



MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 2019, 1pm



MINUTES

Elected Officers, 2019:

President:	Jim Sim	Regional Rep' (East):	Keith Murphy
Vice President:	Scott McCawley	Regional Rep' (Central):	Andrew Lockwood
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stuart Barr	Regional Rep' (Central):	Dan Tesch
Registrar – Bands:	Tad Myers	Regional Rep' (West):	Cliff Davis
Registrar – Solos:	Tom Jewell		

Appointed Positions, 2019:

Chief Steward:	Sherry Sievewright	Education Committee Chair:	Mike Kotch
Music Board Chair:	Tom Weithers	Website Administrator:	Steve Stuart
Score Keeper:	Julie Parry		

1. **Call to order** Jim Sim

Jim Sim called the meeting to order at 1:11pm

2. **Roll call of member bands** Stuart Barr

Stuart read the roll of member bands.

The following bands had representatives in attendance, either in person, or online:

Celtic Cross, Chicago Stockyard Kilty Gr4 and Gr5, City of Chicago Gr3 and Gr5, Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville, Flint Scottish, Fountain Trust, Grand Rapids and District, Grand Traverse, Greater Midwest, Madison, Michigan Scottish, Midlothian Scottish, Minnesota Police, Muskegon Regional Police, The Alliance, Turlach Ur Gr3 and Gr5, Twin Cities Metro

This represents 20 bands in attendance, out of 48 member bands. There were 44 individuals in the room, and over 24 online, for 66 total.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the 2018 AGM** Stuart Barr

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved

4. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** Stuart Barr

Stuart presented the report, which is attached.

Jim thanked Stuart for quarterly reporting of finances to the Board in a wholly professional manner and for preparation of and adherence to the budget.

The Report was approved.

5. **Registrar's Report – Band** Tad Myers

Jim presented Tad's report (attached), since Tad was online. The MWPBA had 48 band members in 2019, which is the highest in a decade. Jim remarked that other bands are very welcome to join as sustaining members.

The Report was approved.

6. **Registrar's Report – Solos**

Tom Jewell

Tom presented his report, which is attached.

Jim thanked Tom for his diligence with not just the membership registration, but also the tasks for each Games to ensure that all participants are members of an Association, and are competing at their registered grade.

The report was approved.

7. **Chief Steward's Report**

Sherry Sievewright

Sherry provided an overview of entry counts for the Regional Amateur Solos and Pro Solos. 2020 Day of Piping will be in same location.

Sherry provided an overview of each of the games, and thanked the many volunteers that make it happen, in particular Julie Parry and Steve Stuart. The report is attached.

It was remarked that the new games at Tulsa (SCOTFEST) was very well attended.

In 2019, there were 1078 solo contest entries overall. Posted a "do-you-know-your-judges?" bio to the results tables.

Jim thanked Sherry for being there early and late for the behind-the-scene work.

8. **Education Committee Report**

Mike Kotch

Mike Kotch did not attend, and did not provide a report.

Jim noted that the MWPBA will be pursuing adopting PDQB for individual improvement rather than trying to create a custom system.

9. **Music Board Report**

Tom Weithers

Tom stated that the Music Board is responsible for Adjudicator training, advising the Executive Committee on proposed Rule changes, and Grading.

Adrian Melvin has resigned from the Music Board after many years of service, for which he was thanked Adrian for many years on the Board.

Tom's report, which is attached, included statements on rules changes (which were discussed later in the meeting), and upgrades for next season.

The Music Board will continue with the conditional upgrades, and will be contacting these players directly. Others may apply for upgrade, although the Music Board has already examined all MWPBA results. If you need an upgrade, there will need to be an additional upgrade recommendation from another association, etc. Tom stated that there is no shame in not taking the conditional upgrade.

10. **Vice-President's Report**

Scott McCawley

Scott found a new venue for the 2019 Solo events since was not available; facility worked out and will be there again on May 2, 2020. Scott offered a tip of the hat to the Regional Solo organizers for finding venues for the qualifiers.

