

Words and Music

Winter 2017

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- Arizona's first pipe band formed in 1958. Read all about the Phoenix Pipe Band, now competing in Grade III.
- Want to play the smallpipes? Join a smallpipes workshop and concert.

A New Branch!

One of the big things to happen was the creation of a new branch. The Desert Branch was formed and will represent all of Arizona and the Las Vegas area. Kevin Conquest is the acting president and has his leadership team in place and running smoothly.

The WUSPBA Board felt that this move was needed to help us better represent the bands in Arizona and Las Vegas area. With the distance between the West Coast and Arizona, it was difficult to set up workshops and educational programs. Also, the Southern branch had 26 bands in their branch, making it by far the largest branch in the association.

Now the Desert branch will represent 11 bands plus associate bands, and the Southern Branch will have 15 bands to represent. We hope by making the branches more manageable that people will feel represented and more likely to participate in activities and workshops.

New Acting President for Southern Branch

We have also asked Ed Best to step in and be the acting president for the Southern Branch, and I am pleased to say that he has accepted and is currently getting his team

Words from the President

Andrew Morrill, President
piperadmorrill@gmail.com



I would like to thank all of you who attended the AGM this year in Park City. It was very successful and many new and exciting things came out of the meeting.

into place and setting up a bank account. I would like to thank him for taking on this responsibility and I want to let all those in the Southern Branch know that if you have any concerns, Ed will be able to help you.

Know the Rules and Regulations

I hope that all of you are having fun as you get yourselves and your bands ready for the upcoming season. Check and make sure you know the rules and the requirements for the competitions you will be participating in this season.

This year in the grade 4 mini MSR, a band played four parts of a strathspey when the requirement is to play only two parts. It was a misunderstanding, but when we put in so much time and practice, we need to make sure we understand what is required and then we can go in prepared to do our best.

If you aren't sure about a competition requirement or if you need clarification, please talk with your Branch President, a member of the Music Board, or contact me and we will answer your questions.

Good luck in the upcoming season.

Important Information for Bands, Soloists

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

Thank you for a great 2016 competition season. As we look forward and prepare for 2017 please see below for important year-end information.



Website Updates

The meeting minutes from the 2016 AGM have been posted on the WUSPBA website. Click on the following link to read the

minutes: <https://wuspba.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2016-AGM-minutes.pdf> .

The WUSPBA Bylaws and Contest Rules have been updated for the 2017 competition season.

WUSPBA Bylaws:

<https://wuspba.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Bylaws-for-the-2017-Competition-Season.pdf> .

Contest Rules:

<https://wuspba.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Contest-Rules-for-the-2017-Competition-Season.pdf> .

The Executive Committee would like to congratulate the bands and soloists who were upgraded for the 2017 season. We wish them the best of luck in their new competition grades.

Band upgrades:

<https://wuspba.org/band-grading-announcements/> .

Solo upgrades:

<https://wuspba.org/solo-grading-announcements/> .

A more detailed report from the AGM is available on pages 17-19.

R2 System

Please verify that all your information (including age) is correct on your R2 profile. Contest organizers will use the address you list to mail entry tickets and other important competition information. Don't forget to include your apartment/unit number if applicable and a correct zip code. Band organizations that have more than one competitive band should verify the information for each grade.

Please click on the following link to access your R2 profile: <https://www.r2sports.com/membership/login.asp>? Band leaders and instructors, if you have members/students who did not receive this email, please ask them to verify their email address and the email settings listed on their R2 profile.

Year-End CPLs

Bands and soloists will be receiving their season average CPLs via email. The last few competitions are currently being added to the CPL spread sheet; they will be sent out as soon as possible.

Membership Renewal

Band, adjudicator, and solo memberships must be renewed by January 15, 2017 to avoid a late fee. For soloists who renewed before December 1, 2016, your 2017 kilt number is now available to print from your R2 profile. Band leaders, if you have forgotten or misplaced the band's login information please feel free to contact band registrar Nancy Theriault for assistance.

2017 WUSPBA AGM

We are excited to announce that the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Western United States Pipe Band Association will be held in our newly created Desert Branch. Please plan to join us in Phoenix on November 18th. We will keep you posted on all AGM information via email blasts and *Words & Music*.

Treasurer's Report

Nate Lorenz, Treasurer
treas@wuspba.org



We are newly into 2017 and registration is ramping up. I am glad to see so many familiar competitors getting ready for the season. From the accounting of the organization,

we are pretty steady. Not a lot of excitement -- which is the way we like it.

We were able to help set up the Desert Branch bank account and get that going. This way all the work the Board there is putting in has a financial infrastructure supporting it. The bank was pretty helpful despite working across state lines and having to synchronize office visits.

