

Words and Music

Major Changes May Lie Ahead for WUSPBA, Bands and Competitions

By Jeffrey Mann, President, WUSPBA
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When I accepted the appointment for President of this association and was subsequently elected, I immediately began compiling a list of goals for all of us. Many of them have come to fruition; others have been harder to get off the ground. I'd like to talk about one goal that looks toward the future of WUSPBA and its bands: this is a strong ambition to establish a number of viable and sustainable Grade II bands. I have pondered over this issue for the past year and a half.

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In speaking with other U.S. pipe band association presidents, I believe we are all on the same page in what we view as the trends in piping and drumming over the last 10 to 15 years. These trends must guide our handling of bands and their grading in the upcoming years so that we can remain competitive on a worldwide level while treating all our member bands fairly.

Tremendous Growth in Quality Over the Past Two Decades

We can all agree that the Grade 1 bands of 15 to 20 years ago are the Grade III bands of today. There has been a tremendous amount of growth over the past two decades. Changes in technology, increased communication between players and bands across the continents, and a conscious increase in education through piping/drumming schools, for example, have helped bands and soloists to grow and develop into musicians who create a more refined and better sound than ever before.

With the creation of Grade V bands in 2010 in keeping with the practice in other Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations (ANAPBA), we have had more than a dozen associate bands join the competition ranks. Our Grade IV and Grade III bands keep growing and improving. Fortunately, we are also experiencing that same type of growth in Grade I and II bands.

Bands Stretch for Competitive Playing Levels

When the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) re-graded the Stuart Highlanders of Massachusetts from Grade II to Grade I last May, shortly after the band had already committed to compete at the Worlds in Grade II, the band had to make a decision. With airline tickets purchased and hotel accommodations already made, the band decided to move ahead and work hard to compete in Grade I. Their level of playing in that short span of time improved and they came close to competing in the finals.

When we think of a band moving into Grade II, I believe we think of a Grade II band that

is in the middle of the pack or higher, just as the majority of our Grade II bands are currently. When you look at our Grade II bands in North America, the majority are at the place where the transition from Grade II to Grade I would perhaps in some cases not be too difficult. Yes, there would need to be refinement and modifications here and there, but with consistent hard work the band(s) might be ready to make the move. The same could be said, for the most part, of a Grade IV band move to Grade III. Grade III.

Gap Between Grades III and II

However, I personally believe that there is a disparity between the move from Grades IV to III and from Grades III to II.

In speaking with other presidents of pipe band associations, we have all at one time or another experienced Grade III bands in North America attempting to move up to Grade II and hitting a wall and becoming increasingly frustrated because the gap between the two grades is too wide. What is more discouraging is the fact that some of these band members get discouraged and then are recruited by Grade I bands, thus jumping from a Grade III band to a Grade I.

Possible Need for Re-Balancing All Band Grades

In speaking about this with the presidents of some of the other associations, we have all expressed the belief that perhaps re-drawing or re-balancing all of the grades would be in keeping with the mission of ANAPBA to keep a level playing field. In the case of Grade II, you would be able to create an entry level that would include

those pipe bands of Grade III that are considered good enough for this entry level.

It was noted by one North American adjudicator and pipe major of a Grade I band that at any time, a top Grade III band should be able to compete successfully with a lower Grade II band. The entry level bands at any grade might not be winning first place the first year, but with hard work and development, the bands would become better and the goal of winning would be realized.

Music Board to Look at Solo and Band Grades

With that in mind, I am suggesting that our Music Board take a long, hard look at our playing field both for solos and bands. We might be seeing some movement in all of the grades for this next season.

In addition, the presidents of the other U.S. pipe band associations have expressed to me that to better align ourselves with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, and perhaps our Canadian counterparts, we should move away from Grade V and now introduce Grade IV-A and IV-B. Grade IV-B would be the introductory level for bands, and in small contests the IV-A and B could be combined for the medley contest.

I have mixed feelings about this personally. However, the concept will be submitted as a Contest Rule proposal at the AGM on November 22, 2014, in Salt Lake City. The Music Board is also considering the possible introduction of a mini-MSR (2 or 4 parts March, 2 parts Strathspey and 2 parts Reel) for Grade IV. This would also need to be voted on at the AGM.

I do not see these changes as taking a step backwards. In actuality, I believe that they will prove to be positive forces in helping bands to develop and reach goals that sometimes seem elusive.

Border-Crossing Issues May Have Dramatic Impacts

Finally, I spent last weekend in Vancouver with the British Columbia Pipers' Association discussing border-crossing issues. We will be discussing these in depth with the Music Board and Executive Committee at the AGM. The summary of this discussion will be presented for discussion at the main session on Saturday, November 22. I have been assured that these issues will not be going away and will only get worse.

I am asking all Games Sponsors to come to the AGM and attend the Friday night Games Sponsors' meeting, as these issues may negatively impact many games across the United States.

Because of these issues, there is a possibility that the WUSPBA might be adding an additional branch. At that point we might need to start looking at the possibility of splitting the WUSPBA. That will also be discussed at the AGM. So please attend in order to have your voice heard!

Thanks for a Great Season!

This has been a great season. I have learned a lot from you and look forward to any thoughts you may have. Here is looking forward to even a better season next year. For some of you we are entering into a bit of down time. Rest up and get fired up for

next season. Set band and solo goals for what you want for your art.

I raise my glass to all of you, band leaders, pipers, drummers, teachers, directors, band managers, staff, games sponsors and all the staff that are behind the games. To you I say thanks!!! Thanks for this incredible year and all of your hours of hard work and labor. It has paid off to be one of the most memorable seasons of my life. Every one of you should be proud of your contributions!

AGM Highlights

Friday evening:

Games organizers' and sponsors' meeting.

Saturday, all day:

Annual General Meeting

Sunday:

Adjudicator exams

Will your band be represented? Attend the AGM and vote on the new Bylaws and approve the minutes of last year. See pages 14-40 for full details.

November AGM to Be in Salt Lake City

*By Stuart Baker, Vice President, WUSPBA
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It is coming up to AGM time. If you would like run for office, there are several positions open, including Vice-President, Solo Registrar and Sanctioning Secretary. There may also be positions open in your branch leadership. Take this opportunity to help make a difference in the continued growth of the WUSPBA.

The location of the AGM has changed this year to Salt Lake City. The main reason for this is to save lodging and travel costs in an effort to bring the overall expense of the AGM down significantly. Over the last several years, lodging, food and travel costs to Las Vegas have climbed to the point where it is no longer the bargain that it used to be. That, in combination with six of the members of the executive living in the Great Basin Branch, made this a very cost-effective move.

The timing of the AGM has changed also, to November 22 and 23. This will allow the entire WUSPBA season to be completed, so this year we can present aggregate trophies

at the meeting. As a side benefit for the skiers among you, the new date might also mean the slopes will be open for literally some of the best snow in the world. I hope to see you this year!

Treasurer Preparing AGM Report and Budget

Holley Morrill, Treasurer
hmmorrill@live.com



I hope everyone had a great summer! I'm happy to say that I have no issues or problems to report. I'm now getting ready with a financial report for 2014 and a new budget for 2015 to discuss at our AGM in November. If there are any suggestions or questions for me, please e-mail me.

Special Announcement for All Members: Timeline for the AGM!

From Erin Gunn, Executive Secretary
Egunn.ec@gmail.com

It's hard to believe that the 2014 season will soon be coming to a close. In a little over a month we will be meeting for our Annual General Meeting.

Please keep the following dates in mind:

Wednesday October 22nd - All Proposals will be posted

Check the WUSPBA website for a complete listing of the Bylaw and Contest rule proposals that will be discussed during the general membership meeting.

Friday November 21st - Contest Organizer Meeting

We are in hopes that a demonstration will be available for the new online membership registration and contest management system. This system will help with sanctioning, registration, scheduling, and forms. If you are a games organizer, a WUSPBA representative, or a branch officer, I would highly recommend that you plan to attend this meeting.

Saturday November 22nd - General Membership Meeting

During this meeting, we will elect officers (Vice President, Sanctioning Secretary, and Solo Registrar), and hear officer reports and reports from our standing committees. Bylaw and Contest Rule proposals will be discussed and voted on.

The Contest Organizer meeting and the Annual General Meeting will take place at the Little America hotel in Salt Lake City Utah. There is a light rail train trax that runs from the Salt Lake International Airport directly to the hotel. It's about a half-hour ride for \$2.50. Once at the hotel, you can ride both trax and bus lines throughout downtown without charge. You will have access to many restaurant and shopping areas. Please check the AGM section of the WUSPBA website for more information and the 2014 AGM Guide.

