

# Words and Music

## Fall 2017

### *In This Issue*

- AGM coming fast - *Details on pages 3 & 13*
- Thinking about where to compete next year? See what smaller games can offer - *page 9*
- Hone your skills: Outstanding tutors for weekend workshop in California - *page 10*
- Congratulations to WUSPBA leader who was recently honored in Scotland - *page 10*
- Our history: Learn about the famed "blind piper" and his many accomplishments – *page 11*



I would especially like to thank the whole Executive Committee for helping me so much these last couple of years.

Also, Ken Sutherland and the entire Music Board for their time and efforts in re-grading soloists and bands and keeping the adjudication process moving along smoothly. Lastly, I want to give a special thanks to John and Susan Thornton for putting out this quarterly newsletter for so many years.

### **Please Plan to Attend the AGM!**

I hope many of you are planning on attending the AGM this year in Phoenix. We have many issues to discuss, and we need your voice and opinions.

One of the big issues we will be discussing is where we want to take grade 4 bands in the future. Let me give a little bit of background on where grade four was and where it is currently. One thing that hasn't changed in grade 4 is the medley, and we aren't looking at changing the medley at this time.

## **Words from the President: What Future Direction for Grade Four Band Competitions?**

Andrew Morrill, President, WUSPBA  
[piperadmorrill@gmail.com](mailto:piperadmorrill@gmail.com)

I would like to start this article by thanking all of the many people who give so many hours, days, and weeks of their lives to make this Association work.

What we are looking at is the Mini-MSR and the direction we want our grade 4 bands to take.

### **History of Grade 4 Requirements**

Years ago, grade 4 bands played a medley and full MSR, and it had been that way for many years.

So when we changed to the QMM (Quick March Medley) to follow what was happening in Scotland, many bands were unhappy with the change. But as we moved forward the QMM became accepted and fairly popular with our grade 4 bands.

Then Scotland and most of the other associations in North America changed back to a Mini-MSR and then into a full MSR. Slowly the WUSPBA changed to a Mini-MSR, but that didn't match what was being played outside of WUSPBA. One association, the PPBSO from Ontario, bucked what others associations were doing and went back to the QMM for their grade 4 bands.

### **Three Possibilities to Be Decided**

So at the 2017 AGM, we will be voting on three possibilities for grade 4 bands. One is to follow the PPBSO and go back to playing the QMM in grade 4 -- we could leave the Mini-MSR the way it is now -- or we could move back to a full MSR.

### **Pros and Cons**

Let's take a look at the pros and cons to each of these recommendations and give you some factors to think about.

**Moving back to the QMM** -- Many feel that moving back to the QMM would be in the best interest for the development of grade 4 bands in our association. They feel it is too big a jump to go from grade 5 into grade 4 because bands have to learn both a medley and an MSR. Bands playing at the lower end of grade 4 really can't play an MSR properly, so it isn't enhancing their progress. This would mean that bands in our association couldn't play outside our association unless they went to Ontario or they learned an MSR.

Some will also argue that by moving back to the QMM, we are taking a step back, and with the growth and development of piping recently we should keep moving forward.

So the question you need to be asking yourself is should grade 4 be a beginning or introductory playing level, or is that for grade 5? If it isn't for introductory bands, should it ask much more, or are we asking too much? What do we want out of our grade 4 bands?

**Stay the same** -- The second option is to leave things just the way they are currently. We are only two years into the Mini-MSR competition. The only real complaints I have received have come from judges who feel the strathspey and reel are completed so quickly that they have a hard time getting a sense of a band's true ability.

**Go to a full MSR** -- The last possibility is to have a full MSR (4 parts march, strathspey, and reel), which could be made up of two-parted tunes. This would require bands to add two more parts of strathspey and reel to what they are currently playing.

The pros of this are that WUSPBA bands could compete outside our association, and bands would be required to step it up a little more. The cons would be that if bands can't play a strathspey or reel properly now, will adding two more parts help them to play four parts better?

