

Annual General Meeting of the Western United States Pipe Band Association

Held Saturday November 22, 2014 in Salt Lake City, Utah

Meeting called to order, quorum was established (8:50am)

Minutes of the 2013 AGM (8:51am)

Motion to waive the reading of the 2013 minutes, and approve by acclamation (Susan Thornton, 2nd Bruce Baxter)-APPROVED

Officer Reports

President Jeff Mann (8:51am)

We will be introducing a new management system that will help the membership, contest organizers, and the WUSPBA administration. Communication has been a key focal point. We have tried to respond quickly to all inquiries and concerns. The music board has been divided into three different committees (grading, adjudication, and education). This year was the first time that WUSPBA has taken an active role in grading our bands and soloists. As with any new system there have been some hiccups along the way, however plans to resolve and prevent future problems have already been implemented. Two methods of communication that are keeping our membership well informed are our words and music and email blasts to pipe majors and drum sergeants.

Executive Secretary Erin Gunn (8:59am)

Communication is one of my primary responsibilities; however I don't currently have access to the most current member information I have to ask the solo registrar, band registrar, and sanctioning secretary to send messages to our membership. This new system will allow me to better communicate with our membership.

This year the EC has instituted a policy change with our communication procedures. Anything that requires action on the part of the EC needs to come into the executive secretary so we are aware what is going on, and what will be expected of us. This includes re-grade applications and appeals, applications to the adjudication program, and waiver requests. However, all inquiries and questions should be directed to the appropriate member of the EC or MB. For example if you have a question about solo results, contact the solo registrar, if you have questions about how to become a judge contact the adjudication committee of the MB.

Treasurer Holley Morrill (9:01am)

Read the audit report, presented the 2014 budget and actuals, and presented the proposed 2015 budget. Holley was appointed in April of 2014, and when she took over there were no records from 2013. She was given several checks that were written in 2013 so the actual registration fees collected in 2014 is higher. Motion to accept the treasurer report and approve the 2015 budget (Brendan O'Leary, 2nd Jan Ritchie)-APPROVED

Band registrar Nancy Theriault (9:12am)

For 2014 the following were registered: 1 grade 2, 10 grade 3, 23 grade 4, and 22 grade 5. The bands upgraded for the 2015 competition season were read.

Solo registrar Lezlie Mann (9:15am)

For the 2014 competition season there were 513 soloists registered. Excited for the new system, believes that it gives the soloists more control to update their profile and to see their results.

Sanctioning Secretary Todd Brown (9:17am)

26 games were sanctioned. With the new system we will still continue to use the judging forms at least initially. Wants to thank the games organizers for providing a place for our bands and soloists to compete.

Branch Reports

Great Basin Branch President Mike Gibbs (9:18am)

Beginning of the year had \$6800; this included a \$1000 donation from WUSPBA to be used for the piping and drumming at the Moab Celtic Festival. \$2700 was used to fund the Moab games leaving \$4100. We didn't have a large educational expenditure. Three of our bands experienced PM changes this year (Wasatch Grade 3, Wasatch Grade 4, and the Utah Pipe Band Grade 4). On October 3rd the Great Basin Branch AGM was held, and two new officers were elected-VP Bruce Baxter and Secretary Rose Hadden. The two biggest things to happen in our branch are 1. Wasatch and District grade 3 was upgraded to grade 2 and 2. We added a new event in our area, the Moab Celtic Festival.

Intermountain Branch President Drew McPheeters (9:23am)

Really appreciate everything going on in the EC, great communication and working together. Bands in the Intermountain area are growing and progressing. A clinic was held in October, thank you to WUSPBA for financial support of that event. Games are doing well in the branch.

Northern Branch President Lisa Graves (9:27am)

It's been a quiet year. Most of the funds the branch brings in go to support the Mt. Tam games. This year they had a fun event where you could come and play anything and get immediate feedback from the judges. Our AGM is scheduled for December 20th; two new officers will be elected the President and Vice President.

Standing Committee Reports

Music Board Chairman Andrew Morrill (9:30am)

The MB is taking a broader spectrum, especially with grading. We are going to be writing articles to help explain the process. There have been several questions about how can I get my CPL's-we will be able to give you your average, however we want to keep the anonymity of the adjudicators. We established 3 committees this weekend. Grading Committee (BJ Gunn, Glenn Kvidahl, Liz Tubbs, and Jeff Anderson) they will be collecting all CPL scores looking at averages and trends. Adjudication Committee (Lise

Nelson, Ryan Balchuck, Jan Ritchie, and Michael LaBoeuf) they will be focusing on creating a recertification program for judges and the Education committee (Ross Morrill and Kevin McIntyre) they will be working with MDAP to organize educational events in every branch.

We set a lot of goals this weekend. Please contact us with any questions or ideas. We are hoping to have a member of the music board at every contest to meet with the judges before and after the event to review the CPL system and get their feedback.

Chief Steward Report presented by Erin Gunn in Larry Erdmann's absence (9:36am)

For the 2015 competition season we want to have a WUSPBA Rep. at every event. The branch presidents have been assigned to recruit individuals who would be able to fill this role. We will help them understand the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Every band should have a band representative that coordinates with the WUSPBA Rep., contest organizers, and stewards to be the contact person for their band. Preferably this should not be the pipe major or any other playing member.

President's Council Chairman Susan Thornton (9:41am)

The president's council advises the president and the EC on difficult or political issues. The council is comprised of past presidents (Andrew Morrill, Stuart Baker, Chris Hossack, Scott MacDonald, and John Biggar).

Words and Music editor John Thornton (9:42am)

Trying to get good educational articles, member submissions are always welcome. Want to get history information to include in every issue. Currently using constant contact for our mailing system. Please contact John at misterpv@gmail.com

Historian Richard Strayer (9:45am)

Our goal is to collect, preserve, and share the history of the association in order to inform and inspire its members. We have a detailed action plan in place that we will be using as we work with the steering group to define the scope of the project.

