

Meeting called to order by Erik Forst, and statement was read about the resignation of Rodney Bailey as President. Due to Rodney's resignation, it was stated that the meeting would be collectively run by the Executive Board.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Russell Bertles. Deryl Colson moved to accept treasurer report, Simone 2nd, accepted

Russell presented and explained the budget comparison for the 2007 – 2008 years, as well as the projected budget for 2009. Catreece Frits moved to accept budget, Ira 2nd, accepted

Contest Coordinator's report was presented by Keith Guier. Deryl Colson moved to accept contest report, Ira 2nd, accepted

Championships report was presented by Ahmed Alshabibi. Catreece Frits moved to accept championships report, Ira 2nd, accepted

Rules and Policies proposals were opened by Cyndi Church

Proposal #1: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise "SAPA Executive Board" on page 5, 2nd bullet, of the Policy Handbook to read: * Individuals selected for the Executive Board will come from the Membership and shall be elected for two year terms. On even years, the President, Treasurer, Percussion Vice President and Color Guard At Large member will be elected. On odd years, the Secretary, Color Guard Vice President and Percussion At Large member will be elected.

Rationale: This will maintain some continuity to the administrative structure of the circuit. By alternating years for re-election, one color guard and one percussion representative will each be continuing their terms and the other will be up for re-election.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #2: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise "SAPA Executive Board" on page 5, to add a 3rd bullet that reads: No person actively serving as a judge at SAPA shows is eligible to be elected to the Executive Board.

Rationale: There are too many discussions, decisions, etc. that should not be discussed with anyone who might later judge a unit being discussed. Whether intentional or not, opinions may be clouded by having more information than other judges.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #3: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise Judge Travel on page 13 of the Contest Handbook to read: "...Under no circumstances can a judge be kept waiting at an airport for over two (2) hours...."

Rationale: The current wording "two (1)" does not make sense.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #4: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Add a section to the Contest Handbook specifically outlining the information that should be included in the Information Packet sent to participating units for each show. Within this packet there should be SEPARATE SECTIONS for information about Color Guard Contest information and Percussion Contest information.

Rationale: There are many small details that need to be clearly defined to make each show run as smoothly as possible. In addition, there are details that are different for Color Guard and Percussion contests that need to be more clearly defined.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #5: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise Unit Entry and Scheduling in the Contest Handbook, page 8, adding a bullet between the current 4th and 5th bullets, to include the statement: Any late entry or withdrawal from a contest after the 5 week cutoff will incur a charge of \$75 for each performance. Any late entry or withdrawal from a contest within the week before the show will incur a \$150 fee per performance. \$100 should go to the show sponsor and \$50 to the circuit. Add another bullet to state that: "Units may request that the penalty be waived if their withdrawal was caused by an 'act of God' such as severe inclement weather, or a situation in which their school system will not allow them to travel. Illness is not acceptable reason for the penalty to be waived."

Rationale: There is a huge problem with units adding to and withdrawing from contests at the last minute. If a steeper penalty is placed on last minute changes, we can have a more accurate schedule in a timely manner.

Financial Impact: Additional income to show sponsors if units withdraw from their show. This should help to partially offset the lost revenue from entry fees for parents and spectators and concessions lost by the groups not attending.

Proposal #6: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise the Work Day for Contests, "Sunday" on page 20 of the Policy Manual to read:

- For any SAPA regular season contest, the day cannot begin before 11 am. The end time of each contest will be determined by the Contest Director based on proximity and judges travel.
- Judges should report no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of a contest (or critique if it takes place Sunday morning).

Rationale: The previous times of 9:00am until 4:00pm are often not practical for many member units. Starting later will allow some members to attend church if they so choose.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #7: (DOES NOT PASS)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: SAPA will purchase recording equipment to be used at all local shows. Show sponsors will be responsible for providing DVD's and one *ADULT* volunteer to operate the camera, and will give each unit the opportunity to purchase a video of their performance for \$5 each.

Rationale: This will eliminate the confusion over video passes completely and ensure each unit the opportunity to have an archival copy of their performance that is within compliance with copyright agreements.

Financial Impact: Cost of camera and tripod.

Proposal #8: (APPROVED)

SAPA Executive Board

Proposal: All circuit correspondence should be cc'd to the Circuit Secretary.