We have made headway reinvigorating the Southern Branch and look forward to good news there. With activity and interest in

participation on the Board, we hope WUSPBA can become more active with support for those bands in the southern area.

I am looking forward to finding ways to help the organization work through financial processing. The R2 system continues to become easier to navigate and we hope anyone having problems contacts us. It lets us know what to fix when there are problems and what issues there are with the structure. For example, I learned recently there were some required fields in the band registration that might prevent final processing.

For the Games that use the R2 system, I am working on streamlining the reconciliation process with the final distributions of registration fees. Both the transparency of the activity and the timing of the payments are important to Games organizers, and I hope to have a good year working with everyone.

Thank you and have a great season!

Solo Registrar's Report

By Lezlie Mann, Solo Registrar
mannlezlie@gmail.com



Registration for the 2017 year has begun and so far has gone very well. I especially want to thank those who have registered early this year.

If you have not entered your registration for the 2017 year, I just want to remind you

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**Deadline for
Spring 2017 issue: March 10**

Editorial Staff

John Thornton, Editor
misterpv@gmail.com
 303.798.0844

Susan Thornton, Assistant Editor
Susan@ThinkStrategicallyFirst.com
 303.798.0844

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that after January 15th there is a \$10 late fee.

If you need registration instructions, the link to them is on the WUSBPA website (www.WUSBPA.org) and/or you may contact me at mannlezlie@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a great 2017!

An R2 System Update

Drew McPheeters, Vice President
Vice-pres@wuspba.org



I would like to give members some updates on the R2 system. There are more and more games taking advantage of this system, which will allow the soloists and

bands to have a more consistent experience.

A More Predictable Experience

We acknowledge there are still issues to overcome, and are working with the vendor to overcome these issues. Much of the work being done is in areas the average user doesn't see. These include scheduling and processes that will help make the games organizers' tasks easier, and hopefully deliver a more predictable experience for band and soloists.

Stable, Reusable Infrastructure

The biggest advantage is that as games change organizers, volunteers and

committees, the infrastructure and systems will be in place, stable and reusable year after year.

Feel Free to Suggest an Alternative System

We have had some very loud and vocal members ask us to get rid of the R2 system or replace it. If anyone has a viable alternative system to suggest, we would gladly investigate other options.

But as we have to keep reminding ourselves as well as others, this system is much more than a simple membership registration system. It also does event management, member communications, and in the future, hopefully, results-tracing, and live-result input.

Music Board Report

Ken Sutherland, Chair, Music Board
pmsuds@gmail.com



Happy New Year, everyone!

Elsewhere in this newsletter Andrew Morrill has discussed what went on at the ANAPBA Summit meeting held in Kansas

City. Both Lise Nelson and I attended the Music Board sessions of the Summit, and we both agreed it was quite valuable. But in this article I'd like to focus on the WUSBPA Music Board and its current activities.

2016 was a year in which the Music Board took the time to focus on just a few

priorities rather than try to tackle too many issues at once. Here's what we accomplished, where we're heading and why I'm feeling confident that we are on track to deliver value to WUSPBA and its members.

Adjudicator Development

The Adjudicator Development Program had lost a bit of direction the previous year, resulting in some confusion and frustration on the part of adjudicator candidates. One of the first things I did when taking over as Music Board Chair in 2016 was to appoint Tom Foley to head the Adjudicator Committee.

Tom's leadership has paid off, as he and others on the Committee have sorted out the logjams and we now have four new judges, with several more currently going through the qualification and shadowing process.

This year we intend to continue to improve and better document the qualification process so that it is clear and fully meets our needs. In addition, we will be exploring ways to ensure that piobaireachd adjudication is delivered with high quality and consistency.

In general (and this goes for all categories of adjudication), we have not had a regular ongoing professional development or "continuing education" program for judges. A priority for 2017 will be to re-invigorate this effort and bring us in line with what other Associations are doing in North America.

Grading

Everyone's favorite topic, right? In early 2016 we put a lot of thought and effort into how to improve the grading process.

The results were that we had a tremendous reduction in the number of grading appeals compared with the previous year. Yes, there were a handful of individuals who were not happy with not being upgraded (and a few who were not happy when they were upgraded!), but all in all I firmly believe the process is working well.

First let me say that the job that BJ Gunn, Chair of the Grading Committee, and his wife Erin (and others) have done to collect and enter contest data over the past several years is in my opinion the biggest effort that any WUSPBA volunteer undertakes, hands down. Scoresheet data and summary sheet information from every contest is captured. This amounts to well over 4,000 solo and band scoresheets from around 450 contest events each year.