We know that the AGM date is very close to the Thanksgiving holiday, however we wanted to hold the AGM after all the 2014 contests had concluded. We hope you will take the opportunity to attend the AGM if you are a soloist, or a band or games representative. Let your voice be heard and your vote counted!

2013 Bylaws and AGM Minutes

Copies of the 2013 Bylaws and Minutes of the 2013 AGM have already been emailed to all members. For your convenience, copies are also attached to the end of this newsletter. The Bylaw changes and Minutes will be voted on at the AGM.

Intermountain Branch

*By Drew McPheeters,
President, Intermountain
Branch*
dbmcpheeters@hotmail.com



Summer has come and gone in the Intermountain Branch, and with it so has the competition season. We were fortunate to have good weather for almost all of the games, with only a small shower spoiling things here and there.

All of the area bands are continuing to improve, with noticeable progress in both piping and drumming. The activity in solo piping and drumming also seems to be on the way up after a few years where interest had fallen off. This is particularly true in Grade I piping, where we have three pipers high in the ranking who have done well at some of the larger contests in the Association.

The Intermountain Branch will be sponsoring a piping and drumming clinic on October 18th and 19th in Arvada, Colorado. The clinicians will be Jack Lee for piping, Glenn Kvidahl for side drumming and

Andrew Elliott for tenor and bass drumming. An informational flyer and enrollment form can be found at <http://alturl.com/w54ow>. All WUSPBA members are invited to attend.

Finally, it has been a challenging year for several bands for off-field issues. Everyone in the branch wishes a speedy recovery to both Darren Marshall (Drum Sergeant of Queen City Pipe Band and Dan Roush (Drum Sergeant of Northern Colorado Caledonia Pipe Band) from their respective health issues.

Northern Branch

Lisa Graves, President
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The Northern Branch is finishing up the 2014 season with a few more solo piping events still to happen as I write this report. The Northern Branch had 10 events this year. All 10 held solo piping contests, seven had solo drumming contests, and four of the games had sanctioned band contests.



Mt. Tam Mini-Band Event

The Mt. Tam event did something a little different this year with a “Local Option” mini-band event. This allowed anyone, from

duets to full bands, to play in front of judges who then critiqued their performances on the spot. The feedback was very positive, and both the performers and judges enjoyed the format and the chance to converse.

Two Executive Positions to Be Open

The Northern Branch will have two positions on the Executive Board up for election at the end of this year. They are President and Treasurer. If you're a member of the Northern Branch, please consider getting involved.

Letter to the Editor

Words & Music will run letters that are relevant to the WUSPBA and its members. Letters may be edited by the Executive Committee for length and/or content. Letters of 200 words or less are preferred. Please include full name and your relationship to the WUSPBA (i.e., solo piper, member of XXX band, etc.).

Send Representatives to the AGM to Have Input into WUSPBA

Janice Richey, Pipe Major, MacIntosh Pipe Band

I always enjoy reading Words and Music. A comment in the Summer issue particularly struck me, thanks to Erin Gunn.

For years we have wrangled over whether to allow voting by mail in order to include more voices in the voting on proposals (and committee members). Erin's point is excellent:

Rarely is a proposal unedited by the time the vote is taken. She clearly delineates the

process of conceiving of, writing, publishing, reading and carefully considering the impact of any given proposal. Often the most well-thought-out proposals fail to take into account their impact on other facets of our organization; once held up to the constituency present at the AGM, many alternative considerations can be brought to light and addressed, often resulting in a stronger and better proposal on which to vote.

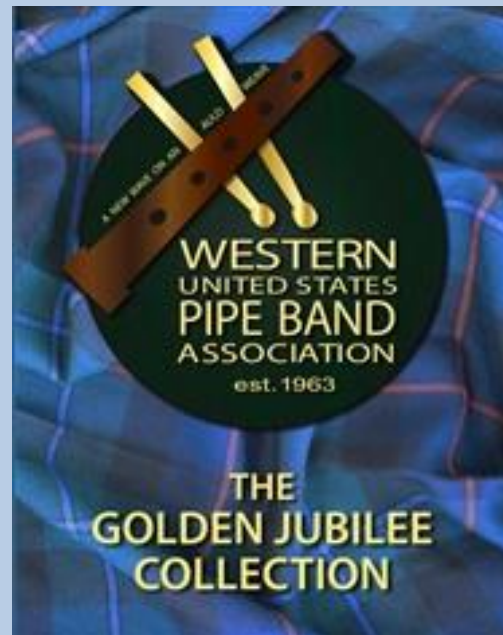
The bottom line? Bands need to budget to send reps to the AGM if they actually want any input into the association. One plane ticket and hotel room should not break the bank of most active bands. It's important to be there and have a voice, particularly if you tend to be critical of this volunteer body which works so hard all year to improve our experience as pipers, drummers and drum majors.

I don't know if the EC has ever considered a financial aid program so that bands who simply cannot afford the trip could be at least partially subsidized in order to attend, even for the day. They may be pleasantly surprised at the experience of being with so many peers, discussing matters that matter to us all. See you in SLC!

The Art and Science of the Bass Drum

*By Stuart Baker, Tucson & District Pipe Band
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The pipe band bass drum is unique a number of different aspects. Besides the fact that there is only one bass in each band (with rare exceptions) and that it appears easy to play, it is the one instrument where



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a single missed note can throw the entire band off. It is the one instrument whose fundamental job changes as bands improve -- moving from time-keeper in lower grades to ensemble support in the upper grades. It is the one instrument influenced by the individual style of the player more than any other, since all other members play as a corp.

I don't want to give the impression that I am elevating the bass to some lofty status. I do think that it is overlooked as an instrument, and this article is an attempt to start an ongoing dialog about technique, style and the instrument itself.

Also, I am not an expert by any means. I have only played in local lower-grade bands. I have been playing for 40 years, however, and have been lucky to have been helped by many players who are much better than me. Do not take what I write as the end but rather the starting place for further discussion and thought.

The Need to Strip and Clean the Bass

The bass can be a much-neglected instrument, particularly in lower-grade bands. Dirty, chipped shells with un-muffled dead heads are a far-too-common occurrence. We are headed into the off season where everyone tends to do deep maintenance on their instruments, and the bass should be no exception.

Take the time to strip down the drum. Depending on the age of the drum and how dirty it is, you may want to strip all the hardware off the shell. At the very least, remove all the lugs and take the heads off. I am a big believer in baby wipes for cleaning all the parts (and really almost

everything), but be careful not to use those that leave a residue.

Once the shell is clean inside and out, wax the bearing edge to allow for easier tuning. Lugs can be cleaned and polished, paying particular attention to the threads to make sure they are straight and even. Apply lithium oil or something similar to each lug; I've tried different types but so far lithium is best because it lubricates well and doesn't leave a sticky residue to pick up grass and dirt.

Replace Bass Drum Heads Sooner Rather Than Later

Bass drum heads tend to be kept far longer than they should be, because that is where many bands put their logo. The logo process can be expensive and time consuming, so retaining the heads for a long time is understandable.

However, the bass is an instrument first and an advertisement second. Even if you play in performance or competition only once a month, you are still practicing weekly. The longest you should have the same heads should be two years, and that is only with light use.

Replacing the Heads

When I put the head back onto the drum, I place the head, then the hoop, and then I finger-tighten the lugs all the way around. Then I work with the key until I start to feel a little tension on every lug.

I have found that a drum head tension tester is an invaluable piece of equipment for the midsection as a whole and the bass in particular. This allows you to evenly

tighten the lugs all the way around very quickly. When that head is in tune with itself and you have put the other head on, you can equalize the tension on both sides before tuning.

In my next article, I will talk about tuning and practice. Please send me your thoughts these topics and this article and I will include them. Until next time . . .

The Story of “The Battle of the Somme”

*By John Boyden, piper with Stewart Tartan Pipes & Drums, San Francisco
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The artillery bombardment ended abruptly, leaving a hush upon the land. The smoke and morning haze slowly lifted. As the drones struck in, the men in the trenches listened in expectation for the skirl of the lone piper, standing before the barbed wire, stirring them to action. The Sergeant-Major called for the men to advance, and over the top they went into history.

On the 100th Anniversary of the Great War

The one hundredth anniversary of the Great War is at hand. One doesn't celebrate the beginning of a conflict that would eventually see 70 million military personnel in active service and nine million combatants killed in action.