Here is what you should be thinking about with this proposal. If this goes into effect, will it cause many grade 4 bands on the lower end of the grade to eventually be moved down to grade 5? Will grade 5 bands be able to make this jump? Should we be asking more or less out of our bands, and what is reasonable?

### **Observations of Other Associations**

I had the opportunity this summer to play outside our association and here is what I saw: the grade 3 bands in that association would all be playing in grade 2 here in WUSPBA. This was causing a log jam in their grade 4, because who would want to move up and play against virtually grade 2 bands in grade 3?

I can see why in that association they need grade 4 to play a full MSR, and that is because the top of their grade 4 should be in grade 3 in my opinion.

Now I am not trying to speak for this other association. They need to place bands in the grade they feel comfortable with, but I feel part of the reason many associations have different requirements for bands stem from the grading process.

What makes a grade 5, grade 4, or grade 3 band? What should we require bands to play? How are we as an association trying to

develop bands and improve their performances?

### **We Need Your Input**

I don't have the answer to all these questions, which is why we need you at the AGM. Think over what you feel grade 4 bands should play for their level. Bring those ideas to the AGM, and we can have a good discussion to help us lead our association forward.

We need to do what is best for us, and if it follows the other associations, then great. If we go down a different path, I am fine with that too.

Thank you all for your help these last two years!

## **Important Information about the AGM**

*Erin Gunn, Executive Secretary*  
[Egunn.ec@gmail.com](mailto:Egunn.ec@gmail.com)



The Annual General Meeting of the Western United States Pipe Band Association will be held at the Irish Cultural Center in Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday November 18, 2017.

Please see pages 13 - 19 in this issue or go to the following link, <https://wuspba.org/2017-agm-guide->

[membership/](#) for an informational guide that includes:

- hotel information
- transportation information
- AGM agenda
- 2016 AGM meeting minutes

## Treasurer's Report

Nate Lorenz, WUSPBA Treasurer  
[nclorenz66@hotmail.com](mailto:nclorenz66@hotmail.com)



I am always glad to see the accounting for the organization has little variation from years past. This means we are continuing to keep on a steady fiscal path and hopefully are serving the membership well.

### Seeking New Faces, New Voices

As we finalize preparations for the Annual General Meeting this year, I hope to see some new people attend. It is in Arizona this time in the new Desert Branch, and I hope this will mean new faces and added participation. The more voices we have from all the branches, the stronger the organization is and every corner becomes more represented.

Please join and participate and see how the WUSPBA rules are put together and rolled out. Some important issues kick off great discussions and will affect some of the direction a competitive band or solo

musician will head for the near future. Please take a look at the proposed changes. We don't want anyone confused on the day of the AGM, so please get out there and take a look and ask questions.

### Branch Profiles

One goal I had this year was to consolidate the banking into an easy to navigate company profile with the bank. Each branch has over the years drifted some, and the profiles were out of date and inconsistently reported. I have been able to help most of the branches consolidate and will work with the last ones shortly. This helps as the management of both the main and branches change over the years.

### See You at the AGM!

I look forward to seeing everyone who can attend in Arizona. I hope we can wrap up a great year and have some good discussions about the proposed changes and what direction we are going to head in 2018.

## Solo Registrar's Report

Lezlie Mann, Solo Registrar  
[solo-registrar@wuspba.org](mailto:solo-registrar@wuspba.org)



We are all winding down after another great competition year that has gone by too fast!

### Solo Registrations Growing

Our solo registrations have increased this year compared to other years. It is great

knowing that we are growing and that members are renewing their memberships before registering for contest games, so thank you!

I have tried to do better at getting the solo contest results posted to the website in a more timely manner, and want to thank the game sponsors for getting those results to me quickly so that I can achieve that goal.

### **2018 Registration for Renewal/Membership**

As to the registration for the next year, we should have the system switched over to the 2018 year between December 26th and no later than January 1st. I will send out an email as soon as the 2018 registration is open for renewal/membership.

I look forward to see as many as possible to the upcoming AGM in Phoenix in November!

