

**MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
AGENDA
NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

1. Call to order - Jim Sim
2. Roll call - Jim Sim
3. Minutes of the 2014 AGM
4. Treasurers Report - Marty Boyle
5. Registrar's Report: Band - Tad Myers
6. Registers Report: Solo - Tom Jewell
7. Chief Steward Report - Keith McDonald
8. Music Board Report - Tom Weithers
9. Education committee - Bentley Wall
10. Vice-Presidents Report - Scott McCawley
11. Presidents Report - Jim Sim
12. Business Items

a. Advisory Committee Proposals

- i. **Submitted from Jim Sim** - See Attached wording
- ii. **Submitted from Julie Perry**

1. **Proposed Change to Rules & Regulations**

SECTION II.A.DEFINITIONS

a. Current:

Minimum Proper Uniform: Includes appropriate band shoes (no tennis, sandal, boot), socks, shirt, kilt and a traditional cap as Balmoral or Glengarry (no baseball, cowboy) for all performances on the field including Massed Bands.

Proposed:

Minimum Proper Uniform: Includes appropriate band shoes (no tennis, sandal, boot), socks, *dress* shirt, *necktie*, kilt and a traditional cap as Balmoral or Glengarry (no baseball, cowboy) for all performances on the field including Massed Bands

b. **Clarification**

i. SECTION II.E.MUSIC REQUIREMENT

1. GRADE 4 Band Music

- a. QMM 2:45-4:30
- b. MEDLEY 3-5 Minutes

If this is correct, the chart does not reflect this. The chart suggests both sets have duration of 3-5 minutes. Could the chart be changed to clarify the times?

- c. When solo competitors register online, include direction to soloists to read the MWPBA Rules and Regulations, especially:

**Part II.A. Minimum Proper Uniform
Part III.A thru F, especially
III.D. SOLOIST CHECK-IN IS REQUIRED**

b. Membership Proposals

- i. Proposed by Andrew Lewis - I have an agenda item for the AGM. The EUSPBA held 3 premier professional piping contests in the 2015 season. The contests

CS POINTS
TIE BREAKER

were held at indoor venues, the day before or after the host highland games, featured more challenging events (MMSSRR), and awarded more prize money to attract competitors. I believe each contest had in excess of 10 competitors and some spectators (at least more than the usual zero, could easily be more with advertising). I've attached 2 entry forms from those contests for your perusal. I attended the one in Rhode Island. The big draw for me was playing against a strong and deep field to help my CPA grade. As it is, especially with the declining Canadian entry at Alma, MWPBA solo contests are worthless to the CPA. The prize money also negated my travel expenses. I would be interested in a similar event in the MWPBA (maybe one of our more eastern competitions to attract the EUSPBA pipers as well as ours). If the MWPBA has the will, I'd suggest collaborating with the EUSPBA to piggyback on their success and get the same competitors and audience interested, avoid conflicts, etc. I don't know where to come up with all that prize money...it would probably be a net money loser. Please contact me with any questions or for additional input.

- ii. Proposed by Chris Eller I'd like to propose the following items: In order to increase participation in the annual Terry McHugh Memorial contest, consider awarding points according to rules for a regular season contest at the final event (not at the regional qualifiers).
- iii. Proposed by Chris Eller Consider the idea of the MWPBA funding and awarding small scholarships of about \$300 or so to help defray costs to attend events like Winter Storm and Balmoral School (or another school/event/workshop). Perhaps one scholarship for each category of registered member: all piper grades, all drummer grades. Anyone who has registered AND competed in at least one sanctioned contest during the season would be eligible for a scholarship the following season. Someone could only win once. Criteria for winning may be up to the Music Committee or open for general discussion (perhaps Champion Supreme or first runner-up would receive the scholarship).
- iv. Note that the Columbus Scottish Festival in Columbus, Indiana will be hosting a sanctioned contest on Saturday, September 10th, 2016. The festival (at the moment) will host contests in the following categories:
 - * Practice Chanter
 - * Jr./Sr. Novice Piping
 - * Piping light music (Grade 4 through 1)
 - * Piobaireachd (Grade 4 through 1)
 - * Snare (Grade 4 through 1)
 - * Tenor drum (novice, intermediate, advanced)
 - * Bass drum (novice, advanced)
 - * Drum Major
 - * Grade 5 Band (Quick March Medley)
 - * Grade 4 Band (Medley)

