

Mid-York Color Guard Circuit
General Membership Meeting
September 22, 2013
Endicott Police Department Conference Room
Endicott, NY 13760
1:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order- The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by M-YCGC Vice-President Scott Snell.
- II. President's Report- Mr. Snell read M-YCGC President Ken Dining's President Report as Mr. Dining was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Dining apologizes for not being able to attend today's meeting. He then offered thanks to everyone for getting their show picks in a timely manner. For the purposes of getting shows balanced, he asked folks to please consider switching asap so we can get the schedule finalized. No new proposals were submitted for consideration prior to today's meeting. Mr. Dining did share a suggestion offered by Larry Schmidt (CNS) for show hosts to include the physical address of the school building in show host packets for judges/ directors/ parents to use when using GPS to locate the competitions. Richard Fishchette (New York State Federation of Contest Judges NYFCJ) also asked show hosts to include the physical address on the application form requesting adjudicators from the Federation. Mr. Dining reminded show hosts to reach out to him or Mr. Snell with any questions regarding show schedule flow/ timing and they will review and make suggestions as needed. There will be a NYS Spin Clinic November 10th at the Phoenix High School. More information to be distributed in the near future. The NYFCJ is hosting a Judge's Clinic Sunday, November 17th. (See Other below) Mr. Dining asked that if directors are new to a class and would like a mentor to please let him know. Likewise, if a director is experienced in a certain area and would like to offer to be a mentor please let him know so he can pair directors. Mr. Dining provided a brief update on Competition Suite. (See Old Business below). 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the M-YCGC. Mr. Dining would like to chair a sub-committee to plan activities to celebrate either throughout the season or at Championships. Please let him know if you are interested in participating.
- III. Vice President's Report- Mr. Snell began his report by thanking directors for submitting their 2014 show picks in a timely manner and discussed show balancing needs. The January 11, 18, and 25th weekends are balanced. The February 1st weekend (Jordan-Elbridge/ Mexico) is not balanced. Mr. Snell requested two guards to move from Jordan-Elbridge to the Mexico show. The February 15th weekend (Liverpool/ Albany) is also not balanced. Mr. Snell requested five guards move from Liverpool to the Albany show. Albany has a very large gymnasium with high bleachers as a plug for the facility. The February 22nd weekend (ESM/ Laurens) is not balanced. Mr. Snell requested three guards move from the ESM show to Laurens to balance that weekend. The March 1st weekend (Central Square/ Mohonasen) is not balanced. Mr. Snell requested that six guards move from Central Square to Mohonasen. The March 8th and 15th weekends are balanced. The March 22nd weekend (CNS/Vestal) is not balanced. Mr. Snell requested nine guards move from the CNS show to Vestal. The board reminded the body that 3/22 is also a Regional weekend. Mr. Snell reminded the body of the bumping procedure: If guards do not move to balance weekends prior to the November Circuit meeting, he will pick five and the show host that is overbooked will pick ten guards to bump from the show. The guards that are bumped from the show can 1) Choose to stay home that weekend, 2) Move to the open show that weekend 3) Wait to see if the closed show reopens and add back in. Mr. Snell reported that there are currently 46 guards signed up to attend the 2014 M-YCGC Championships. Mr. Snell also added that Albany has added a third program, Oswego a second program, Rome Free

Academy is potentially submitting an application for a program and we did not lose any programs this season.

IV. Treasurer's Report- Mr. Snell read M-YCGC Treasurer James Morton's update as Mr. Morton was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Morton reminds directors that the \$100 M-YCGC Membership Fee (or a school purchase order) is due to him by 11/1 as well as the \$50 Show Host Fee. The Membership Application was due 9/15. Please note that Mr. Morton's mailing address has changed and is listed on both forms. Mr. Morton reported a checking balance of \$8,863.51. Stipends to the board and scholarships have yet to be paid.

