

WORDS AND MUSIC



From the President

Jeff Mann

Dear WUSPBA Members,

How pleased I am to talk to you about what I felt was a very successful Annual General Meeting, where we celebrated 50 years as a pipe band association. Some of the others will be reporting the highlights of the meeting, so I will simply give my sincere thanks to the Executive Committee and Music Board for their help in making the 50th AGM a success.

Band Re--grading

At the conclusion of the AGM, the Music Board recommended and the Executive Committee approved re-grading the following bands:

WUSPBA Administration

Jeff Mann, President
 Stu Baker, Vice President
 Erin Gunn, Executive Secretary
 Matt Biggs, Treasurer
 Nancy Theriault, Band Registrar
 Zach Lees, Solo Registrar
 Todd Brown, Sanctioning Secretary
 Lisa Graves, Northern Branch President
 Scott Larson, Southern Branch President
 Michael Gibbs, Great Basin Branch President
 John Biggar, Past President

January 2014

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- Prince Charles Pipe Band from grade III to grade II.
- Bushmill's Irish Pipers Band of San Francisco from grade III to grade II.
- Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from grade IV to grade III.

In addition, I am happy to announce that the Executive Committee has approved a recommendation from the Music Board to clear the way for the Cameron Highlanders to form a grade III competition unit. They will still maintain their grade IV and V competition units and are simply restructuring.

Historian Committee

The WUSPBA is in need of a Historian Committee. We have a few projects in mind, including putting together a history in film of the past 50 years of WUSPBA. If any of you would be interested, please let me know at Jeffrey.mann@hsc.utah.edu.

Winter Storm

During the last 12 months, it has become my opportunity to meet with many of you in your own branches. Following the Annual General Meeting in October, I traveled along with Stuart Baker and John Biggar to Winter Storm, where we met with Cliff Davis, the CEO and Chairman of Winter Storm.

We were there to watch, ask questions and understand all of the complexities that go into the making of Winter Storm. We all took notes and have reviewed them. This is a weekend that has solo competitions,

two days of educational workshops, vendors, and a wonderful concert put on by the winners of the solo competition and some of the workshop instructors. The concert is essentially an all-night ceilidh, and one of the highlights of the weekend. This is a weekend that I wish everyone could experience. Winter Storm started out as a solo drumming competition years ago and has grown over the years to what it is today.

I would dearly love to see a similar type weekend event happen here in the WUSPBA. Clearly we have the talent and resources among the members and games sponsors to create such an event.

I am throwing out a challenge to the games sponsors, or any of you, to give this some creative and innovative thought. Perhaps the games sponsors can come together in a unified effort or... the sky is the limit to what can be accomplished. Since we have lost the Dan Reid Invitational, perhaps this type of event might be its replacement. Even better yet, why not get the Dan Reid going again and have two new events, or piggyback this event with an already existing event?

While WUSPBA at this point would not have the financial resources to help out, we would certainly be able to lend manpower, guidance, and help in running your event. So the challenge has been issued.

IT Committee

Andy Trimble chairs the IT Committee,

which has two main projects on tap for this year:

1. Website: We have a new website and will be making some new additions that will help with the registration process for soloists, bands and games sponsors. You can check the website out at www.wuspba.org.

2. Centralized Tracking and Management System (CTAMS): We are constructing a new centralized database. The plan is that a centralized database will replace the Sanctioning, Solo, and Band Registrars' databases so that registration, sanctioning of games, and results from solos and bands is streamlined and duplication errors will be avoided. The information will also be of assistance to the Music Board. They will be able to download information, which will help in adjudicator training and development as well as band and solo grading.

Bylaws

As many of you know, Andy Trimble single-handedly took the contest rules and combed through those, edited small grammatical errors and brought the contest rules out of the "Passive Voice into the Active Voice." We have asked him to take on the Bylaws doing exactly the same kinds of edits, to move the Bylaws into the "Active Voice." A special meeting is slated for the Costa Mesa Games this coming Memorial Day weekend of 2014. We will be voting on the new Bylaws and certainly want to acknowledge the time and effort Andy has put into this association.

Audit Committee-Treasurer

As you might have heard, we have had three treasurers this year. David McKenzie worked tirelessly in helping to clean up our books, but tragic family health issues made it impossible for David to carry on as treasurer. We looked to Scotty Dean, past treasurer, to help us out in a pinch, and he was gracious enough to accept the appointment on a temporary basis. Matt Biggs was brought to my attention and he accepted the appointment of treasurer. Since the time Matt came on board, he has spent countless hours and has implemented Quickbooks software for our bookkeeping method. In the past we were simply using Excel spreadsheets.

In addition to the software implementation, Matt was able to get the books ready and we appointed an internal audit committee which took a look at our books and performed an audit, which to my knowledge had not been done for many years. I want to thank Nate Lorenz and Chris Boyles, two very capable CPAs who finished their audit along with Stuart Baker and Matt Biggs from the Executive Committee. We will hear the audit report at the 2014 AGM.

