

Fall Edition

Directors News Letter



Ken Dining

MYCGC President

Fall Edition

Hello Directors!,

It's hard to believe that the Winter Guard season is just around the corner! Most of you are in the middle of planning, budgeting and even designing, writing or perhaps even teaching your winter programs. I wanted to pass along some helpful items and reminders as we get ready for the 2013 Season.

First, for those getting ready for the NYSFBC Championships next week, I want to take the opportunity to wish you the best of luck and hope that your students have a great experience at the Carrier Dome next Sunday!

Second for everyone who attend the MYCGC Fall Clinic and Meeting, a personal thank you, I hope you found the presentations to be helpful! I would personally like to thank the Shen folks, Scott & Christine along with their talented student for providing a great demonstration regarding Movement and Equipment breakdowns regarding the criteria of the judges sheets and specifically how they plan for the growth of their program. To Larry for taking a deep dive into defining Effect! And finally to the members of the NYSFCJ, for traveling out and sharing insight to our topics. I include Larry's presentation on the mycgc.org site for you to have as a guide in designing your shows.

Again...Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to all!

Finally, if you would like to provide an announcement of your 2013 program in the Winter News Letter being released in December (much like the WGI Press releases), please send them to me and I will be glad to add them.

Attached in this Newsletter you will find:

- Important Dates to Remember
- Reminder on the proposals that passed
- Information regarding enhancements to our Website
- Information regarding the January Field Days hosted by Phoenix
- Updated WGI information
- New Groups becoming members of our Circuit and a group takes a season off.
- Adds

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the upcoming season! On behalf of the MYCGC Board have a great Thanksgiving and productive fall getting ready for winter!

Sincerely,'

-Ken

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

November Judges Clinic Information:

Below is a note I received from Richard Fishette

Hi Ken,

The NYFCJ annual Clinic for the Color Guard season is going to be held on Sunday, November 18, 2012. The event will again be held at the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY.

This year's clinicians will be Kristen O'Melia and Jeff Namian.

This clinic, as in the past, is open to all of your circuit's directors and instructors. I believe that the past few years have been successful in bridging the gap between the judges and instructors helping to educate us all of us who have attended. Hopefully this will continue to grow and benefit us all.

We, the Federation, appreciate this sharing and hopefully we can continue to develop this relationship for years to come. Thank you.

Richard J. Fischette
NYFCJ - Caption Head

I highly recommend that you take advantage of this clinic, it can help you during the 2013 season!

November 1, 2012:

Show Host Fees and Unit Registration Fees are Due!

Invoices and information regarding both of these can be found at www.mycgc.org, under Directors Forms

January 1, 2013:

Membership Rosters are due!

MYCGC Proposals that passed at the fall meeting:

MYCGC Proposal Form

Proposal Description:

MYCGC Championship Promotion Scores:

Units who receive a promotion score within in SRA, SA3, and SA2 will be promoted to the next class for the following competitive season. Guards that hit the promotion score at championships in SA1, IA, or Open will NOT automatically be moved to the next class. SRA, SA3 & SA2, Units that would like to petition to remain in the class or even move down would need to send in writing the reason for the request by Sept. 1 (4 months prior to the competitive season). The Board will make a decision based on the best possible outcome for that units members. That unit will be under review for the first 2 weeks they come out in the next season in the class they petitioned to be in.

Rational:

Units in SRA who hit the promotion score would be demonstrating A Class skills and therefore would be moved to the SA3 Class. Guards in SA3 and SA2 who receive the promotion score would be promoted to the next class. The A Sheet remains the same in the next class.

It is also the intent to have groups compete from the start in the class that best suits them. Having member be promoted and then demoted is not the best approach to grow a program. It would best to be promoted, then demoted.

SA1, IA and Open Groups who hit the Championship Score will be encouraged to move to the next class, however, this requires Units to move to different sheets, and program strength can be much different from year to year. Moving from A to Open, or Open to World is a big step. Many units may compete on the National level, and by moving them can sometimes hurt rather than nurture a program.

Only in the case where units are promoted by WGI will they be required to move to a different class.

Submitter: Ken Dining

Date Submitted: 9/5/2012

Proposal Description:

Promotion/Demotion Scores:

Promotion/Demotion Scores are considered "indicators" that a unit has achieved a score that suggests that a Guard program may better be suited in a different class. At the time the score is achieved the MYCGC board will seek feedback from the Judging Community and Director of the program to determine what class the program should compete. Achieving the promotion/demotion scores will **no** longer automatically move that unit. A Formal review must be completed within 5 days. The Director of the program will be involved in the process. All efforts will be made to ensure that the decision is made in the best interest of the program members and the MYCG Circuit.

