



Minutes
Western United States Pipe Band Association
Annual General Meeting
17 November 2007
Clarion Emerald Springs Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

I. Meeting was called to order at 9:24 a.m.

II. Quorum: A quorum was present, but barely.

III. Welcomes and introductions

President Andrew Morrill welcomed everyone, then asked for ideas on how to increase attendance at the AGM in order that a quorum will be met easily.

Games Sponsor present: Monterrey; Queen Mary Jackson, Las Vegas, Campbell, Loch Lomond, Sacramento, Mt. Tamalpais, Tucson.

IV. Minutes from November 2006: Approved

V. Executive Committee Reports

A. President: Andrew Morrill:

- **Champion of Champion recognition plaques:** were formerly given out at the AGM, but since there are still games after the new date of the AGM, that is no longer possible. The Champion of Champions will be determined as soon after the last contest as possible. Award plaques will be mailed to them and they will be recognized in *Words & Music*, and on the association website. Branch presidents are asked to do some sort of appropriate recognition for Champions in their branches.
- **Budget surplus:** the Executive Committee has decided to give it back to branches, a per-band amount to be determined at the end of the fiscal year. Questions were raised as to knowing that the funds were used for the intended purpose. Branch boards are expected to keep track of how the funds are spent, and branch presidents asked to present this information in their 2008 reports at the AGM.

B. Vice President: Jan Richey

- **AGM location:** Some people have asked why we don't go to a bigger, casino-oriented hotel. The Clarion hotel is easy to work with, and Jan has found that bigger hotels are not responsive to calls from little organizations. For time being it makes sense to stay at the Clarion. She asked that all attendees please stay at the hotel because helps our costs.

- Workshop presenters are from the Alberta Caledonian pipe band: piper Sean Sommers, and drummer Peter Hendrickson.
- The games sponsor meeting on Friday night was well attended and informative. The Executive Committee appreciated it because we need to hear what's working and what sponsors might need help with.

C. Treasurer: Scotty Dean

- The November 2007 Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.
- Scotty presented figures from 2006, YTD 2007, and the proposed budget for 2008. He invited anyone who would like further detail to contact him.
- He reminded people that WUSPBA is a 501c3 so donations are tax-deductible.

D. Executive Secretary: Lise Nelson

- The Executive Committee very much appreciates the efforts of outgoing newsletter editor, Bill Tubbs. Andrew Lenz is the new editor.
- The EC communicates largely through email, with occasional conference calls, which are difficult to arrange given members' schedules. There are also several meetings at the AGM.
- Three people were voted into Life Membership: Jimmy McColl, John Massie, and Bill Merriman.

E. Sanctioning Secretary: Martin Johnson, not in attendance, no report.

F. Solo Registrar: Todd Brown:

There are 506 soloists in the association: 417 pipers, 56 side drummers, 27 tenor drummers, and 13 drum majors. Todd thanked sponsors for organizing contests for members to compete in.

G. Band Registrar: Jeff Mann

- There are 92 currently or previously registered bands, of which 26 are not active. Currently there are 56 bands: 1 Grade I, 7 Grade III, 37 Grade IV, 2 Juvenile, 9 Associate.
- There have been many transfers of people between bands, especially around big games. Jeff reminded people that players cannot transfer downward to a lower-grade band without the permission of the Executive Committee.

H. Great Basin Branch: BJ Gunn

The branch has been working hard and has made great strides in organization. It is now incorporated, and looking at 501c3 status. They have a bank account. They will hold a WUSPBA Representative training. He said the board has done a great job.

I. Intermountain Branch: Skip Ruleman

The branch is working with the Colorado Irish Festival to sponsor a band and solo contest at the Festival.

J. Northern Branch: Liz Tubbs

The branch AGM was held the 1st weekend in October. The branch will be organizing a couple of solo events, and they are organizing two schools.

K. Southern Branch: John Partenan

The branch AGM will be held on the Saturday of the Queen Mary. The branch has given scholarships and other stipends to branch members. There will be a WUSPBA Representative at every games, and

John asked that people please come to them with problems and suggestions. The Memorial Day games will be back in Costa Mesa this year, not Pomona.

