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
   Meeting begins at 1:07 pm.
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
    Thanks to the whole board. We had a great response this year for people volunteering to be stewards, particularly from experienced players vs. someone's friend/relative. Thanks to the games organizers as well. Recap of 2025: Winter Storm concert was the best we've seen ever. A great winter storm teaching panel as well (names drumming instructors). 2026 Winter Storm will have a new grade 4 solo piping event; it will be capped for the amount of players, visit MHAF.org for more details. The Terry McHugh contest went well, We'd love to see better participation and attendance at the event in 2026. The Swinton contest was in May, we had our largest field ever. Calling for more attendance at the event. Went over the games; Alma wants to increase the number of bands there. We've reduced the contest to one day, without a real pick-up in band attendance at that event. Milwaukee band space is limited. Chicago was expanded this year. Minnesota was a great location for the 2nd year in a row. Waukesha has "lightened up" security from previous year, so no impromptu searches. ScotFest had ~$70k in equipment stolen (housed in a trailer); their plan is to have the contest in 2026, despite the set-back.Scholarships were doubled in 2025, players taking advantage from all of the grades. We plan on doing that same number in 2026. Jeff Mann has resigned from ANAPBA, so the future of that organization is uncertain. Audio adjudication went great in 2025. Monthly Zoom education series information. New website design forthcoming. Circle of Honor was introduced at Chicago in 2025; we will continue that process moving forward, and will induct two more members in 2026.

Going forward: our biggest announcement for 2026 is that the Ohio Games & the Ohio Indoor Games will be sanctioned by the MWPBA next season. Band and solo registration will be available soon; don't wait until the last minute. Tentative dates for your calendar:
HG summit 1/10, ws jan 15-18, mchugh is march 21, ohio indoor contest is 3/28, swinton will be 5/2, St. Louis will be 5/16, alma 5/23, mke 6/6, Chicago 6/12-13, ohio 6/27, mn 7/18, Waukesha 9/5 and Tulsa 9/19. Try and get your band to take a trip outside of your comfort zone and make more events in 2026. Chicago 2026 – inveraray & district is booked. The games will be at the DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, and will probably be the last year at that location. Canadian bands don't want to attend our contests in the U.S. due to the current political climate. We are going to need more room in 2026. Concert will be at 7:00 at Pfeiffer Hall at NCC. Seating will be assigned, not general. 500 names on the list. Tickets will be $53/person. Not a lot of parking at the location. Two grade One bands have verbally committed this year for Chicago.Due to the concert, we will have to start solos at 9:00 or 10:00 in the morning vs. noon. Last topic is to thank all of the board members. Thank you to Susan Martin, Stefanie Fitzsimmons and Mike Keppel.

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							

Motion passes

    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@mwpba.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)

12. Election of Officers
    All officers passed. Jim Sim

13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards Jim Sim

14. Announcements

15. Adjournment
    Meeting is adjourned at 3:43 pm