Scott applauds the MWPBA team, and Jim thanked Scott for his support.

11. **President's Report**

Jim Sim

Scott thanked for his 3 stooges jokes, and being willing to do anything asked, including going to Tulsa; always willing to help.

Stuart was thanked for transparency with the MWPBA Finances, and for having a Budget. Due to quarterly disclosures of the Financial statements to the Board, we know the details to the penny.

Tom Jewell was thanked for his work as Solo Registrar, where he developed the position and deploys a systematic approach. Checks registrations at all events, not just MWPBA membership.

Tad does the same for bands, also thanked.

Jim remarked that there is a great volunteer attitude in the MWPBA.

Cliff was thanked for being on all calls, giving astute opinions, offers much through involvement with Winter Storm. Andrew, Dan video taping, Keith M in the East, always participating.

Sherry, C/S took over from Keith, doing a great job, always has the betterment of the bands and association in mind.

Julie prepares all sheets (Chicago = 600-700 sheets), always quality work

Steve is thanked for his work on the website, results within 24-48 hours. Helps wherever needed

Tom works hard with the music board, also head of music board at ANAPBA. Keeping it all uniform.

All stewards are thanked, much volunteering helping. Volunteers always sought.

There will be steward training in the spring – 1 hour conf call.

This is the Best Working pipe band association in North America!! Go Team.

Codes of Conduct, and Protection Policy – please be familiar, and tell your band members. It is available on the website.

A lot of games had increase in solo and band entries; dwindling in some other non-MWPBA areas. Jim thinks that this is fantastic that MWPBA is doing so well.

Regarding scheduling, it is acknowledged that some gr4/gr5 bands at Chicago may be playing very early; hard to make the logistics better. Will probably still be 10-11am for some bands. Thanks for your understanding.

Alma had big band and solo increase this year, great to see.

Chicago is largest Gr2 contest in USA, and is the largest band contest in the North America!

Jim has already been contacted by from 5 non-MWPBA Gr3 bands for Chicago in 202, so this may be even bigger than 2019. Attendance up.

The MWPBA Day of Piping will be May 2, 2020. Similar to last year; always looking for more entrants.

The Regional Solos at Winter Storm will be on the Thursday, now that the events has added a day.

The following are the planned MWPBA Highland Games dates in 2020:

- Alma = May 23, 24
- Milwaukee = June 6
- Chicago = June 19,20 (solos on Fri)
- Minnesota = July 18
- Waukesha = Sep 5
- Colmbus = Sep 12
- Tulsa = Sep 19

All sponsors were thanked by name. When considering your piping and drumming needs, please consider our sponsors:

Barr1 Highland Supply, Cameron's Drumming Services, Carmex, Duncan's Highland Supply, Henderson's, RG Hardie, MHAF / Winter Storm, The Piper's Hut, Andante

MWPBA member Joe Horwath won the MSR at the Nicol-Brown! Will be at George Sherriff Memorial.

Bands encouraged to come out to more events, in particular at the second half of the season.

There will be no St Louis Games, to our knowledge.

12. Business Items

a. Advisory Committee Proposals

i. Proposed by the Music Board:

The Music Board recommends that the tune requirements for the March event for Grade 2 Amateur Piping be increased from "submit one tune" to "submit two tunes."

Brings MWPBA in line with rest of ANAPBA. Promoted steady growth in repertoire.

Motion Approved, unanimously.

ii. Proposed by the Music Board:

The Music Board recommends for band events where there is an aggregate award, in the case of a tie, the band with the lower aggregate ensemble total shall be placed higher in the aggregate contest than the band with the higher aggregate ensemble total.

Motion Approved, unanimously.

b. Membership Proposals

i. Proposed by Drew Duncan:

(Paraphrased) Student members of a school or college band should be able to make two roster changes in a competition season, made effective on the calendar day following their submission, to permit them to compete with both their local band in the summer and school band before and after summer.

