



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
Meeting started at 1:05
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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
Our website will be more streamlined for solo sign-ups next year.
7. Chief Steward's Report Jim Sim
Nothing to report
8. Music Board Report Tom Weithers
One proposed rule change – music board may recommend the waving of some adjudication criteria. An individual in a different North American Association has a wealth of musical education/adjudication qualifications and would make an excellent judge, but doesn't possess the current prerequisite knowledge required to be a pipe-band judge. The addition of the G4 S/R solo event has helped the Music Board in determining whom to upgrade, so this change in our 2022 rules was a positive change.
9. Vice-President's Report Scott McCawley
"I do whatever Jim asks me to do." The MWPBA is changing the location of the McHugh/Enright/Swinton solo event to the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church. The 2023 McHugh/Enright event will be on March 23rd, the 2023 Swinton Professional event will be on May 4. Andrew Lewis has recommended putting the Macalester Indoor competition on Feb 7.
10. President's Report Jim Sim
The board had a "Zoom retreat" in April which was very effective, given the geographically diverse nature of our group. Jim thanked the current board. Review of all games in 2023. 2024 information: Minnesota games should be July 15, 2024. Review of Alma changes for 2024 (single day event on Saturday May 24; all solos & bands can play both sets, no mandatory noon massed-bands attendance requirement). Chicago will be changing venues due to more construction at the Hamilton Lakes location; likely to be the DuPage Co. Fairgrounds in Wheaton. We would have more space there. Grade 4 will be a medley contest to help attract G4 bands from Canada due to PPBSO requirements (Grade 4 bands play a QMM in PPBSO, in addition to a

medley). The Wisconsin Highland Games in Waukesha, WI will be on August 31. Tulsa should be Sept. 14 in Broken Arrow, OK. Winter Storm Jan 12-14. More workshops at Winter Storm 2024 geared to lower level players, plus interviews & panels. Solo entries are already full. Annual Highland Games Summit will be Saturday, Jan. 6. Highland Games organizers are always talking about money and predictability; sanctioned pipe-band contests are too expensive and unpredictable. Minimum Prize Money is not called out specifically for regular (standard) sanctioning, so we will update that into our official rules. The MWPBA will publish an updated "how to run a Highland Games" package for those who wish to run a sanctioned pipe-band contest. Education Initiative recommended: bring in a top PM & LD from an overseas (UK) Grade 1 band that can be hired out by local bands. MWPBA would pay for the initial travel to the U.S. , and then the contracting band(s) will have to pay their instruction fees plus lodging. The MWPBA will run another e-mail survey to all member bands asking about their respective interest in contracting out this duo; an announcement will be made when these surveys go out. The MWPBA will host more Zoom remote instruction courses, one a month hopefully. Scheduled thus far are an Owen Russell will have a tenor/bass workshop that can be attended (location TBD), and a Strathspey/Reel (two-parted) class geared towards Grade 4 players will be conducted. Individual Scholarships – we've expanded them beyond pipers to drummers, and it has been very successful. We are going to expand it to other grades, but restrict it to soloists under 18. In order to improve the MWPBA's product on the field at sanctioned competitions, we will expand solo contests to have piping quartet contests; a quartet can play one grade above their current band registration, but will have to meet the musical requirements of that grade. We hope that this will be taken advantage of. Sponsors – we've had several new sponsors in 2023. Audio adjudication history: (brief overview of failed attempts in the past with micro-cassette recorders) – for 2024 we're looking to improve on this with a new piece of software called "CompetitionSuite". This software allows judges to record their commentary on a performance; this commentary is then uploaded to the cloud, and will be immediately accessible by the band being judged. It serves two purposes: 1) improves the efficiency of adjudicators by allowing them to speak directly into a recording device while the competition is in progress vs. writing that commentary 2) improve the quality of feedback to the bands – they will be able to hear what the judge heard along with the commentary. The software is relatively low cost, and is based on how many times it is used vs. a traditional purchase & yearly subscription fee. It will require the investment of some hardware (tablets); the software can run on an individual's phone, but it would be easier to manage/troubleshoot if the MWPBA owns the hardware outright vs expecting judges to download the software on their own mobile phones. In order to pay for the software fee (approximately \$7.00 per band per judge) the MWPBA will raise the band entry fees by \$15.00/event to cover the cost. There will be an adjudicator training session on this software in the Spring of 2024, and the MWPBA will be attending various band practices in the Chicago area to demo the software and hardware. There will also be a tech-support person per circle to cover issues. Additionally, the MWPBA is going to adopt the RSPBA method of tabulating scores. Reminder about due dates for solo registrations, rosters. Additional input from V.P. Scott McCawley – make sure each band has separate contacts per grade (band) so that surveys will have more accurate results (i.e. one organization provides an e-mail to us, but they might have three distinct competing bands within that organization, but we only get one response. With multiple e-mails, one for the Grade 2 band, one for the Grade 4 band, one for the Grade 5 band, etc. we will be able to obtain more accurate feedback from our surveys).

