

SEPTEMBER 2010

Hi Everyone,

This email (which I am assuming will be a hefty one) will contain all of the information that we covered at our annual Directors' meeting. It also will contain how and to whom you can provide feedback about some major issues we discussed in revision, so be sure to read it all the way through (and, of course, I KNOW you do) so you have the information for providing feedback.

NATIONALS DRESSING ROOM SITUATION: We have had several requests about finding a more equitable way to assign dressing rooms at Nationals. We realize this is an issue, but the BOKC insists that we do it on a first-come, first-serve basis. We understand that in Columbus, people were permitted to hold onto the same banquet room forever until they gave it up, so this at least provides an opportunity for everyone. The BOKC has restructured their pricing structure so that those teams who merely reserve a pipe and draped off area, will not be paying the same price as teams with private rooms.

We are also going to check with the BOKC about the possibility of renting the private suites which surround the arena. Those suites are mainly owned by corporations, but we are going to ask if they can be rented as well. We are also going to ask about dividing what has been the Coaches' lounge (right behind registration) for dressing rooms.

BOKC is not ready to take reservations as of yet. When they are ready, I will send you the forms and paperwork. In order to have your reservation in and considered first, you must provide payment in full at the time of reservation. Last year, they were chasing around final payment from about 10 teams, and won't do that again.

We are also going to investigate if "rotating" the floor might provide some additional private areas which could be draped off.

Quite frankly, I asked what other studio competitions like Showstopper and KAR did for dressing, and the answer was a laughable---nothing---they put tables in a large area and you fend for yourself. While we don't want it to be like that, please rest assured that we are doing the best we can.

FOOD AT THE BOKC: The BOKC increased their menu selections last year, providing box lunches, salads, fresh fruit, and sub sandwiches. We are going to ask about outside vendors being permitted in (dependent on their existing contracts).

VIDEOTAPING AT NATIONALS: We are going to permit anyone to videotape (with a pass in an assigned area) at Nationals. By this point in the year, stealing someone's choreography puts you a year behind. We will allow directors to order video passes with their Nationals registration.

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DRESSING ROOM STICKERS: This is a tough one. We are willing to give you as many stickers for room helpers as you want. However, some of YOU have said you like it to be limited so you are not bombarded with helicopter moms. We will have you order the number of stickers you need on your Nationals registration, and then YOU decide who gets them.

PENALTY JUDGES: Penalty judges will no longer be marking alignment and interval. They will still remain as floor managers, noting time penalties, dropped props, costume malfunctions, # of performers, # of kicks, etc. Because of the fact that penalties average about 2.0 points per performance, we have raised the rating qualifications by 2 points for all ribbon colors.

OFFICER CATEGORY: There were a few requests to move the officer category back to the beginning of the day instead of at the end. While there were pros and cons to both sides, the Board felt that the tabulators would be put at significant disadvantage without the officer category at the end of the day. Because there are no high point awards given for the officer category, they are able to get most of the awards ready to go. If they have to wait until a team performance category gets done, awards will probably take between 45 minutes and an hour to get ready.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: Information will be forthcoming about forming an SCAU Alumni Association. The first event will be a "FLASH MOB" of all our alumni dancers (If you don't know what a flash mob dance is, check out the Ohio State one at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDNOB6TnHSI&feature=fvsr>

We plan to form the association, send them a DVD of the dance and have them SURPRISE everyone at Nationals by coming out of the stands to do the dance. We plan in the future to do alumni activities, feature alumni on our website. Stay tuned for more details....but be sure to keep the dance a secret.

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD: We also will be forming a student advisory board to help give opinions and student perspective to the SCAU Board.

AWESOME DANCER AWARDS: We are going to ask students to give fellow dancers from other teams "Silly Bands" to recognize them as outstanding dancers. There was some concern from some younger teams who said that Silly Bands were banned in their schools and at practice, so we will need to be careful about where and how they are distributed.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS: Two awards will be given this year....one for teams and one for individuals:

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FOR TEAMS: RESPECT THE DANCE: Teams will comply with minimum requirements such as...

dancers, coaches, and parents promising sportsmanship

newer teams to support

service

service to other teams

service to other teams

to other teams

*Written pledge by

*Evidence of seeking out

*Evidence of community

*Evidence of parent

*Evidence of dancer

*Evidence of coach service

FOR INDIVIDUALS: RESPECT THE DANCER:

has developed a personal and/or team plan of displaying support, sportsmanship
the season

*An individual dancer who
and education throughout

RECREATION CATEGORY: We will form a recreation category for teams who are just starting out in competition or even just starting out in a category. The recreation category is for education, the experience of competition, and will not be divided by size.

For this year, we will pilot the program for the SENIOR teams only. Recreation teams will not be eligible for High Point awards, Grand Championships, Regional or State Championships. Teams may be recreation for one category and in the regular category for others. So, if you want to try out the Kick category, but are pretty comfortable in the other areas, you could register as a Recreation Kick team, but in the regular categories for jazz, lyrical, pom, hip hop. It is also a great place for brand new teams to "get their feet wet" in the competition venue.

SCHOLARSHIP RUBRIC: One item that I forgot to share with the membership at the meeting was the rubric/evaluation that is used to select the SCAU \$1000 scholarships each year. Every year, we have more than double the amount of applicants for the number of scholarship monies we have to award. Every one of those applicants is talented, scholarly, and worthy of our notice. The Scholarship committee wanted to share with you the rubric used to make selections:

Picture (5 points): Is a picture included? Quality of the picture

Application (5 points): Complete? Professional in appearance?

