

Words and Music

President's Report

Jeff Mann

Greetings,

March 21st marked the 152th day of this new WUSPBA administration. We have worked very hard on many goals and have accomplished much in these last 152 days. I am almost at the ½ point of my term. It is amazing how fast 6 months fly by. We still have a rigorous agenda to finish my last 6 months. Just a recap on some of those things:

1. We have finalized five standards of practice that are used in the day to day operations of WUSPBA. These are:
 - Reimbursement and purchases
 - Adjudicator appointments
 - Executive Committee online voting
 - Music Board participation at Executive Committee meetings
 - Band and Solo grading recommendations to the EC
2. We have sent out the first two quarters of the Words & Music
3. We are already working on some solo upgrades. Please note that currently we now have a grading committee that is working on solo grading. As you well know, the Music Board

WINTER 2013

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Executive Committee

Jeff Mann, President

Stuart Baker, Vice-President

Andrew Lenz, Executive Secretary

Scotty Dean, Treasurer

Erin Gunn, Solo Registrar

Kylene Tanner, Band Registrar

Todd Brown, Sanctioning Secretary

Branch Presidents

Lisa Graves, Northern Branch

(vacant), Southern Branch

Bruce Baxter, Great Basin Branch

Drew McPheeters, Intermountain Branch

(President Continued)

has been recommending band grading for years. At the 2009 AGM the membership asked the EC to start working on a grading system for soloists. Bob Mason and the Music Board were instrumental in starting that process. However, it was felt until the process was fully developed that we still allow self-grading. For the last couple of years we have received a few requests for solo upgrades. We are now at the point in this process where we feel confident that the grading committee can now implement this grading process. With that thought in mind PLEASE NOTE that the Executive Committee will be fully supporting a Bylaws proposal that will enable the Music Board Grading system to be implemented and will no longer allow self-grading. It's coming up folks so be aware.

4. The current Bylaws changes have been made and are now posted. In addition to the Bylaws, the Executive Committee had asked Andy Trimble if he would edit the current bylaws for any grammatical errors as well as changing the voice in the Bylaws from passive to active voice. We will be sending out a copy of the consolidated Bylaws to the membership prior to the AGM so that those Bylaws can be reviewed which hopefully will shorten the discussion and voting time at the AGM.
5. As of this writing the minutes from the AGM are 95% completed and will be posted in the next week or so.
6. The creation of a Publications Committee has enabled us to revise the old WUSPBA Rep Manual which is used by the WUSPBA Rep, Games Sponsors and contest organizers. This manual is a one stop shop for anyone wanting to learn how to setup and run a WUSPBA Sanctioned Contest. In addition, the Publications Committee will be handling all publications coming from the Executive Committee. I want to thank Erin Gunn for all of the many hours and hard work she and her

committee have spent on this project. The manual is in final review and should hopefully be posted in the next week or so.

7. Kevin Conquest is chairing the Drum Major Committee and has met on a couple of conference calls. I will let Kevin talk about some of the exciting ideas that is coming out of there committee.
8. Andy Trimble who is Chair of the IT Committee has been working hard on a centralized database C-TAMS (Central Administrative Management System) for the Executive Committee, Music Board, Solo and Band Members and Games Sponsors. This is a project that I have been personally wanted to see come to fruition for quite a while. Soloists will be able to register, pay their fees and receive there WUSPBA solo card and kilt number immediately alleviating the need for emailing registration cards and kilt numbers. Bands will be able to submit roster changes and receive their rosters in a very efficient manner. Games Sponsors can register and sanction their games online also in a very streamlined manner. This database will be extremely helpful in that all contest results, adjudication information, grading information, and critical information that the Music Board requires to make Adjudication and Grading decisions will now be at their fingertips. Again my grateful thanks to Kyleene Tanner, Erin Gunn, Todd Brown, and Andy Trimble who will be making the magic happen.
9. With the advent of a new centralized database

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(President Continued)

system we are updating our current website. Work is underway on the design for the new website. We are hopeful that this will greatly enhance our ability to communicate with you, our members. We have been using the WUSPBA News to get out timely updates to the membership. Hopefully you have signed up for that. Let us know if you haven't received those updates. We have an EMAIL Blast that goes out to Pipe Majors, and Drum Sgts. We have used this when we have wanted to get information out to the bands and I feel has been working fairly well. However, if you or your band has not received an email blast from me in the last three months we need to sign you up. This is an incredibly important communication tool that we have. I want to thank Andrew Lenz and Dane Chambers who have been absolutely incredible with their support since the start of this administration in posting and updating the current website. Again, I want to thank Andy Trimble for helping us set up the PM/DS Email Blast.



