475	event insurance
flowers	-477	-491	-160	-160	-549	-200	0	
food	-2839	-3442	-2706	-3000	-2424	-2500	0	
announcer gift	-100	-150	-100	-150	-100	-100	0	
hotels	-6526	-6816	-7095	-7000	-6650	-6500	0	
judges	-19676	-20820	-20676	-21000	-18058	-18000	-4614	all unused flights
medical	-360	-360	-360	-360	-360	-360	0	
printing	-463	-785	-266	-800	-295	-500	0	
programs	558	795	0	0	0	0	0	
sponsor (mcba)	385	385		385	450	450	450	
supplies	-693	-650	-426	-700	-1039	-900	-494	
tickets	54339	52975	55814	53000	45018	45000	0	
vendor	1061	1335	1446	1250	1144	1200	0	
volunteers	0	750		0	0	0	0	
wristbands	-786	-744	-752	-750	-833	-760	-755	can be used next year
Contest Coordinator	-5109	-5067	-5146	-5100	-5268	-5100	-5138	
Contests	8636	-740	3438	0	5151	0	-4506	includes \$3,850 paid to judges and contest staff for cancelled contests and \$2,745 in cancelled flights
Copyright	-718	-230	0	0	-732	-750	-773	
Dues	12200	11700	12600	12000	12500	12000	12700	
Education						-5000	-1365	
clinican (traveling)					-651			
Guard Clinic	-1306	-1422	-920	-1000	-1591			
Judge Clinic								
Percussion Clinic	-1541	-1008	-2100	-2000	-2137			note from last year: not attended, a new format/date/plan needs to be considered
Symposium	-998	-958	-1062	-1000	-860	0	0	
Floor	-2273	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Gen Contest Exp	-424	-965	-244	-750	-1163	-1000	-1082	
Gen Contest Exp Inc	4860	4674	5136	5100	4884	4900	4935	
Honors-Memorial	-75	-90	0	0	0	0	0	
Incorporation	-350	-125	-125	-125	0	-125	-125	
Individuals	-668	-575	0	0	0	0	0	
Judge Coordinator	-5550	-5486	-5121	-5500	-5415	-5100	-5190	
Merchandising	1096	180	0	0	0	0	0	
Planning Weekend	-1822	-1865	-2000	-1800	-1619	-1800	-1807	
Rulebooks	-1868	-1783	-1609	-1800	-585	-600	-620	
Regional A Champs								
announcer					-339	-50	0	
curtain					-1150	-1150	0	
entries					5425	6125	0	
hotels					-1820	-1500	0	
judges					-9463	-9000	-300	airfare for one judge
tickets					3455	4000	0	
Shirts	0	-571	0	0	0	0	0	
Sound	-80	-587	-120	-250	-120	-120	0	no insurance purchased this year
Sponsorship (mcba)				-385	-450	-450	-450	
Storage	-1455	-1818	-780	0	0	0	0	
Technology	1942	101	2710	3000	2191	-5000	---	moved to separate account with \$2,879
Trailer								
equipment	-170	-358	-95	-200	-206	-200	-130	
gas	-350	-150	0	-200	0	-150	-42	
insurance						-500	0	
registration	-252	0	0	0	-280	0	0	
Storage	-508	-2445	-1320	-1320	-1321	-900	-854	outdoor storage
other trailer	-2890	0	0	0	-3335	0		
Treasurer	-178	-226	-43	-200	-195	-200	-244	
Web Site	-1380	-608	-715	-600	-299	-100	-42	
Wifi	-986	-1375	-890	-1000	-768	-1000	-697	
Overall Total	\$12,388	-\$2,057	\$17,119	\$5,465	-\$4,208	-\$11,110	-\$20,295	includes one time purchase of sound (\$7,795), awards to be used next year (\$7,816), canceled championships flights for judges (\$4,614), and regular season losses (\$4,506)

WGI Representative Report – 2020 Season

The 2019-2020 MCGC season was unfortunately cut short by the worldwide COVID crisis.

It is to be noted that all supervised units had membership registrations that met the deadline. Championships was cancelled due to COVID.

