

**BY-LAWS AND POLICY MANUAL**

Proposal 1.

Submitted by: Brian Dutton, Bentonville H.S.

Proposal: Adjust **Article VIII. Delegates** to the following:

- A.) A unit's membership fees must be paid in full to be eligible to vote at any general meeting.
- B.) Every circuit unit will provide one (1) director delegate and two (2) alternate delegates, who are season-long staff members, at the time of registration. Alternate delegates are not required if those spots cannot be filled. Only one (1) of those listed delegates will be allowed to vote at the annual meeting for that particular unit. Alternate delegates can only be changed with request from the President no less than one week in advance of general meetings.
- C.) Director delegates who are directors of more than one unit (i.e. multiple units from the same school, director of a scholastic and independent unit from the same region, etc.), are permitted to cast a vote for each paid unit they are responsible for. All units represented are also eligible for early-entry performance times.
- D.) If a Director delegate cannot attend a circuit meeting, a proxy vote may be given to another delegate that will attend the general meeting. However, each attending delegate may only bring one (1) proxy vote in addition to his or her own vote(s). All proxy votes must be submitted in writing, by the unit director requesting proxy, to the President no less than one week in advance of general meetings.
- E.) Proxy votes are not entitled to the early-entry performance group. Proxy votes are solely meant for voting purposes for those directors that cannot attend the general meeting.
- F.) In the event that no director/alternate delegates representing a unit are present and a proxy request has not been submitted, those units will not be permitted to vote at that meeting and will not be eligible for the early entry performance group.
- G.) All MCCGA Board members are only permitted to vote as their unit delegate and will not receive an additional vote based on their Board status.



H.) The President of MCCGA will only cast a vote in the event of a tie.

Rationale:

Why does attendance at the summer meeting dictate voting privileges? Everyone pays the fee, everyone should have a voice. A proxy vote for those directors that cannot attend a general meeting lets their voice be heard in the circuit that they are a member of just as much as those that are able to attend. Fair Warning: Those directors need to ensure that their vote is cast the way they intend it to be will their proxy director.

If every unit pays the same fee, why do some units not get the same voting privilege due to their director having multiple units, even when their director is at the annual meeting? If a school has two or more units and a single director, each unit should be counted as a vote in the circuit community since they are a paying member. It seems logical that early-entry guidelines follow as well since the director of that unit, even though they are the director of their sister unit, is in attendance.

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Proposal 2.

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Percussion Advisory Board

Proposal: Starting in 2018 limit the number of proposals add the following to **Article IX**.

**Amendments to the Bylaws.**

"D. No more than 3 Proposals may be submitted by any school or organization with member units in MCCGA. The Board of Directors is not bound by this limit."

Since this states school or organization that means that I as the Director at Laquey would be able to make a proposal with Laquey Winds, Laquey Percussion, and Laquey Guard, but if I wanted to make a proposal with Laquey JV or middle school guard I would not be able to. 3 per school or organization, not member unit.

Rationale:

The summer meeting is too long and is basically only about proposals. As a circuit we've offered countless bribes to try to get members to the summer meetings but we still stay around the same basic numbers. When groups have issues during the year we ask them to attend the meeting, yet we often get "I don't just want to sit around and hear arguing about bylaws." That is a very real necessity of the summer meeting, but it should not be the entire summer meeting. The summer meeting should be about collaboration, and education as much as anything but

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those take a back seat to the proposals and the accompanying arguing over said proposals. If we reduced the raw bulk of proposals, then we could have more time to focus on the other things, and might actually attract more people to the meeting.

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#### Proposal 3.

Submitted by: Troy Peterson, MCCGA Percussion Coordinator

Proposal: Add WINDS to the Percussion Rule Book, add to by-laws and Policy Manual. Allow WINDS groups to register and compete at all shows that have percussion. Classes offered would match WGI Classifications (Scholastic and Independent).

Rationale: The country and our circuit is experiencing growth in the Winds activity. As a first step to foster this growth in MCCGA we need to create an opportunity for competitive performance. Providing another venue for young people to achieve excellence the competitive arena.

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#### Proposal 4.

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Percussion Advisory Board

Proposal: Establish a winds class for MCCGA. Much like our Percussion Concert Class, this would be divided into Independent and Scholastic, but would just all be one class using the A class sheets. If a time came to where there were enough units to justify more classes then it could be brought up at a future summer meeting.

Rationale: Hollister. Smith Cotton. Lake Hamilton. These are all groups who have competed recently with MCCGA that did not in 2017. ALL of these groups did compete last year though, in WGI in the Winds division. MCCGA should offer every performance outlet that WGI does. Do we have enough to justify 3 separate classes in each Scholastic and Independent? Absolutely not, but we do have groups who are wishing to do this and they should not have to make the jump to compete in WGI just because there are no local options.