The audit and the new treasurer have helped us immensely by keeping a transparent view of our financial records.

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In addition to the audit, Matt has been keeping our feet to the fire. As this was the 50th anniversary, we acknowledged that we would probably go over the budget because of the celebratory activities. However, there is one line item that I have been most strict with. That is the line item of the presidential discretionary fund. In 2013, the president was allotted \$1,000 discretionary money to be used however the president saw fit. I have used this money for travel to help with the re-organization of the branches, and the President's brunch. I made a promise to the Executive Committee that if I went over that budget I would personally pay back every cent owed. Well folks, I went over by about \$1000. But I am happy to report that I paid back every cent of that extra unbudgeted money.

Matt brings an expertise not only with bookkeeping but also with investing. He, along with the Financial Committee, will be guiding us to an even better financial health.

Presidents' Council

The newly created Presidents' Council, made up of former WUSPBA presidents, has been hard at work. Susan Thornton, chair of the committee, works hard along with Stu Baker, John Biggar, Chris Hossack, Scott MacDonald and Andrew Morrill. Their job is to take up issues that the Executive Committee feels might require the thought of experienced people, and have them discuss at their level and then send their recommendations back to the Executive Committee. We called upon

them several times in 2013, and their help was tremendous.

In addition, the Council organized a "Presidents' Circle of Honor Brunch." In a very moving ceremony on September 1, 2013, 14 individuals were honored at the Caledonian Club of California Scottish Festival in Pleasanton.

These individuals' many years of service helped shape the WUSPBA into the organization it is today.

Those honored received plaques and a brief summary of their contributions to the WUSPBA was read to those present. They are:

- Cal and Crissy Biggar (accepted by their son, John Biggar)
- Kevin Blandford (accepted by his father, Paul)
- Kathleen Nicholson Graham (accepted by her son Malcolm Nicholson)
- Lee "Skip" Ruleman (accepted by his friend Susan Thornton)
- Tim and Helen Gladden
- Chris Hossack
- Jim Laughton
- Scott MacDonald
- Janet MacLean (accepted by her friend Margaret Craig)
- Ozzie Reid
- Charlie Rosenberger
- Susan Thornton

Previous honorees who attended the ceremony included Catherine and Donald Cameron, Margaret Craig, Tom Foley, Jeff Mann, Jimmie McColl and Andrew Morrill.

Following the ceremony, honorees and guests were treated to lunch hosted by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco. The WUSPBA appreciates their generous donation.

Logo and Tune Contest

We have a new logo courtesy of Andrew Lenz, who was the winner of the Logo Contest. Congratulations, Andrew! The new logo is up on the website and is looking good.

In addition to the Logo Contest, we held a tune-writing (composition) contest. Thomas Robinson was the winner of the contest. All of the tunes submitted were reviewed and a selection of the tunes went into a WUSPBA 50th Anniversary Tune Collection. Many thanks go to Lorne Cousin who chaired the committee along with Andy Trimble and Kevin MacIntyre from the Music Board. We will be hearing more about this Tune Collection in the near future and how you will be able to obtain a copy if you would like.

Branch AGMs

I had the opportunity to attend the Great Basin Branch AGM. What a delightful evening where we met outdoors, had a great dinner, heard some fine music, held elections and were able to enjoy the company of the branch. A kitchen piping contest was held which I thoroughly enjoyed. These are the types of activities that the MDAP (Music for the Development of the Art and Performance Committee) is looking for all of the branches to cultivate. My thanks to Bruce

Baxter, past president of the branch and Michael Gibbs, newly elected president of the branch and all of the branch officers for their work in this “class act” event. I hope this type of event becomes a tradition in the Great Basin.

I had another opportunity to attend the Northern Branch AGM. It was held at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco. I did a wee bit of touring around the Center. What a beautiful historic building. I am hopeful and excited by the prospect of possibly holding one of our AGMs there in the future. It was truly a lovely evening seeing many of the members of the branch and good friends. Again, we had a great meal, lively music, elections were held and Northern Branch business conducted.

It was announced at the meeting that Bill Merriman has stepped down as piping and drumming chair at Pleasanton this year. Bill has been doing this for many, many years. He has poured his heart and soul and countless hours of work. He will be truly missed as he has built a legacy for himself at the games. John Biggar and I will be co-chairing the piping and drumming.

Finally, enjoy your holidays. Be with friends and family. Take a bit of a rest. The new season will be soon upon us.

Best, Jeff

From the Editor

John Thornton



Let me introduce myself. I'm John Thornton and I'm your new *Words and Music* editor. It's not exactly a new job for me – I was editor of the newsletter previously, in 1995-97.

I have been associated with pipe bands since 1983. I have had the privilege of being a drum major for three different bands since then, the latest and current band being the Denver and District Pipe Band. I competed in drum major competitions throughout the Western U.S. in the 1980s and 1990s, including at both Santa Rosa and later, Pleasanton. I am also a WUSPBA Drum Major Adjudicator.

