

East Tennessee



Performing Arts Association

**MINUTES**

May 14, 2016

Heritage High School Band Room

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Units Represented: Attraction Winterguard; Bearden; Farragut; Heritage; Karns; Maryville; Oak Ridge; Seymour; William Blount

I. Reading and Approval of December 12, 2015 Minutes

December 12, 2015 Minutes were read by Jana Hanson; minutes were approved. (Please note that minutes are available online at the ETPAA website.)

## II. 2016 Season Recap

Our circuit grew; we had great contests all season long.

There is a nice core of judges in our area and a good judging community.

Vic Truscelli said the primary benefit is growth within groups and our ability to focus on people who are adding to our circuit.

Jim Idol said everyone is easygoing and happy to make things work. We have good numbers from our judges that are on target with national numbers.

## III. Financial Report

Financial report was given by Jana Hanson. ETPAA received \$16,423.95, and we spent \$21,393.81. Current balance is \$624.70. A more detail ledger may be requested by any member. The financial report was approved.

## IV. New Business

### A. 2017 Proposals

*Please see attached for original wording of proposal, revision if applicable, and Board recommendation.*

<b>Proposal 1</b>	<b>Passed as Revised</b>
<b>Proposal 2</b>	<b>Passed as Revised</b>
<b>Proposal 5</b>	<b>Passed as Revised</b>
<b>Proposal 7</b>	<b>Passed as Revised</b>
<b>Proposal 8</b>	<b>Passed</b>
<b>Proposal 9</b>	

Discussion was had concerning a fair way to feature both percussion and winterguards at Championships. Motion was made to strike this proposal; motion passes. Further discussion was had. Motion made to place percussion in the middle of winterguards. Motion passes.

### **Proposal 11**

Discussion was had concerning corporate sponsorship of ETPAA. Jim Idol agreed to head a committee to discuss further. Additional information may be provided at the fall meeting. No vote on this proposal.

### **Proposal 12**

**Passed as Amended**

Discussion was had concerning ETPAA sponsorship of events (marching band contests, spin clinics, etc.). The original proposal was withdrawn and amended to state there would be an agreed upon amount (not percentage) paid to ETPAA.

### **Proposals 13, 14, 15**

**Passed**

### **Proposal 16**

**Passed**

## **B. Alliance Media contract**

Discussion was had concerning our current contract with Alliance Media. A Motion was made to continue; voting was against continuing with Alliance Media. Andrew Parham volunteered to develop a recording policy for ETPAA contests. Leza Carver will contact Alliance Media concerning the Board's questions related to our current contract.

## **C. Sound Technician for 2017**

John Hooper was our sound technician for the 2016 season. Mr. Hooper is interested in working with ETPAA again with the following additions and/or changes from our 2016 season:

\$100 flat fee

Access to hospitality room for five (5) staff

Three (3) students/helpers to set-up and tear-down

The Board agrees to these changes for our 2017 season.

## **D. Elections**

Nominations for the following Board of Directors positions were taken, and the following individuals were voted into office:

Two-Year Term (elected in odd years)

President - Rhett Butler

Colorguard Coordinator - Jim Idol

Percussion Coordinator - Clint Juday (for one year; vacated by Rhett Butler)

One-Year Term (elected each year)

Cadet, Prep, and Novice Representative - Sandra Pitt

Scholastic Regional A and Scholastic Regional AA Representative - Ashley Corey

Scholastic A Representative - Katie Eaton

Independent A Representative - Jason Franklin

Percussion Representative - Jimbo Crawford

E. Potential Dates for the 2017 Qualifier and Championships

It was decided to tentatively have the 2017 Qualifier on January 28, 2017 and Championships on April 1, 2017. Our schedule will be discussed further at the fall meeting.

F. Potential Dates for the ETPAA Symposium

The second annual ETPAA Symposium has been tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2016 or November 19, 2016. Bearden High School has graciously volunteered to host.

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## **2017 Proposals**

**Proposal 1:**

Leza Carver, Heritage High School and ETPAA SRA/SA Representative

*Proposal* Provide future details in classification to more precisely accommodate the ability level within Novice Class.

*Rationale* This may help discern the differences between programs who are Novice and A-class caliber. Novice is for the true beginning guard member or staff entering into the winter season. Creating the opportunity to be more competitive against like units. This would work to properly group, foster competition, and growth.

Novice Class (NOV) – The novice class is designed for the newest ensembles to our activity. Performers in the class will display ***purely introductory skills with regards to vocabulary, technique and conceptual design.***

Evaluation for the Novice class will be based on the Regional A Criteria. Color Guards performing in the Novice class are eligible for promotion to the Scholastic Regional A class.

**Proposal 1 (revised 5/2/2016):**

Novice class performers will be defined as having basic, rudimentary, elementary, or simple skills.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 1 as revised/amended.

