

# CIRCUIT TALK

NOVEMBER 2024

WWW.MCCGA.ORG

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMPETITION SUITE- MAKE SURE YOUR COMPETITION SUITE IS UP TO DATE FOR THE 2025 SEASON. DIRECTORS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ADD/DELETE INDIVIDUALS

WINDS GROUPS: WGI HAS TAKEN THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF OFFERING FREE EVENT REGISTRATION FOR A NEW WINDS GROUP OR A RETURNING GROUP THAT HAS NOT PARTICIPATED SINCE 2022 FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, STARTING THIS SEASON.

## HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS

LAST YEAR WE INDUCTED 5 AMAZING INDIVIDUALS INTO OUR FIRST MCCGA HALL OF HONOR. WE ARE OPENING UP HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 SEASON. PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR THE CRITERIA IN BOTH THE NOMINATION PROCESS AND THE SELECTION PROCESS.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE NOMINATION ONLINE FORM](#)

### Hall of Honor Selection Committee:

1. The committee will be made up of 5 individuals who have at least 5 years of experience within MCCGA and are NOT current board members. They do not need to currently be affiliated with MCCGA.
2. All nominations will be given to the selection committee members for individual votes of yes or no. 80% of committee members must vote yes on a nomination for the nominee to be selected as a Hall of Honor recipient. If there is not a 80% common yes there will not be a Hall of Honor recipient for that year.
3. Criteria for consideration while voting.
  - a. Meritorious contributions to MCCGA
  - b. Influence on the activity
  - c. Depth of service
  - d. Length of Service
  - e. Support to MCCGA in all areas
  - f. Success in program development

### MCCGA Hall of Honor:

*The Hall of Honor is the highest honor to those individuals who make a significant contribution to MCCGA and who have in some way influenced the course of our history. Their contribution may be made through artistic standards, administrative leadership or adjudication.*

### MCCGA Hall of Honor Nomination:

1. The nominee must have contributed to MCCGA for a minimum of 10 years (nominee does not need to be currently active in MCCGA)
2. Contribution examples but not limited to:  
Directors, Teaching Staff, Volunteers, Judges, Board Members, Designers, Writers.
3. 1 Letter of nomination explaining in detail why you think this individual is deserving of this award and 2 additional support letters from other individuals.

### Additional Details for the Nomination Process:

- A person may submit only one letter of nomination per year. However, that person may write letters of support for an unlimited number of candidates in that year.
- The selection committee shall accept only one letter of nomination and no more than two letters of support for a candidate. Please limit these letters to two sides of letter-sized paper — two single-sided pages or one double-sided letter-sized page.
- If the candidacy is proposed posthumously, please kindly include that information as well.
- The author of the letter of nomination is responsible to submit the letter of nomination and the support letters at the same time to MCCGA.
- All letters should be very specific about the accomplishments and history of the candidate in MCCGA. A list of bullet points or a numbered list of such things as dates of service, accomplishments, etc., is an excellent format. All letters must contain specific contact information about the author including name, email address, and home or mobile phone contact.
- Letter of nomination and any letters of support will be submitted via Google form posted on the MCCGA website. Submissions are due no later than February 1st

## DIRECTOR TIPS AND TRICKS

WHILE STARTING YOUR WINTER GUARD SEASON REMEMBER TO FOCUS ON THOROUGHLY PLANNING YOUR PRACTICES, UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENT'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, BUILDING A POSITIVE TEAM CULTURE, SETTING CLEAR GOALS, PRIORITIZING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, AND ENSURING PROPER WARM-UPS BEFORE EACH SESSION!

- HAVE A QUESTION OR TIPS/TRICKS TO SHARE????? EMAIL [PUBLICRELATIONS@MCCGA.ORG](mailto:PUBLICRELATIONS@MCCGA.ORG)



# VOCAB CORNER

*with Julie, Ashley & Liz*

## Vocabulary Corner:

**Horizontal Composing**—The development of events (or moments) through time from start to finish of the show. To successfully achieve horizontal composing, you should have drill and choreography that takes you seamlessly from one idea or moment to the next. For example, instead of just stopping to switch equipment, building the equipment change into the choreography, or layering on and off the floor will give you better horizontal composition. Visualize a road trip, and what happens from start to finish.

