

**Mid-York Color Guard Circuit**  
General Membership Meeting  
September 28, 2014  
Mexico Central School

- I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by MYCGC Vice President Scott Snell at 12:35pm.
- II. President's Report: report was not submitted due to absence of MYCGC President Ken Dining on a business trip. There was however, a phone conversation between VP and President during the week for any needed updates. Danielle Wert has resigned as APW Guard Director and Lynn Booth has taken her place. She has also resigned from the MYCGC Board. The Executive Board has appointed Shannon Spaulding to take her place until the March Executive Board elections.
- III. Vice President's Report: Scott Snell would like to thank guards for their on-time submissions for show picks. He stated the importance of meeting the deadlines for submissions because a few guards were a bit late on their response. He stated that most of the shows are balanced except Albany (short 7), Mohan (short 5) and Vestal (short 9). If not enough guards switch over to these shows, then the bumping procedure will be initiated. The new rule states that any guard traveling 50 miles or more one way, will count as two shows towards championships. He asked everyone to take a second look at their schedules to help these schools out. Mr. Snell stated that every year it seems the same out of the way guards keep coming up short and would like to send out an informal survey to find out how directors choose their show picks.
- IV. Sec./Treasurer Report: (Christine VanValkenburgh, filled in) Mr. Morton was out of town on business, but sent along agendas and MYCGC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary flyers sponsoring an official logo contest. Submissions are open to everyone and the prize winning entry will be awarded \$100. Submissions are due 11/7/14 and voting will be done on 11/23/14 by all directors at the next MYCGC meeting held in Johnstown. Details are listed in the flyer. The MYCGC finances are in good standing, all scholarships as they are submitted and bills have been paid on time. Mr. Morton wanted to remind everyone that all memberships and show host fees are due 11/1/14. VP Scott Snell stated that if you do not pay on time your home show will be pulled from the schedule.
- V. Old Business:
  1. The 2014 one day MYCGC Championships went well, although it was a long day. There were a few bumps along the way with Competition Suite and the judges but stated he hopes to smooth them out before the new season starts. He asked anyone with any post season concerns about the show to please email him. We will again use Competition Suite as it coincides with WGI's plan to go ahead with an all tablet format. He asked show hosts to be aware of any Wi-Fi/gym problems ahead of time and to please work with your school's tech department to remedy them. This year's 2015 M-YCGC Championship Show will be held at ESM on 3/28/15. The NECGC Championships will be held on 4/12/15 at Brockport College. World Championships in Dayton, OH will be held from 4/16/15 to 4/18/15.
  2. 2015 Show Schedule – covered in VP Report.
  3. Competition Suite review – Covered in Championship Show Report.

4. There will be a M-YCGC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala held the Friday night before the M-YCGC Championship Show. The fee will be \$15/pp. It is undetermined at this time where the event will take place or how many staff members can attend from each guard. Planning will be complete in a couple of weeks. There will be a lot of great things planned for the celebration including a video montage and a MYCGC Museum set up with items donated from each guard representing their years in the circuit. Interviews will be shown with guard members and staff recalling their most memorable moments. Tee shirts will be for sale with a sample being sent to each guard director to show their members and take orders. ESM will also feature the history of the MYCGC in the Championships program. Posters will also be made and sent to all directors. Scott Snell asked everyone to donate either a uniform pictures or any item you feel would go good in the museum. He stated we are the oldest circuit in the country and we want it to be great!

5. M-YCGC Logo Contest – Covered under Secretary Report

6. Other – None.

VI. New Business: 1. Scott Snell stated that last year we had 48 guards attend Championships and were able to hold event in one day. This year we have 53 guards attending and would like feedback on reverting to a two day championship this season. He said that he feels the show would have to start very early in the morning 9:30 am and retreat would end at 9:15pm. This would be rough on the guards who travel long distances. Discussion should happen soon so schools can plan their budgets and bussing.

2. WGI rule changes: If a member climbs on a prop higher than 6' tall, then a safety railing must be attached all the way across. Railing should be waist high. He stated there was an incident over the summer where someone was hurt and WGI would like to prevent a similar incident from happening. No student will be allowed to catch a member as a choreographed move. Independent color guard age limit will be at the end of your 23<sup>rd</sup> year. Any guard attending a WGI Regional must adhere to the WGI copyright song "Restricted List". This includes all performers, composers, and songs on the list. Note: songs being "covered" by a different artist still fall into the restricted list. Penalty will be disqualification from all WGI events. Check the WGI website for complete list.