This is done to ensure that the CPL – the Competitor Performance Level – that the judges complete after each performance is utilized in a meaningful way, as well as capturing recommendations from judges regarding whether the competitor should be moved up or down a grade. In addition, the aggregate rankings, the number of times a competitor places, and the highest prize they received in their grade is also examined.

But that is where the "numbers-related" part of the process gives way to perhaps

more subjective but equally important non-quantitative input.

The Grading Committee as well as the entire Music Board engages in a discussion on each potential re-grade that can include personal knowledge (e.g., having heard and/or judged the individual or band), video recordings, input from teachers, applications for regrading and other circumstances or information that could have a bearing on an individual's or a band's grade.

What I witnessed as part of the Grading Committee deliberations – the depth of conversation and the thoughtful consideration given to each case – was gratifying and reinforced my high opinion of everyone involved.

I have no doubt that the grading process will continue to improve and get smoother each year. Again, I hope everyone understands and appreciates the many hours of hard work that go into making it successful.

Professional Development

Beyond the need for continuing education for adjudicators, at the WUSPBA AGM we formed a Music Board subcommittee to explore ways to share the incredible expertise we have in the Association and elsewhere, through on-line videos, workshops, "TED" talks (brief presentations on a single subject), etc. This is still in the beginning stages, but stay tuned, we will start this up in 2017 as well.

Thanks for your support and your willingness to have dialogues on these and

related topics. I wish everyone a successful year, and I'll see you "on the boards!"

Two Named to the WUSPBA Circle of Honor

By Susan Thornton

Susan@ThinkStrategicallyFirst.com



This year, members of the Presidents' Council nominated, and the Executive Committee approved, two highly esteemed pipers to the WUSPBA Circle of Honor: Jimmy McColl and

Charles Lumsden. Brief descriptions of their accomplishments and contributions to the Association are below and also on the website.

To read about the other members of the Circle of Honor, visit www.WUSPBA.org and click under "About."

Charles "Charlie" Lumsden

Charles Lumsden was born in Broxburn, Scotland, and immigrated to California with his mother, Margaret, and his father, Bill. As a young boy, Charles was taught to play the pipes by his father, who himself was an important influence in the pipe band community of Southern California.

Although the bagpipes were his favorite instrument, Charles also picked up drumming and Highland dancing, and competed successfully in all three areas in his younger days.

One of the highlights of his young piping career was returning to Scotland and winning a silver medal at Cowal in the Boys' Division, and playing with the Pumpherstoun Pipe Band.



During the mid-70s and -80s, Charles had a thriving solo piping career and was the Pipe Major of the Caledonian Pipe Band of Southern California.

He became the Pipe Major when

he was in his late teens and was able to attract some of the most talented players in the area, which made the Caledonian a successful competitive Grade 2 band.

After a break from pipe bands to pursue other musical endeavors, which included playing guitar and singing with the folk group "The Irish Beggarmen," Charles returned to the pipe band scene and joined the Beach Cities Pipe Band, which later became the Los Angeles Scots. Charles was the Pipe Sergeant of the Los Angeles Scots from 1991 to 1995 when they tied for first at the World Pipe Band Championships in Grade 2.

Charles then transitioned from the Los Angeles Scots to play with the Los Angeles Police Pipe Band. In 1999 Charles and his son Kyle joined the Alameda County Sheriffs Pipe Band, which placed second overall in Grade 2 at the Worlds with a first place in piping.

Other bands that Charles played in alongside Kyle were the Caber Feidh, Los

Angeles Police, Misty Island, NAPB and finally returning to the Los Angeles Scots. It was a great pleasure for Charles to play in the Grade 1 circle at Glasgow Green with his son.

Charles was an adjudicator for the WUSPA for many years, and it is noteworthy that he was an ensemble judge due to his talents and knowledge in both piping and drumming. In his years of judging, he was fortunate to travel to different games across the country and took pride in being both a fair and honest judge.

For Charles it really was always about the music that came so naturally to him -- the music that led him to lifelong friendships through the years, not only in the pipe band world, but in all of his musical careers.

Charles always joked with his wife, Janet, daughter Brianna and son Kyle that out of all of his musical endeavors he was pleased to be recognized as a legend in his own mind -- but really he is a legend to them.

James "Jimmy" McColl

James McColl, better known as Jimmy McColl, was born (1928) and raised in a small town in Scotland called Shotts. In Shotts at the time Jimmy was a youngster, a world-class pipe band existed and functioned as such. Jimmy, taking a great liking to the way they sounded, joined the band and learned to play the pipes from Tam MacAllister, Sr., the leader and Pipe Major of the Shotts and Dykehead Pipe Band, which to this day is still a world-class pipe band. It won the World Championship

various times from 1948 forward, most recently winning in 2015.

