

# LMCGPC SPRING Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2022

- I. Call to Order – Called to order by Craig Byers
- II. Reading of the Fall Meeting Minutes - Motion to skip the reading of fall minutes by Thomas Sexton-Logan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Casey C.
- III. Board of Directors Reports
  1. Executive Director – It was great seeing everyone back on the floor, doing what we love. One of the biggest setback this year was losing our championship facility. Thibidou civic center did not have the correct dates for us, then planning for Southeastern but they backed out due to damages from the hurricane Ida. That left us with the only other place available being the Cajundome. I can tell you with out a doubt we will never use them again. There are several reasons, starting with their staff. We went into it knowing the minimum being \$5,000 wich is 9about the same as we pay now, but we knew their would be more cost. Craig, Courtney, Stephanie M. attended a brief walkthrough of the facility a week and a half prior to championships, in return they were supposed to send us a breakdown of the remaining cost that we would incur. This never happened. We continued to contact them daily while reciving a runn around of unavailable people, and call backs/messages. Obiously, it was to late to do anything at that point so we had to move forward. The increase in admission fee was on the caujndomes part, we had decided on a \$15 entry fee, the additional, \$6.25 was their fee. We brought in about \$25,000 in admissions. Then we got the bill, which was outrageous. I have called every person I can think of to call at the cajundom/university/BoD. We received our down payment of \$5000 + \$1200 back in revenue from championships, out of \$25,000. There were many descrepancies in the billing in areas such as security, medical, ect. I have a meeting with their entire Board of Directors on June 2. We will continue to press the issue until a resolution is met. If we have to go to court over this we will because this is a large chunk of money, when they were already getting a cut of the door to begin with. That is one of the most difficult things we have delt with leading up to and after championships. The show itself went well and we made it work. It had the potentioal to bea great facility for us, but until things change it is not a possibility to go back. Nagotiations are in works with southeastern to bring it back to Hammond. The city is wanting to sponsor us, and allow us acces to the university center and the penington center which had six gyms available for warm ups. As soon as we get more details we will reach out, and the plan B is we always have the civic center.
  2. Secretary - social media has gone a lot better this year, with plans to increase our footprint even more. We would like to use more outlets to send information to the masses and not just relying on emails to directors. I need help getting photos, videos, ect. to use in our promotions. With that will come some new forms that you will be responsible for such as a photo release when you sign up saying your team members may be photographed and used in promotional items in print/social media. Also, if sending photos and videos to be used we will have you sign a form saying you give us permission

to use the photos you have submitted. Using these platforms has increased traffic to our website which we hope to turn into a revenue stream that can happen all year long.

3. Treasurer – Despite our troubles with the Cajundome we still made some money. Normally we have \$20,000+ at the end of the year, this year we about \$9,000, but we are not in the hole. We have every bit of communication with the Cajundome to outline the charges we incurred and are now in disputes over. Most expenses were similar to previous years. We were able to save money on décor. Everyone did a good job paying dues on time. Hotel cost have gone up quite a bit, and with flights coming in on Friday nights we needed a 2-night minimum at these hotels. Flights have also gone up, other than that we may discuss a small increase in dues, we have not had a due increase in almost 6 years. We are still one of the most affordable circuits around. Fred also suggested upping dues just a bit to stay competitive with surrounding circuits. We will always try to keep it affordable for our small programs we know how important it is. If anyone hosted a show and would like your survey results, please email me and I will send them out to you.
4. Colorguard Representative – I think everyone would agree it was good to be back, we had a good showing at Dayton. Some groups made it to semis. I thought it was a good year and everyone seemed pretty competitive considering the last couple of years we have had. I would like to take this time to say I am stepping down as colorguard rep. There will be nominations later in the meeting for Colorguard Rep.
5. Percussion Representative – Its great to be here, to see everyone. Percussion had a lot of good show and a great turnout. I don't have a lot; we have a few proposals to help with classifications. We are looking to add to percussion rep to help to coverage.
6. Winds Representative – Not present, but no major changes.
7. Contest Director – Thank you all for your resilience and making this year happen. In the '19-20 year we had 124 total units with 115 at championships, this year '22 we had 108 total units with 97 at champs, with almost 1700 performers. That is a reflection of you and your commitment to come back after everything and put 1700 kids on the competition floor. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. Congrats to everyone who went to Dayton. We have gained a lot of respect throughout the country with our growth. Thank you to all of our host, it is such a monumental task and we appreciate it. I want to bring something up, Please do not bring extra people into hospitality, this is a concern of the board, the hospitality is for directors, staff, and judges, and this is at the expense of the show host. The hospitality room is just a suggestion, it is not a requirement for hosts. If it is continued to be we must crack down on the badges only. We received lots of complement from judges on the efficiency of the contest and the growth of our circuit. Please Check your competition suite account and make sure your info is up to date. We suggest making sure your school email is able to receive mass emails, if not you may want to switch it to another outside email. If you run into any problems please contact the board of directors.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. JV Classification – The JV class was amended on a temporary basis for last year. The general consensus is the class was a positive for secondary units without crowding.

