

Words and Music

Fall 2015

President's Report

Jeff Mann, President,
WUSPBAJeffrey.mann@hsc.utah.edu



Note: After 2-1/2 years as president of the Western United States Pipe Band, Jeff Mann will step down at the AGM in November. His leadership of the association has resulted in

many important professional innovations, some of which Jeff highlights in this final report to the membership, below.

What an incredible administration we have had in the Western United States Pipe Band Association! I have had the opportunity to work with some of the best people I have ever come to know. This administration has been able to accomplish so many wonderful things during the past couple of years.

I just wanted to take a moment to highlight some of those things:

- A Standards of Practice manual has been developed for the use of the WUSPBA Executive Committee.
- *Words & Music*, the association's e-newsletter, has been published quarterly.

- Soloists have been graded; there is no longer self-grading of solo competitors.
- The Bylaws and Contest Rules have been edited to eliminate grammatical errors, and the voice of these documents has been changed from passive to active.
- A Publications Committee, headed by Erin Gunn, has been established. The committee published the WUSPBA Contest Handbook.
- A centralized database system, developed with R-2 Sports, has been established. The system is being used for membership, band and games registration.
- A new website has been developed with a much cleaner look.
- An email blast system has been developed; it can send messages to the membership as well as to pipe majors, pipe sergeants and drum sergeants.
- Music Board Committees -- Adjudication, Grading, and Education -- have been formally established, with members chosen from each branch.
- A Commissioner of Education, John Partanen, has been appointed (I will speak more about John's work later).
- The 50th anniversary celebration of the WUSPBA was held in 2014, during which the administration and Music Board worked very hard on developing:
 - A new logo for the website
 - A *WUSPBA Music Tune* book.Thanks go to Lorne Cousin, Andy Trimble and Kevin McIntyre.

- The Adjudication Committee has begun working on guidelines for the appointment, retention and promotion of adjudicators.
- An Audit Committee has been established, and has been making continuous audit reports.
- A Presidents' Council has been established; it is used when the administration needs help and guidance on critical issues.
- A WUSPBA Historian has been appointed.
- A Music Development of the Art and Performance (MDAP) Committee has been established.
- The Circle of Honor has been developed as way to honor members who have given lifelong service to the association.

The list could go on, but the real magic comes from members of the Music Board and the Executive Committee, who were in the trenches and accomplished so much.

I cannot thank enough:

- Erin Gunn, who has shouldered most of my work and done so without complaining.
- Holley Morrill, who attempted to keep the books balanced and me on task with the budget.
- John Biggar, one of the greatest guys I have ever had the pleasure of being friends with
- The registrars, Todd Brown, Nancy Theriault and Lezlie Mann, for their tireless work or entering data, rosters, registrations and sanctioning of games. I also want to thank Todd for my last-minute posts to the website, and for helping me at all hours of the night. Erin can attest to that as well.
- Our branch presidents, Drew McPheeters (and, speaking of Drew, his ability to step in as Vice President!), Scott Larsen, John Moruzzi, Michael Gibbs and Jonas Pauliukonis. It was so good to be able to travel throughout

Fall 2015 Special AGM Issue

Reports

President, Jeff Mann	1
Vice President, Drew McPheeters ...	3
Executive Secretary, Erin Gunn	5
Treasurer, Holley Morrill	6
President's Council, Susan Thornton .	6
Band Registrar, Nancy Theriault	7
Music Board, Andrew Morrill	8

Branches

Intermountain, John Moruzzi	9
W&M Editor, John Thornton	10

News from Pleasanton, John Biggar	11
---	-----------

Meet the Prince Charles Pipe Band, PM Ken Sutherland	13
---	-----------

W&M Deadlines and Editorial Staff	21
---	-----------

New feature! Drone Malone, Michael Akard	18
---	-----------

AGM Guide	19
------------------------	-----------

Proposed Bylaw Changes	31
-------------------------------------	-----------

© WUSPBA 2015

throughout the WUSPBA and know that each of the branches are in good hands.

- Andy Trimble and Andrew Morrill, who are/were chairs of the Music Board. I so appreciated their leadership and all of their contributions to the association.
- Members of the Music Board, Kevin McIntyre, Glenn Kvidahl, Jeff Anderson, Janice Richey, Liz Tubbs, Ryan Murray, Mike LeBoeuf, BJ Gunn, Ross Morrill, Lise Nelson and Ryan Balchuck.
- Members of the President's Council, for giving me support when there were heavy issues to deal with. Their counsel and guidance helped me out so much. I thank Susan Thornton, who chaired the committee, along with Chris Hossack, Stuart Baker, Andrew Morrill, John Biggar and Scott MacDonald.
- John Thornton for allowing me to twist his arm to be editor and chief of Words & Music. A lot of hours have gone into this publication!
- Kevin Conquest, for heading up the Drum Major Committee.
- John Partanen, Commissioner of Education, for his vision of what could be done at the Junior High and High School level. The development of a program that can be introduced into a school system, and to have that school system purchase bagpipes and drums for their kids is an amazing tribute to John, and part of his legacy.
- You for all that I have learned from you. I have written about this in past issues of *Words & Music*.

I have never met a group of people more passionate, more hardworking, or more incredibly dedicated to the association. I wish my words could convey or even come close to conveying the feelings that I have in my heart for these people.

In addition, I must note that Janice Richey has been a great listener and advisor. I have twisted her arm to edit all of my submissions to

Words & Music, with the exception of this paragraph. I wrote this one on my own. I have truly enjoyed my association with Her Pipeness. Thank you, Jan!

Finally, I have to thank my wife, Lezlie. I love her with all my heart. She has never complained when I have had WUSPBA business. She has been my main support and has helped me when I was feeling down or overwhelmed at times. What an incredible woman. Plus she has had to put up with me.

I hope that in future we might run into each other again. Meanwhile, I wish you all the best for your futures in piping and drumming.

Vice President's Report

Drew McPheeters

dbmcpheeters@gmail.com



At the last AGM, I was elected Vice President of the WUSPBA. This was the furthest thing from my mind when I went to the meeting, as I was mostly focused on the

affairs in the Intermountain Branch.

Database System

This year, as Vice President, I have been very involved in trying to increase the ease of use, and adaptation of the WUSPBA membership and online event entry system. This is due to my technical background, the fact that I had a part in developing the old database system used by

the WUSPBA, and by the fact that I had prior familiarity with the R2 Sports system due to my involvement in competitive racquetball.

The system still needs some enhancement in order to make it easy to use. Hopefully we can begin to leverage some of its more powerful capabilities as we get better at setting up the system and using it more.