However, one can and should remember the actions and sacrifices made by the soldiers and their families. We can honor the dead, and those who returned home from the war.

One Canadian Soldier's Story

One young Canadian piper's story may best typify the willingness to volunteer, serve and sacrifice for the freedoms fought for long and hard. The story is that of Piper James Cleland Richardson.

July 28, 1914, is considered the start of World War I following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand 30 days earlier in Bosnia. The Archduke's death set off a string of events that would lead Austria-Hungary to declare war on Serbia. Then, like dominoes falling, events quickly escalated throughout Europe, and soon global conflict ensued.

Piper James Cleland Richardson

James Cleland Richardson, his father and two siblings emigrated from Scotland in 1913 (James' mother and other siblings followed). He settled with his family in Chilliwack, British Columbia, working near Vancouver and distinguishing himself playing the pipes.

When the war came, young Richardson, age 17, felt the call to join the “Seaforth’s.” The unit was quickly integrated with the 16th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.), Richardson became a battalion piper, and the 16th shipped out to Europe.

The Battle of the Somme (named for the river in France) was fought between July and November of 1916 by the combined armies of the British and French against the Germans. The battle, with more than one million men wounded or killed, is considered one of the largest and bloodiest, battles of World War I. On October 8, 1916,

Piper Richardson's unit was ordered to advance, but was hindered by intense enemy fire, casualties and barbed wire.

Piping the Troops "Over the Top"

From Piper Richardson V.C., An Untold Tale of Heroism and Sacrifice, by Colonel C.W. Peck, V.C.:

Suddenly the whole scene changed. Young Richardson took in the situation. Danger seemed to stimulate and accentuate the Scotch intellect. For some reason he hadn't been allowed to play [his pipes] up to this point. Turning to the sergeant-major in the shellhole beside him, he said, "Will I gie 'em wind?" "Aye mon, gie 'em wind," was the laconic reply. Good God! Look at that! There was a young, smooth-faced boy coolly playing up and down the wire in that hail storm of lead.

Piper Richardson, only 20 at the time, played his pipes and inspired the soldiers to rally and capture the day's objective.

Victoria Cross Citation

Quoting from the Victoria Cross citation (included on the plaque attached to his statue):

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when prior to attack, he obtained permission from his Commanding Officer to play his company "over the top."

As the company approached the objective, it was held up by very

strong wire and came under intense fire, which caused heavy casualties and demoralized the formation for the moment. Realizing the situation, Piper Richardson strode up and down outside the wire, playing his pipes with the greatest coolness. The effort was instantaneous. Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the position captured.

Later, after participating in bombing operations, he was detailed to take back a wounded comrade and prisoners. After proceeding about 200 yards Piper Richardson remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly urged not to do so, he insisted on returning to recover his pipes. He has never been seen since, and death has been presumed accordingly owing to lapse of time. London Gazette Supplement 22 October 1918

Richardson realized at some point that he'd laid his pipes down and sought to retrieve them. While attempting to recover them, he was lost in action. He was later buried at Adanac (Canada spelled backwards) Military Cemetery, France. According to the City of Chilliwack website, "Piper Richardson is one of four members of the 16th Battalion CEF to receive the Victoria Cross during the First World War and is one of only three pipers who have ever received the award." His family would receive his Victoria Cross in April, 1919, and in the following years, Richardson's heroism and story were honored multiple times.

The Lost Bagpipes

And what of his bagpipes which Richardson never retrieved? Believed lost in the mud of the battlefield, it turned out that Army Chaplain Major Edward Bate had found a set of Henderson pipes in the mud and eventually brought them back to Scotland, where he displayed them at Ardvreck School in 1931 as a reminder to students of the sacrifice of war, never knowing who had owned the set of Hendersons.

The pipes were displayed at the school until 2002, when a parent of a student there, viewing the pipes but not recognizing the tartan pipe ribbons, suggested an internet search project for the students to determine the tartan's origin.

The Pipes Repatriated

Four years of research confirmed that the pipes were indeed Richardson's, and on October 9, 2006, the pipes were repatriated to Canada and received by his grandnephew, Dan Richardson. A month later, the pipes were ceremoniously placed on display at the Legislative Assembly in Victoria, B.C. Here's a link from the CBC of the event:

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Digital+Archives/War+and+Conflict/First+World+War/ID/1799179440/>

WW I ended at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with leaders from both sides meeting in French Marshal Ferdinand Foch's railway carriage in the forest outside Compiègne, France. For the Allies it was great victory; for the Germans a great defeat. For the veterans who returned home, life would never, and could never be the same again. For the bagpipers who gave their lives in the "war to end all wars," the sacrifice was tremendous. May the stories of brave men such as Piper Richardson be remembered, and retold so that one day the battlefields of our time may fall silent in peace.



The Battle of the Somme

9/8 March

W. Lawrie, attrib.



Published by pipetunes.ca and McGillivray Piping © 2009, Copying Prohibited

Note: The story of Piper Richardson's statue (pictured), installed in 2003 in front of the City of Chilliwack Museum, his home town, is documented on the city's web site. I want to acknowledge the city's site for the many details about Richardson and his too-short life:

<http://www.chilliwack.ca/main/page.cfm?id=277>

Note: *The Battle of the Somme* is generally attributed to Pipe Major William Lawrie (1881-1916). He was PM of the 8th Argyllshire Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1914 and remained as such until pneumonia, pleurisy and meningitis contracted in the trenches of France took his health; he was sent home and succumbed to an early death. Prior to the war, Lawrie was a student of the pipes under both his father, Hugh, and the great John MacColl, winning many awards for his piping. He left the piping community a legacy of compositions of which '*Battle*' is considered one of the best and remains a

classic 9/8 march played by pipe bands to this day.

The PDF of the tune included here is made available courtesy of Jim McGillivray and can be found (along with 1,500 other tunes) on his site: <http://pipetunes.ca>. We appreciate his permission to let us reprint the tune here.

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

Winter 2015 Issue: December 10

Spring 2015 Issue: March 10

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Annual General Meeting of the Western United States Pipe Band Association

Held Saturday October 19, 2013 in Las Vegas, Nevada

Meeting called to order (8:42am)

Welcome and introductions of the Executive Committee and Music Board (8:43am)

Minutes of the 2012 AGM: (8:46am)

Motion to waive the reading of the 2012 minutes, and approve by acclamation (BJ Gunn, 2nd Andrew Lenz)-Approved

Officer Reports:

Vice President Stu Baker (8:49am)

Will be focusing on trying to cut down AGM costs for next year.

Southern Branch President Scott Larson (8:50am)

Happy to have the branch running after the problems with the vote this last year.

Northern Branch President Lisa Graves (8:52am)

In 2014 would like to add a workshop or recital. On Nov.2 big event with workshop and awards dinner.

Intermountain Branch President Drew McPheeters (8:54am)

The area has been hit hard by floods and fires. They have revitalized games that have been dormant several years.

Great Basin Branch President Mike Gibbs (8:56am)

Focus on education and scholarship program. Branch cookout and ceilidh competition was a great success.

Solo Registrar Erin Gunn (8:58am)

510 registered soloists, 41 adjudicators. 29 solo contests held in WUSPBA during 2013.

Band Registrar Kylene Tanner (8:59am)

Kylene is happy to be leaving the band registrar office better than when she got it. Some of the milestone accomplishments for her have been the implementation of a grade 5 competition, the blue sheets, and the online database.

Executive Secretary Andrew Lenz (9:00am)

This year was a bit easier, didn't have to run the vote. Happy to have participated in creating a new WUSPBA logo.

Treasurer Matt Biggs (9:01am)

Presented 2013 budget

Read the audit report

Presented 2014 budget

For this next year we will be trying to cut down on expenses, however it will be mostly consistent with past years. We will be cutting down on printing costs and putting more money into IT development. The presidential discretionary fund was increased to allow

the president to travel to all branch AGM's. Motion to approve 2014 budget (BJ Gunn, 2nd Andrew Lenz)-Approve

President Jeff Mann (9:06am)

Thank you for all your work. We have had a great 50 years. Read congratulatory letters from the College of Piping and the National Piping Centre. Introduced the MDAP committee, they will be focusing on non-competitive events. Started the Commission of Education and Learning (WUSPBA piping and drumming school). John Partanen is the Commissioner. We have established a WUSPBA foundation to raise 4.5 million; going to raise funds to support the school.

