

# Words and Music

## February 2019

### New Format Coming for Words & Music!

With this issue, we are adopting a new format for Words & Music that is intended to provide you with up-to-date information about WUSPBA competitions and events.

We will also include other information of general interest, including officers' reports, that may be of interest to WUSPBA members as it becomes available.

Stay tuned!

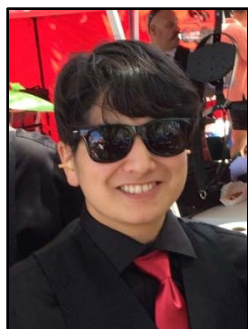
### Coming WUSPBA Events

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| March 3                   | Redding Bagpipe Competition, Red Lion Hotel, Redding, CA  |
| April 6                   | House of Scotland Tartan Day, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA  |
| April 13                  | Las Vegas highland Games<br>Floyd Lamb State Park, Las Vegas NV                                     |
| April 27                  | Woodland Celtic Games and Festival, Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, CA                           |
| May 4-5                   | Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, Balloon Fiesta Park, Albuquerque, NM                             |
| May 18                    | Northern Nevada Celtic Celebration, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, NV                           |
| June 8-9                  | Utah Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Utah State Fairpark, Salt Lake City, UT                  |
| August 10-11              | Redwood Highland Games<br>Blue Lake, CA (new contest)   |
| August 30-<br>September 1 | 154 <sup>th</sup> Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA |
| October 12-13             | Escalon Highland Games, Escalon, CA (new contest)   |

# Northern Branch to Host 2019 AGM

*Suzan Karayel, Vice President*  
[wuspba.vp@gmail.com](mailto:wuspba.vp@gmail.com)

## Save the Date – November 16



The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Western United States Pipe Band Association (WUSPBA) will be held on November 16, 2019, in Sacramento, California. The host hotel and

meeting location is the Sheraton Grand Sacramento, 1230 J Street, Sacramento CA 95814.

## More Details to Come

Please keep an eye out for more event information, including booking information and important deadlines, in the coming months. I look forward to seeing you in downtown Sacramento this fall!

## Treasurer's Report

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

Hello to all. I hope your holidays were great and that you are preparing for a productive 2019 competition season.

## R2 System Open for Registrations

The R2 system is open for both bands and soloists.

I want to encourage people to look closely at their registrations. We have a few folks who have signed up early, thinking the sign-up was for 2019, but the system had not rolled over yet, so it charged for a 2018 registration and a late fee.



We will, of course, fix this with a refund and correct it within the system, but due to the way the R2 system works, you have to wait until it has rolled to the next year until registrations can be

accepted. So be sure your email is up to date in R2, and we will remind you each year of the day it is open for the upcoming year!

## AGM Planned for Northern California for this Fall

I hope you are also planning ahead to the California WUSPBA Annual General Meeting.

We are making preparations for the end of year AGM, which will be hosted by the Northern Branch. We hope this will bring some folks together who don't normally make the trip.

## Hearing from Participants & Sponsors Helps Everyone

It has been a nice to see the new faces and hear new voices to the discussions surrounding by-laws and contest rules. The more we hear from the competitors, the more everyone knows what issues are being experienced.

Hearing from the games sponsors and event coordinators is another value I cannot overstate.

### **A New Year, New Budget & New Board**

So, good luck this season.

You can re-print your WUSPBA number and card from the R2 site at any time.

We are moving forward with a good budget and a new Board of Directors who are excited to hit the field running.

## **Reminder: Band Registrations Due**

*Jeff Mann, Band Registrar*  
[band-registrar@wuspba.org](mailto:band-registrar@wuspba.org)



Wow, the new season is already upon us. I hope everyone had enjoyable holidays and is starting to polish up their music sets and solo work!

### **Band Registrations Due**

Just a reminder that there are new tune requirements in place for some of the grades. Check the WUSPBA website at [www.wuspba.org](http://www.wuspba.org) for policy and contest rule changes.

### **AGM Was Outstanding**

The WUSPBA AGM was well attended. It was probably one of the best attended that

## **Contents Fall 2018**

<b>WUSPBA Competitions and Events for 2019 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Vice President's Report Suzan Karayel .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report Nate Lorenz .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Band Registrar's Report Jeff Mann .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Solo Registrar's Report, Lezlie Mann .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Jefferson Pipe Band, Bob Skinner .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>America's Great War Highlanders, RJ MacDonald .....</b>	<b>8</b>

### **Editorial Staff**

**John Thornton, Editor**  
[misterpv@gmail.com](mailto:misterpv@gmail.com)  
303.798.0844

**Susan Thornton, Assistant Editor**  
[Susan@ThinkStrategicallyFirst.com](mailto:Susan@ThinkStrategicallyFirst.com)  
303.798.0844

© WUSPBA 2019

I have seen in 10 years. The Intermountain Branch did a great job hosting and the location was superb.

