



RMCGA Membership Meeting May 3, 2009 - Columbine HS, Littleton CO

Attendees:

Heather Mesite (Sand Creek/RMCGA Secretary), Vince Hodges (Solstice), Shauna Hodges (Solstice), Aaron Moss (Standley Lake), Scot McGiveron (Opus X), Anthony Mondragon (Douglas County/Pomona), Dean Decker (RMCGA President), Timothy Tilly (Judge), Kenny Bailey (Alchemy/Arapahoe), Jessica Froyen (Wheat Ridge/Bear Creek), Dave Hurd (Air Academy/Legend HS/Alchemy), Michael Malewit (Mesa Ridge), Todd Carrasco (Malachi), Adam Abraham (Pisteuo), Melissa Abraham (Pisteuo), Lindsey Thomas (Ellipse), Steve Takata (Signature), Mike O'Neill (Judge), Tony Christofano (Judge), Peggy Sparks (RMCGA Treasurer), Kendra Whelchel (RMCGA Contest Director), Cheri Meier (RMCGA Staff), Jonette & Darren Dukart (Woodland Park), Debi Luft (RMCGA Staff)

**Old Business**

Meeting Called to Order by Dean Decker: 1:05pm

Approve Minutes of November 2008 Meeting

Approved by: Dave Hurd

2<sup>nd</sup> By: Todd Carrasco

Any other items carried over

None to speak of

**Contest Items**

- Review of contests in 2009
  - Instructional Review(s)
    - Darren Dukart had 2<sup>nd</sup> feedback show, hindered some groups from coming to the show, with option of not doing feedback show
    - Tony Christofano felt first review of the season was helpful, felt 2<sup>nd</sup> one was waste of time, from judges point of view. Should do once, but not twice
    - Heather Mesite - we need to relook at the way the feedback portion is structured. Do we use instructors or just judges for the review portion?
    - If we do one for 2010, when do we do it in the season? Relatively close to first real show of the season would be more beneficial. Task force dictated the dates of those shows. Tim feels we should make it more interactive. Judges should take a different approach for the review show. Add more time to the individual unit times. Make the show a block of time in the morning session and then a regular show in the evening.
    - Steve Takata- has seen review shows that are very informal, not sponsored or structured by the organization. A very relaxed setting. Setting a call time, everyone shows up, then the instructors figure out times and what to do for the show. A no pressure situation.
    - Aaron Moss- team building between units in a non-competitive atmosphere. At the Legacy get-together, they charged parents, not the kids.
    - One judge review show for 2010. Aaron Moss moved, Kenny Bailey 2nd. All in favor. Date for review show is January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Have unofficial show set up via the instructors. What is the position for judges? Could be crossing a boundary for affiliation. If a judge shows up and discusses shows with various units, that judge will now have affiliation and would need to discuss with chief judge.
  - Number of Contests for 2009- Do we change for 2010? Proposed calendar further down.
    - Skip until we talk about calendar
- Championship Venue – Discussion on Pros and Cons of Denver Coliseum
  - What can be done better for 2010
    - General consensus, great facility.
    - Some want the basket floor back. Saved \$800. Where they lay the floor, is where it is, we can't control that. It would not be centered.
    - Lights were okay at 45% on front bank. Keep them that way.
    - Make sure communication about first aid gets to all units-who and how to locate them

### **Budget Items**

- Review Budget from 2009 and discuss options for 2010
  - Judges expense was right on with budget. With no travel expenses, went to pay local judges.
  - Certain items, printer/computer, donated to the circuit. Circuit budget was \$600.
  - At the end of 2009, we are in the black, not the red. More money was brought in by additional guards paying dues & increase in host fees.
  - Once 2010 budget is set, we can move forward with judging ideas for 2010.

### **New Business**

#### Growth Concerns (both number of guards and the level of guards)

- 2009 had more members this year than in years past
- Each year is different. Growth depends on who is teaching, where they are and what budgets are set at.

