



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS

2019 SAPA Spring Membership Meeting

Sunday, April 28th, 2019

Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta Kennesaw Town Center

Spring Meeting Agenda

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

Welcome

- SAPA Executive Board & Staff

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS
2018 Spring Meeting Minutes
Sunday, September 23rd

Meeting Date: Sunday, September 23rd

Meeting Location: Digital Meeting (not held in person)

Meeting Start Time: 1:04pm

Attendance: 55 units attended 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 Spring Meeting minutes for approval. A copy of the minutes can be found at the following link:

http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1_9784321664_2018-sapa-spring-mtg-minutes.pdf

The minutes were approved by a majority vote from the members attending the digital meeting.

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

An update was given about the state of SAPA and the items that the Executive Board and multiple committees have been at work on since the end of the 2018 season. A copy of the presentation that was given to the membership at the meeting can be found at the following link:

http://www.sapaonline.net/system/files/1_7984188641_2018sapafallmeetingpresentation.pdf

- State of SAPA was presented by Brian Giddens, SAPA President.
 - Financial Update
 - Finances are in good standing
 - SAPA has been officially recognized as a 501c3 organization
 - Judging Committee Update
 - SAPA is looking to grow the judging community
 - Marcus Onezime, Colorguard At Large, gave a presentation on WGI Certify and how it could benefit individuals interested in becoming judges in the future.

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

- WGI Circuit Symposium updated was presented by Ira Jenkins, Vice President of Colorguard
 - Code of conduct and participant protection was a big item discussed at the symposium
 - In the future, there will be important changes to how groups allow individuals to teach their teams. Background checks for staff, volunteers, and other individuals involved with teams will be a required part of the application process for groups to participate in WGI and SAPA
 - More information will be coming in future months about what SAPA's stance is on participant protection and how we will incorporate WGI's push for safety
 - Safety and security of participants and audience members in the event of an emergency during an event
 - WGI has begun placing focus on the safety of large events and what directors/audience members can do to protect themselves and their units
 - WGI Championships
 - Backsideline seating for non-finalist units will be free!
 - A Class Finals moving back to Friday night at UD Arena. There will be no separate ticket for A Class performances

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

- SAPA Championships updates was presented by Nora Lowery, SAPA Contest Director
 - SAPA Championships will be held on March 30th & 31st at the UTC McKenzie Arena
 - With the change of AAA and AA classes being absorbed into the larger A Class, the schedule for Championships will be as follows:
 - Saturday
 - Cadet A & B
 - Novice
 - A
 - Sunday
 - SRA
 - IRA
 - IA
 - Open
 - World
 - There will be a webinar coming up to discuss details about how A class will be seeded going into Championships
 - Nora also presented the regular season schedule.

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

- Webinar Schedule presented by Brian Giddens, SAPA President
 - All upcoming webinars will occur during the preseason
 - Some will be prerecorded and some will be a live digital meeting to allow for a Q&A component

Meeting Adjournment: 1:47pm

The meeting minutes were prepared by Tita Anderson Lovell.