L. Words & Music Newsletter: Bill Tubbs, not present. The new editor is Andrew Lenz.

M. Webmaster: Andrew Lenz

- There are 38 new members to the Yahoo newsgroup, and 56 messages have been sent using that system. In the coming year, games entry forms will be announced on the site. The home page of the website received 30,500 visits in a year, 2550 visits/month.
- Most changes and updates are completed within a day. In future, a sample judge contract will be posted, as well as revised manuals. We will also be adding a donation tab, since WUSPBA is a non-profit organization that can accept donations.
- Online payment of dues will be developed in the next few weeks. A “current news” box will be added at the top of home page.
- Games sponsors are encouraged to keep their information up to date.

Andrew received various comments and suggestions from attendees:

- Not everyone has received the link to the electronic version of the newsletter.
- Perhaps the default should be to receive the newsletter electronically.
- Perhaps the subscription cost should be increased for those who want paper copies mailed to them. This would require a bylaws change.
- Since results are available on the website, the newsletter doesn't have to include them, which would reduce the size.
- More AGM details should be included.

N. Music Board: Ken Sutherland:

- The primary focus of the last few years has been the Adjudicator Certification program, and a milestone has been reached, in that all judges retained on the list have passed the exams
- Band recommendations: move Wasatch & District to Grade III, LA Scots Grade IV to Grade III.
- Adjudicator Program:
 - The current program started late 2003. There are currently 18 band judges, 20 solo judges, 7 band and solo drumming. As of the next time exams are offered, people who haven't taken it will be dropped. The L designation is being removed, and all who've passed the exam will be B judges. The program will continue to be reviewed, but it has been successful in developing judges and is a repeatable, predictable process.
 - Currently, 6 pipers and 4 drummers are moving through the shadowing program. 3 pipers and 2 drummers have been added to the adjudicator list. 12 more individuals have expressed interest.
 - An ongoing concern is having adequate numbers of judges in each branch. Southern Branch has 13 piping, 4 drumming and 11 ensemble judges. Northern Branch has 6 piping, 2 drumming, 6 ensemble. Intermountain Branch has 3 piping, 1 drumming and 3 ensemble. Great Basin Branch has no piping, 1 drumming and no ensemble judges. The Music Board is in the process of developing more judges in Intermountain and Great Basin Branches.
 - 2008 plans: Ensemble workshops are planned. The piobaireachd exam will be redone to make it more relevant. Campbell Naismith is leading this effort, looking to Jimmy McColl and Ian Whitelaw for curriculum.
 - The Music Board is also in the process of developing curriculum for bass and tenor qualifications.

- Currently, WUSPBA soloists are self-promoting. The Music Board is looking into determining if a more formal process should be developed for grading soloists. The solo sheets will help, if judges will fill them out properly. The Board is also looking at splitting grades into under 18 years old and over.
- Ken would like to have a standard summary sheet to hand to judges to explain what to look for in each event. When judges come from other associations they don't always know WUSPBA rules
- Some of our amateur soloists have some good soloists who've done well in high-end contests in other parts of the US.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

Alliance of North American Pipe Band Association (ANAPBA) meeting, hosted by WUSPBA in Las Vegas in January 2007

- Representatives from Australia & New Zealand were present, as well as all of the ANAPBA regions. It was noted that all of Australia is one association, with many of same problems WUSPBA has with geography.
- Meetings will now be every two years because most of the work to cooperate and standardize has been done. There is nothing big to change, with as much as has been accomplished in the last few years.
- In 2009 the meeting will be in Toronto.

VIII. Bylaws & Contest Rules

See end of minutes for results.

VIX. Election of officers

President: Andrew Morrill

Executive Secretary: Jeff Mann

Band Registrar: Kylene Tanner

SLATE PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Western United States Pipe Band Association 2007 Proposed changes to Bylaws and Contest Rules

Proposal 1: Contest Rules, Part VI. Rules and Recommendations for Drum Major Competitions

Proposed by Drum Major Mickie Shaw PASSED with some changes, IN CAPS

Current:

Solo Drum Major competition is organized into two categories, Adult/Open Class and Under 18 Juvenile Class. Competitors shall be confined to their registered class. A juvenile may register with WUSPBA as, or move up to Adult/Open Class and will no longer be allowed to compete in juvenile 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.