Later in his career, Jimmy took an interest in solo piping, and between 1949 and 1955, he won most of the major awards, including the Aggregate at Cowal four consecutive years from 1949 forward. This feat had not been accomplished since Willie Lawrie did the same prior to World War I. Jimmy also won the coveted Highland Society of London's Gold Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering at Oban in 1953, playing "The King's Taxes."



Jimmy left Scotland in 1955 for the United States and has met and enjoyed the fellowship of other great pipers and bands, especially in California. Jimmy has also won all the major solo awards on the West Coast of the U.S. and Canada

between 1955 and 1975, and it is possible that he is the only piper at present who can play the Ancient Martial Music in the style that it was played before the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Jimmy has instructed many schools of piping and workshops through his career, including the Balmoral Summer Schools. He still enjoys judging and entertains many of his now-grown students with lively conversation of the ancient art of bagpipes.

At the present time, Jimmy is enjoying retirement in Laguna Woods, California.

Although retired he still keeps the wind going through his pipes.

An Original Piobaireachd: The Broken Mace

By John Eric Partanen
auldblackpart@gmail.com

So it's the evening of December 1st, 2016, and members of the Kern County Pipe Band are gathered to participate in the 34th annual Bakersfield Christmas Parade. So we're all tuned up and waiting, and waiting, and waiting, because the parade never starts on time and we are number 84 of 129 entries.

Waiting initiates boredom, boredom initiates other activities. So one of the pipers from Highland High School approached the Drum Major and asks to see his mace.

The Drum Major hands the kid his mace.

The kid starts twirling the mace, and everything looks like it is going well for a short period of time, but then . . .

. CRASH!!! TINK!!! THUD!!! There lies the mace with the head broken off and the shaft with a broken chain.

Needless to say, the Drum Major was NOT HAPPY. Neither was the young piper.

The Drum Major led using the parade with the broken shaft of his broken mace. Fortunately, the young piper marched and played without his bass drum being broken.



Moral of the story: Drum Majors, DO NOT let pipers borrow your mace. Pipers, DO NOT ask Drum Majors for their mace.

The incident prompted me to write this piobaireachd, which if you look at it carefully, is an IRREGULAR TUNE. There are 6 bars in the first line of the tune; 8 bars in the second line of the tune; and 4 bars in the third line of the tune.

An irregular tune for an irregular incident by an irregular composer: the complete tune is on page 23.

Note: The Kern County Pipe Band had 10 pipers, 4 snares, 2 tenors and a bass that evening. The band is comprised of members of the Highland high School Pipe Band and other pipers and drummers from Bakersfield, Taft and Tehachapi. It is a Grade V band and will be competing in 20117 at several WUSPBA-sponsored contests. The Pipe Major is John Eric Partanen. The Pipe Sergeant is Travis Combs. The Drum Sergeant is Peter MacQueen.

Smallpipes Workshop

The Scottish Lowlands Families and Clans of Colorado and the Spanish Peaks Music Festival are hosting a smallpipes workshop in Lakewood, Colorado, on February 25, 2017. Mr. E.J. Jones will both teach and demonstrate the smallpipes. It will be a full,

fun day costing only \$25. See pages 21 and 22 for more information.

Original Piobaireachd Competition

Shasta Piping Society and Burley Bagpipe Company
shastapipingsociety@gmail.com

This competition calls for copies of original piobaireachds to be submitted by composers to a panel of qualified judges. The piobaireachd submissions must be original to the composer(s), of any style, and cannot have been published before. Prize awards for the top three compositions will be £500/£250/£100. Submissions must be received by April 1, 2017, and winners will be announced in May 2017. See page 20 for further details.

Meet the Phoenix Pipe Band

By Leonard Wood
lwagency@cox.net

Pipe Bands don't go back very far in the Great State of Arizona. The first bands traveling through were from Canada, hired to come down, enjoy some heat, play for Burn's Night and then travel home.

Originally the Phoenix Scottish Pipe Band

It wasn't until 1958 that there was finally a permanent pipe band in the state, launched when 13 Arizona transplants got together and formed the Phoenix Scottish Pipe Band.



The Phoenix Scottish Pipe Band – 1959

In its early years, the band was under the direction of P/M Glen Moore and D/S Chuck Martin. The first D/M was Jock MacIntosh, a flamboyant front-man, known for dropping the mace and at one point throwing it into the crowd. The story is that he was directing the band to a right turn when the mace flew out of his hand and into an unsuspecting parade audience. Founding band members included the brothers Joe and Bill Leonard, Cornell Ross, Ian MacRae, Sam MacKay, and Chuck Martin's son Graham.

