

# Winds

Advisory Board Members will vote for three (3) individuals to fulfill a two-year term for the CG Steering Committee. There are no terms available for the Board of Directors at this time.

| <b>Steering Committee Nominees</b> |
|------------------------------------|
| Matt Abbey                         |
| Scott Hughes                       |
| Andrew Muth                        |
| Zack Novicki                       |
| Andrew Sharf                       |
| Russ Thompson                      |
| Chris Wing                         |

# Matt Abbey

Primary Affiliation: Avon HS (WSW)

Interested in the following Position: Winds Steering Committee

## Bio/Introduction:

My name is Matt Abbey, I am the incoming Director of Bands at Avon High School. I have been an Assistant Director at Avon for the past 3 years and have been a member of the Avon band team since 2018, working with the Indoor Winds since 2020.

I attended Butler University from 2018-2021, graduating with a Bachelors degree in Music Education and am now pursuing a Masters in Management from Indiana University. I marched 6 years of drum corps including 3 years at Carolina Crown from 2015-2017.

## Other Affiliations:

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Avon HS | PSW |
| Avon HS | SW  |

# Scott Hughes

Primary Affiliation: STRYKE Wynds (WIW)

Interested in the following Position: Winds Steering Committee

## Bio/Introduction:

PAC, Inc Vice President (Governing Organization for STRYKE & Infinity Ensembles): 2025 - Present

PAC, Inc President (Governing Organization for STRYKE & Infinity Ensembles): 2002 - 2024

Executive Director, STRYKE Ensembles (STRYKE Wynds (WIW), STRYKE Percussion (PIW), STRYKE Wynds 2 (WIO): 2002 - Present

Sunset Ensembles: MEDEA (IO), STRYKE Winterguard (IA), STRYKE Percussion 2 (PIA / PIO), REEF Independent (PIA / PIO), Ancient City Ensemble (PIO), Aquarius Percussion (PIA), Olympic Heights HS (PSA)

SE Regional Coordinator / Board Member, Florida Marching Band Championships: 2015 - Present

South Florida Winter Guard Association (SFWGA), Board Member: 2002 - 2016

WGI Advisory Board (Winds Division) : 2015 - Present

WGI Advisory Board (Percussion Division): 2002 - 2003, 2005 - 2012, 2014 - 2019

WGI Board of Directors (Winds Division): 2017 - 2018

Other Affiliations:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| STRYKE Percussion       | PIW |
| STRYKE Wynds 2          | WIO |
| John I Leonard HS Winds | WSO |

# Andrew Muth

Primary Affiliation: Westfield HS (WSW)

Interested in the following Position: Winds Steering Committee

## Bio/Introduction:

Andrew Muth has served as Director of Bands and Director of Performing Arts at Westfield High School since 2019. Prior to his appointment at Westfield, he served as Director of Bands at Lewis Cass High School and Fairfield Jr./Sr. High School. At Westfield, Muth conducts the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band, while also directing The Pride of Westfield and Westfield World Winds and overseeing the school's indoor percussion and winter guard programs. As Director of Performing Arts, he champions and supports performing arts programming for students in grades 6–12 across the district. Muth works as a designer and instructor across the country.

## Other Affiliations:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Westfield HS        | PSO |
| Westfield HS        | SO  |
| Westfield HS        | SRA |
| Elevate Winds       | WIO |
| Purdue Winter Guard | IO  |

# Zack Novicki

Primary Affiliation: LSM Winds (WIW)

Interested in the following Position: Winds Steering Committee

## Bio/Introduction:

Zack Novicki is a current member of the WGI Winds Steering Committee and has served on the WGI Winds Advisory Board since its inaugural season in 2015. As CEO of LSM Performing Arts Inc. and Band Director at Southgate Anderson High School, Zack brings experience from both the independent and scholastic perspectives of the activity.