c. Discussion items

13. Election of Officers – Jim Sim

14. Presentation of Champion Supreme – Jim Sim

15. Announcements

BAND CONTEST RULE CHANGE

The top two bands in the previous year's Champion Supreme Point Standings (including ties) from bands that are not upgraded will be allowed to play up into the next highest grade for the season at any contest. The bands will be notified by the MWPBA. The band must meet all playing requirements and music requirements of the grade they are playing in. The RI rule will be enforced per the grade rule as well. The band will have to enter the contest on the web site but pay NO entry fee. The draw will give no special treatment to any band. The band playing in the higher grade will be given sheets, and placings in the contest. They will not get any Champion Supreme Points or Prize Money. The Prize Money and Champion Supreme Points in the Grade will be given out as though no lower Grade bands were in the Contest but the results will be announced as they are scored. Example Below:

Grade 3 (6) Band Contest (Non CS)	CS Points	Prize Money
1. Grade 3 Band A	4	1st Place \$
2. Grade 4 Band B	0	0
3. Grade 3 Band C	3	2nd Place \$
4. Grade 4 Band D	0	0
5. Grade 3 Band E	2	3rd Place \$
6. Grade 3 Band F	1	4th Place \$

**MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2014**

1. Call to order - Jim Sim called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM
2. Roll call – Marty Boyle – 19 Bands in attendance
3. Minutes of the 2013 AGM – Meeting minutes read silently and approved.
4. Treasurers Report – Marty Boyle – Treasurers report was presented and reviewed the significant items in the recap. The report was approved.
5. Registrar's Report: Band – Tad Myers – There were 47 bands
6. Registers Report: Solo – Tom Jewell – Tom gave a presentation discussing the number of solo members in the association
7. Chief Steward Report – Keith McDonald gave an overview of the entire recap of each of the games throughout the year. Keith addressed the good and bad parts for each games. Keith thanked the bands for their cooperation. Keith thanked the volunteers for their assistance running the games.
8. Music Board Report – Tom Weithers - Tom Weithers gave an overview for his Board meeting. Brian Donaldson has been added to the Music Board to replace Iain Macey who is planning on staying in Texas for the foreseeable future. The re-grade process went smoothly this year with the new online applications and the new date at the end of March. Later this fall, the MWPBA will offer the Piobaireachd adjudicators seminar to complete the certification process. The test will be offered in the spring. At that time, we will also offer the Band and Solo Piping test to a few applicants who were unable to take the test the last time it was offered. The Music Board is also looking into ideas for an education session for Drum Major adjudicators. There will be an ANAPBA meeting in January to iron out a number of issues, including grading, tune requirements, the use of registered instructors and the border crossing problems of adjudicators and pipers with ivory instruments. Tom covered how the re-grading decisions process went for solos members. Tom reminded people in attendance that bands and soloists can apply to be upgraded.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE The Music Board recommends that, effective with the 2016 season, the QMM be dropped from the tune requirements in Grade 4 and replaced with an MSR event in which bands would play 4 parts of 2/4 march, four parts of strathspey, and 4 parts of reel. A selection of two different two-parted tunes in each category would be permitted. This is consistent with the PPBSO requirements which will be effective in 2015 and, if the bands choose tunes off the MAP list, consistent with the RSPBA requirements for Grade 4A at the major championships. The EUSPBA requires 4 parts of March but only requires 2 parts of strathspey and 2 parts of reel. Therefore a MSR that complies with the proposed rule could comply with the EUSPBA requirements by dropping one strathspey and one reel. The Rule was presented to the membership and the results of the vote was 19-0. The Music Board will present any possible changes based on review from ANAPBA.

