



# MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2023, 1pm



## AGENDA

### Elected Officers, 2022:

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:	Dan Tesch		

### Appointed Positions, 2022:

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 2022 AGM Steve Stuart
4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report Steve Stuart
5. Registrar's Report – Band Tad Myers
6. Registrar's Report – Solos Dan Tesch
7. Chief Steward's Report Jim Sim
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. none
  - b. Discussion items
    - i. <member suggestions at end of agenda>
12. Election of Officers Jim Sim
13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards -
14. Announcements
15. Adjournment

2023 MWPBA AGM

Member Submissions:

===== #1 =====

Jim,

I'm grateful that we were able to pull off minimums for Waukesha and could participate in the contest. Not knowing when the MWPBA Annual General Meeting is or if I'll be able to attend, I wanted to share my opinion regarding your response to the initial email.

While I agree that a band that cannot meet minimums should not be scored and ranked along with those that can meet them, I think it is a huge mistake to remove the option for bands to play for sheets. I think that decision is detrimental especially for bands in Grade 5 that are trying to grow and better themselves. As a university music education professor, I tell my music education students that any chance they have to get their ensembles and students in front of judges to receive feedback that can guide future instruction and make their ensemble stronger is time well spent.

On top of being short-sighted, I think the inability to play for sheets without minimums is unjust because;

- A. We registered in good faith expecting the minimum number of players to be in attendance at the Waukesha Games at the time of registration.
- B. We already paid the Association's registration fee for the contest that compensated the judges for their time and insight.

I'm not sure what the MWPBA's protocol on contest registration refunds is, but I would expect a refund the week of the contest due to a lack of minimum players would not be given. Understandably so! I wouldn't expect one. However, to then also deny the opportunity to perform in a venue and for judges that those registration fees helped pay for seems very questionable.

I am certain this will not be the last time an instance such as this occurs and I don't want other bands to receive the same ultimatum I was given. Therefore, at this year's AGM, I encourage the MWPBA to reconsider this decision and will once again provide the opportunity for bands to play for sheets. This will not only benefit the bands, but I believe will also benefit the Association and the future of our activity as a whole. If I am able to attend the AGM and can bring this up and share my thoughts in person, great. But if not, I'd like to make sure this topic still makes the agenda for discussion. I truly believe it's in everyone's best interest.

Thank you,

Scott Whitman

Pipe Major, Celtic Cross Pipes and Drums

===== #2 =====

Greetings Midwest Pipe Band Association,

Every year the Des Moines Area Community College puts on what we call the "International Year" celebration. This is, as the name suggests, a yearlong sequence of events, activities, and festivities in honor of an international region, country, or city. This year Scotland is the focus of our International Year. So far, the only event we have planned involving piping is a Burns night type of affair, catered by our students at the Iowa Culinary Institute and perhaps a demonstration by some local pipers. I think we can do even more to represent Scottish musical traditions.

I took a look at the schedule of competitions on the MWPBA website because I'm a piper myself and, having recently moved to Iowa, I was looking for some local competitions. I noticed that there do not appear to be any MWPBA pipe and drum competitions in Iowa. I think DMACC's Scottish International Year is a great opportunity to create an MWPBA-sanctioned pipe and drum competition in Iowa and I would love to organize such an event this year. DMACC's Ankeny campus has a beautiful, tree-lined lake, which would make for an ideal setting for a pipe and drum contest. Would your organization have any interest in this idea? I think this is a great chance to expand pipe and drum events in the Midwest, to promote our cultural artform, and to increase visibility for MWPBA.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Truly,

Robert W. McIntyre  
Philosophy Instructor  
DMACC, Ankeny Campus

===== #3 =====

Hi Steve,

For this year's annual meeting, I would like to propose discussing the format for the Chicago games band contests. Specifically, as the games have significantly grown in last several years (which is great) to be perhaps the premier games in North America, the scheduling of the band contests have become so congested, it puts a lot of burden on the lower grade bands related to the length of day, difficulty for band friends/ family to come out to support their bands from competition through mass bands, etc. and I would like to discuss if logistic changes could be considered (i.e. adjusting use of the multiple competition circles, etc.).

Thanks for your consideration- I'd be glad to chat if that would help prior to the meeting.

Matt McKee  
Chicago Stock Yard Kilty Band

===== #4 =====

Anonymous:

My opinion as a competitor in the circle is that all judges need to provide useful feedback on the scoresheets for the bands (and soloists..). Bands work very hard, all year long. Whether we win or not (or how we score) is irrelevant. What IS relevant is the feedback we receive so that we as a band (or us individuals as soloists) can improve the next time. That's what competition is about- getting better.