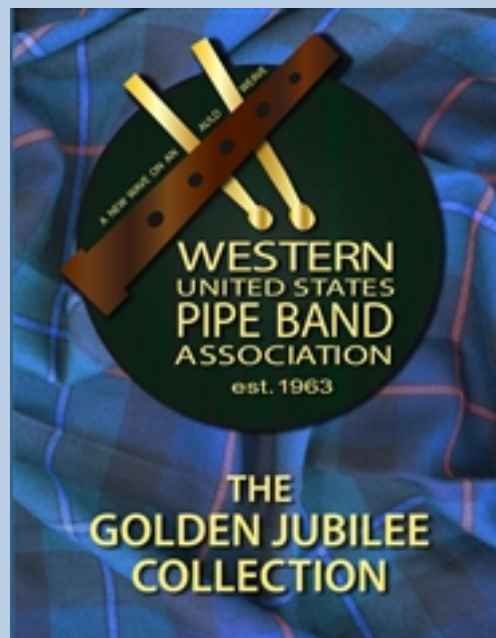
An Expanded AGM

Generally the Vice President is tasked with organizing the association's AGM. This year much of that organization was done by Jeff Mann due to his vision of expanding the AGM to offer education, competition and entertainment, with an eventual goal of creating something similar to the fine offerings at Winter Storm in Kansas City. Jeff has had a lot of help from people in Utah in making this happen. I urge everyone to take advantage of this very good set of clinicians and the free workshops they will offer.

The Need for More Involvement

Many people I talk to around the association wonder why so many members of the WUSPBA's Executive Committee are from Utah. This is a two-part answer. One is that Jeff is very persuasive and recruits the people he feels can help him get things done.

The bigger part of the answer is that no one else is offering to do the things that need to be done. Most officers are elected with no opposition, and only after being persuaded to be a candidate.



**First-ever publication of music
from the WUSPBA !**

***Golden Jubilee Collection*
Now Available!**

The Western United States Pipe Band Association's *Golden Jubilee Collection* of new tunes by WUSPBA composers is now available! You'll definitely want this publication in your permanent collection!

Developed to celebrate the WUSPBA's 50th Anniversary in 2013, the publication includes 90 original tunes selected by the Association's Music Board.

**Just \$25 from
www.thebookpatch.com.**

We need the bands and soloists in the association to become more active and take ownership in the association. This is the only way things can become more diverse, and less centralized among one group of people. So I urge all of you to become active, at the branch level at the very least. The association can only be strong and responsive if we have better participation from more members.

Executive Secretary's Report

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



As the 2015 competition season comes to an end I want to express my gratitude and say thank you. Thank you, to our contest organizers, who put in countless hours over

several months leading up to one weekend that quickly flies by. Thank you to our soloists and bands for participating and striving to continually improve the level of piping, drumming, and drum majoring in the western United States. And finally, thank you to our outgoing president Jeff Mann for his years of dedication and leadership; Jeff, you are leaving some big shoes to fill.

I would also like to encourage everyone to attend our annual general meeting (AGM)

in Park City, Utah, during the weekend of October 16-18.

AGM Workshops

We are bringing in Jack Lee, Ken Eller, Duncan Millar and Andrew Elliott as workshop presenters. Please see the *WUSPBA AGM Guide* in this newsletter for a listing of the various workshops they will be presenting. I hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity. The workshops are free to all WUSPBA members.

We have two workshop sessions scheduled for Friday evening, three for Saturday afternoon, and finally two on Sunday morning. I believe you can always learn something for any workshop presenter. Even attending the basic classes, you may learn something that could improve your playing, or help a struggling student.

Saturday Evening Concert

Our workshop presenters, along with members of WUSPBA, will present a concert on Saturday night. There is an admission fee of only \$10 per person for this fun event. It's a great opportunity to hear some of the best in WUSPBA and the world.

Annual Meeting

The principal reason we are gathering in Park City is to conduct the business of the association. Come and let your voice be heard. All soloists, adjudicators, contest organizers, life members and bands have a vote. We will be voting on executive committee officers (president, executive secretary, treasurer, and band registrar).

And we will be voting on bylaw and contest rule proposals. So plan to be there!

Contest Organizers

Come and get help setting up your event in the R2 system. Ryan Rodgers (the system developer) will be on hand to guide you through the process.

Thank you for a great year. I hope to see you all in Park City!

Treasurer's Report

Holley Morrill, Treasurer, WUSPBA
hrmorrill@live.com

I hope everyone has had a good summer; I can't believe how fast it has gone by!!

WUSPBA funds are as follows:

Savings: \$50,130.37

Checking: \$3,948.33



We still have a few outstanding checks that have gone out to the North Branch, Glendale Pipes & Drums, and a few individual refund checks. If you could please cash those or let me

know why they have not gone through, that would be appreciated.

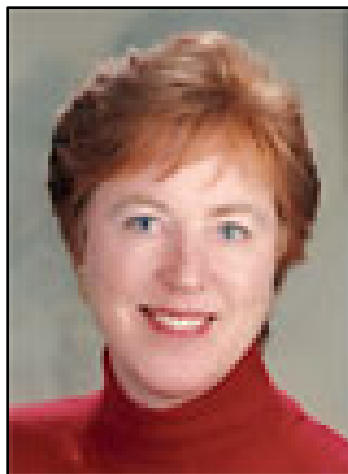
We have spent more money this year on the new R2 system and other expenses, so

money will be coming out of savings for this year's AGM, which is coming soon!

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. It has been a pleasure being on this committee for the last year and a half. I have enjoyed getting to know many dedicated and wonderful people! Hope to see many of you at the October AGM in Park City, Utah!

Presidents' Council

Susan Thornton, Chair
Susan@ThinkStrategicallyFirst.com



The Presidents' Council, established in 2013 to advise the Executive Committee on complex issues, has had a relatively quiet year. The Council, made up of former

WUSPBA presidents Stu Baker, Chris Hossack, Andrew Morrill, Scott MacDonald and myself, has been asked to provide input on only one issue so far in 2015. This compares with six requests in 2013 and five in 2014.

In addition to weighing in on issues, this year the Council recommended nominees for the Circle of Honor. Three distinguished people were recommended, and their names were accepted by the Executive Committee. The honorees will be named at the AGM in October. Stay tuned to learn who they are!

Band Registrar's Report

Nancy Theriault, Band Registrar
bandreg@comcast.net



The 2015 season is rapidly coming to a close and it seems to have been a great year. We've had many positive changes for bands in the

WUSPBA association and I feel that things are going very well for the organization.

Positive Changes in Band Grading Levels

The addition of a Grade 5 level this year, along with the promotion of bands to higher grades, gave the WUSPBA a wider range of events. Allowing for a beginner grade has created an opportunity to compete without the pressures of Grade 4 competition and has given the Grade 4s a more level playing field.

In addition, the promotion of several bands to the Grade 2 level has brought a nice level of competition to that grade as well. The four bands in Grade 2 this year were all able to benefit from having events at many of the games within WUSPBA.