11. Business Items

a. Advisory Committee Proposals

i. none

b. Discussion items

i. <member suggestions at end of agenda>

#1 – playing for sheets; we have minimum band member requirements for a reason,

#2 – gentleman from IA wanted a pipe band competition for free; we're revamping the "how to host a Highland Games" document.

#3 – is there any thought given to the length of the day for lower grade bands in Chicago that have to play early in the morning, and have to stay around for the prizes at 6:00 p.m.

#4 – poor scoring sheets – hopefully moving to an audio based system (CompetitionSuite) may alleviate this issue;

#5 – The MWPBA lowered the travel money requirements in 2008 to help ease the burden on Highland Games organizers; we now propose to eliminate all travel money requirements to make hosting an MWPBA sanctioned event more predictable and budgetable. Dave Bruning (representative from the Wisconsin Scottish organization that hosts the Wisconsin Highland Games in Waukesha) amends our proposal to eliminate travel money and pay out a 4th placing vs. the current three placings. Motion passes unanimously.

12. Election of Officers

Jim Sim

-all current officers except Dan Tesch are willing to retain their positions for 2024. Bob Boyle is elected to be the new solo registrar

13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards

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14. Announcements

15. Adjournment

Meeting closes at 3:13

=====Z O O M C H A T B O X (pasted in)=====

12:54 PM

Can everyone on-line mute their audio?

From Lillian Prince to Everyone 01:07 PM

Terrible echo over the Zoom

From Pete Walen to Everyone 01:07 PM

I'm here for Cabar Feidh, until they get free from practice -

And Muskegon Reg Police

From Lillian Prince to Me (Direct Message) 01:07 PM

Yes

From Iain McKee to Everyone 01:08 PM

Here

From Pete Walen to Everyone 01:09 PM

We're hearing Steve from his laptop AND from Jim's laptop

From Brad (OKFPD) to Everyone 01:09 PM

Oklahoma Fire here

From Iain McKee to Everyone 01:09 PM

If you're not Steve or Jim, mute yourself.

From Pete Walen to Everyone 01:10 PM

Reacted to "Oklahoma Fire here" with

Me to Lillian Prince (Direct Message) 01:10 PM

Can everyone mute your microphones?

From Joseph Ketterman to Everyone 01:10 PM

Here for Fountain Trust Pipe Band

From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 01:10 PM

Sorry had problems with computer

From John Adair to Everyone 01:10 PM

You got me Steve?

From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 01:10 PM

Dundee is here

From Iain McKee to Everyone 01:10 PM

Kansas City St. Andrew is here.

Me to Lillian Prince (Direct Message) 01:14 PM

John Adair, I see you on, so I marked your band as present.

From Me to Everyone 01:14 PM

John Adair, I see you on, so I marked your band as present.

I just did, John.

From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 01:15 PM

Steve did you get Dundee?

From Me to Everyone 01:18 PM

Josie, I see you on line as well for Flint Scottish, so I've marked your band as present.

Angie VanderLeest - I see you're on-line, so I've marked Turlach Ur (Grade 3 & 5) as present.

From Josie Doefer FSPB to Everyone 01:18 PM

Reacted to "Josie, I see you o..." with

From Me to Everyone 01:19 PM

Wes, yes,

I've got Dundee Scottish marked as here.

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:19 PM

Grand Rapids & District is present. Sorry I was late.

From Me to Everyone 01:24 PM

Melanie, no problem, thanks.

Mary Beth, I see you on line, I will mark MI Scottish as present.

From Pete Walen to Me (Direct Message) 01:24 PM

Sent this to Jim - CCing you -

Maybe I need to ask Tom -

Cabar Feidh is expecting to move up to Gr 4. Is that covered elsewhere? Or do they need to apply for a regrading?

From Andrew Lewis to Everyone 01:25 PM

Scott, please add Macalester Winter Indoor, Feb 7

February 10 i mean

From Me to Everyone 01:25 PM

Andrew, I will let Scott know.