Like so many bands getting started, the band's uniform was basic: MacKenzie tartan kilts, hair sporrans, hose tops and spats, glengarries and khaki shirts. Two years later, D/M MacIntosh worked a deal with the local Pepsi bottler: new uniforms,



The Band in Santa Monica

(Modern MacGregor kilts, white shirts, etc.), Clansmen drums and place to practice in exchange for wearing a Pepsi patch on our right sleeve and stickers on the drums. A pretty good deal, except I can't tell you how many times the band was introduced as the "Pepsi Pipers."

2016 - Moved to Grade III, Added Grade IV

Over the years the band's size has varied, from the original 13 to 50-plus members and everything in between. Fifty-nine years later, we can look back on a myriad of uniform and personnel changes along with changes in direction, from parade band to competition, back to parade and finally a competition band once more.

At the 2016 WUSPBA AGM, the band was moved up from Grade IV to III, and in May the band added a Grade V corps to the roster.

The "Ye Olde Mucky Duck Trophy"

Those early years as a parade band demonstrated that Billy Crystal was right.



The Band in 1966

To paraphrase his Saturday Night Live character, "It is better to look good than to

play good.” Grace note and movements were optional.



The newly-renamed Phoenix Pipe Band on parade - 2009

But then, in 1964, our wonderful winter weather played to the band’s benefit. Jock Snedden, founder of the Sierra Highlander’s PB made the decision to spend a few months in Phoenix. Once he started teaching the band, grace notes were no longer an option, and in two years he had the band ready to compete at the old Santa Monica games.

Our first time out, in Grade C, we proudly returned to Phoenix with First Prize, The Ye Old Mucky Duck trophy. The P/M was Stan (Tim) Smith and D/S Bob Matlack. The band had just the minimum required: with six pipes, Tim Smith, Ian MacRae, Bob McCann, Ernie Nelson, Chris Hossack and Len Wood; three snares, Bob Matlack, Duncan Hossack, and Danny Strof and our bass, Jim Grant.

In another bit of good luck at that contest, we met Calvin Biggar, then General Secretary of the PCPBA, who would become our longtime friend and supporter.

2008 - The Phoenix Pipe Band

In 2008, our 50th year, the band simplified the name from Phoenix Scottish Pipe Band

to Phoenix Pipe Band. The band’s support was coming from both the Scottish and Irish communities, and the change seemed appropriate.

The band still wears the Modern MacGregor tartan (PPB set), but ties and waistcoats have replaced the hose tops, spats and hair sporrans.

A Three-Year Plan

2016 was a good year for the band with strong wins in Phoenix, Las Vegas, Costa Mesa and Flagstaff. As with all pipe bands, the year didn’t just happen. We had developed a three-year plan to grow the band, develop good players, upgrade the music and make management changes when required.

We are fortunate enough to have some very good players who live outside Central Arizona, and for them we hold monthly practices on a Sunday in Prescott. This alone has had a very positive impact on the band’s performance.

Fun as Well as Work



It is not just work, however. The band has a great time as a bunch of friends who happen to play nice bagpipes and drums. We don’t miss too many opportunities to get together for a cookout

or to celebrate wins and losses after the contests. It is always dinner together at the end of the day.



2016 – The Grade III and V Bands

The Phoenix Pipe Band practices on Thursday nights at the Christ Church of the Ascension, Paradise Valley, Arizona, from 7 to 9 pm, and our Grade V band meets at a Mesa Fire Department station on Main

Street, East Mesa, again 7 to 9. The door is always open to new friends in the piping drumming community.

Planning a Homecoming

As hard as it is to believe that 2016 is now behind us, 2018 will be here before we know it. With 60 years of playing parades, contests, dinners and graduations, and, more important, 60 years of pipers and drummers having played all these events, we are now making plans for a homecoming. We will be putting together a big party, a history of the band in book form, a trip out of the country, and more.

If you have played in the Phoenix Scottish / Phoenix Pipe Band, know someone who has, or have a story about the band, we would love to hear from you. Or, if you would like to be a part of this history-making year, drop us a line at president@phoenixpipeband.com.

Current officers are, P/M Jeff Anderson, D/S Kyle Reich, President Mike Kotzbach. Friend us on Facebook.

Report on the Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations' Meeting:

Competition Requirements, Band Grading, Inappropriate Behavior, African Blackwood and More

By Andrew Morrill, President, WUSPBA
piperadmorrill@gmail.com

I am writing this article just after returning from my meetings with ANAPBA at Winter Storm. I want to first congratulate all of the many individuals who represented themselves and WUSPBA at the contest. I was so proud of their abilities and how well they performed on such a large international stage. I would like to thank each person for the countless hours of practice you put in, which was evident in the outstanding level and ability I saw this weekend at Winter Storm.