10. With the new Music Board in place we have formed four Music Board Committees: an Adjudication Committee, Grading Committee, Education Committee, and Contest Committee. These committees are hard at work on various projects dealing with the different musical aspects of the association. My many thanks to the Music Board and Andy Trimble for their hard work.
11. Stuart Baker is in charge of the AGM Committee and he has been working hard on this project. Inasmuch as we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of WUSPBA Stuart has asked Michael LeBoeuf to help in planning some of the fun activities we will be experiencing this year at the AGM. The AGM will be held on October 26,

2013 in Las Vegas. Stay Tuned to further details.

12. The Music Board is working on guidelines regarding adjudication appointments to the judging panel. This will be a comprehensive manual that will assist in detailing just what is expected in the adjudication appointment process from beginning to end. In addition it will outline the process for recertification of adjudicators (Don't panic judges, at this point it will not involve taking exams) as well as a promotional process for moving judges from the B panel to the A.

13. Logo Contest: As most of you know, we have been holding a logo contest which has now ended. We will be posting the entries on the website. You will have the opportunity to pick the top six. Then we will have a second vote where you can pick the top 3. The Executive Committee has the rights to use the logo however we will, or not use it depending on the need. The top 3 winners will receive cash prizes. The membership should email me at Jeffrey.mann@hsc.utah.edu.

14. In addition to the Logo Contest we have a tune writing (composition contest) underway. I wanted to clear up a misconception and will post this on the WUSPBA website. We have had a few composers write in with questions regarding the copy rights to the tunes. Just to be clear, a new disclosure has been written up and basically states that the composer has and keeps full rights to their composition but allows WUSPBA a license to do with it as it will. The top three winning tunes will receive cash prizes and in addition we are working on a tune collection project of music for the WUSPBA 50th anniversary. This collection will then be published. We are hoping that this WUSPBA 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Tune Collection will be complete by the AGM on October 26th. Lorne Cousin is currently Chair of this project under the auspices of the Music Board.
15. An Audit Committee has been created and is in the initial stages of an audit of our books. We

(President Continued)

should see the results of this audit within the next couple of months.

16. Branch monies have been sent out to the different branches. My great thanks to David Mackenzie who has been very supportive of both the audit and the financial affairs of WUSPBA.
17. Band and Solo registrations are well underway along with games sanctioning. Erin Gunn is our new solo registrar and has met her learning curve dealing with solo registration very well. Again, with the advent of a new centralized database system we are hoping to streamline even more our current processes dealing with sanctioning and registration.
18. The newly created President's Council has been hard at work. Susan Thornton, Chair of the committee works hard along with John Biggar, Stu Baker, Andrew Morrill, Chris Hossack and Scott MacDonald. Their job is to take issues that the Executive Committee feel might require additional thought of people much wiser than I and have them discuss at their level and then send their recommendations back to the Executive Committee. We have already called upon them on a couple of issues and their help has been tremendous. In addition to their council they have been tasked to organize a "Presidents Circle of Honor Brunch". This will be to honor the Life Members and Past Presidents of WUSPBA. More details will be forthcoming.
19. The Northern Branch has been re-organized and I am pleased to welcome Lisa Graves as the new President of the Northern Branch. Amber Bartholomeusz is the Vice-President along with Richard Charette as Executive Secretary and Donna Smith as Treasurer. They held their first Branch Executive Committee meeting on February 9th and they have some exciting plans coming forward. We extend to them a very warm welcome and wish them the best of luck!
20. The Southern Branch will be holding their elections during the Costa Mesa Games on Saturday right after Massed Bands.
21. Marshall German was selected to represent WUSPBA at the Metro Cup. Congratulations Marshall on being selected.
22. 2012 entire Band and Solo results are now posted. Trophies have been mailed out to the aggregate winners. Congratulations to the bands and soloists for all of their hard work.
23. I had the awesome opportunity to attend Winter Storm and was greatly impressed with the ability to live stream the competitions. I have tasked the IT committee to look into the possibility of doing the same for possibly the Costa Mesa or Pleasanton Games. If any of you have a working interest or knowledge of how this can be done on a limited budget, I would certainly like to hear from you. Jeffrey.mann@hsc.utah.edu
24. The Executive Committee has appointed Darrell Calvillo as Historian. He has been tasked at creating a history for the AGM as well as working on capturing the history of the bands in WUSPBA. This is an exciting project as we will have video biographies on a lot of the history of WUSPBA. If you know of anyone that might be interested, in serving on this committee please let us know.
25. It is with deep regret that I announce that David Mackenzie is stepping down as Treasurer of WUSPBA because of family health reasons. I will miss David as he was a good friend and mentor of mine. We have appointed Scotty Dean to replace David as Treasurer for the remainder of his term. Scotty is not new to the position as he served as Treasurer for several years.
26. I am very happy to announce the formation of the "Music Development of the Art and Performance Committee" or "MDAP". This committee will serve as a subcommittee of the Music Board and will receive direct oversight from Andy Trimble, Chair of the Music Board. This Committee's focus will be developing the art and performance of Pipers,