Music Board Chairman Andy Trimble (9:16am)

Listed projects the music board has been involved in during 2013. Introduced the WUSPBA 50th anniversary tune book. A few copies of the book were passed around for everyone to see.

New Initiative Reports:

Website-Andy Trimble (9:19am)

In Beta testing, currently there is a link from old website. The new website will go live in a month.

CTAMS-Andy Trimble

The goal is to go paperless for all contests.

Commission of Education and Learning –John Partanen (9:20am)

We have created a certificate program that can be taken to universities. Certificates will be offered in both light music and piobaireachd. Eventually going to have a certificate program for drumming and drum majoring.

MDAP-(9:22am)

Details given during the president's report.

Chief Steward-Larry Erdmann (9:23am)

Encouraged everyone to look at the Contest Handbook available on the WUSPBA website. Would like to have a WUSPBA rep at each event, to perform the same function the same way at each event.

Brief talk about the tune book; we wanted to create a good collection. Very proud-Andy Trimble and Lorne Cousin

Audit committee-Matt Biggs (9:27am)

With an established committee we will have an audit performed every year.

Election of new officers (9:30am)

President-Jeff Mann (nominated by John Partanen, 2nd Mike Gibbs)

Motion to elect by acclamation (Lisa Graves, 2nd BJ Gunn)

Executive Secretary-Erin Gunn (nominated by Mike Gibbs, 2nd Scott Larson)

Motion to elect by acclamation (Drew McPheeters, 2nd?)

Band Registrar-Nancy Therault (nominated by Kylene Tanner, 2nd?)

Motion to elect by acclamation (Mike Gibbs, 2nd Kylene Tanner)

Treasurer-Matt Biggs (nominated by Kylene Tanner, 2nd?)

Motion to elect by acclamation (Erin Gunn, 2nd Jeff Mann)

Took a break (9:35am)

Meeting called back to order (9:40am)

We will appoint a solo registrar due to Erin's election to the office of Executive Secretary. Asked the meeting participants to introduce themselves.

Amendments to Bylaws:

Band regrading (9:46am)-Passed by acclamation

Appointment of branch presidents (9:48am)-Passed by acclamation

Solo regrading (9:50am)

Some changes in wording from what was originally sent out-considering them friendly amendments.

Vote on change of grade wording-Passed by acclamation

Vote on change of outside soloists wording-Passed by acclamation

Took some time to discuss how soloists are going to be moved up, what is the mechanism. We are looking at the process and began to test this this weekend. Lise has suggested that judges know that they need to fill out CPL. Have talked to other associations on how they do it.

Vote on amendment with accepted wording change-Passed by acclamation

EC grant waivers (10:07am)

Changed some wording from the original sent out- Friendly amendment to the wording.

Vote on change of wording-Passed by acclamation

Split voting on changes:

Adding "and contest rules" to the existing wording-Passed by acclamation

Adding wording of power to grant waivers. Amendment to add wording requiring any waivers to be published for view by the general membership within 10 days. (Proposed by John Partanen, 2nd Scott Larson)-in favor: 118 Opposed: 115-Passed

Adding wording "due to a natural disaster or an act of God"(proposed by Andrew Morrill, 2nd Kevin MacIntyre)-in favor: 85 Opposed: 104-Failed

Vote to close discussion on amendment-Passed by acclamation

Vote on amendment with accepted wording change- in favor: 143 Opposed: 110-Passed

Amendments to contest rules:

Bass drum grade addition (11:18am)-Withdrawn

Band roster exception-Withdrawn

Removing vote procedures (11:19am)-Passed by acclamation

Band 15 day transfer (11:20am)-Passed by acclamation

Registered instructor vote by EC (11:22am)-Passed by acclamation

Break (11:24am)

Presentation of the 50th anniversary cake (11:34am)

Lunch (11:58am)

Meeting resumed (1:03pm)

Same day game sanctioning (1:03pm)

Motion to table and refer to committee (John Partanen, 2nd John Biggar)-Passed
Scheduling single organization band (1:15pm)-In favor: 136 opposed: 87-Passed

Solo piping music sheets (1:39pm)-Failed

Grade 5 MS68 elimination (1:42pm)-Failed

~~Grade 5 bands replace MS68 with TLM (1:58pm)~~

Friendly amendment proposed by the MB: 2-4 parts of march, slow march, 2-4 parts of march. Tunes may also be used in another set. (Andy Trimble, 2nd Mike Gibbs)-Passed
Vote on amendment with wording change-Passed

Grade 4 bands MMSR (2:09pm)-Failed

Solo drumming recorded music (2:15pm)

Proposed amendment from the MB accepted as a friendly amendment: there can be no drum score on the recording for snare drummers, tenor and bass may have a snare drum accompaniment. Vote on amendment with wording change-Passed

Games announcements (2:25pm)

Logo contest winners (2:42pm)

Andrew Lenz-1st

Dale Hawkins-2nd

Bob Cameron-3rd

Tune Contest (2:44pm)

Tom Robinson-1st place, 1st tune in the WUSPBA tune book

Presidents closing remarks (2:45pm)

Possibility of a contest starting in Mesquite, the AGM will be held in conjunction with this event. The AMG would be on Friday with the games being Saturday and Sunday.

Meeting adjourned (2:46pm)

Bylaws



Western United States Pipe Band Association 2014

Last Amended October 19, 2013

Article I. Name

1. Name: The name of this organization is the Western United States Pipe Band Association, here after referred to as the WUSPBA or the Association

Article 2. Objectives

2. Objectives: The objectives of the non-profit organization WUSPBA are as follows:
 - 2.1 Promotion: To promote and encourage education in the culture and advancement of piping, drumming, drum majoring, and pipe bands in the United States
 - 2.2 Fellowship: To create and maintain a bond of fellowship with all pipers, drummer, and drum majors
 - 2.3 Contests: To devise and operate a proper system of piping, drumming, drum major, and pipe band contest rules

Article 3. Membership and Registration

3. Membership: Membership in the Association is open to all pipe bands and individuals who subscribe to the objectives cited in Article 2. All members, either as band members or as individual members, must abide by the Associations bylaws, contest rules, and the WUSPBA Code of Conduct.
4. Fiscal Liability: Members of WUSPBA shall not be individually responsible for the financial obligations of the Association.
5. Classes of Membership:
 - 5.1. Bands: Band memberships are described in table 1.
 - 5.2. Individual members: Individual memberships are described in Table 2.

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	Active	Juvenile	Associate	Outside
Description	Any band located in the Western United States competing in Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5	Any band located in the Western United States that all members except one (1) must be eighteen (18) years of age or younger	Any band located in the Western United States that does not plan on competing during the year	Any bands located outside of the Western United States
Annual Fee	\$300	\$50	\$40	N/A
Fee Due Date	January 15	January 15	January 15	N/A
Late Registration	\$400	\$75	\$60	N/A
Additional Requirements	The annual fee must be paid to participate in any Association activities.	The annual fee must be paid to participate in any Association activities.	The annual fee must be paid to participate in any Association activities.	The band must subscribe fully to the bylaws and rules of the association and be a member in good standing in an affiliated association.
Privileges				
Publications	Designated representatives will receive notifications and publications of the Association.	Designated representative will receive notifications and publications of the Association.	Designated representative will receive notifications and publications of the Association.	Notices and publications are posted on the Association's website for viewing by the general public.
Educational Offerings	All members are permitted to participate in any educational offerings of the Association.	All members are permitted to participate in any educational offerings of the Association.	All members are permitted to participate in any educational offerings of the Association.	Any outside band may join WUSPBA as an Associate band upon payment of the appropriate fee. This will entitle them to receive WUSPBA literature and workshop materials.
Voting	A band will designate a representative who will have full voting privileges on all Association business.	A band will designate a representative who will have full voting privileges on all Association business.	A band cannot vote on association business.	N/A
Vote Weight	7 votes per band	7 votes per band	N/A	N/A
Notes		Juvenile bands will be assigned to Grade 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 for purposes of participating in non-Juvenile events.		

