



# MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2017, 1pm



## MINUTES

### Officers and Advisory Board, 2017:

President:	Jim Sim	Advisory Board (East):	Keith Murphy
Vice President:	Scott McCawley	Advisory Board (Central):	Andrew Lockwood
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stuart Barr	Advisory Board (Central):	Bill Smillie
Registrar – Bands:	Tad Myers	Advisory Board (West):	Cliff Davies
Registrar – Solos:	Tom Jewell	Chief Steward:	Keith McDonald
Music Board Chair:	Tom Weithers	Education Committee Chair:	Mike Kotch

### 1. Call to order

Jim Sim called the meeting to order at 1.05pm

### 2. Roll call of member bands

Voting Representatives of 11 member bands in attendance, which is below quorum; Rules were suspended by acclamation to allow business discussion. However, any proposed changes to the By Laws must be distributed to all member bands for a majority approval.

20 individuals in the room, plus 13 on webcast.

Bands officially represented: *Celtic Cross, Chicago Celtic, Chicago Highlanders, City of Chicago, Dundee Scottish, Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville, Grand Traverse, Macalester College grade3 and grade 5, Midlothian Scottish, Twin Cities Metro.*

Advisory Committee present: *Jim Sim, Scott McCawley, Stuart Barr, Tom Jewell, Tad Myers (online), Tom Weithers, Keith McDonald.*

### 3. Approval of Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Approved without comment after silent reading

### 4. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Stuart Barr walked through highlights of the financial report (a separate attachment). Noted that finances are stable, and aligns closely with the budget, with the exceptional of the ‘miscellaneous’ category, covering a range of diverse topics including engraving, ANAPBA expenses, business expenses, and the Hurricane Relief fund. These expenses will be re-categorized in 2018 for better tracking. The MWPBA ends season 2017 with approx. \$15,000 available, up \$5,000 from the end of 2016.

The financial report was approved.

Jim thanked Stuart for professional report and close alignment to budget.

### 5. Registrar’s Report – Band

Jim Sim presented the Band Registrar’s report (attached) on Tad’s behalf, since he was not present in the room.

The report was Approved, and Tad thanked.

## 6. Registrar's Report – Solos

Tom Jewell presented his Solo Registrar Report, and remarked that there was an increase of Grade 4 senior pipers this year. The supposition was that more 4s since don't need to compete against 4j. Jim remarked that ANAPBA will be looking in the future at the 29yr age limit for consistency against grade.

The report was approved, and Tom thanked.

## 7. Chief Steward's Report

Keith McDonald walked through his Chief Steward's report (attached), which provided an excellent summary of all MWPBA contests this season [and is not directly replicated in these minutes].

Of note is that the PM Ian Swinton Pro Solos had 11 entries in 2017, over 7 in 2016. We will be hosting the event again in 2018, although at a different venue due to scheduling conflicts. The Regional Solos were again a great success, and will also continue.

Many contests saw an increase in the number of bands and soloists attending this year. The Chicago games were a great success, despite the storm, with 31 bands this year compared to 23 in 2016. With the grade 2 and 3 bands competing in each discipline, this resulted in 45 band performances on the Saturday, and 364 solo events over the two days. Thanks went out to Jim, all judges, stewards, and other volunteers for all their hard work.

The second half of the season was not as well attended. It was disappointing that no grade 2 or grade 3 bands chose to compete in Waukesha, despite being a Champion Supreme games.

The Columbus games did have a band and solo contest, but few bands traveled, for a total of 5 band performances. Bands from Chicago and surrounding areas are encouraged to attend next year, with the remark from Keith that it is possible to make the round trip in a day.

The St Louis Games hosted the Open Grade piping events on the Friday night, in a more relaxed environment at Dressel's Public House, well received by the crowd. The number of solo contests at the games held steady this year, but it was disappointing to note that few bands traveled to compete, despite the tight race for grade 4 and grade 5 Champions Supreme. Kudos to Grand Traverse who made the effort and the long trip to St Louis and on the last games of the season needing to take a 1<sup>st</sup> place to win Champion Supreme. They did exactly that, so particular congratulations to them!

