



Judges and Instructors,

Hello to everyone from the officers of the Texas Colorguard Judges Association. It has been a little while since we have all been in touch and I hope all of you are well and possibly enjoying some time off. Noted in this document are exciting updates and changes that everyone should be aware (sit back and relax because it is quite a bit)!

Colorguard Association Governing Body

On Sunday, May 17, the TCGC voted to reorganize the Executive Board which has a direct impact on the TCGC Judges Association. The organization will now consist of the following positions and the individuals noted have been elected to fill the roles and ensure that the association continues to move forward:

President: Derek Woods
Secretary: Stephen Howard
Treasurer: Marie DeBellis
Color Guard Vice President: Kyle Coleman
Percussion Vice President: David Giddens
Adjudication Vice President: Doug Henderson
Marketing Vice President: Curtis Demesnil

There are several new positions to the governing body and each person elected to fill these positions have been approved and are currently hard at work promoting the association, planning for the upcoming season, and working to ensure continuity as we make plans for the upcoming season.

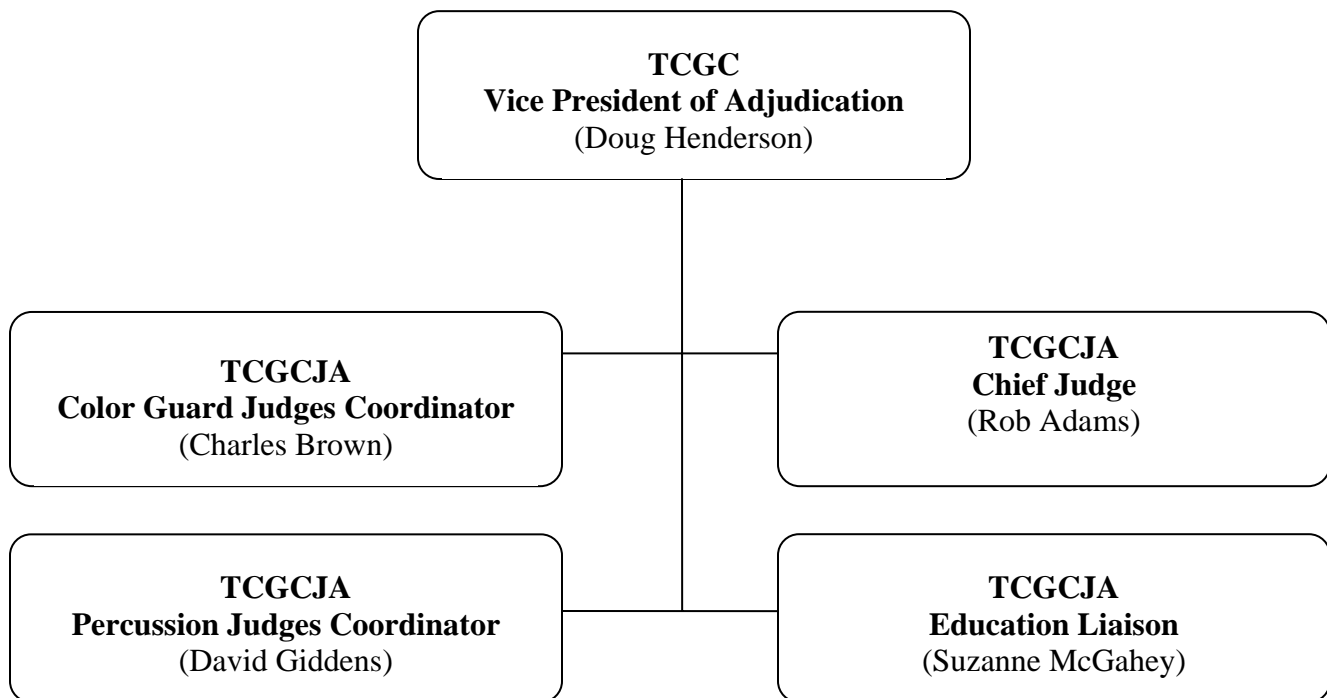
As the newly elected Adjudication Vice President, it is now my responsibility to oversee all aspects of the TCGCJA division of the circuit and work as the liaison between the judges association and TCGC, NTCA, and other associations in the state as requested. I have already spoken to several members of the Executive Boards for TCGC and NTCA regarding my responsibility and wish to ensure you that I will work to do the best job possible.

Judges Association

As you can imagine, our association has grown quite a bit. As a matter of fact, the association has increased our judges' pool by 55% over the last year. We must ensure that growth continues and that we provide the best pool of judges that any association has to offer. Noted below are updates that everyone should be aware of and if there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at dehendy@msn.com so that we may engage in constructive dialogue in an effort to determine the best possible solution for all parties.

Membership

The governing body of the judges association has been revised slightly and appears as noted below based on your feedback and has been approved by you.