Table 1. Band Memberships

	Band	Soloist	Adjudicator	Games Sponsor	Associate	Life Member
Description	Any member of an Association band (Active, Juvenile, or Associate) who is not a solo member or an adjudicator	Any piper, drummer, or drum major regardless of geographical location who competes in a WUSPBA sanctioned solo contest	An adjudicator is any piper, drummer, or drum major residing within the Western United States who is eligible to judge WUSPBA events upon recommendation by the Music Board and approval by the Executive Committee. Adjudicators are not required to pay an additional soloist membership fee.	Contest Organizer members are representatives of contests that have been sanctioned by WUSPBA in the preceding year. Each sanctioned contest is allowed one Sponsor member.	Individual members who are supporters of the objectives of the Association who are neither competitors in solo events nor adjudicators	A Life Member is anyone who has been granted a life membership certificate by the Executive Committee.
Annual Fee	N/A	\$25	\$25	Games sanctioning fee paid for previous year's contest	\$25	N/A
Family Membership	N/A	\$10 each additional immediate family member living at the same location	\$10 each additional immediate family member living at the same location	N/A	\$10 Each additional immediate family member living at the same location	N/A
Fee Due Date	N/A	January 15	January 15	N/A	January 15	N/A
Late Fee Per Member	N/A	\$10	\$10	N/A	\$10	N/A
Privileges						
Participation in Association Activities	The band annual fee must be paid prior to participation in any	The annual fee must be paid prior to participation in any Association activities.	The annual fee must be paid prior to participation in any Association activities.	The annual fee must be paid prior to participation in any Association activities.	The annual fee must be paid prior to participation in any Association activities.	The member may participate in any Association activity.

WUSPBA Bylaws

	Association activities.	Members of affiliated associations must provide proof of membership or register with WUSPBA as a soloist to participate in sanctioned WUSPBA contests.	Members of affiliated associations must provide proof of membership to participate in sanctioned WUSPBA contests.			
Publications	Notices and publications are posted on the Association website for viewing by the general public.	The member will receive electronic notifications and publications of the Association based on the member-provided and updated contact information.	The member will receive electronic notifications and publications of the Association based on the member-provided and updated contact information.	The member will receive electronic notifications and publications of the Association based on the member-provided and updated contact information.	The member will receive electronic notifications and publications of the Association based on the member-provided and updated contact information.	The member will receive electronic notifications and publications of the Association based on the member-provided and updated contact information.
Educational Offerings	All members are permitted to participate in any educational offerings of the Association.					
Voting	Non-voting unless acting as the authorized band representative	May vote on all Association business excluding band contest rules and band annual fees	May vote on any Association business	May vote on any association business	N/A	May vote on any Association business
Vote Weight	N/A	1	1	1	N/A	1
Notes		Members of the Executive Committee and the Music Board shall have full voting privileges on all Association business. Executive Committee and Music Board member votes shall count one time, regardless of their status as	Members shall be eligible to adjudicate contests within the WUSPBA jurisdiction as designated by the Executive Committee. Failure to pay dues by the due date plus a grace period of fifteen (15) days will result in removal from the adjudicator			

		a solo member and in addition to any votes as a band representative.	list. Any individual not on the list cannot adjudicate at WUSPBA sanctioned events. Individuals who have been removed from the list will be reinstated upon notification from the Solo Registrar that the dues have been paid.			
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Table 2. Individual Memberships

5.2.1. Contact Information: All individual members must submit a valid e-mail address and phone number to the Association for contact purposes. This information is not shared with outside entities unless the member has indicated his or her approval. Information is only released to WUSPBA contest sponsors and WUSPBA branch representatives. The Executive Committee must approve dispersal of contact information prior to transmittal.

5.2.2. Lack of Contests: If during the course of a contest season there are less than three (3) events offered in a given grade within the entire association, registered solo competitors in that grade may apply in writing for a full rebate of their registration fee excluding late fees. This must occur at the conclusion of the contest season.

Article 4. Officers of the Association

6. Officer Titles

6.1. Positions: The officers of the Association will be President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Sanctioning Secretary, Band Registrar, Solo Registrar, and Treasurer.

6.2. Past President: The Executive Committee shall have the power to vest the Past President with a badge of office.

6.3. Duties: These officers will perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

7. Election of Officers

- 7.1. Balloting: Officers are elected by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 7.2. Eligibility: Members of active bands and individual members in good standing are eligible to serve as Association officers.
- 7.3. Terms: Officers will serve staggered two-year terms. Their term of office will begin at the close of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which they are elected or appointed.
- 7.4. Nominations: Any WUSPBA member may submit nominations for officers to the Executive Secretary.
- 7.5. Publication of Nominees: The names of members who have been nominated and who have accepted the nomination will be printed in the fall issue of the WUSPBA newsletter if the nominations were received by the publication date. Additionally, nominations are posted to the association website if received at least forty (40) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 7.6. Additional Nominations: Additional nominations are accepted from the floor at the time of elections at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
8. Duties of the President
 - 8.1. Meetings: The President shall preside at all meetings.
 - 8.2. Business of the Association: The President shall be responsible for the overall business of the Association, including coordinating the work of the Executive Committee.
 - 8.3. Coordination with Contest Organizers: The President shall be responsible for overseeing coordination with the organizers of piping, drumming, and pipe band competitions.
9. Duties of the Vice President
 - 9.1. Deputize: The Vice President shall deputize for the President.
 - 9.2. Preparations for the AGM: The Vice President shall be responsible for overseeing all planning and preparations for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
10. Duties of the Executive Secretary
 - 10.1. Corporate Seals and Papers: The Executive Secretary shall have custody of the corporate seal and of such books and papers as the Executive Committee may direct.

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- 10.2. Correspondences: The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondences of the Association.
 - 10.3. Meeting Notifications: The Executive Secretary shall notify the members of the Association, in advance, regarding all meetings of the general membership.
 - 10.4. Minutes: The Executive Secretary shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Committee and the minutes of all general membership meetings in books provided for such purposes.
 - 10.5. Annual Report: The Executive Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Executive Committee an annual report to be distributed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
 - 10.6. Other Duties: The Executive Secretary shall perform any other duties that may be assigned to him or her by the President of the Association.

11. Duties of the Sanctioning Secretary

- 11.1. Sanctioning Request Forms: The Sanctioning Secretary shall:
 - 11.1.1. Receive completed Sanctioning Request Forms from the Games Organizers
 - 11.1.2. Update Sanctioning Request Forms as necessary
- 11.2. Competition Events: The Sanctioning Secretary shall ensure that tracked events offered at games adhere to rules listed in the Bylaws and the Contest Rules.
- 11.3. Adjudicators: The Sanctioning Secretary shall confirm that adjudicators are approved by their home association for the events to which they are assigned to judge.
- 11.4. Sanctioning: Upon completion of the Sanctioning Request Forms by games organizers and upon approval of the events and judges, the Sanctioning Secretary shall label a contest as approved by the Association. Once approved, the Sanctioning Secretary shall inform the games organizers, the Band Registrar, the Solo Registrar, and the Webmaster.
- 11.5. WUSPBA Representative: The Sanctioning Secretary shall confirm that a WUSPBA representative is in attendance at each contest.
- 11.6. Other Duties: The Sanctioning Secretary shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him or her by the President of the Association.

12. Duties of the Band Registrar

- 12.1. Membership Roster: The Band Registrar shall maintain a complete and accurate list of all band members of the Association.

12.2. Register Members: The Band Registrar shall register all new band members.

12.3. Band Competition Results: The Band Registrar shall maintain a grading chart that records the results of each band's performance in each grade for the purposes of band grading recommendation.

12.4. Champion of Champions: The Band Registrar shall tabulate and verify contest results in order to compute Champion of Champions points for all bands.

12.5. Other Duties Incident to the Office: The Band Registrar shall perform all other duties incident to the office of Band Registrar, subject to the control of the Executive Committee.

12.6. Other Duties: The Band Registrar shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him or her by the President of the Association.

13. Duties of the Solo Registrar

13.1. Membership Roster: The Solo Registrar shall maintain a complete and accurate list of all members of the Association including soloists, judges, associates, officers, and games organizers.

13.2. Register Members: The Solo Registrar shall register all new members. This includes all soloists, judges, associate members, and games organizers.

13.3. Solo Competition Results: The Solo Registrar shall compile and maintain records of competition results among soloists and provide a report of each sanctioned contest to the Executive Committee and the Music Board Char.

13.4. Champion of Champions: The Solo Registrar shall tabulate and verify contest results in order to compute Champion of Champions points for all soloists.

13.5. Other Duties Incident to the Office: The Solo Registrar shall perform all other duties incident to the office of Solo Registrar, subject to the control of the Executive Committee.

13.6. Other Duties: The Solo Registrar shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to him or her by the President of the Association.