Review of Reports

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

President & Vice President of SAPA

- Brian Giddens
- Andria Foerch

Circuit Business

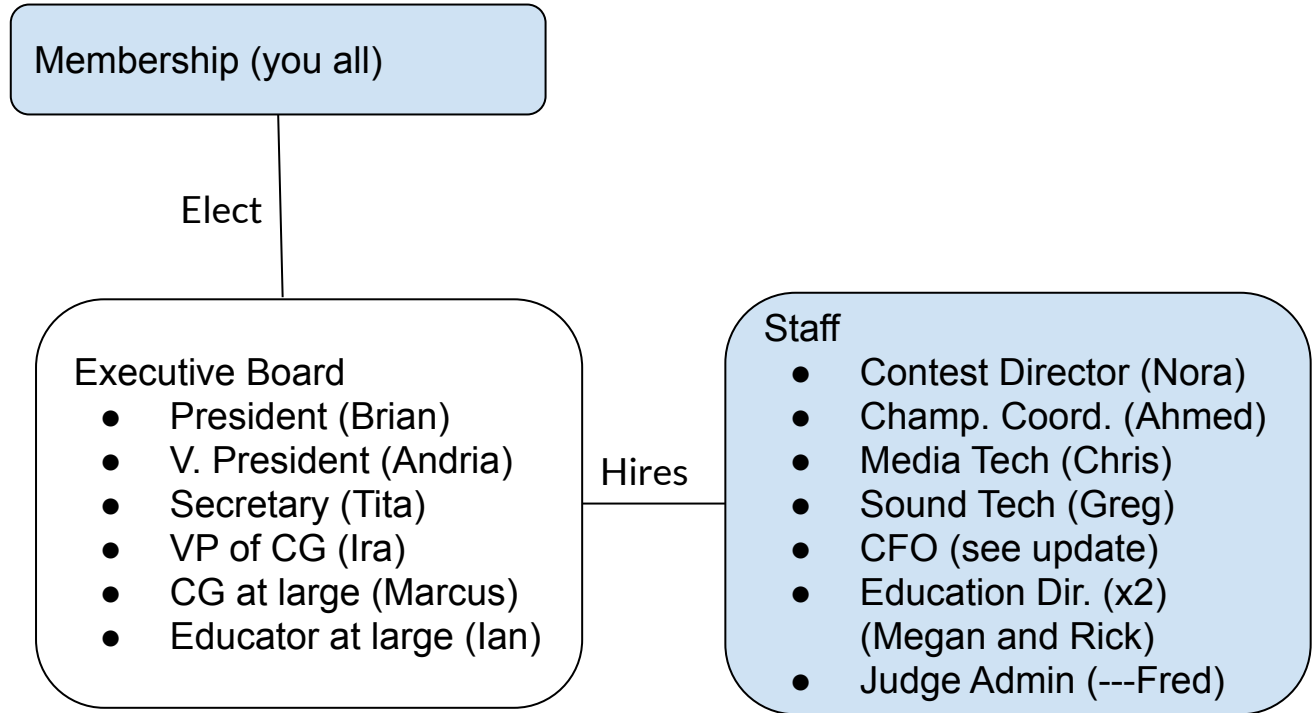
Financial Updates

- 501c3 Status
- Financial Platform (CFO update)
- Financial Status

Other Projects

- Judging Update
- Circuit structure/Job Duties

Current Structure



Updates

- CFO duties have been transitioned to a company to manage finances for the circuit.
- Education Director--currently we have 2; we will move to a single Education Director (current: Megan Phillips)
- Judge Administrator

Recommendations

- Change in role:
 - Move the Mentor/Mentee program to Education Director
- Add to job descriptions:
 - CG at large--Pre, mid, post-season check in; back up to VP of CG
 - Educator at large--Are there items that you all would like to see?
Back up to VP?
- Executive Board
 - 2 mandatory in person meetings per year
- Steering Committee
 - 1 mandatory meeting in person per year
- Judge Admin
 - Clarify role further

Vice President of Colorguard

- Ira Jenkins

Education

- Rick Subel
- Megan Phillips

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

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



GROWTH FACTS



- In season promotions
 - Number of teams moved up from Cadet B to Cadet A: 7
 - Number of teams moved up from Novice to SRA: 24
 - Number of teams moved up from SRA to SA: 4
- There were 13 groups in SNA which is up from 11 last year.
- We have 142 registered teams which is up from 133 last year.
- Two groups earned top 5 status at World Championships again which earns them a seat on the advisory board for WGI
- Last year's WGI Independent World Champion is this year's silver medalist.
CONGRATULATIONS PARAMOUNT on two consecutive medals!!