**Vertical Composing**—The design of the spatial plan, the body, and the equipment within each event (or moment). Vertical design is like a snapshot within the horizontal design of what is happening with the equipment, body, and/or spatially at that moment or within that event. For example, a vertical moment could be an ensemble flag toss. Think about what the body is doing under the toss and how they are placed on the floor spatially to give the greatest impact to that musical moment.

**Nuance**—A very slight difference in appearance, color, sound, movement, etc. The focus on nuance brings higher achievement and clarity. Nuance can be delivered with finite details, or full body/equipment events—think deeper, quality efforts.

**Orchestration**—The act of organizing a complicated plan or event very carefully. It includes the visual representation of the music and is reflected both horizontally and vertically. “Are you seeing what you hear in the soundtrack?”

**WGI COLOR GUARD EDUCATION VIDEO PLAYLIST--  
109 VIDEOS TO VIEW ON MANY DIFFERENT TOPICS.  
MOST OF THEM ARE ONLY A FEW MINUTES LONG.  
THEY ARE EASY TO WATCH AND PACKED WITH  
HELPFUL INFORMATION.**

**[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/PLAYLIST?  
LIST=PLEE98E3EEC7AD44C1](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEE98E3EEC7AD44C1)**



# EDUCATION CORNER

*with Julie, Ashley & Liz*

## WHAT DO THE JUDGES SHEETS MEAN?

### REGIONAL A SHEETS EDITION

IN THIS EDUCATION CORNER, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE WGI REGIONAL A JUDGE'S SHEETS, MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE MIDDLE COLUMN THAT IS LABELED, "POINTS OF COMPARISON".

### REGIONAL A CLASS DESIGN ANALYSIS

#### COMPOSITION VS. EXCELLENCE

COMPOSITION IS "WHAT STAGING/CHOREOGRAPHY/FOCUS NEEDS TO BE" WHILE EXCELLENCE IS "IS IT CLEAN?"

#### COMPOSITION

##### USE OF DESIGN ELEMENTS IN FORM, BODY, AND EQUIPMENT

- WITH THE MUSIC OFF, CAN YOU SEE WHERE THE FOCUS NEEDS TO BE?
- CAN THE JUDGE CLEARLY SEE TRAINING OF YOUR STUDENTS?

##### MOTION TO CONNECT EVENTS

- WHERE DO YOU WANT MY EYES TO GO? EX: TURN OFF MUSIC AND SIT IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE GYM FOR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.

##### DESIGN AND ORCHESTRATE THROUGH TIME AND IN LAYERED EVENTS

- LEADING MY EYE TO ALL APPLAUSE MOMENTS IN BETWEEN EVERY SOLO TOSS. GOOD RULE OF THUMB- YOU WANT APPLAUSE MOMENTS EVERY 20-30 SECONDS.

##### LOGIC AND CORRECTNESS OF DESIGN

- FORMATIONS MOVED THROUGH SPACE THAT MAKES SENSE WHILE NOT LETTING IT FEEL AWKWARD.

##### RELATIONSHIP TO/ENHANCEMENT OF AUDIO INCLUDING DYNAMIC RANGE OF EFFORTS

- HAVE MUSICALITY TO THE RHYTHMIC VALUE
- MUSIC SHARP? DO SHARP BODY. MUSIC SOFT? DO SOFT FLAG MOVES.

IF YOU HAVE A SMALLER TEAM, DON'T CHOOSE A HUGE SOUNDTRACK WITH MULTIPLE PARTS, KEEP IT SIMPLE



# EDUCATION CORNER

*with Julie, Ashley & Liz*

## TRANSITIONS AND EQUIPMENT CHANGES

- MAKING SURE WHEN YOU MOVE FROM IDEA TO IDEA THAT IT'S A PART OF THE OVERALL DESIGN.
- TRANSITIONS SHOULD FEEL SEAMLESS TO PUT EQUIPMENT DOWN/PICK UP.

## CHARACTERISTICS, DETAIL, AND NUANCE

- CREATIVE IDEAS THAT MATCH YOUR THEME WRITTEN IN THROUGHOUT THE SHOW
  - HOW CAN YOU BREAK UP THE EXPECTED THAT RELATES TO THE SHOW?

