



**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS**

**2018 SAPA Spring Membership Meeting**

**Sunday, May 6th, 2018**

**Alpharetta High School**

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# Spring Meeting Agenda

- Welcome to Meeting
- Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes
- Review of Reports
- Discussion and Voting of Proposals
- Elections
- New Business
- Wrap-Up

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# Welcome

- SAPA Executive Board & Staff

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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes



**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS**  
**2017 Fall Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, September 24, 2017**

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Meeting Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017

Meeting Location: Georgia State University

Meeting Start Time: 1:06pm

Attendance: 78 units were in attendance, both online and in person

A welcome to the meeting was given by the SAPA Executive Board and SAPA Vice President Andria Foerch. Immediately after the welcome, SAPA Secretary Tita Anderson Lovell provided a brief overview of the 2017 Spring Membership Meeting minutes for approval. The minutes were approved by a majority show of hands.

- During the review of the minutes, a brief discussion was held detailing some pertinent policy changes that were approved at the meeting. A list of these policy changes can be found on pgs. 29 - 30 of the 2017-2018 edition of the SAPA Policy Manual

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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

WGI Circuit Symposium updates were presented by SAPA Vice President Andria Foerch. Please see presentation at the following link for details about what was discussed:

[http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1\\_2660317069\\_sapa9.24.17fallmeetingpresentation.pdf](http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1_2660317069_sapa9.24.17fallmeetingpresentation.pdf)

- Moving WGI Championships to another location
  - Possibilities for moving WGI World Championships to another location other than Dayton, OH for the future. Potential location includes Orlando, FL and hosting championships at the Wide World of Sports.
  - Renovations are currently underway at UD Arena and are to be completed in three phases. All phases should be completed by 2020.
  - In Dayton, there are not many opportunities for performers to meet outside of the UD Arena, and Orlando offers many more options for social and other activities.
- WGI Certify
  - Online courses available that provide information on judging. Useful for both instructors and individuals interested in becoming a judge
  - Each course is available for a cost (see presentation for cost details)

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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

- WGI Rules & Policy Changes
  - Rifle definition has been updated to include other props which appear rifle-like
  - WGI contest area updated to 70' x 100' to accommodate a 5' safety zone
    - No competition area will exceed 78' x 106'. There will be a taped dotted line at SAPA Championships to indicate the maximum performance area.
  - Damage done to performance arenas will be the responsibility of the unit
  - Rules about disallowed items and safety have been updated to include set-up and breakdown of props. Many unsafe actions were performed in tunnels and hallways prior to performances by volunteers, so WGI felt it necessary to include safety measures outside performance space as well.
  - Performer wristbands at WGI Championships will get you into A & Open Class finals for no additional cost.

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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

- Volunteer opportunities for WGI
  - Volunteers are sorely needed for regional and world championships contests
  - Hotel & food arrangements are covered for Championships
  - You will be provided a survey to indicate your areas of interest for volunteering
  - Percussion/Winds Championships are in dire need for volunteers!
- Copyright updates
  - SAPA does not promote the use of recording devices for groups to video other performances OR their own performances.
  - Copyright approval is responsibility of the performing unit
  - Tresona is a great resource if you have any questions on any material you would like to include in your show.
- Competition Suite
  - The following items will be implemented for WGI contests. SAPA will be investigating these options as they become available and are proven to add to the Competition Suite experience.
    - Music able to be uploaded into app for performances
    - Critique sign-up available in app
    - Recaps and scores available in app immediately at the conclusion of the contest

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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

- WGI Education Opportunities
  - WGI 1 on 1
    - Easy resource to be able to provide video copies of your show to be viewed and receive feedback from WGI judges and top designers
    - See WGI website for cost structure
- Webinars
  - WGI webinars will be available throughout the fall and into the season. Topics to be covered: T&P/Contest Administration, early season concerns, WGI Steering Committee updates



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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

After the WGI Circuit Symposium updates were presented, Andria Foerch discussed SAPA judging updates.

- WGI and equivalent panels will be available at the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 contests of the season.
- SAPA Judge Administrator Scott Beck is looking at trying to create consistent panels for the season, where judges will see at least 3 contests throughout the season (to comment on growth)
- Fred Feeney is asking for units to provide tapes of strong judging commentary to provide training tools for Gulf Coast Judge's Association. Send all tapes to Scott Beck.

SAPA Vice President of Colorguard Ira Jenkins provided updates on the Steering Committee discussions since the previous meeting.