In related Scottish activities, I have been a Premier-level Highland dancer. As an active member and former chieftain of the St. Andrew Society of Colorado, I've been serving as Director of the Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games since 1992.

My main goal is to serve WUSPBA by getting information to you in a timely

manner. If you have ideas or questions for me, please contact me at misterpv@gmail.com or (303) 523-6469.

Vice President

Stu Baker



The AGM marked the end of a successful 50th Anniversary year for WUSPBA. The kitchen piping competition Friday night introduced us to Galician piping. The ensemble workshop by David and Shauna Hilder and Duncan Millar was extremely informative, as were their individual workshops on Sunday morning. The concert Saturday night had excellent music in an extremely relaxed atmosphere.

In addition, the work of the AGM -- the meeting itself -- went very well and resulted in some significant changes in competition rules. I would like to highlight two proposals in particular.

First, drummers in solo competition can use recorded music. There are several of things that need to be pointed out here that were part of the discussion on this amendment. The requirement is that the drummer is responsible for the player and power. Ed Best shared a story about judging in

EUSPBA, the association these amendments were modeled after. He said he had a young competitor walked up to him with a huge 1980's style boom box, set it on his table and then blasted the music so loud he couldn't hear the young man play. This brings up a vital point.

If you make use of the recorded option, you need to think about placement of the player and how loud it needs to be so the judge can hear you as well as the music. Experiment with different arrangements to get the one that is optimal. Next, the recording itself can have the call off on it with a click track preceding but not during the roll off or tune.

Finally, the recording should only have those instruments you would have in a live competition. Snare recordings should only have pipes, while tenor and bass recordings should only have pipes and snare. Drummers, this amendment is about increasing the number of drummers competing by removing the problems associated with scrambling around to find a piper. Take advantage of this rule change, and step into the solo competition ring.

Second, the grade V March, Slow Air, 6/8 competition has been modified. Now a grade V band can play two to four parts of march in any time signature, a slow air and then another two to four parts of march in any time signature. In addition, bands can repeat tunes between their QMM and the new MAM set. This will allow bands to



The graphic features the 'winter storm' logo with a silhouette of a piper and the website 'winterstorm.net'. Below the logo, it lists the dates 'January 10 - 12, 2014' and the event details: 'Piping and Drumming Workshop', 'The Pipes and Drums Concert', 'Amateur & Professional Piping and Drumming Contests', and 'Winter Steam Party'. A central text block states: 'Winter Storm 2014 features an ALL STAR LINE-UP of TWENTY EIGHT world renowned pipers and drummers'. The graphic is decorated with several small photographs showing musicians performing and a large crowd at an event. The website 'WinterStorm.net' is printed at the bottom.

keep their current medley if they choose. However, it offers several additional advantages. With the ability to have additional parts of march both before and after the air, the medley should be long enough to be used when a grade V band is playing up in the grade IV timed medley. It offers the possibility of playing the QMM with an added air in the middle so that beginner bands have an opportunity for a second competition but only have to learn one more tune. Hopefully this will result in two lively competitions for grade V bands and an easy way to play up when the opportunity presents itself.

This brings up one final important point about attending the AGM. You not only can voice your own opinion about proposals but you can listen and understand the nuances of and reasons for the rules.

The location and date of next year's AGM is yet to be determined. There is a strong likelihood it will not be in Las Vegas. We are committed to reducing the cost of the AGM significantly and increasing its value to our members.

We are looking for low- or no-cost meeting space likely to draw large numbers of attendees. If any of you have suggestions, please let us know.

Executive Secretary

Erin Gunn



Thanks to all of you who attended the AGM on October 19th. We appreciate you taking the time to travel to Las Vegas. Attendance at the AGM gives the opportunity for your voice to be heard on proposed Bylaw and Contest Rule changes. Please refer to the updated Bylaw and Contest Rules found on the WUSPBA website for all changes; in particular I believe these changes have the greatest impact on band and solo competitors.

- Solo Grading-If you wish to register for a different grade than the one you competed in last year, the Music Board will review your request and recommend the appropriate grade for your competition.
- Drummer Accompaniment-Snare, tenor, and bass drummers may now use recorded pipe music as accompaniment during their competitions. Competitors will be required to provide all recorded

music, the playback device and its operation.

- Band Registration-Individuals wishing to compete with a band must be on the roster for 15 days preceding the contest. This replaces the previous 30-day requirement.
- Replace grade V MS6/8 - The grade V MS6/8 requirements have been replaced with the following requirements and will be titled the grade V MSM: 2-to 4-parts of march in any time signature, a slow air in any time signature, and 2- to 4-parts of march in any time signature.