Smoothly Working Online Registration

And, of course, the long-awaited final transition to a smoothly working online

system has greatly streamlined the registration process for both the Association and for the Games. From each perspective – Band Managers, Games Organizers and the Registrar -- this has been a great success. Nearly every band has been able to use the system to register and pay WUSPBA fees, manage their rosters and register directly for events, and the overwhelming consensus has been very positive.

The new system will allow for much greater ease and accuracy in the future. I will be contacting everyone when registration opens for the 2016 season, so keep an eye out at the end of the year!

Are You Getting Announcements?

On that note, I want to make sure everyone is getting announcements from me. If you are a Pipe Major or Band Manager or a Games Organizer and you did not receive any batch emails from me this year, please contact me so that I can have you added to the mail list!

If you are registering a new band for 2016, or a band that has been inactive, be sure to let me know so that I can make sure you receive important information about the registration process.

Many thanks to all the PM's, Organizers and Managers who have been so helpful and gracious as so many changes took place over the last couple of years and while all the bugs were being worked out of the R2 system. I trust that the next season will be a vast improvement over previous years and that things will go quite smoothly.

64 Competing Bands in 2015

I'm pleased to report that we had a large number of bands competing this year. A total of 64 bands registered. There were four Grade 2 bands, six Grade 3 bands, twenty eight Grade 4 bands, seventeen Grade 5 bands, five Adult bands and four Juvenile bands.

Season Results

The season results, as of September 16, are as follows:

Grade 2

First – Prince Charles
Second – Wasatch and District
Third - Queen City
Fourth – Bushmills Irish Pipers

Grade 3

First – Cameron Highlanders
Second – LA Scots
Third – Kevin R Blandford
Fourth - Pasadena Scots

Grade 4

First- Long Beach Fire
Second – Cameron Highlanders
Third - Bushmills Irish Pipers
Fourth – UC Riverside

Grade 5

First – Cameron Highlanders
Second – Pipes and Drums of the CDF Firefighters
Third – Pacific Coast Highlanders
Fourth – City of Sacramento

Final results will be posted online and announced at the AGM. Congratulations to each band that participated – there was great competition this year and I hope

everyone enjoyed the events!

Special Thanks to Firefighting Heroes

I also want to take a moment, on behalf of all of us in WUSPBA, to thank the members of the Pipes and Drums of the CDF Firefighters for representing all the heroes out there on the front lines fighting the unprecedented fires raging across California this summer. We appreciate our Cal Firefighters and all they do to protect us!

I hope you have all enjoyed the events of 2015 and I wish every one of you all the best as you prepare for next year's season. As always, feel free to email me at bandreg@comcast.net any time you have any questions or concerns.

Music Board

Andrew Morrill, Chair, WUSPBA Music Board
piperadmorrill@gmail.com



The Music Board has been working hard in deal-ing with the many new respon-sibilities that we have tak-en on recently.

Grading Challenges

Among these, we are finding that properly grading both bands and individuals is a very time-consuming and difficult task. How we

make decisions is evolving as we get more experience and try to compassionately deal with these personal issues. The Executive Committee has been working closely with us as we help them make these final grading decisions. We want everyone to know that many hours of thought go into trying to place bands and individuals in a position where they can learn, grow and be successful.

Developing Judges

Other responsibilities we have to deal with are how to best educate our panel of judges while also developing new judging talent. We continue to try and come up with new and innovative programs to accomplish our goals.

Open to Your Ideas and Concerns

The Music Board is always open to hear new ideas and concerns from the general membership. Please feel free to contact us and we will listen, advise and help anyway we can. Continue to go to the WUSPBA's website, where we will try to provide educational and instructional aides to help with performing issues or where we will answer questions that may arise throughout the season.

We hope you all have had an enjoyable year competing and associating with their fellow piping and drumming enthusiasts. This is a wonderful hobby, and we hope as a Music Board that we can help to make it a positive experience for all.

Intermountain Branch

John Moruzzi

Moruzzi33@gmail.com



Summer Highlights

This summer has been a busy time for bands and soloists in the Intermountain Branch, with competitions happening from Albuquerque,

NM, to Estes Park, CO. Here are some highlights of the summer:

Colorado Irish Festival

The IMB was proud to once again sponsor the solo and band competitions at the Colorado Irish Festival. In addition to sponsoring the competitions, the IMB also held a cèilidh at the end of the day, which featured a number of pipers and drummers showcasing their talents.

Colorado Scottish Festival

This festival proved to be a wonderful and fun experience, as it moved to the beautiful mountain town of Snowmass Village, CO, this year. The feedback of the new location was extremely positive from bands and soloists in attendance.

In addition to the new location, the festival was the site of Colorado's first ever Grade 2 competition, with Wasatch and District (Bountiful/Salt Lake City) and Queen City (Denver) competing against each other. A very big thank-you to Wasatch and District (Grades 2 and 4) for making the drive from Utah to attend the festival!

Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Festival

This festival marked the end of the competition season for many soloists and bands in the region. The weather was gorgeous (one never knows if it will be sunny or snowing) and as usual, the festival did not disappoint.

Congratulations to all of the soloists and bands for a great competition season!

Intermountain Branch AGM

The IMB held its AGM on August 15th. Elections were held and the following individuals were re-elected to their respective positions for a two year period:

- John Moruzzi - President
- Jamie Cuthill - Vice-President
- Christina Marshall - Secretary
- Lindsay Cuthill, Andra Stoller and Margaret Imler - Members at Large

Congratulations to Mary Beth Lehto, who was elected as the new IMB Treasurer, replacing long-time volunteer Elaine Hoffman. We look forward to working with Mary Beth in her inaugural term.

I personally want to thank Elaine for her service within the IMB and WUSPBA over the last 20 years. Thank you, Elaine!

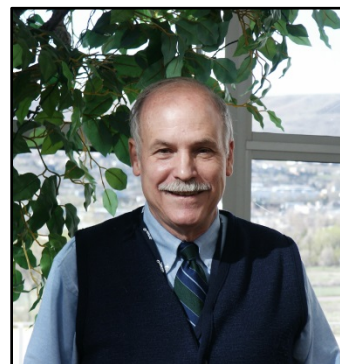
World Pipe Band Championship Viewing Party

The IMB held a World Pipe Band Championship viewing party in conjunction with our AGM on August 15th. The turnout was great and everyone in attendance had a terrific time watching and listening to the Grade 1 Finals.

The response was so positive that we plan to hold another viewing party again in 2016.

Editing Your Newsletter

John Thornton, editor
misterpv@gmail.com



Ever since WUSPBA President Jeff Mann approached me at the end of 2013 with the request that I edit *Words & Music*, serving

you has been a pleasure. Time has flown by, and since that time I have edited eight issues of the newsletter.