V. Old Business-

1. 2013 Championship Show Report- L. Schmidt Mr. Schmidt (CNS) was unable to attend today's meeting. Julie Hilbert (Northstars Junior) asked the body to offer them any suggestions or issues for improvement and stated there was a new batch of parents running the contest this time.
2. 2014 Show Schedule- S. Snell- Already covered in V. President's Report.
3. Competition Suite Update- (Handout provided) Mr. Snell provided the update. WGI has used Competition Suite for the past 2-3 years. It's an online based web system. Judges digitally record commentary and it is then uploaded to the website. The directors get text and/or e-mail when the commentary is posted to the site. The commentary stays on the site the entire season. If you call the number to listen to the commentary its only there for twelve hours. There is a link in the text message/ e-mail to click on to go directly to the commentary. Mr. Dining has negotiated a deal with WGI to include us in their contract with Competition Suite. Our Circuit will need to pay \$20 per color guard to utilize the service. Our circuit will be doing away with the memory card system. Laurens/ APW/ Oswego have cell service issues. Will explore solutions. Circuit has two sets of digital recorders. Will purchase another two (\$650) so that each show will have two sets of recorders. The Judges will hand in the first set of recorders for download and then use the second set to continue with the adjudicating. The recorders will be switched every 3-4 guards. The Circuit is planning to trial this at the Phoenix Preview Show to get the kinks out and be ready for the competition season the following week. The Circuit will designate 2-3 staff (Mr. Morton has volunteered his time.) to travel to the show sites and manage the software and downloading process. The software is also a tabulation program so show hosts will not need a 'tabulator' per se. The show host should still probably designate a parent to assist the Circuit staff person. Recaps will be listed on the software site and the Circuit will post the final scores only on the Circuit website. The Circuit is considering reimbursed mileage and a stipend to the staff assisting with the software. The circuit will need to purchase two laptops to travel with the staff to the shows to run the software (\$1200). The software has a router that can bypass school security systems to utilize the Internet in the districts. Up front costs should be around \$2600 with recurring costs at \$20 per guard each season in addition to travel/ stipend for staff. The software has the capability to track scores for the season and in the future may even be able to synchronize video with commentary. The Circuit will sign a contract this week and provide a 50% deposit along with the names of the directors and email addresses to add in to their system. In November, directors will need to log into the account and set up accounts with passwords, etc. For schools with multiple guards, there will be one login and the multiple programs are listed on the left hand side. There is also an application for smart phones that will take you right to your account. Judges will have access to all the commentary in the event of a review.

4. 2014 Championship Show format- Mr. Snell provided the updated. As previously discussed at the spring 2013 meeting, the Circuit is considering moving to a one-day format. This would be Shenendehowa's year to host Championships if there is not another bid. Mr. Snell drafted a schedule for the event which has a 10am start time with the final retreat starting at 8:30pm. This draft still follows a four-show format with four full guard retreats. Mr. Snell will also draft some variations of this schedule with two full guard retreats as opposed to four for the board to review. If the Circuit grew to 50 guards at retreat, we would need to revisit the two-day Championship format. Anyone that is interested in bidding to host Championships should contact Mr. Dining prior to November 1st.
5. WGI "Is the guard ready" opening announcement to be used at M-Y shows- Mr. Snell discussed that WGI has eliminated their opening announcement and have revised their procedure to keep the competitions moving along in a timely manner. WGI will now at the 1 minute 30 seconds mark say, "Performing their show titled (Blank) is the (Blank Winter guard)" The circuit discussed whether to adopt this new format or not and then put it to a vote based on three options. The first was to adopt the new WGI procedure for all color guards. The second option was to split it (ERA, Novice, Cadet and SRA would not adopt the new procedure) (SA3, SA2, SA1, IA, SO, IO, SW, IW would adopt the new procedure). The third option was to keep it as it has been and not adopt the new procedure for any guards. Four voted for option one. Zero voted for option two and 24 voted for option three. Four abstentions. The Circuit will keep the opening announcement the same as it has been in previous years.
6. Other- Tom Argy (NYFCJ) asked if guard were going to be required to snake their floor mats out of the gym this year? In Phoenix, Liverpool and ESM the show hosts required guards to snake their floors out of the gym to keep the contest moving along on time. Mr. Snell stated that he would discuss this with the board and identify the larger shows where this is necessary and then alert the show hosts to add this requirement into their packets. If the show host requires snaking the mat out of the gym at their contest, guard directors must oblige. Various guard directors offered up their parents to help guards that may not have a larger prop/ floor crew to assist with this.

