



**MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2024, 1pm**



AGENDA

Elected Officers, 2023:

President:	Jim Sim	Regional Rep' (East):	Peter Deneen
Vice President:	Scott McCawley	Regional Rep' (Central):	Andrew Lockwood
Secretary/Treasurer:	Steve Stuart	Regional Rep' (Central):	David Bradley
Registrar – Bands:	Tad Myers	Regional Rep' (West):	Cliff Davis
Registrar – Solos:	Bob Boyle		

Appointed Positions, 2023:

Chief Steward:	<rotating>	Website Administrator:	Stuart Barr
Music Board Chair:	Tom Weithers	Score Keeper:	Julie Parry

1. Call to order
-meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. CST Jim Sim
2. Roll call of member bands Steve Stuart
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 AGM Steve Stuart
4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
-Tristan Wilson asked about the \$7k jump in Games expenses; this is due to the purchase of the CS equipment, plus the recurring software license fees. Steve Stuart
5. Registrar's Report – Band Tad Myers
6. Registrar's Report – Solos Dan Tesch
7. Chief Steward's Report Jim Sim
Cooperation from bands has been excellent in 2024. Everything runs on time, thank you very much.
8. Music Board Report Tom Weithers
Made submissions anonymous from judges for grading sheets, we received different (better) spreads, so this was successful. Small number of upgrades this year shows that our process is working. Everyone that was upgraded this season deserved it. You have until March 31st to request an upgrade/downgrade. Discussion of RSPBA downgrade issue; MWPBA coordinates with ANAPBA, so any graded band in our association will keep that grade across North America.
9. Vice-President's Report Scott McCawley
10. President's Report Jim Sim
-thank you to Scott McCawley, myself, Julie, Bob Boyle, reps, Tom Weithers, Julie Parry.
-Special thanks to Dr. Richard Parkes; he did one of our education seminars
-started with the McHugh, and the Swinton, calls for more attendance
-Chicago Highland Games have moved to June 14 (2nd weekend in June)
-Waukesha games were a challenge to run
-Tulsa wants to expand bands to encompass Grades 3 and 4 for 2025.
-Scholarships- we will have 12 scholarship winners; top 4 amateur grades will receive this scholarship 4, 3, 2 hour lessons (based on placings). Available to those aged 21 and under. Doug Stronach donated 3 classes (openings) for drumming.

-band and solo registration will be available in roughly a week (website work). Indoor entries should be available in the 1st of January, regular season entries available mid-January (after the ANAPBA Highland Games Summit). Winter Storm will be January 16-19, 2025.

McHugh on 3/29, Swinton on 5/3. St. Louis 5/17, Alma 5/24, MKE 6/7, Chicago 6/13-14, MN 7/12, Waukesha 9/6, Tulsa 9/13. Michigan City Indiana wants to have a solo and band contest. Audio adjudication worked great. We'll pair judges up to double-check scores (i.e. they will check each other's work). Changes to Terry McHugh Memorial – it will still remain an amateur contest, but will include piobaireachd in 2025. We will also incorporate an educational seminar to make it a real “Day of Piping”. Potentially could include a recital, not on the same day, but around the weekend. Want to increase our educational opportunities and recital opportunities. We will not ask for registration on Zoom as we have in 2024 for educational opportunities, as they were well received. We will just send out the link on our g-mail group. The MWPBA would like to create a “Hall of Fame” in 2025 to honor our past leaders/participants.

11. Business Items

a. Advisory Committee Proposals

- i. **Champion Supreme Drum Corps Trophies:** Whereas the MWPBA offers Champion Supreme Trophies for registered bands, but nothing to single out the drum corps efforts of each band, the Advisory Board would like to institute a “Champion Supreme Drum Corps” trophy. One would be available for each band grades’ drum corps. The determination of the winner will utilize the same criteria currently utilized for determining band Champion Supreme trophies. These trophies will be awarded at the end of the season, and distributed during the Annual General Meeting for that season year.