Rationale: This will eliminate any confusion over scheduling, rules or any other circuit business. The Secretary is required to keep a printed copy of all correspondence, and this will ensure that the records are complete and accurate.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #9: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise Unit Entry and Scheduling in the Contest Handbook, page 8, bullet #5 to read: The order for appearance at all SAPA regular contests will be chosen by a random draw.

Rationale: This will make the Contest Handbook wording match the practice that is already in place.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #10: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Collins Hill Winter Guard

Director's Name:

Adam Heidenreich / Billy Pacifico

Proposal: Define exactly who carries out the "random draw" of circuit contests during the competitive season and have the actual procedure outlined specifically in the SAPA Policy Manual.

Rationale: This will clear up any confusion about who is responsible for the "random draw," how it is handled, and to avoid units performing in the first three time slots for their class at every circuit show.

Financial Impact (if any): None.

Proposal #11: (DOES NOT PASS)

Unit Name:

Hillgrove High School

Director's Name:

Jennifer Albertson

Proposal: SAPA Championships competition shall find units performing in an order based on their last circuit score adjusted according to the projected growth per week, and not blocked according to those scores and then randomly assigned within that block.

Rationale: At the last show of the SAPA season, groups should be viewed in an order that allows those units who have already had great achievements throughout the season to be awarded those same achievements. At WGI, the groups going on toward the end of finals are those groups that have advanced to that position throughout their season. SAPA finals should be treated the same way.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #12: (AMENDED, THEN APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Collins Hill Winter Guard

Director's Name:

Adam Heidenreich / Billy Pacifico

Proposal: For circuit championships, clearly define the "seeding" procedure for classes with less than 10 units competing. *****Amended to state – "All classes with at least 6 units will be split into blocks using the current seeding process, and there will be a random draw for order of appearance within each block.***"**

Rationale: For the 2008 Circuit Championships, it was apparent in Scholastic A that there was no "seeding" evident in the published schedule. Units who had scores significantly lower throughout the 2008 season performed towards the end of the group rather than at the beginning. Units scoring in the top 3 of their class were going on in the beginning time slots rather than towards the end. The policy manual states: "All class divisions will be seeded. Seeding for SAPA Circuit Championships will be an average of the last projected score and the highest score achieved during the regular season. Scores used will be from SAPA competitions only. For class divisions with entries greater than ten (10), there will be a split into blocks. There will then be a random draw for order of appearance within the class division (or blocks if necessary). The purpose of the blocks will be to create a level playing field for the units that are participating in the SAPA Circuit Championships." The wording implies that classes with less than 10 units would employ the "seeding" process without using a random draw. Therefore, units with higher average scores should have gone on towards the end of the round rather than at the beginning.

Financial Impact (if any): None.

Proposal #13:

(APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Walton High School

Director's Name:

Cyndi Church

Proposal: Restructure Medal Ceremony at SAPA Championships

Rationale: At SAPA Championships restructure the awards ceremony so that each class has a more rewarding medal ceremony. Currently the medal arcs that are used become crowded, confusing, and less of a moment for those students and their families wanting pictures. I propose that we invest in 3 carpets, red white and blue for each medal area. At the time of the announcement of each medal recipient, at that time, the group will be brought forward and their staff allowed to present the medals. Scores can continue to be announced as the staffs are presenting the medals. Once the group is finished getting the medals they will be led back to their spots in the retreat order.

Financial Impact: Cost of carpets.

Proposal #14:

(AMENDED, THEN APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Hillgrove High School

Director's Name:

Jennifer Albertson

Proposal: In addition to the two free staff badges that each unit receives, competing units may purchase as many staff badges as there are members of their instructional staff ahead of time. ******AMENDED TO STATE – “The price of each additional badge will be \$7.50 multiplied by the total number of contests for the season, plus \$5 for the actual cost of each badge. \$5 from the sale of each additional badge will go to the circuit for the cost of making the badges, and the remaining amount will be divided evenly among all show hosts.”***)

Rationale: There is no reason that all instructional staff members in our circuit should not be recognized as instructional staff. More units DO have a staff that consists of more than 2 members than do not, and all staff members should be seen as such. This alleviates issues with access to the hospitality suite, show coordinators and volunteers knowing who is staff, and creates much less of an issue with having access the warm-up areas and all show facilities in general.