(President Continued)

Drummers, and Drum Sergeants through non-competitive projects and structured learning. Since we are doing well on the competitive side of our mission, this committee will work on the non-competitive side and will have oversight over some of the branch educational activities. Eli Fugate and Ross Naismith have been appointed Co-Chairs of this committee along with Chris Bartholomeusz, Jamie Cuthill, Paul Gibson, Mike Postma, Charlie Rosenberger and Hamish Yuile. I am excited to see what types of projects this committee will bring to the development side of WUSPBA. I extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the MDAP Committee.

Finally, I would like to say to you now that the contest season is beginning, good luck and have fun. I am looking forward to hearing the bands and soloists. I wish you the very best this season. Good luck and safe travel for those bands that are doing any kind of traveling this year. Have fun during your competitions. Get to know members of other bands. Create synergy and development within yourselves and others.

-Jeff Mann, President

pres@wuspba.org

From the Editor

Owen Torres

Greetings, everyone! Well, things are finally moving forward for me, both personally and in piping. My hard work has paid off and now this piper/drum major will be off to graduate school in the fall. In addition to that, this will also mark my first year as a competitive soloist. While I can't as of yet see where all these things are going to fit in the months and eventual years to come, I'm sure there will be some time to fit it all in. While I don't yet know what is in store for me once I arrive at graduate school, I know that some things in my life will have to be put on hold in order to advance my career. Despite this inevitability, I would be doing myself a grave disservice if I were to skip out on my budding piping career, so I'll work it out somehow and keep on playing.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6- Ardenwood
Celtic Festival
Fremont, CA

April 20-21- Las Vegas
Celtic Gathering and
Highland Games
Las Vegas, NV

April 27-28- Sacramento
Valley Games
Woodland, CA

May 11- Prescott
Highland Games
Prescott, AZ

*Visit WUSPBA.org's
Events page for more
information.*

Words and Music

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Executive Secretary's Report

Andrew Lenz

As the 2013 season gets up to steam, I'd ask you to keep something in mind as you visit various competition venues: there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. It's easy to be critical when you drive up in your car, park, walk onto the field and find your event is running late, some platform got unexpectedly moved, results aren't posted quick enough for your liking, etc.

There are months of preparation that go into hosting an event. Plus a fair amount of risk; there is no guarantee that an event will break even, but judges and venues fees are set in stone. Solo fees often don't cover the cost of a judge and while the argument could be made that soloists are a big draw for general ticket sales, do you see large crowds of the general public watching soloists compete? Nope. Even a large venue like Pleasanton will still only find a smattering of spectators, and many are family and friends of the individual competing! Pipe bands are a bigger draw, but even then there is no guarantee that the games will be a success. It might surprise you but there are years that even a long-standing successful event like Pleasanton Games will go into the red.

Occasionally, I'll hear people complaining that "my family and friends should get in for free" and "why should my wife have to buy a ticket?" Perhaps you'll

start to understand why such arguments, if won, could spell the end of highland games.

Aside from the financial demands, there are exhaustive time demands. You might start to figure out just how easy it is to overlook some planning detail here or there that seems like such a hassle to you at the time.