There was a lot of discussion during the meeting, but it went incredibly smoothly. Thanks to all of those who participated during the meeting. It was great to see everyone.

## Condolences to the Merriman Family

I wanted to take a moment and express my condolences to Jeannie Merriman and her family on Bill's passing.

Bill was a monumental force with the piping scene in Northern California. His work with the kids has left an everlasting impression on the piping world. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with his family.

## Best Wishes

As always, I want to wish you the very best for this New Year. It is so cool to see soloists and bands progress and become better. The level of piping and drumming has increased so much since I became involved back in 1997, thanks to many of you... excellent instructors, leaders, and musicians.

## Solo Registrations Open!

By Lezlie Mann, Solo Registrar  
[MannLezlie@gmail.com](mailto:MannLezlie@gmail.com)



I hope you are all off to a great start for this New Year!

Solo membership registration is now open for the 2019 year. Please try and renew as soon as

possible.

If for any reason you have any trouble registering, please don't hesitate to contact me.

## Contact Information Required

Also, I have noticed that a lot of the solo member profiles do not have emails listed for them, which is required per WUSPBA Bylaws, Article 3, #5.2.1, below:

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

## You Can Opt Out from Receiving Emails

If you do not want to receive emails (for example, emails from game sponsors sending notification about upcoming games or solo registrar sending notification about registration open for a new year), you can opt out.

Under "modify info" on your profile page just mark "no." But regardless of whether or not you want to receive emailed information, it is very important that we have your contact information.

Good luck to all in this coming year!!

# The Jefferson Pipe Band

**Bob Skinner**

[drpypes@gmail.com](mailto:drpypes@gmail.com)

*Despite evacuations – despite the loss of one member’s home and bagpipes – despite being able to hold only one joint practice before the large competition in Pleasanton – despite everything, this remarkable band not only competed in Pleasanton, but finished second in the MMSR!*

The Jefferson Pipe Band, Inc. (JPB) was formed in 1985 by Bob Skinner, Doug Gordon, Rick Peltz and George Thompson as the Shasta Scots Pipe Band and operated as a parade band for Northern California.

## Name Reflects the Band’s Area



The band joined the North Coast Humboldt Highlanders under the direction of Pipe Major Rob Jeffs in 1989 to provide a larger parade band. Rob moved to Southern Oregon in the late 1990s and the name of the band was changed to “The Jefferson

Pipe Band” to reflect the area the band represents.

## The Almost-State of Jefferson

The State of Jefferson was almost formed in 1941 and was due for a vote in the U.S. Senate on December 8, 1941. But a little something happened on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, that changed the course of history and cancelled the vote to form the new state.

As members come from Grants Pass Oregon to the North and Redding and Eureka to the South we felt the name appropriate.

## Three Geographic Locations

The band is split into three geographic locations. Weekly practices are held in each of the three regions in which the band is centered. Our headquarters are in Jacksonville, Oregon, and practices there are headed by the senior Pipe Major, Rob Jeffs.

A large contingent of the band live in Shasta County and weekly practices in the Redding area are headed by Pipe Sargent Bob Skinner (PM of the Grade 5 competition band.)

The final contingent of our players comes from Humboldt County, and weekly practices for members there are headed by Pipe Corporals Ted Hales and Brian Schwartzberg.

Monthly group practice locations rotate between the three areas.

### **Approximately 30 Members**

The band currently consists of approximately 30 members, 20 of whom competed in 2018 in the Grade 5 band.

Several members currently do not participate in the band competitions, but are regular performing members in community performances, parades and memorials. We meet regularly for practices and meals, and proudly support the Shasta Celtic Society. Our band includes several family groups,

### **Preserving Celtic Music and Culture**

Our primary goal is to teach students of all ages to play the Great Highland Bagpipes or one of the Scottish Highland drums, to continue to serve our communities, and to preserve the traditions of the Celtic music and culture.

Efforts are under way to start a youth band with hopes of having the group compete with our Grade 5 band or, if enough youth are attracted, to enter into competition as a youth band in WUSPBA.

### **Lessons from Competing in Scotland**



Approximately 26 members of the band competed in grade 4B at the World's in Glasgow in 2017, and 17 are still competing with the band. Our hopes are to eventually grow back to the point that we have two competing bands, a Grade 4 and a Grade 5.

Our main lesson learned from the Scotland experience is we are a band that enjoys all aspects of playing the pipes and drums. We should never let the pressure of competition interfere with our enjoyment of this great music.

### **2018 -A Rebuilding Year**



2018 was a difficult year for the band. First, it was a rebuilding year after the Scotland trip.

Our drum corps changed dramatically and we are lucky to have attracted the talents and efforts of Elizabeth Johnson. Elizabeth has been instrumental in attracting new drum students to the side corps; a number of students are “under development” and are starting to add to the competition band.

Molly Navarro-Skinner has switched from tenor drum to pipes but is working hard to teach the tenor skills to several new and very promising tenor students.