3. Scott Snell spoke on behalf of the NYS Federation of Judges. He said they have raised their fee to \$1400 per 10 guards for show host base rate for the 2015 competitive season. Scott explained the rationale included that the judges have not had a raise in 6 years and they were forced to buy their own tablets costing \$400 each and they do not receive mileage pay.

4. The 2015 Phoenix Preview show will be 1/3/15 at 7pm at Phoenix High School. Please let Desiree Moore know before Christmas if you wish to attend at [dmoore@phoenix.csd.org](mailto:dmoore@phoenix.csd.org) or contact Scott Snell and he will let her know. It is a noncompetitive environment with a double judging panel. This performance can provide units great early feedback.

5. The Judges Fall Clinic will be held on 11/16/14 at the George Eastman House in Rochester NY in conjunction with MYCGC and NECGC. This year Beverly Brahan, the WGI Movement Caption Head, will be holding a clinic on how to critique effectively as well as how to manage comments and turn them into a positive for all guards. Lunch will be available for anyone attending-\$8/pp.

6. 2015 Executive Board Vacancies include Andrew Graziano, Danielle Wert/Shannon Spaulding, and Scott Snell. MYCGC Board is taking nominations now. Voting will take place at the March General Membership meeting.

7. AVE', Victor Varsity and JV winter guards will be welcomed as new units into the circuit this year. They will be considered non-voting members until they complete 3 competitive performance at Circuit shows. The Victor NECGC show along with M-YCGC shows; CNS, Johnstown and Phoenix, will be dual shows. Sadly Cortland winter guard will not be going out this year due to finances. Their director wishes to thank everyone for their support and says she will be cheering everyone on all year from the stands.

8. Other: A- Congratulations to Kevin McCloud who was elected NECGC's new President.

B- There was much discussion on classifications. It is stated that you must compete locally in the same class as WGI puts you in. You may however compete up if you so desire, just not in a lower class.

C- The recent changes in WGI rules will accommodate 64 SA semi-finalists instead of 48, giving more guards a second chance to perform. WGI is thinking about having a world championship for RA class in 2016 and adding a different venue.

D- Scott stated that SRA class is growing fast again and would like feedback on why and how we choose classes. The board would like to know your thoughts and ideas on this subject. Donel Mataruga (Albany City) stated her guard is based on the numbers. She noted concerns with new students competing against more seasoned older students. She suggested a review after 6 weeks of competition. A suggestion was made to look at feeder programs vs sole programs within the same class. Scott said there is growing concern for the well-being of guards finishing in bottom 5 or 6 of a class. He wants to create a better environment for these guards. Staffing and logistics play a part in the decision. Julie Hilbert (CNS) felt it would be good to do a SRA1 and SRA2 to be better suited age wise. **No changes will be made this year.**

VII. Other – 1. Thank you to George Lawson (Mexico) for offering to hold today's meeting here last minute.

2. Andrew Graziano (Central Square) brought up good sportsmanship at all shows for everyone attending. This includes on the floor, in the stands and throughout the schools. Please remind your parents and members.

3. Show hosts please tell your parents/helpers if there is an issue with a spectator filming a performance, to please wait until performers are done with their show before you approach that spectator with your concerns.

4. All video companies can apply for championship contract. Must submit bids ASAP to MYCGC board.

5. Rosters are due to Scott Snell no later than 1/1/2015 per the M-YCGC Rulebook.

VIII. Next meeting will be held on November 23, 2014, 1:00PM at Johnstown High School.

*(GPS) 1 Pearl Street, Johnstown NY on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 12:30pm. Directions: Take the NYS Thruway to Exit 28 (Fultonville exit) take a left at Dunkin Donuts and a right over the bridge, (past the fairgrounds) take a left at light, then take a right at the light at Stewarts Shop, head north towards Johnstown, on 30A for approx. 5 miles. Turn left on East Main Street, go 5 traffic lights and turn right at light on to West State Street, go two traffic lights at "V" turn left on to Pearl Street, school is at the end. Park in circle, go in front door, small cafeteria is to your right.*

IX. Meeting adjourned by MYCGC VP Scott Snell at 1:47pm.

Thank you to Christine VanValkenburgh (Johnstown) for recording the minutes to this general membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Morton, Secretary  
Mid-York Color Guard Circuit