

CBA Marching Affairs Committee Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call of committee members.
 - a. Roll: Isaac Lavadie, Becky Paschke, Sean Hedding, Karen Gregg, Phil Olivas, Bryce Melaragno, WL Whaley, Rick Shaw, Keith Acuncius, Chuck Stephen
 - b. Not present: Christina Schwartz-Soper, Tim Libby
2. Meeting Norms
 - a. Reminder that this is a committee meeting, only committee members may vote. Comments from all participants are welcome when opened for discussion.
3. Approval of minutes from 12/9/23 Meeting
 - a. Motion to approve: Becky Paschke, Second by WL. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.
4. Old Business
 - a. Use of frequency checks moved to discussion section of this meeting
5. Financial Report
 - a. Rick delivered the financial report.
 - b. Current Checking (Operational Funds) \$215,806
 - c. Current Savings (Operational Reserve) \$36,066
 - d. Marching CD (Catastrophic Reserve) \$129,284
 - e. Overall Marching Income – \$309,279 State Income Portion \$295,467
 - f. Overall Marching Expense – \$173,309 State Expense \$149,455
 - g. Overall Net P/L - \$135,970 State P/L \$146,012
 - h. Net income increase as surplus funds for future needs and improvements - \$80,000
6. Future needs and expenses -
 - a. Annual adjustments to:
 - i. Increase in state staff honorarium. Graduate pay schedule to reflect the level of work provided. To include per diem for meals. (\$12,500)
 - ii. Increase state championship judge pay scale (\$1,500)
 - iii. Increased cost for 1A/2A/3A State expenses in Grand Junction years. (\$10,000)
 - iv. Increased cost of Western Regional transportation (\$3,000)
7. Plan for surplus funds – proposed by Rick Shaw
 - a. Compensation for 2024 staff time and meal expenses. (\$4,000)
 - b. Elevate judge training and support (\$1,500)
 - c. Increase safety elements at state (lights, port-o-lets, signage, etc.) (\$1,500)
 - d. Professional development by (5,000)
 - i. Instructional sessions for outlying areas (Western, far south, etc.)
 - ii. Marching Spring session
 - e. Increase reserve by \$25,000
 - f. Supplement CBA General fund with donation of \$16,000

Discussion – Becky Paschke talked about ensuring that those with increased travel distances have meals factored into their compensation. WL reminded that the return travel day (Sundays) should also be factored in for staff. Rick will bring in schedules and timelines further along into the adoption phase of the meeting.

Rick thanked everyone for helping make CBA such a strong organization and for helping the continued growth and development of the State Championships and season as a whole. Chuck Stephen asked if it would be more

appropriate to set aside \$3,500 per year towards the Grand Junction 1A2A3A state – Rick explained that it becomes an annual budgeting issue and how it is reflected in QuickBooks.

8. 2024 Marching Season (Tentative) see handout
 - a. Dates are driven by when stadiums are available. It is not possible to do 3 shows per weekend, 2 shows per weekend are really the maximum due to stadium and judging pool restrictions.
 - b. Rick mentioned that it could be difficult for some smaller bands to make decisions about attending festivals on September 20th but the conditions mentions dictate the schedule.
 - c. Are Big Cat and Douglas County are on the same date due to stadium availability? – Phil Olivas
 - i. WL responded that between the two shows both were almost entirely full or at capacity with nearly 40 bands participating between the two shows.
 - ii. Rick also reminded that Big Cat is on a natural sod turf, and the NAAC regulations limit options on performance dates past the first week of October.
 - d. Bids were open for two regional sites this year, no new bids were submitted, Metro sites will remain the same until the next bid rotation.
 - e. Centaurus press box issues with construction – Rick and Chuck have communicated with facilities regarding press box and are making sure it will work for hosting shows.
 - f. August 16th for Judge Training at Lakewood HS
9. 2025 State Championships
 - a. Proposed State Dates 4/5A
 - i. Oct 24-25 first choice
 - ii. October 31-Nov 1 second choice
 - iii. October 27-28 third choice
 - b. Proposed State Dates 1/2/3A October 27th in Grand Junction
10. Chief Judge Report – WL Whaley
 - a. Sent a summary report to committee members
 - i. Emphasis in judge training on sub-caption scoring and profiling. Progress being made with music judges but room for growth in this area. Visual judges seem to be achieving profiling and scoring goals and responsibilities.
 - ii. WL shared an effect caption sample.
 - iii. Director feedback – concerns regarding ensemble comments in effect captions. Creation of exemplar effect tapes to share with judges to avoid that in the future. Please provide feedback on commentary and scoring **during** the season so adjustments can be made as needed.
 - iv. Regional to state rankings – similar consistent outcomes from year to year, larger changes in the smaller classifications similar to previous years. Will share with judges later on, not public at this time.
 - v. State judge pay increase proposal - \$1,500 increase in total amount.
 1. This is a six day commitment – out of pocket travel expenses have also increased.
 2. 1A-3A needs to be increased because we have increased the number of performing bands
 3. Our state pay used to be in the top third of the country, currently we are closer to about the bottom half in pay nationally.

