

Bylaws Proposal – Branch Financial Support

Submitted by John Eric Partanen, President of the Southern Branch

At present our Bylaws are as follows:

ARTICLE VII - BRANCHES

Paragraph 6, Sub-Paragraph 6.5 Branch Financial Support

6.5.1 Remission of Funds from the Association: The Treasurer of the Association shall remit to the Treasurer of each branch annually the sum of \$10.00 for each band that has paid its membership fee.

6.5.2 Education Fund: Branches in good standing shall be entitled to apply for support from the educational fund to sponsor educational workshops for band and solo members.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

Paragraph 6, Sub-Paragraph 6.5 Branch Financial Support

6.5.1 Remission of Funds by the Association to the Branches of the Association: The Treasurer of the Association shall remit to the Treasurer of each branch the sum of not less than \$50.00, and no more than \$100.00 for each band, the exact amount to be determined by the Executive Committee, that has paid their membership fees not later than June let of the calendar year. The Treasurer of the Association shall remit to the Treasurer of each branch the sum of \$5.00 for each solo member that has paid their membership fees not later than June let of the calendar year. The Treasurer of the Association shall remit to the Treasurer of each branch the sum of \$20.00 for each sanctioned band contest and solo contest held Within the branch for the calendar year at the Association's Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer of each branch shall prepare a written and oral financial summary report to be presented at the Association's Annual General Meeting on the expenditure of funds remitted by the Association, the written portion of these reports to be attached to and be a permanent part of the Association's proceedings.

6.5.2 Special Education Fund: Branches may apply for additional funding of special workshops and seminars held within their branch areas for bands, soloists, and adjudicators. Branches must apply in writing no later 180 days in advance of the special workshop or seminar. Approval of the Executive Committee is required for the funding of special Workshops and seminars. Special workshops and seminars are above and beyond most piping and drumming schools for which funds are available per paragraph 6.5.1.

Argument in FAVOR of this Proposal:

Each branch of the Association performs the good work of the Association by virtue of its personal contact with bands, solo members, and contest sponsors. The branches have traditionally supported and funded piping and drumming schools, awarded scholarships to individuals to attend these schools and other special events, provided a WUSPBA representative at each contest site, and awarded branch championships. Each branch also sponsors or assists with the sponsorship of special band and solo contests. All of these activities are included in the actual good work of the Association, but require funding. The current remission of \$10.00 per band, per the bylaws, to the branches within their area is not adequate to perform these tasks. In the past several years, the Association has in fact recognized this and has generously funded each of the branches with about \$100.00 per band to continue doing the good work of the Association. However, the bylaws have not been updated to reflect this funding. The branches have come to depend on this funding. This proposed bylaws change puts in place a mechanism that the branches can depend upon for funding, and encourages each branch to have its band, solo, and contest sponsors send in their fees in a timely manner so that they may continue with the good work done by the Association.

Argument AGAINST this Proposal:

The current remission of funds is adequate and need not be changed, If the branches require additional funding they may do so per paragraph 6.5.2 as is currently written. Paragraph 6.6 Branch Dues allows each branch to "impose a yearly assessment" to fund branch projects and expenses and to accept donations or hold independent fund raising events. The branches should cover their own expenses and activities.

Argument AGAINST the Argument AGAINST this Proposal:

Bands and solo members WILL NOT pay the branch yearly assessment. They ARE NOT likely to support fund raising events by the branches as they themselves need to raise money in support of the costs for operating and maintaining bands, and for getting to as many band and solo contests per year as possible. Most band and solo members already believe our membership fees are high, and receive little or nothing in return from annual payment of these fees to the Association. Therefore a genuine and dependable mechanism to fund the activities of the branches is required as in this proposed bylaws change.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Eric Partanen, PhD
President of the Southern Branch