Financial Impact: There is no impact for the circuit directly, but there is a small impact for each contest host. Currently, contest hosts collect the money directly from their ticket sales. Additional staff has been purchasing tickets when they arrive to shows. There would need to be a way to distribute the \$5.00 per staff badge to those show sites so they are not missing out completely on revenue from ticket sales.

Proposal #15:

(AMENDED, THEN APPROVED)

Submitted by: SAPA Eboard

Proposal: Attendance at one WGI Regional may be used as one show toward the requirement for circuit championships eligibility.

Rationale: This will encourage units to participate in regionals and allow exactly ONE WGI performance to still count toward their required number of shows.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #16: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Celerity Percussion Theatre

Director's Name:

Calvin Kelley, Keith Fletcher

Proposal: Each member of the Executive Board be given an expense account of some kind which allows them to cover expenses they may incur while carrying out business on behalf of the circuit. Specific amounts for each position may vary and the details of these accounts should be decided by discussion in the advisory board meeting on June 7th. There should be a method of accountability for all expenses incurred on these accounts to be overseen by the Treasurer of SAPA.

Rationale: The Executive Board of our circuit has served in a voluntary capacity for two full years now. Not only have they not been paid for their service, (as they are in several other circuits) but they have incurred many out of pocket expenses for which they were never reimbursed. The circuit is now on solid enough financial ground to at least try to offset any expenses they incur while working on behalf of the circuit membership.

Financial Impact: To be determined at the Advisory Board meeting

Proposal #17: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Walton High School

Director's Name:

Cyndi Church

Proposal: In the Fall offer a "circuit school" to not only our unit directors and staffs but to the students of these groups as well.

Rationale: This is along the lines of how we had an education day this past season along with Phantom Regiment and also the format of WGI's Spinfest. It would be a great day for the circuit to come together, guards and percussion, to learn and celebrate the circuit. There could be classes with a focus for our students (the future of the organization) as well as classes with a focus for directors and staffs. I believe this would be a great opportunity for our young students that may not travel to Spinfest.

Financial Impact: The financial impact could be offset by admission fee. Some financial impact may be worth the expense to foster this sort of education and possible growth for the circuit.

Proposal #18: (DOES NOT PASS)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Create a Percussion Scholastic A National Class.

Rationale: In various years, there have been concerns raised about groups who were scoring significantly above the other groups in the Scholastic A class, but either were not promoted to Scholastic Open at a WGI Regional or were not attending any WGI sanctioned events. This would create a classification for the more competitive units to be placed in without promoting units from one WGI Class to another. Units attending two or more WGI regionals and/or WGI Championships must compete in this class. Other units not attending WGI events could also choose to compete in this class if they so desire and could be promoted into this class if their scores significantly exceed those of the other members of the Scholastic A class.

Financial Impact : Costs of additional medals at circuit championships.

Proposal #19:**(DOES NOT PASS)**

Unit Name:

SAPA Percussion Representative Centennial High School Drum line

Director's Name:

David Giddens

Proposal: Develop a circuit wide promotion system for all "Non-WGI" competing groups.

Rationale: Units that compete in SAPA should be appropriately classified. For those that choose to compete in WGI sanctioned events (regionals or nationals), SAPA should let WGI manage their classification. For those competing in SAPA only, a petition for promotion system would allow for groups that are deemed misclassified by their peers to be put under review status by the SAPA Percussion Administration, which is made up of Vice President for Percussion, Board member for Percussion and the Percussion Judges Administrator. In the event that either of these persons is primarily affiliated with a unit in the "questioned" class or the "promotion class", then the Percussion Judges Administrator will appoint a suitable professional to assist in the decision. This petition would need to be submitted by a member unit director and seconded by another member unit director. Both of these said directors must be of units that compete in SAPA on "Full-Status" and are signed up for Circuit Championships. The unit in question can be petitioned after the first local show and up until the unit's latest performance in February. If there is not a February performance, then a unit may be petitioned at its next SAPA contest. This petition would need to be presented to the SAPA Percussion Administrator or SAPA President no less than 3 days prior to the unit in questions next scheduled contest so that proper recording equipment can be secured. At this time, SAPA officials will notify the unit director of the group in question that a petition has been made and notified by the person who initiated and seconded the petition. After a unit has been petitioned, notified and recorded at the next local contest, the SAPA Review panel will review that tape and pass a decision to the SAPA President no later than noon, three days following the review performance. The SAPA President would notify said unit director by official email by 5:00pm of that same day. In the event that the unit in question disagrees with the SAPA Review panels finding, they may appeal this via a maximum 200 word email to the SAPA President no later than 5:00 pm the next business day following official notification. The SAPA President can review the appeal and seek counsel from the Percussion Review Panel or from other appropriate non-affiliated outside sources. The President will make a final decision and give notification to the unit in question no sooner than 24 hours. The decision of the SAPA President shall be final and binding for the remainder of the competitive season.