Discussion – Sean Hedding asked if increasing it more than \$1,500 would be useful. WL responded that one of the reason we have had continued success with national panels is not just the compensation, but the overall treatment of judges and their time here. Additional funding would need to be planned, and a few extra dollars would likely not “make or break” a decision about judging championships. Rick and WL will continue to look at it and bring it to the committee if an increase is needed.

- vi. Increase salary schedules to better reflect trends in nationwide judge pay. This will be more in line with other states. Out of state judges would have a minimum of \$500 still. Show hosts have done a good job filling sites, so we have not had to dip below that.
 - 1. Bryce asked if there was a set policy around paying mileage for judges to and from airports. WL responded that in general if there was a specific situation that necessitated compensation for mileage it would need to be handled between chief judge and show host on a case-to-case basis.
- vii. State Judges – List provided by WL and will be posted to CBA site soon.

11. Marching Chairman Report

- a. Reflections – 13 minute time slot was very successful; only one situation where there was a timing issue in pre-stage but that was resolved.
- b. State Staff – did an amazing job, but it is incredibly taxing. May increase staffing and also be aware of “aging out” with staff.
- c. GoFan worked well with exception of combo tickets – Ed Cannava worked incredibly hard to get refund on service fees. Plan is to continue working out kinks with GoFan and use them into the future. Sarah Romero will continue to help Ed and take on more responsibilities with GoFan.
- d. Volunteers were outstanding, special thanks to Fountain Fort Carson HS and Air Academy HS for their parent volunteer support. See if there are opportunities for support for music ed students at the collegiate level to help on Championships weekend.
- e. Spectator parking 4A/5A had issues – working with the Academy to stop traffic where busses enter and include better signage for spectators. Handicap parking issues are being discussed with the Academy to provide better access for those in need.
- f. Talking about adding lights for guard areas.
- g. Egress between semi-finals and finals – open up double wide gates for exit and double the number of ticket takers for re-entrance.
- h. Brighter paint for HS Hashes at USAFA – move to white paint or repaint every break. Chuck mentioned double checking that you can see hashes from performer and spectator perspectives.
- i. Retreat format filled the field quickly and worked well. Going to ask non-director staff to move on once band is lined up in correct order. Director’s can stay with bands. Keep cadence going until the last band is in place.
- j. 1A-3A: Great to have more bands, bus and trailer parking was an issue at Pueblo and would be an issue in Grand Junction. Kathy Joseph is working with GJ Parks and Rec to create more space; Rick may work with a local HS to a staging area offsite for parking as the day progresses. Logistics schedule may also be built to alleviate space concerns. Bands will need to adhere to warm up schedules, especially in Grand Junction. Similar egress issues in Pueblo, will continue to improve through planning.

Discussion: Chuck mentioned that ticket takers were unaware of chaperone tickets/wristbands at USAFA. Rick will make physical tickets more available in future years as a contingency. Chuck mentioned that video for state this year was much improved, and kudos for high cam and multi cam. Rick mentioned Patrick Moring at Rampart and Chris Paschke will continue to make improvements for video and audio recordings at state championships – this year was a big step forward and the plan is to continue the development of high quality A/V.

12. Marching Chairman Proposals

- a. Adjusted pay scale for state judges.

- i. Motion by Becky Paschke. Second by Phil Olivas. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Passes.
- b. Adjusted pay scale for CBA Sanctioned Shows and Regionals
 - i. Motion by Becky Paschke. Second by Phil Olivas. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Passes.
- c. Proposed 2025 CBA State Staff Pay Scale Schedule.
 - i. Motioned by WL Whaley. Second by Chuck Stephen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Passes.
- d. Supplemental compensation for staff –
 - i. Motion by Phil Olivas. Seconded by Bryce. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Passes.
- e. Future State Date Proposals –
 - i. Motion by Becky Paschke. Seconded by Phil Olivas. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

