

**Special Meeting/Annual General Meeting
Western United States Pipe Band Association
11 November 2006
Clarion Emerald Springs, Las Vegas, Nevada**

I. Call to order 9:05 a.m.

II. Welcomes and introductions

Past President Stuart Baker chaired the meeting.

Games introductions: San Diego, Colorado Scottish Festival, Jackson Hole Scottish Festival, Campbell Highland Games, Las Vegas Games, US Scottish Highland Games, Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Festival

III. Minutes from 2006

Approved with one correction, changed “regarding” to “regrading” in the Music Board report, 5.c.

IV. Quorum

Bylaws state that one third of registered bands constitute a quorum. Of 52 paid bands, 18 constituted a quorum, and 29 bands were present.

V. Vote on Bylaws Proposal #1, changing the date of the AGM to the last quarter of the year. (See Appendix for all proposed changes.)

1. PASSED—the AGM will now be held during the last quarter of the year. Concerns were raised about scheduling it over Veterans’ Day Weekend, and the Executive Committee will keep this in mind when scheduling next November’s AGM.
2. Per this vote, this meeting then became the new AGM, the second of 2006, and other business could proceed.

VI. Executive Committee Reports

1. President: Andrew Morrill

There were many positives this year: Games were generally well-run. The quality of piping and drumming is rising across the association. He commended and thanked everyone for the work they do.

2. Vice President: Jan Richey

Organizing the AGM is the main job of the Vice President. Besides association business, the focus for this meeting was education. The teachers are Ken Sutherland, Davey MacAdam, Bruce Gandy, and Duncan Millar, and workshop topics include ensemble playing, MSR playing in a band vs. solo, Silver Medal tunes, scoresheet writing, and tenor drumming, among others.

3. Treasurer: Scotty Dean

He presented 2006 financials from last February through this AGM (*approved as presented*), and the 2007 projected budget.

4. Executive Secretary: Lise Nelson

- A. The bylaws state that the Executive Secretary will produce an Annual Report, but there is no record of them ever having been produced. It will be produced for 2006.
- B. This year the association was able to distribute double educational funds to the branches. This is not certain to continue, but if the funds are available, it will.

- C. Andrew Lenz, is doing a great job as webmaster, and Bill Tubbs has produced an excellent newsletter.
- D. The Yahoo announcement-only group is an excellent communication tool, and all members are urged to join.

5. Sanctioning Secretary: Sue Altmeyer

The Sanctioning Secretary and the Executive Secretary positions were split this year, to streamline the sanctioning process. Feedback suggests that it is working, that members are pleased with the faster turnaround time. Sue thanked games sponsors for having their paperwork in order. Sue has updated the instructions on the website.

6. Solo Registrar: Elaine Hoffman

The association currently has 551 solo members, 46 associate members, and 31 adjudicator members. The new solo forms include a ranking system, which not everyone is accustomed to yet. Elaine asked that judges try to do better job of completely filling out forms. Registrars are still missing results from two games. In response to questions received throughout the season, she reminded attendees that individual leets are counted separately and that's how results are posted on website.

7. Band Registrar: Jeff Mann

Currently there are 52 member bands and nine associate bands.

8. Great Basin Branch: Rob Rowe for Larry Erdman

There are nine bands in Utah and Idaho. For their branch workshop, they brought in Mickie Lujan to lead a massed bands workshop. The branch has formed a committee to work with the Utah Scottish Festival to solve problems. The branch is also planning a workshop using local people for education.

9. Intermountain Branch: Skip Ruleman

The branch games at Hudson Gardens lost money this year, so the branch would like to hook up with an existing festival that doesn't have competitions, and add and run the competitions. He also announced the 2006 Intermountain Branch Champions.

10. Northern Branch: Liz Tubbs

There are 12 competing bands and 6 associate bands in the branch. Branch-sponsored workshops will continue. The Monterey games will move to July 6-7 for 2007.

11. Southern Branch:

John Partenan said that elected branch president Lanier "Bull" Henderson asked him to be Vice President some time ago. He reported that branch has done nothing, that he has not seen Bull, and asked if anyone else has seen him and if they have to contact him, John.