From Andrew Lewis to Everyone 01:25 PM

Not February 7. If you show up on February 7, nobody will be there

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:25 PM

Can you please repeat the question?

From Me to Everyone 01:25 PM

Which question, Melanie?

From Pete Walen to Everyone 01:26 PM

Replying to "Which question, Mela..."

I believe she was referring to Andrew's question about solo drumming contest

From Me to Everyone 01:29 PM

Melanie, that was Andrew's question re: will we have the Enright pre-season contest. Jim said we will if its financially viable (i.e. people sign up)

Moving the external camera for when we have people attending speak.

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:29 PM

THanks!

From Me to Everyone 01:33 PM

Rob, can you mute your microphone? Thanks.

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:33 PM

WHat about Grade 5 bands at Alma?

From Me to Everyone 01:34 PM

Is your question whether they'll be playing twice, Melanie?

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:34 PM

You mentioned Grades 2, 3 & 4. Did I miss 5?

From Me to Everyone 01:35 PM

Yes to G5 Melanie, just play once.

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:35 PM

Yes, heard that. Thanks!

From Me to Everyone 01:36 PM

let me check.

yes, there will be a location, Mary Beth. TBD

From John Adair to Me (Direct Message) 01:38 PM

Milwaukee is on or did I hear wrong?

From Josie Doefer FSPB to Everyone 01:38 PM

Steve, I think you can force all the online to mute if you're the host

Me to John Adair (Direct Message) 01:38 PM
I cannot, Josie. Milwaukee is TBD, still. No yes, no no.
From Cliff Davis to Me (Direct Message) 01:38 PM
Some people on the Zoom need to mute. i.e. Tom/Beth Ogilvy and "Rob"
From Andrew Lewis to Everyone 01:38 PM
We hope it will be at Macalester college
From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 01:47 PM
When was the Swinton contest date?
From Josie Doefers FSPB to Everyone 01:47 PM
Flint would be happy to host!
From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:48 PM
Reacted to "Flint would be happy..." with
From Me to Everyone 01:48 PM
Swinton is May 7
From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 01:48 PM
Reacted to "Swinton is May 7" with
From Me to Everyone 01:51 PM
Thanks, Rob for muting.
From Mary Beth Nicholson to Everyone 01:53 PM
I think more people would play quartets if medals were awarded, just saying....
From Me to Everyone 01:55 PM
Duly noted, Mary Beth.
Hang on, Tom. Jim's speaker is muted, but I'm listening.
From Cliff Davis to Me (Direct Message) 01:55 PM
Tom Oglivly has a questi9n
From Melanie Redman to Everyone 01:56 PM
He said there were no prizes or medals
When will it be announced which games will have this new event?
From Stuart Barr to Everyone 01:57 PM
To be able to play in Quartets, would that band need to be a full member of the MWPBA?
From Josie Doefers FSPB to Everyone 01:57 PM
So this would be piping only no drumming?
Me to Cliff Davis (Direct Message) 01:57 PM
Josie, it would be piping quartets (no drumming).
From Stuart Barr to Everyone 01:57 PM
I could see a quartet of players in a group that is not a current member wanting to play.
From Me to Everyone 01:57 PM
Josie, it would be piping quartets (no drumming).
From Josie Doefers FSPB to Everyone 01:58 PM
Replying to "Josie, it would be..."

I can get drummers that want to compete, it's the pipers I struggle with
From John Adair to Me (Direct Message) 02:02 PM
Love this idea,
From Melanie Redman to Everyone 02:03 PM
Sounds awesome
From Cliff Davis to Me (Direct Message) 02:06 PM
Will the bands be able to listen to the judges comments before the results are announced?
Me to Cliff Davis (Direct Message) 02:07 PM
Yes. We have to get a mobile internet modem to upload everything.
From Cliff Davis to Me (Direct Message) 02:08 PM
That will be interesting for bands to be able to listen to the comments immediately after playing
From John Adair to Me (Direct Message) 02:09 PM
Great upgrade for scoring!
From Me to Everyone 02:09 PM
Mary Beth, hang on.
From Mary Beth Nicholson to Everyone 02:10 PM
Outdoor setting? And concerned about WiFi and connectivity.
From Me to Everyone 02:10 PM
We have to get a portable Wi-Fi device; that'll be part of the cost.

From Mary Beth Nicholson to Everyone 02:13 PM

When will you release the Education zoom schedule to the website?

From John Adair to Everyone 02:14 PM

Replying to "We have to get a por..."

I use one for camping that works very well

From Me to Everyone 02:14 PM

Yes, as soon as we know it.