BREAK (9:51am)

Called back to order (10:05am)

Adjudication Committee Chairman Lise Nelson (10:05am)

In addition to the MB members on the adjudication committee Bob Mason will also be joining. We are going to be refining the process to become an adjudicator from the application through the shadow program, the testing and scoring. Through the website we are going to have a permanent storage solution for all adjudication documents and confidential documents. We will be working with the education committee to do workshops.

Grading Committee Chairman BJ Gunn (10:09am)

We have collected CPL (competitor performance level) data for every soloist and band for the last two years. Soloists receive this information at the bottom of each judging

form, band CPL's are recorded on the blue summary sheet. Adjudicators are asked to rank bands and soloists into one of the following categories:

- 5: Above the generally recognized level for this grade
- 4: In the upper quartile of this grade level
- 3: Performing at the generally accepted level for this grade
- 2: In the lower quartile of this grade level
- 1: Performing below the generally recognized level for this grade

In 2014 we redesigned the blue sheet to mirror the 1-5 ranking system currently in use on the solo forms, we created band and solo re-grade applications and appeal forms, we created band and solo data spread sheets, and we made an effort to hold judges meetings before and after contests.

Education Committee Chairman Ross Morrill (10:24am)

We will be supporting the other two committees. We will be creating a calendar that assigns a member of the MB to every contest, and we are creating a document to explain the CPL system to the general membership.

We will be working with MDAP to take this music beyond competition. We would like to see some type of recital in every branch. And we will be working with the adjudication committee to create judges seminars.

New Initiative Reports

Member and Contest Management System creator Ryan Rodgers of R2 sports (10:29am)

With this new system bands and soloists will be able to register with WUSPBA and every contest online. Contest organizers will be able to set up their event and specify what contest events they will offer. WUSPBA will help with processing the payments; however every contest organizer will be able to see a full accounting for their event. With this system the contest organizers can apply for sanctioning. After the contest, the band and solo registrar will easily be able to enter the results for posting on the website. The EC will be able to send out email blasts easily to improve communication with all members.

Re-alignment of the WUSPBA Boundaries, Jeff Mann (10:37am)

Crossing the border for Canadian adjudicators, bands, and soloists is becoming more and more difficult. Getting a visa that would allow these individuals to move across the border more freely is very expensive and difficult to obtain. The BC pipers association is concerned that if the situation worsens they will not be able to effectively service Washington, Oregon, and Northern Idaho. It has been suggested that if they don't want to form their own North West Pipe Band Association the bands and soloists in these states may be interested in joining WUSPBA as a North West Branch.

Contest Organizer introductions (10:53am)

Officer Elections (11:06am)

Vice President-Drew McPheeters (nominated by John Biggar, 2nd John Thornton)

Motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation (Lise Nelson, 2nd Ben Holmes)

Sanctioning Secretary-Todd Brown (nominated by Erin Gunn, 2nd Janice Ritchie)

Motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation (John Thornton, 2nd Glenn Kvidahl)

Solo Registrar- Lezlie Mann (John Biggar, BJ Gunn)

Motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation (Drew McPheeters, 2nd Susan Thornton)

BREAK (11:10am)

Called back to order (11:22am)

Amendments to Bylaws

EC Powers-WITHDRAWN

Re-formatted bylaws (11:24am)-PASSED

Changing Grades 4 & 5 (11:26am)

Motion to separate bylaw and contest rule discussion (BJ Gunn, 2nd Glenn Kvidahl)-
Passed

Vote on Bylaw proposal-FAILED

Amendments to Contest Rules

No field entries-WITHDRAWN

No grade 3 instructors-WITHDRAWN

Changing Grades 4 & 5 (11:52am)-FAILED

Mini-MSR (12:12pm)

Friendly amendments were proposed, but not accepted by the author.

Vote on the Contest Rule proposal with original wording-PASSED

Note: This Contest Rule will not take effect or be added to the published Contest rules until the 2016 competition season

Bass Drumming, 3 grades (12:27pm)-PASSED

Open instead of professional (12:29pm)

A friendly amendment had been proposed by the EC.-Failed

Vote on original wording-PASSED

Note: This change will apply to all WUSPBA documents and publications.

LUNCH BREAK (12:46pm)

Called back to order (2:20pm)

Separating Piobaireachd and light music (2:21pm)

Friendly amendment to change the non-numeric classifications of piobaireachd to the standard grades 1-4-Passed

Vote on proposal with amended wording-PASSED

Dress Requirements (2:45pm)

A friendly amendment to add wording to allow national dress-Passed

Vote on proposal with amended wording-PASSED

Clarify-one person, one band (3:03pm)

A friendly amendment to add email as a required piece of information-Passed

Vote on proposal with amended wording-PASSED

Clarify-transfers (3:09pm)-PASSED

Eliminating the 5 minute grace period (3:15pm)-PASSED

Note: The EC would like to strong recommend that Contest Organizers provide a final tuning area to help facilitate this contest rule.

Grade 2 instructor (3:33pm)

A friendly amendment was proposed by the MB and accepted by the author. Grade 2 instructors will not be allowed to perform as the pipe major or the lead drummer.-Passed

Vote on proposal with amended wording-PASSED

Change scoring and placing in band contests (3:43pm)-FAILED

BREAK (3:50pm)

Called back to order (4:02pm)

Susan Thornton announced the 2014 Circle of Honor inductees: Jim Harrington, Elaine Hoffman, Drew McPheters, Lise Nelson, Jan Ritchie, John Thornton, and Elizabeth Thompson.

Meeting adjourned (4:15pm)