It's been a real pleasure reporting on the exciting things going on in the WUSPBA and its branches under the able leadership of Jeff Mann.

In addition to reports, my team and I have tried to increase interest in the newsletter by adding educational columns from such noted pipers and drummers as Ken Eller

("Music is Just Another Language, April 2014), Ann Gray ("Preparing for Competition: Seven Points to Ponder," Summer 2014), Tom Foley (Fundamentals of Competition: On How to Make the Judges Love your Competition Sets," (April 2014), Scott MacDonald ("So You Want to Take Your Band to Scotland," Winter 2015), and Jim Harrington ("How to Run an Effective Massed Bands," Spring 2015).

In addition, we have begun to focus on a different WUSPBA band in each issue. Check out inside information about the L.A. Scots Pipe Band (Winter 2015), Wasatch & District Pipe Band (Summer, 2015), Queen City Pipe Band (Spring 2015) and of course Prince Charles Pipe Band (in this issue).

All these back issues are available on the WUSPBA website -- www.WUSPBA.org.

I look forward to bringing you additional news and information in future issues. Please let me know if you have any ideas for articles or suggestions for improvement.

Pleasanton Hosted a New Grade One Format While Some Stars Retired

John Biggar, P&D Chair, Caledonian Club Highland Gathering and Games
john@worksafetech.net

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco celebrated its 150th Annual Gathering and Games in Pleasanton on September 4th-6th, 2015 -- and we had record-breaking attendance!



The Rising Cost of Grade One Contests

Many of you remember the old days of Santa Rosa, when we routinely held a Grade One competition featuring bands from several regions of Canada and the U.S. Many of my close friends have expressed disappointment with me for not hosting the kind of band

contest they enjoyed 25 years ago.

So I want to express my disappointment with the economy, the strength of the currency exchange with Canada, and the evolution of the "big band" concept adopted by the Grade Ones. These three things are beyond the control of all Games sponsors, and have led to the death of the Grade One contests in the WUSPBA region.

We all know the names of the great-sounding pipe bands hitting the circle with 28 pipes, 12 sides and 6 tenors. They do put on an incredible show, but it requires a king's ransom to fly, house and feed 40 to 50 people, many of whom are out-of-area players who I assume are being subsidized by their band! I don't blame bands for trying to balance their books by asking for big travel dollars, but unless the bands are within driving distance, sponsors just cannot afford to have them.

This then is a self-limiting experience, as there are fewer opportunities to compete before heading off to the World

Championship. In Scotland, where travel and prize money is thin, most major competitions are a short train or coach ride away!

The New Invitational Contest

Faced with all the financial concerns enumerated above, I designed and executed a contest that was worth watching this year at the “Big One” in Pleasanton. In an invitational three-band contest, each Grade One unit was limited to 8 pipers, 3 sides, 3 tenors and a bass. The bands could bring as many back-ups as they want, but could only have 15 members in the circle.

This concept makes the travel money go further, equalizes the size (helping smaller bands), and allows pipe majors to feature their best players.

Three Grade Ones, 30 Bands Total

The bands invited were the Los Angeles Scots, Triumph Street and the Greater Glasgow Police (Strathclyde). Although the event still carried a hefty price tag, I was allowed to try this new approach because the Caledonian Club wanted to present many special events this year to celebrate its sesquicentennial. Even though the bands looked smaller, the music was awesome and people were thanking me all weekend long for getting the Grade One bands back to Pleasanton.

Over the weekend, 30 pipe bands in total competed, spread over all five grades. If your band was not in Pleasanton, check for results online at www.TheScottishGames.com.

A Moving and Emotional Moment

In addition, we had a very moving and emotional moment as Megan Harrington Canning played the solo for *Amazing Grace* to honor the passing of her mother, and Jim Harrington’s lovely wife, Nan. They shared a salute and a hug on stage before the bands retired. Dry eyes were in the minority.

A New Senior Drum Major

We then announced David Cubberly as the new Senior Drum Major to shout commands to the bands next year, as our friend Jim Harrington retires from that position after countless seasons commanding “Twice Thru-u-u-u-u.” Well done, Jim, and thank you for years of service to the Club.

Can David come up with a different command to stump the Massed Bands?

“Merriman’s Glenn”

Pipe Major Bill Merriman was honored by the Piping and Drumming Committee in renaming the solo registration area as “Merriman’s Glenn.”

Thanks to So Many

Speaking of solo registration, I want to thank Margaret Hokeness and her pals Don and Kathy Cameron for years of help in running the solo competitions. They don’t have big feet, they but leave big shoes to fill! Please thank all of them as you see them relaxing at the Games next year.

We may test the new R2 solo and band registration system next year. WUSPBA has

invested a lot of time and money in trying to streamline the registration process by employing more technology, so please bear with us as we try to make things easier. A big thank you to Jeff Mann as my co-chair, and Tyler Johnson for helping with transportation.

The Los Angeles Scots did their usual stellar job of playing with the Marine Band, making for an impressive Grandstand Show. My buddy (Chief Steward) Marcus, was guilty of getting the bands to the line on time! Thanks for what you do, Marcus. And to new Club Member, George Rogers, thanks for commanding a great bunch of stewards to assist with the solo and band contests.

Our long-time band registrar and sweetheart of the score sheets, Margaret Craig, was not in Pleasanton this year as her Gall Bladder turned ugly and attacked her when she wasn't looking! the doctor said "no traveling". Send her your good wishes for a full recovery.

It takes a lot of volunteers to make this great event successful, and I thank each and every member involved. See you next season.

Questions can be addressed to Past Chief John Biggar (chairman) or Jeff Mann (co-chair).

Meet the Prince Charles Pipe Band

Words & Music asked Ken Sutherland, Pipe Major and President of the Board of Directors of the Prince Charles Pipe Band, to tell our readers about the band.

Ken.Sutherland@alumni.stanford.edu

Prince Charles Pipe Band has been around a long time -- since 1967, in fact. Even though it went silent for a brief spell, its longevity and its competition successes are notable. How would you describe the band's philosophy over so many years?

Well, the Band has never been silent – it's been in continuous operation for nearly 50 years now. There have been ups and downs, but we have always had at least one active band and at times as many as three!

We have always had a philosophy of excellence in Highland piping and drumming, with the mission of teaching young people to play these Scottish instruments. Its hard work and a serious endeavor, but we try to have fun doing it.

You have a Grade 2 and a Grade 5 band, right? How many members in each?

Yes, we currently have the two grades. The senior band has about 30 pipers and drummers, and the junior band has about 15.

Over the years we have almost always had a senior band with the additional philosophy of being highly competitive. The senior band provides individuals who instruct the junior band, and the senior band has always served as an incentive to players in the junior band who want to improve their playing.

Our sponsor is the Caledonian Club of San Francisco. They provide us with a generous sponsorship as well as a practice facility. We're very appreciative of their support and we try to make them proud of us every time we go out!

