



Western United States Pipe Band Association 2025 AGM Minutes

Date: November 15, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM PT / 9:00 AM MT

Location: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

I. Check-In and Quorum Count

- The meeting was called to order by **Chair: Stuart (“Stu”) Baker** at 8:00 AM PT / 9:00 AM MT.
- Attendees checked in via Zoom and confirmed presence using an online form that required WUSPBA numbers.
 - Members without numbers were assigned temporary voting numbers for the day.
 - Several individuals requested assistance locating their member numbers or gaining access to the voting form.
- **Quorum was confirmed.**

II. Approval of Agenda & 2024 Minutes

- The **2025 AGM agenda** was presented as posted on the WUSPBA website.
Action: Approved without objection.
- The **2024 AGM minutes** were presented for approval.
Action: Approved by unanimous consent.

III. Elections (Recap for the Record)

(Recording began after elections, so results were restated for the minutes.)

The following officers were elected:

- **President:** William (Bill) Walker
- **Executive Secretary:** Connor Studulski
- **Treasurer:** David Hovey
- **Band Registrar:** Charlie Butterworth

These officers begin their new terms immediately following the AGM.

IV. Treasurer Report & 2026 Budget Approval

A. 2024 Financial Summary

- **Total Income:** approx. \$39,989
- **Total Expenses:** approx. \$43,073
- **Net Ordinary Income:** approx. -\$3,084
- Key notes:
 - Most expense categories were under budget.
 - The **Youth Education Council (YEC)** was nearly self-funding.



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- The **2024 Invitational** underperformed in sponsorship but improvements are underway for the next cycle.

B. Proposed 2026 Budget

- **Projected Income:** approx. \$43,300
- **Projected Expenses:** approx. \$42,126
- **Projected Net Gain:** approx. +\$1,174
- Further notes:
 - Investment income expected to rise.
 - AGM costs reduced due to improved efficiency.
 - Invitational budget set at ~\$13,000 for long-term stability.

Action: *2026 Budget approved without objection.*

V. Officer & Committee Reports

A. Band Registrar – Charlie Butterworth

- **72 registered bands** for 2025:
 - Grade 5: 33
 - Grade 4: 20
 - Grade 3: 10
 - Grade 2: 5
 - Grade 1: 0
- **11 contests** had complete results submitted; several critique-only events did not produce placings.
- Going forward, contest results will be posted via a **shareable Google Drive/Dropbox link**, similar to validated roster updates.

B. Solo Registrar

- Solo Registrar (April) was at a competition during the AGM.
- Members with questions were asked to contact her directly by email.

C. Western States Invitational / Youth Education Council

- Written reports included with AGM materials.
- Highlights:
 - Strong Invitational event with excellent youth participation.
 - Recognition awards presented for **Top Drummer Under 20** and **Top Piper Under 20**.
 - YEC continues to grow and support education and youth involvement.



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D. Past President's Acknowledgment

- Past President **Jeff Mann** attended the meeting briefly from the hospital.
- Members expressed appreciation for:
 - His decades of service.
 - His mentorship (“being Jeffed”) of many current officers.
 - His legacy of leadership within WUSPBA.
- Best wishes for his recovery were formally noted.

E. Other Officer Reports

- All other officer reports were posted online.
- No additional questions or discussion were raised.

VI. Branch Reports

A. Desert Branch

- Branch meeting held during the Tucson Games.
- Officers remain the same.
- Planning an **education workshop** (late January or early February).
- The potential December games will **not** occur this year.

B. Intermountain Branch

- Hosted multiple contests, including:
 - New indoor solos event at Pikes Peak Brewing.
 - Rio Grande Valley Games, Elizabeth Celtic Festival, Longs Peak, and Colorado Scottish Festival.
- Hosted a **new online competition** with strong participation.
- The branch continues growing and expanding competitive opportunities.

C. Great Basin Branch

- Hosted several well-attended events:
 - One-day May contest (70+ competitors)
 - Utah Scottish Festival (June)
 - Payson Games (July)
 - Moab Games (October)
- The branch remains active and stable.

D. Other Branches



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- Written reports submitted; no follow-up discussion required.

VII. Sanctioning Secretary / Games Organizer Report

- **27 sanctioned contests** in 2025 (up from 24 the previous year).
- Nearly all contests now use **R2 online registration**.
- Coordination continued with RSPBA and others to maintain an updated judges list.
- No motions or changes were required during this segment.

VIII. Contest Rule Proposals

A. CR1 – Solo Tenor Drumming Requirements (Flourishing Clarification)

Presenter: BJ

Purpose:

To explicitly include **flourishing** as a judging requirement in solo tenor contests and clarify expectations consistent with other associations.

Key Points:

- Current rules mention visual effect but do not define flourishing clearly.
- CR1 adds specific language outlining required elements (musicality, timing, tone, transitions, flourishing).