I hope everyone has a very enjoyable upcoming Holiday Season!

## **Sanctioning Secretary's Report**

*Amara Reddick, Sanctioning Secretary*  
[sanctioningWUSPBA@gmail.org](mailto:sanctioningWUSPBA@gmail.org)

Thank you to all of the organizers, participants and attendees to this year's games.

Over the course of the competition season with the feedback and support of the contest organizers problematic areas were

## **Contents, Fall 2017**

<b>President's Report, Andrew Morrill .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Important Information about the AGM, Erin Gunn .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report, Nate Lorenz .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Solo Registrar's Report, Lezlie Mann .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sanctioning Secretary's Report, Amara Reddick .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Desert Branch Report, Kevin Conquest ..</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Great Basin Branch Report, Jeffrey Henderson .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Northern Branch Report, Suzan Karayel .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>In Praise of Smaller Games, Sue Jacobi .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Kevin Conquest honored in Scotland....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Silicon Valley Pipe and Drum Workshop, November 10-12 .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Archie McNeil, the Blind Piper .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2016 AGM details .....</b>	<b>13</b>

**Deadline for  
Winter 2018 issue: January 10**

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identified in the sanctioning process. WUSPBA competition circuit!

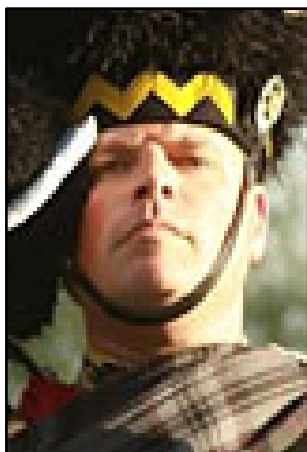
### **Improvements to the Sanctioning Process**

To address and ameliorate these issues, we have made improvements to the process and the documentation for sanctioning. The goal of the new forms is to increase efficiency and first-time submission completion of the sanctioning process. I look forward to the 2018 season.

Thank you all for your participation in WUSPBA competition circuit!

## **Looking for Different Contests Next Year? Consider a Trip to WUSPBA's Desert Branch**

*Kevin Conquest, Desert Branch President*  
[kevin.conquest@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.conquest@gmail.com)



Did you know that the Desert Branch is home to five contest venues in the calendar year? These highland games are eager to see more bands and soloists competing at their events.

### **Please Consider Arizona Competitions**

With the off-season in place, bands are planning their 2018 schedule. Please consider the following destinations:

- Phoenix (1<sup>st</sup> weekend in March) hosts a one-day pipe band competition in a park downtown. The weather is usually perfect with temperatures in the 70s or low 80s. Spring training baseball is in full swing during this time so you could extend your trip and catch a game.
- Las Vegas holds their highland games every April. Here is your chance to get two competition runs in before the summer picks up.
- Flagstaff hosts a competition in July that coincides with the weeklong Jim Thomson piping and drumming summer school.
- The Prescott Celtic Festival will move to September in 2018. Held in Watson Lake Park, this venue will be cooler weather than what people picture of Arizona.
- The Tucson Celtic Festival rounds out our year every first weekend of November. They are eager to host a pipe band competition and build things back up.

## **Great Basin Branch Report**

*Jeffrey Henderson, President, Great Basin Branch*  
[jeffrey.henderson75@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffrey.henderson75@yahoo.com)

Hello, all! We've had a great year in the west! All of the festivals enjoyed great success despite some record-breaking heat

for some of them. One of our games even found a new home!

### **Promotions and Growing Festivals**

First, I would like to congratulate Garden Valley Pipe Band on their promotion into Grade IV this last year!

The Scots on the Rocks Moab Celtic Festival, held every November in the very picturesque mountains of Moab, Utah, had another successful year. Five bands made the trip, including one from New Mexico. This festival continues to grow and is looking forward to putting on another great contest during the first weekend in November!

### **Firsts for the Utah Scottish Festival**

The Utah Scottish Festival and Highland Games found a wonderful new home this year in the Utah State Fair Park, which allowed for more space, as well as some additions that have been long-sought by many competitors and visitors.