Some number of years ago, I remember one games that I attended where I felt it was more disorganized than I preferred. Did I complain? Maybe a little. But more importantly, I approached the games organizer and volunteered to run the solo competition. Being that I knew exactly what I wanted as a soloist myself, I could run the competition to the liking of those participating and it went very well for a number of years before a rainy weekend impacted the "gate" enough to kill that games.

The administration of games and your pipe band association is composed of people just like you. If everyone were to sit on their hands and not volunteer, everything we've come to enjoy in the piping and drumming scene will cease to exist. If you aren't quite ready to volunteer yourself – and give it some serious thought – at least be thankful and patient with those who have.

–Andrew Lenz, Executive Secretary

exec-secretary@wuspba.org



Solo Registrar's Report

Erin Gunn

Greetings WUSPBA members,

My first few months as the newest Executive Committee member have been extremely busy! I don't think I was fully prepared for the number of solo registrations I would be processing. My computer has been my constant companion as I have tried to use any spare moment I have to send out registrations. With a very active 1 year old, most of my free moments come after 9:00pm.

However, the registration period is beginning to slow down. My hope is that when this newsletter is published I will be up to date on all registrations. Thank you all for your patience and understanding with the registration process.



As we prepare for a new competition season I want to congratulate the 2012 WUSPBA solo aggregate winners. The following is a list of those individuals:

- Piping Professional-Ian Whitelaw and Darrell A. Calvillo
- Piping grade 1-Nicholas C. Theriault
- Piping grade 2-Trevor P. Takahashi
- Piping grade 3-Anya I Glover
- Piping grade 4-Robyn L. Morgan
- Side Drumming Professional-Duncan M. McPherson
- Side Drumming grade1-Michael A. Postma
- Side Drumming grade 2-Daniel I. Schneider
- Side Drumming grade 3-Andrew Ryan
- Side Drumming grade 4-Madison L. Fairchild
- Tenor Drumming Professional-Mike W. O'Neal
- Tenor Drumming grade 1-Amber Bartholomeusz
- Tenor Drumming grade 2-Kierra Brown and Samantha D. Jovanovic
- Tenor Drumming grade 3-Zoltan Koncz
- Tenor Drumming grade4-Mike E. Parsons
- Bass Drumming Professional-Sean C. Biggar
- Bass Drumming Amateur-Richard Wilkins
- Drum Major Adult-Jacy B. Anderson
- Drum Major Juvenile-Andrew J. Manning

Again, congratulations to the 2012 aggregate winners. Best of luck to everyone in 2013!

-Erin Gunn, Solo Registrar

solo-registrar@wuspba.org

Band Registrar's Report

Kylene Tanner

Greetings from the deep freeze. After surviving one of the coldest Januaries on record, I am nearly ready to ship myself to my brother's home in El Paso. Weather aside, January means band registration season. I spend nearly all of my "free" time working on registration and rosters. Although the online registration system has reduced the sheer volume of work, it is still a challenge.

During this winter, I have had the opportunity to once again review my motivation to continue serving. I will admit that there are many times that I am severely tempted to walk away, but I made a commitment, and I do feel strongly in follow through.

I have taken a personal challenge to review the best practices and overall structure of the other associations in North America. This is not new to me. Each season I review the basics of all the associations for a number of reasons, but this year I have shared my findings with others. It is tempting to look at a single practice or rule of another association and decide that this is the rule or practice that we must need here. It is imperative to review all of the rules for each association and look at the entire package before making decisions like that.

For example, I get hounded over and over about the need for a school rule. After all, they tell me, "Everyone Else Does It!" Nonsense. Only two of the 11 associations have such a rule, and when you look at the

combination of the school rule with the registered instructor and dual musician policies, as well as the limitation on how many bands an instructor may register with, plus the requirements of the school rule, our liberal policy of allowing all juvenile grade 5 members to play in any other band with no penalty is actually much more open.

Another argument I get is that "everyone else" allows grade 5 to play a timed medley. Actually, only one association does. Remember that when you are approaching me with the type of argument that we have to do something because everyone else does it, I have all of the rules at a glance. Ask away, but don't expect me to believe that "everyone else" has an advantage that you don't. It is just not true. There is not an association in North America with looser rules.

Now on to other matters. I am not planning to run again for Band Registrar. At the end of this term, I will have served in this position for six years. It is high time for someone else to pick up the torch. I am only partially kidding when I say that if you want to demand rule changes that take work for anyone in the Executive Committee, you put your time on the line and serve. On the Executive Committee we are working on a better association, and nit-picky time wasters are not helpful.