Who are the leaders of the current Grade 2 band?

I'm the Pipe Major, the Pipe Sergeant is Colin Berta and the Drum Sergeant is Eli Fugate.



PM Ken Sutherland and Drum Sergeant Eli Fugate

How often does the band practice?

The junior band practices once a week. The senior band practices every two weeks. Some of the players in the senior band come from out-of-town, and we know that people have families, jobs, and other commitments. The senior band is pretty strong -- we feel like we are on a great trajectory -- so the current practice schedule works pretty well. We expect everyone to show up with their instrument in good condition, and ready to play. Our practices typically last about five hours -- with a break for lunch!

We try to create opportunities for the two bands to play together in parades and performances, like the Caledonian Club Tartan Ball and three to four parades each year. The bands perform at events an

average of about once a month, depending on the time of year.

Tell us a little about when the band was founded.

In 1967, members of the City of San Francisco Caledonian Pipe Band came together to focus on training young pipers and drummers, something very few people were doing at the time in the Bay Area. Bill Merriman, my father Jack Sutherland, and Jerry Golanty founded the Band and incorporated it as a nonprofit educational organization. At one time the Band was an Explorer Post unit of the Boy Scouts of America. Bill served as piping instructor and Jack and Jerry as drumming instructors. The focus was on quality instruction, dedication and discipline -- principles that have not changed.

Your website says the band has played in many grades over the years.

Yes, Prince Charles has had bands in all grades 1 through 5, as well as a Juvenile band -- and at one time had a Ladies' Band.

At the start, the band had just a few students, but within five years it had grown to 72 members and went to Scotland to compete in 1973. It was the first time a mixed gender band had ever competed in Scotland. The Band went back to Scotland in 1978 and a number of times in the late 1990s, winning several prizes along the way.

In 2000, the Band won the World Championships in Grade 2 and in 2003 the junior band won the World Championships in Grade 3.

And you have had successful competition seasons in the U.S. in recent years as well.

Yes, I'm proud to say that the current Grade 2 band has been the WUSPBA Champion in its grade in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2014. And this year we swept first place in all three WUSPBA contests we played in.

Do you bring in outside "experts" to advise you as you prepare for competition?

We have done that in the past, but not lately. Getting outside help can provide good ideas and be very valuable. But you have to remember that the "expert" may have different ideas – not right or wrong, just different - about how to do things, and you need to weigh those ideas to see if they are a good fit for you and complement your band's strengths.

I believe we now have individuals in key positions in the Band who are not only musically and technically talented, but who also have an understanding of how to lead groups of people, cultivate relationships and manage an organization. This is as important as, or maybe even more important than the technical aspects of playing pipes and drums together.

Where did the Grade 2 band compete this year?

We competed at the Woodland Games, Costa Mesa, Pleasanton, and two contests in Canada – Maxville, Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec.

At the North American Championships in Maxville, we took first in piping and second in ensemble in the Medley contest against

nine other bands. We were quite proud of that result, despite the fact that the summary results placed us in the middle of the pack overall. It was the largest Grade 2 field in a decade, with some excellent



The Prince Charles Pipe Band at Maxville

competition. The trip was a big boost for the Band and we are now putting plans together to build on that success.



Waiting for the trophy at Maxville

At Pleasanton we had excellent runs and were really pleased with the results but more importantly how well we played. We're striving for a level of consistency that virtually eliminates the element of chance on competition day. In other words, being so prepared that even the occasional "curveball" doesn't rattle anyone.

We also believe we're developing a signature sound in both the pipe corps and

drum corps – one that no one else has. It's a long process to get there but it's also pretty exciting.



Prince Charles drummers march into the circle in Pleasanton

We understand that Prince Charles is trying to re-connect with the many pipers and drummers whose lives it has affected over the years. Tell us about that.

Truly, hundreds and hundreds of pipers and drummers got their start in the Prince Charles Pipe Band over the years. Some are still with the organization; some have moved on to play with other bands across the U.S., Canada and even Scotland. Many have put the pipes and drums aside to pursue other interests, establish careers and grow families. In all cases, the Band has been an important part of their lives. They're all part of our family, and we'd like to stay in touch with them.

We put up a tent at Pleasanton and encouraged former band members to give us their contact information; in return, they got a "Prince Charles Alumni and Friends" sticker and pin. It was meant to be a bit of

fun and remind everyone that their "home base" is alive and well.



Bill Merriman (2nd from left) and alumni at Pleasanton

And just a bit more about the Prince Charles family, because this is quite close to home for me. My Dad was one of the founders and I had the good fortune when I was young -- though didn't fully appreciate it at the time -- to play in the band when my Dad did. I stopped playing in bands to focus my time on raising a family and pursuing a career, but returned to Prince Charles with my son John, who is a talented piper in his own right. So John and I got to share that same experience, playing together. The thing is, this isn't unique – the Bertas, the Biggars, the Bratens, the Smiths and others have had multiple generations in the Band, as well as families with cousins, aunts, uncles and the rest. And that is sure to continue!

So how can former Prince Charles members who may read this column contact the band?

We have a Facebook page, Prince Charles Pipe Band

<https://www.facebook.com/PrinceCharlesPipeBand> as well as a Facebook group, the Prince Charles Pipe Band Alumni

Association,
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pcpbalumni/>, and a website www.pcpb.org. There are options for messaging us at each of these sites. Or, if they want to just shoot me an email, that's fine too! I'll make sure the contact information gets to our Board committee that is building up the database. I'd love to hear from any of the old gang!



Prince Charles alumni gather at Pleasanton

Any last thoughts, things you'd like our readers to know about Prince Charles Pipe Band?



Prince Charles at a recent performance at the deYoung Museum, San Francisco. Bill Merriman and John Biggar are in the center behind the bass drum

Prince Charles is an extended family. We're all close; we all look out for one another.

Making music with people you enjoy and cherish is hard to compare to anything else, and that's what we always return to. We all feel a real kinship and share the same values.

We recognize that the pipe bands can be serious, with all the challenges any organized group of people will face. Certainly, it takes hard work, not only the making music part but also the organizational and leadership challenges. BUT -- it has to be fun, too! We always look for and welcome people who share this philosophy of balancing work and play.

We are very excited about our prospects for the future and we feel we have the right combination of leadership, talent, attitude and support that will enable us to accomplish our near-term musical and competition goals as well as ensure a strong organization for many years to come.

