



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



AGENDA

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

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| 1. Call to order | Jim Sim |
| 2. Roll call of member bands | Stuart Barr |
| 3. Approval of Minutes of the 2016 AGM | Stuart Barr |
| 4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report | Stuart Barr |
| 5. Registrar's Report – Band | Tad Myers |
| 6. Registrar's Report – Solos | Tom Jewell |
| 7. Chief Steward's Report | Keith McDonald |
| 8. Education Committee Report | Mike Kotch |
| 9. Music Board Report | Tom Weithers |
| 10. Vice-President's Report | Scott McCawley |
| 11. President's Report | Jim Sim |
| 12. Business Items | |

a. Advisory Committee Proposals

i. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

Re: By-law modification to cover MWPBA dissolution

In May 2017, Not for Profit Articles of Incorporation were filed in the State of Illinois for the MWPBA by MWPBA Secretary-Treasurer Stuart Barr, as a necessary precursor to filing for 501(c)(3) status. To qualify as a Federal not for profit, it is mandatory that the organization organizing document contains a dissolution provision. This is not included in the current MWPBA by laws, last edited January 2015.

[Note that the MWPBA was granted 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status in 1995. This status expired over 15 years ago.]

The proposal is therefore 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.

ii. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

Re: Sustaining Members

Whereas the MWPBA is organized and authorized by member bands to sanction competitions and grade competitive pipe bands and solo competitions, it is incorporated to further develop the arts of highland piping and drumming, and not just through competition. There are a large number of bands throughout the midwest that are social or service bands, or just not competing at this time, or building towards competition. However, only competition bands are members of the association, and only those bands are sustaining the MWPBA.

There are a number of advantages to MWPBA membership of non-competing bands, including ready and direct access to MWPBA resources, being listed on the MWPBA website, being informed of and attending MWPBA workshops and events, including many only existing because of MWPBA support, and indeed sustaining the MWPBA so that it exists and will continue to exist to serve its membership throughout the midwest.

Whereas there is the concept of an 'associate' solo member of the MWPBA, there is no equivalent at this time for non-competing bands to support the work of the MWPBA without incurring the expense of full-blown membership at \$200.

The proposal is therefore:

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.

- iii. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

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

The proposal is 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.

- iv. Submitted by Stuart Barr:

Re: Contest entries, grace period, and late fees

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 is 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.

- b. Membership Proposals

- i. Proposed by Jim Williamson:

I propose the MWPBA establish a twitter account and use it to disseminate important information in real time. For example, there was misinformation being circulated in the band area when the rain hit at the Chicago game and in the hour or so after regarding the cancellation of massed bands. An official Twitter account would be the perfect medium in this kind of situation to share accurate, up-to-the-minute information in real time.

I would also suggest 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.

ii. Proposed by Meredith Richmond:

I would like to propose a non-discrimination statement as an amendment to the MWPBA by-laws as a second paragraph in Article II. Purpose.

Here's my proposed language:

"In order to foster a strong Scottish Arts community, the MWPBA is committed to providing an inclusive, welcoming, and harassment-free environment for all event participants and volunteers. The MWPBA does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. The MWPBA holds individual members, band members, judges, stewards, and other volunteers to these same standards of behavior during their participation in MWPBA events."

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.

c. Discussion items

i. Any other business

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| 13. Election of Officers | Jim Sim |
| 14. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards | Jim Sim |
| 15. Announcements | |
| 16. Adjournment | |