The ONLY Promotion/Demotion that is not eligible for this process is based on WGI Ruling's. If a unit is promoted or demoted by WGI, MYCGC will abide by that discussion.

Rational:

It's in the best interest of all programs that the score not be the single factor in the movement of a program to another class. Careful consideration should be made in conjunction with the program Director and the judging community to make sure that any movement to a program to another class is the best interest of the marching members of that program and the all members of the circuit.

Submitter: Ken Dining

Date Submitted: 9/5/2012

Proposal Description:

Change the order of when the Independent A class competes at Mid-York Shows

The Independent A class would compete following the SA1 class and prior to the SO class at all Mid-York sponsored events and Championships.

Rational:

As we have begun to develop the Scholastic Classes now with 3 levels it is important for the judging community as they look across the classes to have scholastic units grouped together and independent units together. Although it is the same sheet, WGI has recognized a different dynamic within Scholastic vs Independent units/classes. This change would also put our current class structure order of appearance in line with that of all WGI events.

Submitter: Scott Snell

Date Submitted: 9/19/2012

Proposal Description:

Open Show Dates During a Competitive Season:

When a Unit is scheduled to host a show and is unable to on the date held for that competitive season, the Vice President of MYCGC will attempt to offer solutions to find a weekend that may work. If by the fall meeting a solution has not been made, the Circuit will open the available date to units who may want to host a show for that season in a first come first serve basis. Unit must show proof of having a facility for that date. The show date will remain the date for the original Units home show for the next season, however, if they do not host a show in the second year the date is then offered to the unit who hosted the show the previous year. If that Unit cannot host it will be available by a first come first serve basis.

This is for active units ONLY. A inactive unit can host a show only one year without being competitive, if the unit does not come out the following year their date is released.

Rational:

Many units may have the opportunity to raise additional funds by hosting a show. To not leave these weekends empty would be a missed opportunity for some groups who may need financial support.

Submitter: Ken Dining

Date Submitted: 9/5/2012

NEW FOR 2013 MYCGC.ORG!

We are moving making future forms on our website user friendly by allowing you the ability to fill out on-line without having to mail them in!!! Also in the works is to make our site mobile friendly!!!

We have made it possible for you to fill out your show write-ups on line! Once done they are housed so that all show hosts can pull your write-up of the site for use in programs and shows!!! No more need for endless emails to send them in!!! Once you set with your show, make sure you go out there and fill out the form!

*The Feedback was GREAT,
The Experience was Fantastic!*

We're talking about the
Phoenix Field Day Preview Show!

Consider bringing your Guard Program(s) to the 2013 Field Day!

What , Why & When

Your Groups gets to perform and interact with Judges prior to the start of the season... only have 2 minutes done? NO PROBLEM, Uniforms not finished?... NO PROBLEM, Props not painted?... NO PROBLEM!!!

It's a great experience, for staffs, Judges and members to interact! The feedback from last year was impressive, and for those who participated found it to be a perfect way to get their members ready for the season!

January 5, 2013

More Information to follow!

If you need immediate details contact Desiree Moore:
DMoore@PhoenixCSD.org

NEW!: A and Regional A Class Scoring

At the Color Guard Advisory Board meeting held in May, color guards were advised that judging A and Regional A Class color guards on the current 70/130 Equipment and Movement Individual Analysis score sheets was becoming increasingly challenging for the judges to maintain proper spreads within each sub-caption due to the reduced numbers available in Vocabulary. As currently being applied, there are inadequate spreads in the Excellence sub-caption, which should be driving the bottom line score.

In addition, the subsequent impact on Open and World classes was an overemphasis on Excellence and a need to enrich the recognition for the Vocabulary content in those classes.

While there were discussions about possibly returning to 100/100 Individual Analysis sub-captions in the A and Regional A Classes in the future, the advisory board voted that judges would be allowed to use 100/100 sub-captions as a tool when assigning scores in order to maintain a consistent approach to numbers management for the 2013 season. Those scores will then be factored on the recap to reflect the 70/130 philosophy of the IA score sheets in the A and Regional A Classes. Essentially, the desired philosophy for the A and Regional A color guards is maintained while giving judges an improved tool for its application.

The benefits of this new approach are:

- Keeps the judge using the same approach in assigning numbers (100/100) throughout the contest day while keeping the desired emphasis on Excellence in the A and Regional A Classes
- Allows better numbers management in the A Class Excellence sub-caption by having more opportunity to utilize the entire range of the sub-caption.
- Gives flexibility for the future should sub-caption emphasis change in future years

We wish to emphasize again that there is absolutely **no change to the philosophy of the Individual Analysis score sheets in the A and Regional A classes**. We hope that this is an improved method for judges to better maintain numbers management those classes while standardizing how scores are assigned in the IA captions across all classes.