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

Winter 2015 Issue: December 10

Spring 2016 issue: March 10

Editorial Staff

John Thornton, Editor

misterpv@gmail.com

303.798.0844

Susan Thornton, Associate Editor

susan@thinkstrategicallyfirst.com

303.798.0844

Drone Malone by Michael Akard (akardm@gmail.com)





WUSPBA

2015 Annual General Meeting Preparation Guide



Friday-Sunday October 16-18, 2015

Park City Marriott Hotel

Park City, Utah

2015 Annual General Meeting Guide

Table of Contents

Transportation	3
Lodging Information	3
Private Instruction	3
Workshops	4
AGM	5
Contest Organizer Meeting	6
Concert	6
AGM Timeline	7
2014 WUSPBA AGM Meeting Minutes	8

Transportation

From the Salt Lake International Airport, the Park City Marriott is located approximately 37 miles East. The most inexpensive mode of transportation to the host hotel is Park City Transportation. The cost is \$45.00 one way (reservations are required); to make a reservation call 1-800-637-3803 or visit www.parkcitytransportation.com Taxi service is also available, estimated one way fare is \$90.00.

Driving directions:

Take I-80 East to the Kimball Junction/Park City exit 145 for Highway 224. Follow Highway 224 for approximately 6 miles to Kearns Boulevard. Turn left and continue on the boulevard to Sidewinder Drive. Turn right and the hotel will be on the right.

Lodging Information

Discounted lodging rates are available at the Park City Marriott for \$109.00/ night. Click on the following link to access our group rate:

http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=WUSPBA%20AGM%20%20Glenwild%20Celtic%20Championships%5Eslcpc%60gccgcca%60109.00%60USD%60false%6010/16/15%6010/18/15%609/25/15&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes

The Park City Marriott Hotel is located at 1895 Sidewinder Drive, Park City, Utah 84060. Their direct number is 435-649-2900. For hotel amenities and other information look at the hotel website www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/slcpc-park-city-marriott/

Private Instruction

Our workshop presenters are pleased to offer private instruction during the day on Friday October 16, 2015. Times will be arranged in 1 hour increments, tuition is \$50.00. Please contact Erin Gunn to arrange a time. egunn.ec@gmail.com

Workshops

Seven workshop sessions will be offered between Friday night and Sunday morning. Jack Lee, Ken Eller, Duncan Millar, and Andrew Elliott are our workshop presenters for the 2015 WUSPBA AGM. The following chart details the various workshops available, and when they will be offered. Tuition for all workshops is free, however we ask that you pre-register for the classes of your choice. Click on the following link to pre-register:

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=16508>

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
Friday 16th 7:00pm	Friday 16th 8:00pm	Saturday 17th 2:00pm	Saturday 17th 3:00pm	Saturday 17th 4:00pm	Sunday 18th 9:00am	Sunday 18th 10:00am
Mini MSR	MSR Expression	Reed Manipulation and Tone	Question and Answer Combined Session with: Jack Lee Ken Eller Duncan Millar Andrew Elliott	Sports Psychologist: Competition Performance Anxiety Presented by: Hillary Israelsen	Piobaireachd	Ensemble Workshop Combined Session with: Jack Lee Ken Eller Duncan Millar Andrew Elliott
Jack Lee	Jack Lee	Jack Lee			Jack Lee	
Beginning Chanter	Beginning Pipes	Blowing & Pressure/ Technique Improvement			Memorization	
Ken Eller	Ken Eller	Ken Eller			Ken Eller	
Beginning Snare	Advanced Rudiments	Understand Competition Sets and Ensemble			Writing Scores	
Duncan Millar	Duncan Millar	Duncan Millar			Duncan Millar	
Beginning Mid-Section	Advanced Rudiments Tenor	Bass for Ensemble		Combined Mid-Section		
Andrew Elliott	Andrew Elliott	Andrew Elliott		Andrew Elliott		
		Contest Organizer				

AGM

Saturday October 17, 2015

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Western United States Pipe Band Association will be held at the Park City Marriott hotel on Saturday October 17, 2015 in Park City, Utah. Participants will check in starting at 7:00am. The AGM will begin promptly at 8:00AM.

AGM AGENDA

Call to order, Establish Quorum and Introductions.

Approval of the 2014 AGM Minutes

Welcome and comments by President Jeff Mann

Budget presentation and vote

Contest Organizer Introductions

Award presentation

Election of New Officers

President

Executive Secretary

Treasurer

Band Registrar

New Business-Amendments to Bylaws and Contest Rules

Closing remarks, and adjourn

Contest Organizer Meeting

Saturday October 17, 2015

A meeting of organizers, of WUSPBA sanctioned competitions shall be held at the Park City Marriott beginning at 2:00pm. Ryan Rodger (the R2system developer), will be on hand to help you set up your event for the 2016 season.

Concert

Saturday October 17, 2015

Beginning at 7:30pm workshop presenters Jack Lee, Duncan Millar, and Andrew Elliott will perform with WUSPBA members. Ken Eller (The Captain) will be our M.C. The concert is \$10.00 a person. A cash bar will be available during the event. Tickets will be available at the door (cash or check), or you can purchase them in advance through the WUSPBA website. You will have the option to purchase a ticket when you sign up for the free workshops.

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=16508>

AGM Timeline

8:00 AM	8:30 AM	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	5:00 PM	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	
Friday October 16, 2015																							Session #1		Session #2	
Saturday October 17, 2015																										
Annual General Meeting									Lunch Break		Session #3		Session #4		Session #5		Dinner Break					Concert				
Sunday October 18, 2015																										
		Session #6		Session #7																						

Annual General Meeting of the Western Unites 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)

Band Event Sequencing-Submitted by Erin Gunn, WUSPBA Executive Secretary

Current Wording: None exists

Proposed Wording:

7.4.7.1. Contest organizers may offer any of the band events they wish. If both events are offered, in a single grade, the events must be played in the order outlined by the chart below.

Grade Level	1st day/1st event	2nd day/2nd event
Grade 1	Medley	MSR
Grade 2	Medley	MSR
Grade 3	Medley	MSR
Grade 4	Medley	Mini-MSR
Grade 5	MSM	QMM

Band Event Sequencing

Rational:

By specifying the order in which band events will be performed continuity is created between all WUSPBA Sanctioned events, and bands are better able to prepare.

CURRENT WORDING:

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.

PROPOSED WORDING:

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 \$500. The Treasurer of the Association must provide these funds on or before May 1st for the current calendar year.

Competition Area-Submitted by Erin Gunn, WUSPBA Executive Secretary

Current Wording:

None exists

Proposed Wording:

7.14 Competition Area: A competition area shall be marked off to the following specifications: Band Circle-26 feet diameter; Adjudicators Circle-46 feet diameter; Spectators Barrier-60 feet diameter. The starting line will be marked forty five (45) feet from the center of the concentric circles.

A final tuning area shall be clearly designated and located approximately one hundred fifty (150) feet away from the starting line. The final tuning area will be at least 25 feet in diameter.