Score sheets specific to Novice class (and below) are in development for ETPAA. Language will be added to the ETPAA Handbook further defining expectations of the Novice class.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Minimal.

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**Proposal 2:**

Leza Carver, Heritage High School and ETPAA SRA/SA Representative

*Proposal* Restructure/Rename the Scholastic A classes to more precisely accommodate the array of groups/ability level within each.

*Rationale* This may help discern the differences between programs who are A-class caliber but either do or do not compete on a national level. The stress and financial impact of competing at World Championships is a reason some groups choose not to do so or "take a year off," and this would allow for them to not have to compete against groups who are going full-out-competitive in a season. As all groups would be competing on the A class sheets, in this new breakdown, SRA groups would get "their feet wet" in a less established competitive environment.

Units that compete on the national level have a different mentality and budget than those that stay local. Creating these classes would give units that stay local the opportunity to be more competitive against like units. A class has the largest range of abilities and this would work to properly group, foster competition and growth.

**Scholastic National A (SNA):** comprised of groups who willingly sign up for and participate in national (WGI) events--Regionals or World Championships. These groups have the financial resources, facility resources, support, and talent resources--of student performers, designers, and staff--to compete and be successful at the Scholastic A level in WGI (national) competition. Judged on the A-class sheets. Participants in this class should have beginning/intermediate vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and are incorporating beginning intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI A Class criteria. Nationally competitive teams (teams competing at WGI Regionals or World Championships in the A Class shall compete here).

Groups would be promoted from this class to Scholastic Open, if the situation or need arises (Promotion from

WGI).

**Scholastic A (SA):** comprised of groups who are competitive, or have been competitive at a WGI-level, but are not choosing to compete on (WGI) national levels of competition--regionals or otherwise. These groups have some form of (strong talent, support, design, staff, etc.) but are not at the level of Scholastic National A. Judged on the A-class sheets. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and have a low to mid incorporation of intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI A Class criteria. Nationally competitive teams (teams competing at WGI Regionals or World Championships in the A Class shall compete here).

Groups would be promoted from this class to Scholastic National A, if the situation or need arises.

**Scholastic Regional A (SRA):** comprised of beginner Scholastic A programs, students, or instructional staff(s). These groups are new or may have some experience competing in A class, but are not quite at the level of the Scholastic A or Scholastic National A programs. This is a learning class for individuals to understand how to design, teach, and perform in the Scholastic A class. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and have progressed beyond the introductory level, but are not yet ready to begin incorporating intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI A Class criteria.



Groups would be promoted from this class into the Scholastic A class (not Scholastic National A), if the situation or need arises.

**Proposal 2 (revised 5/2/2016):**

A new classification will be created to bridge the gap between Scholastic Regional A (SRA) and Scholastic A (SA). The class will be called Scholastic Regional AA (SRAA) and will use Scholastic Regional A (SRA) score sheets.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 2 as revised/amended.

Language will be added to the ETPAA Handbook further defining expectations of the SRAA class.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Minimal.

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**Proposal 3:**

*This proposal was withdrawn.*

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**Proposal 4:**

Jana Hanson, Maryville High School and ETPAA Executive Secretary

*Proposal* Create a new class for scholastic winterguards.

*Rationale* The new class would be devoted to bridging the gap between those groups in Scholastic Regional A (SRA) and those in Scholastic A (SA). The new class would use the Scholastic A class sheets at the local level.

*This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 2.*

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**Proposal 5:**

Jana Hanson, Maryville High School and ETPAA Executive Secretary

*Proposal* Restructure class representatives on the Board of Directors. Provided a new Scholastic A class is added, the following classes should be represented on the ETPAA Board of Directors:

- Cadet/Prep
- Novice
- Scholastic Regional A (SRA)
- New winterguard class
- Scholastic A (SA)
- Independent winterguards
- Percussion

*Rationale* Restructuring the class representatives on the Board of Directors would provide opportunity for others to volunteer time or expertise to the benefit of our circuit.

**Proposal 5 (revised 5/2/16):**

The following classifications will have elected one-year term representation on the Board of Directors:

- (1) Cadet/Prep/Novice;
- (2) Scholastic Regional A (SRA)/Scholastic Regional AA (SRAA)
- (3) Scholastic A (SA)
- (4) Independent winterguards
- (5) Percussion (all classifications)

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 5 as revised/amended.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Minimal.

**Proposal 6:**

Vic Truscelli, Karns High School and ETPAA Judge & Contest Coordinator

*Proposal* Cadet, Prep, and Novice Class units should be scored on a Novice class sheet focusing on basic, elementary skills.

*Rationale* Many of our Novice Class units this past season seemed to have exceeded the criteria for basic/elementary skills. Score sheets specifically designed to reward this skill level would be more appropriate for these classes. There needs to be a clearer distinction between Novice Class and Regional A class.