Initiatives

- Utilize manual/binder for the position and share template with MCGC rep, serves as a “how-to” guide for future members elected into these positions [MET]
- Utilize “Reminder List” to be emailed to membership at beginning of season, serves as a guide for the WGI representative to send out timely reminders throughout the season [MET]
- Assist Vice President of Color Guards with creating a second student clinic opportunity on the west side of the state [*NOT MET – insufficient personnel resources this season*]
- Hold online “webinar”-style forums (in collaboration with MCGC representative) for units to discuss potential rule proposals and other issues to be brought to the floor at the spring meeting [*NOT MET*]

Future Goals

- Assist Vice President of Color Guards with sustaining a second student clinic opportunity on the west side of the state each season, for students
- Develop a new format for “Instructor Clinics”
 - “Webinar-style” forums, potentially in the off-season (one in June, one in July) – based on training and/or based on design/logistics
- Hold online “webinar”-style forums (in collaboration with MCGC representative) for units two times per year to encourage membership participation
 - Forum #1 in September to answer questions about pending season and discuss issues to bring up at fall meeting in Oct
 - Forum #2 in late April to assist with rule proposals/discuss issues to bring up at spring meeting in May

Karen Mae Wesolek
WGI Representative
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

MCGC Representative Report – 2020 Season

For the 2019-20 season, MCGC had a total of 64 units competing in ‘MCGC’ classes as well as one unit in festival class. In total there were 13 in Junior Regional A, 21 Scholastic Regional A, eight in Independent Regional A, 11 in Scholastic AA, and 11 in Independent AA.

It is to be noted that most units provided positive feedback in regards to the new way that all fees were collected with minimal dates to remember.

It is also to be noted that MCGC was not able to complete the season due to COVID-19.

Initiatives

- Attempt to be proactive in ensuring that all MCGC class units are comfortable with registration, and comfortable with competing throughout the season [Met]
- Assist Vice President of Color Guards and WGI representative with any needs they may have throughout the season. [Not fully met.]
- Work with the MCGC Scholarship Committee to ensure that all members are given an equal opportunity to succeed in their application while continuing to provide an educational experience. [Met]

Future Goals

- Complete the 2020-2021 season.
- Continue to work with the Education Committee to get some sort of educational forum/video playlist available to all units in MCGC or further.
- Continue to educate myself on all things MCGC and WGI to further assist the MCGC membership.
- Provide a digital form for S&E to future benefit MCGC students and staff in a multitude of performance opportunities.
- Continue to work with the Scholarship Committee to grow the opportunities we offer to our membership
- Work with all parties to ensure the growth of MCGC
- Provide the best opportunity for all members to perform in quality venues to create not only an educational experience, but memories for all.

Ryan Vaughan
MCGC Representative
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

Percussion & Winds Representative Report – 2020 Season

Thoughts on the 2020 season

The 2020 indoor marching season saw unprecedented events due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. For the first time in history, WGI and MCGC ended the competitive season early. Every event after March 8, 2020, was canceled. I did not know what to expect in my first year on the MCGC Board of Directors, but it certainly was not a season-ending global pandemic.

The Board of Directors had to make some tough decisions for the circuit this year while balancing the unique challenges within our own ensembles and personal lives. At this point, everyone on the board knows someone who has been personally affected by COVID-19, so with hindsight bias, it is obvious that WGI and MCGC made the right choice in ending the season early. At the time, however, there were so many unknowns, leading to lengthy and at times heated discussions amongst board members.

Although stressful at the time, these experiences have allowed me to see firsthand that all members of the board truly do have the best intentions for the circuit and its members. There were of course many differing opinions among the nine board members, two coordinators, one immediate past president, and one special consultant. The disagreements in most cases allowed us to gain new perspectives from other members as well as understand our own positions better.