#### Presidents Task Force/Member Representation

- Representation of the winner from each class corresponds with the board to help make decisions
- Kenny Bailey- issues with the judging. Spoke with Dean Decker to bring up with the chief judge, but did not get issues resolved.
- Task force is a necessary entity of the association, but needs to be looked at structurally. If the first place unit cannot uphold responsibility, then it's sent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, and so on to put the time in to make the task force happen. Equal representation from each division.
- Should continue task force and defer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team if a unit as moved up (ie Opus 10).
- Task force for 2010 includes:
  - MS- Westlake MS
  - NV- Palisade HS
  - RA- Mountain Range
  - SA- Pomona
  - IA- Malachi
  - SO- Legacy
  - IO- Opus 10
  - IW- Signature
- Make responsibilities known for the task force and get out to membership. Membership input in between RMCGA bi-annual meetings. Task force should meet twice before November 2009 meeting, bring to the membership at that meeting. First meeting will be 1) what are the responsibilities, second meeting 2) taking a look at things that need to be changed/alterd.
- Keep champions for 2009 on the task force. Motioned: Shauna Hodges, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Moss.

#### Going Digital: How did this work for the membership?

- Tony Christofano- as a judge, it was good.
- Must listen to comments prior to critique unless late on in the show.

Music Usage: Do we adhere to what WGI does, must get copyright information?

- If you pay into ASCAP & BMI, you can use music of any type in a public venue. This music includes the filler music (via Craig). We can pay annual dues to use this music. We will check into this and bring to November meeting.
- We will follow the WGI rule about music choices. Please refer to the WGI list for non-usable songs. A list of those is available at [www.WGI.org](http://www.WGI.org). As we are selling DVD's, we will be adhering to the WGI rules.

### **Judging Items: Kevin Morris (Chief Judge) (not in attendance)**

- Judge Planning for next year - budget, WGI usage, overall plans
  - Waiting to see what the budget will be for 2010 to proceed planning. 2009 season was within the given budget. Kevin did what was asked of him by the membership to use local judges, rather than WGI usage.
  - Mike O'Neill- spoke with Kevin about bringing in one outside judge in each caption, one time a season, to assist in judging. Use them at shows, and training session. Approximately \$1500 for one judge to come in a weekend. Airfare, hotel, food, show & training session.
- Judge Coordinator Position
- Chief Judge Position
  - Was conveyed that Kevin did not realize how much responsibility was put on both positions, as one. Including scheduling, who many judges will be where and when. Obtaining feedback from all judges, training new judges.
  - Membership should take a look at this, is there enough for two positions as we had in previous years?
- Review Process/Training
  - New judges did do tapes at all shows, did feedback with them and utilized a few in the later shows.
  - Long time judges will mentor new judges within the caption for 2010.
  - Spoke about setting up judge coordinator per caption to help the load.
  - The only way local judges will succeed, are the units coming into critique to give input. If unable to attend critique, can go through chief judge to contact a specific judge for feedback.
  - Possible miscommunication between judges and instructors. Judges work for the membership and issues could clear up. Explaining the process to newer instructors would be helpful.
  - RMCGA has set up judge training sessions, but we cannot make people come. Be watching emails for these sessions.

### **WGI Regional**

- WGI Denver Regional is scheduled for **February 27<sup>th</sup>**.
  - Legacy is going to put a proposal in for hosting the regional. They would like to do both guard & percussion.

### **Proposed Contest Schedule for 2010**

- RMCGA Contest – January 23  
Review Show
- RMCGA Contest – January 30
- RMCGA Contest – February 6
- RMCGA Contest – February 12
- RMCGA Contest – February 20
- **WGI Regional – February 27**
- RMCGA Contest – March 6
- RMCGA Contest – March 13
- RMCGA Contest – March 20
- RMCGA Championships – March 27 (Coliseum)\*
- RMCGA Championships—March 28 (Coliseum)\*
- RMCGA Championships—April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Coliseum) \*
- WGI World Color Guard Championships - April 8-9