As 2013 marked the WUSPBA's 50th anniversary, the weekend was filled with special announcements:

- Andrew Lenz (former Executive Secretary) won 1st place in the logo contest. Dale Hawkins and Bob Cameron placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- Tom Robinson won 1st place in the tune-writing contest. His winning tune appears as the first tune in the 50th anniversary Golden Jubilee Tune Collection.

The association's AGM not only serves to facilitate Bylaw and Contest Rule changes, but is also a great opportunity to hear about the new initiatives within various committees in WUSPBA. The following were discussed at this year's meeting:

- Website-The new website should be up and running before the end of the year.
- CTAMS-A computerized system will help track and manage WUSPBA contests and results.
- MDAP-This group will focus on the development and performance of the music by arranging non-competition-

driven events such as workshops and recitals.

- Chief Steward-Larry Erdmann has been appointed to the office of Chief Steward. He and will be creating a training program for WUSPBA representatives who will perform the same function the same way at each WUSPBA event.

Thank you for supporting me during my time as the Solo Registrar; I hope you will continue to support me as I take on the Executive Secretary position. I want to thank Zach Lees for accepting the appointment to fill the remainder of the Solo Registrar term, I hope everyone will be able to support and help Zach in his new role. In addition to reading over the updated Bylaws and Contest Rules, I would like to encourage everyone to read over the 2013 AGM minutes and the updated Contest Handbook.

Treasurer

Matt Biggs



The table in the right-hand column presents the recommended WUSPBA budget for 2014.

| 2014 WUSPBA Recommended Budget | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Inflow | |
| Band dues | \$16,000.00 |
| Solo dues | \$10,000.00 |
| Contest fees | \$2,000.00 |
| Interest | \$150.00 |
| | |
| Revenues (Total) | \$28,150.00 |
| | |
| Outflow | |
| AGM expenses | \$6,000.00 |
| WUSPBA rep | \$2,500.00 |
| Branch support | \$6,500.00 |
| Dues | \$500.00 |
| Insurance | \$1,300.00 |
| Music Board | \$2,000.00 |
| Postage | \$500.00 |
| Printing | \$1,500.00 |
| Trophies | \$850.00 |
| Website | \$100.00 |
| IT support | \$3,000.00 |
| Bank expenses | \$100.00 |
| Credit card fees | \$500.00 |
| Contingencies | \$350.00 |
| President's discretionary fund | \$2000.00 |
| Other administrative | \$250.00 |
| | |
| Expenses (total) | \$27,950.00 |
| | |
| Balance | \$200.00 |

Solo Registrar

Zach Lees



Being newly appointed in my role as Solo Registrar, this update will be brief. I want to say that I am honored to serve in this capacity, and will do whatever I can to make sure you all have an enjoyable season.

This season I will be working on making sure everything runs as smoothly as possible for all of our soloists. If any of you have any questions or concerns, please contact me any time. My email is zach.lees@gmail.com.

Band Registrar

Nancy Theriault



I was recently elected to the position of Band Registrar, so please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Nancy Theriault, and my family has been involved in WUSPBA since 2007 when my youngest son, Nicholas, began his piping career, and a few years later our older son, Benjamin, took up tenor drumming. With each of the boys active in solos and also playing in separate bands, it seemed that, for a time, the family calendar began to revolve around piping and drumming! They've both had many adventures, and have met many friends in WUSPBA and associations in other states and countries that they never would have had if not for piping. Both Nick and Ben have been blessed with wonderful instructors, mentors and adjudicators who taught them piping and drumming and also gave them a love of the art and its history as well as lessons in graciousness and sportsmanship, along with a lot of laughter and friendship.

[Note: I also have a 22-year-old daughter, Kimberly, who would like me to point out that while she may not be directly involved in piping or drumming, she does have red hair!].

I had always intended to take a turn helping out with the work of the WUSPBA, and now is as good a time as any. It's so easy for us, as parents, to forget that it takes many people and thousands of hours to run the association, the branches and all the games that our children are able to enjoy. I encourage every family involved in piping and drumming to consider lending a hand - whether with the association or at one of your local games. Volunteering as a steward, for example, is a fun way to meet the other competitors and can make a huge difference in helping the events run smoothly!

I am very fortunate to be taking over from Kylene Tanner, who has done a remarkable job with the Registrar position for the past 6 years! She took over a position laden with paperwork and the deciphering of handwritten forms, and began the process of moving the registration process toward an online system. She has certainly shaved much of the tediousness off the Band Registrar's job and I thank her for that as well as for all her help and advice. I'm also grateful to Andy Trimble for his amazing programming skills as he transitions the process to his new CTAMS system, which will make everything smoother and easier for all concerned.

I ask all band managers and pipe majors to be patient as we all learn and navigate through the system changes. I believe it will be well worth it.

Of the people who've served as mentors to my two sons, one of the dearest is Bill Merriman, who will be stepping down this year as piping chair for the Pleasanton games. Bill has been a kind and generous mentor and friend to both Nick and Ben, an outstanding instructor to Nick for his first years of piping, and a beloved friend and advisor still. His leadership at the games has been an enormous contribution to the piping community and we all thank him tremendously for the many years he's been in charge.