As an example of what I am getting at here, I provide the score sheets from this year from one of our competitions.

Judge A: Very descriptive, lengthy, and useful feedback.

Judge B: A little briefer than Judge A, but still very useful feedback

Judge C: Again, good useful feedback that we can use

Judge D: Feedback pretty much useless. A FEW comments but very general in nature. The entire score sheet consists of 20 words. Compare this to all the rest.....

Should score sheets (or judges) be reviewed by MWPBA leadership to make sure they meet a certain standard?

===== #5 =====

Andrew Hoinacki:

Whereas the amount of monies allocated to each band as a Travel Allowance at the contests sanctioned by the MWPBA are widely varied as to what a games can(not) afford,

and Whereas the amount of Travel Allowances is disproportionately low compared to the actual costs of a pipe band attending a contest,

and Whereas the number of Travel Allowances to be budgeted by a Games Sponsor is an unknown number based on how many bands may or may not choose to attend a particular contest in a given season,

and Whereas providing Games Sponsors with the best chance of continuing to host competitions while aiming to grow and improve their events,

Therefore I propose that the MWPBA eliminates Travel Allowances for pipe bands as a requirement for receiving sanctioning for their events

And further propose that sanctioning requirements by the MWPBA instead be adjusted to stipulate a more comprehensive Prize Package in each band grade based on the level of sanctioning whereby basic sanctioned (“minor”) contests will provide at least four (4) cash prizes per band grade to those bands placing First Place through at least Fourth Place,

and whereby championship sanctioned (“major”) contests will provide at least six (6) cash prizes per band grade awarded to those bands placing First Place through at least Sixth Place,

Further to this it should be established that Prize Packages are to be reflect incremental increases from the lowest grade offered to the highest grade offered,

And further established that the distribution of a Prize Package within each grade should reflect incremental increases from the lowest prize being awarded to the highest prize being awarded in that grade.

If passed, the impact of this motion would remove all references to and explanations of Travel Allowance(s) from all MWPBA documentation through the rules, policies, sanctioning, registration, entries, and all other means of communication where previously mentioned.

Specifically:

The Rules

#### IV. D. MASSED BANDS / BAND CONTEST TIME-FRAME

- If necessary, a band or bands may be excused from participation in Mass Bands. Such bands shall not lose their Travel Allowances due to an excused absence.
- If the Massed Bands starts late or ends at a time with less than an hour remaining before non-excused bands should be competing, the entire band competition schedule(s) shall be moved to a later starting time.
- If Massed Bands is scheduled to begin prior to the end of all solo contests, those soloists still to compete and their bands, if below minimum member requirements, shall be fully excused without loss of band travel allowance.

#### IV. G. SCORESHEETS AND PRIZES FOR SOLO AND BAND CONTESTS

- The prize money/checks and travel allowance funds should be included with the score and summary sheets at that time.

#### IV. I. CHAMPION SUPREME CONTEST

To be sanctioned as a MWPBA Champion Supreme Contest, the Contest must adhere to the points noted in the “Sanctioning Requirements” and offer all soloist contests as well as the band contests for Grades 1 through 5, 1 through 4, or 2 through 5. These Games shall adhere to the band awards and

travel allowances listed for the placing shown as well as the Open Grade soloist awards. The following are minimums:

Band Prize Awards

Grade 1: 1500, 1400, 1300, 1200, 1100, 1000 [total: 7500]

Grade 2: 1200, 1100, 1000, 900, 800, 700 [total purse: 5700]

Grade 3: 1000, 900, 800, 700, 600, 500 [total purse: 4500]

Grade 4: 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300 [total purse: 3300]

Grade 5: 600, 500, 400, 300, 200, 100 [total purse: 2100]

Competing Travel Allowances (section eliminated)

Website - Competition Sanctioning

Basic Sanctioning

(Modify) 7. All fees and travel \*prize monies for bands and officials are to be paid by check or cash at the Closing Ceremonies or the Piping Tent immediately after.

(Eliminate) 8. All bands entering your contests shall be entitled to receive a Travel Allowance. The number of bands to receive the Travel Allowance may not be limited.

===== #6 =====

Hi Steve,

One suggestion for folks to consider would be to add a 4-part jig as another event for the Grade 4 (Senior) light music solo competitions. This would align the events with what CLASP offers and would better prepare G4 pipers for higher grade competitions.

Cheers!

Steve Langford