

Words and Music

Summer 2018

2018 AGM ALERT!

Please make plans to attend the 2018 WUSPBA AGM.

Information regarding hotels and other important details can be found here: <https://wuspba.org/2018-wuspba-agm/>.

Proposed changes to WUSPBA By-Laws must be submitted to the WUSPBA Executive Secretary (exec-secretary@wuspba.org) by September 12th. If you wish to submit a regrading application, please submit to the WUSPBA Executive Secretary by September 16th.

Is it True, Necessary and Kind?

Drew McPheeters, Vice President
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We are living in a difficult world and in stressful times.

It is a world where people are being divided into opposing camps at every opportunity.



There are harsh words and personal attacks. There is overreaction and demagoguery. There are countless other negative effects of this modern climate that

are making the existence of a refuge even more important.

A Diversion from Stressful Times

To help us endure all the troubles we are forced to confront, we each have one or more passions, diversions, and hobbies. That is what piping and drumming is to most of us. To be sure, there are a few people that are making a full or partial living from the activity, but most of us do this for fun and as a diversion from our normal lives.

This doesn't mean we don't take things seriously. We devote a lot of energy, precious time and money into this avocation, which is unique and satisfying. Sometimes, however, we can take things too seriously. When you are passionate

about something, it is easy to forget you are supposed to be having fun.

Let's Keep a Fun Diversion – Fun!

For this reason, I would like to ask everyone to help keep what is supposed to be a fun diversion a pleasant experience, in so far as is your ability to do so. And this doesn't just mean your fellow pipers and drummers, it extends to volunteers, judges, games organizers and everyone involved along the line.

Yes, sometimes people are getting paid (like judges) although they aren't making a grand living.

Yes, sometimes people are placed in positions where they make decisions that you may not agree with, or that may adversely impact your experience.

That does not mean they are doing something personally. These people are enthusiasts like you, and they may make mistakes, and are exhausted from long days, with too much work to do and having too few people to do it.

Issues Take Away from the Ability to Work on other Issues

In this past year, the WUSPBA Executive Committee has regrettably been forced to handle several issues that could have been easily avoided if people remember that this is just a hobby.

Besides the hurt feelings, or other potential downsides to all of the parties involved, the diversion of the time and energy of the Executive Committee make our getting other things done harder.

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Deadlines

**Fall 2018 issue: October 10, 2018
Winter 2019 issue: January 10, 2019**

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Before You Escalate a Conflict

Before you make a mountain out of a mole hill, before you attribute some personal insult or ill intent against you, and before you escalate a conflict, I hope you remember this sentiment (somewhat dubiously attributed to the Buddha) ...

"If you propose to speak, always ask yourself, is it true, is it necessary, is it kind"

Truth? Necessity? Kind?

Truth is sometimes different for each person and even in contradiction equally true for both parties.

Necessity is often a point that people can forget: In two days will this issue matter or not? What about in two months?

But it is easy to know if something is kind. Would you like to see your mother or your kids treated the way you are about to treat someone else?

Leave the Bitterness of the World Outside of Our World

Those of you who have known me a long time know I haven't always followed my own advice. I have been involved in too many instances where I let my judgement be impaired by projecting some personal insult, offense or damage into the situation.

So please, everyone, let's leave the bitterness of the outside world outside of our world.

There are too many good people to know, and too many good times to enjoy to risk all

that for some petty reason that won't matter in the long run.

The WUSPBA's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Denver Metro area on Oct. 27, 2018. Special hotel rates and light rail and free shuttles make getting around easy – so plan now to attend!

Find more information at
<https://wuspba.org/2018-wuspba-agm/>

R2 System, 2018 AGM and a New Book

By Nate Lorenz, Treasurer
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Alright, we are into another competition season and I hope everyone is reaping the rewards of hard practice. I know we are all working through

tunes for the competitions and I hope each event is running as smoothly as it can.

More Games Using R2 System

I am glad to have seen that so many Games have decided to use the R2 registration platform. It has some great tracking

features and I am glad to get notifications of events and updates as they approach. I would hope to see more use of this as we move forward.

I know there are some unfortunate difficulties surrounding the system as a whole. We have worked to get as much training out there as we can.

We have some materials that can help, and we have some on the board and others recently off the board who are well versed in the R2 system and are happy to help. We have even held training and discussion at the AGM for games sponsors.

Registration Collections Can be Accessed Prior to the Games

Something available for games sponsors using the system is the ability to claim a portion of the R2 registration collections prior to the event. We can send up to 80% of the collected funds a week prior. Some games organizers have been happy to use this feature, as cash-flow timing is an issue for them.

Then a week after the contests, we can send the remaining funds with a final reconciliation (we can withhold the sanction fees, make the R2 payment, and miscellaneous items such as the 2.85% credit card fees we encourage most games to add to the registration fees).