I'd also like to extend congratulations to the Prince Charles Pipe Band, Bushmills Irish Pipers and Blandford and Sons Pipe Band for their recent upgrades!

Registration is open, so please remember to register your band and submit your dues before the January cut-off. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Best wishes to everyone for a fun and successful 2014 season!

Music Board

Andy Trimble



In the last issue of *Words & Music*, I described the requirements and methodologies of band grading. So let's now turn our attention to the other side of the competitive coin: adjudication.

The Music Board is charged with maintaining the list of certified piping and drumming judges. A very small percentage of pipers and drummers achieve the rank of certified adjudicator. As such, attaining the rank is a process often perceived as shrouded in uncertainty and secrecy.

My intention here is two-fold: to describe the qualifications and the process required to be a judge, and to give a small taste of what life is like for the average piping, drumming or ensemble judge.

There are two levels of adjudicators in WUSPBA, A Panel and B Panel. A Panel judges are expected to be mavens of their respective field. They tend to have the highest qualifications and years of experience, giving them a unique perspective on our competitive hobby. The A Panel band adjudicator is expected to have 15 years of experience being in a position of leadership in the top band levels. An A Panel solo adjudicator is expected to have 15 years of experience at the

professional level. The time restrictions, as well as the various other restrictions on experience, are intended to ensure that A Panel adjudicators are in the top 5 - 10% of pipers and drummers world-wide.

B Panel adjudicators are held to a standard that is only slightly less strict than that of the A Panel. B Panel band judges are expected to have 10 years of experience in the top levels, and a solo judge is expected to have 10 years of experience in Professional or the top amateur level. There are additional restrictions on B Panel adjudicators that are meant to ensure that they have enough experience and knowledge necessary to judge the lower grades accurately and fairly.

It is worth noting the practical differences between the two panels of adjudicators: A Panel judges can adjudicate any contest in their field, while B Panel adjudicators are restricted to the lower grades (Grades V through II for piping and drumming, and Amateur for tenor and bass).

The process for becoming an adjudicator is rigorous, and only attempted by individuals with a true passion for the art form. It begins by submitting an application and curriculum vitae to the Music Board for consideration. Should the Music Board choose to allow the individual into the program, the applicant must complete a seminar in each area chosen for pursuit. This must occur as preparation for the examinations.

There is an extensive examination for each aspect of Piping and Drumming. Each examination is commensurate with a graduate-level qualification exam undertaken by PhD and Masters' degree candidates. In addition to the theoretical aspect of the certification process, each prospective adjudicator must shadow-judge three contests under a WUSPBA-certified adjudicator. Taken as a whole, the program is

intended to ensure that applicants have the theoretical and practical know-how to provide accurate results in competition.

Piping and drumming represents an interesting phenomenon: it is one of the only art forms treated as if it were a sport. We play in front of adjudicators and expect them to objectively rank expressions of art. Taken without context, this seems somewhat absurd. But we have to remember that competition effectively saved this art form from extinction; it is a part of our legacy and heritage. Even so, piping and drumming adjudicators are charged with one of the more silly tasks on the planet: deciding which art is better than the other. This is an important point and plays heavily into why deciding the outcomes of contests can be such a subjective exercise.

Art creates empathy with the performer. As such, judges actively want competitors to do well. A good performance is a pleasure for the competitor, the judge and the audience. As humans, we want to be entertained. So the next time you're in a circle or on the boards, look around and know that everyone you see truly wants you to succeed.

Drum Major Committee

Kevin Conquest



The Drum Major Committee made significant efforts in 2013. While we did fall short on holding a workshop in every branch this year, we will continue to plan these workshops for 2014. The biggest success in 2013 was by far the partnerships with other associations. Attendance for drum major competition events in WUSPBA skyrocketed at almost every contest venue.

On behalf of the committee members, happy holidays to all, and all the best for the New Year.

Commissioner of Education

John Partanen

This November the piping portion of the WUSPBA Certification was initiated on a trial run with Highland High School in Bakersfield, California. The high school in the past has had a pipe band, but not for the past few years. This year the school's administration decided to revive it. I am currently working with Doug Burdick, a teacher at the school and a piper for more than 30 years. Doug began his piping career at Highland High School.

So far the program is going well, with five student pipers who have completed the first five weeks of instruction and will start their first tune, "Going Home," just before the Christmas break. The students have a long way to go, but should be eligible for the Level One Certification or before the end of the school year. MacCallum pipes are on order, and are expected in the spring.

Soon another high school pipe band will emerge, and future pipers are being trained as of this date thanks to the efforts of Doug Burdick, and the WUSPBA.

MDAP

Eli Fugate

MDAP stands for Music Development of the Arts and Performance.

Have you ever been with someone who has said, "It's too bad that we don't meet up and see our friends other than at the games?"