Keith thanked his small army of volunteers, and first and foremost Julie Parry for the huge amount of effort she puts in to the preparation of each games, and her dedication on games day, and doing a tremendous job as scorekeeper. He also thanked Jim Sim for his leadership, and the culture instilled in the Midwest Pipe Band Association, an example to all other associations.

Keith remarks included the following statement: "In closing I would like to thank everyone here today, all of the bands and membership, and all of our board members. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your chief steward. It has been a wonderful experience and I truly appreciate everyone's cooperation on the and off the field."

With the news from Jim Sim that Keith has resigned as Chief Steward, there was tremendous applause and appreciation of the work and dedication that Keith has shown, and we wish him well in his 'retirement'. Jim states that Keith was always fair, and was thanked for many years of doing this and has raised the bar. At this time, it is not clear who will take over this responsibility.

Stuart Barr shared some interesting statistics from the Order-Of-Play-Machine (and Excel spreadsheet and macros), which takes the entries for each contest, determines the appropriate load balancing of each judge, with suggested and randomized orders of play. This tool has been

used to generate orders of play for the second half of the season. Some interesting statistics include that the 2017 season had:

- 8907 minutes of judging time for piobaireachd and light music
- 1167 minutes of judging time for drumming

Judging grade 3 piobaireachd alone took 1110 minutes. [These statistics are also attached to these minutes.]

#### 8. Education Committee Report

Mike Kotch was unable to attend. On his behalf, Jim Sim stated that Mike is working on introducing Educational Certification to the MWPBA, more to follow.

Mike also intends to gather and/or produce snippet videos to be posted on the mwpba.org. Such videos would be a couple of minutes in length, and would cover some basic concepts, e.g. simple tuning, how to use a metronome, etc. This is a work in progress.

#### 9. Music Board Report

Tom Weithers presented the report [attached] from the Music Board which he chairs.

ANAPBA meets every 6 months on phone, and every 2 years in person. ANAPBA will share training materials across associations, Dropbox etc. for adjudicators. The BCPA recently opened their adjudicator meeting to others, and Jim Sim and Tom Weithers joined.

ANAPBA has formed a committee looking at band grade standards. The intent is to create a rubric for each band grade, which would be part of contest remarks to allow bands to work on the correct areas. The intent is consistency across associations.

Congratulations to bands and soloists that have already been upgraded. Regrade applications are being accepted now through end of March.

A clarification that a soloist may compete at Winter Storm at your current (2017) grade, not the regrade.

One additional rule change, coming from ANAPBA recommendation; Tom W. apologizes that this was not discussed by the music board. Grade 5 should be 8 parts of simple time quick march. Not compound tunes. The set is not timed. This will be consistently implemented across the USA. Andrew Hoinacki agreed that compound time is proving difficult in gr5, recommends approval. Scott likes uniformity across the Associations.

Tom Weithers then raised the motion: Grade 5 band QMM contest to change to 8 parts of simple time quick march music; no time restriction. Repeats don't count. So a 4/4 is two parts, 3/4 would have repeated parts, etc. Language needs to be crafted. This would need to be disseminated soon. This motion was approved, and The Rules will be updated to reflect this.

#### 10. Vice-President's Report

Scott McCawley stated that there was no explicit VP report.

Jim thanked Scott for his help; always willing to step in to help, and thanked him for managing the survey last year, and stated there may be a new survey coming, so ensure that your band contact email info is up to date.

#### 11. President's Report

Jim Sim stated his thanks to everybody helping to run the MWPBA. It's a great team. Lots of volunteer hours. He remarked that the MWPBA is sitting on some extra funds in the account, and we need to spend it. We are spending it on the right things. Thanks in particular to Scott, Stuart,

Tom J., Tad, Tom W., Keith, and Julie (500 score sheets prepared for Chicago alone!). And Julie thanked Nancy Taylor who came back to help at Chicago.

Solo/band attendance was up this year; great to see. Jim finds it crazy that bands are not playing at the end of the season games. Those games are a lot of fun. St Louis is now C/S, so go!

Solo/off-season, Winter Storm solo contests in grades 1, 2, and 3 count as qualifiers towards Regional Solos. MWPBA will host the grade 4 and novice piping contests for the Regional qualifiers at the same event in Kansas City.

The MWPBA could always use more stewards in the morning for many contests. Please help!