Financial Impact: Very Little. Cost of Digital tapes and overnight shipping. YouTube could be utilized in a "secured and private manner" to view these as well.

Proposal #20:**(APPROVED)**

Unit Name:

Walton High School

Director's Name:

Cyndi Church

Proposal: Have the percussion units adopt the same rule for classification as the color guard side regarding WGI competitive units must compete in the same class within the circuit as registered with WGI.

Rationale: It was brought to the WGI Percussion Advisory Board meeting that units are competing in varied classes from circuit level to national level and the thought was that groups should be classified correctly according to the sheets and this should be enforced at the local level. With groups competing out of true classification it makes for a confusing situation. Our organization uses the WGI score sheets and therefore the groups should be placed in the proper class for evaluation.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #21:

(WITHDRAWN)

Unit Name:

SAPA Percussion Representative Centennial High School Drum line

Director's Name:

David Giddens

Proposal: Units that compete in WGI sanctioned events must also compete in the same classification in SAPA sanctioned events.

Rationale: Units should be evaluated in the same classification and sheets all of the time. This allows circuit members to have a solid understanding of neighborhoods and also allows competing units members to get consistent information from the appropriate sheet to aid growth from the judges.....no matter what show that they attend. If the circuit eventually grows to numbers that allow the class jumping that other circuits allow then we can revisit this issue.

Financial Impact: Could be considerable. Medals for classes that might not have a competitor otherwise save the circuit.

Proposal #22:

(APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise the Color Guard Reclassification and Review Process on page 15 of the Policy Manual to read: Units must secure a score higher than or equal to the review score for that particular competitive weekend as outlined by the Contest Coordinator. These numbers are determined by the previous season and are projected with a two point increase per week. In addition, at least one upstairs judge (GE and/or EA) and one downstairs judge (EQ and/or MOV) must BOTH have the unit above the review number for that week.

Rationale: There are times when one judge's score for his/her caption is significantly out of line with the other scores for that performance. This will prevent one judge's score from forcing a unit to be promoted.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #23:

(WITHDRAWN)

Unit Name:

Hillgrove High School

Director's Name:

Jennifer Albertson

Proposal: In the event that a unit has reached the promotion score, but is within 2 points of the promotion score, there will be a required minimum of 3 judges on the panel who have led to the unit having achieved that score.

Rationale: This alleviates the issue of one judge being able to promote a group without those making the decisions on if a group should be promoted making sure the entire show/ unit/ program is, indeed, prepared for that promotion.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #24:

(APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Northgate Independent

Director's Name:

Ginger Armstrong

Proposal: Revise Awards in the Contest Handbook on page 6 to include the phrase "Cadet, Novice and SRA classes are included in the A class category."

Rationale: The original wording was taken directly from the WGI Contest Handbook. This wording will include local only classes that are not included on the WGI level. It is necessary to have it in writing that ALL classes should receive awards.

Financial Impact: Those contests who did not provide awards for all classes will now be responsible for the cost of additional awards.

Proposal #25:

(APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Walton High School

Director's Name:

Cyndi Church

Proposal: Clarify the classification guidelines for the Cadet and Novice classes. Take out in the Cadet classification the statement that "Props or unauthorized equipment are not to be used." And set up a committee to redefine the two classifications and/or evaluate if there is a need to keep the two classes.