The 2020 season also gave us our first experiences with the advisory boards since the adoption of the rule in May of 2019. The Percussion & Winds Advisory Board had immediate interest from a diverse sampling of the percussion and winds side of the circuit. Over half of the units in our division are represented among the nineteen volunteers. Early on, the PWAB decided to focus on eight key areas: facilities, judging, education, field day and scholarships, sponsorships, new championships site, rule book separation, and marketing and recruiting. These areas are directly aligned with the circuit's purpose, and progress in any one of them will lead to a better experience for the performers of MCGC.

What I've worked on over the past year

Being a new percussion and winds representative, long-time rules committee member, percussion group director, and primary author of the advisory boards rule proposal, I played a large role in getting the PWAB started along with my teammates Joe Kuerzi and Dave Pickett on the Board of Directors. The bulk of my time spent on MCGC matters was on organizing materials for the PWAB and communicating with its other members. The group communicates using email and Facebook with occasional conference calls and video meetings. Events are tracked through our shared Google Calendar, and resources are kept in our shared Google Drive folder. Each project team has its own materials and working documents in its own sub- folder.

Not every member has the time to contribute to each project team. However, meetings and resources are still open to all members of the PWAB – in line with our commitment

to openness, inclusion, and transparency. Notes are taken at meetings for PWAB members to review, and occasionally meetings themselves are even recorded. Dave, Joe, and I each lead a few project teams, and all have made progress over the last year.

- The **Sponsorships Project Team** has had conversations with other circuits to gain information while seeking out corporate partners for upcoming events.
- The **Judge Review Project team** has met with the MCGC Judge Coordinator and created drafts of surveys to be used in future seasons.
- The **New Championships Site Project Team** has put together a list of things needed in a new site and contacted several venues for information.
- The **Rule Book Separation Project Team** met several times to discuss how separate rule books should work and to create a proposal to submit to the circuit for a vote.
- The **Marketing and Recruiting Project Team** has had meetings with several local and out-of-state people with skills and experience in this area in order to help brainstorm many potential strategies for growing the percussion and winds division.
- The **Field Day and Scholarships Project Team** has discussed alternate ways of funding scholarships and talked to members of other circuits around the country for insight.
- The **Education Project Team** has created a new draft of a percussion and winds welcome packet and has also discussed potential educational events for the circuit.
- The **Facilities Project Team** has outlined details required for a good contest host and discussed several issues that came up at MCGC contests throughout the season.

The remainder of my time spent on MCGC matters was on Board of Directors discussions and emailing groups to remind them of deadlines.

Moving forward

The percussion and winds side of the circuit has taken some big steps over the past year, and as a result, the circuit as a whole has made great progress. Still there are many areas for improvement.

- Communication
 - The circuit's primary means of communication with the circuit is through email, and I think that makes sense, but given that people sometimes get many emails a day, there is a delicate balance of sending enough emails to get the information out without becoming overwhelming, leading to information being missed. The board should continue to experiment both with the quantity and length of email communications to the membership.
 - The board's primary means of internal communication is the Slack platform with email and meetings also used occasionally. While no system is perfect, Slack certainly has its advantages and disadvantages. One big

advantage is that Slack can be accessed through a smartphone app, allowing quick updates and responses. This feature can also be a disadvantage in that sometimes there are hasty responses that have not been thought out and proofread the way they might be through email or another medium.