12. Newsletter: Liz Tubbs for editor Bill Tubbs

All newsletters have been timely, and many people have opted for electronic rather than paper delivery. Various ideas have been discussed, including once again accepting advertising. She asked for pictures and articles from membership.

13. Webmaster: Lise Nelson read the report sent by Andrew Lenz

As with last year, there have been numerous changes to the website. Since January, as webmaster, I've had over 400 messages regarding WUSPBA activities. These include band contact information changes, results updates, games sanctioning changes, instructor updates, adjudicator list updates, general news to be added to the home page, informational postings to

the website for the AGM, the digital version of the Words & Music newsletter, questions from members regarding results and aggregate scoring along with other correspondence.

In March, I set up a Yahoo! group, WUSPBA News, as a means of sending out time sensitive messages to members. As of November 8th, we had 136 individuals signed up for this service. In the last 8 months we've sent 29 messages via this system, an average of 3.6 per month.

WUPSBA.org home page visits are up significantly, about 30%, to about 2,500 visits per month. However, overall, the website is seeing less visitors this year (about 5,000 per month) than last year (about 7,000 per month). I suspect that this is due to people relying on the WUSPBAnews Yahoo! group for competition results updates rather than checking the site every day or every week to see if new results have been posted.

Almost all website change requests made of me have been completed the same day. I have to admit the one area where my speed is lacking is in the addition of judge biographies to the site. Andrew Hoinacki has provided a few of these now and I've been tardy getting these online. This will be happening soon.

Since we split the Registrar position into two, the results on the website have also been split into a Solo section as well as Band section. I'll continue to make organizational changes to the site as opportunities make themselves apparent.

Everything appears to be running smoothly and I anticipate no changes to this state of affairs.

14. Music Board: Campbell Naismith

- A. Music Board members are doing a staggered rotation, a system which is working well. Tom Foley and Liza MacAdam have rotated out, and Bob Mason and Andrew Hoinacki have rotated in, joining Eoin McMahon and Ken Sutherland. Eoin will be leaving, but will continue to assist.
- B. The Adjudicator Certification Program is in the final stages. Every existing judge on the current list is in direct contact with Music Board members, to offer them encouragement and assistance to get through the program. By November 2007 testing should be completed.
- C. The next phase will be to move to an educational/musical orientation, beginning with the afternoon workshops at this AGM.
- D. The apprentice program is going well, good progress. The Music Board recognizes the need for better communication between the board, contest sponsors and apprentices to make sure have right forms and good coordination.
- E. Solo tenor drumming will also be a focus, in our association and others. The push is to define it better, develop a language for the techniques.
- F. Regrading: nothing is final at present, though several band regradings are under consideration.
- G. Campbell mentioned the Games Sponsor meeting. He asked that organizers please look to make sure the judge has filled the sheet out completely—all ANAPBA judges should know to do it, and those from outside need to be encouraged. Campbell does have helper sheets that he will post onto website. He also asked that sponsors please award prizes for all six top places.
- H. Top WUSPBA soloists have been invited to several invitational contests and have done very well. The WUSPBA travel stipend is a big help.
- I. Bands—The LA Scotts took 3rd in NA Championship/Maxville. Ken Sutherland did well when he competed in Scotland.
- J. Website: the Music Board will put judging info up on website, including bios, photos and guidelines.

VI. Old Business

Tabled from February 2006: Removal of officers; no action.

Contest Rules rewrite: no action.

VII. New Business

1. Overview of Contest Organizers meeting

Present were Jackson (Wyoming), Longs Peak (Colorado), Campbell (California), San Diego (California). The Executive Committee thanked them for doing what they do. Those present discussed concerns, including the trend toward dropping attendance across North America. Campbell Naismith asked them to consider giving awards for top six places, and getting judges to fill out the forms properly.

2. Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations (ANAPBA)

WUSPBA is hosting the yearly Summit, January 26-28, 2007, in Las Vegas. The presidents of RSPBA (Kevin Reilly) & Australia (Greg Gordon) will be in attendance.

VIII. Bylaws and contest rules

1. Bylaws

#2: General cleanup of miscellaneous language

Sponsored by Executive Committee
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

#3: Adjudicators prohibited from competing at a games at which they are also adjudicating

Sponsored by Jeff Mann
WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

#4: **Late fees for bands & soloists:** Amend paragraph 2.2.2, to make provision for multiple members in household.