Watch for more information on this in the coming weeks by visiting the Color Guard page on WGI.org!

**A CLASS INDIVIDUAL ANALYSIS
EXCELLENCE SCORE FACTOR CHART**

BOX 1

Judge	Factor
1	1.30
2	2.60
3	3.90
4	5.20
5	6.50
6	7.80

BOX 2

Judge	Factor
7	9.10
8	10.40
9	11.70
10	13.00
11	14.30
12	15.60
13	16.90
14	18.20
15	19.50
16	20.80
17	22.10
18	23.40
19	24.70
20	26.00
21	27.30
22	28.60
23	29.90
24	31.20
25	32.50
26	33.80
27	35.10
28	36.40
29	37.70

BOX 3

Judge	Factor
30	39.00
31	40.30
32	41.60
33	42.90
34	44.20
35	45.50
36	46.80
37	48.10
38	49.40
39	50.70
40	52.00
41	53.30
42	54.60
43	55.90
44	57.20
45	58.50
46	59.80
47	61.10
48	62.40
49	63.70
50	65.00
51	66.30
52	67.60
53	68.90
54	70.20
55	71.50
56	72.80
57	74.10
58	75.40
59	76.70

BOX 4

Judge	Factor
60	78.00
61	79.30
62	80.60
63	81.90
64	83.20
65	84.50
66	85.80
67	87.10
68	88.40
69	89.70
70	91.00
71	92.30
72	93.60
73	94.90
74	96.20
75	97.50
76	98.80
77	100.10
78	101.40
79	102.70
80	104.00
81	105.30
82	106.60
83	107.90
84	109.20
85	110.50
86	111.80
87	113.10
88	114.40
89	115.70

BOX 5

Judge	Factor
90	117.00
91	118.30
92	119.60
93	120.90
94	122.20
95	123.50
96	124.80
97	126.10
98	127.40
99	128.70
100	130.00

STUFF FOR YOU TO BE THINKING ABOUT.....

As you move ahead with your winter plans, I wanted to put a few things “out there” for you to be considering. I also wanted to give you a preview of where Karl and I will be heading this year.

I surveyed several judges and asked them what they felt was the greatest area for growth within the guards overall. Of course the responses were as varied as the judges and the guards, but one specific aspect came up again and again and that was musicality. We’ve talked about music often, but I find that there are aspects that can/will enrich every single guard. So, we’ll be exploring that as the season develops.

A couple of points cropped up repeatedly and those bare an advance comment.

BEWARE OF...

- ☒ Music that is too much about doom and gloom
- ☒ Music that is so abstract that neither the performers nor the audience really relates to it
- ☒ Music that lacks dynamic contrast
- ☒ Music that is so far “over the kids’ heads” that they can’t keep up

YOU CAN EXPECT.....

- ☒ Videos and tutorials on choices of interpreting your sound track
- ☒ Diagramming your music so you get the most out of your interpretative choices
- ☒ Understanding and teaching the dynamic effort changes that express the music fully
- ☒ Manipulating the audience response – mood, characteristics, aesthetics, etc.
- ☒ In-season “repairs” to problems/weakness in musicality

This actually covers a whole spectrum of considerations when selecting your music. Be cautious about your desire to be different through picking music that might be weird. By all means be creative, but remember too that the A class guards are learning and the Open class guards are exploring. Set them up for success and give them a sound track they can understand, relate to and illustrate.

OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION.....

- ☒ Designing a personality
- ☒ Creating characteristics that illustrate both the guard persona and the music (making it fun and effective)
- ☒ Plus any topics you submit for discussion.

2013 promises to be fabulous. So, be thinking about all of these points and we’ll get started on them in the next week or so. I’d love to hear your ideas and plans for 2013.

Shirlee Whitcomb

Director of Color guard Development
shirleewhitcomb@aol.com

2013...IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

It's time to make smart decisions

Greetings Everyone!!!

I'm excited to be looking at WGI's 36th year and the potential that exists for all the guards!! Karl and I have some exciting plans to help you make this the best of all years. 2013 is slated to be a "Season of Solutions" for the most common issues many guards face. Look for lots on enhancing musicality covering all the challenges in that area. Look for tips on how to create a "personality" and stylized look for your members.

MAKE GOOD USE OF THE FALL SEASON

Many of you are neck-deep in Marching Band and anxious to get to winter guard. We all know that feeling. BUT.... Marching Band can be the start of your winter project. Use this time to develop vocabulary, design "characteristics" that develop the personality, and possibly even design equipment you can re-cycle into the winter project. Think ahead and think more broadly. Consider the musical style of your band and consider whether that style might translate into the winter program.

We're in a place in time where finances govern so many of our options. Let me remind you that the one thing that is absolutely **FREE** is **imagination and creativity**. Apply those tools to make your group "stand out" as unique and memorable.