IN SEASON PROMOTIONS



Etowah Cadets	3/23	Cadet B	Cadet A
Alpharetta Cadets	3/23	Cadet B	Cadet A
Mill Creek Cadets	3/23	Cadet B	Cadet A
Ohatchee Cadets	2/23	Cadet B	Cadet A
Coosa Cadets	2/9	Cadet B	Cadet A
North Paulding Cadets	1/26	Cadet B	Cadet A
Peachtree Ridge Cadets	1/26	Cadet B	Cadet A
Archer HS	3/23	SN	SRA
Villa Rica HS	3/16	SN	SRA
Lanier HS JV	3/2	SN	SRA
Smiths Station HS	2/23	SN	SRA
North Gwinnett HS JV	2/23	SN	SRA
Etowah HS	2/16	SN	SRA
Centennial	2/16	SN	SRA
Cass HS	2/9	SN	SRA
Gilmer HS	2/9	SN	SRA
Allatoona HS	2/9	SN	SRA
Jefferson HS	2/9	SN	SRA
Decatur HS	2/2	SN	SRA
Johnson HS	2/2	SN	SRA
Trion HS	2/2	SN	SRA
Denmark HS	1/26	SN	SRA
Cherokee HS	1/26	SN	SRA
Marietta HS JV	1/26	SN	SRA
Sequoyah HS JV	1/26	SN	SRA
Fort Payne HS JV	1/26	SN	SRA
Peachtree Ridge HS JV	1/26	SN	SRA
Duluth HS	1/26	SN	SRA
Soddy Daisy HS JV	1/26	SN	SRA
Dalton HS	1/19	SN	SRA
Ridgeland HS	1/19	SN	SRA
Sequoyah HS	3/16	SRA	SA
Roswell HS	3/2	SRA	A
Coosa HS	2/9	SRA	A
Lassiter HS	2/2	SRA	A



PROMOTION PROCESS REVIEW

- History of the process
- Updates as needed each year
- Current Hybrid Model: This model was derived from the emphasis on the A class training philosophy and the need for reclassified color guards to have competitive design principles in order to be TRULY comparable to the class in which they are to be promoted.
- Model Description: In order for a unit to be promoted to the next class, a unit must achieve a specified total score plus a specified number by the two IA judges + the DA judge. The scores used
- Why aren't the numbers published?
- Ways to be promoted
 - By score with the current hybrid model
 - By results of WGI contests
 - By review from the steering committee
- Things to note about the large Novice class promotions from this season



SAPA @ WGI EVENTS



	2017	2018	2019
WGI Regionals	35	37	42
WGI Regional Finalists	19	24	31
WGI World Championships	15	18	22
WGI World Championships Semifinals	7	10	18
WGI World Championships Finals	6	6	7

2018 "TA DO" LIST... "TA DONE"

- Understanding new position
- Mentoring unit directors
- Working with steering committee
- Working with promoted units
- Create sheet for Cadet and Novice Classes
- Reaching out to other circuits to gather information



2019 "TA DO" LIST



- Create guidelines for classification review
- Update promotion rubric for 2020
- Explore SAPA-Fest professional development day (ie. Spinfest)
- Explore mentor initiative similar to WGI One on One (Tyler E.)
- Continue communication with other circuits for current and best practices
- Explore communication with judges on color guard specific information that judges need to know when judging in our circuits
- Continue to be available to unit directors for assistance and guidance
- Add to this list as needed



2019 Education Report

Early-Season Education Events

Decreased participation in extended critique opportunities in 2018 led to a change in structure for early season education events in 2019.

1. Added judge to provide commentary on overall impressions of the show, its design, and how the product, as presented, is succeeding.
2. Overview judge included in standard critique rotation at a 3-minute interval.
 - Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe HS – 36 units registered (down from 44 in 2018) -- KC Perkins and Chris Lester
 - Kennesaw Mountain HS – 59 units registered (up from 57 in 2018) -- Wayne Harris

SAPA Peer Checkpoints: Video #1: Why WGI?