Thanks to Winter Storm

I would like to also thank Winter Storm for supporting and helping the ANAPBA organization this weekend. If you haven't ever been to Winter Storm it is something I think all pipers and drummers should put on their bucket list.

Many Issues Discussed

Let me tell you some of the many issues that were discussed at the meetings this weekend. I hope you all know that ANAPBA represents all of the North American Pipe Band Associations and we all work together to create common ground.

Many of the associations have issues that relate to their particular area and demographics, but whenever possible, we try and make competition requirements the same across the board. This allows bands and soloists from anywhere in North America to compete in any association and find that the solo and band requirements are the same.

Competition Requirements for Grades IV and V Bands

We spent time this weekend working on the competition requirements for Grade V and IV bands. In Grade V, it was recommended that the March Medley be eight parts of simple time marches. This would remove the time requirement and limit it to how many bars of music is played. This is slightly different than our requirement, and we will bring this up for a vote at the next AGM.

For WUSPBA the biggest change would be the recommendation for the Mini MSR in grade IV. The recommendation for the Mini MSR is to play four parts of 2/4 march, four parts of strathspey and four parts of reel. These tunes could be two-parted tunes or four-parted tunes. This recommendation will not affect our bands at this time.

Many judges feel that with only two parts of strathspey and two parts of reel isn't long enough for them to hear and make a good assessment of how the bands are play these types of tunes.

For the timed medley in grade IV, judges feel the wording and requirements should be timed with four different categories of tunes being played. This means that a band needs to play four types of tunes (i.e., reels, strathspeys, different times signature of marches, hornpipes, jigs, etc.), but still within the allotted time.

All of these issues will be brought up at the next AGM and will have no effect on WUSPBA during this coming season.

Visas for Canadian Judges, Teachers

We talked about how to get P3 visas for Canadians who WUSPBA bands bring down to judge and give seminars.

The EC will be looking for how to put this into effect for the 2018 season. This may require all of us to work together and plan ahead so we can fill out one form and do it all at once. We will be getting more information out as it becomes available.

Inappropriate Behavior

Many of the pipe band associations have had problems with their members being involved in inappropriate behavior. These issues include bullying at games and on the internet of judges, game sponsors and associated members. As a result, each association has been asked to come up with a Member Protection Policy.

The WUSPBA will be looking into this and trying to have a policy ready by the next AGM for discussion and voting. Policies will have a clause that says we will uphold actions taken against an organization or individual by another pipe band association.

We are finding that individuals who are conducting inappropriate behavior and having sanctions put on them are trying to join another association to avoid the penalties for their behavior.

African Blackwood: Endangered

You may be aware that African Blackwood has been added to the list of endangered species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), subject to

restrictions similar to restrictions on ivory. This brings up concerns if someone is taking their pipes outside the country.

We, along with ANAPBA, are looking into how this will be regulated in our different countries. I don't think there will be an issue, but we should be vigilante and try and find out all we can. As soon as we get some answers, I will let you all know what we find out.

Direct Questions to Branch Presidents

I would like to talk with you all about ways to answer most of your questions regarding WUSPBA. I want you all to know how impressed I am with our many branch presidents. You should direct most of your questions to these presidents; I feel you will be pleased with them and how they handle your questions.

For registration questions regarding soloist contact Lezlie Mann, and for band registration questions get in touch with Nancy Theriault, and they will be able to help you.

Website Issues

I have to apologize to all of you at this time, but we are having trouble with the website. We think it has been hacked, and I have two great individuals working on it at this time. Please be patient, and we will get it up and running smoothly as soon as possible (hopefully by the time you read this).

I hope all is going well with your solo and band preparation, as you get ready for the upcoming season. I wish you all the best.

Annual General Meeting of the Western United States Pipe Band Association

(Held Saturday October 22, 2016 in Park City, Utah)

Meeting called to order, quorum was established (9:02am)

Minutes of the 2015 AGM (9:04am)

Motion to waive the reading of the 2015 minutes, and approve by acclamation (Drew McPheeters, 2nd BJ Gunn)-APPROVED

Comments by President Andrew Morrill (9:05am)

“Thank you for coming. I want to thank the Executive Committee and the Music Board for the many hours that go in to this behind the scenes.”