- The steering committee has met and is continuing to compile information to send to membership regarding classification concerns and classification rubrics. In addition, the steering committee is currently working on a redesign of the Sportsmanship Award to be presented in the coming months.
  - The classification updates will not change what is written in the policy manual regarding each place, but rather provide clarification for units and for the judging community on what each class looks like.
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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

SAPA Education Director Megan Phillips discussed education updates.

- A November webinar will be available to discuss the classification rubrics for the coming season.
- The mentorship program is alive and well! If you are interested either as a mentor or a mentee, please contact the Education Directors.
- Education events for the season:
  - Extended critique sessions will be available for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 contests of the season
  - Additional opportunities will be communicated regarding design elements of a show

SAPA Colorguard-At-Large Erin England discussed her expanded role in communication and outreach for the circuit.

- Check the website (Contact page) for specifics on who is currently serving the circuit. In addition, the Contact page provides information on who should be contacted for what purpose.
- There will be an expansion of the use of the SAPA social media accounts to provide visual reminders on important circuit information in addition to the text reminders of news articles and e-mails.
- If you have ANY feedback regarding preferred communication methods or if you have any ideas regarding how to engage the membership in communication more, please contact Erin.

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# Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

SAPA Contest Director Nora Lowery provided updates on the registration process.

- Make sure you register your units! You must be paid in full before you will be able to sign up for contests.
- If you make an error in choosing contests, e-mail Nora Lowery to be removed from the contest.
- December 15<sup>th</sup> is the dues and forms deadline. You will be assessed a late fee for each item if you do not meet the deadline.
- Forms that are required:
  - Scholastic Units
    - SAPA Photo & Video Releases
    - Scholastic Eligibility letter (for each school your students attend)
  - Independent Units
    - SAPA Photo & Video Releases
    - Limited Liability Insurance proof
- There are 11 shows available this season. Let's have a great year!

SAPA Secretary Tita Anderson Lovell provided information regarding communication throughout the season. If you have any ideas or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at [eboard@sapaonline.net](mailto:eboard@sapaonline.net).

Meeting Adjournment: 2:12pm

The meeting minutes were prepared by Tita Anderson Lovell.

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# Review of Reports

- President & Vice President of SAPA
- Vice President of Colorguard
- Colorguard Education
- Championships Coordinator
- Contest Director
- Judge Administrator

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# President & Vice President of SAPA

- Brian Giddens
- Andria Foerch

# Financial Health Update



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR  
PERFORMANCE ARTS

# Prior years Goals and Outcomes

- Education Events/Tools
- (Re)classification
- Judges
- National Focus\*\*

# Looking Forward

- What does SAPA look like in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years?
- We have spent the last 3+ years focusing on Reclassification, Education, and Judges—What is the next step for SAPA?
- Projects and focus for 2019:
  - What is really important?
  - How do we prioritize our efforts for the long term?



# How can I get involved?

- Attend SAPA events—you have a voice!
- Have productive dialogue with different directors/staffs, E-board, Circuit staff, and committee members
- Judge evaluation forms
- Contest site evaluation forms

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# Vice President of Colorguard

- Ira Jenkins

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Growth in size of membership
- Growth in movement of unit to higher classes
- Growth in national exposure
- Growth in scores and regional finals appearances

# GROWTH FACTS

- Based on teams who attended championships in 2017 and 2018
  - Number of teams moved up from Novice: 4
  - Number of teams moved up from SRA: 5
  - Number of teams moved up from IRA: 1
  - Number of teams moved up from AAA: 1
  - Number of teams moved up from AA: 6
  - Number of teams moved to SNA: 4
  - Number of teams moved to SO

# GROWTH FACTS

- We have 133 registered teams
- We have 51 scholastic teams competing on the SA sheet (54 in 2017, several inactive now and one moved to Open)
- Three groups earned top 5 status at World Championships again which earns them a seat on the advisory board for WGI
- Two teams made their first appearance in Dayton; one of them made Finals!
- One groups made semifinals for the first time
- Current WGI Independent World Champion is a SAPA team CONGRATULATIONS PARAMOUNT!!