Brought to general membership for vote to keep JV classification. VOTE PASSES  
28 yes, 4 no vote

- b. Diversity Strategy Update- If anyone is interested in being involved in the diversity committee please reach out ([stephanie.montoya2016@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.montoya2016@gmail.com)). We have had two meetings this year. In our meetings, we have nominated people for hall of fame, made proposals that have a positive impact for diversity, introduce a new program to help new and upcoming programs. Art Kilchrist (New Iberia H.S, HOF member) we created the diversity committee as a way to address the lack of diversity in programs and schools. I have worked at schools that are underprivileged and that impact has lead people I have worked with to go and create other programs in underserved areas.
  - i. Jenerette High – Teirzia Leblanc speaks about the positive impact colorguard and having a program at her school has given new opportunities to her 15 participating students. She addresses the difficulties of fundraising in areas of low income, the important of outreach from the circuit and individuals to these programs.

#### V. New Business

- a. By-laws, Policy Manual, Contest Rules, Show Host Contract
  - i. We have been working on reviewing our by-laws, Policy Manual, Contest Rules, Show Host Contract. After reviewing all past meeting minutes, WGI policy, we have tried to create a comprehensive package of information. We will email it out before the next meeting for review and then it can be voted on later.
- b. Dues
  - i. To continue moving forward we are probably going to have to increase dues. We have been working on a way that has a small impact on units but overall will make a large impact on the circuit. Current dues are \$535 first unit \$295 second unit. The numbers we are looking at are raising to \$550 first unit, \$350 second unit. The cost increases that we are seeing are flights, milage, and hotels.
  - ii. In comparison we have a low cost to show availability.
- c. Color Guard Rep Nomination
  - i. Stephanie B nominates Tracy Carter. She is in her second year at Biloxi. She has spent many years at Harrison Central and was the colorguard rep at MIA. She is the caption head at blue knights. Second by Casey
    - 1. With no other nominations we will appoint her as the colorguard rep until the next voting which is next spring.

#### VI. Proposals

- 1. Create a steering committee that is elected by general membership with a representative from each class. The committee will be responsible for the review of promotions of the first and second winners at each regular season competition. Appeals will not be granted. **PASSED (27 YES, 1 NO)**

2. **Proposed by:** Daniel Modenbach, Dutchtown High Indoor Percussion
  - a. **Division of Impact:** ALL
  - b. **Proposal:** Up the admission price for non-championship shows to \$10.
  - c. **Rationale:** The suggested admission price for our events is currently \$8. In 2019, we used to pay judges \$300 per show. Now, the cost is \$350. There is also an additional percussion judge added since the 2019 season. Hotel and transportation costs were also up last year and this year. This past show, we spend \$7,811 in judge expenses while only collecting \$8,728 in admission ticket revenue. Keeping track of revenue and cost throughout the event, we estimated that we reached "break-even" at some point after our first awards ceremony. While we do make money on concessions and other things like shout-outs, the bulk of the revenue comes from admissions.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** \$1-\$2 per audience member. Keep in mind that their admission ticket grants them access to the entire contest (up to 10 hours of entertainment). **PASSES (28 YES, 0 NO)**
3. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
  - a. **Division of Impact:** ALL
  - b. **Proposal:** One member may only represent one unit on the advisory board. For cases where someone is involved in more than one group, another person who was listed as staff, director, ect. should be in attendance to represent that group.
  - c. **Rationale:** This is a WGI policy. Allows for more voices in the advisory board, and helps prevent scenarios where policies are made with limited representation.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE **PASSES (27 YES, 1 NO)**
4. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
  - a. **Division of Impact:** ALL
  - b. **Proposal:** All programs, soundtracks, thematic and costuming choices must reflect the qualities that would be acceptable for performance at a scholastic venue or suitable for marketing to sponsors on a national level. Any breach in the above philosophy could result in performance denial or possible disqualification as determined by the Board of Directors.
  - c. **Rationale:** This is a WGI policy. Adding it to our policy manual can remove any confusion, and prevent changes needing to be made mid-season.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE **PASSES (26 YES, 0 NO)**
5. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
  - a. **Division of Impact:** ALL
  - b. **Proposal:** All groups with scheduling conflicts must notify the Contest Director by the Monday before the contest.
  - c. **Rationale:** To prevent excessive changes to the schedule so close to event.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE **PASSES (28 YES, 0 NO)**

6. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High School
- a. **Division of Impact:** ALL
  - b. **Proposal:** LMCGPC Hall of Fame Guidelines
  - c. Purpose - The Mission of the LMCGPC Hall of Fame is to honor excellence and preserve our evolving history. The LMCGPC Hall of Fame was formed to recognize the individuals in the winter color guard, winter percussion, and winter winds activity whose extraordinary efforts and accomplishments have enhanced the LMCGPC Organization, broadened the appeal of these activities and whose lives and accomplishments serve to inspire, educate, and be role models for all those who participate in LMCGPC.
  - d. Responsibility - The LMCGPC Secretary shall handle matters relating to Hall of Fame.
  - e. Criteria - The LMCGPC Hall of Fame recognizes individuals in the winter color guard (in odd numbered years) or winter percussion/winds (in even years). Selection to the LMCGPC Hall of Fame can be achieved as a designer, a director or other administrative position, an adjudicator or in adjudication leadership, from amongst LMCGPC employees or as a volunteer. The following criteria will be used when evaluating potential Hall of Fame members: DESIGNERS/INSTRUCTORS: Meritorious contributions, Influence on LMCGPC, Depth of service, Length of service, Program success, Support of LMCGPC educational programs and committees, Service to Advisory Boards. LMCGPC ADMINISTRATIVE OR UNIT DIRECTORS: Meritorious contributions, Influence on LMCGPC, Depth of service, Length of service, Support of LMCGPC educational programs and committees, Service to Advisory Boards, Service to LMCGPC Board of Directors. ADJUDICATORS: Meritorious contributions, Influence on the LMCGPC activity, Depth of service, Length of service, Support of LMCGPC educational programs and committees, Service on LMCGPC committees or boards, Success in design or improvement of the judging system VOLUNTEERS: Meritorious contributions, Influence on LMCGPC, Depth of service, Length of Service, Support to LMCGPC in all areas LMCGPC EMPLOYEES: Meritorious contributions, Influence on LMCGPC, Depth of service, Length of Service, Support to LMCGPC in all areas, Success in program development.
  - f. While listed in several areas of the criteria, it should be noted that length of service should be combined with other areas of achievement for an individual to be considered for selection to the LMCGPC Hall of Fame. Individuals should be evaluated through time for their achievements. It is important to consider only the merits of the criteria.
  - g. Selection Process –
    - i. Each year, the LMCGPC may induct one individual and one past show to the LMCGPC Hall of Fame. (In the event of a tie, this number may be higher.)
    - ii. A committee of prior Hall of Fame inductees and the Board of Directors will vote on nominations from the circuit as a whole.
    - iii. The names of persons who are nominated for election, but who are not elected as such, shall not be disclosed at any time to any person (including those who are nominated) other than members of the LMCGPC Hall of Fame Committee, and Board of Directors.
    - iv. No member of the LMCGPC Hall of Fame Committee or any other person shall disclose to any person how any member of the Selection Committee voted on the election of any particular candidate (including the particulars of the balloting).
    - v. Voters will be asked to rank the candidates in their order of preference. The three individuals with the lowest total scores will be elected to the Hall of Fame.
    - vi. All members of the LMCGPC Hall of Fame and sitting members of the Board of Directors have voting rights in all elections. If a person is a member of both, they may only vote once.
    - vii. Only complete ballots will be considered.