Attendee Introductions (9:07am)

Branch President’s Reports (9:14am)

- Kevin Conquest-Southern Branch
- Suzan Karayel-Northern Branch
- Christina Marshall-Intermountain Branch
- Tyler Johnson-Great Basin Branch

Report from Music Board Chairman Ken Sutherland (9:26am)

- 13 individuals currently serve on the Music Board. They are divided into three different subcommittees.
- The Music Board makes recommendations to the Executive Committee.
- During 2016 the Music Board focused on grading and the Adjudicator Development Program.
- Announced bands that have been upgraded for the 2017 competition season:
 - Las Vegas Pipe Band [grade 5 to grade 4]
 - Prince Charles Junior [grade 5 to grade 4]
 - Phoenix Pipe Band [grade 4 to grade 3]
 - Cameron Highlanders [grade 3 to grade 2]

Budget Presentation by Treasurer Nate Lorenz (9:48am)

- 2015-2016 actuals were presented
- 2017 proposed budget was presented
- Motion to accept the treasurer report and approve the 2017 budget (Drew

McPheeters, 2nd Lise Nelson)-APPROVED

Contest Organizer Introductions (9:55am)

Officer Elections (10:04am)

- Vice President-Drew McPheeters was nominated
Motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation (Andrew Morrill, 2nd Ken Sutherland)
- Sanctioning Secretary-Todd Brown and Amara Reddick were nominated.
A silent vote was taken by secret ballot. Results were announced after the break.
Amara Reddick was voted in as the new Sanctioning Secretary.
- Solo Registrar-Lezlie Mann
Motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation (Erin Gunn, 2nd Christina Marshall)

BREAK (10:12am)

Called back to order (10:30am)

Results of the Sanctioning Secretary vote were announced

Todd Brown 109 vs Amara Reddick 117. Amara Reddick, having won the vote, is the new WUSPBA Sanctioning Secretary.

Amendments to Bylaws

- Creation of new Branch (10:32am)
Friendly amendments were proposed and accepted by the author changing the proposed name from Kokopelli to Desert and changing Northern California Branch to Northern Branch.-PASSED. Vote on the amended proposal-PASSED
- Branch Financial Support (10:44am)-FAILED
- Reciprocity Limits (10:49am)-PASSED

Amendments to Contest Rules

- Solo Bass Terminology (10:56am)-PASSED
- Tenor Drumming Back to 3 grades (10:58am)-PASSED
- Calculation of Solo Aggregate Points (11:01am)
Friendly amendment proposed and accepted by the author clarifying the definition of an invitational event-PASSED. Vote on amended proposal-PASSED
- Solo Grading Process Change (11:10am)-FAILED
- Third Drum Major Class (11:31am)
Friendly amendments were proposed and accepted by the author removing the specification of cash or medal prizes and the qualifying upgrade statement.-PASSED. Vote on amended proposal-PASSED
- Aggregate Drum Major Points (11:41am)-PASSED
- Massed Bands tunes and lead drummer (11:44am)

Friendly amendments proposed and accepted by the author specifying high hand version of Scotland the Brave, striking out Glendaural Highlanders, striking out High Road to Gairloch, and changing the word required to approved.-PASSED
The tunes will be phased in over the next two years; two tunes per year. Vote on amended proposal-PASSED

- Massed Bands tune limit (12:08am)
Friendly amendment proposed to change the time limit from 30 to 45 minutes.- FAILED. The DM committee will work with contest organizers to plan shows using the bands efficiently. Vote on proposal-TABLED
- Changes to band order of play and Band contest order of play-two opposing proposals presented at the same time. (12:27am)
 - Band Contest Order of Play was split as it dealt with two issues:
Strikeout 7.2-PASSED
 - 2nd part of Band Contest Order of Play-FAILED
- Changes to Band Order of Play:
Friendly amendment proposed and accepted by the author changing the wording from time to order.-PASSED. Vote on amended proposal-PASSED

BREAK (1:07pm)

Called back to order (1:15pm)

- Band performance and formations (1:15pm)-PASSED
- Additional clarifying wording on MMSR (1:27pm)-PASSED

Circle of Honor Winners (1:31pm)

Charlie Lumsden and James McCall

Closing Remarks by Andrew Morrill (1:40pm)

- 2017 AGM will be held in Phoenix, AZ
- 2018 AGM will be held in Denver, CO

Meeting Adjourned (1:41pm)



Original Piobaireachd Music Competition



sponsored by the
Shasta Piping Society and Burley Bagpipe Company

This competition calls for copies of original piobaireachds to be submitted by composers to a panel of qualified judges. The piobaireachd submissions must be original to the composer(s), of any style, and cannot have been published before. Prize awards for the top three compositions will be £500/£250/£100. Submissions must be received by April 1, 2017, and winners will be announced in May 2017.