- Advisory boards
 - The PWAB has had a lot of great discussions, but in certain areas it was a slower start than some people would have preferred. I think we have now gotten through the growing pains stage, and there has really been an acceleration in progress since the season ended. I am excited for the future contributions of the PWAB to the circuit.
 - After many interesting experiences this year while setting up the PWAB, it became clear that one main function of the group is for its members to learn from each other. I personally learned a lot by talking to some members who are band directors and others who regularly host shows. I also explained a lot of new information I had learned from being on the Board of Directors. The PWAB should continue to work on new ways of increasing our collective knowledge.
- Board of Directors
 - There is a sense from some members in the circuit that there is a lack of transparency with the way the Board of Directors operates. I have had the same feeling at times before and after getting on the board. One potential cause could be that much of the detail in running the circuit is actually handled by committees. These committees have traditionally had low representation of percussion and winds members, so more percussion and winds people joining committees might help. Another possible cause could be low attendance at the general membership meetings. However, over the past year, the percussion and winds groups have had an excellent showing at the meetings. One more potential cause could be an imbalance in communication from the board to the membership. Too much or too little communication could both cause issues.
 - There is still a lingering feeling that the board as a whole is not quite comfortable with the advisory boards yet. When Dave, Joe, and I talk about our project teams, there is sometimes a feeling of suspicion. I think this issue is a result of the advisory boards being new. I think the board will become more comfortable with the advisory boards as the advisory boards begin to prove their value.
 - Deadlines are important in this activity that involves so much planning, but the board is sometimes inconsistent in how they are handled. Continued conversations on this topic – along with some key changes in the by-laws and rules – will allow us to make good progress in the long term.
 - One of the great advantages of the Board of Directors is the diversity in experiences, backgrounds, ages, and personalities of its members. The circuit is certainly better for having such a breadth of wisdom available. These differences can also at times mean there is conflict. To encourage people to join and stay on the board, it seems prudent for all members to

work on their communication skills and style – particularly over digital media. A few small changes could make the environment much more hospitable and welcoming.

- Another way to make the board more welcoming to new members might be to more clearly define what each role is. Some previous board members have done excellent work in setting up the successors to their positions. A standardized way of passing information from one board member to the next might be helpful. So many board functions work by precedent, and when the precedent breaks, there is sometimes confusion until order is restored.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Percussion and Winds Representative for the 2020 season. I have learned a lot from my experience on the Board of Directors, and I look forward to continuing the remainder of the term into the next season.

Anthony Leithauser
Percussion & Winds Representative
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

Percussion & Winds Representative Report – 2020 Season

To Members and Board Representatives of the Michigan Color Guard Circuit,

In what can only be described as a challenging year by all involved within our circuit, I am pleased to report that I believe that all challenges from within the circuit that are able to be handled were in a correct and time conscious manner. In a year that saw no crowning of champions, no circuit finals performances and no teary-eyed farewells to our age outs, I would argue it may have been one of the best examples of what makes our circuit a worthwhile endeavor.

My position was created a year ago and while I have always tried to stay active in my circuit if I was on the board or not, I believe I am lucky to have served this past season. We were able to begin the Advisory boards for both color guards and the Percussion / Wind halves of the circuit and many great discussions came out of these times spent. The thoughts and ideas that were spurred by these discussions have led to a recognition of items that we feel can be handled or a process of how they could be handled has been recognized. Areas discussed included people from every corner of our circuit, representing each class and varied in range from unit member growth, to what is the proper manner that a judge should be addressed if there is an issue. From marketing our product to what is the easiest way to opening our activity to new units. I am proud to have been involved in these conversations and believe that the circuit stands on a precipice of greatness. Our circuit growth will continue as we continue to pour our resources and passions into this organization.

The most memorable item I will take from this past year is the opportunities that I have had to become acquainted with so many directors of different units. I have believed for a long time that we were missing opportunities by not collaborating within our circuit more. I see these doors starting to open up and the comradery within our circuit starting to take off. There is not a limit on our potential if this continues.

Joseph Kuerzi
Percussion & Winds Representative
Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Board of Directors

Contest Coordinator Report – 2020 Season

2020 was the first of my two-year contract as Contest Coordinator and one not soon to be forgotten. The last time I was in this position, it was 2004, we used cassette tapes, a Windows-based tabulation program, and Excel for schedules. Now we are paperless, have a simplified show hosting process, and easier document sharing via Google Drive.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Bring local events as close to a national experience as possible for consistency purposes for our teams that travel out to WGI, but also to those thinking of going in the future.
- Utilizing Competition Suite to its fullest potential, including releasing team recaps electronically and the email and text messaging capabilities.
- Build a contest staff team that worked more efficiently and was friendlier, with a specific goal of a better experience for all attending an MGC event.
- Downsize the items needed to run an event, relying on the event host to supply everyday items like extension cords, surge protectors and a copy machine.
- Asked Contest Directors to contact their assigned show host prior to their event and more frequently leading up to the event to answer questions and help lead them to a successful event.