The petty annoyances aside, I am grateful that so many of you are sincere and are simply in this hobby for the art of it. You are the ones that make my life easier. I can really count on maybe two hands the number of people (organizations) that are constantly causing me grief. The vast



(Band Registrar Continued)

majority of you are wonderful to work with. I was reminded this week that life is too short for me to spend so much time on paperwork. I need to spend more time on things that actually matter - like practicing. The ugliness I have faced the past couple of years have given me a new appreciation for the ability to just play and let the world fall away.

Best of luck as the competition season starts.

-Kylene Tanner, Band Registrar

band-registrar@wuspba.org

BAGPIPE LESSONS

Learn to play or improve your skills!

Private Lessons

**Locations throughout
Los Angeles County,
Orange County, and
Inland Empire areas!**

Skype Lessons

**Contact Darrell to
schedule a time!**

Group Classes

**All classes meet in
Claremont, CA**

**10 meetings per
session!**



Darrell Calvillo, 2012 WUSPEA
Professional Champion

Group Classes

****Sessions start soon! Contact Darrell today!****

Bagpipes for Beginners

Learn the scale and basic finger movements in preparation for learning your first tune! (Chanter required)

Intermediate Bagpiping

Learn basic tunes such as Scotland the Brave and Amazing Grace! (Chanter required)

Introduction to Pipe Band

****Perfect for PIPERS & DRUMMERS****

Learn to play as a group! Emphasis on playing in unison, commands and protocol, tuning in a band setting, and an introduction to harmony and counterpoint. (Ability to play WUSPBA massed band tunes and other introductory tunes required)

For more information contact:

**Darrell Calvillo
(626) 826-0381**

darrellcalvillo@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/darrellcalvillo



Music Board Report

Andy Trimble

Greetings fellow WUSPBA members. The Music Board has been hard at work this year. We are reviewing solo gradings, looking into potential bylaws changes, managing the adjudicators system, and many more exciting projects. We are currently accepting tune submissions to the WUSPBA's 50th Anniversary Tune Contest, so don't be shy and submit your tunes today! In addition, we are looking into publishing a WUSPBA tune book. There will be more information on that in the coming weeks.



If you'll permit me, I'd like to talk a little bit of philosophy. On the Music Board, we are looking at agenda items from a somewhat different perspective these days. In the end, we are all musicians. This means that our fundamental goal is to produce high quality art.

As pipers and drummers, we are in a somewhat atypical situation in that our major expositions are in the form of contests. This places us, somewhat awkwardly, right in the middle of an art form and a sport. All too often, we focus too much on winning contests. I would like to challenge each and every one of us to reevaluate this stance and focus on how we can produce quality music.

Let's face it, winning contests is fun; but if this is our only goal, we are doing a disservice to the spectators, adjudicators, and ourselves. So let's all take a step back and ask

ourselves, "How can I produce better music?" In taking this stance, I predict that our contests will be more fun, produce better quality results, and provide an excellent exposition of this crazy hobby we share.

-Andy Trimble, Chair

music-chair@wuspba.org

Publications Committee's Report

Erin Gunn

The new Contest Handbook should be up on the WUSPBA website at the time of publication. We have taken the Piping and Drumming hand book, which was a guide to organizing competitions, and the WUSPBA Rep. Manual, and combined them into one document. Our hope is that the end product will be helpful to both new and existing games organizers and WUSPBA Reps. We will continue to update the document as Bylaws, Contest Rules, and processes change. I want to thank Sue Altmeyer and Elaine Hoffman for their valuable experience and input into this project.

-Erin Gunn, Chair

Drum Major Committee's Report

Kevin Conquest

1. The Queen Mary games kicked off the 2013 season and the drum major competition was a huge success! We saw 20 drum majors competing, 10 of which were in the juvenile grade. This demonstrates a continual increase of participation at WUSPBA events; moreover, this was the largest turnout of drum majors in the history of the Queen Mary games. Additionally, we held the invitational "classic" competition where 4 adult drum majors are selected to lead the Los Angeles Scots Grade 1 band through a course. This local option event is judged jointly between the band and adjudicator, selecting the best leader on the march.