We see nothing but growth in the drum corps under the overall direction of Drum Sargent Darin Talcott. Darin's wife, Margaret, is assuming the role of lead tenor, making for a good drum leading duet.

### **Wildfires Force Cancellation of Practices, Evacuations**

Second, due to the multiple wildfires in Southern Oregon and Northern California in July and August (chiefly the Carr Fire in Shasta County), the band had to cancel most of this summer's practices (the last joint practice was prior to the Motherlode Games in early June.)



Nine of our members were directly affected by the Carr fire as it entered west Redding, and were forced to evacuate.

Unfortunately, one member lost his home and all belongings (including his bagpipes) while battling the Ferguson fire in Yosemite Park.

The smoke and ash in the air made it unhealthy to practice the pipes, and Pleasanton was looming on the horizon.

### **Wildfires Could Not Defeat Us!**

Well, as the Phoenix rises from the ashes, so did the JPB!

We were able to hold a joint practice the Sunday prior to Pleasanton, and we felt positive about our playing. Just to be able to get out of the smoke and ash for a few days had us excited and eager to compete.

I don't think there was much Mother Nature could have done to keep us away from Alameda over Labor Day weekend and we showed up in full force.

We were lucky to meet the Denver & District Pipe Band on Friday evening, and set up our band areas next to each other. Great friendships were made, with promises of repeating the experience at any competitions the bands attend together.

### **In the Prize Money Despite All Difficulties**

Our happiest moment came with the announcement that we had finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the MMSR. It proved to us that individual hard work at home, even without being able to meet as a band, pays off.

The Jefferson Pipe Band is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt corporation. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

## America's Great War Highlanders, a Novel by RJ MacDonald

"Though our homes are far across  
the seas, our hearts and souls are  
Scottish..." Lt Col Guthrie, 1918

The mornings were cold in November 1917, so it's easy to imagine the scene- Her Majesty's Troopship *Canada* arrives at Liverpool docks, England. Soon lines of soldiers, burdened down with kit and rifles, are disembarking down the gangplanks.

They form up into ranks, glad to be on dry land again, and with a nod from their commanding officer to the pipe major, the drone of bagpipes tuning up carries through the still air. Then, to the command of, "By the right, Quick March!" the men of the 236<sup>th</sup> MacLean Kilties of America march smartly away from the docks to the sound of their own pipes and drums. America's Great War Highlanders had arrived.



Americans serving in the Canadian Forces were commonplace during WWI. Three

battalions, the 97<sup>th</sup>, 211<sup>th</sup> and 213<sup>th</sup>, all designated 'American Legion', had been raised and deployed to France. But the 236<sup>th</sup> Battalion was special- it wore kilts. It was the brainchild of a Canadian-Lieutenant Colonel Percy Guthrie. While lying wounded in France, he heard a Scottish battalion passing by, pipes and drums leading the way. At that moment he resolved to raise a battalion of Highlanders. On return home to Canada, he gained official support and in May 1916, the 236<sup>th</sup> New Brunswick Kilties (MacLean Highlanders) were raised. Needing men to fill its ranks, Guthrie's gaze quickly turned to New England following America's entry into the war.

With a quick change of name and cap badges, the 236<sup>th</sup> Maclean Kilties of America appealed to Scots-Americans from Maine to Boston for recruits and within eleven days the Highland battalion had over-filled its ranks (*The MacLean Kilties* by Ian MacLean).

Having arrived in Great Britain, the battalion trained hard, under the expert eyes of its officers and non-commissioned officers- all veterans of the Western Front. In March 1918, they deployed to France.

A cruel blow awaited them. Despite vehement protests, the battalion was effectively split into three to feed the constant need for re-enforcements. The Canadians from New Brunswick were allowed to join the New Brunswick Regiment. The rest, including the Scots-Americans, were divided between the Royal Highlanders of Canada and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, in which they would go on to fight in every major battle for the remainder of the war, suffering 553



casualties, (*Percy Guthrie and the MacLean Kilties* by Paul Belliveau).



In 2006 a memorial plaque to the 236th Maclean Kilties of America was unveiled at their old headquarters building in Fredericton, New Brunswick. A memorial to all Americans who fought in the Canadian Forces during WWI was dedicated in 1927 at Arlington National Cemetery; the pipes and drums of the 48th Highlanders of Canada played at the ceremony.

RJ MacDonald

*RJ MacDonald's WWI historical novel, A Distant Field, was released on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The first in a series, it follows Stuart and Ross McReynolds, Scots-Americans who survive the sinking of the Lusitania. Together with four Irishmen, a Canadian, and a young English officer, they join Scotland's Seaforth Highlanders and head towards the bloody battlefields of WWI. For more details please visit [www.facebook.com/rjmacdonald.scot](http://www.facebook.com/rjmacdonald.scot) or [www.rjmacdonald.scot](http://www.rjmacdonald.scot).*