AMENDMENT: After "renewing members" add: Late fees for individual family members shall be \$10.00 per member.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Contest Rules

#1: Instructor Rule

Sponsored by the Kevin Blandford Memorial band
After much discussion, the rule prohibiting instructors from serving as the Pipe Major or the Drum Sergeant was reversed.

PASSED FOR: 17 bands, 5 adjudicators and games sponsors. **AGAINST:** 12 bands, 12 adjudicators and games sponsors

#2: New system to determine Drum Major Champion of Champions

Sponsored by Mickie Lujan-Shaw
Not voted upon because the Drum Major Committee was not in attendance to present the proposal.

IX. Elections of officers:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominated</u>
Vice President ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION	Jan Richey
Treasurer ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION	Scotty Dean

Sanctioning Secretary
ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION
Solo Registrar
ELECTED BY ACCLMATION

Elaine Hoffman

Todd Brown

X. Meeting adjourned at 11:12

Appendix: full text of proposed changes to Bylaws and Contest Rules

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WUSPBA BY-LAWS & CONTEST RULES NOVEMBER 11, 2006 LAS VEGAS, NV:

Text listed with ~~strikeout~~ is to be deleted and text listed as CAPITALIZED is to be inserted (excluding WUSPBA acronym).

BY-LAWS

Proposal #1: Changes required to move the AGM from 1ST quarter of year (Feb) to last quarter of year (Nov).
Submitted by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION

2. Classes of Membership:

2.1. Band Memberships are in one of four categories:

2.1.1 Active Bands:

(b) Annual fees of \$300 will be for a calendar year and will be due no later than ~~the Monday following the first Saturday in February.~~ JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR.

...

2.1.2 Juvenile Bands:

(b) Annual fees of \$50 will be for a calendar year and will be due no later than ~~Monday following the first Saturday in February.~~ JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR.

2.1.3 Associate Bands:

(b) Annual fees of \$40 will be for a calendar year and will be due no later than ~~Monday following the first Saturday in February.~~ JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR.

...

2.2.2 Solo Competitors:

(a) Solo competitors are pipers, drummers, or drum majors regardless of geographical location who become eligible to compete in WUSPBA sanctioned solo events upon payment of annual fees of \$25 payable no later than ~~the Monday following the first weekend in February.~~ JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR.

...

2.2.3 Adjudicator Members:

(a) Adjudicators are pipers, drummers, or drum majors residing within the Western United States who become eligible to judge WUSPBA events upon approval by the Music Board and payment of either solo fees or annual fees of \$20, PAYABLE BY JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR.

...

Article IV – OFFICERS

2. Election of Officers:

2.4 Nominations: Any WUSPBA member may submit nominations for officers to the Executive Secretary no later than ~~December 1~~ 40 DAYS BEFORE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

2.5 Publication of Nominees: The names of members who have been nominated and who have agreed to be candidates will be printed in the ~~December~~ FALL issue of the WUSPBA newsletter, IF NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY PUBLICATION DATE. ADDITIONALLY, NOMINATIONS WILL BE POSTED TO THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE IF RECEIVED AT LEAST 40 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE AGM.

9. Treasurer Duties:

9.3 AGM Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement through ~~December 31~~ THE MONTH END PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR OF OPERATIONS of ~~each year~~ for the approval of the Executive Committee and presentation at the Annual General Meeting, after which

he or she shall submit the books, accounts and bank books to the appointed Audit committee upon demand for review.

9.5 Audit: The Treasurer shall present a financial statement to the membership at each Annual General Meeting documenting the fiscal status of the Association as of ~~December 31~~ THE MONTH END PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR OF OPERATIONS ~~of the previous year.~~

ARTICLE V – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting:

1.1 Time: The annual meeting of the Association shall be held during the first LAST three months of the calendar year.

Proposal #2: General cleanup and clarification of miscellaneous language. Submitted by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. **Membership:** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Executive Secretary, SANCTIONING SECRETARY, SOLO Registrar, BAND REGISTRAR, Treasurer, and the Presidents of the Branches of the Association.

Article IV – OFFICERS

5. Executive Secretary Duties:

5.1 ...