Instead of 10 day wait, the wait for students is 1 day to switch. (Scott has a set of rules to include). MWPBA will need to be notified 10 days beforehand.

Motion Approved, unanimously.

ii. Similar proposal from Hunter Gullickson and Rob Clower:

a) Proposed by Hunter Gullickson:

(Paraphrased) recognition of each drumming discipline as a distinct instrument such that they may play in separate bands on different instruments

b) Proposed by Rob Clower:

Change the MWPBA Rules from

"Players may play pipes in one registered band and drums in a registered band of a different grade and vice versa"

to

"A musician may play one instrument (any of pipes, snare drum, tenor drum, or bass drum) with one band, and a different instrument with another band of a different grade, provided the musician is appropriately registered with each band for the relevant instrument."

Currently MWPBA recognizes a musician as a piper or drummer, does not split drumming discipline. TomW states that this is a regular issue at ANAPBA, and is not standard. Trying to help the player with the skill sets. There is no majority position in ANAPBA. Few associations have such players.

Adopting this would bring MWPBA in position with more ANAPBA, but not the majority.

Would need to be in a different grade.

If in a gr2 playing only drums, can they play in a lower grade band on a different drumming instrument? – yes, if rule adopted.

Historically, MWPBA dual musician rule was the original ANAPBA majority, since changed elsewhere.

Need to change band rosters to state explicitly which instrument, no longer generic.

A reminder is that the rules of whichever host association of a games apply, so bands would need to keep that in mind re: the roster. Would be an issue for RSPBA.

In current environment where we are short of drummers, this could certainly encourage additional players.

(Clower proposal was read aloud)

Motion Approved, unanimously.

iii. Proposed by Char Yettaw, Felicia Lelli (Flint Scottish Pipe Band):

"We would like to add to the agenda a request for a midsection drum Instructor to the roster. With the same roll and privileges as the other Instructors."

Music Board not in favor of Bass RI since they would make minimum numbers, and changes proposal that they would like a Tenor RI.

Most ANAPBA members do not support Tenor RI. PPBSO requires at least one other tenor for a tenor RI to be on the field, even if not otherwise required for that grade.

Amended the motion to also require at least one other tenor player for a tenor RI to be permitted. (applies to gr4 and gr5). Take the Ontario language.

TomW states that all ANAPBA music boards would rather lose the RIs, but the membership typically votes against. Note, RIs not allowed in the RSPBA.

Paraphrasing would be something like “allow a Tenor RI will be allowed in grade 3, 4,5, but there must be a second tenor player on the field, in all appropriate grades.”, with the language to be crafted by the MWPBA board. (only for the band for which they are the RI). And can be the RI for one band only.

Marty – are RI’s allowed in Gr3? Yes grade 3 – 5

Tad – concerned about stacking a drum corps with multiple RIs.

A player can be a dual musician and an RI.

Passed unanimously.

Will need change to band roster forms, etc.

iv. Proposed by Nathan Wilds:

(Paraphrased) adopt an order of play for solos like the PPBSO incorporates, i.e., the same order of play for all events

Concern raised if a player has instrument problems, and would no longer have time to address it before having to play again.

Not necessarily a Rule change; MWPBA currently arbitrarily mixes it. The events would therefore be staggered starts.

For the upper grade soloists, it makes more sense for smaller heats, such as Gr1 and Gr2.

The concern is not wanting to play first in every contest.

Consensus is to leave the orders of play as wholly random.

c. Discussion items

i. Any other business

Hoinacki - Re: Chicago Games, would it be possible for band event for the same order? This would help bands prepare between the events, and all have the same gap. Usually there already is a good gap.

(RSPBA bands want to randomize the order.)

Jim will contact all the Gr2 and Gr3 bands that played Chicago last year, and get the consensus opinion.