2. Dave Melton has started work on instructional material for bands regarding mace signals and commands. The goal is to produce an informative reference that will improve the understanding and communication between bands and drum majors in massed bands. We intend to supplement printed reference with YouTube videos. This will all be provided free of charge to our membership.

3. I have sent a formal introductory letter on behalf of WUSPBA to WO1 Ben Roberts, the Senior Drum Major of the British Army in hopes of opening communication and obtaining updated drill manuals to aid the creation of our instructional materials. I am also awaiting contact info for the Senior Drum

Major at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming in Edinburgh.

4. David Cubberly has received a list of all registered WUSPBA drum majors dating back to the 1990s. We note the number of expired registrations; David will be contacting these competitors to find out why they have lost interest in WUSPBA. He is also going to find out how we can better serve our drum major competitors to retain current and future registrations.

5. Jason Paguio has kicked off 2013 cross-promotion between World Drum Major Association and WUSPBA by holding a Scottish style contest using WUSPBA rules at the Glendora High School solo drum major competition on March 2nd. The high school marching band circuit attracts at least 40-50 competitors to each of their events. This will be an amazing opportunity to expose new drum majors to the Scottish style of competition. Both Jason and I will be on hand to promote the benefits of joining WUSPBA and talk about what pipe bands do at Highland Games.

6. Ken Misch has brought up an excellent point that our main source of new competitors (kids from the high school) find our events hard to get into with the expense. He is certainly right! A uniform is not cheap and some of these kids try to do this without joining a pipe band. Add the solo membership to WUSPBA and individual contest registrations to this list and it becomes daunting for teenagers. We are all looking at ways to subsidise expenses for juvenile drum majors. We must also strongly encourage bands to welcome drum majors into their ranks!

7. I am helping Erin Gunn track down the WUSPBA adjudicators who have not paid their dues to find out if they are still interested in being on the panel and participating.

(Drum Major Continued)

Lastly, our committee intends to finalise the rules and requirements for a novice grade of adult drum majors in time to do a voluntary pilot by Costa Mesa.

Please feel welcome to contact me or any of our committee if you have questions or ideas. This is a symbiotic relationship at stake - drum majors need bands and every band ought to have a skilled drum major to help and add to every performance.

All the best,

-Kevin Conquest, Chair

dm-chair@wuspba.org

NEWS RELEASE

ANYA GLOVER AWARDED 2012 CLAN CAMERON GRADE III PIPER OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, JANUARY 19, 2013

The Southern California Branch of Clan Cameron is proud to announce that **Anya Glover** is the 2012 winner of the Clan Cameron Scholarship for the Best Grade III Piper in Southern California. Anya lives in Glendora with her parents and is a senior at Glendora High School. She is an accomplished musician. Anya played with Glendora High School pipe band for three years and then moved to University of California Riverside Grade 3 pipe band, where she is playing now. She also played the alto saxophone with the Glendora High School marching band for three years, and currently is playing baritone saxophone in the GHS Jazz band. Anya and her parents and sister attended the Annual Clan Cameron Christmas Ceilidh where she was awarded her trophy and scholarship. Anya's name has been inscribed on the Clan Cameron Scholarship Perpetual Trophy along with other five winners from prior years. This trophy is displayed at the various Scottish games in southern California. Anya plans to attend the University of Washington and study Environmental Science. We at Clan Cameron wish Anya the very best success in her future endeavors.



President's Council Report

Susan Thornton

As explained in the last issue of Words & Music, the role of the newly established Presidents' Council is to advise the Executive Committee upon request. The Council is made up of recovering WUSPBA presidents: Stu Baker, John Biggar, Chris Hossack, Scott MacDonald, Andrew Morrill and myself.

To date, the Council has responded to requests for advice regarding elections for the Southern Branch, and to legal issues around publication of music composed by WUSPBA members. We have also begun planning a brunch at the Pleasanton games to honor WUSPBA life members.

As a group, we are amazed at the ambitious scope of work that President Jeff Mann has accomplished in just his first 100 days in office. As the 50th anniversary of WUSPBA approaches, we look forward to assisting in any way that would be helpful.

-Susan Thornton, Chair



Branch News

Great Basin Branch

It has been a quiet winter for the branch, but we remain busy. As December passes and the new year arrives, pipers and drummers are making decisions on the bands they are joining for the coming season and rosters are being finalized. Many bands are looking with anticipation for the first contests of the year, Queen Mary and Phoenix. Shake off that rust and get the nerves back under control again. It's always fun to see what bands have put together over the winter months.

