

MIDWEST PIPEBAND ASSOCIATION
(Preliminary) MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2015

1. Call to Order: 1:04 PM
2. Roll Call – Jim Sim – 14 bands attending
3. Minutes of the 2014 AGM – Meeting minutes read silently and approved.
4. Treasurers Report – Jim Sim (Marty Boyle not attending) – Presented the Treasurers report and reviewed the significant items in the recap. **Report approved.**
5. Registrar's Report: – Solo – Tom Jewell – Tom gave a presentation discussing the number of solo members in the association. **Report approved.**
6. Registrar's Report – Bands – Jim Sim (Tad Myers not attending) – 43 bands in the MWPBA; down by 3 from 2014.
7. Chief Steward's Report – Keith McDonald – Recapped the competition season and thanked the bands for cooperation and the volunteers for their help running the games.
8. Music Board Report – Tom Weithers – The Music Board offered a Piobaireachd adjudicators seminar. Three judges attended and passed the exam. Held a seminar to explain the new Mini MSR requirement for Grade 4 bands. The last ANAPBA meeting opened new channels of communication with the RSPBA. RSPBA consulted with the Music Board regarding entry of Midlothian Scottish in Grade 3A at the World's. Next ANAPBA meeting scheduled for January 2016.

RULE CHANGES

- A. Mini MSR for Grade 4 bands approved at 2014 AGM to become effective in 2016. The Mini MSR replaces the QMM event. 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."
 - B. New event – Beginning Solo Tenor with music requirement of "One two-parted 2/4 March played twice through the full tune without stopping." A Beginning Solo Tenor may only play in that grade for one competition season regardless of the number of games entered.
 - C. New event – Beginning Solo Snare with music requirement of "One two-parted 2/4 March played twice through the full tune without stopping." A Beginning Solo Snare may only play in that grade for one competition season regardless of the number of games entered.
 - i. No Champion Supreme points will be awarded in the Beginning Solo Tenor, Beginning Solo Snare, or Practice Chanter events.
 - ii. Discussion: The Beginning Tenor and Beginning Snare must compete with a piper. Massed band tunes are not acceptable because they are not beginner level tunes.
 - D. Grading Decisions for pipers, drummers, and bands published on the website.
9. Education Committee – Bentley Wall – No report.
 10. Vice President's Report – Scott McCawley – No report.
 11. President's Report – Jim Sim said that the MWPBA board and volunteers have become a team effort. The team is the best of the 9 pipe band associations. The team organizes events in an efficient manner and does things the right way and the fair way.
 - A. Stuart Barr resigned as Webmaster. Steve Stuart is taking over as Webmaster. Jim thanked Stuart for creating the best pipe band web site in the world.

- B. Jim attended the ANAPBA meeting at Winter Storm in January 2015. The Mini MSR discussed at the ANAPBA meeting is now aligned with the musical requirements in all other North American Pipe Band Associations and the RSPBA.
- C. The Regional Qualifiers had some good things and some not. There will be changes for 2016. The final competition will be held at the same location in Palatine, IL as in 2015.
- D. At the Chicago Games, the concert formation was well received in the national and Scottish piping community.
- E. The Kentucky games had a financial issue that prevented them from having pipe bands. Jim was told that the issue has been fixed and bands will return to the Kentucky Games in 2016.
- F. Band participation at the Games held in September dropped off too much compared to the participation from May to July. Jim urged the bands to go to compete at September Games.
- G. Jim was pleased with the high level of participation of players from the Midwest attending the contests and classes at Winter Storm. Thanks to Winter Storm for supplying 5 scholarships to MWPBA soloists.
- H. Jim, Keith, and Nancy will attend a Highland Games summit in the first or second week of January. Jim spoke of the improved communication and cooperation the summit has fostered.
- I. The Regional Qualifiers for the McHugh and Enright Memorial contests are planned for 2016. Drumming contests will only be held at the final contest. The Regional contest held in St. Louis will move to Kansas City. There may be other venue changes.
- J. Planning to have an Open Level piping contest for Light Music and Piobaireachd with prize money.
- K. Springfield Games moved from May to July 23rd.
- L. New Games added to the competition schedule to be held in Columbus, IN on September 10, 2016.
- M. There will a contest every weekend in September. The 2016 competition season starts with Alma. Then Milwaukee, Chicago, Minneapolis, Springfield, Waukesha, Columbus, Kentucky, and St. Louis.
- N. Jim will ask the Chicago Games sponsors to double the prize money over the prizes in 2015. Grade 2 and 3 bands will play the MSR concert formation again. The Chicago Games have grown so much that some of the solo contests may be held outside on Friday.
- O. Changes coming to the way bands can play up.
- P. Mini MSR seminar went well and was well attended. Thanks go to Tom Weithers.
- Q. Several bands and soloists have moved up. The MWPBA is improving and growing with more and new events.
- R. Pipe band piping and drumming is growing in popularity in South America. The bands need used equipment. The MWPBA will help bands and soloists to contribute.
- S. Special thanks to Keith, Nancy, and Julie for being at every contest.