- viii. After the LMCGPC Hall of Fame Committee has completed all balloting for election into the Hall of Fame, the Secretary shall then release the names of those elected for general publication.
  - ix. When a person is honored as a Hall of Fame Member, the Executive Director will obtain all necessary action shall be taken for induction of such person at the next Annual Induction Ceremony.
  - h. Ceremony - The LMCGPC Hall of Fame ceremony is hosted annually at the Championships to honor individuals that have achieved the highest level of success and admiration by the entire activity.
  - i. **Rationale:** A comprehensive procedure will help ensure the integrity of voting procedures, as well help the committee make informed decisions within the guidelines of criteria.
  - j. **Financial Impact:** Reduction of nominees could save on trophy budget slightly. **PASSES (25 YES, 0 NO)**
7. **Proposed by:** John Dunlap, SM Independent
- a. **Division of Impact:** Percussion
  - b. **Proposal:** Add Show Style wording to Standstill classification and fix wording on website
  - c. **Rationale:** Provide more clarity to classification description
  - d. **Financial Impact:** All Positive **PASSES (27 YES, 0 NO)**
8. **Proposed by:** John Dunlap, SM Independent
- a. **Division of Impact:** Percussion
  - b. **Proposal:** "Fix wording for this class on website:
    - i. Scholastic Standstill (Show Style)
    - ii. Scholastic Standstill (SS) (was created) for those scholastic percussion sections through the 12th grade who with (wish) to concentrate on the percussion (and entertainment) element only. Instrumentation may be the same as a marching ensemble. Movement will be permitted to allow performers to change equipment or to allow for better presentation of musical and visual performance. This is NOT a marching Class."
  - c. **Rationale:** Clarity of the definition
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE **PASSES (26 YES, 0 NO)**
9. **Proposed by:** John Dunlap, SM Independent
- a. **Division of Impact:** Percussion
  - b. **Proposal:** Change Standstill class timing to 2 min. minimum
  - c. **Rationale:** Provide more options for units performing in this classification
  - d. **Financial Impact:** Would be positive for show hosts **PASSES (24 YES, 0 NO)**
10. **Proposed by:** John Dunlap, SM Independent
- a. **Division of Impact:** Percussion
  - b. **Proposal:** Split percussion rep duties and pay
  - c. **Rationale:** Provide more coverage across the state
  - d. **Financial Impact:** Would be positive for all **PASSES (26 YES, 1 NO)**
11. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
- a. **Division of Impact:** Guard
  - b. **Proposal:** Make this seeding procedure consistent for all guard classes
    - i. Classes with more than twelve (12) units will be seeded in "tournament-style" rounds for Championships.
    - ii. Using their most recent score increased by 1.5 points each week of the circuit calendar. The resulting "standings list" will be used to assign color guards to their round. Color guards with identical scores will be assigned to the same round.