We appreciate the complexity of the system and are hoping it is getting better with all the tweaks each iteration, and especially as an event uses it a second, third and more time.

AGM to be in Denver in October

On another note, I hope the membership is taking notice that the AGM is moving between the branches each year. We were happy to include the newest Desert Branch last year with a successful AGM at the Phoenix Irish Cultural Center. We had a great turnout and some good discussions.

This October we are hosting the AGM in the Intermountain Branch in Denver. We hope to get more discussion and a great turnout.

Be sure to get your proposed changes in soon. The more input we can generate, the more every member has a say in the rules.

New Book Can Help Competitors

Finally, I wanted to make a plug for the newest book I purchased: *Practice Strategies That Cause Musical Improvements (Overcoming Musical Hurdles) (Volume 1)*.

Stephanie Burns, Ph.D., has put together a fantastic easy-to-read look at the strategies we employ to get better as musicians. What makes this book so accessible is that it includes interviews and input from well-known teachers of our genre. It doesn't need to be translated from another discipline, and the input is from teachers who have demonstrated well known results.

This book incorporates so many aspects of learning that we may have touched upon in the past, but may never have distilled into a useful package.

I have appreciated each chapter and hope to use the lessons as I try to build better practice into my musical development. It is the first of a series of books I hope to see on many music stands as we continue to demystify the inner workings of musicians.

Follow Your Dreams!

Jeffrey M. Mann, Band Registrar
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I wanted to take a brief moment to pontificate. I have seen a lot of the work that goes on within the pipe band scene over the past 21

years, not only in WUSPBA, but also all over the United States and with our neighbors to the North.

Additionally, I truly appreciate our piping and drumming collaborative efforts with the pipe band Associations in Australia, New Zealand, South America and Scotland.

We are Family!

One of the things that has been most poignant and memorable in all the work our pipe band associations have endeavored to accomplish is the camaraderie, the learning, and all of the friendships you and I have

made over the years. I believe in essence we are a big family and in that true sense I find we typically act as family. We are happy to see each other at games just like a big family reunion. We have our sibling rivalries as would be expected in any family setting, yet we are happy for the progress and growth of our soloists and band mates. We have seen some of our best come and go.

Don't Get Bogged Down

The older I get, the more I have come to believe that pipe band associations and its members should be more focused on the educational aspect of piping and drumming, both learning and teaching, and less on rules and regulations.

Do not get me wrong. I understand the need for governance of our competitions. I am also very passionate about the level playing field. However, that being said, I am not sure that we need to get bogged down in rules and regulations that seem at times like the IRS Tax Code.

Finding the Passion in Your Piping and Drumming, and Your Life

Focus more on your learning, teaching and competition. Focus more on making good friends, helping your band mates, and loving your life.

You know what? I am going to go out on a limb here. I have a video that has changed my life. Perhaps it could change yours as well. I hope you might see how this could positively affect your ability to channel energy for piping and drumming. If you watch it, I would be interested in knowing your thoughts. I hope it will inspire you to

give it your all and to find passion in what you do.

As an aside, I would like to challenge each of you to do one thing this coming year that you have dreamed about but have always thought it was a bit out of reach.

You have six months to make your plans on how you are going to accomplish this wild dream of yours.

Good luck!

Here is the link to the video:

<https://attheu.utah.edu/facultystaff/conquering-the-impossible/>

Want to Compete in a Different Grade? Apply by Sept. 17!

By Lezlie Mann, Solo Registrar
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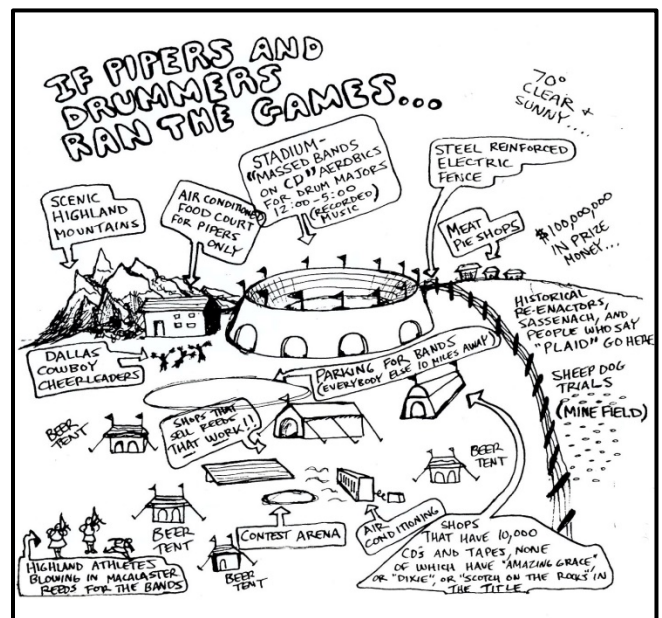
Here we are already half way through another year and I hope everyone has enjoyed this year so far. Our membership has continued to increase, so I

really appreciate all your memberships. It really does make a difference, especially when it comes to posting results.