9. Education committee – Bentley Wall – Jim Sim gave a brief overview of the Education committee and noted the School would not happen in Chicago again in 2015. There will be a survey from the association to discuss possible education opportunities.
10. Vice-Presidents Report – Scott McCawley gave an overview of his year for the current year.
11. Presidents Report – Jim Sim gave an overview of the past year. Discussed some achievements over the year such as the change in Webmaster and thanked Stuart Barr for all his hard work. Jim thought the communications were good over the past year but still can use improvement. The Highland Games Summit is going to be the week after Winter Storm. The regional contest will only be pipers contest but the indoor contest will be drummers as well. Jim thanked all the sponsors. Jim discussed the disappointments for the year including the Canterbury Games, discussed judging issues. Jim noted that volunteers do not have to attend all the games and any would like more if possible. Jim would like to have a budget for the current year. Jim discussed goals for the current year – include a confidentiality agreement for Board meetings, Bob Worrall is going to run the event a Piobaireachd via skype. Jim would like to have additional workshops for judges. Jim discussed the use of professional from the MWPBA to open to affect bands. Jim noted we are going to have bands pay for Chief Steward fee.
12. Business Items
 - a. Advisory Committee Proposals
 - i. We recommend an increase band dues to \$200 for early registration and \$250 for late registration. We have not had an increase in dues in several years and with all the programs we have started we need to increase revenue. The item was presented to the Board and was approved to be sent to the membership for a by-law change.
 - ii. We recommend an increase in solo due to \$20 to \$25 for regular registration and \$30 for late registrations. The item was presented to the Board and was approved to be sent to the membership for a by-law change.
 - b. Membership Proposals
 - i. Submitted by Jayne White Robin Jarrett of the Indianapolis Scottish Society asked me to have the MWPBA board consider extending the competition season to include the Indianapolis Scottish Games, which is usually the 2nd weekend in October. They hope to make the games grow and ultimately include band competitions. For the games to be successful, it is important that the points earned by the soloists, and bands count towards the Champion Supreme status of the MWPBA. Campbell White has discussed having these games as a full fledge games. The MWPBA will discuss with the games to determine if they qualify for sanctioning and Champion Supreme.
 - ii. Submitted by Bob Ford - Bands are judged by some very competent people. We would love to know what they think of us but can only guess, because we have no idea what they have written on our score sheets. The only way to find out is to find them and ask them to interpret their scribbling. That is not always possible and may make the judge uncomfortable. Bands that I have been with have spent

quite a bit of collective time trying to decipher score sheets. One particularly frustrating sheet looked as though the judge wanted us to "Chastise a little umbrella" and that we "Tango & suck". We could only hope that they were trying to convey a more meaningful message. I understand that they are writing on the go and trying to listen to the performance. I don't expect much more under the circumstances and I am not proposing to have them complete a penmanship course as part of the judging qualification. But there are a couple potential solutions to this problem; Years ago, Jim Sim judged our drum corps using a tape recorder and commenting during the performance. That is the way DCI does it and it worked pretty well. Today, there are tiny digital recorders that do a great job and the band being judged gets a close-up recording from the judge's perspective. As long as the judge does not talk as bad as they write, it is a viable option. The recording would be transcribed afterward and given to the band, along with a copy of the recording. Another option is to have a designated person to go over each sheet with every judge and type it into a document like this immediately after the contest, but before the awards. At the speed with which some people can type, this could take less than a minute per sheet. The judge would then sign the legible, printed document. Even if neither one of these are implemented, I hope that another solution is. The Board discussed and addressed the topic to see if the option is viable after this year. The Association is going to get weather writers for games. We are going to assist bands to help get in contact with judges if need be.

- iii. Submitted by Hunter Gullickson Midsection drummer here is defined as someone who plays bass drum or tenor drum. To expand the idea, a person could play pipes in one band and tenor drum in a band of a different grade. A person could play snare drum in one band and bass drum in a band of a different grade. A person could not play tenor drum in one band and bass drum in a band of a different grade. He recommends the following A. DEFINITIONS Playing Member: A piper, snare drummer or midsection drummer whose name appears on the band roster as submitted to MWPBA Band-Registrar. Playing members may play a bagpipe, snare drum or midsection drum in one registered band and a different instrument in a registered band of a different grade.