It is a matter of time before this becomes significantly larger. As of right now there are five groups who wish to do this next year. More and more directors will be drawn by several things.

1. Cost: It is cheaper to have one ensemble that has everything, than to register a group in percussion, and guard etc.
2. Overall musical benefit. Indoor groups rehearse at a minimum of two, three hour rehearsals a week for about 18 weeks. Some might go a little less, and many go more,

but this is a good base point. That means students who participate in indoor rehearse for at least 108 hours. Several directors have made the comment that they would rather their lead tuba player get that extra time in on tuba than on a bass drum. Especially in the heart of concert season.

3. For smaller schools that really struggle to fill out a full line or guard, they would now have access to performing indoors. Obviously these groups probably aren't going across the nation to hunt down regionals, but being able to participate in MCCGA makes winter performing actually a possibility. There have been some small school directors who even say they'd prefer to be able to march indoors for fear of getting swallowed up by a field/stadium.

Circuit Cost: None. WGI gave us the blueprint of how this would work at the St. Louis Regional. They just had a Percussion panel judge Winds. Pretty much all of our percussion judges work as band directors. In theory this means they won't have a problem getting in front of a band. If anything, this might make MCCGA money as it could lead to more entries. This would be down the road but it is still possible.

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#### Proposal 5.

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Percussion Advisory Board

Proposal: Create an extended board position for a Winds Coordinator. This person's responsibilities would be the same as the Percussion Coordinators are for their outlets, as well as the Education Coordinators. This person should also take the lead on making a rule book for winds much like what we have for percussion and guard. For this rule book policies should be taken from WGI just like the other groups.

One person should honestly be enough for the immediate future as the Winds circuit will likely be small. In the future if there becomes a need for a Winds Advisory Board, it would be this person's responsibility to propose that at the summer meeting.

Rationale: MCCGA is pretty well built on the Guard people handling the Guard stuff, and Percussion people handling Percussion stuff. While there is often crossover, it tends to work well this way. Winds should have someone there for them that is specifically there for them. There will still be some crossover, but that's always the case.

This would also mean that at summer meetings Winds people could meet with their coordinator instead of looping in with the other groups when we split.

Proposal 6.

Submitted by: Jo Smith, Mascoutah High School

Proposal: MCCGA Championships be moved every other year to the St. Louis area. Possibilities are the need for three sites in close proximity to make this change feasible. The following schools could be an example of how this could work. Belleville East, Mascoutah, and OFallon are all three within an 8 mile radius of each other. All are easy access of each other. Certainly other facilities could be considered.

Rationale: Would ease travel expenses for many groups.

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Proposal 7.

Submitted by: Trey Antonetti, MCCGA Color Guard Education Director

Proposal: Limit participation of performers in grade eight (8) or lower to the non-competitive Scholastic Cadet Class, or Independent units.

Rationale: Our circuit is made up of units from multiple states with multiple Educational and Athletic Associations, each with their own policies in regards to Jr. High level students competing with High School Students. In order for our current membership to continue to compete in our classification set-up, students in grade eight (8) or lower cannot compete with students in grades 10-12 and still meet the policies of all states involved. Students in grade nine (9) may compete at any level, against any other classification.

Financial Impact: Potentially higher revenue from the creation of more Cadet or independent groups and registration fees from said groups. Likely, no loss in revenue for the circuit.

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**COLOR GUARD RULEBOOK**

Proposal 8.

Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

Proposal: Revised Color Guard Rulebook IV.F.3; Mid Season Promotions to read:  
The top unit in each class and/or round (with the exception of A, Open, World) at each contest as well as all WGI Regional Finalists will be reviewed for reclassification to the next class.  
(Notification time: Wednesday prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> weekend of contests, or earlier, depending on the results of the Review Committee votes.)

**Rationale:**

The classification changes made during the 2017 season alleviate the need for the weekly review of so many units. In 2016 there were 19 mid-season reclassifications and in 2017 there was 1 unit reclassified. The change from the top 3 in each class/round to just the 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher in each class/round will decrease the number of weekly reviews that need to be completed by the committee thus providing review results in a more timely manner.

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**PERCUSSION RULEBOOK****Proposal 9.**

Submitted by: Troy Peterson, MCCGA Percussion Coordinator

**Proposal:**

- A. Increase the MCCGA Percussion/Winds Full Membership \$50.00 from \$600 to \$650.
- B. Increase the MCCGA Percussion/Winds Limited \$50.00 from \$225 to \$275.

**Rationale:** There is a desire to hire the very best judges at every show. To be able to cover costs for this acquisition of the top judges, in what has become a very competitive market, we must be able to cover the funds.

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