The primary goal of the MDAP for the moment is to start having a gathering in each branch of WUSPBA for pipers and drummers to attend, get up and play some music in front of peers -- and have a good time. It would give a student (who maybe isn't ready to play solos) a chance to play without the pressures of a contest.

Or perhaps a mini-band wants to play a set of tunes that are in a show repertoire (which we don't play often because we are mostly focused on competitions). Better yet, maybe there are some pipers from different bands who might want to get up and play some tunes together!!!

MDAP is focused on helping promote piping, drumming and drum majoring in WUSPBA. We would like to encourage every WUSPBA member to talk with his or her branch boards about how you can help set up these gatherings.

Let's all make an effort to lighten the mood of competition. Let's gather to have a pint, play some tunes and enjoy what we all have worked so hard to learn about in this art form.

Great Basin Branch

Michael Gibbs, President



I would like to start off by introducing myself. I have been playing the pipes for more than 25 years, and have been teaching for almost as long. I have had the great opportunity to play with several bands and learn from each and every one of them. I have a great love for the instrument and craft, and because of that love, I have a desire to help others learn and grow and become the best at what they do. I was recently (September) voted in as the president of the Great Basin Branch, and look forward to serving all of our soloists and bands, and to helping the Branch to continue to improve.

To provide a brief review of the Great Basin Branch during 2013: The Salt Lake Scots Pipe Band was upgraded from grade VI to grade III. It is nice to now have two grade III bands in the area, with the other grade III band being Wasatch & District Pipe Band. The caliber of piping and drumming in our branch continues to elevate each year, and that is exactly what we want to see.

Instead of doing an awards dinner this year, it was decided to offer a scholarship to a piper and drummer from our branch to be used to go to a school of their choice. Our objective was to get some good instruction that could be brought back and shared with their bands and help the entire band improve.

In April, our drummers had the privilege of attending a workshop with John Fisher as the instructor. What a great opportunity it was for them to work with such a legend. He has such vast knowledge and insight to share.

In June, we had the Utah Scottish Festival at Thanksgiving Point (held the second weekend of June each year). This is a great competition in a beautiful venue, and the largest of the two games held in the state. After the games, Drum Major Jason Paguio shared his knowledge and abilities with us in a drum major workshop that was well-attended. We had some young, and not as young, people learning how and what it is to be a drum major. Again, we were blessed to have someone with amazing, world-renowned talent instruct us. We hope to see more workshops like this next year.

The second weekend of July we have the Payson Scottish Festival. This is a smaller games and is free to spectators. We had some great band and soloist competitions this year. It was nice to see solo competitors come from out-of-state to enjoy this venue and competition.

Intermountain Branch

Drew McPheeters, President



The branch also had a piping workshop scheduled for September in conjunction with our AGM, but the instructor had to cancel shortly before the event. In place of the piping workshop, we decided to finish the year out with a Ceilidh and Cookout. Both of our local games are one-day events, and we don't have a lot of time to visit and mingle with others. The Ceilidh and Cookout was our opportunity to let our hair down and enjoy each others' company in a less formal setting.

We decided to open this event to others and not just those in the Great Basin Branch. Some of the organizations in attendance included the Hibernian Society, athletes, Irish and Scottish dancers, the St. Andrews Society, and the Utah Scottish Association. We included competition that was open to drummers and/or pipers, as soloists or a group. Prize money was awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We also provided dinner where there was a competition for the main dish and dessert. Attendees of the evening were asked to provide the side dishes. We had "Scottish weather" that kept some away, but it was still a well-attended evening filled with plenty of amazing food and great music.

We hope to continue events like this thru kitchen piping and drumming events, recitals, etc., with more involvement from the Scottish and Irish communities, as well as from the bands, dancers, athletes, and general public coming together to enjoy this crazy hobby we call Pipes and Drums.

2013 has been both a challenging and rewarding year in the Intermountain Branch. In June, devastating wildfires burned in parts of Colorado as well as New Mexico. Several members of the piping community lost homes and belongings in these fires and many more were further evacuated or displaced.

In September, torrential rains and flooding caused further devastation. The most damaging of these floods hit the week after the Long's Peak Scottish Festival in Estes Park, Colorado. This year Scottish Power returned as a guest band and had barely left town when the floods cut off access to the town for several days. The festival features a parade through town on Saturday morning, and the streets where many IMB bands had just marched past the large crowds were covered in water several feet deep. It is too soon to tell if the financial and physical damages will have any effect on this fantastic festival, but so far no changes are planned. If you find yourself looking for a great place to visit, consider Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park, with a stop in at the Longs Peak Scottish Festival in the future.

Despite the hardships IMB members experienced, there were some very positive things to report. For the first time in several years the Rio Grande Celtic Festival in Albuquerque, NM, hosted a band contest once again. In prior years the festival had preferred to hire bands to perform and elected to host only solo piping and drumming contest, but a small and dedicated group of volunteers led by Suzanne Lumb managed to bring back a band competition. While there were only a few bands this year, it is a start, and hopefully other bands can investigate this contest in the future.

