



MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 2024, 1pm



AGENDA

Elected Officers, 2023:

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, 2023:

Chief Steward:	<rotating>	Website Administrator:	Stuart Barr
Music Board Chair:	Tom Weithers	Score Keeper:	Julie Parry

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| 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
No individuals | 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. **Champion Supreme Drum Corps Trophies:** Whereas the MWPBA offers Champion Supreme Trophies for registered bands, but nothing to single out the drum corps efforts of each band, the Advisory Board would like to institute a "Champion Supreme Drum Corps" trophy. One would be available for each band grades' drum corps. The determination of the winner will utilize the same criteria currently utilized for determining band Champion Supreme trophies. These trophies will be awarded at the end of the season, and distributed during the Annual General Meeting for that season year.

- ii. **Elimination of Drum Major Contests in 2025:** Whereas the MWPBA rules state (Section V.E. Evaluation of Solo Performance): Drum Majors shall perform together to a 4-parted 6/8 March and be judged on deportment, dress, mace flourishes while marching and command using the mace while marching, the Advisory Board recommends eliminating this competition in 2025 on the basis of

*-the event does not enhance the musical skills of a band
-declining/flat participation over the years*

Drum Major	2019	2020*	2021**	2022	2023	2024
Registrations	8	0	1	6	8	9
Actuals	7	0	1	4	8	7
MWPBA Members	6	0	1	4	5	5

*-no contests that year, COVID

**-some contests that year, COVID

-adjudication of the event poses some difficulties to our judges

- iii. **Elimination of Group Tenor Contests in 2025:** Whereas the MWPBA rules state (Section V.E. Evaluation of Solo Performance): An Individual or Group Tenor Drummer shall be judged on the following-rolls, rhythm & expression, flourishing & interpretation, quality & variety, tempo, tone, execution, and transitions & ending, the Advisory Board recommends eliminating this competition in 2025 on the basis of

-declining/flat participation over the years

Group Tenor	2019	2020*	2021**	2022	2023	2024
Registrations	11	0	4	7	6	19
Actuals	9	0	4	7	5	10

*-no contests that year, COVID

**-some contests that year, COVID

- The Group Tenor event was instituted before the creation of individual tenor solo events. The MWPBA currently has 4 different solo tenor grades (Advanced, Intermediate, Novice and Beginning), each with one or two musical styles to compete with, and are better attended than the Group Tenor event. The MWPBA also has a "Beginning Tenor" event for individual wishing to start out, making this event essentially redundant and unnecessary. Additionally, the drumming events in general have stipulations that don't require a bagpiper to be present for the event, which perhaps the Group Tenor event meant to alleviate when it started out.

- iv. **Elimination of Practice Chanter Contests in 2025:** Whereas the MWPBA rules state (Section III.B. Grades): The Practice Chanter event shall be open to all ages. Practice Chanter soloists must be registered members of the MWPBA or another pipe band association and may only play in the grade for one season but are exempt from the highland dress requirement. After competing for one year in Practic Chanter, players are automatically re-graded to Grade 5 Junior or Senior piping, the Advisory Board recommends eliminating this competition in 2025 on the basis of

-declining/flat participation over the years

Practice Chanter	2019	2020*	2021**	2022	2023	2024
Registrations	11	0	2	3	7	1
Actuals	11	0	2	3	7	1

*-no contests that year, COVID

**-some contests that year, COVID

-the MWPBA has a Grade 5 Junior solo competition where the individual competitor plays a musical instrument, the Great Highland Bagpipe. The MWPBA does not have a drumming event where the individual competitor plays a practice pad; this event is similar in that a practice device is being played.

b. Discussion items

-I propose a rule banning ear buds, air pods, etc during solo competition. This would be to prevent the use of a metronome providing them an edge against those of use honing the skill to keep tempo. –Greg Boyd (#20810)

12. Election of Officers

Jim Sim

13. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards

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14. Announcements

15. Adjournment

2024
Band Registrar's Report
Midwest Pipe Band Association

	Bands 2024	Change from 2023	Bands 2023	Bands 2022	Bands 2021	Bands 2020	Bands 2019	Bands 2018	Bands 2017	Bands 2016	Bands 2015
Grade 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	3	0	3	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	1
Grade 3	4	1	3	5	4	6	5	4	6	6	5
Grade 4	16	3	13	12	17	16	15	16	13	14	15
Grade 5	25	3	22	26	23	21	26	25	25	22	22
Sustaining	3	0	3	1	3	2					
Totals	51	7	44	47	50	46	48	47	46	44	43

2024 saw an increase in the grade 5 bands by three, an increase in the grade 4 bands by three, and an increase in the grade 3 bands by one. Grade 2 remained constant at three bands.

Overall the association saw an increase of 7 competition bands; the most significant increase in band participation in the last decade.

41 of our Registered Bands competed in 2024 (80% engagement).

54 unique bands played in all 7 of our contests in 2024.

MWPBA Solo Registrar Report

The below chart provides a breakdown of the Membership Registrations for the 2024 Season

Total Individual Members Registered	284
Total Grade/Disciplines Registered	453
Registrants in Multiple Categories	151
Registrants in 3 or More Categories	15
Light Music Registrants	212
Piobaireachd Registrants	140
Snare Registrants	46
Tenor Registrants	16
Bass Registrants	10
Drum Major Registrants	7
Judge Registrants	18
Supporting Members Registrants	4

For 2024, we had 278 individuals compete across all 7 sanctioned contests. Of that, 191 of them were MWPBA soloists.

- 68% of all soloists at sanctioned games were MWPBA members
- 74% of our registered soloists (260, not counting judges and sustaining members) compete regularly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Boyle, MWPBA Solo Registrar

**MWPBA MUSIC BOARD REPORT
2024 Annual General Meeting**

Rule Changes

The Music Board is not proposing any rule changes for the 2025 season.

Grading Decisions

PIPING

Grade 5 Sr. to Grade 4 Sr.

Shannon Lamb
Jason Silvey
Jessica Troester

Grade 5 Jr to Grade 4 Jr.

Taylor Pulido

Grade 4 Piobaireachd to Grade 3 Piobaireachd

Meghan Beveridge
Allison Hildebrand
Brian Kinkade
Dan Nicla

Grade 3 to Grade 2

Ian Gruenhagen
Stella Jacoby
Alexander Kinkade (Light Music only)
Justice Peterson (Light Music only)

Grade 1 to Open

Ben Elliot

DRUMMING

Intermediate Tenor to Advanced

Carolyn Stonier

BANDS

Kansas City Saint Andrew to Grade 4
Michigan Scottish to Grade 4
City of Chicago to Grade 3 (by request)

For the Music Board,

Tom Weithers, Chairman
Chris Apps
Jim Enright
Andrew Hoinacki
Andrew Lewis
Scott McCawley
Tom Ogilvy