CHALLENGES

- Publishing recaps in a timely manner. They are available once a class has been certified, but we cannot make them public because of the requirement to hold awards at every show.
 - Recommendation - release them to Judges and Directors only when a class is complete.
- The multiple considerations that affect the start and end times of events which include: is it a Saturday or Sunday event and is there an event the day before/after, number of teams in attendance, judges' flights, length of critique, and is there a show host building conflict.

SUGGESTIONS

- Award shows to those who've successfully hosted in the past automatically, giving them the first option of dates. Advertise open dates to new hosts and any others wanting to host multiple events.
- Divide events up by divisions, percussion/winds-only events and color guard-only events. (See below for an example of what 2021 could look like)
- Hire a Site Manager for certain highly attended and challenging logistical events.
- Take on the booking of hotels from the show host.
- Allow time for changes to be implemented and to work through issues before ruling them out.

- Utilizing Competition Suite more. We pay almost \$2,600 a year for this product and don't use it to its full potential.
 - Releasing division recaps electronically after judge certification
 - Managing voting for by-laws, rules, SOP's and open Board positions
 - Events and news displayed on the website more regularly

Kari Lynn Clark
 Contest Coordinator
 Michigan Color Guard Circuit

2020 SEASON			
Event		# of PW / # CG	Begin time / End time
Field Day - Flushing HS	All Divisions		Cancelled due to weather
Reeths Puffer HS	CG Only	25	2 pm / 7 pm
Novi HS	All Divisions	9 / 40	11:30 am / 10:30 pm
Chippewa Valley HS	CG Only	23	1 pm / 6:05 pm
Milford HS	CG Only	25	2 pm / 7:35 pm
Hudsonville HS	All Division	6 / 25	11:30 pm / 7:05 pm
Troy Athens HS	All Divisions	7 / 29	11:00 am / 7:05 pm
Lakeland HS	All Divisions	16 / 35	11:00 am / 10:00 pm
Caledonia HS	CG Only	17	1 pm / 4:35 pm
W Bloomfield HS	P/W Only	16	3 pm / 7:35 pm
Jenison HS	All Divisions	Cancelled due to COVID 19	
Stoney Creek HS	CG Only	Cancelled due to COVID 19	
MCGC Reg A Championships @ Flushing HS	CG Only	Cancelled due to COVID 19	
Lakeland HS W Bloomfield HS	P/W Only CG Only	Cancelled due to COVID 19 Cancelled due to COVID 19	
MCGC AA/A/O/W Championship MCGC P/W Championships	CG Only P/W Only	Cancelled due to COVID 19 Cancelled due to COVID 19	

WHAT 2021 COULD LOOK LIKE
Regular Season Events - 11 / CG Only Shows - 7 / P/W Only Events - 4 / All Division Events - 0
West Side Shows - 4 (3 CG and 1 P/W) / East Side Shows - 7 (4 CG and 3 P/W)

Field Day	01/16/2021	
Week One	01/30/2021	West side CG Only East side P/W Only
Week Two (WGI Troy P/W Regional)	02/06/2021	East side CG Only
Week Three	02/13/2021	West side CG Only
Week Four	02/20/2021	East side CG Only
Week Five	02/27/2021	West side CG Only
Week Six (WGI Flint CG Regional)	03/06/2021	West side P/W Only
Week Seven	03/13/2021 03/13/2021	East side CG Only East side P/W Only
Week Eight	03/20/2021 03/21/2021 03/21/2021	MCGC Reg A Championships East side AA/A/O/W CG Only East side P/W Only
Week Nine	03/27/2021 03/28/2021	MCGC AA/A/O/W Championships MCGC P/W Championships

Judge Coordinator Report – 2020 Season

MCGC Board of Directors,

Intentions for 2021/2022

I would like to be considered for the Judge Coordinator position for the 2021 / 2022 season. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, consistency will be critical in moving out of the challenges that may come as a result. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with MCGC again in the future.