Also back after nearly 15 years is the Colorado Springs Celtic Festival. This contest happened the last weekend of June, less than two weeks after the most damaging of the Colorado wildfires was contained. This contest was put together in a short amount of time after an unexpected opportunity to obtain some financial backing presented itself. The contest was small due to the short timing, and hopefully a longer time to plan and de-conflict schedules will allow the contest to be more widely attended in the future.

Finally, after more nearly 10 years, grade III competitions were once again held in the IMB. This became possible because of the upgrade of the Northern Colorado Caledonia Pipe Band (formerly known as Fort Collins Pipe Band) to grade III after finishing in the top of grade IV standings for several years, and with the establishment of the grade III Queen City Pipe Band in 2011. Look out for both of these bands in a grade III circle near you!

Northern Branch

Lisa Graves, President



The Northern Branch finished its year with a fun night of food, friend and awards at our Northern Branch AGM/Awards Dinner on November 2nd at the San Francisco Irish Cultural Center. We officially voted Wes Weber in as secretary and re-elected Amber Bartholomeusz as vice president. We handed out awards to our Northern branch soloist winners and enjoyed live music from some of our winners and Northern Branch band members. Thank you to everyone who attended, and especially to Jeff Mann, who came all the way from Utah to join us.

Now we start planning for next year. Ardenwood will be held on April 6th. We are planning to add solo drumming to the lineup at that competition. Mt Tam will be held on June 21st, and we are still working out the details of that event. We will be looking for volunteers to help at both events. If you're in the Northern Branch, please consider lending a hand. Many hands make light work!

Finally, I would like to mention the passing of Catherin Young. Catherin was the pipe major of the Stewart Tartan Band. She will be greatly missed and our condolences go out to her family and members of her band.

Audit Committee

Nate Lorenz, CPA

The Audit Committee the report is submitted on the following page.

Words & Music

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Deadlines

Copy and advertising are due by the following deadlines:

December 10 for January

March 10 for April

June 10 for July

October 23 for November (post-AGM issue)

Ad Sizes and Rates

- 1/4 page, 4.75" high x 3.625" wide = \$30 USD
- 1/2 page, 4.75" high x 7.5" wide = \$55 USD
- Full page, 9.875" high x 7.5" wide = \$105 USD

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Western U.S. Pipe Band Association



Established 1963

Western United States Pipe Band Association

50 Years

Nathaniel Lorenz, CPA
WUSPBA Audit Committee

October 15, 2013

To the Executive Committee and membership of the Western United States Pipe Band Association (WUSPBA).

As prescribed in the Bylaws of the Western United States Pipe Band Association, these Bylaws gives authorization to the Executive Committee for the expenditure of WUSPBA Funds. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Band, Solo and Sanctioning Registrar and the Presidents of the Great Basin, Intermountain, Northern and Southern Branches.

The Executive Committee (EC) approves budget for the WUSPBA and its operations. The Executive Committee expend funds consistent with approved budgets and in accordance with WUSPBA Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. WUSPBA has elected to use the cash basis of accounting to record income and expenditures.

The WUSPBA Auditing Committee has been granted access to all records and systems necessary to evaluate the adequacy of controls for receipts of funds, expenditures, and safeguarding of WUSPBA assets. The WUSPBA Auditing Committee is independent of all other WUSPBA Committees and operations, and the staff consists of 2 certified public accountants, certified internal auditors, and other credentialed personnel.

Based upon audits performed, the WUSPBA Auditing Committee is of the opinion that in all material respects, income received, expenditures made, and assets of the Western United States Pipe Band Association through September of the year 2013 have been recorded and administered in accordance with appropriate accounting practices, approved budgets, and WUSPBA policies and procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

WUSPBA Auditing Committee

Nathaniel Lorenz, CPA
Audit Committee Chair

WUSPBA ♦ 2559 South 400 E ♦ Bountiful, Utah 84010 ♦ www.wuspba.org

Balmoral Classic Report

George Balderose, Executive Director

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

Throughout Saturday, November 9, 2013, the sound of drones and chanters could be heard emanating from a Pittsburgh high school as bagpipers 18 years of age or younger from across the USA took part in the Balmoral School of Piping's seventh annual Balmoral Classic, a festival of piping that includes the US Junior Solo Highland Piping Championship.

The weekend began with a Thursday evening lecture/book presentation by Andrew Wright of Dunblane, Scotland at Carnegie Mellon University, covering points made in the chapters of his recently published book, *General Principles of Piobaireachd*.

Friday evening the Classic hosted a Gathering/Reception at the turn-of-the-century Pittsburgh Athletic Association for the contestants, judges, supporters, and the public which featured performances on the pipes by the judges, music by a trio of Celtic musicians, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, short speeches, and a cash bar.

