

Caption Head Report Equipment

2023 was a successful year for our MCGC Teams as a whole. Our Regional A teams continue to grow and improve. The AA teams showed real progress. SA and IA were impressive not only at the local level but also on a national level with strong placements at WGI regionals and at Championships. The collegiate teams showed growth during the season as did our open teams. Adding the Senior class was probably a lot of fun for those performers. So from that perspective I feel this circuit is moving forward.

I do have concerns from the judging perspective. Being the only equipment judge in this state is a real problem. I see no effort in recruiting new, young talent. There was only one person that contacted me to work through the process of judging equipment. I know that E-certify through WGI is the process used here.....but I think it is the wrong way to do this. E-certify has a place in the process but there is a lot more that should be done in training new judges. I think caption heads should be used more like they were in the past. There needs to be a lot of dialog and live, in-person practice with a working judge. Practicing commentary from a video is so artificial and doesn't give a prospective judge a sense of live performance. It is one thing to train somewhat experienced judges with E-certify to deepen their skills and move to a national arena, but for a prospective judge who is just starting this process is overwhelming. This could be driving people away from even considering judging. So how new prospective judges are recruited and trained, in my opinion, needs to be reexamined.

My second concern is that judges need to be trusted. Period. When a judge has lost the trust of the competitive teams, that judge needs to be done. Currently, I feel that I am not trusted. When I'm told that having a prospective judge sit in the judges area at a competition, where the prospective judge's team is competing, creates a perception problem, that tells me that I am not trusted to do my job without prejudice. That because I am training a prospective judge, I won't be able to judge that person's team fairly, that they will somehow have an advantage. Also, that I cannot make comments or like posts on social media because it might be perceived as favoritism?! I know that WGI, DCI, and BOA have issues about this, but MCGC is not one of those organizations. We are very connected and interrelated. I think I have worked with or taught most of the staff members who are teaching today in this circuit. I have some kind of affiliation with way more than half of the teams in this circuit. I love this activity for the art and sport, but even more so for the relationships. If I can't be trusted to maintain those relationships and still be an impartial judge, then it is time for me to be done.

I love this activity. I love the people in this activity. But I will not have my integrity questioned. I can openly and honestly say that I have adjudicated fairly and to the best of my ability at every competition.

Respectfully,

Marci Carlberg