This was the first year the festival held two full days of band and solo competitions, for which most, if not all, musicians attending were quite grateful!

And what better way to cap a day of competitions than with an icy adult beverage in the beer tent (which is another first for this festival)!

A total of eight bands attended this year's festival, adjudicated by world-class judges such as Andrew Carlisle (of Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band), which provided some great competition.

### **Good Turnout at Payson Scottish Festival**

The Payson Scottish Festival and Highland Games, an event free to the public, had another spectacular year!

A total of six bands attended the event, which, along with the solo competitions in the morning, provided a great day of piping and drumming!

The day was a scorcher (not to compare with Pleasanton this year, but as far as I've been made aware, it was record-breaking heat for this event), and this provided a challenge for bands and soloists alike.

However, everyone rose to the occasion and there was a lot of great music!

### **Terrific Branch Workshop**

The branch was fortunate enough, thanks to the VERY hard work by the branch executive committee and others, to put on a workshop with pipers Terry and Alistair Lee and drummer Scott Robertson. This workshop included instruction on tune selection, writing harmonies, tuning and tone, as well as how to improve ensemble, and many other tips, tricks and techniques. This was a two-day workshop that was attended by several bands and soloists.

### **Hard Work by the Great Branch Leadership**

I'd like to acknowledge the work of the branch leadership over this last year. There were many challenges which required a great deal of effort and teamwork to overcome.

I would also like to thank the outgoing branch president, Tyler Johnson, and



treasurer, Cheri Gibbs. They, along with the rest of the branch leadership, put in a lot of time to ensure things ran smoothly.

At the branch AGM, I was elected to the position of President and Tiffani Brush to the position of treasurer. I look forward to serving and I have great hope for a wonderful upcoming year in the pipe band community!

## Northern Branch Report

*Suzan Karayel, Northern Branch President*  
[wuspbanb@wuspbanb.org](mailto:wuspbanb@wuspbanb.org)

### Season-End Report

The Northern Branch had 17 registered member bands for the 2017 season, including:

- Two Grade 2 bands
- Seven Grade 4 bands
- Seven Grade 5 bands
- One Associate band



Congratulations to the Emerald Society Pipe Band of Ripon on their debut season in Grade 5.

There were nine contest venues in the Northern Branch in 2017,

including:

Five band & solo contests, and  
Four solo-only contests.

I hope you all had a great season, and I look forward to seeing you out at the games again next year!

### Northern Branch AGM & Awards Dinner – December 9

Please save the date for Saturday, December 9, 2017!

The Northern Branch will hold its annual AGM and Awards Dinner at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco.

We will review any and all new contest rule changes going into effect for the 2018 season, and celebrate our 2017 Northern Branch Champions!

More details will be announced on the Northern Branch website and Facebook page in the near future.

### Keep Up With the Northern Branch

For more information and regular Northern Branch updates, including same-day or next-day (unofficial) contest results:

Branch Website – [www.wuspbanb.org](http://www.wuspbanb.org), or  
on Facebook –  
[www.facebook.com/WUSPBANorthernBranch](https://www.facebook.com/WUSPBANorthernBranch).



# In Praise of Smaller Games

*Sue Jacobi, Piping Coordinator, Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival*  
[suejacobi@msn.com](mailto:suejacobi@msn.com)

Competitive pipe bands are interested in venues that may offer them the most opportunity for advancement within WUSPBA (or other respective organizations).

Realistically, that advancement may cause these competitive groups to overlook the smaller games or festivals in favor of the larger ones.

Smaller games or festivals offer competition for many competitive groups (including athletics and dancing) and for piping and drumming, solo competitions as well. Although the competitive fields can be smaller than larger games, it can offer an opportunity to practice competing for the next larger games and at the same time, offer real results and feedback.

