



## **2019 SAPA Fall Meeting**

Thank you for joining the conference. The meeting will begin shortly.



## **2019 SAPA Fall Meeting**

Sunday, September 22nd

1pm

Attendance Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2019sapafallmtg>



# Agenda

- 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting Minutes
- State of SAPA
  - Education Update
  - Staff Updates
- WGIcon Review
- WGI Policy Clarifications
- Feedback from Membership
- Season Schedule
- Q & A



# 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Sunday, April 28th

Meeting Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta Kennesaw Town Center

Meeting Start Time: 1:18pm

Attendance: 46 units were in attendance in person, 8 units were represented via proxy, and 15 units were represented digitally (see attached sheet for specific units represented)

A welcome to the meeting was given by the SAPA Executive Board and SAPA President Brian Giddens. Immediately after the welcome, SAPA Secretary Tita Anderson Lovell provided a brief overview of the 2018 Fall Membership Meeting minutes for approval. A copy of the minutes can be found at the following link: [http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1\\_5693546947\\_2018-sapa-fall-mtg-minutes.pdf](http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1_5693546947_2018-sapa-fall-mtg-minutes.pdf)

The minutes were approved by a majority show of hands. A presentation of reports from each position occurred next. A copy of the presentation containing all the reports can be found at the following link: [http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1\\_2691373580\\_2019sapaspringmeeting.pdf](http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1_2691373580_2019sapaspringmeeting.pdf)



# 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting Minutes

After the presentation of reports, the membership took a break between 2:34pm and 2:42pm prior to the start of proposal discussion and voting. Please see the list below to see the policy number and the voting outcome. For specifics on each proposal and the vote breakdown, please refer the proposal results document (Link: [http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1\\_8882573681\\_2019-sapa-proposal-list-results.pdf](http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1_8882573681_2019-sapa-proposal-list-results.pdf))

1. Approved
2. Approved as amended
3. Failed
4. Failed
5. Approved as amended
6. Approved
7. Approved
8. Failed (requires follow-up)
9. Approved (requires follow-up)
10. Failed
11. Approved as amended (requires follow-up)
12. Withdrawn



# 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting Minutes

Executive Board elections were held next. The positions available were: Vice President of Colorguard, Educator-At-Large, and Secretary. The results of the elections are below:

- Vice President of Colorguard – Ira Jenkins by acclimation
- Educator-At-Large – Ian Lewis by acclimation
- Secretary – Tita Anderson Lovell by acclimation

Elections were also held to fill the positions vacated by the outgoing members of the Colorguard Steering Committee. Two positions were available for a 2-year term. The results are listed below:

- Rebekah Chadderdon
- Cyndi Church

The membership took a break from 4:12pm to 4:18pm prior to discussing new business.



# 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting Minutes

## New Business

### Member Safety

- o There should be an awareness about the individuals participating in independent groups regarding member safety practices.
- o Each independent unit should have ethical practices and specific allowances stated to the membership in writing.
- o Staff background checks are extremely important and should be a part of the hiring process for all units.
- o A town hall meeting was discussed as an option for independent and national A groups to discuss matters related to safety.

### Outline Steering Committee process to review promotions

- o What are the steps taken to review and what does the review process look like?
- o Steering Committee will discuss how to make this process better as it hit some concerns in the 2019 season.
- o Is the promotion process working as intended at the end of the season?



# 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting Minutes

- Circuit Championships should meet all expectations of local contests in terms of venue

- o What can we do for solutions to allow enough space for units to warm-up?

- Show Host deadlines for information packets

- o Dimensions with floor obstructions are needed by increasing numbers of units as group expand the boundaries of the performance floor.

- o Improve this for next year as there were concerns with the lateness in which certain packets were posted prior to the contest.

- Circuit Championships schedule

- o There was discussion around having a tentative agreement to have a draft schedule prepared at least one month in advance of event to better allow units to prepare.

- o It is important to note that as the circuit grows, we will have to start looking at creative options to run championships. Some options discussed:

- § Starting on Friday

- § Running a prelims/finals

- § Having prelims on one weekend and finals on another weekend





# 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting Minutes

- Fall Meeting will be combined with an Educational Event – SAPAFest

- o The meeting would be a part of a larger educational event day. Meeting would be at the beginning of the day and then attendees could choose various tracks of sessions to attend.

- o Please contact Ira if you are interested in seeing the sample event schedule or if you have interest in helping prepare the event.

- TV screens at South Forsyth warm-up

- o The screens running at South Forsyth with the timing for warm-up made units experience warm-up in a more positive manner.

- o There is interest from the membership in the circuit purchasing screens to provide the same experience at all warm-ups for next season.

- Young unit directors connecting with SAPA

- o There was a concern expressed for how to allow younger unit directors to participate in some way with SAPA.

- o Please contact Tita if you are interested in participating in the SAPA Snapchat Takeover.

- o Tita will be communicating with the membership about a shareable Instagram account to help provide content over the course of the season and beyond.