Topics of interest? Topics of expertise? Email EducationDirector@sapaonline.net

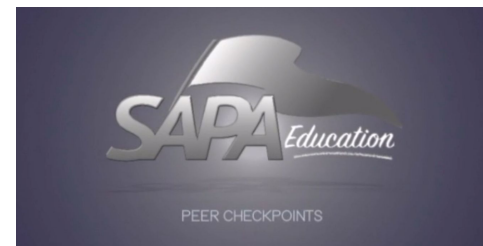
WGI Education Materials

- Continued distribution of pertinent WGI education materials and videos
- WGI One-on-One

Judge Recruitment Procedures and Continuing Education

Future Plans and Considerations

- Mid-Season Education Event
- Small group meetings



Championships Coordinator Report

- Ahmed Al-Shabibi

Contest Director Report

- Nora Lowery

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.

Proposal #1

Proposed by: SAPA Executive Board & Staff

Proposal:

- Remove the first bullet of page 21 of the policy manual.

Rationale:

- This bullet point is about registration opening date. This is something that could change yearly and should be decided on by the E-board and staff each year.

Proposal #2

Proposed by: Erik Mason

Proposal:

- Edit the Policy Manual, pg. 22 under Procedures from "\$9.00 for one day entry" to "\$10.00 for one day entry"

Rationale:

- Ticket prices have remained constant for a number of years while costs to hosts have increased.

Proposal #3

Proposed by: Doug Cowden

Proposal:

- At each SAPA contest, promotion scores for that show will be placed in a sealed envelope and included inside the unit registration packets.

Rationale:

- This policy will give transparency and integrity of SAPA and its judging process to the unit directors and give unit directors a basis to know where their units lie competitively and can prepare for the possibility of promotion if their unit is close to the promotion score during the course of a season.

These scores are never shared with the judges, nor anyone other than the directors at the time of unit check-in at any given show.

Proposal #4

Proposed by: Ginger Armstrong

Proposal:

- Within any class that has enough groups to have rounds at any contest (local or championships), after the midpoint of the season, rounds are generated by score neighborhoods instead of random draw or “snaking” scores.

Rationale:

- With recent changes to classifications, the 2019 season left us with extremely large classes in some cases and without a way for groups of similar skill level to be grouped together in competition. This would preserve the intent of the 2019 changes that dissolved SAAA and SAA while still allowing units to compete in rounds with groups that are in a similar score neighborhood. Also, there have been concerns about promotions from the SRA class to the SA class because of the understood expectation that promotion is appropriate when the group would be competitive in the middle of the next class. This should also alleviate this concern, as score neighborhoods being used as a basis for rounds would give a more appropriate comparison for a group moving up from a lower class.

Proposal #5

Proposed by: SAPA Executive Board & Staff

Proposal:

- Change page 22 bullet points 5 and 6 to state:

For regular circuit shows, all classes with 16 or more entries will compete in rounds as follows using a random draw for performance times.

- o *15 or less= 1 round*
- o *16-30= 2 rounds*
- o *31-45= 3 rounds*
- o *46-60= 4 rounds*

Rationale:

This year we had very small round at regular season shows. There were shows that had 4 teams in a round. That just doesn't seem to be reasonable to split a class of 8 into four and four or a class of 7 into four and three. This proposal follows the WGI policy. This would also keep things consistent between our SAPA classes.

Proposal #6

Proposed by: Kelsey King

Proposal:

- Change the last bullet on page 25 Circuit Championships Contest Schedule to read:
 - o *Regardless of the number of units in the SAN class, for championships the SAN will be seeded/ranked for championships for the purpose of assigning performance order as done in the SA class and as done by WGI for World Championships.*
- This means that even if the class is not split into rounds, the higher scoring/ranking groups will perform in the second half of the round/class.

Rationale:

- Since WGI seeds and ranks for performance order for world championships, we should follow that same policy. This would make judging a little easier if the groups are performing with like scoring competitors. It would allow for a better comparison between groups especially after a long day/weekend of judging.

