

WUSPBA - Northern Branch Annual Report-2023

WUSPBA Annual General Meeting
December 2, 2023

The Northern Branch Board entered the 2023 season with enthusiasm for the return of more in-person games and band competitions, which have been missed over the last few years.

Having completed our introductory piobaireachd education events and covering all the suggested tunes in 2022, we only had the “In the Zoom” educational evening on Feb. 15th where Ryan Murray discussed Piobaireachd Memorization and Tune Structure. The recordings are available on our NB website www.wuspbanb.org

Our Northern Branch AGM was held on Saturday, January 21, 2023.

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

The 2024 Northern Branch AGM will be held on January, 27th, at 7pm, on zoom. Any proposed Northern Branch By-Law changes are due 30 days prior to the meeting.

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 2023:

March 4 & 5, 2023: The Redding Bagpipe Competition-2023
Sponsored by the St. Florian Pipers Society

March 25, 2023: Pipes & Pubs #1
IDOL Beer Works, Lodi, CA

April 29, 2023: Pipes & Pubs #2
NorCal Celtic Festival / Blue Note Brewing, Woodland, CA

June 10, 2023: Pipes & Pubs #3
Tilted Mash Brewing, Elk Grove, CA

July 15, 2023: Pipes & Pubs #4
Solano Brewing, Vacaville, CA

September 1-3, 2023: The 157th Annual Scottish Highland Gathering and Games
The Caledonian Club of San Francisco
Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA

One highlight was the return and 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 and Grade 5 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 organizing!

We would also like to thank our NB Contest Stewards, Suzan Karayel, Amara Reddick, and welcome to a new steward George Rodgers.

The Northern Branch continues to request input from our bands and soloists for ideas on workshops and educational events that they would like to see us offer. 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 Contest Steward)

Amy Johannsen, Secretary