

## WUSPBA 2023 AGM

Good morning and welcome to the Western United States Pipe Band Association's 2023 Annual General Meeting. My name is Jeff Mann and it has been my pleasure to serve the WUSPBA Membership over the last 2 years.

I have witnessed over the last few years first-hand, the development of great pipers, drummers, and drum majors. I have seen so many of you progress out of grade 5 to grade 4, 4 to 3, 3 to 2, 2 to 1, and open class. To you I say, Well done you! Congratulations, Strong hard work has got you to those places. Many of you have grown your skill set and have moved on to higher level grade bands. Many of you have taken advantage of numerous workshops, schools, and other educational offerings and we acknowledge the hours of lessons, rehearsals, practice, and the growth of fund of knowledge that many of you possess. We are grateful for you and your talents that you bring to this association.

We thank our Games organizers and sponsors for taking time to provide venues for our soloists and bands. Without you and your help, we would have no place to compete. For in so many ways competition is the report card of your hard work.

I appreciate so very much our volunteers that are on the playing field ensuring that playing field is level. Ensuring that we are providing a safe, learning environment. I cannot express enough of my thanks and gratitude for the countless volunteer hours that go into this work.

My job has been made a joy, when I hear the number of success stories around this association, when I watch soloists and bands compete and see their growth. That's what makes this all worth it.

Finally, I want to give thanks to my administrative family. Over the last few years we have shared joys and anguish, we have agreed and agreed to disagree but it has always felt like family to me. Thanks for making me feel included and for your patience. I look forward to seeing even more growth and development in the future.

Yours aye,

Jeff