

MIDWEST COLOR GUARD CIRCUIT MEETING
September 9, 2007
Lincoln-Way East High School

Meeting was called to order at 12:10pm by President Howie Mogil.
Board of Directors present: Howie, Marie, Linda, Micky, Larry, Rich. Absent: Dee
18 returning units were represented)3 B;4 SRA; 2AI; 9 SAA-SA.
One prospective World WG and one prospective Drumline were also in attendance.

Introductions were made of the Board and then membership.

Minutes: A motion was made by Alan Buzalski to approve the minutes, second by Dean Gravelly. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS

President: Howie Mogil had nothing new to report.

Vice President: Marie Czapinski had nothing new to report.

Secretary: Dee Ely was absent. Howie stated on her behalf that she had nothing new to report.

Treasurer: Linda Koutogiannis reported that only four guards hosting contests this year have paid their show deposit fees and only three guards have paid their annual membership fees. She reminded everyone that to avoid late fees, money must be in by the end of September.

Contest Director: The tentative schedule is on the agenda (see "New Business" for details). The location of circuit championships is still undecided but will be set by the end of the week. The location of championships will dictate if other shows will be added to the calendar. If the two Lincoln-Ways split championships, then LaPorte and Chesterton have a weekend they would like to host contests. The same would be true of the Lincoln-Ways if LaPorte hosts championships. Howie added that as soon as the championships location is set, a revised copy of the season calendar will be sent out via email. He added a reminder that the decision at the May meeting was to change the format of championships. Saturday morning/afternoon will be prelims for the higher classes. Saturday evening will be finals for the lower classes (who will not have a prelims round). Sunday will be finals for the higher classes with no cuts based on placement.

Publicity: Larry Bakko wants to confirm email addresses of all the directors and their staff to make sure all correspondence is accurately and efficiently sent. Please see him at the end of the meeting to double check information.

OLD BUSINESS

August Design Clinic: Gary Czapinski (board-appointed Director of Training) reported that there was a lot of positive feedback about the August clinic with Tommy Keenum, Keith Potter, and Alan Spaeth. Thank you for the donations. Clinic costs met budget. He asks that you please

make sure your email address and phone number with Larry are correct so you can be contacted about events like the clinic in the future. Another clinic may be run early in the season to talk about cleaning shows. It will take place on the same date and at the same location as the every-other-year judge's clinic for Midwest Guild judges. Since the WGI judge's clinic is in Chicago on Saturday, December 1st, the Circuit clinic would be Sunday, December 2nd. It might be at the same hotel as the WGI conference, in a meeting room, or at another facility in the O'Hare area. Gary wants to try to keep some people who are in town for the WGI clinic to help with the Circuit clinic.

NEW BUSINESS

By-Law Change 4.4: The by-law change proposed by Alan Buzalski at the May meeting is not applicable anymore. The original proposal read, "All units, regardless of distance, must compete in a total of four (4) contests to qualify to compete in the circuit championships with the following requirement or exceptions: WGI Midwest Regional is included as one of the competitions." The problem with this current proposal is that the closest WGI Regional this year will be hosted at a non-Circuit location and may or may not be officially called the Midwest Regional. Howie states that there are two possible ways to amend the proposal: 1. change it to say four contests but without the part about the WGI Regional counting as a contest or 2. to say that any WGI regional would be allowed to count towards one required contest. Alan Buzalski proposed it be amended to say that competition in any WGI Regional could count towards a required circuit contest. After discussion on this and the implication that it may mean the "national" groups go to regionals but possibly only three circuit shows, a vote was taken. Votes in favor of this amendment: 7. Votes against: 15. Alan then offered to revise the by-law change proposal to read, "All units, regardless of distance, must compete in a total of four (4) contests to qualify to compete in the circuit championships with the following requirement or exceptions: any one WGI Regional hosted by a Midwest Color Guard Circuit unit is included as one of the competitions." A motion to vote on this was made by Alan and seconded by Karyn Lawrence. The vote was 23-0 in favor. The by-law change was approved.