Proposal #7

Proposed by: SAPA Executive Board & Staff

Proposal:

- Units must compete in the same class or higher if the group finished in the top half of their class in the previous season.

Rationale:

- This should encourage units to more appropriately classify themselves which will also allow the students and staff progress through the season with less of a potential for midseason reclassification.

Proposal #8

Proposed by: Doug Cowden

Proposal:

- A rubric showing the method used to determine promotion scores for each classification shall be included in the SAPA Policy Manual.

Rationale:

- The method and process for promoting a unit must be shared with SAPA units to ensure transparency and integrity of the process and to avoid appearance of any possible impropriety.

Proposal #9 - table for 2020

Proposal by: Cyndi Church

Proposal:

- All Cadet through SRA/IRA classes adopt the same promotion process procedures.

Rationale:

- Currently the promotion process procedure used by all classes with the exception of the IRA/SRA, is once a promotion number is earned the unit is celebrated with a promotion ceremony at that contest. The unit's Director is extended the choice to ask for the promotion to be reviewed by the Steering Committee if they feel this promotion is invalid. The IRA/SRA classes pathway to promotion leaves out the celebration of those student's achievements by instead achieving a Review Status. This prompts an automatic review by the Steering Committee. The pause rather than celebration puts a dimmer cloud over the possible promotion and sets up an already intense moment for the Director to be more fearful and less positive. The pathway used by the rest of the classes already has that safeguard of review and should be consistent amongst all classes. I believe this would help to alleviate some of the fear cloud that surrounds promotions and help to positively celebrate and approach the young performer's achievements and growth.

Proposal #10

Proposed by: Angela Castro/ Kerry Gaskins

Proposal:

- Create a new Cadet class reserved for groups that clearly exceed ALL boundaries of Cadet Class, but are not able to be promoted out of Cadet based on their ages/ grades. Use a higher level score sheet to judge their shows. Name this class Cadet Sr., Novice Jr. , Rising Novice, or something of the like.

Rationale:

- The benefit of this is two-fold:
 - 1) Conventional Cadet class guards can experience a more realistic and attainable goal based on competition with comparably skilled units.
 - 2) Guards that consistently beat 2nd place guards by an excess of 8 points or greater obviously exceed the boundaries of a developmental class. By judging them at a higher level, they will be offered the opportunity to further their own goals based on higher and more challenging expectations and will in turn be recognized for their extraordinary achievement.

Proposal #11

Proposed by: Andria Foerch

Proposal:

- Remove "First Appearance Requirements" section entirely from the Policy Manual.

Rationale:

- If a unit pays membership fees, they should be able to attend as many or as little performances as they choose. Additionally, the adjusted time requirements create confusion. This section isn't really pertinent after we eliminated the attendance of one of the first 3 weekends.

Proposal #12

Proposed by: Andria Foerch

Proposal:

- Add a policy that penalizes a unit for posting any material of a SAPA event that violates Copyright law. If any person is found to have posted material publicly that violates copyright law and they are associated with a SAPA unit, penalty could include up to disqualification for future performances.

Rationale:

- While this sounds extremely severe, the truth of copyright violations threatening the activity is very real. We can provide simple education to our students, parents, instructors on the risks of these violations.

Elections

- Vice President of Colorguard
- Educator-At-Large
- Secretary
- Steering Committee positions
 - Seat vacated by Cyndi Church
 - Seat vacated by Rebekah Chadderdon

Newly Elected

- We will meet as a group after this meeting to determine next meeting dates.
 - E-board--2 in person meeting dates
 - Steering Committee--1 in person meeting date

New Business #1

Proposed by: Cyndi Church

Proposal:

- This is not a proposal, rather a request for discussion amongst membership

Rationale:

- Regarding a Judge Liaison, does the membership feel it is a position of value and should be filled?