CHANGED TO:

Renumber the above as Section 1 and add Section 2 as follows:

2. Drum Major Champion of Champions

a. Major Championships. AT LEAST five games are to be designated as Major Championships by WUSPBA prior to the start of the competition year. At these games, points are to be awarded for the first five placings on each day of competition.

The requirements for games to host a Major Championship are: a proper size field, trophy or medals, prize money FOR OPEN COMPETITORS, and a sanctioned judge from the established WUSPBA panel, RSPBA OR RECIPROCAL ASSOCIATION. ALL CONTESTS WILL BE RUN ACCORDING TO RSPBA RULES AND REGULATIONS.

b. Scoring

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

c. Aggregate winners. Some Games Sponsors award Aggregate winners according to their own rules. These scores will not count toward the Champion of Champions. Only the scoring as detailed in Section 2b are to be used to determine the Champion of Champions.

d. Ties. If any competitors are tied, the winner is to be determined by flourishing preference. If the flourishing scores are tied, Marching and Department score will be used to determine the Champion.

Proposal 2: Change to Contest Rules, Part VII, Band Contest Rules, Section 3, Band Registration, Section h.iii. Transfer

Proposed by the Executive Committee. **PASSED with changes.** [Note: The changes were somewhat complex. Without a projector to publish agreed-upon edits, the Executive Secretary could not easily make and show changes to the AGM attendees. In the interests of time it was agreed that the ES would edit the rule outside of the AGM to incorporate the agreed-upon changes These changes have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.]

iii). Transfer: A player registered with one band may, within the period of registration, transfer only once to another. All transfers must be declared to the WUSPBA Band Registrar in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the first contest in which that player will compete with the gaining band.

In certain unique circumstances, a player who has previously transferred once to another band may request the Association to grant an exception and allow a second transfer to another band. The request shall be in writing and disclose the nature of his OR her special circumstances. No transfer shall be allowed unless the transfer is approved by the Executive committee. The special request must be submitted to the Band Registrar at least thirty (30) days prior to the first contest in which the player

will compete with the gaining band, and must be acted up by the WUSPBA Executive Committee within 10 days after the request is received.
No change to the rest of the paragraphs in this section.

Proposal 3: Change to Contest Rules, Part VII, Band Contest Rules, Section 5d, Challenging Up

Proposed by Seamus Coyne and Andrew Hoinacki. No second, not voted upon.

Proposal 4: Change to Contest Rules Part VII, Section 3.h.i, Period of Registration

Proposed by the Executive Committee PASSED

Proposal 5: Contest Rules, Part VIII, Massed Bands

Non-binding Resolution to be added at end of Part VIII, proposed by Jan Richey and Bill McKown
Games Procedural Recommendation, to be recommended to all games and Drum Majors

It was decided not to put this in contest rules, but can be used as a recommendation where deemed necessary and appropriate.

Amazing Grace

Whereas, it has been brought to the attention of the WUSPBA Executive Committee and Music Board that the massed bands playing of Amazing Grace is often of poor quality in terms of unison, especially in the middle and back ranks.

Whereas, consistent with the stated WUSPBA Bylaw objective of "promoting pipe band music" and the WUSPBA Code of Conduct goal to "promote the advancement of pipe band music"

It is therefore resolved and recommended that Drum Majors participating at WUSPBA massed band events during the playing of Amazing Grace:

1. Not use the symphonic style of conducting which is difficult for many pipers to follow.
2. In lieu of using any symphonic style conducting, to use the mace in a simple down/up motion to replicate the foot beat of the solo piper.

Further it is resolved and recommended that if a Drum Major is not participating at massed bands the solo piper be positioned so as to provide maximum visibility to as many massed band pipers as possible and to utilize a pronounced foot beat in order to provide massed band pipers the best possible visual timing reference.

Proposal 6: "Housekeeping" Correction to Bylaws, Article III, Section 2.2.6(a), Life Membership

Proposed by the Executive Committee
PASSED

Proposal 7: "Housekeeping" Change to Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2.4, Nominations of Officers

Proposed by the Executive Committee
PASSED