Motion passes

- ii. **Elimination of Drum Major Contests in 2025:** Whereas the MWPBA rules state (Section V.E. Evaluation of Solo Performance): Drum Majors shall perform together to a 4-parted 6/8 March and be judged on deportment, dress, mace flourishes while marching and command using the mace while marching, the Advisory Board recommends eliminating this competition in 2025 on the basis of

-the event does not enhance the musical skills of a band

-declining/flat participation over the years

Drum Major	2019	2020*	2021**	2022	2023	2024
Registrations	8	0	1	6	8	9
Actuals	7	0	1	4	8	7
MWPBA Members	6	0	1	4	5	5

*-no contests that year, COVID

** -some contests that year, COVID

-adjudication of the event poses some difficulties to our judges

Could we make it a CS event? After discussion, that is the resolution, make it a CS event only.

- iii. **Elimination of Group Tenor Contests in 2025:** Whereas the MWPBA rules state (Section V.E. Evaluation of Solo Performance): An Individual or Group Tenor Drummer shall be judged on the following-rolls, rhythm & expression, flourishing & interpretation, quality & variety, tempo, tone, execution, and

transitions & ending, the Advisory Board recommends eliminating this competition in 2025 on the basis of
-declining/flat participation over the years

Group Tenor	2019	2020*	2021**	2022	2023	2024
Registrations	11	0	4	7	6	19
Actuals	9	0	4	7	5	10

*-no contests that year, COVID

**-some contests that year, COVID

- The Group Tenor event was instituted before the creation of individual tenor solo events. The MWPBA currently has 4 different solo tenor grades (Advanced, Intermediate, Novice and Beginning), each with one or two musical styles to compete with, and are better attended than the Group Tenor event. The MWPBA also has a "Beginning Tenor" event for individual wishing to start out, making this event essentially redundant and unnecessary. Additionally, the drumming events in general have stipulations that don't require a bagpiper to be present for the event, which perhaps the Group Tenor event meant to alleviate when it started out.

- iv. **Elimination of Practice Chanter Contests in 2025:** Whereas the MWPBA rules state (Section III.B. Grades): The Practice Chanter event shall be open to all ages. Practice Chanter soloists must be registered members of the MWPBA or another pipe band association and may only play in the grade for one season but are exempt from the highland dress requirement. After competing for one year in Practic Chanter, players are automatically re-graded to Grade 5 Junior or Senior piping, the Advisory Board recommends eliminating this competition in 2025 on the basis of
-declining/flat participation over the years

Practice Chanter	2019	2020*	2021**	2022	2023	2024
Registrations	11	0	2	3	7	1
Actuals	11	0	2	3	7	1

*-no contests that year, COVID

**-some contests that year, COVID

-the MWPBA has a Grade 5 Junior solo competition where the individual competitor plays a musical instrument, the Great Highland Bagpipe. The MWPBA does not have a drumming event where the individual competitor plays a practice pad; this event is similar in that a practice device is being played.

Rescinded

b. Discussion items

-I propose a rule banning ear buds, air pods, etc during solo competition. This would be to prevent the use of a metronome providing them an edge against those of use honing the skill to keep tempo. –Greg Boyd (#20810)

12. Election of Officers

Jim Sim

13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards

-

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment

Jim will arrive a little later than usual; hopefully we'll get started right at 1:00 p.m. CST
 I'm signed in a Jim; this is Steve Stuart

You 12:34 PM

Trying to get my audience camera going, hence the switching. Not working for some reason.
Memphis Pipe Band joined as a guest
Brad joined as a guest
Tad Myers joined as a guest

Tad Myers 12:41 PM

Hi Steve!

You 12:49 PM

Hey, Tad!
Ryan Galante (Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums - Milwaukee) joined as a guest

You 12:50 PM

Jim's here, so we'll start on time.
Ann Appleyard joined as a guest
Bruce's iPhone (2) joined as a guest

Tad Myers 12:53 PM

Hi Jim!
Josie FSPB joined as a guest

You 12:54 PM

I've muted everyone that hasn't voluntarily muted their microphones. I will unmute once we start taking the roll call of bands.
Stuart Barr joined as a guest

Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums 12:54 PM

□

Dorothy Wilson joined as a guest
David joined as a guest

You 12:56 PM

Apologies for the "potato" quality on that audience camera...its all that works right now.

You 12:54 PM

Hello, Stuart. Steve Stuart here, acting as Jim (Host).