- A playing member of a band may compete only with that band during the competition season (with Registered Instructor exception).
- At no time shall any player compete with two bands of the same grade.
- Only one (1) band change will be allowed per person in one competition season (with School Band Member exception).

The item was presented to the membership for a motion. There was no second to the motion to discuss the motion.

- iv. Submitted from the Chicago Highlanders -We would like to see a limit placed on the number of upper level players that can be rostered in a Gr 4 band: specifically, one upper level player (RI) in each/either corps. Considering a minimum number of pipers could, on any given day, be 6, adding in an RI and just one more upper level piper produces a circle with 25% upper level players. The raw numbers do not, however, accurately reflect the difference that these 2 pipers can make. Strategic placement of these players and the confidence they

infuse into the circle puts the band at a much greater advantage. A limit would foster a level playing field and produce results that accurately reflect the grade. When a roster is submitted to the MWPBA in March it could be reviewed on a player by player basis and the band could be re-graded based on that review or denied entry into the grade 4 level until the roster is adjusted. If a band wishes to add an upper level player to their roster during the season, the player would be denied if the limit has already been reached.

Below is an excerpt from the PPBSO:

Transfers Prohibited. A player who is already registered with the PPBSO, and is on the roster of a competitive band that is registered with the PPBSO, is permitted one transfer only per season, from one band to another, where he or she has already competed in a band event at a PPBSO-sanctioned contest during that competition season. All such transfers will be subject to review by the Music Committee (MC) of the PPBSO to ensure that the competitive grade of the band which the player is transferring into is not materially affected as a result of the transfer. Based on a recommendation from the MC, the PPBSO may either permit or deny the transfer request.

Those in attendance discussed the issue for this point. Tom Weithers discussed this topic and presented opinions from the Music Board. Tom Weithers presented how this has been handled in the past for other bands. The Board also discussed that this would be really hard to judge quality of members. The item failed to pass.

- v. Submitted from the Chicago Highlanders - We would also like to request that rosters be made public. The Board felt this was a good idea and is going to implement this process. We will post on the association's web site.

c. Discussion items

- i. Border issues – The members discussed this topic to see how the Association feels about this issue for the ANAPBA games. Jim discussed how the other games can handle this issue. Jim has contacted his Congress person. We are going to propose to assist 1-2 judges international judges to help get an O1 Visa. It costs about \$1200. Jim is going to assist Ken Eller to help get his O1 Visa. The membership approved the assistance. There is some political rules being done.
- ii. Grading adjustment – Jim asked for comments on the grading and the impact for Grade 2. There was some discussion and what impact it could have on the games.
- iii. Symphonic formation – In the mid 80's the music was different and more creative due to Scotland changing into requirements. Jim presented the possibility of doing a symphonic formation at a contest.

13. Election of Officers – Jim Sim

- a. President – Sole nominee Jim Sim – elected 19-0
- b. Vice-President – Sole nominee Scott McCawley – elected 19-0
- c. Secretary-Treasurer - Sole nominee Marty Boyle - elected 19-0

- d. Registrar – Solo - Sole nominee Tom Jewell - elected 19-0
 - e. Registrar – Band - Sole nominee Tad Myers - elected 19-0
 - f. Regional East - Sole nominee Bentley Wall - elected 19-0
 - g. Regional West - Sole nominee Linda Williams - elected 19-0
 - h. Regional Central - Nominees Bill Smillie and Andrew Lockwood - elected 19-0
14. Presentation of Champion Supreme – Jim Sim announced the Champion Supreme award winners and presented the trophies.
 15. Announcements – Announcements for upcoming events were presented
 16. Adjournment – Jim Sim adjourned meeting at 4:25PM