12. Business Items

A. Advisory Committee Proposals.

- i. 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. **Approved**

- ii. Submitted by Julie Perry – Change the definition of Minimum Uniform in Section II. A. DEFINITIONS to prohibit competitors from wearing inappropriate attire such as T-shirts. After much discussion, a change was approved to read "Minimum Proper Uniform: Includes appropriate band shoes (no tennis, sandal, boot), socks, dress *or band uniform* shirt, kilt and a traditional cap such as a Balmoral or Glengarry (no baseball, cowboy) for all performances on the field including Massed Bands." (Change in italics). **Approved**
- iii. Submitted by Julie Perry – The chart in the Rules that explains time limits for band performances (Section II. E. MUSIC REQUIREMENT) suggest that both the QMM and a Medley for Grade 4 bands has a time limit of 3-5 minutes, but also shows a time limit for a QMM as 2:45-4:30 minutes.
Board Response: the replacement of the QMM by the Mini-MSR for Grade 4 bands eliminates the time limit on a QMM for a Grade 4 band. There is no time limit on the Mini-MSR.
- iv. Submitted by Julie Perry – Could the confirmation for solo competitors who enter a contest online include directions to soloists to read the MWPBA Rules Parts II. A. Minimum Proper Uniform; Part III.A through F, especially; and II. D. SOLOIST CHECK-IN REQUIRED.
Board Response: The webmaster said he could change the confirmation message to include the direction to read the relevant sections of the Rules and to check-in with the steward for the event and not at the MWPBA tent. Also, the Solo Registrar said he would change the welcome letter sent to soloists when they register as members.

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 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.
Board Response: Earlier in the meeting, Jim mentioned that he is planning to have an Open Level piping contest for Light Music and Piobaireachd.
- 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).
Board Response: This is a good idea. The Board approach is a little different. For the Regional contests, competitors will receive 1/2 Champion Supreme points. For the Final, competitors will receive full Champion Supreme points. For example, if a person placed 2nd at the Alma Regional out of 8 competitors, the competitor would receive 2-1/2 points (instead of 5). Because the competitor is in the top 3, the competitor qualifies for the Final. At the final (out of 6 or more competitors) competitors who place in the top 6 will receive full points. In this example, 6 points for 1st, 5 for 2nd, etc. **Agreed by consensus.**
- 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).
Board Response: Adopting the proposal would be prohibitively expensive (at the AGM, Chris said \$6,600). Also, the Midwest Highland Arts Fund (Winter Storm) awards scholarships to the MWPBA Champion Supreme winners in Grade 3 and Grade 4 Snare drumming, novice Tenor drumming, Jr. Novice Piping, and Grade 4 Piping. We support

Winter Storm and they award 5 scholarships to Winter Storm for MWPBA Champion Supreme winners. The Board agrees in principle with the idea of awarding scholarships. Past events that the MWPBA has organized that were subsidized by the MWPBA, have had low attendance.

- a. In further discussion, it was suggested that the poor attendance at the MWPBA sponsored school in 2014 was due to the timing (during the contest season and competing with the Balmoral School) of the MWPBA school were reasons for the poor attendance, but the school was a good idea. It was suggested to have a weekend workshop instead of a week-long school.
 - b. Another suggestion was that it might be better to partner with an established school and support scholarships in similar way as the MWPBA supports Winter Storm (Midwest Highland Arts Fund).
 - c. Jim said he would consider organizing and supporting a workshop or school if bands or soloists would commit to attending.
 - d. Also suggested was to offer a cash award to the winners of the Regional Piping and Drumming contests. Jim said that he agrees with the need for some educational event and is willing to consider some form of educational opportunities for all that will not be poorly attended.
- iv. The AGM agenda included information 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. Champion Supreme tie breaking rule change proposed by Jim Sim. Presently, the first tie breaker is the number of firsts that a band or soloist has won. The change is to make the first tie breaker be which band or soloist won the most often when competing directly against the other band or soloists. Then continue the tie breakers with the band or soloist that has taken the most firsts and so on. **Agreed** by consensus.

13. Discussion items:

- A. Travel money: At the ANAPBA meeting in 2014, the topic of travel money was raised. Because the Games sponsors have reduced travel money so much, would bands prefer to have the money that would have been paid as travel money added to the prize money budget. Example: If a Games now pays a total of \$1,800 in travel money, would it be preferred that the Games pay no travel money, but instead add the \$1,800 to the total prize money available? **Agreed** by consensus to keep travel money.

14. Election of Officers – Jim Sim

- A. President – Sole nominee Jim Sim. Elected unanimously.
- B. Vice President – Sole nominee Scott McCawley. Elected unanimously.
- C. Secretary-Treasurer – Sole nominee Stuart Barr. Elected unanimously.
- D. Registrar-Solo – Sole nominee Tom Jewell. Elected unanimously.
- E. Registrar-Band – Sole nominee Tad Myers. Elected unanimously.
- F. Regional East – Sole nominee Keith Murphy. Elected unanimously.
- G. Regional Central – Nominees Bill Smillie and Andrew Lockwood. Elected unanimously.

H. Regional West – Sole Nominee Cliff Davis. Elected unanimously.

15. Presentation of Champion Supreme Trophies – Jim Sim announced the Champion Supreme award winners and presented the trophies.
16. Announcements – Announcements should be posted on the MWPBA website.
17. Adjournment – Jim Sim adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM