

North Carolina State Marching Committee

Members

Bob Buckner – Chair – Western Carolina University
Neil Underwood – President – NCMEA Band Division
Dave Albert – President elect – NCMEA Band Division
Anne Reese – Past President – NCMEA Band Division
Chris Ulery – Western District – Secretary
Barry Howard – Northwest District
Mark Beamish – Central District
Blair Smith – South central District
Michael Williams – Southeast District
Craig Everett – Eastern District

Overview of our work

This committee was formed out of concern in our state about the marching band activity. The committee was formed by appointing Bob Buckner to chair the committee and then a district representative was chosen from each district. The committee also contains the past, current and president elect of our state band director's association.

Our committee has met four times during the year and abbreviated minutes are listed below. As there is a lot of information in this packet, minutes provided here are brief and a general overview of our work.

November 11, 2002 – State convention

Our initial meeting was held at State Convention for us to set goals and to begin a vision of our product.

- Body should be small with a representative from each district to help our productivity
- Establish a system of adjudication that is flexible in the number of judges used
- Sheets should not be objective and subjective at the same time (dividing effect and execution)
- Develop criteria sheets to be used when judging
- Standards of excellence reflective of judging system
- Class sizes not mandated
- Allow and encourage events to be different and unique
- Do not use a blanket set of rules for our state
- System for dealing with bands that sign up for more than one competition on the same date and attend only one

Next meeting – January 2, 2003 at Mt Tabor High School.

January 2, 2003 – Mt Tabor High School

The goal of this meeting was to develop a system and sheets to evaluate bands. We first began by drafting a mission statement for our work that will hopefully be adopted by our state organization was drafted as follows:

The North Carolina Bandmaster's Association, a division of the North Carolina Music Educator's Association, officially recognizes and sanctions marching band as a viable and credible performance based ensemble in the teaching of music in a high school setting. We believe marching band can be one component of a well balanced, comprehensive instrumental school music program.

The committee looked at many different systems and sample sheets that were used throughout our nation. There was much discussion and abbreviated notes follow:

1. A subcaption of content/difficulty was not added because it is included in the paragraph to the judge at the top of the sheets.
2. A criteria reference system was used for the back of each sheet, except guard and percussion.
3. For a six member panel the weighting of each caption is as follows:
 - 20% - Music Performance Individual *
 - 20% - Music Performance Ensemble *
 - 40% - Music Effect (2 judges 20 points each)
 - 20% - Visual Performance
 - 20% - Visual Effect
 - * scores are averaged

For a five member panel the weighting of each caption is as follows:

- 20% - Music Performance
- 40% - Music Effect (2 judges 20 points each)
- 20% - Visual Performance
- 20% - Visual Effect

If using a five member panel, the Music Performance Individual sheet will be omitted and the Music Performance Ensemble sheet will be used.

4. The system for determining the grand champion or band of the day will not include guard, drum major or percussion scores. These are included in the sheets as they are written and doing this would count these elements twice.
5. It was decided after much debate to include Movement as a caption on the percussion sheets.
6. The system for awarding ratings will be:
 - 100 – 80 – Superior
 - 79.9- 60 – Excellent
 - 59.9 – 40 – Good
 - 39.9 – 20 – Fair
 - 19.9-0 – Poor

7. A packet of information will be prepared with sample sheets and an overview of the proposed system to be presented at each All-District clinic. Directors are encouraged to give responses and feedback to their district representative for us to use at next meeting.

Our next meeting will be March 8th at Honor Band auditions.

March 8, 2003 – State Honor Band Auditions

The purpose of our meeting was to receive feedback from each district on the proposed sheets and system to be used on a trial basis next year. Each district's concerns were addressed. It was approved by the committee that anyone may substitute their own percussion, guard and drum major sheets as long as the band sheets were used in their entirety. It was also approved that either a 5 or 6 member panel may be used to evaluate bands. A presentation will be given at Honors Band in April for all band directors. At this meeting the committee will present the proposed system and sheets and an overview of our work. A form to apply for sheets will be distributed at the meeting. The sheets will be printed with a duplicate to be returned to the committee for evaluating our system at the end of the year. Forms will be provided at printing cost. It was also proposed that judges training be conducted during the summer. Bob Buckner spoke of the possibility of having this at WCU in conjunction with their summer leadership camp. Next meeting April 25 at Honor Band.