Rationale: There were a few instances this past season that groups were moved from the Cadet class to Novice class for "props or unauthorized equipment" and then others not moved with props or unauthorized equipment in their production. I believe the wording of "props and unauthorized equipment" is confusing as to what that actually means. We should come up with a skill-set for these two classes that can help define and direct the units into the correct classification. I also think it is necessary after this past season to evaluate if there should be two classes for our middle school groups. The Cadet Class was very small with 1-2 groups at each show.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #26:

(WITHDRAWN)

Unit Name:

Hillgrove High School

Director's Name:

Jennifer Albertson

Proposal: The Novice Classification will return to a High School level class for competition.

Rationale: There should be two classes judged on this sheet, and there is not the need in the circuit for there to be two Middle School classifications.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #27: (DOES NOT PASS)

Submitted by: SAPA Eboard

Proposal: The following clarifications should be made about the Scholastic AAA, AA and A color guard classes: SAAA – units cannot attend any WGI Regionals or WGI World Championships, SAA – units may attend one WGI Regional, but not WGI World Championships, SA – units may attend 2 or more regionals and/or WGI World Championships.

Rationale: This will keep the units in each level of the Scholastic A classes competing with other units of the same competitive nature.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #28: (APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Roswell High School

Director's Name:

Alyssa Dickens

Proposal: The Gold Medalist at SAPA Championships in any non-WGI classification should be automatically promoted to the next highest class for the following season.

Rationale: This would keep our circuit in closer agreement with the WGI policies regarding promotion.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #29: (WITHDRAWN)

Unit Name:

Hillgrove High School

Director's Name:

Jennifer Albertson

Proposal: At the end of the winter guard season, a review board should meet to decide which units from the circuit-only classes (non-WGI classes) should be promoted to the next class up.

Rationale: Currently, unit directors can place their groups in any classification they choose inside the circuit. This creates a huge amount of units finding themselves in the promotion process throughout the season, and the units in each competitive class are often times not decided until the last show before championships. If there were a panel designed to aid in the decision-making for units that clearly excelled in their most recent class; so much so that they would also obviously fare well in the next highest classification, the number of mid-season promotions could be lowered, thus giving the classifications a sense of stability and raising the bar in each class, as units would be properly assigned to their classes in the first place.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #30:

(APPROVED)

Unit Name:

Walton High School

Director's Name:

Cyndi Church

Proposal: Add to the Policy Manual or to the Contest Handbook (whichever makes the most sense) to state that: "Each unit must have a representative at the sound table during the time of their units performance. If the unit's music skips or stops during their performance they will be allowed to restart IF there is a staff member present at the sound table with a back up. If the unit does not have a person present or the person there is without a back up the unit will not be allowed to restart their production.

Rationale: This will make it very clear to the directors and staffs of the membership that it is their responsibility to be at the sound table and with back up.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #31:

(WITHDRAWN)

Unit Name:

Peachtree Ridge High School

Director's Name:

Amy Pearce

Proposal: I'm not entirely certain this is the forum to bring this up, but I would like to propose a specific rule regarding what happens when a unit's music skips or stops mid performance. Over the past season I saw some units get to perform their entire show again, some start over, and some continue without music; it seemed to all depend on what kind of fight the director put up. Naturally, there will be no financial impact for this rule addition.

Nominations for elected officers were opened by Keith Guier.

- President nominations: Ginger Armstrong, Ira Jenkins
 - 2009 President is Ginger Armstrong – 2 year term
- VP Color Guard nominations: Cyndi Church unopposed.
 - 2009 VP Color Guard is Cyndi Church – 1 year term
- VP Percussion: Tim Church unopposed.
 - 2009 VP Percussion is Tim Church – 2 year term;
- Secretary nominations: Catreece Fritts, Alyssa Dickens
 - 2009 Secretary is Catreece Fritts – 1 year term.
- Treasurer Nominations: Rusty Bertles, Alyssa Dickens
 - 2009 Treasurer is Alyssa Dickens – 2 year term,
- Color Guard at Large Nominations – Sue Mashburn, Lisa Stevenson
 - 2009 Color Guard at Large representative is Sue Mashburn – 2 year term
- Percussion at Large Nominations: Nick Garafalo, Tom Tucker, Calvin Kelly, Erik Forst
 - 2009 Percussion at Large representative is Erik Forst – 1 year term

Meeting adjourned.