## Incentives Beyond Financial

Budget plays a role when selecting the venues that the pipe band will attend, and smaller games often times have less financial incentives. But some games may have other incentives that may offset some costs to competitive groups, such as established tent space, food or discounts towards meals, and lower hotel costs. Smaller games have all the groups that make a games or festival fun and informative.

Clan tents, food and other vendors, athletics and may include a children's area, as well as excellent entertainment.

Many of these groups interact with others to provide a spectacle for attendees; piping in the dogs of the British Isles, the athletes and clans, as well as massed bands.

In order to provide the travel time back to home for many bands, some games (Albuquerque, NM, Flagstaff, AZ) hold massed ceremonies at noon, so that groups can leave after competition.

## Beer Tent!

Smaller games also provide the means to interact with other bands in a convivial environment. Albuquerque and Flagstaff, for example, provide a beer tent close to the competition areas to allow more interaction with groups; Albuquerque provides common tent space.

Smaller games such as Albuquerque, place an emphasis on performance-only pipe bands, showcasing the bands in front of the main stage so that attendees, who may not be interested in competition, can enjoy the sound of pipes and drums.

## Fun and Entertainment

Playing the instruments that we are passionate about should be about fun and entertainment – not just to an audience, but to the all of the vendors and other competitors, as well as each other.

## A Feather in the Cap for a WUSPBA Stalwart



Congratulations are in order for a long-serving WUSPBA member, Drum Major Kevin Conquest. Kevin traveled to Edinburgh in September to receive a grant of arms from

the Lord Lyon, Scotland's heraldic authority on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, for significant contributions to the Scottish diaspora.



While Americans can inherit coats of arms from Scottish ancestors, a completely new blazon (design) to an American certainly is rare. Kevin's blazon proudly features crossed maces and the motto ET DUXIT MODO –

"And he led the way."

Among the several privileges of an armiger in Scotland, Kevin will be able to display the crest of his arms as a cap badge, and wear one eagle feather on his glengarry during ceremonial occasions.

Congratulations, Drum Major!

## Silicon Valley Pipe & Drum Workshop November 10 – 12, 2017

*Again I hear you piping,  
for I know the tune so  
well, you rouse the heart  
to wander and be free.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

The Stewart Tartan Pipes & Drums of Saratoga, California, is hosting a workshop November 10 – 12, over the Veteran's Day long weekend. Pipers and drummers attending will be challenged to improve their abilities and take their playing to the next level.

Some of North America's best pipers and drummers will be instructors for this packed weekend. Think of this as a weekend pipes and drums camp.

Attendees are expected to bring their instrument as well as chanter pads. Attendees' participation is expected.

In addition to the workshops during the day there will be an Instructor Recital and Ceilidh. Thanks to our generous sponsors, the weekend will also include a raffle and giveaway.

Instructors for the weekend will be:

- Bruce Gandy (Pipes)
- Seumas Coyne (Pipes)
- Ron "Ringo" Bowen (Pipes)
- Blair Brown (Snare)
- Ed Best (Snare)
- Kristin Tillery (Tenor)

Example workshop topics include:

- Bagpipe Setup & Maintenance
- How to get the best tone from your instrument
- Solo Expression (Light Music & Piobaireachd classes)
- How to play as one (unison and band playing)
- Reed Manipulation
- Arranging and Harmony Composition for Pipe Bands
- How to Tune a Pipe Band
- Playing in Band vs. Solos (Snare)
- Dynamics and Phrasing (Snare)
- Preparing for Competition (solo master class)
- Drumming for Pipers

For information and registration, go to <https://www.pipesdrums.com/event/silicon-valley-pipe-drum-workshop/>

## Archie McNeill, the “Blind Piper”

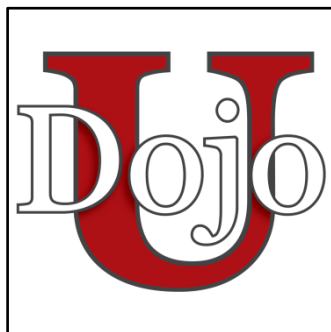
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One of the best known books used when learning to play the bagpipes is *The College of Piping Tutor 1*.