Thanks, John.

I'll also put it up via G-mail and FB, Mary Beth.

From Lillian Prince to Everyone 02:14 PM

Sounds like a great year! I'm looking forward to the new opportunities!

From Me to Everyone 02:17 PM

Andrew Hoinacki was offering up some alternatives to how to run Survey Monkey contacts.

From Dan Tesch to Everyone 02:31 PM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMR284F_mIQ

From Cliff Davis to Everyone 02:35 PM

Reacted to "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMR284F_mIQ" with

From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:38 PM

I think this is a fantastic solution to this problem.

From Me to Everyone 02:38 PM

Thanks Ben.

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 02:38 PM

So to clarify, this will apply to all the games? No travel money for any games?

From Me to Everyone 02:38 PM

Yes, Melanie

From Dan Tesch to Everyone 02:39 PM

@ben as long as you're in the prize pool, right?

From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:40 PM

Even if we are not in the prize money, we need contests to exist in the first place. Without them there is travel or prize money.

From Dan Tesch to Everyone 02:40 PM

Reacted to "Even if we are not i..." with

From Lillian Prince to Everyone 02:40 PM

Reacted to "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMR284F_mIQ" with

From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:41 PM

Reacted to "Even if we are not i..." with

Removed a reaction from "Even if we are not i..."

From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:46 PM

Agree with Matt, a small price to pay to assist the games.

From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:46 PM

Reacted to "Agree with Matt, a s..." with

Replying to "Agree with Matt, a s..."

Completely agree

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 02:46 PM

Reacted to "Agree with Matt, a s..." with

From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:46 PM

Reacted to "Completely agree" with

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 02:46 PM

Replying to "Agree with Matt, a s..."

Agreed

From Pete Walen to Everyone 02:50 PM

Word of mouth is the BEST advertising -

Post it on Facebook - Instagram, etc.,

From Me to Everyone 02:52 PM

For the upcoming motion, please just say no if you don't want the motion to pass, otherwise, I'll assume it is yes.

From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:52 PM

Metro in favor

From Pete Walen to Everyone 02:52 PM

MRPPD - Yes

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 02:52 PM
GR&DPB in favor

From Ken Heeschen to Everyone 02:52 PM
in favor, ce;tic nations

From Brad (OKFPD) to Everyone 02:52 PM
OKFPD yes

From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:52 PM
Gmpb in favor of

From John Adair to Me (Direct Message) 02:52 PM
FFHG YES

From Brian Donaldson to Everyone 02:52 PM
In favor of

From Ann Appleyard to Everyone 02:52 PM
Tunes of Glory - yes

From Joseph Ketterman to Everyone 02:52 PM
FTPB Yes

From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 02:53 PM
Yes

From Me to Everyone 02:53 PM
Everyone is in favor, thank you.

From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:55 PM
HARD NO ON G4 JIG

From Pete Walen to Everyone 02:55 PM
Reacted to "HARD NO ON G4 JIG" with

From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:56 PM
Reacted to "HARD NO ON G4 JIG" with

Thank you @Dan Tesch !

From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 02:57 PM
Thank you. Dan

From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:57 PM
CLAP

From Jeff Harris to Everyone 02:57 PM
Thank you for all your work Dan

From Andrew's iPhone (2) to Everyone 02:57 PM
Clap

From Brian Donaldson to Everyone 02:57 PM
I agree. In favor of.