14. Duties of the Treasurer

14.1. Accounts and Books: The Treasurer shall keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Association.

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- 14.2. Liquidation of Debts: The Treasurer shall liquidate all debts after approval by the Executive Committee.
 - 14.3. Executive Committee Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer shall report on the financial position of the Association at each meeting of the Executive Committee.
 - 14.4. AGM Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement through 31 December of each year for the approval of the Executive Committee and for presentation at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Upon request, the Treasurer shall submit the books, accounts, and bankbooks to the appointed Audit Committee for review.
 - 14.5. Banking: The Treasurer shall deposit the funds of the Association into the appointed bank in the name of "The Western United States Pipe Band Association."
 - 14.6. Audit: The Treasurer shall present a financial statement to the membership at each AGM documenting the fiscal status of the Association as of 31 December of the previous year.
 - 14.7. Legal Filing: The Treasurer shall be responsible for filing all necessary statements and forms to meet the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Article 5. General Membership Meetings

15. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- 15.1. Time: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association shall be held during the last three months of the calendar year.
- 15.2. Determination: The Executive Committee shall determine the time and location of the AGM within three months of the previous AGM.
- 15.3. Notification: The time and location shall be posted on the Association's web site as soon as is possible and shall be published in the subsequent issue of the Association's newsletter.

16. Special Meetings

- 16.1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee may call special meetings as determined by a majority vote.
- 16.2. Written Petition: Active and Juvenile bands may call for a special meeting by means of a written petition. The representatives of at least two-thirds of all active and Juvenile bands must sign the petition.
 - 16.2.1. Agenda: The written petition must contain an agenda for the special meeting.
- 16.3. Notification: Written notice of a special meeting must be sent to the membership postmarked no later than thirty (30) days before the meeting.

17. Parliamentary Authority

17.1. Rules: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

17.2. Conflicts: In the event of a conflict with Branch bylaws or in the absence of a Branch bylaw, WUSPBA bylaws will take precedence in order to resolve a specific Branch parliamentary issue.

18. Quorum: Representatives from one-third or more of the active and Juvenile bands in good standing will constitute a quorum at any annual or special meeting.

Article 6. Executive Committee

19. Membership: The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, Sanctioning Secretary, Band Registrar, Solo Registrar, Treasurer and the Presidents of the Branches of the Association. If currently vested with a badge of office, the Past President shall serve on the Executive Committee.

19.1. One Office: No member of the Executive Committee shall serve in more than one office at the same time except in the event of a vacancy and only until such vacancy is filled in a timely manner.

19.2. Music Board Exclusivity: No member of the Executive Committee shall serve on the Music Board at the same time. No member of the Music Board shall serve on the Executive Committee at the same time.

20. Quorum: A majority of the Executive Committee will constitute a quorum for any Executive Committee meeting.

21. Powers: The Executive Committee shall have full power to conduct the business of the Association between meetings and to interpret these bylaws, and Contest Rules, subject only to actions taken at annual or special meetings. To provide for special circumstances, the Executive Committee has the authority to waive provisions of the Bylaws and Contest Rules upon written request from a member. Waivers must be approved by 2/3 of the members of the Executive Committee. Members of the Executive Committee must abstain from voting on waivers where a conflict of interest may exist. If the waiver is granted, it must be published to the general membership as soon as practically possible within ten days.

21.1. Enforcement: The Executive Committee shall have the power to enforce the bylaws and contest rules of the Association. In all matters of bylaws and contest rules interpretation, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be binding on both band and individual members.

21.2. Suspension from Membership: The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend from membership, for such time as the Executive Committee determines, any band or solo member judged to be guilty of violations of the bylaws or contest rules of the Association.

21.3. Life Membership

21.3.1. Meritorious Service: The Executive Committee shall have the power to grant a Life Membership Certificate to anyone who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, has given meritorious, special, or outstanding service to the Association.

21.3.2. Past President: If the Executive Committee grants the Past President a badge of office, it shall carry with it Life Membership in the Association.

22. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Executive Committee include:

22.1. General Supervision: The Executive Committee shall supervise the affairs of the Association between meetings.

22.2. Meeting Determination: The Executive Committee shall fix the time and location of any meeting.

22.3. Recommendations: The Executive Committee shall provide recommendations at annual or special meetings.

22.4. Budget

22.4.1. Establishment: Prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Executive Committee shall establish a budget for the Association.

22.4.2. Educational Fund: Included in the budget shall be a special fund that will be set-aside for educational purposes. In establishing the amount of this fund, the Executive Committee shall consider reserves, projected revenues, anticipated expenditures, and recommendations from the Finance Committee.

22.5. Other Duties: The Executive Committee shall perform other duties as specified in these bylaws or by a vote of the membership at an annual or special meeting.

22.6. Conflicts: The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Association and none of its actions shall conflict with actions taken by the Association.

23. Unexpired Terms and Vacant Offices: The Executive Committee shall appoint qualified members to fill the unexpired terms of members of the Executive Committee who cannot continue due to resignation or inability to perform the duties of the office. The Executive Committee shall also appoint, for a period of one (1) year, qualified members to fill any vacant offices of the Executive Committee, other than Branch Presidents, should such an office go unfilled after the election at an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

24. Suspension or Removal of Officers

24.1. Requests: An officer may be suspended or removed with cause by a vote of the Executive Committee at any special meeting called for such purpose, or at any regular meeting. Any WUSPBA member in good standing, or a legal guardian of said member, may request of the

Executive Committee an investigation into an officer's conduct. The requesting member or legal guardian must be directly affected by the officer's conduct. Such a request must be submitted electronically to the Executive Secretary after having been reviewed and endorsed by the President and Vice President of the aggrieved party's local branch. If the subject of the investigation would be an officer in the aggrieved party's own branch or if those offices are vacant, an endorsement by two WUSPBA members in good standing will suffice instead of branch endorsement. An inquiry request will incur a filing fee of \$20 to be submitted with the request. Should the officer be found guilty of misconduct, the filing fee will be refunded.

24.2. Investigation: Upon a majority vote from the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a special investigative team comprised of WUSPBA members in good standing outside of the Executive Committee. Depending on the findings of said team, the Executive Committee may convene a special meeting in order to discuss the question and research the offenses in private. The officer in question must be given ample notice and opportunity to present his or her case. The investigation and discussion will be followed by a secret ballot of the Executive Committee excluding the officer in question. A two-thirds majority vote is required for suspension or removal of the officer.

24.3. Suspension: The Executive Committee will determine the duration of the suspension.

25. Operating Expense Liability: The Association shall bear any operating expenses of the officers, the Music Board members, and members specifically requested by the Executive Committee to perform official acts on behalf of the association.

26. Parliamentary Authority: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Executive Committee in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Executive Committee may adopt.

Article 7. Branches

27. WUSPBA Branches

27.1. Composition: The branches of WUSPBA will be the Northern California Branch, the Southern California Branch, the Intermountain Branch, and the Great Basin Branch.

27.2. Participation: Participation in branch activities will be limited to bands and solo members in good standing that resides in the appropriate geographical area for the branch.

28. New Branches: Additional branches of WUSPBA may be established upon approval by a majority of the Executive Committee.

29. Branch Organization

29.1. Freedom to Organize: Branches will be free to organize in any manner that is not in conflict with the objectives of WUSPBA or these bylaws.

29.2. Approval: Rules governing the actions of each branch will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval.

30. Bylaws Authority

- 30.1. Compliance: Each branch shall undertake to comply with the bylaws and rules of WUSBPA.
- 30.2. WUSPBA Bylaws: The bylaws and rules of WUSPBA shall govern all matters not referred to in branch rules.
- 30.3. Executive Committee: Branches may not act in lieu of the Executive Committee.

31. Branch President

- 31.1. Term: Branch Presidents shall be elected for one or two year terms.
- 31.2. Executive Committee Membership: Branch Presidents are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.
- 31.3. Expenses: The branch may defray their expenses for participation at meetings and at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 31.4. Vacant Office: In the event that a branch is not able to fill the office of their branch president, the Association Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a temporary branch president who resides in the branch until which time the branch can convene to elect a permanent one.

