



MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 1, 2025, 1pm



AGENDA

Elected Officers, 2024:

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, 2024:

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

1. Call to order Jim Sim
2. Roll call of member bands Steve Stuart
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 AGM Steve Stuart
4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report Steve Stuart
5. Registrar's Report – Band Tad Myers
6. Registrar's Report – Solos Bob Boyle
7. Chief Steward's Report Jim Sim
No individuals
8. Music Board Report Tom Weithers
9. Vice-President's Report Scott McCawley
10. President's Report Jim Sim
11. Business Items

a. Advisory Committee Proposals

- i. **Drum Major Event Elimination:** The MWPBA rules currently state: *Drum Majors shall perform together to a 4-pated 6/8 March and be judged on: Deportment/Inspection of Dress/Mace flourishes while marching/Commands while using the Mace*

Proposed Change: Eliminate the event

Rationale: The event does not enhance the musical skills of a band, nor is it well attended (spectators/participants) enough to warrant the resources to hold it. It is also the last competitive event after band competitions, and is anti-climactic. Many of our adjudicators have indicated that they do not know how to judge this event properly. The numbers for 2025 below reflect only 4 active MWPBA registered Drum Majors:

Drum Major	2019	2020*	2021**	2022	2023	2024	2025
Registrations	8	0	1	6	8	9	10
Actuals	7	0	1	4	8	7	7
MWPBA Members	6	0	1	4	5	5	6
*-no contests that year, COVID							
**--some contests that year, COVID							

b. Member Proposals

- i. **Pipe Band Regrading Deadline Change:** The MWPBA rules currently state: *The Music Board will review bands after the last Games of the MWPBA outdoor season. Any band may be re-graded if appropriate. The Music Board may re-grade, either up or down, any band at any time during the year to correct what the Music Board determines is a serious grading disparity.*

Proposed Change: It is propose (sic) that the MWPBA Music Board convene to consider and administrate over all regrades for bands in the month of September following the final contest of the MWPBA season. The Music Board would then inform all bands of their new grading status between the last week of September and the first week of October. This would allow all bands who are experiencing a grade change to have adequate time to either: A) make adjustments to their competitive repertoire and membership, or B) have the time to submit an appeal and receive a reply from the Music Board in a timely enough manner to see to "A" as needed.

Submitted by Ben Peterson/Mike Breidenbach (#20184/20364)

- ii. **Redefine the Band Contest Area (a.k.a. "The Circle"):** The MWPBA rules currently state: *The Band contest area shall be marked using the following dimensions: Band circle 32' diameter/16' radius, Judging circle 44' diameter/22' radius, Spectator barrier 60' diameter/30' radius with 1 or 2 aisle(sic) for access by competing bands (entry and exit points).*

Proposed Change: Change adjudicator circle diameter from 44 feet to 46 feet. Add language stating that adjudicators shall not enter the adjudicator circle during performance.

Rationale: This aligns with RSPBA adjudicator circle size (14 meters) and rules. The MWPBA rules do not currently prevent the adjudicators from entering the adjudicator circle.

Submitted by Andrew Lewis (#20162)

- iii. **Developmental Players Rule:** The MWPBA rules currently state: *N/A.*

Proposed Change: Adopt the Developmental Players Rule as implemented by PPBSO with some modifications. The PPBSO rule is attached

Summary:

Designate certain players to be eligible for unrestricted transfer between a higher grade and lower grade band.

Rationale:

1. Player development is non-linear and doesn't necessarily keep pace with the rest of the band.
2. Certain events are higher/lower stakes compared to others and bands may wish to reduce playing numbers to be competitive. Developing players do not benefit from being non-participants in these situations.
3. Developing players can gain experience competing with a higher grade band, while retaining their eligibility in a lower grade band.
4. Sharing developing players facilitates the flow of knowledge and experience from higher-grade to lower-grade bands.
5. Criteria 4-6 below safeguard against lower-grade roster stacking.

Suggest the text as follows:

A player on a lower-grade band roster who is also designated "developmental" on a higher-grade band roster shall be allowed to compete with the higher-grade band if the following criteria are satisfied.

1. The Pipe Major, Drum Sergeant, or Band Manager shall notify the MWPBA band registrar (registrarbands@mwppba.org) at least 72 hours prior to the competition.
2. The lower-grade and higher-grade bands shall jointly notify MWPBA registrar of the player's "Developmental" designation at the time of roster registration or transfer.
3. A maximum of three Developmental Players may compete with a higher-grade band and do not count towards the minimum numbers of the higher-grade band.
4. A Developmental player may not compete in both bands at a given competition.
5. A Developmental player must have competed on the lower-grade band's roster in the season prior to designation.
6. A player may not be designated as Developmental for consecutive seasons.

