

WUSPBA Northern Branch Annual Report-2022

Annual General Meeting
October 22, 2022

As we come out of the pandemic, the Northern Branch Board has continued to provide online solo competitions and monthly educational events, as well as welcoming back several of the “in-person” games that we had missed over the last couple of years.

Our Northern Branch Board had a new Vice President come on board in 2022. Joyce MacLaury (a side drummer in the MacIntosh Pipe Band) took over for Rob Boyd as Rob had to step down due to work commitments.

Erin Berta continued as President, while Suzan Karayel and Amy Johannssen switched positions, with Suzan now taking on the Treasurer position (in addition to her Chief Steward position), and Amy taking the position of Secretary.

Last year (2021) we started by focusing on WUSPBA's list of Recommended Piobaireachd for Grade 4 pipers and we continued this effort in 2022. We now have completed our goal of having instructional recordings for all of the WUSPBA recommended piobaireachd tunes available on Youtube for everyone to use. It has been noted that all of these tunes while good for the G4 competition, are also great tunes to learn and play for competitions at the higher grade levels. We are grateful for those who volunteered to help instruct and lead us through a tune each month. The Northern Branch would like to thank all of the featured presenters, piping instructors, adjudicators, and professional competitors from throughout the WUSPBA community, for the time that they took to prepare and present us these lasting contributions.

In addition to the “In the Zoom” Piobaireachd nights, the Northern Branch also organized and sponsored two Online Solo Contests, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

All participants received (or will receive) custom made souvenir stickers as a thank you for their participation. (If you didn't receive your sticker, please let us know!) We were delighted to not only have support and participation from our local pipers and drummers, but also those from across the United States, and

worldwide. Thank you to Suzan Karayel for organizing these events, and to all of those who competed, Judged, and who help facilitate the zoom online competitions.



The Northern Branch was delighted to see the return and continuation of some of the “in person” games. Here is a listing of the competitions held in 2022:

March 6, 2022: The Redding Bagpipe Competition-
Sponsored by the St. Florian Pipers Society

April 30, 2022: The NORCAL Spring Online Solos
The WUSPBA-Northern Branch

May 7, 2022: Pipes & Pubs #1
Flatland Brewing Company, Elk Grove, CA

June 11, 2022: Pipes & Pubs #2
Tilted Mash Brewing, Elk Grove, CA

July 16 and 17, 2022: Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival
Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Association

September 2-4, 2022: The 156th Annual Scottish Highland Gathering and Games
The Caledonian Club of San Francisco

September 17, 2022: The NORCAL Fall Online Solos
The WUSPBA- Northern Branch

Of particular note, was our sponsorship of a “Soloists Welcome Tent” at the SF Caledonian Games at Pleasanton this year. We had a shade tent, along with cold water, tea, and coffee for those competing in the solo competitions. Our tent offered soloists a place to stop by and meet some folks that they might not know, to ask questions, and for those in Grade 4 piping we offered some tuning help if requested. We also had information on WUSPBA and the YEC, as well as our Northern Branch events. The tent was well received, and greatly appreciated by the soloists. We hope to continue this for as many of the NB games as is possible. Many thanks to Katie Strausser for making this happen!

The Northern Branch continues to request input from bands and soloists for ideas on workshops and educational events that they would like to see us offer. Joyce MacLaury took a survey of pipe band and drummer soloists, as we thought that perhaps the drummers would like a workshop of some sort this summer... but unfortunately there was very little interest shown. We have some ideas for next year, as we will continue to offer events of interest to our piping and drumming community!

Respectfully Submitted,

WUSPBA Northern Branch Board

Erin Berta, President

Joyce MacLaury, Vice President

Suzan Karayel, Treasurer (and Northern Branch Chief Steward)

Amy Johannsen, Secretary