Discussion Summary:

- Clarification on whether CR1 conflicts with CR2:
It does not—CR1 refines existing contests, CR2 proposes an additional new option.
- No objections were raised.

Outcome:

- Debate closed by motion.
- **CR1 passed by voice vote** (no opposition recorded).

B. CR2 – Creation of Rhythm Tenor Event (Local-Option Concept)

Presenter: Lauren

Purpose:

To explore adding a **Rhythm Tenor** contest for beginners focusing on musical accuracy without requiring flourishing.

Rationale:

- Many novice tenors avoid solos due to difficulty adding flourishing before mastering basic rhythm.
- Some competitors with strong flourishing but weaker rhythm have placed ahead of musically stronger players.

Discussion Themes:



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- Consideration of offering Rhythm Tenor as a **local-option contest**, similar to practice chanter/drum pad.
- Concerns regarding:
 - Judge consistency and education
 - Eligibility enforcement (preventing advanced players from dominating the division)
 - Whether the issue is better solved by better judge training
 - Limited usefulness of tenor “pads” due to sound issues

Procedure:

- Due to lack of finalized rule language, a motion was made to **refer the proposal to the Music Board** for further development.

Outcome:

- Motion to refer to committee **passed by voice vote**.
- Liz will forward the item to the drumming committee.
- Any future implementation requires a **vote at the 2026 AGM or later**.

C. B1 – Grade 3 Snare Tune Requirements (Full MSR)

Presenter: Jessica (Jess) Fry

Proposal:

Replace separate 2/4 March and Strathspey & Reel events with a **full MSR**, maintaining a separate 6/8 March event.

Reasons for Change:

- Current “start at the downbeat of the Strathspey” rule unique to WUSPBA causes recurring confusion for visiting judges.
- Aligns WUSPBA with ANAPBA, PPBSO, and RSPBA standards.
- Prepares competitors for Winter Storm and other major events that require full MSR.
- Reflects reality that Grade 3 (and many Grade 4) bands already perform full MSRs.

Discussion Summary:

- Concerns raised about the “jump” from Grade 4 to Grade 3 difficulty.
- Supporters emphasized the advantages of alignment and reduced judge confusion.
- Question about “four parts of music”: intent clarified as **minimum** four parts.
- Concern about difficulty finding pipers for full MSR acknowledged.

Friendly Amendment:

- Ken proposed adding a full MSR **without removing** existing events; this was **declined** due to concerns about splitting fields.

Vote Procedure:

- Voice vote appeared close.



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- A formal Google Form vote was conducted.

Final Vote:

- **Yes: 158**
- **No: 49**
- **Abstain: 4**

Outcome:

- **B1 passed.**
- Grade 3 snare requirements now consist of:
 - **Full MSR**
 - **6/8 March**

D. B2 – Broader Music Experience in Advancing to “A” Level Judge

Presenter: Jessica (Jess) Fry

Purpose:

To expand the qualifications for advancement to the **A Panel** of WUSPBA adjudicators by recognizing credible, relevant musical experience outside of pipe bands.

Summary of Changes:

- B2 adds two additional pathways by which a qualified B-panel judge may apply for promotion to the A-panel:
 - 1. Professional Music Experience:**
 - Applicants may now present evidence of work as a **full-time or part-time professional musician**, including ensemble work, studio recording, orchestral or chamber performance, or other recognized music industry experience.
 - 2. Formal Music Education:**
 - Applicants may use **conservatory, university, or collegiate-level music training** (performance, pedagogy, theory, composition, etc.) as part of their credentials for advancement.

Rationale:

- The proposal recognizes that many qualified judges come from strong musical backgrounds outside competitive pipe band performance.
- Broader musical expertise can strengthen adjudication quality, particularly in tone, musicality, expression, and ensemble awareness.
- Formalizing these pathways promotes a more inclusive and professionalized judging pool.

Discussion Highlights:



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- Members generally supported aligning WUSPBA's advancement pathways with those used by other major associations.
- Several comments noted that applicants must still demonstrate **idiomatic pipe band knowledge**; B2 does not bypass existing requirements but supplements allowable credentials.
- No concerns were raised about implementation.

Outcome:

- **Motion to approve B2 passed by voice vote** (no opposition recorded).
- The expanded qualification pathways will be incorporated into the Judges Panel Handbook and applied to future A-panel advancement applications.

IX. Closing Remarks

Outgoing President – Andrew Morrill

- Thanked officers, committee members, and volunteers for their work and professionalism.
- Noted that this term was the “smoothest” of his five presidencies.
- Expressed appreciation for the support of the membership and looked forward to spending more time with family and grandchildren.

Additional Acknowledgments

- BJ thanked Katie and Eric for their extensive assistance organizing the AGM.
- Thanks were extended to Stuart Baker for running the meeting.

X. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made and seconded.
- Meeting adjourned.
- Recording was stopped following confirmation of adjournment.