FALL 2023 MEETING MINUTES

1. Called to Order: Craig Byers. Motion to skip reading of previous minutes by Johnette, Robin seconds.
	1. **President:** (Craig Byers) Thank you to everyone who attended to WGICON. The coolest thing was being around those who do what we do, and being able to share ideas. We had approximately 25 people from our circuit attend.
	2. **Secretary:** (Stephanie Montoya) Nothing to report
	3. Treasurer: (Courtney Lyons) Money wise our bills are paid, and we are still fighting with the Cajun Dome. Due changes to be discussed later in new business.
	4. **Colorguard Rep:** (Tracy Carter)
	5. **Percussion Rep:** (John Dunlap & Jacob Jennings) Great experience at WGICON, there was a lot of sharing of documents and making sure everyone has what they need administratively.
	6. **Winds Rep:** (Craig Byers for Cody Herbert) WGI is doing a big push for the winds division, there are a few minor rule changes that I will send out, such as new min performer (10). The activity is trying to progress forward, at WGICON they had some great clinics like the use of an electronic track, and how to make that successful for your students. Overall, the winds division has grown a lot over the years, the thing that we do not like to see is groups that come out one year, then drop the next. This has happened across the country with WGI as well. It is not for everybody but it seems to do well for smaller school and larger schools who have that time. Let us make sure we are encouraging those we know to come out.
	7. **Contest Director:** (Randy Weaver) Not a whole lot. Scheduling a few less shows, simply because of economic. It will be more important than ever to schedule early and spread out where you are going. We will be capping everything at 50 for the colorguard shows. When we for open registration make sure you are aware of the dates, Registration deadline the week of LMEA conference (thanksgiving weekend). Show sign up deadline DEC. 1, 2022. Please go to your competition suite account and clean up your staff and make sure all info is up to date. Reach out to me and we can help you get the set up you need.
2. **Old Business:**
	1. *Dues Update* – Small increase as previously discussed from the last meeting. Current dues are $535 first unit $295 second unit. The numbers we are looking at are raising to $550 first unit, $350 second unit. This change will help up us make up ground on flights and hotels. Anything beyond the first unit is considered a second unit (3,4,5 ect.)
		1. Motion to accept – Casey, 2nd Jacob Jennings.
		2. For- 25 Opposed- 0 (PASSED)
	2. *Colorguard Independent Eligibility-* releasing high school students to join independent programs when there is a high school program in place.
		1. Randy- WGI has done away with this rule, we need to trust that the independent directors will not poach students where an active program is in place.
		2. Motion to accept- Casey, 2ND Patrice.
		3. For 23, Opposed- 0 (PASSED)
	3. *Steering Committee: Guidelines & Nominations*
		1. This is to clarify some verbiage on the proposal made at the spring meeting.
			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. (Spring 2022)*
		2. Process shall be the committee will review the video rendering a decision by Monday evening, giving them a two-day turnaround time, If a team is promoted the implementation shall happen the following week. With no promotions happening the week before championships.
		3. We will hold online nominations.
		4. Motion to accept -Johnette, 2nd Courtney
		5. For 26, Opposed- 0 (PASSED)
3. **New Business:**
	1. *2023 Schedule*
		1. FIELD DAY -

Denham Springs – Feb. 4

Gulfport – Feb. 11

*Gulfport Regional – Feb. 25*

St. Martin Ind. – March 4

Comeaux (Guard Only) – March 11

*Percussion Regional – March 11*

Dutchtown – March 18

E.D. White – March 25

* + 1. Motion to accept Casey, 2nd John
		2. For 34, Opposed 0 (PASSED)
	1. *Fred Feeney Update:*
		1. WGICON is planned to happen every 2 years. New Orleans has been successful for them and they plan to have it back there unless something changes.
		2. Independent Groups will have to be incorporated by 2024. You will need to be a legal entity with a BOD, Insurance, ect. Universities will be considered an institute as long as they do represent the college, and there are representatives from the administration to sign paperwork verifying that.
		3. Participant Protection - <https://wgi.org/wgi-participant-protection/> This is the proper channel to report to WGI about concerns involving participants. WGI will do an extensive investigation into all reports, although WGI has its limitations as far as repercussions, they will immediately turn over any investigation to the police if illegal actions have been found.
		4. Safe Sport- all groups will need to have all staff complete Safe Sport Training that can be done through your school or at <https://wgi.org/wgi-participant-protection/>
		5. Diversity Equity and Inclusion- (future leaders program 18+) <https://wgi.org/futureleaders/>
		6. Emerging voices award (cash award given to under represented programs) <https://wgi.org/emergingvoices/>
		7. We would love to see applicants from this circuit apply to these programs.
	2. Copyright: You must secure the rights to your music, The circuit is responsible for the performance, we have contracts for all 4 companies to cover the live performance, however you as an independent group, or School are not covered under that. Several agencies are available such copycat music, click and clear, ect. Make sure you are getting all rights, such as right to edit, to perform, sync. We will still be making the announcement about videos, but if someone videos you and uploads it you can be held liable if you do not have proper copyrights.
	3. Safe Sports – Everyone is required to have their staff certified in this training course, please email proof of completion to Stephanie (stephanie.montoya2016@gmail.com)
	4. Policy Manual Update- We will be emailing this out for you to review and we will open an online vote for a week. Please read through and email us with any questions so we can look back through minutes and correct any mistakes.
	5. Asking for prayers for Gary Graves who has been such an influence in our circuit.
1. Next Meeting: May 20, 2023
	1. Casey 1st, Johnette 2nd
2. Adjournment: Casey moves to adjourn, Courtney 2nd