# IN SEASON PROMOTIONS

- Marietta Cadets – Cad B to Cad A: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place out of 5
- North Cobb Cadets – Cad B to Cad A: 4<sup>th</sup> Place out of 5
- Riverwood – Nov to SRA: 1st Place out of 8 in their division
- Lafayette – Nov to SRA: 3rd Place out of 8 in their division
- Sprayberry JV – Nov to SRA: 5<sup>th</sup> Place out of 8 in their division
- Woodstock JV – SRA to AAA: 7<sup>th</sup> Place out of 14
- Forsyth Central – SRA to AAA: 12<sup>th</sup> Place out of 14
- Marietta – SRA to AAA: 13<sup>th</sup> Place out of 14

# IN SEASON PROMOTIONS

- North Gwinnett – SRA to AA: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place out of 10
- Heritage – AA to SA: 4<sup>th</sup> Place out of 12
- Chattahoochee – AAA to SA: 5<sup>th</sup> Place out of 12
- Ola SRA to SA: 6<sup>th</sup> Place out of 12
- River Ridge – AA to SA: 8<sup>th</sup> Place out of 12
- Fayette County – AA to SA: 9<sup>th</sup> Place out of 12
- Ringgold - AA to SA: 11<sup>th</sup> Place out of 12
- RIII – IRA to IA: 4<sup>th</sup> Place out of 4

# SAPA @ WGI EVENTS

	2017	2018
WGI Regionals	35	37
WGI Regional Finalists	19	24
WGI World Championships	15	18
WGI World Championships Semifinals	7	10
WGI World Championships Finals	6	6



## 2018 TO DO LIST...

- Understanding new position
  - Mentoring unit directors
  - Working with steering committee
  - Working with promoted units
  - Reaching out to other circuits to gather information
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# STEERING COMMITTEE WORK

- Promotion rubric discussion and tweaking
  - Task of editing rubric and creating new numbers for this season
  - Promotion upon a unit achieving a specified total score plus a specified number by the two IA judges + the DA judge
- Classification discussions
  - Task of defining the AAA and AA classes
  - Task of defining the Novice and SRA difference
- Potential for new sheet for Cadet and Novice
  - Data collection from other circuits
  - Solicitation of ideas from unit directors

## WORK FOR NEXT YEAR

- Possibility of new sheet for Cadet and Novice classes
- More outreach to units and unit directors of non-WGI teams
- Promote sharing and camaraderie of all groups, especially those who are nationally competitive

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# Education

- Rick Subel
- Megan Phillips

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# Education Report

Online questionnaire from the 2017 season was used as basis for information and materials provided throughout 2018.

**Classification and Review Presentation** — Posted to website on 1/12/18

- *A presentation outlining the rationale behind classification, understood expectations of Cadet B through Scholastic A class, and information regarding the SAPA reclassification, review, and appeal process. We hope the document made initial classification decisions easier for all unit directors and increased the transparency of the reclassification process.*

*\*\*Will be edited and redistributed based on policy changes at Spring Meeting\*\**

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# Education Report

## Education Events

- All units received an additional design overview tape as well as an opportunity to sign up for an extended critique at shows with an education component
  - *Etowah HS — 44 units registered*
  - *Kennesaw Mountain HS — 57 units registered*
  - *Alpharetta HS — 44 units registered*

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# Education Report

## **Ongoing**

- Continued distribution of WGI education materials and videos as well as a push for WGI One-on-One
- Availability of Education Directors for advice and help throughout the season
- Improvements to mentor-mentee process

## **Coming up...**

- Online questionnaire regarding next year's education initiatives will be sent out in May.

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# Championships Coordinator Report

- Ahmed Al-Shabibi



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# Championships Coordinator Report

120 Groups

1767 Performers

1080 Staff and Chaperones

2467 Paid Spectators

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# Contest Director Report

- Nora Lowery

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# Contest Director Report

		2017
Number of Contests	13	10
Largest Show	60	53
Smallest Show	26 Sat - 16 Sun	39 (10 Sun)
Total Performances	624	509

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# Contest Director Report

## Contest Details

	# of Guards
Etowah	44
Kennesaw Mountain	57
Alpharetta	44
Harrison	60
East Coweta	28
Villa Rica	37
Mill Creek	38
LFO	26
Flowery Branch - Sat	34
Flowery Branch - Sun	16
Kell - Sat	52
Kell - Sun	20
Chattahoochee	49
SAPA Championships	119

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# Judge Administrator Report

- Scott Beck

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# Judge Administrator Report

<b>Total Number of Judges used</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Gulf Coast Judges</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>WGI Judges</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Former WGI Judges</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Non WGI Judges from other circuits</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Judges who were judged more than 1 show.</b>	<b>12</b>

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# Judge Administrator Report

## Judges who judged more than 1x.

**Courtney Allison-3x's**

**Robbie Billings-2x's**

**Charles Brown-2x's**

**Jenni Giddens-2x's**

**Alisa Gillis-2x's**

**Paul Holly-4x's**

**Kat Johnson-4x's**

**Christopher Lester-2x's**

**Damon Padilla-2x's**

**Tim Pierce-3x's**

**Mark Tatum-3x's**

**Terri Wright-4x's**

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# Discussion of Proposals

- Please log into CompetitionSuite from your device. You will need to log in from the website instead of the app in order to vote.
- Please refer to your CompetitionSuite to view each proposal as we discuss it.