Year End Report

Thank you for trusting in me as your New Judge Coordinator. 2020 has been an unprecedented year, starting with the transfer of both Judge Coordinator and Contest Coordinator. Along with the typical highs & lows, 2020 has been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and all the ramifications that came as a result. Nobody could have imagined we would be in this place, just a few weeks ago. The Local & National reaction to these challenges seems to have gone relatively well, considering the effect it's had on all of us. Thank you to the BOD for working with the Coordinators in handling the abrupt end of the season with dignity, compassion and professionalism. The reaction from the Judging community has been very positive. I do worry a bit of the long-term effects this event will have on adjudicators, both locally and nationally. I'm sure as many of us are, Judges are taking a long look at what they do and where priorities lie, once we move past this event. It will be important we are ready for whatever may come.

Up until March 7th, the season had been moving along relatively smoothly. As I have worked through the first year, I've had a chance to analyze the process, from top to bottom. If I'm selected as the Judge coordinator again, I do have plans to re-examine a few key elements of that process. Below are a few examples of opportunities, that might make the hiring, training and acquiring of new judges more effective and cost efficient.

Areas of Possible Adjustment

- Travel arrangement
- Hotel booking
- MCGJA Roster evaluation & adjustment
- Caption Head re-alignment & effectiveness
- Clarify the process of becoming a judge with MCGJA
- Developing additional training to an online format
- 2021 budgetary concerns and adjustments

Break Down of the 2020 season

- 31 Guest adjudicators assigned for the 2020 season
- MCGJA has 13 Active Guard Adjudicators
- MCGJA has 14 Active Percussion / Winds Adjudicators
- MCGJA has 3 Active T & P Adjudicators
- We have 7 individuals moving through the judge training process. 4 Guard & 3 Percussion.

Thank you again for trusting me as your Judge Coordinator. I look forward to helping MCGC move out of these challenges and making them opportunities for reflection, analysis and growth. Years of planning, fiscal responsibility and strong leadership have set MCGC up to be a shining example on how to move forward.

Blair Kuhn
Judge Coordinator
Michigan Color Guard Circuit

Caption Head Reports

2020 Equipment Caption Report

These are unprecedented times and the affect has impacted our season in ways we could never have imagined. Not completing our season, not competing in finals, not moving on to WGI and not being able to have closer hurt all of us. But we are moving forward, already preparing for a new future. We are not sure what that looks like but many creative ideas are being discussed in all of our marching arts organizations.

It is hard to recap a season that wasn't complete or finished. We can't really discuss the progress and improvements. But there was a lot of promise and possibilities. And I hope moving forward our teams will continue to push themselves in training and creativity with equipment. Please keep an open mind moving forward, accept change in a positive way, and try to be a problem solver. We are going to face some big challenges but if we keep our students first we will make the right decisions.

Respectfully

Marci Carlberg
Equipment Caption Head

2020 Movement Caption Report

Movement Caption Report 2020

Well.... this season was pretty different to say the least. I don't think anyone was prepared for what we faced this season.

Preparing for this season, we did have some growth in the movement caption this year from a judging perspective. We now have a total of 3 qualified movement judges in Michigan.

- There were a few groups this year that did express interest in using the judge clinician program at their rehearsals. Not all groups were able to be scheduled due to availability. If this program is continued in the future, I would like to explore other options to allow groups to take advantage of what the circuit is able to offer.
- Some areas of focus I would suggest for next year to the board of directors and education team
- Continue to educate teams on preparing for and getting the most out of critique
- Continue to educate on caption criteria and class expectation for each class
- As we continue on, I would highly recommend that all instructors attend any judging session being presented. The information you will get will help in your growth of understanding the judging criteria so that you are able to design appropriately to what you are being judged on.

- Local judges have been working on more scoring-significant commentary and its showing. I feel there is still opportunity to continue to grow in this aspect.
- There were some moments of “technical troubles” this season. I would suggest to the board that judges are given a DVR or other instructions as a back-up so that groups are still able to get complete commentary on their performances.
- Not having availability to recaps for critique at some shows posed a challenge for some. It would be nice to have recaps handy during critique.