Alma was double C/S points for 2017 in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the games. Will revert to normal half points for each day for 2018, as it was before.

Chicago – prize money will be at least as big as 2017. Tentative yes in grade 2 for MORE bands than 2017. Chicago and Pleasanton were tied as the largest contest in the season in the USA. Grade 3 bands will be contacted to get interest going too. For 2018, all solos will be on Friday, and two circles on Sat for bands. Will be at the same location in Itasca, but a different spot in the park.

We want to see more solo drummers at games. Encourage them!

Winter Storm – MWPBA will be the major workshop sponsor again, and the MWPBA will be explicitly sponsoring the Friday live stream too. Winter Storm is fun, come along!

Regional solos will be the same format for 2018. Dates and registration coming to mwpba.org in next few weeks.

We were disappointed that after Amateur solos that more did not stay around for the Pros. This was a top class contest, and we encourage you to come.

Band rosters. Submit as Excel only when entering contests. This will be imposed by the forms.

If your band is going to play at an RSPBA contest in Scotland, note there is a special detailed roster form that must be submitted via the MWPBA (via Tom Weithers) to the RSPBA. The transfer rules have changed from years past. Must be set 42 days before the contest. This is the same as last year.

Bands playing twice at a games is proving to be popular from a band and spectator perspective. This is also very popular from games organizer's perspective. We will be continuing to offer that where time permits.

The same 7 regular season contests will be offered in 2018, no date changes reported so far.

Jim Sim is now chairman of ANAPBA. The RSPBA recently regraded 2 North American bands, which is outside of RSPBA jurisdiction; Jim will be talking to them.

There will be no ANAPBA meeting at Winter Storm this year.

Hurricane relief fund, Harvey and Irma. Jim contacted representatives in Texas, Florida, and California (after the recent fires), and determined that only bands in Texas were hardest hit. St Thomas Episcopal School Band has several feet of water in school. Over \$100k damage to band equipment alone. 2 individuals from TX will also receive funds. Contributing bands and individuals are thanked for their generosity.

Andrew Bonar (SFU, Vancouver) recently passed due to cancer. The annual Boney Music Invitational solo competition will continue to be run by the BCPA in his honor, and all proceeds from the event are donated to the BC Cancer Foundation. The MWPBA is contributing \$100 to

this event.

The George Sherriff Memorial Invitational is an annual competition for North America's best amateur pipers, and the top grade 1 players from North America are invited. Christian Rhoads will be representing the Midwest, and the MWPBA will sponsor him to the tune of \$300 to defray his expenses. Good Luck!

2017 was a great year for the MWPBA!

Jim once again expressed major kudos to Grand Traverse traveling to St Louis, and taking 1<sup>st</sup> place to win Champion Supreme!

## 12. Business Items

### a. Advisory Committee Proposals

#### i. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

##### **Re: By-law modification to cover MWPBA dissolution**

*As required for 501(c)(3) filing, Stuart Barr presented the proposal that the MWPBA By Laws be amended to add the following dissolution statement:*

##### **ARTICLE XIII - DISSOLUTION**

***Upon dissolution of the MWPBA, any assets lawfully available for distribution shall be distributed to one (1) or more qualifying organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or described in any corresponding provision of any successor statute) with a charitable purpose substantially similar to those for which the MWPBA is organized, as the Executive Committee by majority vote designate.***

[Since there was no Advisory Committee quorum, this proposed By Law amendment will be forwarded via email survey to each member band for their vote.]

Stuart presented the rationale. This was briefly discussed without dissent, and there was unanimous agreement in the room to forward this proposed By Law amendment for formal approval.

#### ii. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

##### **Re: Sustaining Members**

*Stuart presented and expressed the proposal to modify the By Laws of the MWPBA as follows:*

***That a Sustaining Band Member category be created for band membership, and that there is an effort to reach out to those organizations and encourage that they support the MWPBA through membership. They would then be included on the List of Bands on the MWPBA website, and the maps of member bands, which is direct advertising of the band for those looking for a band or piping/drumming instruction in their area, and enjoy the satisfaction of supporting the arts and the work of the MWPBA. Sustaining Member bands would be non-voting members of the MWPBA.***

***It is proposed that membership for sustaining bands be \$100 per year.***

***As a corollary to this proposal, it is also proposed that Associate solo members be re-categorized as Sustaining Members, and that Sustaining Member annual dues be reduced to \$20 to encourage membership and support of the organization.***

[Since there was no Advisory Committee quorum, this proposed By Law amendment will be forwarded via email survey to each member band for their vote.]