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# Bylaw Amendment

Proposed by: Erin England

Proposal:

- The addition of a voting position on the Executive Board held by a current school official (ie. band director, teacher, administrator)

Rationale:

- It seems best practice for the organization to always have a school official on the board. This person would help ensure that the Executive Board has a balanced perspective as policies and decisions are being discussed and voted on - especially as it relates to matters of legality, budget, travel, and ethics within the public and/or private school systems. In 2018, over 85% of the competing groups at SAPA Championships were scholastic units. Though there are currently members of the board who fill the "school official" criteria of this proposed position, that may not always be the case.

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# Proposal #2

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Add sentence that fees for late forms **MUST** be paid before the first show of the season. Forms must be received **AND** fees paid before the group may perform - p.5

Rationale:

- There were groups that carried unpaid fees for late forms or insurance all season that were not paid until the last week.

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# Proposal #3

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Eliminate language that states that a fee must be paid to enter a show late (within 2 weeks) - p. 21 & 24

Rationale:

- This is not common, but there is no need to charge a fee to add to a show. No sponsor is going to complain about more groups wanting to come to their show. Keep the fees for withdrawing within 2 weeks of a show.

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# Proposal #4

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Remove sentence about groups paying \$85 at registration for 7 extra armbands for championships. - p.5

Rationale:

- This was added when we had percussion units with very large staffs.

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# Proposal #5

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Remove sentence about band directors showing school ID to receive a pass at shows. - p, 5

Rationale:

- It's just too confusing for sponsors. Some band directors still try to show a GHSA card (even though we removed that a few years ago) and the band parents at the ticket table don't understand what that is. The manual currently says that a list of band directors will be provided to sponsors, but that would be more difficult to put together than it seems and also, sometimes it is an assistant director with the group instead of the head director, etc. Each group is given 7 extra armbands at shows plus two badges, so the band director should receive one of these instead of something separate

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# Proposal #6

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Remove Exhibition as a class - p,16

Rationale:

- We have enough classification options without needing an Exhibition class. Exhibitions should be limited to a special guest of a show host, such as their own drumline, etc.

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# Proposal #7

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Combine cadet class into one single class and create a cadet-specific sheet that reflects an introductory training philosophy as it relates to the Middle School aged student.

Rationale:

- Elimination of redundancy in classification and re-focus approach of classification on skills.

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# Proposal #8

Proposal by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Create a Novice Class specific sheet that reflects an introductory training philosophy.

Rationale:

- Re-focus approach to the Novice class as an introductory level class.



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# Proposal #9

Proposal by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Eliminate automatic promotion of the Regional A class by score.

Rationale:

- Movement from Regional A class to A class sheet is a significant move and impacts to Equipment time and show length. Groups attending a WGI regional must compete in the same class as they do in their local circuit. The implication and impact to our groups competing nationally should have a second level of review. After a “qualifying” score of promotion, the group must be reviewed by the designated Review Committee either in person or via video.

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# Proposal #10

Proposed by: Rick Subel

Proposal:

- Restructure the format of our A Class level of competition to the following:
  - Keep the current National A sub-class of A Class, for units that want to compete in A Class at the national level.
  - Combine the (AAA, AA, and A) sub-classes to form an A Class, for units that desire to compete locally but in the A Class.
  - Divide contests into two rounds when there are more than seven units entered and three rounds when there are more than twenty units entered. Each round would be randomized.
  - For Championships, when there are more than twenty units entered, three rounds would be seeded based on season scoring--as a current method for Championships seeding.

Rationale:

- The four classifications can be confusing, especially as units and directors are learning to navigate the A Class. All four classifications are on the same sheet but this could appear, over time, to seem like three different class.
  - Judges can also have difficulty understanding the "different classifications" of AAA, AA, and A but also judging all the units on the same sheet and criteria.
- Still distinguish and separate the "like competitors" of National A and Local A teams.
- Lessening the amount of groups in any one contest will keep placements out of negative or disparaging range.
- Seeding and randomizing from contest to contest allows different teams a chance to be seen among different competitors. This may create a more-balanced scoring range throughout the season.