13. Election of Officers

Jim Sim

Note that Tom Jewell has retired as Solo Registrar, and Stuart Barr has resigned as Secretary-Treasurer. Both Tom and Stuart were thanked by Jim for their services to the MWPBA.

The following were elected, unanimously:

President = Jim Sim
VP = Scott McCawley
Secretary-Treasurer = Steve Stuart
Registrar-Bands = Tad Myers
Registrar-Solos = Dan Tesch

Rep East = Keith Murphy
 Rep Central = Keith McDonald, Andrew Lockwood
 Rep West = Cliff Davis

14. **Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards**

Jim Sim

Champion Supreme trophies were awarded by Jim Sim to the following bands:

- Grade 2 – Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band
- Grade 3 – City of Chicago Pipe Band
- Grade 4 – Chicago Stock Yard Kilty Band
- Grade 5 – Minnesota Police Pipe Band

Champion Supreme trophies were awarded by Jim Sim to the following soloists:

Piping, Light Music	Open	Andrew Lewis
	Grade 1	Joseph Horwath
	Grade 2	Benjamin Elliot
	Grade 3	Gabrielle Neal
	Grade 4 Senior	James Williamson
	Grade 4 Junior	Clayton Nelson
	Senior Novice	Josie Doefer
	Junior Novice	Stella Jacoby

Piobaireachd	Open	Andrew Lewis
	Grade 1	Kolya Sier
	Grade 2	Benjamin Elliot
	Grade 3	Wayne Hoefler
	Grade 4	Clayton Nelson

Snare	Open	Cameron Bolley
	Grade 1	Adam Tardif
	Grade 2	(not awarded)
	Grade 3	Zach Cochran
	Grade 4	Seth Anderson

Tenor	Advanced	(not awarded)
	Intermediate	(not awarded)
	Novice	Grace Jirsa
	Group	Grace Jirsa

Bass	Advanced	(not awarded)
	Intermediate	Grace Jirsa
	Novice	Brian Doefer

Drum Major	Open	Douglas Weisheit
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15. **Announcements**

1)

The MWPBA has been trying to increase the number of players in the Regional Amateur Solos; in 2020, for the Gr4 junior and Grade 3 (under the age of 18 on Jan 1), there will be an additional benefit funded by Dave and Cathy Bruning and wife Cathy through the Robert Irwin Piping

Scholarship.

The top 3 contestants (under 18 by Jan 1) will receive lessons from a top instructor (e.g. McCallum, Beaumont, Bruce Gandy, Worrall, others). 1st place receives 4 lessons, 2nd 3 lessons, and 3rd 2 lessons.

So, all young players please participate!

This is an endowment, and we hope to expand it. If drumming contest comes back, we are open an equivalent incentive.

2)

Tulsa SCOTFEST, huge gates, but a horrible number of bands and soloists entered.

They want to increase pipe band contests. The MWPBA board has changed a rule allowing for this games to be an MWPBA Champion Supreme Games, while only offering grade 5 band competition (and all amateur grade solo contests).

Sept 19 at Tulsa will be the American Grade 5 Pipe Band Championship, with prize money 1st = \$2000, 2 = \$1500, 3=\$1000, 4=\$800, 5=\$600, 6=\$400 plus \$350 travel for more than 100 miles.

This games will offer standard C/S points for Gr5 band and soloists, i.e double points.

Tulsa had 30'000 attendees over 2 days in 2019.

3) SYKB 98th Tartan Ball Nov 23rd

4) Flint Scottish, Feb 22nd Annual Ceilidh, 103 years

5) Feb 29, City of Chicago Pipe Band 3rd Annual Party in Plaid

6) Competing in Scotland in 2020? Get in touch with Tom Weithers, and he will help with registration maze

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Sim at approx. 3pm.

Submitted Nov 3, 2019, by Stuart Barr

Attachments to these Minutes:

1. Secretary-Treasurer's Report
2. Band Registrar's Report
3. Solo Registrar's Report
4. Chief Steward's Report
5. Music Board Report