Budget Issues: Our net income for the 2007 season was -\$1180.00 which includes planning for depreciation. Without that it is still -\$300. The proposed budget for the 2008 season was made based on dues being \$400, 10 contests, and 55 paid member units (1 more than last year). A motion was made to allow for the increase in dues to \$400 by Karyn Lawrence, second by Vicki Mogil. A vote was taken to approve the budget as proposed. All were in favor. The budget was approved.

Unit Issues

B and RA Issues: At the May meeting, the B guards caucused. They submitted a proposal requesting a number of changes be considered. The first proposal was that the B class be split like the other classes into Scholastic and Independent divisions. The board discussed this and agreed to try it as long as there is a minimum of three units in each division. The second proposal was that the B class be referred to as the "Cadet" class since it seems like a more appropriate (and nationally understood) name. Howie pointed out that to officially do so would involve a by-law change since the B-class name is in the by-laws, but promised that from now on

the B units would be publicly referred to as Cadet guards. Another proposal was about modifying the scoring for the B guards. It was decided that the B class will continue to use the Regional A score sheets but that 10 points will be added to their bottom line scores. This will not happen through the judging but will happen in the tabulation process. Judges will be instructed to continue judging based on the sheet's criteria. Discussion took place about another proposal that if the B guards do split into separate scholastic and independent divisions, that they follow the same protocol to be bumped into Regional A as other units would follow for bumping up classes. Vicki Mogil pointed out that there is an extreme developmental difference between the performers in the B class and their potential competitors (who could be college-aged) in the Regional A class. Ultimately the decision to bump lies with the Board and they will take this into consideration. Larry Bakko reminded everyone that there is no timing difference between B and RA so a bump would not effect the length of show required.

WGI Scholastic Eligibility Changes: Howie mentioned the rule change that WGI has put into place regarding eligibility to compete in the scholastic class. It is now possible for students who attend private schools or are home schooled to be members of the high school guard who's attendance zone they live in. It is also possible for districts to allow members of multiple schools to belong to a consolidated guard if the availability of a guard at each building does not exist. Alan Spaeth called WGI to clarify some of this and he was told that all of these things would require documentation from the school district or principal that there was not a winter guard offering at a different school and that the students have the principal's permission to join their school's guard program. In other words, directors cannot just decide to assemble an all-star guard with select members from different schools. There must be documentation that the reason for the multi-school line-up is due to different resources being offered at different buildings.

Bump-Up in Class Protocol: The by-laws currently state that the Board is responsible for reviewing guards in consideration of a bump to a higher class. This will only occur is a unit is consistently scoring well above the block score in multiple captions. If the Board notices high scores at a show, they will consult with the chief judge about the concern/need to reclassify that unit. Before a unit is bumped, the director will be consulted first to see if they can provide any reason that the guard to be left in the current class. Class bumps will not happen on the day of a show, but within a short time after that contest, allowing enough time for all the necessary discussions to occur. Chrissy requested a clarification of the three classes, as in what defines and A guard compared to a Regional A guard. Marie said that in her opinion, if a guard is *skilled* at spinning all three pieces of equipment, then they should be in A class. The Regional A class is intended to be a beginner class. Karyn Lawrence asked about being bumped from Scholastic AA. Marie, Larry, and Howie agreed that they assume the SAA bump would be into SA, not SO.

Show Issues

Schedule 2008: As stated earlier, a revised copy of the contest calendar will be emailed at the end of the week once the Championships location has been decided.

B Guards Going On Last at a Show: Once the calendar is set, the B guards will caucus via email and pick a contest that they would like to have as a B-guard-last contest.

Other Not Listed: Marie said that when WGI sends out applications for contests, the judging panel for that contest will be published with it.

Championships Weekend Meeting Place and Date: A short meeting will be held between prelims Saturday afternoon and finals Saturday night. This will not be as long of a meeting as the Championships meeting has been in the past. It will only be to set agenda items and a slate of Board candidates for the May meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Alan and second by Chrissy. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by K Alstadt; edited by H Mogil