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# Proposal #11

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Amend the definition of National A class to include those groups who attend 2 or more WGI regionals *in the Scholastic A class*, even if they do not attend World Championships. - p. 18

Rationale:

- To keep "like competitors" in the same class. Groups who attend multiple WGI regionals should be considered "nationally competitive" even if they do not go to WGI Championships

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# Proposal #12

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Promotions of units can occur beginning the first competitive weekend.

Rationale:

- Because of the method used to determine promotion, delaying to later weekends is arbitrary.

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# Proposal #13 - WITHDRAWN

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Change language for rounds to stipulate "no more than 10" per round.

Rationale:

- Having rounds that are smaller gives judges the opportunity to make stronger, more accurate comparisons.

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# Proposal #14

Proposed by: Rick Subel

Proposal:

- For Novice class: Create 2 rounds for any contest with 10 or more units competing.  
Create three rounds for any contest with 21 or more units competing.

Rationale:

- It will lessen the amount of units in a Novice round in any contest.

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# Proposal #15

Proposed by: Brandon Dailey

Proposal:

- Units *of any class not in rounds* will be assigned a Championships performance time based on a 100% random draw, not based on last score or seeding.

Rationale:

- Because of scheduling conflicts units sometimes cannot attend later shows. Due to this a last SAPA score is not always reflective of the unit's last score. Because it is a well-known fact SAPA championships in reverse order, slotting can occur. A random draw gives every unit an equal chance.

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# Proposal #16

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Remove all "premier" weekend language from PM.

Rationale:

- Because we no longer have first appearance requirements, this is an incorrect designation.



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# Proposal #17

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Past President will serve as ex-officio *for the length of one term* of the Board upon leaving office.

Rationale:

- This is common among organizations for continuity.

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# Proposal #18

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Only SAPA members can attend education events.

Rationale:

- Some of our weekends have the added benefit of an educational component funded by membership fees. A single show attendee fee doesn't include them. Everything SAPA does should encourage membership in SAPA.

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# Proposal #19

Proposed by: SAPA Staff

Proposal:

- Add language in the policy manual about **a** process for High School students to participate in Independent groups. It has been a practice of SAPA Board to require Band Director or Principal **a letter of awareness of** participation in an Independent group if a High School student's school has an active winterguard.

Rationale:

- SAPA does follow WGI Rules/Policies. WGI does ask that this is managed at a local level as well as a national level. SAPA Board requires the letter on file as proof that due diligence was followed.

Proposed by: Doug Cowden  
Proposal:

# Proposal #20

- Augment WGI policy on eligibility discouraging independent units from admitting high school aged members who attend schools with active winterguards to restricting independent guards from admitting high school aged members who quit their high school marching band programs in order to march in winter.

Rationale:

- It is vital that independent guards protect the local high school programs in their geographic recruiting area, from which they receive members (as well as rehearsal space, equipment, etc.), from students leaving their fall programs in order to march in independent winterguards.

Proposed policy would read as follows:

Any student who wishes to participate in an independent winterguard, whose home school does not have its own winterguard, must participate in their home school's fall marching band or colorguard in the fall prior to marching with any independent winterguard.

Students would be exempt from this rule under the following circumstances:

1. if the student's home school does not have a marching band or colorguard.
2. If the student did not participate in marching band or colorguard in the school year previous to marching in the independent winterguard.
3. If the band director releases the student from marching in writing to the independent winterguard director in question.
4. If a situation is present that prevents a student from participating in marching band or colorguard (i.e. registered for A.P classes, dual enrollment in college courses, etc) which would be verified by the student's principal and approved by the S.A.P.A. Vice President of Colorguard

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# Proposal #21 - WITHDRAWN

Proposed by: Undra Finley

Proposal:

- Video of the Circuit and Championships Shows

Rationale:

- Since there was a lot of confusion of who could or could not, I highly suggest we add the video passes back to show packets to be given to one person per performing unit. Then tape a designated area for that person to sit and stand to make the videos for their unit(s).

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# Elections

- President
- Vice President of SAPA
- Colorguard-At-Large
- Steering Committee positions
  - Seat vacated by Rodney Bailey
  - Seat vacated by Nathan Jennings

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# New Business

- SAPA Executive Board & Staff
- Open discussion

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# Wrap-Up

- SAPA Executive Board & Staff would like to thank you for attending the 2018 SAPA Spring Meeting.