*This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 1.*

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**Proposal 7:**

Vic Truscelli, Karns High School and ETPAA Judge & Contest Coordinator

*Proposal* The Contest Director/Chief Judge should receive a fee for attending each contest, similar to a judge's fee.

*Rationale* This role is as demanding as any judging position. Vic may not be able to attend all contests. There may be times when others need to step in. It would be appropriate for whoever serves in this capacity to be reimbursed for their efforts. This fee may be added to the list of judges fees supplied to each host.

**Proposal 7 (revised 5/2/16):**

The Contest Director/Chief Judge should receive a fee, similar to a judge's fee, to be paid by the Show Host. The Contest Director/Chief Judge position will be filled by Board members when Vic Truscelli is unavailable.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 7 as revised/amended.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Miminal.

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**Proposal 8:**

Vic Truscelli, Karns High School and ETPAA Judge & Contest Coordinator

*Proposal* The honorarium that is currently paid to our ETPAA Executive Secretary should be raised to \$1000.

*Rationale* This position has required an enormous amount of time and effort throughout the year. Knowing the demands of the position, I believe an honorarium reflective of the exceptional work that has been done should be considered.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 8 as written.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Moderate.

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**Proposal 9:**

Katie Eaton, Farragut High School

*Proposal* That guard and percussion alternate who performs last at ETPAA Championships.

*Rationale* Both groups want to perform last at Championships, and the fair way to accomplish this is to alternate each season.

**Board Recommendation:** Proposal 9 needs further discussion, both by the Board of Directors and with the general membership.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Minimal.

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**Proposal 10:**

Jim Idol, Farragut High School and ETPAA Colorguard Coordinator

*Proposal* ETPAA should expand the color guard classification system to include the SAA classification to serve units that have matured to a point where their program is ready to be evaluated on the WGI Scholastic “A” sheets but may not be ready to compete regionally or nationally.

*Rationale* Institution of this class will provide an interim step for the several units in the circuit that have proven to be viably evaluated on the “A” sheet and can be challenged to mature against that criteria. This would also allow the Novice classification to be more authentic and reserved for units that are truly at the Beginner level.

*This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 2.*

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### **Proposal 11:**

Jim Idol, Farragut High School and ETPAA Colorguard Coordinator

*Proposal* The Board should develop a method to effectively recruit corporate partners to benefit the operation of ETPAA.

The Board should develop materials to assist in the recruitment of corporate partners. Those materials should establish partnership opportunities at a variety of levels (i.e., Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze...).

Partners would be recognized on the circuit website and some partnerships levels could include season-long recognition at all events.

Those members who volunteer to use their contacts and leverage to sign local, regional or national businesses into the partnership with ETPAA would receive 50% of the proceeds TO BENEFIT THE EXPENSES AND OPERATIONS OF THEIR UNIT (Checks would only be issued to the sponsoring organization – not to individuals).

*Rationale* Many ETPAA members have the contacts to develop partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the organization and the unit. While not all of the units are in a position to host shows, this program would allow any unit to raise funds on behalf of the unit and for the good of the organization.

**Board Recommendation:** Further instructions or guidelines concerning

Proposal 11 will be discussed at the Fall 2016 meeting.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Moderate to Significant.

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**Proposal 12:**

Jim Idol, Farragut High School and ETPAA Colorguard Coordinator

*Proposal* ETPAA should avail its membership to embrace and support educational events that are directly related to the development of performing arts in the area of ETPAA influence.

ETPAA staff and members would be availed to help with development and staffing of events to the extent the hosting organization requested.

Sanctioning, advertising, and other operational assistance would be cooperatively developed with the presenting unit and ETPAA would receive 10% of the proceeds for services rendered.

*Rationale* ETPAA members have the expertise to develop and present excellent training opportunities for all levels of performers in the region.

ETPAA should broaden its reach by helping units develop cooperative, educational events that benefit the local performers while providing a positive fiscal impact for the presenting unit and the ETPAA organization.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 12 as written. The Board will accept proposals for ETPAA sanction of events and will review on a case by case basis.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Moderate

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**Proposal 13:**

Jim Idol, Farragut High School and ETPAA Colorguard Coordinator

*Proposal* A method should to be developed for the equitable consideration of sites for the qualifying competition.

An application should be developed that includes all information pertinent to presenting a successful event.

Final selection would be determined a committee appointed by or a subset of the Board and would be based on a list of criteria to be determined which might include considerations such as membership longevity, facility characteristics, traditional show dates, geographic location, post-mark date / date received, etc.

The selected applicant should immediately post a non-refundable show host fee of \$500 to the circuit that will become part of the operational budget for the circuit and services provided by sanctioning the event.

This fee should not offset any other costs to the host nor will the fee be refunded should a selected site later decide that the event could not be held.

