

Vice President Report

The 2023 season was a successful time for our circuit. MCGC was represented at 4 WGI regionals as well as WGI Championships week. We had Regional Champions as well as a Scholastic A finalist this year. Congratulations to all those that went out to represent MCGC on a national level. Once again we had a large turnout of Regional A units. There has been a lot of growth in the quality of these units over the last couple of years.

Reclassifications: Each week all units were reviewed by watching the videos and listening back to commentary on groups. One unit was reclassified early season from SAA to SA and there were 4 units that went through the formal review process but it was determined that those groups were already in the correct class. The SAA class was very strong this year and after championships, looking at the growth of these units and how they finished, it was felt that most of the SAA class would be fit to be in the SA class (as there is no criteria change). One challenge we came across this year were groups that came out early in the season and did not come out again until after the reclassification deadline. Because of that, videos were requested to review to make sure everyone was in the correct class going into championships. Judges used in the review process were our local caption head as well as a variety of judges from different areas of the country and in different captions to have a well rounded group of people.

This year we tried to implement a few new things into the circuit. We got a “step and repeat” banner set up at championship this year to provide people with a photo opportunity. Another element we implemented this year was doing a “split critique” at some of the larger contests. We got a lot of positive feedback on this new approach. This is something that has been successful in many other circuits around the country. The goal is to be able to have the time early on in the show to be able to get more participation from the non WGI units. Having the split critique allows those units that went on early in the show to be able to meet with the judges while the show is still fresh in their minds to give the best possible recall as well as make it more convenient for those units to not have to stay until the very end of the show if they are unable to. I would encourage the circuit to continue giving the split critique idea time to develop as it's something different that will take time getting used to. I would also encourage units to take advantage of the critique time. Learning how to use this time with the judges will only help your groups continue to grow.

We had two guest units return to our circuit again this year. Phoenix Independent A and Open came up from Ohio. I feel this was a great opportunity for our units to get exposure to teams from another area and at a different competitive level.

There was going to be an opportunity for directors/staff to attend a live rehearsal clinic with Juxtaposition World this season the weekend of the Flint Regional. Unfortunately due to the weather, this was canceled. I feel this would be a great educational opportunity to provide in the future. Being able to watch a group of that caliber go through their rehearsal and design process is a valuable educational tool.

During summer retreat, we decided as a board that we would not hold a student clinic this year. This is something we used to offer yearly however there is an abundance of local groups now holding their own clinic opportunities throughout the summer and it was determined that maybe we will leave the student clinics up to the local groups.

Last season we started doing a monthly webinar that we called "Second Sunday Sessions." They were not well attended and we had hoped maybe more communication to the circuit would help the turn out this year. Unfortunately, that did not seem to help and sadly we discontinued doing the second Sunday sessions as there was little turn out for them. Working with the reps, there was a lot of communication that seems to go out to units however it seems to still be a one way line of communication. This is something I hope to see change. We (the board) all give a lot of time and effort in trying to plan things and provide educational opportunities to the circuit and we get very little engagement from the circuit. This is something I continue to question...what more can we do? Are we not providing the specific information groups want/need? Are groups getting the information and just choosing not to participate? Are we not getting the information to the correct people? I don't have the answer, it continues to be trial and error to continue to find the solution.

This past season, there was a lot of interest in the judge clinician program. This program allows units to request a movement or equipment judge come to a rehearsal and work students and staff in terms of their training program. While some groups were able participate in this program, there were groups that unfortunately were unable to be accommodated due to availability and schedule of judges and groups. In the future, I would suggest that this program only be available to groups up to the AA class. This is a program that is intended to help with training and the thought is that those groups up to the AA level are the groups that really need that information and assistance. Another suggestion for the future is if there are multiple groups requesting this service, groups that haven't been able to partake in the past should get the first opportunity. Discussing a limit to how many times a group gets to utilize this service may also be beneficial in allowing others that haven't been able to get set up with a clinician the chance to use this service the circuit provides.

In conclusion, I want to thank you all for allowing me to work as your Vice President these last two terms. The circuit has been through a lot in the last few years and feels like we are now back on track. This activity, and helping educate multiple aspects of the circuit is something I am very passionate about and I am truly grateful for having had the opportunity. I wish all the best to the new board of directors as they continue pushing forward to continue to help the circuit grow and flourish in this activity.

Kim Kuhn

Vice President