Stuart Barr 12:57 PM

Looking sharp, Steve.
Linda's phone joined as a guest

You 12:59 PM

We're about to start, so if everyone can unmute their microphones, please do so.
Murdoch joined as a guest
Melanie Redman joined as a guest
Colin K. Gavin joined as a guest

You 1:01 PM

We're waiting for Scott McCawley to get back to the table here. He's upstairs, directing people down to Heritage Hall. Please stand by Scott's here.

Meghan joined as a guest

Cliff Davis joined as a guest

Melanie Redman 1:05 PM

There's an echo; is there a second mic open?

Tom Hinsman 1:05 PM

Could we mute the mics to minimize the echo?

Due to the large number of participants in this meeting, system messages for those who joined or left have been disabled

Tad Myers 1:10 PM

Aye

Melanie Redman 1:11 PM

If you're sharing a screen, we don't see anything
aye

Melanie Redman 1:16 PM

yes

Tad Myers 1:17 PM

Aye

You 1:19 PM

Can you hear Bob's comments?

David Bradley 1:19 PM

more or less

Melanie Redman 1:19 PM

partly, not entirely.

Tunes of Glory Pipes and Drums 1:21 PM

can't hear anything

Melanie Redman 1:21 PM

I just lost Tom's audio... just me?

David Bradley 1:21 PM

nope

You 1:21 PM

Jim muted his microphone. Just unmuted

Tom Hinsman 1:24 PM

Is there a way that information can be shared with the bands/soloists? This would help us understand where we're really at during the season.

You 1:25 PM

What info, Tom?

Tom Hinsman 1:25 PM

The information regarding percentiles relative to the grade level.

You 1:25 PM

OK, hang on, let me ask Tom.

No.

Ryan Galante (Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums - Milwaukee) 1:27 PM

I missed the date that the request for regrading was

You 1:28 PM

March 31, Ryan

Ryan Galante (Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums - Milwaukee) 1:28 PM

Thank you.

You 1:28 PM

2024

2025, I meant

Tad Myers 1:28 PM

Aye]

You 1:30 PM

Audience member asked about bringing back the Enright drum competition

Melanie Redman 1:30 PM

What was the question?

Thanks!

You 1:31 PM

Audience member asked if we could confirm a quantity of people in advance to facilitate this "plethora"

Melanie Redman 1:46 PM

do you have the new date for the Chicago games?

You 1:47 PM

June 13 (Friday) and 14 (Saturday), Melanie

2nd weekend in June

Melanie Redman 1:47 PM

thanks!

Melanie Redman 2:04 PM

Love that idea!

Josie FSPB 2:04 PM

Flint has an international airport

Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums 2:04 PM

Awesome!

You 2:06 PM

Andrew Hoinacki is echoing Jim's statements about the educational opportunities being of high quality

You 2:06 PM

The Reid Maxwell seminar was also cited as being excellent.

You 2:14 PM

Tristan Wilson has "mixed emotions" about eliminating the Practice Chanter contest. It was an easy contest to judge, and a nice thing for the family to see their child participate.

Tristan also sees the practical stand-point of eliminating the contest.

hang on Melanie, I will hook up my speaker

You 2:15 PM

I have to mute Jim. so wait, please

You 2:15 PM

Otherwise, it'll be some wild feedback.

Josie FSPB 2:16 PM

I feel like it's a good stepping stone for young students, and I think we don't advertise the option well enough. I've been telling all of my students about the contest.

Tad Myers 2:16 PM

Not in favor of keeping practice chanter, the kids are terrified and I end up feeling terrible having to calm a kid down and get them through a contest without crying.

You 2:17 PM

Thanks, Melanie.

Melanie, Jim's unmuted.

You 2:24 PM

City of Memphis, I saw your hand up (I'm juggling a lot of plates here, taking notes, muting people, etc.) What's your question?

Memphis Pipe Band 2:24 PM

Disregard, with it looking like it will stick around another season. Thank you :)

You 2:24 PM

No problem, thanks!

Go ahead and type something in the comments, if you want to "speak" up. I'm watching that more than everyone's avatars/pictures.

You 2:26 PM

I put the potato cam up, but I can't adjust the focus, nor the field.