This book was written by Seumas McNeill and Thomas Pearston. Both men learned to play the bagpipes from Archie McNeill,

known as “the Blind Piper.”

His teaching methods became the basis of the tutor.



Who was Archie McNeill and why was he called the blind piper?

Archie McNeill was born February 23, 1879 in Glasgow. When he was young his family moved to the village of Rhu. It was here, where at the age of 10, he had an accident that slowly caused him to lose his sight.

He started learning to play the bagpipes when he was about 15. A piper, Roderick Fraser, worked on the same yacht and agreed to teach him if he bought a practice chanter.

A few years later he started taking instruction with John Wallace, composer of “Liberton Pipe Band.” Wallace was a teacher on the training ship C.T.S. Empress. He started a juvenile band composed of boys from the ship. Archie took lessons from him for a few years, until Wallace left the C.T.S. Empress for other employment.

By the time he was in his late teens he had completely lost his sight. He moved to Glasgow where he worked at the Blind Asylum making brushes. It was here that he became part of the Glasgow piping scene, where many local pipers would meet at a local pub on Friday nights.

Archie soon started giving piping lessons. Although he could not see, he was said to have perfect hearing. He was also a strict instructor. He would at times place his fingers over his students to feel how far they were lifting off the chanter. He was also able to hear minute crossing noises that others did not.

In 1917 Archie became the pipe major for the 139th Glasgow Boy’s Brigade Pipe Band.

His students in this band included his sons, Donald and Alex, as well as his nephew, Seumas MacNeill, Thomas Pearston, and Wee Donald MacLean. The Glasgow Boy's Brigade won the World Juvenile Championships in 1919, 1920, and 1923.

Archie continued to teach there for 17 years.

Archie worked at the Henderson Bagpipe Workshop after WWII testing the quality of the **chanters** and **drones**.

He was a committed member of the Scottish Pipers & Dancers Association, a precursor to the Scottish Pipers Association, of which he was also a member.

After the College of Piping was formed in 1944, by Thomas Pearston and Seamus MacNeill, Archie became an instructor there,

and would also teach at the Summer School sessions. He also wrote articles for the *Piping Times* and acted as a judge at piping competitions.

Archie MacNeill died on October 23, 1962. In addition to being the "grandfather" of the College of Piping, he is also known for his compositions.

His most famous tune is "Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban." He also wrote the great **strathspey** "Islay Ball." His other compositions include "the Detroit Highlanders," "David Ross of Rosehill," "Verna Leith's Wedding March," and the "Gairloch."



**Saturday November 18, 2017**

**Irish Cultural Center**

**Phoenix, Arizona**



# 2017 Annual General Meeting Guide

## Table of Contents

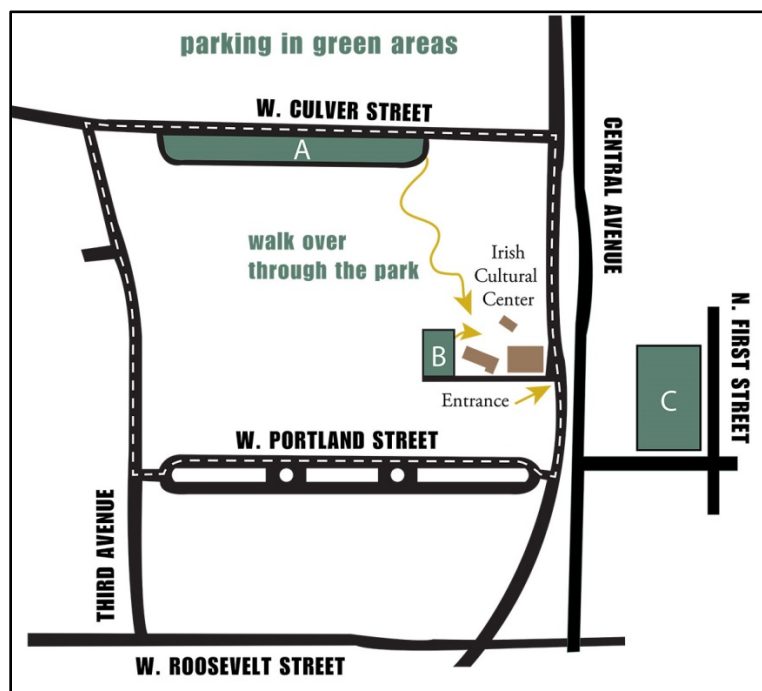
Transportation	3
Lodging Information	4
AGM	4
Seminars available after the AGM	5
Saturday Night Social	5
AGM Timeline	6
2016 WUSPBA AGM Meeting Minutes	7