5.2 Correspondence: The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence of the association, INCLUDING PAPERWORK RELATING TO DISPUTES, AS OUTLINED IN ARTICLE XVI.

5.3 ...

5.4 Minutes: The Executive Secretary shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Committee and ~~the minutes of all members' meetings in books provided for such purposes.~~ THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AND POST AGM MINUTES ON THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE WITHIN 40 DAYS OF THE AGM.

ARTICLE XIV – GRADING

2.1 Use of grading chart: The Executive Committee shall have the power to consider the Registrar's grading chart (Article IV SectionS 6 7 AND 8) when annual regrading occurs.

Proposal #3: Limiting competition for adjudicators at the same event. Submitted by Jeff Mann, solo member.

Article XIII Judges

4. **Conflict of Interest:** No judge shall be allowed to judge a contest in which his or her own band is competing. NO BAND OR SOLO ADJUDICATOR SHALL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE AT A VENUE THAT S/HE IS ADJUDICATING EXCEPT IN RARE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE PERMISSION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR RECOMMENDATION FROM THE MUSIC BOARD.

Proposal #4: Clarification regarding late fees for bands and individual members. Submitted by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION

2. Classes of Membership:

2.1. Band Memberships are in one of four categories:

2.1.1 Active Bands:

(c) Annual fees received after that time will be \$400 FOR RENEWING MEMBERS. NEW MEMBERS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LATE FEES.

...

2.1.2 Juvenile Bands:

(c) Annual fees received after that time will be \$75 FOR RENEWING MEMBERS. NEW MEMBERS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LATE FEES.

2.1.3 Associate Bands:

(c) Annual fees received after that time will be \$60 FOR RENEWING MEMBERS. NEW MEMBERS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LATE FEES.

2.2.2 Solo Competitors:

(d) Late fees: Annual fees received after the DEADLINE ~~Monday following the first weekend in February~~ will be \$35 FOR RENEWING MEMBERS. NEW MEMBERS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LATE FEES.

2.2.3 Adjudicator Members:

(b) LATE FEES: ANNUAL FEES RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL BE \$30 FOR RENEWING MEMBERS. NEW MEMBERS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LATE FEES.

CONTEST RULES

Proposal #1: Remove restriction of position in band by the instructor(s). Submitted by the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band, Grade IV.

Article VII: BAND CONTEST RULES

Section 3, h, ii. One Person, One Band: Grade IV bands may register, for the competition season, one piping instructor and one drumming instructor from within the WUSPBA who is also registered with another, higher-graded WUSPBA band. The instructor(s) shall not be permitted to make up the minimum number of pipers or drummers required for Grade IV competition. ~~The instructor(s) may not play the lead side drum, bass, or act as Pipe Major in competition.~~ A higher-grade band may have more than one piper or drummer who serve as instructors of Grade IV bands. ~~(Takes effect 90 days from the AGM, on May 5, 2006.~~

Proposal #2: Drum Major Champion of Champions

Submitted by the WUSPBA Drum Major Committee

Part VI. Rules and Recommendations for Drum Major Competitions

Games sponsors do not have to offer these events. However, if a drum major competition is offered with no juvenile category then a registered juvenile competitor may compete in the open class for that contest only. ~~Their score will not count toward the Champion of Champions award.~~

Five games will be designated at the beginning of each competition season as Major Championships and points will be awarded for the first five placing as follows:

- 1st place = 5 points
- 2nd place = 4 points
- 3rd place = 3 points
- 4th place = 2 points
- 5th place = 1 point

If a games holds contests on both Saturday and Sunday, points will be awarded based on each day's competition, not aggregate scores. If the final tally of points at the end of the season results in a tie, the combined flourishing scores of the competitors that are tied will be tallied and a winner chosen on a flourishing preference. Two of the games would be permanent: Sacramento Valley Scottish Games and Gathering in Woodland, CA and the United Scottish Society Highland Gathering in Pomona, CA. The last three championships would rotate to different games each year and would be selected by WUSPBA. The requirements for games to host a Major Championship are: a proper size field, medals for five places, prize money, and a sanctioned judge from the established WUSPBA panel, or a judge from one of the RSPBA judging panels.