You 2:28 PM

Moving on to Group Tenor event on the agenda

Tad Myers 2:29 PM

In favor of removing group tenor

You 2:30 PM

if anyone on Zoom wants to speak, just let me know through the chat, and I will get Jim to mute and plug in my speaker so the audience can hear.

You 2:32 PM

Andrew Hoinacki is lamenting the lack of adjudication criteria for the GT event.

You 2:34 PM

AH also lamenting the anti-climactic nature of the event.

Tom Hinsman 2:34 PM

I agree with Andrews comments

You 2:34 PM

Thanks, Tom

Josie FSPB 2:35 PM

Could the games organizers sponsor an exhibition option?

Tad Myers 2:36 PM

Tenors have solos, I don't see the reason any more for the mass tenor contest

Murdoch 2:36 PM

My Daughter is a tenor drummer and is not interested in the group tenor contest.

Tad Myers 2:36 PM

Aye

You 2:36 PM

We're eliminating the Group Tenor Event. On to the Drum Major event

Correct, 5 DMs in Chicago

Josie FSPB 2:39 PM

Could some of these events be destination events so that each game has a unique draw?

You 2:39 PM

Possibly, Josie. Let's wait for Jim to read the comments he received, and I will bring it up.

Josie FSPB 2:44 PM

St Andrews games does the group bass, tenor, and drum major all together.

You 2:45 PM

Tristan is recommending making the event a Champion Supreme event?

Tad Myers 2:46 PM

Happed with GM at Pleasanton, we had to play in the sun for 45 minutes for Drum Major contest 2 hours before our contest, ruined the day.

Josie FSPB 2:57 PM

Drum major is a roll you can actually recruit out of the highschoools from marching bands

David Bradley 2:57 PM

it seems to me that the more fundamental question here is "does the MWPBA want to support/grow the D/M field?" If D/Ms are part of our mission then we need to figure out how to increase opportunities so that the contests become less embarrassing.

Stuart Barr 2:58 PM

not opposed

Tad Myers 2:58 PM

Agree with CS only

Melanie Redman 2:58 PM

not opposed

Memphis Pipe Band 2:58 PM

Sounds great, and if it doesn't then it can be cut in 2026.

Ryan Galante (Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums - Milwaukee) 2:58 PM

We are okay with that.

Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums 2:58 PM

yes

Josie FSPB 2:58 PM

Sounds like a good course to me

Tunes of Glory Pipes and Drums 2:58 PM

sounds good

Stuart Barr 2:59 PM

Tulsa?

You 2:59 PM

OK, thanks

You 2:59 PM

Stuart, so you're in favor of making it a CS event?

Stuart Barr 2:59 PM

yup, good compromise

which is consistent with all other Open level events :-)

You 3:00 PM

thanks everyone on line for the comments.

Tad Myers 3:00 PM

I haven't seen that

I see hearing protection but not ear buds. I don't see an issue

Anything to help keep tempo

Josie FSPB 3:02 PM

While I agree with the idea in principle, it sounds impossible to enforce.

Tad Myers 3:02 PM

Technology is available to everyone, if you want to use it, use it.

Not in favor of this motion

If you want to use a metronome knock yourself out

Agree with Tristan, this isn't a problem

Vote NO

You 3:06 PM

Thank you again for all the comments about the Member Proposal (i.e. metronomes)

Tad Myers 3:07 PM

What the lawyer said!

Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums 3:07 PM

second

aye

Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums to You (direct message) 3:09 PM

This doesn't need to be brought up but Jim had mentioned a contest that was possibly going to be bands and solos only with nothing else where was that and was the potential date? I'm taking notes for my band and didn't catch it.

You to Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums (direct message) 3:09 PM

It was Michigan City, IN. No idea when, but it would be there, if it goes forward.

Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums to You (direct message) 3:10 PM

Thank you sir!

Melanie Redman 3:13 PM

I'm sorry, I have to drop off to join another call. Congrats to all the winners, and thanks for a good AGM

Josie FSPB 3:13 PM

What to go, Mary!

You 3:13 PM

Thanks, Melanie!

Cliff Davis 3:15 PM

Congrats to all of the C.S. winners