Competitor Performance Level (CPL)-Submitted by the WUSPBA Grading Committee

Current Wording:

1.11. Performance Rating System (PRS): In addition to the ranking of the top six players, the adjudicator will assess each player in musical, technical, and tonal expectations for the grade. There are five performance levels and each competitor will be assigned:

- Level 5 – Above commonly accepted grade level
- Level 4 – In upper quartile of commonly accepted grade level
- Level 3 – At commonly accepted grade level
- Level 2 – In lower quartile of commonly accepted grade level
- Level 1 – Below commonly accepted grade level

Proposed Wording:

1.11. **Competitor Performance Level (CPL)**: In addition to the ranking of the top six players, the adjudicator will assess each player in musical, technical, and tonal expectations for the grade. There are five performance levels:

- Level 5-Above commonly accepted grade level
- Level 4-In upper quartile of commonly accepted grade level
- Level 3-At commonly accepted grade level
- Level 2-In lower quartile of commonly accepted grade level
- Level 1-Below commonly accepted grade level

Rational:

Clarify and standardize terminology used.

Drumming instructor cannot be the lead drummer-Submitted by the WUSPBA EC

Current wording:

7.23.2. Registered Instructor Policy: Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, and Juvenile bands may register, for the competition season, at most one (1) piping instructor and one (1) drumming instructor who are also registered with another, higher-graded band. An instructor is defined as an individual from a higher-graded band who provides piping/drumming instruction on an ongoing basis to the lower-graded band in which the instructor is registered, i.e., an instructor is a registered member who regularly attends that band's practices and provides instruction at those practices. The instructor(s) shall not be permitted to make up the minimum number of pipers or drummers required for competition. Instructors for Grade 2 bands may not act as the Pipe Major or lead drummer. A higher-grade band may have more than one piper or drummer who serves as instructors of Grade II, III, IV, V, and Juvenile bands. Instructor(s) must be clearly identified on each band's roster. Members of Grade 5 Juvenile bands may be registered with and compete with a higher graded band as well as their own Grade 5 Juvenile band.

Proposed Wording:

7.23.2 Registered Instructor Policy: Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, And Juvenile bands may register, for the competition season, at most one (1) piping instructor and one (1) drumming instructor who are also registered with another, higher-graded band. An instructor is defined as an individual from a higher-graded band who provides piping/drumming instruction on an ongoing basis to the lower-graded band in which the instructor is registered, i.e., and instructor is a registered member who regularly attends that band's practices and provides instruction at those practices. The instructor(s) shall not be permitted to make up the minimum number of pipers or drummers required for competition. **Drumming instructors for all grades may not act as the lead drummer.** Instructors for Grade 2 bands may not act as the Pipe Major ~~or lead drummer~~. A higher-graded band may have more than none piper or drummer who serves as instructors of Grade **2,3,4,5**, and Juvenile bands. Instructor(s) must be clearly identified on each band's roster. Members of Grade 5 Juvenile bands may be registered with, and compete with a higher graded band as well as their own Grade 5 Juvenile band.

Rational:

This was a recommendation from ANAPABA to create continuity and a level playing field throughout North America.

Eliminating the use of points in favor of rank in band contests-Submitted by Erin Gunn,
WUSPBA Executive Secretary

CURRENT WORDING:

7.10.Determination of Band Contest Results: Judging will be performed by a panel of one or two piping judges, one ensemble judge, and one drumming judge. Each judge will award a band a numerical score of between zero (0) and one hundred (100) points based upon that judge's evaluation of the bands performance. Judges shall not award the same numerical score to more than one band.

The contest organizer shall form a Tally Committee whose responsibilities will be the verification of judge's scores and tabulation of the contest results. The Tally Committee should not contain any members of a band that has taken part in the contest being tabulated. The Tally Committee should include the WUSPBA Representative for the appropriate WUSPBA Branch, or their designated representative.

The Tally Committee will determine the rank of the bands from the highest score to the lowest score according to each judge's respective numerical score. The Tally Committee will record the score and the rank for each band according to each judge. If the contest uses a single piping judge the score and rank for the piping judge will be duplicated and assigned to the values for the second piping judge. The rank of the two piping judges, the ensemble judge and the drumming judge will be added together. The overall band placement will be determined by the lowest sum of these values. If two bands tie after this sum is determined the result of the tie will be broken by giving preference to the rank as determined by the ensemble judge.

Band	Piping 1		Piping 2		Ensemble		Drumming		Total
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	
Band A	68	4	71	3	65	4	69	4	15
Band B	74	3	70	4	67	3	72	1	11
Band C	81	1	72	2	70	2	71	2	7
Band D	80	2	73	1	71	1	70	3	7

Example 1. An example of a judging panel using two piping judges

In Example 1, a two piping judges were used. "Band C" and "Band D" are tied with 7 points. Since "Band D" was the first place according to the ensemble judge, "Band D" has won this contest. "Band C" was the second place band; "Band B" was the third place band; "Band A" was the fourth place band.

Band	Piping 1 Score	Rank	Piping 2 Score	Rank	Ensemble Score	Rank	Drumming Score	Rank	Total
Band A	68	4	68	4	65	4	69	4	16
Band B	74	3	74	3	67	3	72	1	10
Band C	81	1	81	1	70	2	71	2	6
Band D	80	2	80	2	71	1	70	3	8

Example 2. An example of a judging panel using a single piping judge

In Example 2, a single piping judge is used, so the values for the two judges are identical (notice the italicized entry). "Band C" has won this contest. "Band D" was the second place band; "Band B" was the third place band; "Band A" was the fourth place band.

PROPOSED WORDING:

7.10. Determination of Band Contest Results: Judging will be performed by a panel of one (1) or two (2) piping judges, one (1) ensemble judge, and one (1) drumming judge. **Each judge will award a rank to all bands entered into a single event;** based upon their evaluation of the bands performances. No ties are allowed.

The contest organizer shall form a tally committee whose responsibilities will be the verification of Judge's **rankings** and tabulation of the contest results. The tally committee should not contain any members of a band that has taken part in the contest being tabulated. The tally committee should include the WUSPBA Representative for the appropriate WUSPBA branch, or their designated representative.

The tally committee will record the rank for each band, from each judge. If the contest uses a single piping judge, the rank will be recorded for both the piping 1 and piping 2 judges. The rank of the two piping judges, the ensemble judge, and the drumming judge will be added together. The overall band placement will be determined from the lowest sum to the highest sum of these rankings. If two bands tie after this sum is determined the result of the tie will be broken by giving preference to the rank given by the ensemble judge.

Band Name	Piping 1 Rank	Piping 2 Rank	Ensemble Rank	Drumming Rank	Sum of Rank	Overall Placement
Band A	4	3	4	4	15	4
Band B	3	4	3	1	11	3
Band C	1	2	2	2	7	2
Band D	2	1	1	3	7	1

Example 1. An example of a judging panel using two piping judges

In Example 1, two piping judges were used. Band C and Band D are tied with a sum of 7. Using the rank given by the ensemble judge, band D won the contest. Band C was placed second, Band B placed third, and Band A was placed fourth.