Piobaireachd Competition Rules

1. Composers must have reached the age of 21 by the final submission date.
2. Piobaireachd submissions must be original to the composer(s), and not been published before.
3. Submissions may be of any form (Lament, Salute, etc.) preferred by the composer(s).
4. Only one submission is allowed from each composer.
5. Submissions of the music score must be unmarked PDF files, attached to an introductory email with the composer's contact information. No indication of the composer's identity or composition name on the score or file is allowed. Name the PDF file: "SPS contest".
6. Submissions must be generated by computer in a recognizable arrangement format (PS, Binneas, McIntosh). Hand-written scores or written notations on the score are not accepted.
7. Submissions must also include an audio electronic file (MP3) of the composition played on pipes or practice chanter, with no voice or identifying markers. Name the MP3 file: "SPS contest". If the file size is too large, it may need to be split in to two files. Name the files according to: "SPS contest 1" etc.
8. Complete submissions must be submitted by April 1, 2017 to the email address: shastapipingsociety@gmail.com
9. Composers will retain all copyright, but must agree to grant the sponsors free right to publish the score in a music collection and use recordings of the arrangement to advertise future competitions.
10. Composers must have the ability to receive monetary awards from the sponsors by PayPal account.
11. All decisions made by the representatives of the sponsors are final.

Judging

Piobaireachd submissions will be catalogued, provided individual identification, and sent under blind cover to the panel of judges. Results of the competition will be announced to each of the composers during May, 2017, and announced to the public shortly thereafter. Awards will be distributed within 30 days of the winner's announcement by PayPal payment.

Shasta Piping Society

The mission of the Shasta Piping Society is to foster interest and proficiency in the traditional music of Scotland. The main function of the SPS is to provide a program that enables disadvantaged youth to receive refurbished instruments, so the financial burden of bagpipe purchase does not prevent them from becoming active musicians. Another goal of the SPS is to encourage existing players to expand their repertoire to include musical scores not often heard by players or audiences.

Inquiries to shastapipingsociety@gmail.com

Burley Bagpipe Company

Graham Burley produces high quality bagpipes in Penticton, British Columbia. Graham started learning to play the Great Highland Bagpipe at the age of seven, and as an adult he also took a keen interest in Irish Uilleann pipes. The rarity and challenge of Uilleann pipes led to his pursuit of pipe making, and with the help of his father, a retired machinist, he started producing Scottish and Irish Instruments in 2003 during his machinist apprenticeship. Burley Bagpipe Company began full time production in 2013 to provide pipes with quality of tone, stability of sound, and beauty of craftsmanship well suited for the player of ceol mor.

ATTENTION Pipers! You are cordially invited to attend a

Smallpipes Workshop

Featuring Mr. E. J. Jones (www.piperjones.com)



Come and learn more about these great instruments and music!

WHEN: Saturday, February 25, 2017

WHERE: Lakewood United Church of Christ

100 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80226 (Please MapQuest this address)

TIME: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

COST: \$25.00

Seating is limited. Send the attached registration form and your check in to reserve a seat.

The small pipes, as opposed to the 'Great Highland Bagpipes' which are seen and heard in the bagpipe bands, are intended for melody playing in small settings including indoors. They come in a variety of styles and can be either mouth-blown or bellows-blown. The fingerings are generally the same as on the Highland pipes. Mr. Jones will also play the **Highland pipes** for us.

- All ages are welcome, no experience necessary. Non-players are also welcome!
- If you have a set of smallpipes of any kind, or a practice chanter, please bring them along!
- Participants will receive useful information and materials
- Door prizes will be given, refreshments will be served!

**Presented and sponsored by the Scottish Lowlands Families and Clans of Colorado
and the Spanish Peaks Celtic Music Festival (www.celticmusicfest.com)**



**Please mail your registration form and check made out to "E.J. Jones" to
Ken McIntosh, 8989 W. 14th Avenue, #405-South, Lakewood, CO 80215.**

Must be received by February 18, 2017.

Contact any of the following people with questions: Ken McIntosh: kenmcintosh@idcomm.com or 303-234-0469,
Jim Conley: jmconley52@hotmail.com or 719-695-2108, Chuck Quimby: cquimby1@comcast.net or 303 489-7560
Carolyn Elliott: carolynelliott1515@gmail.com or 303-604-1836

E. J. Jones Smallpipes Workshop

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Lakewood United Church of Christ
100 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80226 (Please MapQuest this address.)

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Registration Form

(Please print clearly)

Participant's name: _____

Address (street, city and zip code): _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

If a minor, parent's name(s): _____

Please mail this form and your check for \$25.00 made out to "**E. J. Jones**" to:

Ken McIntosh, 8989 W. 14th Avenue, #405-South, Lakewood, CO 80215.

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