The Saturday competition schedule started with piobaireachd in the morning and the MSR event in the afternoon, both taking place in spacious McGonigle Theater of Central Catholic High School near the CMU and Pitt campuses. Two selections were submitted by each competitor, and one was chosen by the judges fifteen minutes before his/her time to compete. Each piper played in Highland dress before judges Andrew Wright, Duncan Bell, and Scot Walker.

Winners were awarded trophies in both categories as well as overall. Prizes included a set of handcrafted bagpipes from McCallum Bagpipes for the MSR event winner and from Inveran Bagpipe Makers for the piobaireachd, two weeks full scholarship to the Balmoral School summer session for the overall winner and one week tuition scholarships to 2nd-5th overall winners, in addition to an assortment of medals, tuition and books to each of the 2nd-5th winners. Prize donors include: The Balmoral School, Celtic Croft, Duncans Highland Supply, Inveran Bagpipe Makers, Jim McGillivray, MacLellan Bagpipes, McCallum Bagpipes, Airstream, The Pipers' Hut.

The Balmoral Classic is also supported by grants from the PA. Council on the Arts and several foundations, the St. Andrews Society of Pittsburgh, and donations by a long list of individuals and organizations, not to mention the of time and energy given by the many volunteers.

The winners were announced before the Saturday evening concert featuring Alasdair Fraser

(Scottish fiddle) and Natalie Haas (cello) that attracted an audience of approximately 300.

Overall Winner Scott McCann played his MSR the start of the second Fraser/Haas set, preceded by Balmoral Instructor Donald McBride of Overland Park, KS playing *The Flowers of the Forest* in honor of David Olson, recently deceased piper from the Pittsburgh area. Dancers from the Celtic Spirit Highland Dancers of Pittsburgh and the Burke Conroy School of Irish Dance graced the stage during the Fraser/Haas concert. The US Junior Solo Snare Drumming competition was cancelled due to not enough entries.

COMPETITORS



The eleven competitors in the 2013 Balmoral Classic

Piobaireachd: List of Competitors and Selected Tunes:

Maeghan Bielski, Middleboro, MA: *Lament for the Viscount of Dundee*

Thomas Cangelosi, Rockaway, NJ: *MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's Lament No. 1*

Dylan Chrismer, Alta Loma, CA: *Nameless (Hiharin dro o dro)*

Anya Glover, Glendora, CA: *Piper's Warning to his Master*

Christian Harr, Bayville, NJ: *Flame of Wrath for Squinting Patrick*

Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, MI: *Lament for Captain MacDougall*

Scott McCann, Staunton, IL: *The Battle of Auldearn*

William Shropshire, Rockville, MD: *MacLeod of Raasay's Salute*

Chandler Sievwright, Hales Corners, WI: *Caber Feidh Gu Brath*

Colin Tait, Milford, MI: *MacGregor's Salute*

MSR: List of Competitors and Selected Tunes:

Maeghan Bielski, Middleboro, MA: *John MacFadyen of Melfort, Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch, The Sheepwife*

Thomas Cangelosi, Rockaway, NJ: *John MacDonald's Welcome to South Uist, John Roy Stewart, Gena MacLeod*

Dylan Chrismer, Alta Loma, CA: *Captain Campbell of Drum a Voisk, Ewe with the Crooked Horn, Johnnie Macdonald's Reel*

Anya Glover, Glendora, CA: *Colin Thompson, Captain Colin Campbell, Major David Manson*

Christian Harrs, Bayville, NJ: *South Hall, Caber Feidh, Doctor MacPhail's Reel*

Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, MI: *Jeanie Carruthers, Caledonian Society of London, The Sound of Sleat*

Scott McCann, Staunton, IL: *The Taking of Beaumont Hamel, Maggie Cameron, Bessie MacIntyre*

William Shropshire, Rockville, MD: *Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque, MacBeth's Strathspey, Kalabakan*

Chandler Sievwright, Hales Corners, WI: *John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage, Dora Macleod, Dolina MacKay*

Colin Tait, Milford, MI: *Dr. E.G. MacKinnon, Piper's Bonnet, Back of the Moon*

WINNERS

Piobaireachd

1. Christian Haars, Bayville, New Jersey
2. Scott McCann, Staunton, Illinois

3. Chandler Sievwright, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
4. Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, Michigan
5. Colin Tait, Milford, Michigan

MSR

1. Scott McCann, Staunton, Illinois
2. Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, Michigan
3. Colin Tait, Milford, Michigan
4. William Shropshire, Rockville, Maryland
5. Christian Haars, Bayville, New Jersey

Overall

1. Scott McCann, Staunton, Illinois
2. Christian Haars, Bayville, New Jersey
3. Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, Michigan
4. Colin Tait, Milford, Michigan
5. Chandler Sievwright, Hales Corners, Wisconsin



Overall Balmoral Classic winner: Scott McCann

Happy New Year!

**Sending best wishes to all WUSPBA members and friends for
fun, friendships and a successful competition season!**