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21 August 1990

TO ALL DRUM MAJORS

The 'Alliance' is no more. We are a new organization operating under a new name, The North American Scottish Drum Majors Association, and I have been, through your vote, selected to act as President. I apologise for the delay in penning this letter but events beyond my control have necessitated it should be thus.

I make no speeches. I'm not going to tell you that I'm happy to be in the chair of the President because quite frankly I've been handed such a kettle of fish that you can't even begin to imagine.

I waited for the Bank Statements from the "Alliance" because even though we are a new organization with a new set of By-Laws we will still need to draw upon the "Alliance" account until our new Laws are in effect and until the new organization is recognised by law.

The Bank Statements came yesterday and I have to tell you that it will take some time before I can sort them out. They are to say the least in some dis-array. In order to bring the account from San Diego to a bank closer to my home I have to go to San Diego. The Banks simply will not transfer by mail or interbank, and, as yet I have not been able to take time off from work and travel to San Diego. Like I said it's a bit of a mess! So, since there isn't a Treasurer voted in I exercise the office of President and appoint Diana Pratt as Treasurer until such time as a Treasurer may be elected. Just as soon as the financial shinnaganegans are sorted out they will be published in a newsletter. In the meantime this letter will have to suffice.

So, where do we go from here? Well, for the rest of 1990 we go nowhere. We have to get our own house in order before we can go anywhere, and that will take a few months. Unless we start again from scratch. We can do this in part by each of us canvassing our respective areas, approaching the local High Schools and offering to train their Drum Majors in the Scottish tradition, actively soliciting membership. We can't just sit back and hope that the other fellow will do it because we are the other fellow. We can attend the "Games" and make ourselves known, again actively seeking membership. I have a list of Pipe Bands and I will be corresponding with each and every one of them, promoting the NASDMA, trying to win back the respect we once had. But it's going to take time, it's going to take a lot of hard work for all of us. I can't do it alone, neither can you. It will take all of us working together. I'm open to suggestions.

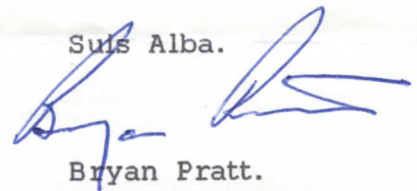
I said that I wouldn't make speeches. I lied.

As President it's up to me to co-ordinate your input. I promise to do just that if I have your input. The next few months will be the hardest. We have to put back together an organization that simply fell apart through apathy. We can't let that happen again! God knows, there are so many pipe bands each with a Drum Major, there are so many individuals who would love to be a part of our heritage, so many organizations which would benefit from our experience. It matters little to me whether you are a traditionalist or whether you prefer flourishing. What does matter is that

you are Scottish Drum Majors with a long history, a long heritage, and a long tradition. We, as bearers of history, heritage, and tradition cannot afford to let the side down!

Speeches over. In closing I appeal to you to become involved. Besides perfecting your own skills take a youngster under your wing, help him or her, teach them what you already know, teach them respect, teach them dignity, and, have them enroll in the North American Scottish Drum Majors Association.

Suis Alba.



Bryan Pratt.
President. NASDMA.