New Business #2

Proposed by: Andria Foerch

Proposal:

- I'd like to approach the topic of Member Safety as it relates to under 18 y.o. students. This is meant for a discussion specifically as it relates to Independent units.

Rationale:

- With the new member safety items released by WGI, it has me thinking that we as a community can strive to create safe environments for our students.

New Business #3

Proposed by: Andria Foerch

Proposal:

- Restructure of the Circuit

Rationale:

- See presentation

New Business #4

Proposal by: Cyndi Church

Proposal:

- Outline of Steering Committees process for review of promotions

Rationale:

- Have the Steering Committee along with Education Committee (prior to season) determine an outline of the steps taken in the process of considering a Director's request to review a promotion. This outline should include avenues for the Steering Committee to be present with the Cadet-IA/SA classes at various contests to see the landscape of these classes first hand. This outline should include discussion points related to the class criteria on the sheets and to the Unit's composition and achievements. This will allow the Steering committee stronger discussions with examples to refer to as this process takes place in determining the units request to have the promotion be reviewed. Having this outline set up will allow for the Steering Committee to give more attention to the review and will also open to the door to a more positive experience for those requesting the review.

New Business #5

Proposed by: Ginger Armstrong

Proposal:

- The Circuit Championships venue should meet all expectations of local contests, with specific attention to the need for “adequate warmup facilities for body and equipment”.

Rationale:

- Although adequate spectator parking and space for units to store personal belongings are also requirements of local contests that are not met at circuit championships, the equipment warmup area is a significant safety concern and my top reason for the proposal. Even though the equipment warmup area at McKenzie Arena has improved in the last few years, it is still far too small for most units to warm up safely and appropriately. Because of the limited space, students are either given less opportunity to warm up as they have to take turns using the space, or they are put in an unsafe situation. This adds unnecessary stress to young performers prior to the most important performance of their season. In past years when discussions of any changes to the championships venue have been brought up, there has been no consideration because contracts for the following year have already been signed. If there is not a solution for adequate space at McKenzie Arena, my proposal can be amended to add that if a new venue needs to be acquired, a search committee should be utilized throughout the 2020 season so that adequate facilities can be secured for the 2021 season.

New Business #6

Proposed by: Andria Foerch

Proposal:

- Each venue hosting a show is required to submit details about their venue. I would like for those show hosts to be required to turn in their event packets (it can be basic and updated 2 weeks prior to event) by January 1 (or whatever date deemed appropriate by Contest Director). Additionally, the venue sites should have the dimensions of the performance arena posted (with obstructions) when Show dates are released. This shouldn't be a policy, but I would like for it to be included in the Contest Manual and available to membership during show selection.

Rationale:

- We can look at data via the venue survey post season...but units can also make choices on whether or not the venue will meet their own unit needs when they sign up for the show.

New Business #7

Proposed by: Andria Foerch

Proposal:

- With the growth in the circuit (yay!) it also created near impossible scenarios for scheduling of Circuit Championships. I would like to propose a discussion about what is best for the Circuit and individual units moving forward:

1. Can the Steering Committee re-visit the promotion process for the final month of the season. Units will naturally be performing at a higher level of proficiency and will likely be meeting minimum qualifications. Is the promotion process working as intended?

2. Can the circuit commit to posting a tentative schedule 1 month prior to Circuit Championships and not sooner? This will give the flexibility of the Contest Director to move classes around as it seems appropriate. Units should not "expect" to be on a specific day as we continue to work through this growth. I'm hesitant to make this "policy" as it will be something we would have to live with for 2 years.

Rationale:

- With the growth in the circuit (yay!) it also created near impossible scenarios for scheduling of Circuit Championships. I would like to propose a discussion about what is best for the Circuit and individual units moving forward.

New Business

- Open discussion

Wrap-Up

- SAPA Executive Board & Staff would like to thank you for attending the 2019 SAPA Spring Meeting!