From John Adair to Me (Direct Message) 02:57 PM
Aye

From Melanie Redman to Everyone 02:57 PM
GR&DPB in favor

From Ken Heeschen to Everyone 02:58 PM
Celtic Nations in favor

From Ann Appleyard to Everyone 02:58 PM
Tunes of Glory in favor

From Pete Walen to Everyone 02:58 PM
MRPPD - Aye

From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:58 PM
In favor

From Josie Doefers FSPB to Everyone 02:58 PM
FSPB in favor

From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:58 PM
Metro inf favor

From Brad (OKFPD) to Everyone 02:58 PM
OKFPD In favor

From Joseph Ketterman to Everyone 02:58 PM
FTPB in favor

From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 02:58 PM
Dundee. Favor

From Mary Beth Nicholson to Everyone 02:58 PM
MSPD in favor

From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:58 PM
Second
From John Adair to Me (Direct Message) 02:59 PM
Aye
From Ben Peterson to Everyone 02:59 PM
Gmpb in favor
From Tad Myers to Everyone 02:59 PM
Metro AYE
From Pete Walen to Everyone 02:59 PM
MRPPD - Aye
From Melanie Redman to Everyone 02:59 PM
GR&DPB in favor
From Josie Doefer FSPB to Everyone 02:59 PM
FS{B in favor
From Mary Beth Nicholson to Everyone 02:59 PM
aye
From Brad (OKFPD) to Everyone 02:59 PM
OKFPD-Aye
From Ann Appleyard to Everyone 02:59 PM
Tunes of Glory in favor
From Brian Donaldson to Everyone 02:59 PM
In favor.
From Ken Heeschen to Everyone 02:59 PM
Celtic Nations in favor
From Joseph Ketterman to Everyone 02:59 PM
FTPB in favor
From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 03:00 PM
Favor
From Andrew Lewis to Everyone 03:08 PM
soon to be world champion Macalester College PB
From Tad Myers to Everyone 03:09 PM
Back in the saddle again
From Melanie Redman to Everyone 03:09 PM
Have to jump off. Thanks for a good meeting!
From Me to Everyone 03:10 PM
Thanks Melanie!
From Josie Doefer FSPB to Everyone 03:10 PM
February 17th, Flint Scottish Ceilidh will resume
From Andrew Lewis to Everyone 03:11 PM
Macalester College Winter solos Feb 10
Andrew Douglas to judge
Special Event for Grade 4 piob
full tune
winner gets a bound copy of the piob soc books
From Me to Everyone 03:11 PM
Thank you Josie & Andrew!
From Dan Tesch to Everyone 03:11 PM
Thanks Jim!
From Andrew Lewis to Everyone 03:11 PM
contact alewisk@gmail.com for details
From Me to Everyone 03:11 PM
Thank you everyone for attending. I'm glad the tech issues were better this year.
From Wesley's iPad (2) to Everyone 03:12 PM
Thank you to everyone that makes all this happen!
From Jeff Harris to Everyone 03:13 PM
Good work Steve, thanks Jim
From Me to Everyone 03:13 PM
everyone out as well.

2023 AGM Band Roll Call

Alma College Pipe Band	Grade 4	
Billy Mitchell Scottish Pipes and Drums	Grade 4	
Cabar Feidh Pipe Band	Grade 5	✓
Cameron & District Pipe Band	Grade 3	
Celtic Cross Pipes and Drums	Grade 5	✓
Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums	Grade 4	✓
Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums	Grade 5	✓
Chicago Highlanders Pipes & Drums	Grade 5	✓
Chicago Stock Yard Kilty Band	Grade 4	✓
City of Chicago Pipe Band	Grade 2	✓
City of Chicago Pipe Band	Grade 4	✓
City of Rockford Pipe Band	Grade 5	✓
Detroit Highlanders	Grade 4	
Dundee Scottish Pipe Band	Grade 4	✓
Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville	Grade 5	✓
Flint Scottish Pipe Band	Grade 5	✓
Greater Midwest Pipe Band	Grade 2	
James Enright Sr. Memorial Pipe Band	Grade 5	✓
Kalamazoo Pipe Band	Grade 5	✓
Kansas City St Andrews Pipes & Drums	Grade 5	✓
Macalester College Pipe Band	Grade 3	✓
Macalester College Pipe Band	Grade 5	✓
Madison Pipes and Drums	Grade 4	✓
Medinah Highlanders	Grade 5	
Michigan Scottish Pipes and Drums	Grade 5	✓
Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band	Grade 2	✓
Milwaukee Scottish Pipe Band	Grade 4	
Minnesota Pipes & Drums	Grade 4	
Muskegon Regional Police Pipes and Drums	Grade 5	✓
North Coast Pipe Band	Grade 4	
North Texas Caledonia Pipes & Drums	Grade 5	
Oklahoma Fire Pipes and Drums	Grade 5	✓
Ozark Highlanders Pipe Band	Grade 5	
Spirit of Michigan Pipes & Drums	Grade 5	✓
St. Andrew's Pipe Band of Detroit	Grade 5	

St. Louis Caledonian Pipe Band	Grade 4	
Turlach Ur Pipe Band	Grade 3	✓
Turlach Ur Pipe Band	Grade 5	✓
Twin Cities Metro Pipe Band	Grade 4	
Black Hawk Pipes and Drums	Supporting Member	
Clan Donald Pipes & Drums	Supporting Member	
Grand Rapids & District Pipe Band	Supporting Member	
Omaha Pipes and Drums	Supporting Member	
Tunes of Glory Pipes & Drums	Supporting Member	✓

St. Andrew of SPII Tom Gilre

✓

Grand Rapids & District

✓