

Where the Big Decisions Are Made

WGI's Board of Directors Has Exciting Plans for the Future

By Aaron Jenkins



Thanks to the Board of Directors, A class groups like Shenendehowa now have a greater say in WGI decisions.

I have now been on the WGI Board of Directors for roughly 22 years,” says Michael Gaines. “During that time I’ve witnessed the beginning of a successful percussion division, the hiring of a new CEO, the move of our offices to Dayton, the hiring of our first marketing person, the corporate restructure to create the Advisory Boards, the hiring of a color guard and percussion coordinator, the separation of the guard and percussion championship weekends, and so much more. Being a part of those changes—and how they’ve helped WGI reach thousands of young people and touch their lives in such a positive way—is something that the entire board takes very seriously.”

The Board of Directors is a group of 16 accomplished administrators, designers, and instructors who are elected to their positions each May at the WGI Advisory Board meetings after candidates explain why they wish to help run the organization. Their first goal is to ensure that WGI

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provides a venue for young people to achieve the extraordinary through performance and competition.

“A strength needed to be a good board member is that you have experience running your ensemble from the business side,” Board President Ed Devlin explains. “The board deals with the business of the organization, while the Advisory Boards deal with the artistic and competitive rules of the activities.” Recently the Board of Directors

expanded the makeup of the Advisory Board to give A and Open class members a louder voice in the color guard division’s decision-making.

Each summer the board gathers to assess all aspects of the previous season and to create and amend yearly organizational budgets. Its second meeting of the year, in November, includes analyzing yearly audit reports, along with setting direction and planning improvements for the upcoming season. While these are certainly not glamorous duties, they are crucial to ensure the organization’s longevity.

Finding appropriate locations for the WGI World Championships is one of the board’s most massive undertakings, both logistically and financially. Although Dayton has become a perfect environment for this event, the board has been researching new host cities with hopes to rotate the World Championships sometime in the future.

Creating new educational programs, updating systems, and expanding the outreach of the organization are what really make the board excited, and developing new technology to do that is a main priority in its organizational philosophy. That’s the reason why

projects like the CompetitionSuite tabulation system and WGI’s app for iPhone and Android have been expedited. The WGI Fan Network has sparked the rediscovery of archived performances, and viewing the World Championships via live webcast has allowed a broader range of people to experience the wonder of the indoor marching arts, all as a result of the board’s wishes.

Serving on the WGI Board of Directors is not a hobby. It’s a mission—to find ways to better support and create opportunities for the marching arts community.