## EXCELLENCE

### ACHIEVEMENT OF SPACING, LINE, TIMING, ORIENTATION (IN EQUIPMENT, MOVEMENT, AND FORM)

- IS IT CLEAN?
- ARE THEY HITTING THEM?
  - CATCHING EQUIPMENT, FORMS (STAGING), ETC.

## KNOWLEDGE OF A DYNAMIC RANGE: SPACE, TIME, WEIGHT, FLOW

- DOES THE VOCABULARY/STAGING GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO FAST AND SLOW?
- CHECK OUT THE EDUCATION SECTION OF THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER FOR MORE DETAILED DEFINITIONS OF EACH TERM.

## ADHERENCE TO STYLE IN EQUIPMENT, MOVEMENT, AND MOTION

- CONSISTENCY FROM PERSON TO PERSON (ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DYNAMIC RANGE)

## TRAINING CONCENTRATION, STAMINA, RECOVERY

- HOW PERFORMERS STAY CONSISTENTLY "LOCKED IN", STAYING ENERGIZED/NOT TIRED, GETTING BACK IN FROM MISTAKES QUICKLY AND MATURELY.

## ACHIEVEMENT OF CHARACTERISTICS, DETAIL AND NUANCE

- ACHIEVING CREATIVE IDEAS THAT MATCH YOUR THEME WRITTEN THROUGHOUT YOUR SHOW



# JUDGES CORNER

*with Cheryl Myers*

HELLO ALL, AND WELCOME TO THE END, OR ALMOST END OF FIELD BAND SEASON! (UNLESS YOU HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARADE, IN WHICH CASE YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY AND ALSO MY SOLIDARITY AS I, TOO, WILL BE ON THE STREET WEARING SOME RIDICULOUS LIGHT-UP NECKLACE AND COUNTING IN THE JUNIOR FLAGS )

FOR THIS MONTH'S UPDATE, I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME MINOR BUT STILL IMPORTANT UPDATES TO THE WGI SHEETS FOR 2025. TO BE CLEAR, THIS DOES NOT INVOLVE A PHILOSOPHY SHIFT; I WOULD CLASSIFY IT AS AN EXTENSION OF OUR CURRENT DESCRIPTORS AND POCS ON THE SHEETS. THE ONE THAT WILL AFFECT OUR CIRCUIT MOST IS THE ADDITION OF THE WORD "CRAFTSMANSHIP" ON ALL SHEETS. WGI LEADERSHIP IS ASKING JUDGES TO DIG DEEPER INTO HOW PHRASES AND TRANSITIONS ARE CRAFTED. (THIS HAS ACTUALLY BEEN IN ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS FOR YEARS BUT HAS NOW MIGRATED ONTO THE SHEETS).

THE SECOND UPDATE IS THAT BOTH THE INDEPENDENT AND SCHOLASTIC WORD SHEETS WILL NOW HAVE THE WORDS "RISK THROUGH TIME" (IF YOU ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS, PREVIOUSLY, ONLY THE INDEPENDENT WORLD SHEETS HAD THIS DESCRIPTOR ADDED). PLEASE NOTE RISK DOES NOT MEAN DANGER, AND WE SHOULD DISCOURAGE GROUPS FROM ANYTHING THAT COULD PROVE HARMFUL. EXAMPLES GIVEN INCLUDE RISK THROUGH TIME AS A CHALLENGING SOUNDTRACK, AS A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO INTERPRETING MUSIC, NEW APPROACHES TO EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT, ETC. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE REFERRED TO RISK THROUGH TIME IN SKILLSETS LIKE A CHALLENGING EXCHANGE OR INCREDIBLY HIGH TOSSES, AND LEADERSHIP IS TRYING TO GET US AWAY FROM THAT ESTABLISHED STEREOTYPE OF SORTS. WHILE THIS DOES NOT PERSONALLY AFFECT OUR MEMBERSHIP JUST YET, I THINK IT WILL BE INTERESTING AS WE WATCH THE SW TEAMS THIS SEASON AND WITNESS HOW THEY TAKE ON THIS NEW LEVEL OF CHALLENGE!

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS MONTH. I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NOVEMBER, AND I'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE NEXT MONTH!