I want to finish up business from the past season by reporting the top finishers in our branch for bands and soloists:

Using the same scoring criteria in our branch as used by WUSPBA, the standings, for in branch contests only are as follow:

Grade 4 Bands

- 1 - Wasatch and District G4
- 2 - Salt Lake Scots
- 3 - Snake River

Grade 5 Bands

- 1 - Utah Pipe Band G5
- 2 - Wasatch and District G5
- 3 - Payson and Ben Lomond tied

Soloists

Grade 1 Piping

- 1 - Zachary M. Lees

Grade 2 Piping

- 1 - Myron E. Walz and Megan McDonald tied
- 2 - Nicholas B. Shrum and Ian F. Smith tied
- 3 - Mark R. Stuart

Grade 3 Piping

- 1 - Christopher J. Johnson
- 2 - Michael S. Page
- 3 - William L. Mashburn

Grade 4 Piping

- 1 - Caysee L. Cox
- 2 - Anne L. Storms
- 3 - Todd R. Brown and Chantel M. Allen tied

Grade 1 Side Drumming

- 1 - Michael A. Postma

Grade 2 Side Drumming

- 1 - Daniel I. Schneider
- 2 - Thomas M. Biggs

Grade 3 Side Drumming

- 1 - Nicholas B. Lawyer
- 2 - Scott A. Keachie
- 3 - Ethan M. Balling

Grade 4 Side Drumming

- 1 - Ryan D. Smith
- 2 - Chadwick S. Williams
- 3 - Paul S. Babcock

Grade 2 Tenor



(Great Basin Continued)

- 1 - Kierra Brown
- 2 - Addison M. Rosner
- 3 - Ryan A. Hudson

Grade 3 Tenor

- 1 - Natalie Moyes

Grade 4 Tenor

- 1 - Triona S. McMaster and Tiffani W. Brush tied
- 2 - Julie R. Buchanan

Congratulations to all of our solo and band competitors in the Great Basin Branch.

The branch has also awarded two scholarships to a piping and drumming school of their choice to Cody Steck for piping and Tiffani W. Brush for percussion. Both applicants wrote outstanding appeals for choosing them as the awardees. I know they will represent our branch well at the school of their choice.

The branch is continuing to get our spring school scheduled and put in place. We are working over the details at this time.

-Bruce Baxter, Great Basin President

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Northern Branch

Hi everyone, my name is Lisa Graves and I play Bagpipes with the grade 5 San Francisco Irish Pipers. I'm proud to hold the title of Northern Branch WUSPBA President. I



started playing bagpipes in my 20s, put it down for a while, and then started back up in my 40s. Playing the bagpipes has become so much more than just playing the bagpipes, it's about community. This has led me to join the board of NBWUSPBA

The northern branch held its first meeting after branch elections on February 6th. We are all new to the board and just getting our bearing. So far, we've identified continuing education as a top priority and we would like to support piping and drumming workshops for the Northern Branch. We've started exploring how best to do this.

Also, we will be running the solo piping competition at Ardenwood this year. The Northern Branch Facebook page is up and running again, please check it for updates.

All the best,

-Lisa Graves, Northern Branch President

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Circle Of Honor

Circle of Honor are our life members who have demonstrated a commitment of service and excellence to the Western United States Pipe Band Association. Our current Life Members are have served so faithfully and put in many long hours of devoted service to the association.

I am very proud to announce this year's "Circle of Honor" recipients. These are individuals who I feel are long overdue for this recognition. They will stand with the other Circle of Honor Members. They will be honored at this year's AGM and will receive a life membership.

Tim and Helen Gladden

Chris Hossack

James Laughton

Scott MacDonald

Janet MacLean

Ozzie Reid

Charles Rosenberger

Susan Thornton

Posthumous Awards

Calvin and Christine Biggar

Kevin Blandford

Kathleen Elsie Nicholson Graham

Lee "Skip" Ruleman

-Jeff Mann, *President*

And in Closing...

If you would like to contribute to Words and Music, please email me at: otorr002@gmail.com

I hope this next year brings good fortune to all the competitors. See you at the Games.

Cheers,

Owen Torres, editor



Words and Music

A WUSPBA publication.

Words and Music

WUSPBA's Official
Publication