**Exception:** the fee would be refunded should ETPAA take an action to cancel the event, such as inclement weather.

*Rationale* The circuit needs to move toward a more structured system of selecting and scheduling shows.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 13 as written. A comprehensive set of show host guidelines and application is in development and will be available by Fall 2016.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Moderate.

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**Proposal 14:**

Jim Idol, Farragut High School and ETPAA Colorguard Coordinator

*Proposal* A method should to be developed for the equitable consideration of sites for competitions throughout the competitive season.

An application should be developed that includes all information

pertinent to presenting a successful event.

The proposal may include up to three potential dates (while only one date required...) in the announced season's schedule.

Final schedule would be determined a committee appointed by or a subset of the Board and would be based on a list of criteria to be determined which might include considerations such as membership longevity, facility characteristics, traditional show dates, geographic location, post-mark date / date received, etc.

Selected applicants should immediately post a non-refundable show host fee of \$200 to the circuit that will become part of the operational budget for the circuit and services provided by sanctioning the event.

This fee should not offset any other costs to the host nor will the fee be refunded should a selected site later decide that the event could not be held.

**Exception:** the fee would be refunded should ETPAA take an action to cancel the event, such as inclement weather.

*Rationale* The circuit needs to move toward a more structured system of selecting and scheduling shows.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 14 as written. A comprehensive set of show host guidelines and application is in development and will be available by Fall 2016.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Moderate.

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**Proposal 15:**

Jim Idol, Farragut High School and ETPAA Colorguard Coordinator

*Proposal* The location of the Championship show each year should be awarded to a member guard with an adequate facility that presents ETPAA with the highest bid for hosting the show.

Specifications of requirements for an adequate facility should be determined by the Board (or a committee appointed by the Board) and



submitted to the membership before bidding.

The Board shall also establish a minimum bid. The minimum should be adequate to cover the actual costs of presenting the Championship event + 10%.

Further, the Board should consider reserving some fund raising activities at Championships. Those might include souvenir sales of commemorative items such as event wear, patches, or videos.

*Rationale* The circuit is maturing quickly and has proven that it is capable of presenting a Championships event that has the potential to be significantly profitable for the hosting unit(s).

At the same time, the circuit is not yet mature enough to undertake the presentation of the Championships event without the assistance and underwriting of one of the member units.

**Board Recommendation:** Pass Proposal 15 as written. A comprehensive set of host guidelines and show host application are in development and will be available by Fall 2016.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Moderate.

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**Proposal 16:**

Jim Idol, Farragut High School and ETPAA Colorguard Coordinator

*Proposal* The promotion system needs to be clarified in regard to both methodology and implementation.

For instance, promotions occurring on the last promotion date of the season should either not be allowed to be appealed or if appealed; should carry forward to next competition that the unit attends even though the official date for promotions has ended.

*Rationale* Operational clarity and consistency.

**Board Recommendation:** Proposal 16 needs further discussion. Language

related to appeal of promotion will be added to the ETPAA Handbook.

**Financial Impact to the circuit:** Minimal.

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**Proposal 17:**

*This proposal was withdrawn.*

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**Proposal 18:**

Keith Clupper, Farragut High School and ETPAA President

*Proposal* Divide current board position of “Judge & Contest Coordinator” creating two new board positions, “Judge Coordinator” and “Contest Coordinator” that will evenly redistribute current responsibilities under the appropriate title.

“Judge Coordinator” description of position and responsibilities:

- hired by the Board of Directors; fees are defined under contract
- is a non-voting member
- secures commitments with judges and/or judging associations
- serves as a liaison between judges and ETPAA
- acts as a resource for member questions on philosophy, education, and classification
- assists in assessing the need for education sessions for circuit members and planning of same
- communicates with all judges regarding travel, lodging, and payment
- educates judges on use of ETPAA-specific sheets

“Contest Coordinator” description of position and responsibilities:

- hired by the Board of Directors; fees are defined under contract
- is a non-voting member
- maintains yearly contest schedule
- coordinates with contest hosts on show-day procedures,

- staff, and equipment needs
- assures flow of information regarding judges' travel, hotel, meals, and payment arrangements
  - maintains flow of the contest and ensures continuity for competing units
  - assists the Board of Directors with problem-solving issues as they arise, such as travel delays, weather complications, etc.
  - acts as a backup for any job function that needs assistance on contest dates
  - is responsible for setting up and maintaining tabulation and media delivery systems throughout the contest day

*Rationale* As Judge & Contest Coordinator, Vic Truscelli has been gracious to take on the heavy burden of wearing both "hats" to help us begin the circuit. Being that the circuit has experienced healthy growth, it is now time to divide the long list of responsibilities among two persons thus allowing Vic to focus on building our judging community while removing the arduous task of also running circuit contests.

*This proposal was consolidated in Proposal 7.*