32. Governing Rules: The following rules governing branches must be followed:

- 32.1. Band Membership: No band can be admitted into membership of a branch unless said band is a member in good standing of the Association.
- 32.2. Annual General Meeting: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of each branch must be held not later than five (5) weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association.
- 32.3. Minutes: Minutes of all branch meetings and copies of all branch correspondence must be forwarded to the Executive Secretary of the Association.
- 32.4. Dual Officer Positions: Officers of the branches shall not be barred from eligibility to hold Association office.
- 32.5. Branch Financial Support
 - 32.5.1. Remission of Funds from the Association: The Treasurer of the Association shall remit to the Treasurer of each branch annually the sum of \$10 for each band that has paid its membership fee.
 - 32.5.2. Education Fund: Branches in good standing shall be entitled to apply for support from the educational fund to sponsor educational workshops for band and solo members.
- 32.6. Branch Dues

32.6.1. Dues to the Branch: Branches may impose a yearly assessment to support branch projects and expenses upon a vote of a majority of their own member bands.

32.6.2. Independent Fund Raising: Independent fund raising events are permissible and branches may accept donations for specific purposes.

32.7. Disputes: In the event of a dispute between any band or members and the branch, the aggrieved party shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be binding on all parties.

32.8. Contest Permits

32.8.1. Powers: Branches shall not have the power to grant contest permits, but a branch or any of its member bands may promote contests.

32.8.2. Conditions: Any branch or band that is the organizer of a contest must comply with all conditions related in Article 6, sections 25 and 26.

Article 8. Committees

33. Subcommittees: The Executive Committee shall appoint subcommittees as needed to perform the its assigned duties.

34. Confirmation: All decisions reached by committees must be referred to the Executive Committee for confirmation.

35. Further Action: Any committee decisions not confirmed by the Executive Committee shall be returned to the appropriate committee for further consideration.

Article 9. Music Board

36. Appointment: A Music Board of no fewer than five (5) members shall be appointed.

37. Chairperson: The Executive Committee shall appoint a Chairperson for the Music Board annually within one (1) month of the adjournment of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

38. Board Members: The Chairperson of the Music Board shall appoint additional members to the Music Board subject to Executive Committee approval.

39. Duties: The duties of the Music Board are as follows:

39.1. Advisory: The Music Board shall serve as the musical and technical advisors to the Association.

39.2. Grading: The Music Board shall recommend to the Executive Committee the appropriate grade for all bands and solo performers.

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- 39.3. Judges: The Music Board shall recommend to the Executive Committee a panel of approved band and solo judges.
- 39.4. Meetings: The Music Board shall meet not less than once every three (3) months. Such meetings may be attended in person or conducted electronically. A quarterly report shall be prepared for each meeting and submitted to the Executive Committee. The Music Board shall prepare and present an annual report at the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 39.5. Other Duties: The Music Board shall perform other duties as requested by the Executive Committee.
40. Parliamentary Authority: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Music Board in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Music Board may adopt.

Article 10. Finance Committee

41. Appointment

- 41.1. Appointment Deadline: A Finance Committee consisting of three (3) members will be appointed annually within one month of the adjournment of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 41.2. Committee Membership: The membership of the committee shall consist of the Treasurer plus two other WUSPBA members as recommended by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Committee.
- 41.3. Quorum: Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

42. Budget

- 42.1. Recommendation: The Finance Committee shall recommend a budget to the Executive Committee at least one (1) month prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 42.2. Goals: The Finance Committee shall study whether the goals of the Association can be met given the anticipated expenses and income. The committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding budget reductions or increases.
43. Advisory Capacity: The Finance Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the Executive Committee by recommending accountancy systems, investments, and other matters as requested by the Executive Committee.
44. Meetings: The Finance Committee shall meet as required or as convened by the Chairman. The committee must meet at least once prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

45. Fiduciary Responsibility

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- 45.1. Accountancy System: The Finance Committee shall establish the accountancy system of the Association.
- 45.2. Cash: The Finance Committee shall regulate the cash on hand to be held by the Treasurer at any given time.
- 45.3. Signing Authority: The Finance Committee shall ensure that no withdrawals are made except on the signed authority of the Treasurer or the President of the Association.

Article 11. Audit Committee

46. Appointment: The Executive Committee shall appoint a committee of the membership to conduct a review of the financial statements and financial affairs of the Association in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Audit Committee shall report the results of the review to the Association at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
47. Other Meetings: The Executive Committee shall appoint a committee of the membership to conduct a review of the financial statements and the financial affairs of the Association at such other times as are deemed necessary.
48. Barred Participation: No member of the Finance Committee may participate in the audit.

Article 12. Publication Committee

49. Composition: A Publications Committee of three members including the Executive Secretary, the Editor of the WUSPBA Newsletter, and one other WUSPBA member will be appointed annually. The Executive Committee shall appoint the third member of the committee.
50. Responsibilities: The Publications Committee shall be responsible for production of the newsletter and other publications of the Association and for the sale of advertising space in the various publications.

Article 13. Judges

51. Judges Panel: The Association shall maintain a Panel of Judges from which all judges for contests shall be drawn.
- 51.1. Additions: Additions to the panel shall be made upon a two-thirds recommendation of the Music Board.
- 51.2. Extraordinary Circumstances: The Executive Committee shall be responsive to any extraordinary circumstances.
52. Preference

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- 52.1. Selection: The adjudicators for sanctioned competitions shall be drawn from the approved adjudicators list of the Association and/or from the approved adjudicators list of piping/pipe band associations officially recognized by and affiliated with the Association.
- 52.2. Qualifications: Adjudicators shall adjudicate only the grades of bands, piping light music, piobaireachd, and drumming for which they have been qualified by their home association.
- 52.3. Exceptions: Games proposing the use of an adjudicator that is from a jurisdiction without an adjudicator approval process for the desired discipline or who is not on the approved adjudicator list shall obtain timely approval by the Association prior to the engagement.

Article 14. Band Grading

53. Policy: It shall be the policy of the association to place all bands in an appropriate competitive grade.
54. Grades: The Executive Committee shall, on the recommendation of the Music Board, grade all bands into one of the following grades: Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4 or Grade 5.
- 54.1. Use of a Grading Chart: The Executive Committee shall have the power to consider the Band Registrar's grading chart when the annual regrading occurs.
- 54.2. Regrading During a Contest Season: The Executive Committee may regrade any band at any time during the contest season if such a course of action should be deemed necessary.
55. New Bands: All new bands applying for membership in the Association shall be referred to the Music Board for a recommended grade. The Music Board shall send this recommendation to the Executive Committee for approval.
- 55.1. Readmission: When a band applies for readmission to the Association, it shall be placed in its former grade.
- 55.2. Appeal: If on readmission a band should appeal its assigned grade, the matter shall be referred to the Music Board for a recommendation about the appropriate grade.
56. Outside Bands
- 56.1. Grading Prior to Contest: Regardless of grade, any band from outside the Association's geographical area entered in a contest shall be graded by at least three members of the Music Board prior to the contest.
- 56.2. Alternate Grading Committee: In the event that three Music Board members are not available, the pipe majors and drum sergeants of the competing Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3 bands who are present in addition to any Music Board members present shall constitute an ad hoc committee for the purposes of grading the band.
57. Conflicts of Interest: No member of the Executive Committee or Music Board may vote concerning deliberations regarding the grading of a band in which he or she is a member.

Article 15. Contests

58. Approval of Contests

58.1. Submissions by Contest Organizers: The contest organizer proposing to sponsor a full pipe band, mini-band, or solo contest within the geographical area of the Association must submit the following:

58.1.1. Local Rules: The contest organizer must submit any local rules to the Executive Committee for approval before issuing them to the bands and solo competitors.

58.1.2. Contest Times: The contest organizer must submit the contest times to the Executives Committee. Contest events shall be held within plus or minus fifteen (15) minutes of the times submitted.

58.1.3. Names of Judges: The contest organizer must submit the names of the judges engaged from the approved panel of judges to the Executive Committee at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of the contest.

58.1.4. Outside Judges: Contest organizers wishing to use judges from outside the area of the Association must submit the names of those judges for approval by the Executive Committee at least six (6) weeks prior to the date of the contest.

58.2. Band Contests Under WUSPBA Rules: Any contest located within the Western United States involving pipers and drummers playing in concert and being judged as a unit, except street parades, shall be considered a band contest and shall be held under the rules of the Association.

58.3. Assisting Outside the Rules: Any band, registered member of a band, or solo competitor taking part or assisting in a contest outside the rules of the Association shall be guilty of an infringement and shall be liable for such penalties as the Executive Committee may decide.

59. Permits: Permits to hold solo only contests are available upon application to the WUSPBA for a flat fee of \$100 payable to the WUSPBA. Permits to hold pipe band contests are available upon application to the WUSPBA.