Meeting Adjournment: 5:11pm

The meeting minutes were prepared by Tita Anderson Lovell.



# State of SAPA - Education Update

## 1. Early season:

- Overview judges at Mill Creek and Kennesaw Mountain shows
- Mentorship -- checklist and guidelines available for mentors in helping guide a peer director
  - Interested in mentoring or being mentored? Email [educationdirector@sapaonline.net](mailto:educationdirector@sapaonline.net)

## 2. Mid season:

- Mini-events -- information tables and/or small, face-to-face sessions at shows. Interest survey in the coming weeks.

## 3. Ongoing:

- Peer Checkpoint videos (Director's Only section of website)
  - Upcoming topics:
    - Conditioning for Performer Health and Team Success*
    - Recruitment and Retention*





# State of SAPA - Staff Updates

- Show selection will open on December 1. You must have fees paid and all required forms completed in order to register for shows. Fees and forms not received by December 15 are subject to a \$75 late fee.
- Forms required:
  - All Units: Background Check Agreement
  - All Units: Policy and Code of Conduct Agreement
  - All Units: Photo/Video Release
  - Scholastic Units: Scholastic Eligibility Form
  - Independent Units: Insurance Certificate



# WGICON

- WGI held its first ever WGICON at the beginning of September.
- Here is a quick [video recap](#) of the event
- Materials will be available online through the WGI website in the near future.
  - Highlights included: Guest motivational speakers, hands on workshops, focus on design (guard, percussion and winds), focus on administrative items...something for everyone!
- The next WGICON will be in 2021
  - Ask your band directors to budget it as a part of continued learning





# WGI Policy - Background Checks

- WGI Sport of the Arts will now require all participating groups to certify they have obtained a national criminal history background check (or some satisfactory equivalent for country or locale) for those in contact with their participants. This could include instructional staff, but also drivers, chaperones, pit and/or prop crew, clinicians, and others who have more than a casual contact with participants.
- Such background checks shall be performed at the **discretion of the participating group's director**, but in no event less than **every two years**.
- For scholastic groups, those requirements can be fulfilled by requirements imposed by the school district/educational institution
- If a school district/educational institution **does not** have a requirement for such background checks, the group will have to comply with these requirements.
- This policy reflects WGI's commitment towards creating a safe and positive learning environment for all those involved in the indoor marching arts. All groups must accept and act under the policies and procedures outlined in the Code of Conduct as a requirement to participate in any WGI sanctioned event.
- PARTICIPATING GROUPS ONLY NEED TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF BACKGROUND CHECKS IF ASKED BY WGI OR SAPA. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN A DOCUMENT STATING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN COMPLETED UPON REGISTRATION TO SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT



# WGI Policy - Combined Scholastic Groups

A group in any scholastic class may apply for approval to combine students from multiple schools within a school district under the following guidelines:

- Groups that combine may not have more than 1 combined group (ex: no combined SA guard and combine SRA guard)
- School districts with multiple competitive field marching band programs within the district will be **reviewed on a case-by-case basis for approval** to combine students from multiple schools.
- If approved, all combined groups must compete using the school district name only.
- The group shall submit the Combined Schools Participating Group Master Agreement signed by the **district superintendent** and filed with the WGI (SAPA) office.
- Groups applying to combine students from multiple schools within a school district must apply for approval by December 1. (same for SAPA?)
- WGI (SAPA) will have the final determination on whether a group will be permitted to combine students from multiple schools. If application for combined group is denied, the group has the option to either not include students from other schools or compete in an independent class.



# WGI Policy - University Groups

- University group
  - Master Agreement must be signed by University employee
  - If you use university insurance, you must use the official university name.
  - Groups receiving support from a university such as practice facilities, etc. and not using the legal name of the university or university insurance can continue to operate as an independent group. These new requirements apply only to those groups using the university name and/or insurance.
  - This policy change is to ensure that any group using legal aspects of a university such as a name or insurance has approval from the university by having their authorized representative sign the master agreement for the group. This policy now mirrors some the same guidelines WGI requires of high schools participating in its events.



# Feedback from Membership

- For Steering Committee
  - Promotion Criteria
  - Solicitation of input from the membership...survey coming soon
  - Other considerations and initiatives







# Feedback from Membership

- There are times in the season where performance opportunities may outweigh the need for critique. We will send out a survey seeking feedback on critique at every performance vs. focusing on specific events to offer critique.
- This is in line with several other large circuit organizations





# Season Schedule

Jan 18 - Mill Creek

Feb 22 - Alpharetta

Jan 25 - Kennesaw Mountain

Feb 29 - Harrison

Feb 1 - East Coweta

Mar 7 - Kell

Feb 8 - Centennial

Mar 14 - South Forsyth

Feb 15 - River Ridge

Mar 21 - Etowah

Mar 27-29 - SAPA Championships



# Q & A

- Questions?
  - Please address your question in the chat feature on the GoToMeeting.



# Thank you!

- Please be sure you indicate that you attended the meeting by filling out the attendance form (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2019sapafallmtg>)
- We look forward to seeing soon!