Overall, thanks to everyone for your hard work this short season. Hoping 2021 will bring everyone back even stronger!

Kim Kuhn
Movement Caption Head

2020 Design Analysis Caption Report

Well, the 2020 Color Guard Season was an interesting one.... With our season abruptly cut short, it is hard for me to do this report without drudging up some heavy-hearted feelings. I know that DA is an analytical caption and we are not supposed to take in feelings, but we are only human. Designs and training seemed to be improving some across our various classes, but without seeing anyone at the end of the year it is difficult to state that as fact. Concerns: My biggest concern is that this “CV” will put our activity at risk for future development and growth. We do need to keep encouraging more younger people to instruct and judge to keep the passion going for our future generations. Only time will tell. MCGC DA Judges: We are continuing to 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. This year we had myself, Mike Robinson, Kevin Horneffer, Mike Passmore, Daniel Walsh as DA judges.

Mark G. Heather
Design Analysis Caption Head

2020 General Effect Caption Report

No report submitted.

2020 Percussion Music Caption Report

The Percussion Music Caption had one new prospective this season, Matt Dudek. I was able to sit with Matt before and after his first trialing experience at the Novi contest. He also trialed at the Troy Athens contest. Unfortunately, he did not get a chance to trial again due to the season being cut short. However, I have confidence that he will do well as a judge. It's an honor to serve MCGC and the MCGJA as a Caption Head.

Greg Cole
Percussion Music Caption Head

2020 General Effect Visual Caption Report

This season, prior to its closing due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, our judges were able to adjudicate 4 competitions for MCGC.

All those shows were judged by MCGJA Effect-Visual judges. Those judges are: Joey Orefice, Dave Pickett (also a WGI Percussion Effect-Visual judge), Steve Cross and Blair Kuhn (also a WGI Percussion Effect-Visual judge.)

After each competition I listened to samplings of each judges' commentaries in each classification judged at that event. I consistently found that the commentary was appropriate to the sampling of the sheet as well as to the classification of the ensemble. The judges sounded well prepared to discuss the values of the programs as presented as well as to assist in offering direction for growth and improvement.

Based on the works of these men I am confident in the skills and abilities of the MCGJA Percussion Effect-Visual Caption to assist and educate the circuit membership in their growth toward success!

Dave Pickett
Percussion Effect-Visual Caption Head

2020 Percussion Visual Caption Report

Unfortunately, the season ended way too soon with only 5 percussion contests in Michigan. I have nothing significant to report this year. The season appeared to be going well without any negative communication from the groups.

It did come to our attention that we may need to review the process of on-boarding judges to the percussion captions that are qualified in a related activity. It would be

good to determine the requirements and expectations with the membership, board, caption heads so the process is clear to everyone. This would eliminate any possible concerns, real or perceived, in the future.

Hopefully, everyone is staying healthy and safe, getting ready for a complete season next winter. (Fingers crossed)

Mark Hart
cell: 810-623-3535
www.hartdesign.net

2020 General Effect Music Caption Report

Eff. Music seemed to go very smoothly through the entire season. We had 3 shows with local judges and commentary seemed well received at critique. I heard no complaints from any units, and I'm looking forward to a great 2021!

Bill Boswell
Effect Music Caption Head

2020 T&P Caption Report

2020 was a unique year for everyone involved in the activity. In the T & P caption we have three full time judges and one that has trialed one show. The field day was cancelled and that is when training is a priority. Field day did not happen. T & P is taken the same thought process as WGI and is following the WGI rules. The only exception is the safety zone which makes it very tough to judge to the level of WGI. One judge has judge WGI Percussion and Guard.

One judge is a very good judge that will most likely be a WGI judge someday. The third judge is not understanding the new way of working with groups and making it a good experience. We strive for life changing experience for the students.

Rules are made for adults that have done things that cause safety or administrative issues. The participants do what the coaches, directors and staff tell them. We are not in this to give penalties but to make sure safety is adhered to.

I am looking forward to 2021 and the changes our nation has gone through.
Sincerely

Phil Tanner
T & P Caption Head