\*Currently 2<sup>nd</sup> hold for the March dates at the Coliseum. Easter Sunday is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Facilities are chosen on postmark and venue.
- All schools should have equal opportunity to host a show
- Doing state after WGI? Consensus is not likely.
- Date is most important to the membership that was in attendance. Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Venue will be looked at with the understanding that March 27<sup>th</sup> we have a 2<sup>nd</sup> hold on the Coliseum. If the Coliseum is

available, we will book the Coliseum. Will be left up to the Board, President, to find the best location possible for championships. Motioned Dean Decker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Darren Dukart, opposed, Todd Carrasco

### Elections

**President** nominee(s) – Dean Decker

- No nomination from the floor
- Re-elected for 2010-2012
- 13-0

**Treasurer** nominee(s)- Peggy Sparks

- No nomination from the floor
- Re-elected for 2010-2012
- 13-0

### Any other new business.

### Discuss and vote on proposals

#### Judging

Proposal	Goal: Improve the depth of knowledge and recognition skills of the judges as to the qualities of the Open and World units.  Action: Have a session in December, or early January, where the Opens and Worlds may have one hour each with the judges to present anything they would like.
Your Names Affiliation	William Chumley Legacy HS
Rational for proposal	I have seen this work in Holland where the Opens are extremely competitive and also challenging the community to grow. These sessions could include demonstrations of equipment/body phrases and why they are challenging or musical, or reviews of staging, or live performances, or whatever the Open/World instructors desire. This would foster both shared knowledge and communication. Any and all of the Open/World units would have the opportunity to present - it would be their time and format for their hour.

#### Opposed- Did not Pass

Proposal	Schedule a WGI judge weekly, or at regular intervals, at the shows to judge and to hold a training session with the judges.
Your Names Affiliation	William Chumley Legacy HS
Rational for proposal	This provides both better input to the units and it provides weekly training to the judges.

We must invest more in the training and growth of the local pool of judges. This means exposure to National judges and a higher recognition of the National level instructors and teams that we already have. It cannot be left to just one person. Perhaps this is a pre-critique with the Open/World instructors, or a more detailed presentation by those instructors following a contest? We're missing out on ensuring the teams receive the best input and the judges receiving a broader range of training.

- This proposal is a financial issue.
- This is also being looked at for two classifications, not the entire circuit.
- Board needs to address budget and this will be talked about at the November meeting after budget has been completed.

Proposal	<p>Goal: No unqualified judges assigned.</p> <p>Action: Implement a "missing judge" policy whereby we do not risk poor treatment of the units due to a judge not being ready to judge that class. If there is a missing judge, take the average score of the other four judges to determine that missing score.</p> <p>Action: If faced with this situation, go to the units affected by class and solicit ideas and solutions for filling the missing judge slot. At this point, there are instructors from other classes that I would prefer to trust with my teams. At least they recognize what it is that we are truly achieving.</p>
Your Names Affiliation	<p>William Chumley, Phaidra Reed Legacy HS, Rampart HS, Lakewood HS</p>
Rational for proposal	<p>We are at a crossroads that occurs often in our activity: the units are achieving at a level that is challenging for the judges to recognize, reward, and rate. This has happened often in my 30 years with the association. We must take steps to ensure the units receive the best adjudication possible.</p> <p>Considering that our mission is to "hold competitions" for our units, we must address the need for qualified judges. At this point, the units are not receiving the information they need to be successful at all levels. It is not enough to have judges who "care" or who "try hard." The importance of high quality skills in the judges is vital to our future.</p>

- Will table this until November until originator can be in attendance and speak about this

Proposal	<p>Goal: No unexpected, out-of-the-norm decisions "in the moment" at a contest.</p> <p>Action: Chief Judge actively mentors and monitors judges during the contest. Upon reviewing the recap, and before scores</p>
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are finalized, Chief Judge will assist judges in applying the criteria accurately and make changes to the scores as appropriate. The teachable moment is only in the present at the contest. We cannot afford to have performers mistreated during a contest.

Your Names  
Affiliation

William Chumley, Phaidra Reed  
Legacy HS, Rampart HS, Lakewood HS

Rational for proposal

Again, the criticality of serving the units is paramount to having "full panels." Decisions have been made that put units at risk in the competitive moment. There must be active monitoring of the situation to ensure decisions accurately reflect the reality of the competitive results.