Since the inception of WGI Winds, Zack has been involved as both a performer and educator, with ensembles competing in A, Open, and World Class. He has also presented at multiple WGIcons, sharing educational and organizational insights with directors and staff throughout the activity.

Zack finds great joy in helping other teams succeed and has been incredibly encouraged by the continued growth and evolution of the Winds Division over the past decade. He is especially proud of the work the current Steering Committee has done to support participating ensembles and believes communication and collaboration within the committee is stronger than ever. Zack is passionate about continuing to help the activity grow while ensuring directors, performers, and organizations feel supported, connected, and heard.

Other Affiliations:

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| LSM West                           | WIO   |
| Southgate Anderson HS              | SA    |
| Southgate Anderson Junior<br>Guard | Other |

# Andrew Sharf

Primary Affiliation: Warren Central HS (WSO)

Interested in the following Position: Winds Steering Committee

## Bio/Introduction:

Born in Columbus, OH

Attended the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music

- 12 years as an Educator
- 7 of those involved in WGI of some capacity
- 2 years on Percussion Advisory Board (22', 23')
- Taught DCI World Class for 4 years and marched for 2
- Taught All-Age Drum Corps for 8 years as a Brass Caption Head and Staff Coordinator
- 2 years on Winds Advisory Board (25', 26')
- Currently a Band Director at Warren Central HS in Indianapolis, IN.
- Married with 3 dogs (Tucker, Jack, and Lenny)
- Foster dogs from kill shelters to remove them from euthanasia lists.

(Currently on Foster #13)

## Other Affiliations:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Warren Central HS | PSO |
| Warren Central HS | SW  |

# Russ Thompson

Primary Affiliation: Hydra Winds (WIA)

Interested in the following Position: Winds Steering Committee

## Bio/Introduction:

RussThompson has spent over 15 years building programs, developing musicians, and serving the competitive marching arts at every level. His connection to WGI came into sharp focus in 2026 when Hydra Winds, presented by Atlanta CV — in its very first year of existence — won the WGI Independent A Class championship and set a new all-time record score for the class. As Executive Director of both Atlanta CV and Hydra Winds, Russ helped build the organizational foundation that made that historic debut possible, and in doing so brought Georgia its first WGI winds championship since 2016.

His broader involvement in the winds activity runs deep. He organized the inaugural WGI Atlanta Regional for Winds and Percussion at Woodland High School, growing it into a multi-year event that set a regional programming standard for the Southeast. He has directed and supported competitive indoor winds and winter guard programs at the high school level, and currently serves as Assistant Band Director at Decatur High School alongside his executive leadership roles.

As Executive Director of Atlanta CV Drum and Bugle Corps — a DCI All-Age organization — Russ has been recognized as All-Age Director of the Year in 2022, 2023, and 2025. He brings proven experience in strategic planning, financial management, staff development, and organizational governance to everything he leads.

A graduate of Georgia State University (MM, Wind Conducting) and Auburn University (M.Ed, Music Education), Russ is committed to growing WGI's reach, supporting member programs, and ensuring the winds activity continues to thrive at every level of competition.

Other Affiliations:

N/A

# Chris Wing

Primary Affiliation: Greenfield Central HS (WSW)

Interested in the following Position: Winds Steering Committee

## Bio/Introduction:

I have been a band director in Indiana for 22 years, the last 14 being at Greenfield Central. We are one of only a few schools in the country to participate in all three divisions of WGI, with our Winds group having been at every World Championship event since the inception of WGI Winds in 2015. I have been on the Steering Committee since the beginning, and have been honored to help guide the division to where we are today.

I have been married for 20 years to my wife, Annie. We have four kids, Brooklyn (15), Bethany (13), Brennan (12), and Brylee (6). Brooklyn and Bethany have both participated in WGI with our guard, allowing me to experience the magic of WGI as a parent as well!

## Other Affiliations:

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Greenfield Central HS | SO  |
| Greenfield Central HS | PSO |