

MWPBA
Chief Steward Recap 2019

Terry McHugh Regional Solos and Ian Swinton Open:

At the Terry McHugh solo qualifiers we had:

15 registrants in Kansas City in January
8 registrants at Louisville in February
14 registrants in Milwaukee in March
11 registrants in St. Paul in March
13 registrants at Alma in April

We had 10 registrants at the Ian Swinton Open in May with the 27 registrants from the solos that competed in the Terry McHugh Memorial Solo Piping finals.

Comments:

1. The location was moved this year and worked out very nicely. Plenty of parking for everyone and the layout worked well with having enough rooms for the players to warm up and then compete.
2. The only issue we had was that the church had a program going on that evening so we had to move the awards part of the event to the smaller chapel. Everyone participated in helping to move the signs and trophies and clear out the sanctuary in a timely fashion.

This location will also hold the 2020 regional solo finals and the Ian Swinton Open.

Games:

Alma, Champion Supreme

Started out the season once again with the Alma Highland Festival and Games on the weekend of May 25-26, 2019.

We had:

4 - Grade 2 bands
3 - Grade 3 bands
5 - Grade 4 bands
10 - Grade 5 bands

Comments:

1. These games had the same layout as the previous year and many of the solo participants remembered the location of their stations.
2. The weather was decent with no obvious concerns even with the prediction of storms.

Milwaukee

We had:

- 1 - Grade 3 band
- 8 - Grade 4 bands
- 8 - Grade 5 bands

Comments:

1. The weather....oh the weather in Milwaukee....Once again we had rain and storms. A delay due to the sirens going off yet everyone was gracious and accommodating.
2. Mass Bands was held with one or two band representatives under the bleachers for awards.
3. Everything went well considering and it was a pleasure to work with such great support. All of the bands came and checked in as I had requested at the band meeting and they were all very understanding.

Chicago, Champion Supreme

We had:

- 8 - Grade 2 Bands
- 6 - Grade 3 Bands
- 9 - Grade 4 Bands
- 11 - Grade 5 Bands

Comments:

1. The location for the band and solo competitions was great. Everyone seemed to like the proximity to the food, vendors and games as a whole. The new location allowed more viewing from spectators as it was closer to everything else going on.
2. We had a little bit of wind, yet the weather overall cooperated.
3. If there was any complaint it was only that we could hear the music from the entertainment tent and the bass that seemed to be pumped up to full capacity. They kindly turned the bass down and it helped greatly.

Minnesota

We had:

- 2 - Grade 3 Bands
- 3 - Grade 4 Bands
- 5 - Grade 5 Bands

Comments:

1. Once again...weather....strong winds, monsoon rains and a lot of wet players and patrons.
2. For solos, we utilized two tents, including the MWPBA tent for judges to sit under to hear the solos compete while Jim Sim sat under the park umbrella to hear drumming solos. As if everyone wasn't already wet enough, it was even wetter for those watching in support of the drumming solos who were standing in the water zone of the park. For those of you that were there, although we are sorry you got even wetter, you made us laugh at your expense. I'm sorry, but it's true.
3. Due to the weather, we were unable to put the sheets on the tables, however, it all worked out well and the players were able to still come up and get their sheets, although I think some may still be drying out.
4. By the afternoon we had a lovely day with the sun shining for Mass Bands.

Wisconsin, Champion Supreme

We had:

- 1 - Grade 2 Band
- 2 - Grade 3 Bands
- 6 - Grade 4 Bands
- 7 - Grade 5 Bands

Comments:

1. The Wisconsin Games were met this year with a new games organizers on the side of the band / solo competitions and they did a fabulous job.
2. The MWPBA tent had a nice enclosure for Julie, and a separate side for the food. It was nicely done.

Columbus Scottish Festival

We had:

- 4 - Grade 4 Bands
- 2 - Grade 5 Bands

Comments:

1. Overall the games went well. We were able to hold the band competitions and Mass bands on the field and not in the horse barn this year. The weather was great.

ScotFest Broken Arrow Oklahoma

We had:

- 3 - Grade 5 Bands

Comments:

1. Jim Sim attended these games this year while Sherry and Julie were at the Columbus Games. They were both on the same weekend.
2. Jim reports back that the games went well, were very well attended and is a very large games.

Overall, our total solo entries this year were 1078. This is all entries, all games combined.

This year we started posting on the MWPBA table "Do you know your judges" with bios. If any of the judges prefers to have the bio I chose for you changed, or your picture, please let me know asap. I will be redoing them and laminating them for next season. This was a hit and many compliments came from people who didn't know some of the judges.

I want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who help make the games run so smoothly.

From your committed willingness to steward, and there are many, to all of those who run the games themselves. Very thankful to be working with you.

Also, I want to thank Julie and Steve for their continued support in all they do as well, from scoring keeping, to recording the events, to stewarding, and all of the prep to make the day run efficiently. There is a great deal involved and it takes a team to make it happen.

Just a quick thank you to all of the bands that attend the band meetings and who follow instructions so well. Great job bands!

And lastly, thank you to Doug Weisheit who endured my incorrect pronunciation of his name for a year. Apologies sir, and thank you for your continued support as well.

This closes out my report of 2019. Thank you again.