- iii. Color guards will be divided into two groups according to ranking (highest ranking, next highest ranking, etc.) EX. ranks 1-6 will be a round, ranks 7-12 will be a round.
  - iv. Color guards will random draw for performance order within their round with the highest-ranking color guards in that group performing in the second half.
  - v. In the cases that any class is over twenty (20) competing units, the class will be seeded and divided into two (2) divisions.
    - 1. Odd rankings will compete in division River and evens in division Bayou.
    - 2. Seeding and split will be determined by the unit's averages scores available (including WGI Regional scores that are used as qualifiers for LMCGPC Championships)."
  - c. **Rationale:** Clarification of seeding procedures
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE **PASSES (28 YES, 0 NO)**
12. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
- a. **Division of Impact:** Guard
  - b. **Proposal:** Independent group eligibility- delete the release form and just keep "recommended verbiage"
  - c. **Rationale:** WGI has done away with releasing students to perform in open units. WGI only uses suggestive language that independent groups should not look to high school students for recruitment.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE **TABLED FOR FALL MEETING**
13. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
- a. **Division of Impact:** ALL
  - b. **Proposal:** NEW PROGRAM-The goal of this program is to provide support and exposure for a new first year team (and or possibly a new teacher). The program works as a sponsorship where the recipient would receive a paid membership with championships, as well as a support system from the diversity committee (advise, guidance, and help to ensure a fulfilling year)
    - i. Procedures would include:
      - 1. The committee compiling applicants and submissions for a review, followed by a vote on a recipient. Zoom meeting with instructor as an introduction. Check-ins throughout the season for any questions on work, design, procedures. The committee will not be named as staff on their production as this is about them and growing their program, as well as defined the limits of help, reason being, we want them to build their own identity/style. Presentation of a certificate or award at championships for receiving the sponsorship.
  - c. **Rationale:** To help provide opportunities to new units
  - d. **Financial Impact:** To support this program we will need enough funds to pay for one membership with champs (currently \$535). With the approval of the membership the Diversity Committee is prepared to fundraise to cover this cost without impact to current circuit funds. Fundraising would include an exclusive T-shirt sale through social media and our website. Also, direct donations from businesses and individuals. **PASSES (24 YES, 0 NO)**
14. **Proposed by:** Chrystal Portier, Covenant Christian Academy
- a. **Division of Impact:** Guard
  - b. **Proposal:** Color guard rule change/amendment: There may be at most one performing unit comprised of members from the same school, or feeder school, within a competition category. For example: If a school has multiple units competing, the B (or junior varsity) unit may be initially placed in a lower category (elementary, cadet, novice or regional A) and the A

(or varsity) unit will be initially placed in the next highest category; regular unit promotion will still apply after initial placement as long as the units are not competing in the same category.

- c. **Rationale:** Categories are established to help units and performers grow. Having multiple units from the same school or feeder school competing in the same category and at the same level diminishes the effectiveness of having competition categories.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE ***PASSES (28 YES, 0 NO)***
15. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
- a. **Division of Impact:** Guard
  - b. **Proposal:** (PENDING STEERING COMMITTEE) Adjust Novice classification - only first year performing teams, 2nd teams with 1st team in SRA, and groups who have major changes in instructors/performers. (ex. new instructor with 50% new performers). Groups that sit out a year should not drop down to Novice unless any of the previous mentioned scenarios apply. If the school has competed before; a repeat appearance in Novice class must be approved with a written appeal asking for exemption.
  - c. **Rationale:** Continue to support growth in classes, and help facilitate appropriate class placement.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE ***PASSES (27 YES, 1 NO)***
16. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
- a. **Division of Impact:** Guard
  - b. **Proposal:** If you are promoted during the season, you must compete in that new classification until you do not participate for at least one year. OR, if your following year's championship placement falls in the lower 1/3 of the class you can send a written appeal to the Board for consideration to compete one class lower. Upon approval you may register in one class below that following year.
  - c. **Championship Medaling:** You must complete the following seasons in that new classification even if you take time off. In your second year of performing at championship in the new classification your championship placement falls in the lower 1/3 of the class you can send a written appeal to the Board for consideration to compete in one class lower.
  - d. **Rationale:** To support class growth upward, alleviate misclassifications of groups going down in class with the intent to improve rankings.
  - e. **Financial Impact:** NONE ***PASSES (24 YES, NO)***
17. **Proposed by:** Stephanie Montoya, St. Amant High
- a. **Division of Impact:** Guard
  - b. **Proposal:** Split Scholastic A into 2 classes. Scholastic A will be the top-class Scholastic AA will be the lower class
  - c. **Rationale:** Incoming SRA groups and an already large class.
  - d. **Financial Impact:** NONE ***PASSES (26 YES, 0 NO)***

## VII. Forum

- a. Jacob Jennings accepted nomination for percussion rep. No other nominations. Jacob becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> percussion rep
- b. Stephanie B suggest a field day type event, Jacob J. as well suggest something for the performers to be able to see each other perform. Continue discussion for a possible day in the middle of the season, possible few judges, tabled for a proposal at the fall meeting.
- c. Casey asks for previous years scores to be kept on the website for motivation for teams and students.



VIII. 2023 Schedule of Events and Deadlines

Champ Dates March 31, April 1, April 2.

March 25

March 18

March 11

March 4

Feb 25

Feb 11

Feb 4

Jan 28

IX. Next Meeting Date

**Sept 18 2022**

X. Adjournment

- a. Stephanie B moves to adjourn. Thomas S. seconds