The proposal was discussed without dissent, welcomed as a good idea, with unanimous agreement in the room to forward this proposed By Law amendment for formal approval.

iii. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

***Re: Live event camera for capturing and/or streaming of MWPBA events***

*Stuart presented the proposal that the MWPBA invest in a live event HD camera that would support live streaming and event archive recording. This could be used by a volunteer at Games recording each band performance as a service to each band, and at the Pro and Regional Solos, MWPBA AGM, or seminars, etc. At the moment, band contests are not officially recorded, and some other events rely on the goodwill and availability of ad hoc borrowed equipment, that may or may not be available, or up to the task.*

*A good example would be the Movo, as used by Dojo University to stream the Winter Storm events, and a solid, tall, tripod. The total cost would be around \$1000.*

*In general, this idea was welcomed, with the caveat that there needs to be clear ownership and responsibility in the organization for any purchased equipment, with a small cadre of volunteers to be trained in how to record. Where possible, the equipment would be used for live streaming, or, at the very least, for archive recording of each band performance for posting to the MWPBA YouTube stream. Keith remarked that technical responsibility should not be the purview of the Chief Steward, since they would be too busy. But it was agreed that there are few tech-savvy people in the organization that we could make this work, and we can figure that out later.*

*After discussion, the motion to purchase this equipment with a budget of \$1000 was approved.*

iv. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

***Re: Contest entries, grace period, and late fees***

*As Stuart described, it is not uncommon for some contests to receive requests for entry after the deadline has passed. At the moment, standard Games entries must be submitted 3 weeks before the contest, and there is a 48-hour grace period built into the online forms to allow late entry without penalty. Thereafter, the form rejects entry, and there are often last minute requests for late entry, which incurs work by volunteers to either open up the entry form or manually create entries and send and process invoices for entry fees. Since mid-2017, the orders of play have been generated rather than manually created, and the work required to process entries is therefore greatly reduced, such that the 3-week*

*deadline may be longer than actually necessary, other than the obvious advantage of knowing early how many judges are required and securing their availability.*

*It was proposed that standard Contest entries remain due the Sunday evening three weeks prior to the event (as today), but the original two-day grace period be eliminated. Late entries would be accepted thereafter up to the Sunday evening two weeks prior to the event, and an appropriate late fee assessed. Thereafter, no exceptions for later entry would be granted.*

*In order to encourage future 'on time' entry, a late fee of \$10 to enter a solo Contest could be appropriate (regardless of the number of Events entered on that particular day of competition). The corresponding band late fee could be \$30.*

*After discussion, the motion as stated to modify the online entry forms to support a 3-week deadline, with a late fee assessed for entries up to one week later, and no late entries permitted, was approved unanimously. The late fee of \$10 to enter a solo Contest (regardless of the number of Events entered on that particular day of competition) was approved. The corresponding band late fee of \$30 was also approved. This will be implemented for the 2018 season.*

## **b. Membership Proposals**

### **i. Proposed by Jim Williamson:**

*Jim proposed that the MWPBA establish a twitter account and use it to disseminate important information in real time. He also suggested that it could be used to disseminate lots of other information, too, like entry deadlines and exciting news headlines with a link back to the MWPBA website for the full story.*

*Stuart indicated that the MWPBA does indeed have a Twitter handle, @mwpbaonline, which was resurrected earlier this season. This was created many years ago under previous webmaster Andrew Hoinacki.*

*The MWPBA website was completely upgraded at the end of the 2017 season, and also includes easy sharing of posts to Facebook and Twitter. It is intended that anything worthy of sharing to either will occur.*

*However, as discussed at the meeting, there should be no expectation that the twitter feed should be relied upon at a games to disseminate information, and it is unlikely that everybody is paying attention to their phone. This will be via the MWPBA stewards as is now, and any live tweets should be considered a bonus.*

*Current management of the MWPBA social media presence is under Stuart Barr (for webmaster historical reasons), and Steve Stuart will also have full control.*

