MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2026, 1pm

AGENDA

Elected Officers, 2025:

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, 2025:

Chief Steward:	<rotating>	Website Administrator:	Dan Tesch
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 2025 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
12. Election of Officers — Jim Sim
13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards — Jim Sim
14. Announcements
15. Adjournment

2026
Band Registrar's Report
Midwest Pipe Band Association

	Bands 2026	Change from 2025	Bands 2025	Bands 2024	Bands 2023	Bands 2022	Bands 2021	Bands 2020	Bands 2019
Grade 1	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	**3**	1	2	3	3	3	3	1	2
Grade 3	**3**	-2	5	4	3	5	4	6	5
Grade 4	**17**	1	16	16	13	12	17	16	15
Grade 5	**27**	6	21	25	22	26	23	21	26
Sustaining	**1**	1	0	3	3	1	3	2	
Totals	**51**	7	44	51	44	47	50	46	48

2026 saw an increase in sustaining bands by one, a dramatic increase in the grade 5 bands by 6, an increase in grade 4 by one, a decrease in grade 3 by one, and an increase in Grade 2 bands by one.

Overall the association saw an increase of seven bands from 2025 bringing us back to our high 2024 numbers and back to the highest number of bands the association has had in the 2000's. The influx of bands has almost exclusively been the addition of bands from the Ohio area who have been a welcome and exceptional addition to the association.

6. Solo Registrar's Report - 2026

Total Individual Members Registered:

2026:	394
2025:	301

Increase of 89 members, heavily influenced by the Ohio member bands joining the MWPBA as a result of the Ohio Scottish Games moving to MWPBA from EUSPBA

Piping – Light Music	299 (+63)
Piping – Piobaireachd	202 (+30)
Drumming – Snare	74 (+31)
Drumming – Tenor	22 (+4)
Drumming – Bass	15 (+5)
Drum Majors	3 (-4)
Judges	14 (-3)
Supporting Members	5 (+1)

.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Boyle, MWPBA Solo Registrar

Piping Light Music Breakdown

Row Labels	Count of Previous Membership Number (if known)
LM Grade 1	22
LM Grade 2	18
LM Grade 3	44
LM Grade 4 Junior (under 18)	13
LM Grade 4 Senior (18 and over)	116
LM Grade 5 Junior (under 18)	17
LM Grade 5 Senior (18 and over)	39
LM Open	17
LM Practice Chanter Novice (all ages)	11
Grand Total	**297**

Piping – Piobaireachd Breakdown

Row Labels	Count of Previous Membership Number (if known)
Piob Grade 1	19
Piob Grade 2	9
Piob Grade 3	47
Piob Grade 4	109
Piob Open	16
Grand Total	**200**

Drumming – Snare Breakdown

Row Labels	Count of Previous Membership Number (if known)
SN Grade 1	6
SN Grade 2	8
SN Grade 3	9
SN Grade 4	30
SN Grade 5	16
SN Open	5
Grand Total	**74**

Drumming – Tenor Breakdown

Row Labels	Count of Previous Membership Number (if known)
Tenor Advanced	2
Tenor Beginner	4
Tenor Intermediate	6
Tenor Novice	10
Grand Total	**22**

Drumming – Bass Breakdown

Row Labels	Count of Previous Membership Number (if known)
Bass Advanced	3
Bass Intermediate	4
Bass Novice	8
Grand Total	**15**

MWPBA MUSIC BOARD REPORT
2026 Annual General Meeting

Adjudicator News

Mark Elliott successfully passed the Solo and Band Piping exam and completed his shadow judging assignments. He will be added to the panel as an Associate Piping Judge. There are currently five individuals who have expressed interest in taking the Solo and Band Piping exam. However, all five are still active competitors. Therefore, even if they take and pass the exam this spring, it is likely that there will be a delay before they can complete the shadow judging requirements and join the panel.

Grading Decisions

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. The Music Board has posted on the MWPBA website an explanation of the grading process with advice on when a regrade petition is appropriate. The document can be found at *https://www.mwpba.org/understanding the grading process*.