# Region Highlights

## Southern Region- Ozark High School



**DIRECTOR: THERESA WALLS**

**CLASS: SCHOLASTIC A/REGIONAL A/ CADET**

OZARK WINTER GUARDS HAVE BEEN A PART OF MCCGA FOR 20 YEARS! THE FIRST OZARK WINTER GUARD SHOW WAS 2004 "I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE BLUES" THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OZARK HAS HAD SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL SEASONS INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY 2024 SCHOLASTIC AA CHAMPIONSHIP. OZARK WINTER GUARD IS A FAMILY COMMUNITY AND PRIDES ITSELF ON BEING A POSITIVE, INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION. OZARK WINTER GUARD PROGRAMS IS MADE UP OF OUR VARIETY, JV, JUNIOR HIGH & VIP COLOR GUARD (SPECIAL EDUCATION GUARD) ONE OF OUR FAVORITE TRADITIONS IS OUR "HIGH FIVE LINE" BEFORE EVERY PERFORMANCE

## Eastern Region- North Point High School

**DIRECTORS NAME: ZACHARY O'CONNOR**

**MCCGA UNIT CLASSIFICATION: SCHOLASTIC AA**

NORTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL, NOW IN ITS FOURTH YEAR, HAS QUICKLY ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN THE COMPETITIVE WORLD OF MCCGA AND WGI, EARNING MULTIPLE MEDALS IN JUST A FEW SEASONS. THE GUARD PROGRAMS, FULL OF DEDICATION AND PASSION, CONTINUES TO GROW IN STRENGTH AND ARTISTRY. WHILE OUR UPCOMING SHOW CONCEPT REMAINS A SURPRISE, WE CAN SHARE THAT IT WILL FEATURE A DARK, STEAMPUNK-INSPIRED THEME, PROMISING A CAPTIVATING EXPERIENCE. WE HONOR TRADITIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE FORMER DIRECTOR, LIKE CIRCLING UP BEFORE PERFORMANCES, WHERE STUDENT LEADERS OFFER WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WHILE EVERYONE ENJOYS A JOLLY RANCHER. THIS RITUAL SERVES AS A HEARTFELT NOD TO THE PROGRAM'S ROOTS AND THE FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE THEY CREATED. WE HAVE BUILT ON THIS BY INCORPORATING A BLEND OF AVIDITY AND ONYX TRADITIONS, INCLUDING AN ENERGIZING PHRASE TO UNITE THE STUDENTS. THIS RITUAL IS A MOMENT TO FEEL CONNECTED AS ONE, DRIVEN BY THE SHARED PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING EACH OTHER AND CELEBRATING THE WIDER GUARD COMMUNITY. TOGETHER, WE EMBRACE THE BEAUTY OF WINTER GUARD AND THE CAMARADERIE THAT MAKES IT ALL SO SPECIAL.



# Region Highlights

## Western Region- Grain Valley JV



DIRECTOR-VALENTINA ROMO

CLASS- SCHOLASTIC A

GRAIN VALLEY WINTER GUARD HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF MCCGA SINCE 2009. IN 2011, GV HAD ONE SEASON OF TWO WINTER GUARDS. BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL THE 2018 WINTER SEASON THAT WE FULLY ESTABLISHED OUR GRAIN VALLEY HS JV TEAM. OUR JV TEAM FIRST COMPETED IN SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A CLASS UNTIL 2024. IN 2023, THEY WON THEIR ROUND IN SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A AT MCCGA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND WERE MOVED TO SCHOLASTIC AA THE FOLLOWING SEASON. THEY ONLY LASTED A FEW WEEKS IN SCHOLASTIC AA BEFORE THEY WERE RECLASSIFIED TO SCHOLASTIC A FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2024 SEASON. THIS WAS A BIG ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THEM AS THEIR TEAM GOAL WAS JUST TO BE COMPETITIVE IN SCHOLASTIC AA!

## Meet your Color Guard Advisory Board

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION- REACH OUT TO YOUR BOARD FOR HELP AND ADVICE!



*Mary Jo Miller*

Favorite winter guard show  
*Pride of Cincinnati*  
Side Show 2004



*Shyravhalon*

Favorite winter guard show  
*Pride of Cincinnati*  
Everybody Hurts



*Neil Higginbotham*

Favorite winter guard show  
*Emerald Marquis*  
1999



*Trey Antonetti*

Favorite winter guard show  
*Fantasia*  
Vanishing Act 2004