



## MINUTES

April 25, 2015

Seymour High School Band Room

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

Units Represented: Attraction Independent Winterguard; Farragut; Grainger County; Gibbs; Heritage; Karns; Maryville; Seymour; William Blount

### I. Reading and Approval of December 13, 2014 Minutes

December 13, 2014 Minutes were read by Jana Hanson; minutes were approved.

### II. 2015 Season Recap

Keith Clupper gave the 2015 season recap. He is blown away by the success of our circuit. He offered thanks to all the Board members for their help. There were a few bumps along the way, but overall, the first year of our organization was a success.

We as a circuit need to remember to work together to help each other and to reward every performance – win or lose.

### III. Financial Report

Financial report was given by Jana Hanson. ETPAA received \$14,326.85, and we spent \$9,859.08. Current balance is \$4,467.77. A more detail ledger may be requested by any member. The financial report was approved.

### III. Judge & Contest Coordinator Report

Vic Truscelli discussed our season. There was a limited pool of judges because of the timing of our circuit formation. All judges had positive experiences; Vic believed this is because most judges are local and are invested in the success of a local circuit. Travel money (flying/hotel) will be a big factor for judges. ETPAA can expand the judges' pool, but it will cost money.

We are in need of more local guard judges in all captions. We have an abundance of percussion judges, which is a good problem to have. We will increase opportunities for judges' training. Any interested potential judges should contact Vic.

Discussion was had on how to train (webinar? face-to-face meetings?, etc.)

### IV. Old Business

#### A. Clarification of contest fees refund policy

Current language in the Bylaws: *Membership dues are nonrefundable.* There is no mention of whether contest fees may be refunded.

Discussion was had, and it was recommended the Board of Directors will review contest fees refunds on a case-by-case basis. As ETPAA grows, this is an issue we will need to explicitly define.

#### B. Clarification of "Is the unit ready?" prompt

At the December 13, 2014 meeting, it was decided we would prompt all units. After the qualifier, it was decided Prep and Novice class groups would keep this prompt, and all other guard classifications and all percussion would move to the "WGI Start" which states:

***When the color guard or drumline first enters the competition area, an announcement of... "Please welcome, from (city, state, country), (name of color guard/drumline)" will be made. At one minute thirty seconds (1:30) of the interval time for A Classes and Open classes (two minutes for World Class) or at any specific time noted to the Timing and Penalty Judge by the color guard, the announcer will be cued to say,***

***“Performing their program, (title), the East Tennessee Performing Arts Association is proud to present (name of unit).***

It was recommended the clarification as defined above will stay in place. The 2015-2016 ETPAA Handbook will be updated to reflect this change.

C. Clarification of intentional banging of equipment

Discussion was had on two (2) clarifying issues presented to the membership during the season.

First:

***Equipment and props are to be padded in accordance with WGI guidelines. Units should expect that equipment will be inspected in warmup and props will be inspected in the holding areas. Equipment and props not appropriately taped and/or padded will not be allowed onto the performance floor.***

It was determined show hosts will be responsible for inspecting all equipment and props at their respective shows and will provide an individual for same. Timing of inspection (warm-up or holding) will be determined by the Judge & Contest Coordinator, Timing & Penalty Judge, and the show host. The Show Host Information packet will be updated to reflect this addition.

Second:

***In this inaugural season, we are fortunate to be able to hold competitions in many new sites with support of the school athletic departments. In accordance with WGI rules, units that damage the floor will be disqualified and will be held responsible for damages to the floor.***

***Consequently, the intentional “banging” of equipment on the floor will not be permitted and will result in severe and significant penalties followed by immediate suspension of the competition to inspect the floor for damage. If damage is found, the unit will be disqualified from the event and be responsible for any necessary reparations to the site.***

This issue was tabled until the fall General Membership meeting so Jim Idol could research other circuits and WGI rules on process and penalty amounts.

V. New Business

A. Alliance Media

Keith was approached by Tony Florio with Alliance Media to record and sell DVDs of the 2016 ETPAA Championships. The proposal provided by Alliance Media is lengthy, so the main points are highlighted herein:

- Alliance Media will be responsible for music licensing and permissions
- Alliance Media shall retain ownership of all media capture on event dates
- No unauthorized videotaping on the date(s) detailed in the agreement
- The agreement will renew automatically for a term of two (2) years and may only be cancelled with detailed written cause.

