

## **Argument in favor of Branch funding bylaws Change submitted by John Partanen**

The WUSPBA is a 501 3(c) non-profit for education organization. What this means is that the WUSPBA must be engaged in promoting education amongst its membership and the public in the arts of Scottish Bagpiping, Scottish Drumming, Scottish Drum Majoring, and Scottish Pipe Bands. To accomplish these tasks the WUSPBA makes it mandatory for solo pipers, solo drummers, pipe band pipers and drummers, pipe bands and Drum Majors to join the association so that they may compete in contests. It is mandatory that membership dues be paid. The association collects these dues and uses them to promote the above mentioned arts. This is what is supposed to happen.

The WUSPBA may be a 501 3(c) for education organization, but most of its activities are regulation of pipe bands, solo competitors, and contest sponsors. It is in fact a regulatory agency.

However, several years past, the WUSPBA did return some of the membership fees to the branches for use in promoting educational activities within the geographical areas of each branch. The branches used to receive \$500.00, plus \$100.00 for each competition band within the geographical area of each branch. These funds were used to provide some administrative costs, plus funding for piping and drumming schools, and to offer pipers and drummers scholarships to attend these schools. Unfortunately this practice has been suspended, and all or most of the membership funds collected are now used for "other" purposes. These "other" purposes include travel expenses, and administrative costs that are not directly contributing to educational activities. Most of the funds collected are in fact devoted to regulatory activities., leaving the branches with little money, and certainly not enough to carry out the purposes of the association.

This bylaws change makes it mandatory to send funds to each branch in amounts sufficient enough to carry out the stated purposes of the WUSPBA, while still providing sufficient funds for the WUSPBA to carry out its regulatory tasks. This bylaws change also makes it mandatory that an Education Fund be maintained by the WUSPBA from which the branches may apply for additional support for educational activities within each branch on an as needed basis after Executive Committee approval.

In short, this bylaws change requires that funding be provided for educational activities, most of which are carried out by the branches, while still providing enough funding for the WUSPBA to carry out its regulatory activities. It balances education with regulation.



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