Submitted by Andrew Lewis (#20162)

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| 12. Election of Officers | Jim Sim |
| 13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards | Jim Sim |
| 14. Announcements | |
| 15. Adjournment | |

2025
Band Registrar's Report
Midwest Pipe Band Association

	Bands 2025	Change from 2024	Bands 2024	Bands 2023	Bands 2022	Bands 2021	Bands 2020	Bands 2019	Bands 2018
Grade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	2	-1	3	3	3	3	1	2	2
Grade 3	5	1	4	3	5	4	6	5	4
Grade 4	16	0	16	13	12	17	16	15	16
Grade 5	21	-4	25	22	26	23	21	26	25
Sustaining	0	-3	3	3	1	3	2		
Totals	44	-7	51	44	47	50	46	48	47

2025 saw a decrease in sustaining bands by three, a decrease in the grade 5 bands by four, grade 4 remained steady, an increase in the grade 3 bands by one, and a decrease in Grade 2 bands by one.

Overall the association saw a decrease in the number of bands from 2024 of seven bands.

2025 MWPBA Band List			
Band Name	Band ID#	Band Name	Band ID#
Billy Mitchell Scottish	PB-140-IV	Grand Traverse	PB-142-V
Brian Boru	PB-165-IV	Greater Midwest	PB-180-II
Cabar Feidh	PB-141-IV	James Enright Sr. Memorial PB	PB-195-V
Caledonia Kilty	PB-188-IV	Kansas City St. Andrews	PB-176-IV
Celtic Cross	PB-127-V	Macalester College	PB-143-III
Celtic Nations	PB-212-IV	Macalester College	PB-163-V
Celtic Nations	PB-103-V	Madison P & D	PB-135-IV
Chicago Celtic	PB-129-III	Michigan Scottish	PB-178-IV
Chicago Highlanders	PB-115-V	Midlothian Scottish	PB-137-II
Chicago Stockyard Kilty	PB-147-IV	North Coast	PB-193-IV
Chicago Stockyard Kilty	PB-190-V	North Texas Caledonia P&D	PB-210-V
City of Chicago	PB-131-III	Oklahoma Fire P & D	PB-206-V
City of Memphis	PB-214-V	Omaha P & D	PB-122-V
City of Rockford	PB-133-V	P&D of Thunder Bay	PB-202-IV
Dundee Scottish PB	PB-166-IV	Rochester Caledonian	PB-161-V
Firefighters Highland Guard	PB-170-V	St. Louis Caledonian	PB-124-IV
Flint Scottish	PB-146-V	Tunes of Glory	PB-119-V
Fort Worth	PB-139-V	Turlach Ur	PB-149-III
Fountain Trust	PB-125-IV	Twin Cities Metro	PB-100-IV
Gael Force PB	PB-216-V	Westminster	PB-215-III
Grand Rapids and District	PB-138-V	White Pine P & D	PB-110-V
Grand Rapids Police PB	PB-194-V	Siren City Pipe Band	PB-217-IV

MWPBA Solo Registrar Report

The chart below provides a breakdown of the Membership Registrations for the 2025 Season

Total Individual Members Registered **301(+17)**

Total Grade/Disciplines Registered **492(+39)**

Registrants in Multiple Categories 172 (+21)

Registrants in 3 or More Categories 15(N/C)

Light Music Registrants 236 (+24)

Piobaireachd Registrants 157 (+17)

Snare Registrants 43 (-1)

Tenor Registrants 18 (+2)

Bass Registrants 10 (N/C)

Drum Major Registrants 7 (N/C)

Judge Registrants 17 (-1)

Supporting Members Registrants 4 (N/C)

For 2025, we had 284 individuals compete across all 7 sanctioned contests. Of that, 185 of them were MWPBA soloists.

- 65% of all soloists at sanctioned games were MWPBA members

Of particular note, there are 15 Practice Chanter Registrations this season, up from 4 in 2024. These individuals should be moving to a full bagpipe category starting in 2026 which shows a nice addition to the learner group through the association.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Boyle, MWPBA Solo Registrar

Light Music Registrants	Count of Membership Number
Grade 1	13
Grade 2	20
Grade 3	40
Grade 4 Junior	11

Grade 4 Senior	95
Grade 5 Junior	3
Grade 5 Senior	26
Open	13
Practice Chanter	15
Grand Total	236

Piobaireachd	Count of Registrants
Grade 1	13
Grade 2	10
Grade 3	42
Grade 4	78
Open	14
Grand Total	157

Bass Grades	Count of Memberships
Intermediate	2
Novice	7
Open	1
Grand Total	10

Tenor Discipline	Count of Memberships
Advanced	1
Beginning	3
Intermediate	6
Novice	8
Grand Total	18

Snare Grading	Count of Memberships
Grade 1	3
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	6
Grade 4	16
Grade 5	10
Open	5
Grand Total	43

MWPBA MUSIC BOARD REPORT 2025 Annual General Meeting

Adjudicator News

Stephen MacNeil has been appointed to the Music Board to replace Chris Apps who is retiring. Chris served as a valued member of the MWPBA Music Board for over 14 years. The Board would like to thank Chris for his commitment and all his fine work on the Board over the years.

There are currently two individuals preparing to take the adjudicator's examination. They will hopefully be ready in time to shadow judge during the 2026 season.

Proposed Rule Changes

The Music Board recommends the following changes:

1. To bring the MWPBA in alignment with the majority of the other pipe band associations (EUSPBA, WUSPBA and PPBSO), the Board proposes that the music requirements for Grade 5 Piping, Grade 5 Snare and Beginning Tenor be amended to require "2 parts of quick march music in simple time (2/4, 3/4, 4/4, etc.) which may be a single 2-parted tune or the first 2 parts of a longer tune. Tunes in compound time (6/8, 9/8, 12/8, etc.) are not permitted."
2. Section III.B of the Rules currently provide that "Pipers who have competed for one or more years at either Grade 5 Junior or Senior may register for Grade 4 Junior or Senior without Music Board approval." This season we had two players who wanted to regrade from 5 to 4 during the season. To clarify the Rules, the Board recommends that this be changed to read "Pipers who have competed for one or more years at either Grade 5 Junior or Senior may register for Grade 4 Junior or Senior without Music Board approval. *Pipers may not change their registration after the first outdoor contest of the contest season.*"
3. The current Rules Provide that "All solo drummers are required to be accompanied by live or recorded music. To reduce the barriers for newer drummers to participate in solo competition, the Board recommends that the Rules be amended by adding "Solo drummers playing in Grade 5 Snare and Beginning Tenor are not required to be accompanied."
4. Section V.E of the Rules concerns the "Evaluation of Solo Performance." To clarify the assessment of solo drummers, the Board recommends that the language be amended to provide that "An individual drumming competitor in snare, tenor, and bass disciplines shall be judged on The Roll Off, Tempo, Execution, Rhythm and Expression, Quality and Variety, Breaks between tunes where applicable, Ending, and Tone/Tuning. An individual tenor drum competitor shall also be judged on Visual Execution and Interpretation in addition to all other areas of drumming assessment." This is intended to be a clarification and not a change in criteria.

Grading Decisions

This year there were two unusual features in the piping assessments. First, the number of Below Grade Level assessments was almost six times higher than usual. An overwhelming number of these assessments came from out-of-association judges. Second, the out-of-association judges were three times less likely to give an Above Grade Level assessment. There are several possible explanations, but the Music Board is concerned that this *may* mean that the MWPBA players are not always meeting the grading standards from the other associations. Therefore, the Music Board is being very conservative with piping upgrades this year. This stricter standard will also apply to piping upgrade petitions for the 2026 season.

Every year, the Music Board receives and denies upgrade applications that are apparently based on a misunderstanding of what is necessary for a successful application. In the near future, the Music Board will post on the MWPBA website an explanation of the grading process with advice on when a regrade petition is appropriate.

PipingGrade 5 Senior to Grade 4 Senior

Salaina Crumb

Imogen Schmitz

DrummingGrade 5 Snare to Grade 4 Snare

Zoey Baczynski

Calum Gruenhagen

Rosie Leasure

Ian Rito

Kaydence Stone

Miles Wilson

Grade 4 Snare to Grade 3

Alyssa Allegretti

Grade 3 Snare to Grade 2

Andrew Keppel

Liam Leasure

Intermediate Tenor to Advanced Tenor

Katie Byzewski

Novice Bass to Intermediate Bass

Carolin Stonier

Intermediate Bass to Advanced Bass

Joanne Sherry

Bands

Macalester College Grade 5 to Grade 4

For the Music Board,

Tom Weithers

Chairman

Chris Apps

Jim Enright

Andrew Hoinacki

Andrew Lewis

Scott McCawley

Tom Ogilvy