59.1. Costs: The costs of the permits are described in Table 3.

Number of Bands	Cost
One (1) to five (5)	\$125 per day
Six (6) to ten (1)	\$150 per day
Eleven (11) to fifteen (15)	\$175 per day

Sixteen (16) or more	\$225 per day
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Table 3. Permit Costs

59.2. Issue Requirements: A permit will be issued only after the Executives Committee has approved the local contest rules and judging panel.

59.3. Member Bands: Permits will be issued to member bands or branches without fee under the following conditions:

59.3.1. Financial Underwriting: A member band or branch shall be considered an organizer of a competition and exempt from the permit fee only if they are providing the majority of the financial underwriting for the competition in question.

59.3.2. Consent: Prior consent of the Executive Committee must be obtained.

59.3.3. Other Conditions: All other conditions of Article 15, section 58.1 must be met.

Article 16. Contest Rules Protests

60. Infringement with Protest: In the event of a protest being lodged by one band against another band for infringement of the rules at any contest and the Association representatives are unable to render a decision, the Executive Committee shall make a full inquiry into the protest. Should the Executive Committee be satisfied that an infringement has taken place, it may suspend the decision of the judges and award any prize to the band next in order of merit.

61. Infringement without Protest: The Executive Committee shall have the power to act without a protest being lodged if it is satisfied that an infringement of the rules has occurred.

Article 17. Dispute Resolution

62. Conflicts of Interest: No member of the Executive Committee or Music Board may participate in the deliberations regarding a dispute involving a band of which he or she is a member other than to present information related to the dispute.

63. Request for Reconsideration: Any band or individual member aggrieved by a decision of the Executive Committee may request reconsideration.

63.1. In Writing: Such requests for reconsideration must be made in writing. The request must include a statement from the band or individual member setting forth with specificity all the facts or reasons why the decision is claimed to be incorrect. The request must include the name, current address, and telephone numbers of any witness who might provide evidence or information in support of the request for reconsideration.

63.2. Request Period: Such requests for reconsideration must be post-marked or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary within thirty (30) days of the aggrieved party having received notice of the Executive Committee's decision.

- 63.3. Extension: The Executive Committee may extend this thirty (30) day period upon a showing by the aggrieved party that despite due diligence, the aggrieved party was unaware of such action within the normal timeframe.
- 63.4. Notification: Upon receipt of the written objection, the Executive Secretary shall, within fourteen (14) days, provide copies of the objection to all members of the Executive Committee and the Music Board.
64. Music Board Informal Resolution: If the band or individual continues to be aggrieved following the receipt of written notification of the Executive Committee's ruling, the aggrieved party may request that the matter be submitted to the Music Board for informal resolution.
- 64.1. Request Period: Such requests for reconsideration must be post-marked or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary within thirty (30) days of the aggrieved party having received notice of the Executive Committee's decision.
- 64.2. Notification: Upon receipt of the written objection, the Executive Secretary shall, within fourteen (14) days, provide copies of the objection to all members of the Executive Committee and the Music Board.
- 64.3. Contact with the Aggrieved Party: Upon receipt of the written request for implementation of the informal resolution process, the Chairperson of the Music Board, or such member of the Music Board as he or she may appoint, will personally contact the aggrieved party in order to gather information in support of the Music Board's informal resolution. The member of the Music Board charged with contacting the aggrieved party will henceforth be referred to as the Music Board Contact.
- 64.4. Music Board Approval: Any informal resolution of the objection must be presented to the Music Board for approval by a quorum. Approval of the resolution by the Music Board shall become final and binding on both WUSPBA and the aggrieved party.
- 64.5. Time Limit: In the event that an informal resolution of the objection has not been made within sixty (60) days of filing, the Music Board Contact shall notify all members of the Executive Committee and the Music Board that an informal resolution has not been obtained.
- 64.6. Extension: Upon agreement between the Music Board Contact and the aggrieved party, the time limit may be extended. Such an extension shall be confirmed in writing to the Executive Secretary.
65. Binding Arbitration: Any dispute resulting from any decision of the Executive Committee which cannot be resolved with a request for reconsideration or informal resolution by the Music Board shall be resolved by binding arbitration pursuant to the Rules of the American Arbitration Association.
- 65.1. Jurisdiction of Law: In the event that such dispute involves questions of law, such questions, including interpretation of these bylaw and contest rules, shall be determined pursuant to the

laws of the State of Nevada. Any arbitration under these rules shall occur in Reno, Washoe County, Nevada.

- 65.2. Commencement of Proceedings: Arbitration proceedings shall be commenced upon written demand for arbitration from any member band through its authorized representative or from any individual member currently in good standing with the Association. The Executive Secretary shall receive notification and immediately notify the Executive Committee and the American Arbitration Association.
- 65.3. Statute of Limitations: Any dispute shall be considered waived if a request for arbitration is not made within one (1) calendar year of the aggrieved party's notification of the Executive Committee's decision that is the subject of the dispute.
66. Arbitration Rules: Notwithstanding any rule of the American Arbitration Association to the contrary, the following rules apply.
- 66.1. Conclusion Time: Unless otherwise agreed to in writing between the requesting party and legal representative of the Association, such arbitration shall be concluded within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the request.
- 66.2. Legal Discovery Procedures: Unless otherwise agreed to in writing between the requesting party and legal representative of the Association, legal discovery procedures, including but not limited to interrogatories, requests to produce, requests to admit, and depositions, shall not be conducted in these arbitration proceedings.
- 66.3. Evidence: All parties to such arbitration shall simultaneously disclose in writing to all other parties thirty (30) days prior to any arbitration hearing under this rule or as agreed upon by all such parties in writing the names, current addresses, and telephone numbers of all witnesses and the content of the evidence to be offered.
- 66.4. Written Statements: Any party may substitute a sworn, written statement to the Arbitrator for consideration in lieu of appearance and live testimony of any witness where such statement has been disclosed and provided to all other parties. Such a statement must be received forty-five (45) days prior to any arbitration hearing under this rule.
67. Award of Reasonable Attorney's Fees: In any dispute resulting in a request for arbitration, the prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees from the Arbitrator upon request and verification by sworn statement from counsel and supported by bills and a copy of the applicable fee agreement. Any party requesting such attorney's fees shall be considered to have waived any privilege attached to bills and fee agreements necessary to determine the reasonableness of such fees.
68. Personal Liability: Notwithstanding any provisions of law or these bylaws to the contrary, in consideration of being granted membership in the Association, all member bands and individual members agree that no member of the Association's Adjudication Panel, Music Board, Executive Committee, or any band or individual member of the Association shall be personally liable for any compensatory, punitive, or other monetary damages arising as a result of any decision, act, omission, or other conduct by such person(s) which is based on a good faith intent to act within the scope of these bylaws or contest rules.

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69. Monetary Compensation Limit: Notwithstanding any provisions of law or these bylaws to the contrary, in consideration of being granted membership in the Association, all member bands and individual members agree that all compensatory, punitive, or other monetary damages, excluding and award of reasonable attorney's fees as described in Article 17 Section 67, suffered by any band or individual arising as a result of any decision, act, omission, or other conduct of the Association which is based on a good faith intent to act within the scope of these bylaws or contest rules, shall not exceed the amount of that band or individual member's registration fee for the year in which the dispute arose.
70. Sole Method of Resolution: Notwithstanding any provisions of law or these bylaws to the contrary, in consideration of being granted membership in the Association, all member bands and individual members agree that the dispute resolution established in this section shall constitute the sole method for resolving objections or disputes to actions of WUSBPA, the Executive Committee, the Music Board, the Contest Committee, or any individual member thereof.

Article 18. Amendments

71. Bylaws: These bylaws may be amended at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by a two-thirds vote, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Amendments must be submitted to the Executive Secretary forty-five (45) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Any amendments submitted on paper must also be provided to the Executive Secretary in a digital text format.
72. Contest Rules: The Contest Rules may be modified by a simple majority vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at a special meeting provided that the proposed modification has been submitted in writing to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Amendments must be submitted to the Executive Secretary forty-five (45) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Any amendments submitted on paper must also be provided to the Executive Secretary in a digital text format.

Article 19. Statement of Non-Discrimination

73. Provisions: There shall be no discrimination in the application of the provisions of these bylaws or Contest Rules with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran.
74. Application of the Provisions: The provisions of these bylaws and Contest Rules shall be applied equally to all members without regard to marital status, handicap, status as a disabled veteran, age, or citizenship.