The vote is NO for no out of the norm decisions.

Proposal

Use qualified instructor/judges across the classes regardless of affiliation

Your Names  
Affiliation

William Chumley, Phaidra Reed  
Legacy HS, Rampart HS, Lakewood HS

Rational for proposal

We have qualified individuals who can be trusted to judge the shows regardless if their unit is in the class. This past season, there was an effort to use nonaffiliated people to avoid any issues. However, I am not sure the judges were the best possible in all situations. We must revisit this situation and give the Chief Judge more tools to use.

- If we allow affiliations the circuit will lose bonification with WGI.
- Primary affiliation is looked at as someone coming in for rehearsals, clinics or teaching.
- Voted and did NOT pass

Proposal

Use single panels of judges as a first priority. Use qualified instructor/judges across the classes regardless of affiliation to make this possible. Confirm comfort with this plan by class as appropriate, or required.

Your Names  
Affiliation

William Chumley, Phaidra Reed  
Legacy HS, Rampart HS, Lakewood HS

Rational for proposal

We are better served with more focused panels (fewer people judging each contest) with augmentation by WGI folks. We can save money even as we spend money for the additional exposure

and training. Affiliations cause some problems here along with the need to "expose" folks to real-time judging as part of the process. It still seemed like some weeks had too many judges and we have to pay them for their work. Just wondering . . .

I think the budget for judges has not been managed effectively. With more focus to "who" is judging, I think we could spend the same amount and receive higher quality input from the locals and still afford to bring in some WGI folks. Given a detailed plan for training and input, I think we could raise dues/fees as required. Or, as in years' past, ask the Opens/Worlds to pay for WGI judges as they would like.

I see these as two separate issues:

- 1) Poor management of the judging budget overall.
- 2) The need for WGI folks, outside input and training for the local judges.

- Vote: Did not pass

## Championships

Proposal

I would like to propose that we change the 2009 Championships format. I propose that we return to a format that allows all units to perform in finals or that we have a single performance that day.

Your Names  
Affiliation

Melissa Abraham  
Pisteuo

Rational for proposal

- Adapting a format that allows all units to participate in a final performance followed by a full guard retreat will provide all guards the opportunity to celebrate the success of other groups.
- The excitement of championships and standing on the floor with hundreds of other performers inspires members to return for another season. When we end the season by acknowledging the accomplishments of those around us it fosters the desire to continue and motivates participants to do better.
- Performers are able to see that they are a part of something much bigger and will develop a greater respect for the accomplishments of their own guard as well as accomplishments of others.
- Many of our guard members voted to give the sportsmanship award to guards that did not make it into finals. If all guards attend retreat then they will be available to receive the award if chosen.

- One of the best ways to grow our circuit and strengthen our current guards is to give our developing guards the opportunity to observe the talent of more mature guards and to build a relationship with guards at different levels.
- With split class, caption only retreats all season, we are performing in a vacuum. Many members of developing guards do not have the opportunity to see the more experienced guards and the more experienced guards do not have the opportunity to support the developing classes. An all inclusive championship performance would provide performers the chance to view and support guards they have not previously had contact with.
- RMCGA can increase profits by switching to another format.
- In past years our guard has purchased 30-40 championships tickets – many of them prelims/finals tickets. This year our guard more than doubled and we purchased around 10 prelims only tickets. This is potentially a several hundred dollar difference for our guard alone. We had more support than ever before this season. Lack of ticket sales were due to the fact that developing classes preformed early in the morning and a spot in finals was uncertain.
- If supporters know in advance that the guard they would like to see will be performing, they will be a lot more likely to pay the ticket price to see the show. Having a prelims/finals option for all units will increase the size of our audience as well as profits for the event.

- Feeling of everyone on the floor at finals as an educational aspect
- Voting: Everyone makes finals: PASSED
- Logistically the association will look at how this will be done

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm. Motioned by Vince Hodges & Second by Aaron Moss