13. T&P

- a. No proposed rule changes from membership. All proposed changes coming from feedback from T&P judges.
 - i. 3.05 – Define “student” to be “in uniform/costume” (Recommendation – leave as is)
 - ii. 4.02 – Add “with permission from the Chief Judge” for adult prop holders, so they know to ask. (Recommendation – leave as is)
 - iii. 4.03 – Adults on the field – suggest to specify in rulebook that .1 if adult is on the field following the start of the show and .2 if adult reenters the field following the start of the show.
 - 1. Craig Ketels and WL spoke about how the penalty currently works and how an increase to 0.2 for the boundary violations with a maximum of .4 would ensure that directors are taking more care in their set up procedures to avoid these penalties.
 - 2. Motion to increase boundary violation penalty to .2 with a max of .4 by Phil Olivas. Second by Becky Paschke. All in Favor, none opposed. Motion passes.
 - iv. 5.02 – Allowing front screens (if defined clearly) to enter with pit equipment (but no other props). (Recommendation is to leave it as is)
 - v. 5.03 – Reword to “90 seconds” instead of 1:30. (Recommendation to leave it as is)
 - vi. 6.05 – Specify generator containment depth of at least 3” or 4”. (Recommendation to leave it as is). Discussion around providing additional professional development instead of changing the rule so new directors are aware of the need for containment and options
 - vii. 8.08 – Drum major podium height – suggested a 9’ max height with rails over 6’ (industry standard is 6’). Discussion around how to re-word the rule. **Proposed removal of “unrestricted” heights for drum major podiums from rule 8.08. Motion by WL, Second by Becky Paschke. All in favor, non opposed. Motion passes.**
 - viii. Discussion – Defining what counts as helping stage the front ensemble. Recommendation to clarify through professional development and communication.
 - ix. Penalty for misuse of American flag. Recommendation to keep as is with the etiquette suggestions in the handbook, move it into the discussion for programming and design choices in the Spring and Summer. No new rule.
- b. Overall Reflection – There were fewer “surprise” penalties this season. Training and continued conversations as well as great work by the T&P team have had a positive impact on bands performances.

14. Reflections and Proposals submitted

- a. More Cologuard lighting at state.

15. Discussion

- a. Judge transportation to Western regional – Airfare contingency is budgeted to fly judges if airline schedules allow for flight arrangements.
- b. Increasing regional entry fee by \$25 and/or ticket sales limits by \$3.00.
 - i. Phil felt like increasing the cost to the consumer makes more sense than increasing the entry fee. Otherwise, a regional is only \$100 less expensive than the entry fee for state weekend. Bryce brought up that most prelims or finals ticket prices at sanctioned shows have been more expensive than regional tickets. Rick clarified that CBA sets the ticket price for regional, so if it increases then it would increase at all regionals.
 - ii. **Motion to increase regional spectator ticket price to \$18 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors by Bryce. Seconded by Phil. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.**
- c. Judge training relating to percussion commentary
 - i. Feedback received regarding music judges lack of percussion commentary on tapes.
 - ii. WL would like to provide further professional development for music individual and ensemble judges to better serve our percussion students. Dedicate some time and energy to music judges providing appropriate commentary throughout the season. Raised level of awareness for judge's accountability in regards to percussion.
 - iii. Bryce and other provided feedback that the director community is feeling that if "percussion is out of the way" then it is being rewarded vs. recognizing demand and achievement in other productions.
- d. Looking at USAFA grounds and usage of the totality of space. Reevaluate if the space provided is being used to the best options for our activity. Rick will put a committee together and work with USAFA throughout the Spring.
- e. Audio frequency assignments at USAFA frustrations. Checking frequencies were helpful, but still frustrating – not always getting the best information during that short time. USAFA provided a list recently and could only guarantee 6 channels. Ward Durrett explained that on a Federal Installation there will be unavoidable interference without much of a solution because there is significant radio traffic in the area. Rick said CBA could purchase a scanner and provide a list of scanned frequencies on Thursday after set up and send it to participants. Everyone felt this would be a good next step.

16. New Business

- a. Marching Affairs committee members
 - i. Chuck Stephen is retiring and stepping down., Many thanks from Rick Shaw for his service.
 - ii. Phil Olivas – End of extended term and stepping down. Many thanks from Rick Shaw for his service.
 - iii. Isaac Lavadie – End of extended term and stepping down. Many thanks from Rick Shaw for his service.
 - iv. Far north large school seat vacant. - Aaron Herman (Accepted)
 - v. Southern large school seat vacant. - Keith Acuncius (Accepted)
 - vi. Rick will appoint a member for the Western area seat
- b. Thanks to Dylan for hosting
- c. WL put it out for directors that if there are suggestions for clinicians, presentations, etc. please reach out to him, he is already looking ahead to next year and future conventions. Who you would like to see and What you would like to see is very important to him.

Chuck Stephen Moved to Adjourn, Bryce Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 12:25

Minutes submitted by Keith Acuncias 12/8/24