MidWest Pipe Band Association
Schedule of attendance 2014

Jim Sim	President
Andrew Hoinacki	St. John's NW Mil Academy
Philip Jutz	N/A
Joanna Lloyd	Tunes of Glory
Linda Williams	St. Louis Caledonian
Lucas Greenlee	City of Rockford
Mary Thrasher	Chicago Highlanders
Jen Watson	Chicago Highlanders
Luke Stremlau	Celtic Cross
Drew Hoinacki	Past President
Doug Weisheit	Fountain Trust
Chris Eller	Solo
Bryan States	City of Rockford
Campbell White	Fountain Trust
Angus Martin	Fountain Trust
Ted Kern	Celtic Cross
Stuart Barr	Glenshinnoch
Wesley Williams	Dundee Scottish
Jayne White	Fountain Trust
Andrew Lockwood	Celtic Cross
Andrew Lockwood	Board member
Wayne Hoefler	Doonaree
Bill Smillie	Midlothian
Scott McCawley	VP
Scott McCawley	Midlothian
Scott McCawley	Music Board
Bill Sterba	Blackhawk P&D
Keith Murphy	Fountain Trust
John Adair	Firefighters Highland Guard
Tom Jewell	Solo - Registrar
Matthew Praznowski	Midlothian
Mike Heywood	Tunes of Glory
Joanne Ripper	St. Andrews of Central IL
Grace Jirsa	Midlothian
Nancy Taylor	Past President
Andrew Jirsa	Midlothian
Adrian Melvin	Greater Midwest
Tristan Wilson	Midlothian
Sondra Sormaz	Chicago Highlanders
Mike Reda	Chicago Stockyards

**2015
Solo Registrar's Report
Midwest Pipe Band Association**

2015	Piping Light Music	Piping Piobaireachd	Snare Drum
Open	11	12	6
Grade 1	21	15	5
Grade 2	17	13	1
Grade 3	45	42	8
Grade 4	83	55	19
Junior Novice	17		
Senior Novice	28		
Practice Chanter	4		

2015	Tenor Drum	Bass Drum	Drum Major
Advanced	0	5	
Intermediate	14		
Novice	17	2	
Open			6

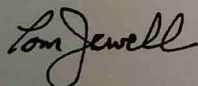
Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Total Membership	296	321	305	259	241	283	277
New**	71	89	86	76	44	82	74
Renewal**	225	232	219	183	197	201	203
Adjudicators**	21	21	20	17	16	16	21
Associate Members**	1	5					

Year	2008	2007	2006*
Total Membership	281	343	387
New**	69	101	137
Renewal**	212	242	250
Adjudicators**	16	12	22

* No records earlier than 2006

** Included in Total Membership

Prepared by:



Tom Jewell
Solo Registrar

Band Registrar's report 2015

The 2015 season saw a steady number of grade 2 and grade 3 bands and a small decline in the number of grade 4 and grade 5 bands. 2014 saw the loss of the MWPBA's grade 1 band the City of Chicago but the formation of the Grade 2 Greater Midwest and an increase in overall band numbers by one band, with a loss of one band in grade 4 and an increase of two bands in grade 5.

2015

Band Registrar's Report

Midwest Pipe Band Association

	Bands 2015	Change in 2015	Bands 2014	Change in 2014	Bands 2013	Change in 2013	Bands 2012
Grade 1	0	0	0	-1	1	0	1
Grade 2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Grade 3	5	0	5	0	5	-4	9
Grade 4	15	-1	16	-1	17	1	16
Grade 5	22	-2	24	2	22	1	21
Totals	43	-3	46	1	45	-2	47