DON'T FORGET TO ASK FOR HELP

Want to chat about some of your ideas? Want help in how to teach them? Simply want to network about what others are doing? Write to me on any topic that crosses your mind. Nothing is too insignificant!!! You'd be amazed at how many folks have similar questions/concerns. If there's any topic you'd like covered please send it to me and I promise you it will be addressed.

It's not too early to start sending in your show concepts. I've already heard from some guards and am excited at the **entertaining** potential in their show ideas.

BIG REMINDER

A couple of broad topics to remember.....

- ☑ In selecting music, look for something that offers contrast with highs and lows dynamically
- ☑ In designing your floors, remember that a floor that is extremely busy or dominant might upstage your staging and equipment writing unless you utilize it specifically to showcase/spotlight major events.

I look forward to hearing from you and wish you all a grand and successful season!!!

Shirlee Whitcomb

Director of Color guard Development
shirleewhitcomb@aol.com

**We are happy and excited to announce we
have 2 more groups joining us for the
2013 MYCGC Season!**

Please join me in welcoming,

Baldwinsville ERA

&

Victor Varsity SA1

Spectrum to take the 2013 Season Off:

We were notified by Tyler Stablel, the current Director of Spectrum that the Spectrum Winter Guard will go inactive for the 2013 Season.

This program over the years has represented the MYCGC as a true symbol of the activity, from its humble beginnings to their status as a Nationally Ranked Color Guard and WGI Finalist, they will truly be missed by friends and fans during the upcoming season!

If you are interested in being a member of the 2014 Program please visit: **spectrumwinterguard.homestead.com**, click the icon to apply!!!

I look forward to seeing them back out in 2014!





Tons of flag fabrics!

Over 80 colors of poly-China silk is what the Northeast Band Supply Co. now has available! Recently, they joined with a fabric mill and literally have tons of flag fabrics available! This would include tissue lames in white and black warp and color on color lames. Also, chiffons, iridescent pearls, sparkle organza and many others. For more information, you may contact the Northeast Band Supply Co. at www.northeastbandsupply.com.

**Cortland Winter Guard Looking for a used Tan
Floor, any condition! Please contact: Jodi at
<clandpurplehaze@yahoo.com>**

VICTOR

Has MANY uniforms for sale! Visit MYCGC.org to see all the details!

Helpful Information to share with your School:

I have been asked several times to see if I had any information I could share with schools from programs who are challenged with Schools not understanding the importance of a Winter Guard Program. Shortly after the 2012 WGI's I reached out to the Marketing Director of WGI and asked if they could help supply us with some items we could have to share with our schools. Below is a document WGI's released that may help some of you with when you are challenged with Budgets and Rehearsal Space.

See the Next Page for printable versions of this Article...

Also, when you visit wgi.org, if you select Color Guard and then proceed to educational Articles you will find one entitled, "Creating a competitive Winter Guard Program". This article contains a great deal of information and includes even more in-depth information regarding the benefits of the program.

I hope you find these articles helpful!

THE BENEFITS OF WINTER GUARD

The benefits students derive from being in a winter guard are innumerable.

EXPERIENCES THAT MOLD THE STUDENTS' FUTURE

- Students experience a “community” of peers all focused on a positive common goal.
- Students learn about commitment.
- Students learn that competition is a means to set new standards and they learn to push themselves to meet and try to surpass those standards.
- Students learn to respect their competitive peers and grow from that experience.
- Students learn how to cope with situations that sometimes don't feel “fair” and they learn how to turn that experience into motivation for growth.
- Students learn the art of communication to others through performance.
- Students develop the self- confidence to tackle tough tasks and see them through to completion.

ARTISTIC AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Students benefit physically from the training and demands placed on them through movement, dance and prop manipulation.
- Students build endurance through expanded rehearsal and training programs.
- Students learn how to solve problems creatively and adapt to the need to be flexible in their pursuit of their performance objectives.
- Students learn music. The rhythmic and dynamic challenges placed on them turns them into visual musicians as they illustrate the sound of the show through body and equipment.
- Students broaden their aesthetic reality through diverse program and performance situations.

BENEFITS TO THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

- The presence of a competitive guard in a school places the students in the public eye bringing positive awareness to the school and the community. They are a Public Relations asset.
- Marching Band programs are enhanced through the guard's ability to create and illustrate the music for the gratification of the viewing audience.
- The commitment and dedication of the guard, learned through winter programs, enhances the performance standards of the entire band.

MOST OF ALL, THE STUDENTS FIND JOY THROUGH PERFORMANCE, ESTABLISH LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH THEIR PEERS, LEARN TO NETWORK WITH OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN GUARDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND CREATE MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME.