Here are a few items that we are currently working to determine the best way to move forward:

- Clarifying roles and responsibilities
- Establishing a training program for all members of the association (colorguard and percussion)
- Expanding communication between the judges association and the instructor community
- Enhancing the recruiting philosophy and mission

- Exploring how to expand percussion involvement within the judges association
- Planning for the upcoming TCGCJA State Symposium
- Membership fees for judges association members

Let's explore each in a little more detail -

Roles and Responsibilities

The individuals noted above as serving in the elected roles are already hard at work. To ensure clarity of roles, I have provided a short description of each office:

Vice President of Adjudication – Responsible for overseeing all aspects of the TCGCJA division of the circuit and works as the liaison between the judges association and colorguard circuits.

Color Guard Judge's Coordinator – Responsible for the logistical aspects of the color guard association; assigns adjudicators for contests; makes necessary travel arrangements for adjudicators

Percussion Judge's Coordinator – Responsible for the logistical details of the percussion portion of the TCGC; assigns judging panels; serves as a liaison for the percussion membership

Education Liaison – Responsible for training judges; sets curriculum and organizes training for the circuit's judges

Chief Judge – Serves as the primary point of contact for any issues regarding judges

These are the roles and responsibilities as noted in the bylaws for the circuit. However, these roles are being reviewed and may be updated – additional information will be provided in the future.

Training Program

The new Education Liaison, Suzanne McGahey, comes to us with a strong colorguard background and works in her “real life” as a high school educator. Although we are still working to define the exact responsibilities of this critical role, two main aspects will be to establish a true mentoring program for our newer judges with all associated logistics and work to establish an education program for new instructors. Suzanne will work closely with Charles Brown and Rob Adams to establish the parameters of the Summer/Fall Home Study which will include an analysis of the Regional A and Scholastic A classes in Texas. If you have ideas, please do not hesitate to let us know ASAP so that they may be examined and possibly instituted during the upcoming season.

Communication

Although possibly a touchy subject to some, this is an area that we can all probably grow. Several ideas have been mentioned and we are still exploring ways to ensure that communication is not only frequent but also timely and addresses concerns with the best interest of everyone in mind. Suggestions examined thus far include newsletters, website postings, and conference calls. Additional ideas on how we can ensure the lines of communication are expanded are sincerely welcomed.

Recruiting

Although we have grown 55% in the last year or so, continued growth is vital if we are to continue along the path of success. There are several individuals who have extensive backgrounds in the colorguard and percussion activity and we need your involvement. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member and sharing your vast knowledge with the performing members and other judges, please let us know. Remember, the training program is being revised so individuals can become more involved in phases which should allow your current duties with the units to continue. In addition, there is the possibility of being “fast-tracked” which may allow you to judge during the upcoming season so let us know your background and interest level.

Percussion

According to the constitution of the Texas Color Guard Circuit, percussion judges are a part of this judges association. Although not the practice in past years, we must include “all” judges in our association and could use your input on how we can grow percussion in our state. Some areas have seen some growth but not to the same degree as the colorguard community. The judges association is committed to working closely with the Percussion Vice President to expand this area and yes, we definitely need your input!

TCGCJA State Symposium

If you were at this event last year, you would probably agree that it was one of the best in recent years – we are diligently working to make this year’s event even better. Please save the dates of *Friday and Saturday, November 20-21* to be in Dallas for this year’s event. We have already confirmed two of the biggest names in the colorguard community to serve as clinicians and additional details are forthcoming. Clinicians confirmed so far are Karl Lowe (WGI Hall of Fame Member and director of *Odyssey and Fantasia*) and Mykal Costner (choreographer and performer for *Fantasia*) are scheduled to share with all in attendance their wealth of knowledge in a variety of areas. Again, we are still exploring avenues to get everyone (judges, instructors, students, etc.) involved so let us hear your ideas on how to make this event the best possible. Additional details will be released later this summer but please save these dates – NOVEMBER 20-21.

Fees

As you can imagine, the cost to have an association such as ours can be expensive. The cost to refine our training program may be extensive. The cost to have clinicians for the symposium (those noted above and possibly others) will come with a premium. For this reason, the TCGC Executive Board approved during the May meeting to increase dues for members of the judges association from \$50 to \$75 for the 2010 season. This will help to offset some of the cost for planned activities that the membership has requested. In the very near future, you will receive correspondence on how you can make your payment and continue your membership for the upcoming season.

I understand that this is a lot of information to deliver at one time but as an association, we felt it best to deliver all of this news now in this Summer Update and release additional details on some items over the summer. Remember, the judge's association model that has been detailed in this document was recommended by all of you and should be one that continues the expansion of our association. Once again, let me encourage all of you to get in touch with me if you have suggestions, ideas, and/or comments regarding any information noted here or anything that you may have heard or just have questions. My email address is dehendy@msn.com – I look forward to hearing from everyone!

Regards,

Doug Henderson
Adjudication Vice President