The Board recommended an agreement be entered into with Alliance Media. Leza Carver has agreed to serve as video liaison between ETPAA and Alliance Media.

#### B. 2016 Proposals

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

##### **Proposal 1 (amended 4/25/15)**

**Passed as Amended**

Announce preliminary contest start times (for guards, percussion, and/or winds) approximately ten (10) days before a contest. Every effort will be made to provide the logistical schedule (stating warm-up times, holding times, etc.) to the membership at least five (5) days prior to a contest and uploaded to the ETPAA website.

##### **Proposal 5**

**Passed as Revised**

##### **Proposal 6**

**Passed as Revised**

##### **Proposal 7**

**Passed**

Festival ratings and/or direct scores will be addressed at the next General Membership meeting.

Discussion was had concerning name changes for Cadet and Prep classes. This issue will be addressed at the next General Membership meeting.

##### **Proposal 8**

The membership voted to change the requirements from 3 out of 5 judges to 4 out of 5 judges for guard promotions. Discussions on promotional scores are always ongoing.

### **Proposal 11**

### **Passed**

Discussion was had concerning JV guards being promoted into classes with their varsity guards. It was decided the issue would be left open for discussion. Directors do have the right to appeal promotions.

#### C. 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)

Executive Secretary - Jana Hanson

Percussion Coordinator - Rhett Butler

#### One-Year Term (elected each year)

Prep and Novice Representative - Sandra Pitt

Scholastic Regional A and Scholastic A Representative - Leza Carver

Independent A Representative - Jason Franklin

Percussion Representative - Clint Juday

#### D. Increase in Membership Fee

The Board of Directors recommended raising membership dues by \$25.00 and the Championship fee by \$25.00. Championship host would receive \$25.00 and ETPAA would receive \$75.00 of the \$100.00 Championship fee. This increase would allow the circuit to hire more judges for Championships, as well as create a more special atmosphere (curtains, flooring, etc.) for performers. The membership agreed to these fee increases.

#### E. Compensation for Executive Secretary

The Board of Directors recommended attaching monetary compensation to the Executive Secretary position of \$500.00. The Executive Secretary would be paid at the end of the competitive season with funds currently held by ETPAA. The membership agreed to this compensation.

## F. Constitution and/or Bylaws rules changes

Since several rules currently in the Bylaws and rules implemented throughout the season were discussed, a dialogue was had on when to change constitution or Bylaws rules. It was proposed to do so at either the fall or spring general membership meetings. The issue would be revisited at the fall meeting.

## VI. 2016 and 2017 Goals and Agendas

### A. Sound Tech

A motion was made to use the same sound tech for each contest. Mr. John Hooper was a tech with SCGC and was present at one of our contests this season. He will provide all equipment, which gives consistency from show to show. Mr. Hooper is in agreement if he is paid \$50.00 per day and \$0.40 per mile, if he has access to hospitality, and if he has three (3) students to help. The show host would be responsible to pay for Mr. Hooper, and his expenses would be added to the Show Host Information booklet. The motion to hire Mr. Hooper as sound tech for 2016 was passed.

### B. Championships Presentation

Discussion was had on how to increase our presentation during Championships, e.g., curtains, floor covering, ETPAA banner. Should the circuit own curtains? Would it be used only at Championships? Who would store the curtains when not in use? A motion was made to find curtains for use at Championships. Motion passed. A motion was made to find a black floor covering for Championships. Motion passed.

### C. Banners for Class Champions

A motion was made to provide a banner for all first-place champions in each class. These banners would belong to each class champion and would be date stamped with the year. Motion passed.

### D. ETPAA Logo Banner

A motion was made to purchase a banner with the ETPAA logo for use at local marching contests and Championships. Motion passed.

### E. 2017 Championships

Discussion was had on a larger venue for 2017 Championships. Cost was discussed, as was feasibility and change in atmosphere. Further discussions will certainly continue.

VII. Next ETPAA Meeting

The next meeting date was not determined.

April 25, 2015 ETPAA meeting was adjourned.