If you are interested in possibly playing in a different grade for the 2019 season, make sure to submit your application no later than September 17th. The link

is: <https://wuspba.org/solo-and-band-grading-applications/>.

If you have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, email me at the address above.



From *Pipetoon* by Michael Green, The Voice Magazine, Eastern United States Pipe Band Association, Fall 1994.

A Brief History of Pipe Band Competitions

John Thornton, Drum Major, Denver and District Pipe Band
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This article was first published in the September 1994 issue of Words and Music. It has been updated to reflect the 2018 season.

As we come into the height of the 2018 competition season, leaders of pipe bands across the world are beginning to turn their thoughts toward competitions in 2019.

There is much to do: learn new music, clean up the old sets, train new band members and, for most of us, refill the band coffers so that we can go out next year and do it all over again.

This annual cycle of competition, learning, training and fundraising is not new. It's more than 100 years old. But where did it all start?

At the turn of the 19th century, Highland games were popular throughout Scotland, in part due to the interest shown by Queen Victoria. The large crowds that many games organizers of today would be proud to boast of were common, even at some of the smaller events. Parking was not the same problem that we have at the big games of today games tended to be closer in Scotland than in the vastness of the Western U.S., and many people walked or used bicycles. Early accounts often mention thousands of bikes parked at the games. One early account even has the bass drum player transporting the drum on his back as he cycled to competitions.

While pipe bands played and competed locally, the first major band contest took place at the Cowal Highland Gathering in 1906. The winner was a band from the Highland Light Infantry led by Pipe Major I. Macdougall Gillies. The prize was the Argyll Shield, a trophy designed by Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise.

For the first three years, only military bands competed. In 1909, Sir Harry Lauder, the famous Scottish singer and comedian, commissioned a special trophy for civilian bands. Stonehouse Pipe Band won the

trophy that year.

Competitions were held annually until 1913, when the cycle was broken by World War I. It is interesting to note that of the eight competitions held from 1906 to 1913, seven were won by military bands. And of these seven "military victories," six were won by the Highland Light Infantry all led by Pipe Major Gillies.

Even in those days, bands suffered through massed bands to please the crowds and pay their way. Accounts report that the first massed bands in 1906 marched around the arena playing "The Campbells are Coming" and "The Glendaruel Highlanders." Massed bands of several hundred pipers and drummers were not uncommon.

Competitions resumed in 1919 and continued unbroken up through 1939. In 1946, after World War II, they resumed and have continued until the present. In 1947, they became officially known as the World Pipe Band Championships, with competition as fierce as ever.

For much of this information, I'm indebted to David Webster's fine book, *Scottish Highland Games*, published in 1973. Out-of-print, it can still be obtained from vendors at many of our games. It is an interestingly book and is well worth reading.

Answers to Puzzle (page 8)

- Angus, McFuddle, crossing noises, 9:00
- Dugal, OneGillie, forgot doublings, 9:40
- Fergus, Loudscreech, drooled on judge, 10:00
- Katie, NoChanter, choked, 9:20
- Mairi, Shortkilt, dropped pipes, 10:20

Piobaireachd Contest

John Thornton, Drum Major, Denver and District Pipe Band

This puzzle was published in the Fall 2003 issue of Words & Music.

Five budding pipers were anxious to show off their skills at Piobaireachd, the classical music of the bagpipes. From the clues provided below, can you work out each piper's surname, the fault for which he or she lost points, and their performance time? Hint: Men are Angus, Dugal and Fergus; women are Katie and Mairi.

1. Angus, whose surname wasn't Shortkilt, played first; he wasn't the one who slobbered on the judge.
2. One of the women, whose surname wasn't OneGillie, choked badly during her 9:20 am performance.
3. Mairi, whose surname wasn't Loudscreech, dropped her pipes on the judge's foot; she didn't play before 10:00 am. Competitor NoChanter played at 9:20 am.
4. Dugal OneGillie, who played before 10 am, forgot his doublings.
5. The judge marked McFuddle down for crossing noises; one of the women didn't play at 10:00 am.

Answers on page 7

	Loudscreech	McFuddle	NoChanter	OneGillie	Shortkilt	9:00	9:20	9:40	10:00	10:20	Crossing Noises	Choked	Dropped Pipes	Forgot Doublings	Drooled on Judge
Angus															
Dugal															
Fergus															
Katie															
Mairi															
Crossing Noises															
Choked															
Dropped Pipes															
Forgot Doublings															
Drooled on Judge															
9:00															
9:20															
9:40															
10:00															
10:20															

First Name	Surname	Fault	Performance Time