Band Name	Piping 1 Rank	Piping 2 Rank	Ensemble Rank	Drumming Rank	Sum of Rank	Overall Placement
Band A	4	4	4	4	16	4
Band B	3	3	3	1	10	3
Band C	1	1	2	2	6	1
Band D	2	2	1	3	8	2

Example 2. An example of a judging panel using a single piping judge

In Example 2, a single piping judge was used, so the rank for the piping 1 and piping 2 judges is identical.

Rational:

Often times the points awarded to bands are arbitrary and inconsistent from one adjudicator to another. By eliminating the use of points and allowing adjudicators to simply place the bands potential errors in the processing and tabulation of the adjudicator rankings are also eliminated.

Additional Action Required:

Band judging sheets and contest tabulation sheets will need to be re-designed to reflect this contest rule. Adjudicators will need to be informed of the change in procedure.

Grade 4 snare drummers playing without accompaniment-Submitted by Tom Foley, WUSPBA adjudicator.

CURRENT WORDING:

3. Snare Drumming

3.2. Drummers' Accompaniment: Each snare drumming competitor in grade four (4) or higher will be accompanied by a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of two (2) pipers obtained by the competitor, or in the absence of accompaniment, a piping recording may be substituted. There can be no drum scores playing on the recording. It is the responsibility of the competitor to provide the music and audio device and its operation.

PROPOSED WORDING:

3. Snare Drumming

3.2 Drummers' Accompaniment: Each snare drumming competitor in **grade three (3)** or higher will be accompanied by a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of two (2) pipers obtained by the competitor, or in the absence of accompaniment, a piping recording may be substituted. There can be no drum scores playing on the recording. It is the responsibility of the competitor to provide the music and audio device and its operation. **Grade four (4) competitors have the option of playing with or without accompaniment.**

JUSTIFICATION:

This seemingly radical proposal arises from my disappointment in the poor entry level of snare drummers. I suspect that rather than apathy from the potential contestants, difficulty in obtaining a piper to a) play for the contestant, and/or b) be available at the requisite time, are more likely to be the major drawbacks.

We should recognize that for the most part, drummers of all grades will practice individually or collectively, where their only accompaniment is the music "in their heads." Flaws in tempo, expression, execution, etc. are readily noticeable and addressed. I submit that any qualified judge can listen to an unaccompanied performance (especially at the grade 4 level) and provide an accurate critique to the contestant-just as if it was in a practice or instructional situation.

It may be argued, correctly, that by removing the piper from the equation, the opportunity to assess the drummer's ability to maintain the tempo, provide dynamics, etc. is compromised. I would submit that oftentimes, a grade 4 performance is impacted by a piping problem...breakdown, wrong part, etc.

Mini- MSR – Jeff Mann

4 parts March, 2 parts Strathspey, and 2 parts Pointed Reel

Wording to be inserted in the contest rules where the Mini MSR is discussed.

Rationale:

Purely a point of clarification that the reel is pointed.

Official Band Draw

Part 2. Band Contest Rules

7. Pipe Bands

7.3. ... After bands have been notified of the order of play, whether established by draw or predraw, the order of play may not be changed unless (1) all competing bands, the contest organizer, and the WUSPBA Representative have agreed to the change, and (2) all parties are notified of the change in order of play no less than one hour prior to the time of the affected contest.

7.3 ... ~~After bands have been notified of the order of play~~ (insert Once the official draw has been posted), whether established by draw or predraw, the order of play may not be changed until the day of the games. The following pre-requisites must be met: (1) all competing bands, the contest organizer, and the WUSPBA Representative have agreed to the change, and (2) all parties are notified of the change in order of play no less than one hour prior to the time of the affected contest.

Reasoning: Two incidents happened this year where a band read the draw from the official games program and times were different from the official draw given to the bands. Chaos ensued.

Roster request deadline-submitted by Nancy Theriault, Band Registrar

Current wording:

7.23. Band Registration: Each active band shall submit a roster of the competing band members to the Band Registrar and notify the Band Registrar of any changes made to the roster during the period of registration. This roster must be maintained by the Pipe Major, Band Manager or other designated representative and must show the name, address, phone number, email and role for every competitive player in the band. A band may optionally provide information on non-competitive, administrative and non-musical persons in the band, such as Band Manager, Secretary, etc.

The Band Registrar will maintain a list of current members submitted by each band and provide each band with a validated electronic copy of the list which must be carried by the Pipe Major or a designated representative at all contests and shall be available for inspection by the Association representatives.

Proposed wording:

7.23. Band Registration: Each active band shall submit a roster of the competing band members to the Band Registrar and notify the Band Registrar of any changes made to the roster during the period of registration. This roster must be maintained by the Pipe Major, Band Manager or other designated representative and must show the name, address, phone number, email and role for every competitive player in the band. A band may optionally provide information on non-competitive, administrative and non-musical persons in the band, such as Band Manager, Secretary, etc.

The Band Registrar will maintain a list of current members submitted by each band and provide each band with a validated electronic copy of the list which must be carried by the Pipe Major or a designated representative at all contests and shall be available for inspection by the Association representatives. **All requests for a validated roster must be made no less than seven (7) days before they are required.**

Solo Grading-Submitted by the WUSPBA Grading Committee

Current Wording:

1.9. Grading: It is the intent of WUSPBA that soloists should perform in appropriate grades as reflected by the Performance Rating System (PRS). To encourage musical development and to maintain fairness in our contests the Music Board will review the PRS ratings of the top ten (10) aggregate placings in Grades II, III, and IV at the end of the competition season. Prior to December 1 the Music Board will recommend to the Executive Committee that any competitor who has participated in at least five (5) contests in a season and with at least 60% of adjudicators indicating that said competitor is playing above the level at which he/she is currently playing be moved up to the next level. The EC will decide on the recommendations from the Music Board within fourteen (14) days of receiving these recommendations. If the EC decides that a competitor should move up a grade, that competitor will be notified via e-mail within two (2) days of that decision. If a competitor disagrees with this decision, he/she can appeal this decision to the EC in writing explaining the reasons for the disagreement. The EC will then have fourteen (14) days to review the appeal, render a final decision, and notify the competitor.

Proposed Wording:

1.9 Grading: The WUSPBA grading committee has the authority to assign WUSPBA soloists to compete in the grade that is appropriate for each individual. The WUSPBA grading committee shall annually review the Competitor Performance Level (CPL) for each registered WUSPBA soloist. The grading committee will submit a list of recommended re-grades for the Executive Committees approval. Soloists wishing to be re-graded must apply to the grading committee. All re-grade applications are due to the WUSPBA Executive Secretary no later than the third Sunday in September. All grading is done by the grading committee, no self- grading is permitted.