2105 MWPBA Band List

Band Name	Band ID#	Band Name	Band ID#
Twin Cities Metro	PB-100-IV	Cabar Feidh	PB-141-V
Strathdon Caledonia	PB-102-IV	Grand Traverse	PB-142-V
Celtic Nations	PB-103-IV	Macalester College	PB-143-III
Wichita Caledonian	PB-104-V	Flint Scottish	PB-146-IV
Minnesota Police PB	PB-107-V	Chicago Stockyard Kilty	PB-147-IV
City of McPherson	PB-109-IV	Turlach Ur	PB-149-V
White Pine P & D	PB-110-V	Minnesota Police PB	PB-150-IV
Kansas City St. Andrews	PB-111-III	Milwaukee Scottish	PB-162-IV
Doonaree	PB-113-V	Macalester College	PB-163-V
Chicago Highlanders	PB-115-IV	Brian Boru	PB-165-IV
Tunes of Glory	PB-119-V	Dundee Scottish PB	PB-166-V
Clan Donald	PB-121-V	Chicago Scots	PB-168-III
Omaha P & D	PB-122-V	Firefighters Highland Gd.	PB-170-V
Saint Louis Caledonian	PB-124-IV	Alma College PB	PB-173-IV
Fountain Trust	PB-125-IV	Kansas City St. Andrews	PB-176-V
St Andrews Society IL	PB-126-IV	St. John's Northwestern	PB-177-V
Celtic Cross	PB-127-V	Michigan Scottish	PB-178-V
Chicago Celtic	PB-129-III	Louisville Pipe Band	PB-179-V
City of Rockford	PB-133-V	Greater Midwest	PB-180-II
Madison P & D	PB-135-V	North Shore Pipe Band Club	PB-182-V
Midlothian Scottish	PB-137-III	Shannon Rovers Irish	PB-183-V
Billy Mitchell Scottish	PB-140-IV		

Respectfully submitted

Tad Myers

MWPBA Band registrar.

Music Board Report 2015

NEWS

The MWPBA offered the Piobaireachd adjudicators seminar and three judges took and passed the exam. This exam will be offered again in the spring. At that time, we will also offer the Band and Solo Piping exam. A seminar was held to explain the new Mini MSR requirement for Grade 4 bands (see below). After the last ANAPBA meeting, new channels of communication were opened with the RSPBA and the Music Board was consulted and given significant input concerning the entry of Midlothian Scottish in Grade 3A this year. There will be an ANAPBA meeting in January to continue to work out a number of issues concerning contest rules and music requirements.

RULE CHANGES

The Mini MSR event was adopted for Grade 4 bands at the last AGM with the rule to be effective for the 2016 season. The Mini MSR replaces the Quick March Medley requirement. The rule reads: "The Grade 4 MSR will consist of play four parts of 2/4 march, four parts of strathspey, and four parts of reel. A selection of two different two-parted tunes in any or all categories is permitted."

- 1) New Event - Beginning Solo Tenor with a music requirement of "One 2-parted 2/4 March played twice through the full tune without stopping." A competitor may only play in this grade during one competition season regardless of the number of games entered.
- 2) New Event - Beginning Solo Snare with a music requirement of "One 2-parted 2/4 March played twice through the full tune without stopping." A competitor may only play in this grade during one competition season regardless of the number of games entered.
- 3) No Champion Supreme points will be awarded in the Beginning Solo Tenor, Beginning Solo Snare, or Practice Chanter events.

GRADING DECISIONS

PIPING

Practice Chanter

All players are automatically moved to Novice after one year (Rules Section III.B).

Senior Novice to Grade 4

Robert Cooney
Joshua Steffen
Alexandria Cunningham
Clair Douglas

Junior Novice to Grade 4

Griffin Coffman
Nicole Sherrer
Thomas Asis
Gabrielle Neal

Grade 4 to Grade 3 Light Music

Joseph Fischer
Ethan Riddle
Jacob Schrader
Tony Mach

Grade 4 to Grade 3 Piob

Jacob Schrader
Tony Mach

Grade 3 to Grade 2 Light Music

Kolya Sier
Lauren VanderWaal

Grade 2 to Grade 1 Light Music

Angus Martin
Griffin Hall

Grade 2 to Grade 1 Piob

Griffin Hall
Angus Martin
Tak Tang

Grade 4 Snare to Grade 3

Anna Oyler

DRUMMING

Intermediate Tenor to Advanced Tenor

Brianna McDonald

Novice Tenor to Intermediate Tenor

Courtney Green

BANDS

Midlothian Scottish from Grade 3 to Grade 2

Fountain Trust from Grade 4 to Grade 3

Turlach Ur from Grade 5 to Grade 4

Any other bands or soloists who would like to file a Grading Application may do so by March 31, 2016.