Resume (5 points): Professional in appearance? Gives a true picture of applicant's accomplishments?

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Acceptance Letters from Universities (5 points): Complete
Reference Letters (10 points): Director, Teacher, Other---quality of applicant's accomplishments as verified by reference
Activities/Leadership (20 points): Variety of activities; Hours spent in leadership positions; Evidence of leadership
Transcript/GPA (30 points): Class Rank (if used in their schools); Attendance; Does School Weight AP Courses; Rigor of Courses Taken
Essay (20 points): Completeness; Detailed; Writing Style; Articulation of Goals
TOTAL (100 points)

SURVEY RESULTS: While the results of the SurveyMonkey we sent to everyone in November of 2009 were fairly positive, only 16 people responded out of 105 emails sent. We will revise the questions and send it out again before Winter Break. This time, however, we will send a warning email before the survey, so that you can look for it. We think that potentially it might have landed in bulk emails or in junk mail. Stay tuned!

NOW FOR THE STUFF WE NEED SOME GUIDANCE ABOUT:

NATIONALS: We had a fairly loud portion of the membership beg us to try to get State/Nationals down to a two-day event, even eliminating the Best of the Best Medal round on **Sunday**. Part of the conversation we heard was that **Sunday** didn't seem like the Best of the Best--since too many teams get in (according to some). Having heard the concerns, the Board arrived at the meeting on **Sunday** with a proposal for a shortened weekend that looked something like this:

FRIDAY: Pre-registration; Possibly officer competition; Hall of Fame Dinner; Party/Dance for the Dancers

SATURDAY: JUNIOR AND SENIOR COMPETITION

Awards that night would include Ohio Championships; National Championships; Medals; High Point; Announcement of the Top 10 routines (with no crossover teams) in both the Junior and Senior Category. So, if Team A gets its pom routine in because it is the highest scoring routine, Team A can not get another routine into the Top Ten.

*Grand Champion award will be calculated on **Saturday's** results but announced **Sunday**

SUNDAY: Officer Competition (if not done on **Friday**)
Primary/Elementary competition
Top 10 Junior and Senior Routines

We had intended that this might be implemented this year. However, we heard from many OTHER directors that they liked the format the way it was and didn't want to see

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any changes. Others said they'd like a change, but didn't want to do it until 2012. WE NEED YOU TO CONTACT YOUR ASSIGNED BOARD MEMBER (see below) WITH YOUR INPUT BY **OCTOBER 1ST**. The Board will then compile the feedback they have received and make a final decision. Basically, you are providing feedback such as....

Leave Nationals alone---I like it the way it is
Leave Nationals a 3 day event---just narrow down who gets
into **Sunday**

Like the above schedule with some tweaking (make your suggestions)

Like the changes, but it needs to wait a year.

CHANGING THE AWARDS FORMAT FOR 2012:

We'd also like to get your feedback about adding trophy placements to regular contests instead of just ratings. Obviously, this would mean that host contests would incur more expenses which, of course, would potentially get passed along to the participating teams.

From 1976-1994, this is the way we conducted regular contests, giving trophies for placement in all categories. In 1994, the Board voted to use ratings at regular contests and trophies only at Regional, State, and National Championships. We are now hearing from some of the membership that they would like to return to trophies at all contests.

Please give your feedback on this item as well to your assigned Board member (see below)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2010-2012 SCAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mindy Farry--Chief Operating Officer (mindy@scau.org)

Nancy Turner and Karie Seubert---Co-Vice Presidents (traveler2fun@yahoo.com and karie.seubert@gmail.com)

Tracey Burgoon---Secretary (tracey@miracledance.com)

Kim Nicoll--Secretary (chelsey34@aol.com)

Linda Hall--State/Nationals Secretary (linda@scau.org)

Jennifer Rothwell--Treasurer (jennrothwell@hughest.net)

BOARD MEMBERS:

Lori Downey (danceexp@woh.rr.com)

Bridgitte Hatfield (bridgittef@aol.com)

Angie Steins-- (angie_stiens@hotmail.com)

Kelly Martin--(kellylynn21983@yahoo.com)

Wynonna Chenault (chenaultedancers@aol.com)

Geoff Washburn (gwashburn@memorialhealthcare.org)

Mary Murtha (mary@wildfiredance.com)

Amy Vandergriff (vanderdance10@gmail.com)

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Brenda Elmore (punkytiff@aol.com)

Robyn Burke (rbnwp@dance@zoomtown.com)

MICHIGAN TEAMS: Please send feedback to Geoff Washburn

COLUMBUS TEAMS: Please send feedback to Mary Murtha

DAYTON TEAMS: Please send feedback to Lori Downey

CINCINNATI TEAMS: Please send feedback to Angie Stiens

INDIANA TEAMS: Please send feedback to Wyonna Chenault

KENTUCKY TEAMS: Please send feedback to Kelly Martin

ALL OTHERS: Please send feedback to Amy Vandergriff, Robyn Burke, or Brenda Elmore

**REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK ON STATE/NATIONALS
FORMAT AND ON 2012 AWARDS CHANGES TO YOUR ASSIGNED BOARD
MEMBER BY OCTOBER 1ST! NEXT FRIDAY!**

SEE YOU SOON!

MINDY FARRY