Piping

Grade 5 Junior to Grade 4
Johnathon Alton
Rory Fuller
Lillian Spivey
Victoria Thompson

Grade 5 Senior to Grade 4
Conor Adams
James Murray
Paul Olszewski
Stephen Poteet
David Thao

Grade 4 Junior Light Music to Grade 3 Light Music
Meredith Calhoun
Sebastian Mattern
John-Paul Olszewski

Grade 4 Senior Light Music to Grade 3 Light Music
Meghan Beveridge
Isabella Jackson
Tanner Kline
Jacob Payne

Grade 2 Piobaireachd to Grade 1 Piobaireachd
Meghan McElhinney

Grade 1 to Open
Ben Peterson
Michalean Trenor

Drumming

Grade 5 Snare to Grade 4
Liam Alton
Benjamin Hiebert

Grade 4 Snare to Grade 3
Evan Johnston

Grade 4 Junior Piobaireachd to Grade 3 Piobaireachd
Meredith Calhoun
Sebastian Mattern
John-Paul Olszewski

Grade 4 Senior Piobaireachd to Grade 3 Piobaireachd
Tanner Kline
Paul Napolitano
Jessica Troester

Grade 3 Light Music and Piobaireachd to Grade 2
Michael Braunsky
Michael Erwin
Luke Marinelli
Aiden Rito

Grade 2 Light Music to Grade 1 Light Music
Anthony St. Clair
Byron Voorheis

Grade 1 Snare to Open
Antonio Amram
Quinn Faith

Novice Tenor to Intermediate
Ian Hess
Andrew Keppel

Bands
Kansas City St. Andrews to Grade 3

For the Music Board,

Tom Weithers, Chairman
Jim Enright
Andrew Hoinacki
Andrew Lewis
Stephen MacNeil
Scott McCawley
Tom Ogilvy

11. BUSINESS ITEMS

Proposed Rule Changes submitted by Barry Conway

Solo Piping Gr 3 Add One Four Parted Jig

Jig competition is appropriate for grade 3 development. You will find that the other USA associations include this event.

MWPBA-No Jig Competition
WUSPBA – Have a one, four prated jig competition and a hornpipe competition
EUSPBA – Have a one, four parted jig competition
PPBSO – No Jig Competition

Solo Piping Gr 2, Change One, Four Parted Jig competition to a One Four Parted Hornpipe and One Four Parted Jig Competition

This is a more logical progression as Grade 1 is submit two hornpipes and two jigs and play one of each. It's also consistent with other USA Associations.

MWPBA – Currently 1 Four Parted Jig
WUSPBA – One four parted hornpipe + one four parted jig or submit two four parted jigs and play one.
EUSPBA - One four parted hornpipe + one four parted jig or submit two four parted jigs and play one.
PPBSO – One Four Parted Jig

Solo Piping Gr 4, Add one 4 parted 6/8 March competition

Grade 4 is the appropriate level to work on 6/8 time signature. It is also consistent with events offered in the other USA associations. You may want to make this optional or delay implementation until 2028 as it likely would increase the number of adjudicators needed.

MWPBA – No Contest Offered
WUSPBA – One four parted 6/8 March
EUSPBA - One four parted 6/8 March
PPBSO – No Contest Offered

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF GAMES SPONSOR

B. JUDGING LIMITATIONS An adjudicator may judge pipe band events at up to three (3) non-Champion Supreme contests per season (regardless of discipline and regardless of whether the contests are consecutive). In addition, an adjudicator may judge pipe band events at only one Champion Supreme pipe band contest per season regardless of discipline.

I was told this rule was changed last year but, this is how it appears in the 2026 rules. With the addition of the Ohio competitions, we feel this rule should be loosened to two Champion Supreme competitions. Allowing just one is too restrictive and creates a burden for games organizers.

Proposed Rule Changes submitted by the MWPBA Music Board

1. Proposed change from Andrew Hoinacki: The Music Board recommends the proposed change which will align the rules applicable to all the entry-level grades and allow new players to stay in the entry-level grade until they are comfortable with the competition process.

2. Proposed change from Andrew Lewis: The Music Board recommends the proposed change which will align the highest solo Tenor and Bass grades in the MWPBA with the PPBSO and the EUSPBA. As the senior players that would benefit from this change develop their skills, they can be resources for our lower level bands.

3. Proposed change from Barry Conway: The Music Board does not recommend the proposed changes. The Board believes that in the amateur grades the players should focus on developing core skills. Adding additional competition events would encourage players to spend less practice time per event. This could undermine the focus on core events and delay player development. If individual players are able to invest additional practice time, they are encouraged to work on other idioms even though competition events may not be offered in that idiom in their current grade.

Dues & Fee Increases for 2027

The MWPBA's operating costs have been increasing throughout the last 11 years, and this year is no exception. We have not increased our dues nor fees since 2015, and thus we are recommending the following incremental increases for the 2027 season:

Band Dues: up $50/yr to $250/yr (early)

Solo Dues: up $5/yr to $30/yr

Band Event Sign-up Fees: up $5 per event to $100/event

Solo Event Sign-up Fees: up $1 per event to $12/event

No changes to Supporting Band & Sustaining Solo Member dues, nor to the Ian Swinton contest fees.

This slight increase will help keep our association in good financial health while allowing us to continue to provide in-depth training programs and high-quality competitive contests year after year.