

Report from Great Basin Branch 2023

Branch events began in March with the Grade 5 invitational sponsored by and held at Payson High School, Payson Utah. Many of the branch bands were represented at the all day event. The day began with “tunes around the table” where new mini bands were formed by random members of the various bands present. New tunes instruction was given by members of the host band. The mini bands then performed their new selections. Lunch was provided and then each participating band was invited to the stage to play their competition sets in a relaxed recital atmosphere.

Four contests were held in the branch during the year. Grand Valley Games in Grand Junction Colorado, Utah Highland Games held in Salt Lake City, Payson Scottish Festival held at Payson Utah, and “Scots on the Rocks” held at Moab Utah.

Our AGM was held November 18th where Diana Lees was elected as new Branch President and Andrew Morrill was retained as branch Treasurer. Our new Drum Majors Council was introduced under the direction of Vivian Dearden, Wasatch and District’s drum major. She led an introduction to Drum Majoring for newly interested drum majors followed up by a massed band exercise.

Other workshops were taught by our highly skilled local members that included snare drumming by Jessi Frye, tenor and bass section by BJ Gunn, reed manipulation and piobaireachd by Ross Morrill, beginning bodhran by Erin Gunn, ceilidh music playing

with Robert MacDonald, and finished off by a Cape Breton square set dance Called out by Erin Gunn.

There were 52 branch members present with 8 bands represented.

Larry Erdmann, past president