*Since no change is required, there was no vote required.*

### **ii. Proposed by Meredith Richmond:**

*Meridith's proposal was to add a non-discrimination statement as an amendment to the MWPBA by-laws as a second paragraph in Article II. Purpose.*

*Rationale: To affirm that this organization and the community it supports welcomes all people and does not tolerate harassment or discrimination. This is especially the case given the stories women came forward with following Andrew Berthoff's recent blogpipe post, <http://blogpipe-pipesdrums.com/metoo/>.*

*This is a first step in the right direction. It is my hope that, if the MWPBA adopts a statement like the one above, in the future there might be a discussion on how to enforce this policy.*

Jim stated on behalf of the Board that this subject is very important, and needs further discussion. This was received too late for comprehensive discussion by the Board prior to the AGM. Since any By Law revision must be pre-approved by the Advisory Committee prior to forwarding to the Governing Committee (i.e. member bands), this will be deferred to a Board meeting first, which will take place soon.

It was stated by some that it may be challenging for the MWPBA to enforce this at a band level, although there may be options available. Could also consider adding to a judging code of conduct.

This will be fully discussed by the Board. Look for something to come out via email to official band representatives for any By Law amendment vote.

### c. Discussion items

#### i. Any other business

Jim Sim shared a video from Cristiano Bicudo of *Banda Brasil Caledonia* of his pipe band, serving underprivileged and impoverished kids in Sao Paulo. With a 50% import tax for bought goods, Mr. Bucoda is looking for used pipes, drums, heads etc. that we can 'move' to Brazil and be put to good use. If there is any unused band equipment out there that you would be willing to donate to a good cause, please let Jim Sim know and we'll get it to them. Jim acknowledged FFHG's John Adair's recent donation of a set of pipes.

### 13. Election of Officers

The following were elected for season 2018:

President – Jim Sim, elected unopposed  
Vice President – Scott McCawley, elected unopposed  
Secretary-Treasurer – Stuart Barr, elected unopposed  
Registrar Solos – Tom Jewell, elected unopposed  
Registrar Bands – Tad Myers, elected unopposed  
Area Representative (West) – Cliff Davies, elected unopposed  
Area Representative (Central) – Andrew Lockwood, Bill Smillie, elected unopposed  
Area Representative (East) – Keith Murphy

The positions of Music Board Chair and Chief Steward are appointed positions.

### 14. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards

Champion Supreme trophies were awarded by Jim Sim to the following bands:

- Grade 2 – Midlothian Scottish
- Grade 3 – Chicago Celtic
- Grade 4 – Dundee Scottish (upgraded to grade 4 for season 2017!)
- Grade 5 – Grand Traverse

Champion Supreme trophies were awarded by Jim Sim to the following solists:

Piping, Light Music	Open	Matt Pantaleoni
	Grade 1	Griffin Hall
	Grade 2	Joseph Fischer
	Grade 3	Rhys O'Higgins
	Grade 4 Senior	Joshua Steffen
	Grade 4 Junior	Chris Spreen
	Senior Novice	Derek Bonczkowski
	Junior Novice	Riley Miracle

Piobaireachd	Open	Scott McCawley
	Grade 1	Nathan Wilds
	Grade 2	Kolya Sier
	Grade 3	Rhys O'Higgins
	Grade 4	Brian Neal

Snare	Open	Cameron Bolley
	Grade 1	Stephen Sutherland
	Grade 2	(not awarded)
	Grade 3	Ian McDonald
	Grade 4	Laura Pady-Porter

Tenor	Advanced	Shanna McDonald
	Intermediate	Courtney Green
	Novice	Grace Jirsa
	Group	Kiera O'Higgins

Bass	Advanced	Cydney Oakes
	Intermediate	Grace Jirsa
	Novice	Brianna McDonald / Shanna McDonald

Drum Major	Open	Douglas Weisheit
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#### 15. Announcements

There were no further announcements.

#### 16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Sim at 3:11pm.

#### Attachments:

- I. Financial Report
- II. Band Registrar Report
- III. Solo Registrar Report
- IV. Chief Steward Report, plus judging statistics
- V. Music Board Report

*These Minutes recorded and submitted by Stuart J. Barr, MWPBA Secretary-Treasurer.*