## Transportation

The 2017 AGM will be held at the Irish Cultural Center in Phoenix, AZ. The Irish Cultural Center is located at 1106 North Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

### Driving directions from the airport to the Irish Cultural Center:

Driving from the airport to the Cultural Center will take approximately 10-15 minutes. Access to the center is only available from the North as Central Avenue is split into one way streets due to the light rail. Come from McDowell Rd. and Turn South onto Central Avenue. The center is located on the right hand side; you will enter through the driveway with the green harp gates. Parking in the adjacent lot is limited. However, there is public parking near the Irish Cultural Center. Below is a map of parking areas around the Irish Cultural Center.



The nearest Phoenix Light rail station is at Roosevelt/Central of “The Arts District.” Light rail trains run approximately every 15 minutes. For more information about route maps, schedules, and fares please see the Valley Metro website [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org).

### **Lodging Information**

The host hotel for the 2017 WUSPBA AGM is the Found:Re Phoenix. This hotel is directly next door to the Irish Cultural Center. The hotel address is: 1100 North Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Rooms will be available to WUSPBA members for \$109.00/night. For reservations please call 602-875-8000. For additional hotel information see their website: [www.foundrehotels.com](http://www.foundrehotels.com).

### **AGM**

#### **Saturday November 18, 2017**

Participants will check in starting at 7:00am. The AGM will begin promptly at 8:00AM.

#### **AGM AGENDA**

- Call to order, Establish Quorum
- Approval of the 2016 AGM Minutes
- Welcome and comments by President Andrew Morrill
- Attendee Introductions
- Music Board Report
- Budget presentation and vote
- Election of New Officers
  - President
  - Executive Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Band Registrar
- New Business-Amendments to Bylaws and Contest Rules
- Closing remarks and adjournment

#### **Seminars available after the WUSPBA AGM**

##### Dress and Deportment Seminar, Saturday November 18, 2017

Kevin Conquest (chairman of the Drum Major Committee) will be conducting a free dress and deportment seminar. Topics covered will include: how to properly wear the kilt and other parts of the uniform and how to look your best during band and solo competition. The seminar will begin at 2:00pm, or after the WUSPBA AGM.



### Contest Organizer Meeting, Saturday November 18, 2017

A meeting of organizers, of the WUSPBA sanctioned competitions will be held at the Irish Cultural Center beginning at 2:00pm, or after the WUSPBA AGM. This is a chance for all contest organizers to share our best practices. If you have any questions about how to run a piping and drumming contest, the R2 system, or the WUSPBA contest rules please submit your question to Erin Gunn [egunn.ec@gmail.com](mailto:egunn.ec@gmail.com) by Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup>. All questions will be answered as part of the meeting.

### Saturday Night Social, Saturday November 18, 2017

The Desert Branch officers are organizing a social event to be held at a pub in downtown Phoenix (time and location TBD). This event will feature a no holds barred kitchen piping/drumming event. If you are staying over Saturday night please plan to attend.

### **AGM Timeline**

7:00 AM	7:30 AM	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
Saturday November 18, 2017																
Check in	Annual General Meeting											Lunch Break	Seminars			

**Report of Annual General Meeting of the Western  
United States Pipe Band Association  
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 sub committees.
- 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 was nominated.  
Motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation (Erin Gunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
- Branchy 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 time 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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)