



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS
Fall Meeting Minutes
Sunday, September 21, 2014

Meeting held at Alpharetta High School on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

Meeting Start Time: 1:05pm

First order of business was a quick welcome from SAPA President Brian Giddens.

Our special guest, WGI Executive Director Ron Nankervis, gave a presentation on the growth of WGI membership and events. He also gave an overview of the new division of WGI Winds. Some important points regarding Winds:

- Winds classifications are grouped into Scholastic and Independent as A, Open, and World. Winds groups can be comprised of any combination of musical ensemble and performers. The judging for Winds groups will be focused primarily on the wind instruments within the ensemble. The judging system will be similar to percussion.
- All WGI Winds regional events will be held in the preliminary and final performance format.
- WGI Winds World Championships will be held in conjunction with WGI Percussion World Championships on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend.
- Winds is offered as an optional part of a total music program and is considered an extracurricular activity. WGI does not support Winds as a substitute for a school concert program.
- How do you know your program is ready for a Winds unit?
 - For a smaller band program, this could open up new winter performance opportunities if a guard or percussion group wouldn't have quite enough members to make the unit competitive.
 - Another option would be for drum corps to continue their competitive winds programs throughout the winter in addition to their percussion and guard programs.

Other important items Ron discussed:

- Since SpinFest was such a successful and well-attended event, it will be making a return in the near future.
- WGI will be hosting an Education Event in the Atlanta area in late December/early January. This event will be open to anyone within the area. The event will be similar to the colorguard event SAPA held two years ago where units would perform what they have of their show, and top designers would be present to have discussions with unit directors and performers for a specified period of time. There will be a cost to attend the event. As details of the event are clarified, SAPA will be posting information as it is provided.
- WGI is discussing creating an Instructor Certification Program which would provide important essential information to new and established unit directors.



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SAPA recorded a video of Ron's presentation on WGI and Winds. We are currently editing the video and will be posting it on the website within the month of October.

After Ron's presentation, the membership took a quick break and returned to discuss the SAPA Circuit Meeting Agenda.

The May Meeting minutes were quickly reviewed by the membership. Important changes to the policy manual were discussed. A few important notes on changes to the policy manual:

- A page was added at the end of the policy manual describing all the changes within the policy manual. This will allow for an easier check of the manual.
- This year, before units can register for SAPA events, the unit must pay their membership dues. Event registration opens on October 1st.
- The deadline for when all paperwork is due has changed to December 15th.
- Any units which do not choose to become a member of SAPA will be limited to only two performances throughout the competitive season, and the pay scale for pay-per-performance has been adjusted. Additionally, these units may not register for events until January 1st.
- A provision on show cancellations and unit cancellations in events due to weather concerns has been added in the policy manual. Units must provide a letter from the principal on school letterhead if they choose to drop an event due to weather concerns. If a school district is closed due to inclement weather the Friday prior to the SAPA event, units will not be fined for not attending the event. Please check the policy manual for specifics on this change.

After the May Meeting minutes were discussed, a quick summary from the WGI Circuit Partners Symposium was provided to the membership. Important items that were discussed:

- WGI Rule changes for Percussion and Guard were handed out to the membership at the meeting. Some important points this year:
 - Any unit which uses music from the Restricted Music List will not be allowed to participate at any WGI event. SAPA will be following the same policy this year. Please check the Restricted Music List (link provided on the SAPA Music Licensing Form) prior to choosing your music this season.
 - A new safety rule has been implemented. If a prop is built in such a way that the performer's feet are six feet or higher off the ground, appropriate safety railings or other safety precautions must be taken to ensure performer safety. Please consider all potential risk options prior to building props for this competitive season.



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Next, the membership discussed educational opportunities provided by SAPA. Items we are looking at providing this year:

- SAPA will still be hosting educational events in addition to the WGI Education Event.
- The December education event will be formatted similarly to last year with guided discussions between judges & instructors. Additional conversation on how to make this year's education event even better occurred, and both Andria Foerch (VP of Colorguard) and Mark Hunter (VP of Percussion) request that any items you want to see at this event be provided to them for consideration.
- There will be no additional cost for education events this year.
- SAPA is working to develop an instructor toolkit containing searchable items to assist both new and established unit directors in running their programs. There was also discussion on the possibility of creating a New Instructor Orientation Session in addition to developing the Mentorship Program further.

Next, Mark Hunter (VP of Percussion) and Matt Howell (Percussion at Large) held a discussion on important changes and exciting things for Percussion within SAPA this year. Some important points include:

- Percussion judging this year has been addressed, and there will be at least one WGI judge on every judging panel. The judging panels have been released on the website for you to view.
- It is now an event requirement to have removable poles within host schools to allow keyboards and other equipment to easily fit through doors in the school.
- SAPA is currently discussing with the UTC McKenzie Arena to determine more comprehensive rain plan in case of inclement weather during SAPA Championships. There is discussion of creating additional warm-up options inside and outside the arena. As details are determined, SAPA will provide information to the membership.
- SAPA Championships will have a double judging panel this year. In addition, we are excited to announce that Music City Mystique will attend our championships this year.
- SAPA is working on some big improvements to the Day of Percussion educational event. Details to come in the near future!

The SAPA Show Schedule was released to the membership. To see the events, please check the Directors Only section of the website for the show schedule document.

All units who were represented at the Fall Meeting will be given priority critique times for attending this meeting.

Meeting Adjournment: 3:48pm

The SAPA Fall Meeting minutes were prepared by Tita Anderson Lovell.