VI. New Business-

1. 2014 Class Representatives- Mr. Snell discussed that these would be voted on at the November meeting. Each class will have a representative to bring issues to the board and/ or assist with classification reviews, etc. Class representatives cannot be board members or officers.
2. M-YCGC Hall of Fame- Mr. Snell shared that Larry Schmidt (CNS), Shannon Spaulding (Homer) and Mr. Abate were members of the Hall of Fame committee. Mr. Abate will most likely be stepping off. Anyone can nominate someone for the Hall of Fame. The application is on the Circuit website. The nomination goes to the committee and then the committee makes recommendations to the Board who approves or disapproves. We are entering our fourth year for the Hall of Fame. We need more applications. As a reminder, nominees can be judges, volunteers, instructors, directors, etc.
3. 2014 Championship Show- traditional rotation is Shenendehowa, any other groups interested must submit a bid to the President by 11/1/13. Already discussed.
4. NYFCJ Fall Clinic- Richard Fishchette, (NYFCJ) discussed the fall Judges Clinic to be held on Sunday, November 17th at the George Eastman House on East Ave. in Rochester. There is a WGI change on the Ensemble Analysis sheet. It will now be called Design Analysis. The philosophical thought is there needs to be a process change where the focus is on the vertical orchestration (movement and equipment) from upstairs- "impact design". This will be further explored at the clinic. Shenendehowa staff/ students will do a presentation for the Judges in movement/ equipment similar to the program offered at the September M-Y Circuit meeting in 2013. WGI

Judge/ Designer Eric Kinchenman will be coming in as well to do a presentation. There is a lunch buffet available for \$8.

5. 2014 Executive Board vacancies (Dining), Morton, Spaulding, Tierney terms expire 5/1/14) Nominations and voting will take place 3/2/14.

VII. Other-

1. January 4th at Phoenix Middle School- Preview show. Mr. Fischette discussed the program planned. A full judges panel will be available to view the performances without scoring and then will discuss the program's development with the staff and students. Guards have an option to perform twice if they wish and the programs need not be complete. As previously mentioned, the Circuit will be trialing the Competition Suite software at this event. The deadline for registration is the first weekend in December. Guards wishing to attend can notify Mr. Snell or Desiree Moore (Phoenix). Once the deadline passes, no more guards will be allowed to add in and guards should not pull from the schedule.
2. The Board conducted a brief poll of show hosts in the room to see how involved directors were in the planning of their home shows as opposed to parents planning the shows. Most of the show hosts in the room were involved by show of hands. The board recommended that directors be involved in the planning process and to have an ample amount of adults available in positions where critical information needs to be conveyed and/or decisions made. Some show hosts are using students to fill many positions at shows and they are not knowledgeable in many situations and adults are needed. The Circuit also discussed badges for directors and/or staff so that adults could be easily identified and approached for assistance.
3. Christine VanValkenburgh (Johnstown) shared that they would like to establish a Memorial Scholarship on behalf of one of their instructors that has passed. They would like it to be circuit wide and offered annually at Championships. Mr. Snell asked that Ms. VanValkenburgh put together some criteria for the award and submit the information to the board.

VIII. Announcements-

1. The Eastern Championships previously held in Rhode Island has moved to the Monmouth Facility in N. Branch, New Jersey. It's a two-day event.
2. Next meeting- Will take place on November 17th at the NYFCJ Clinic during lunch time. The March 2, 2014 meeting will be held at the Championship Show site.

IX. Closing- A motion was made to close the meeting at 2:25PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Wert, Board Member
Mid-York Color Guard Circuit
9/25/13