

We had a busy and fun 2023 in the WUSPBA Southern Branch. We began the year in March with Pipes in the Park in Griffith Park, which included a picnic for the bands and their families and our annual AGM, at which we adopted updated by-laws. After some of our bands and soloists headed up to the Fabulous Las Vegas Games in April, we held a well-attended solo competition and educational seminars at Glendora High School in May organized by Jen DeBarr and Karen McIlvena, which also featured an incredible Mexican lunch prepared for everyone by Jen's husband Bob. The Costa Mesa Games followed on Memorial Day weekend, and in June the San Diego games rounded out the first half of our year.

In August, the first-ever Pipes and Pubs solo competition in our branch took place in Orange County, organized by Kevin Campbell with assistance from Liz Tubbs. In September, our bands and soloists headed to Pleasanton where they enjoyed a great weekend and beautiful weather. Later that month, our branch held its second Pipes and Pubs solo competition, this time at MacLeod Ale Brewing Co. in Van Nuys. October saw our bands and soloists at the Seaside Games in Ventura, which were a big success. On December 16, we will conclude our busy year with some holiday cheer at the first Port and Piobaireachd dinner. Port and Piobaireachd will be a series held in conjunction with the Piobaireachd Society to promote the playing and appreciation of piobaireachd.

Many, many thanks to the incredible enthusiasm and hard work of everyone who contributed to all of these events!

William M. Walker, President
WUSPBA Southern Branch