



# MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2018, 1pm



## MINUTES

### Elected Officers, 2018:

President:	Jim Sim	Regional Rep' (East):	Keith Murphy
Vice President:	Scott McCawley	Regional Rep' (Central):	Andrew Lockwood
Secretary/Treasurer:	Stuart Barr	Regional Rep' (Central):	Bill Smillie
Registrar – Bands:	Tad Myers	Regional Rep' (West):	Cliff Davis
Registrar – Solos:	Tom Jewell		

### Appointed Positions, 2018:

Chief Steward:	Sherry Sievewright	Education Committee Chair:	Mike Kotch
Music Board Chair:	Tom Weithers	Website Administrator	Steve Stuart

1. **Call to order**

Jim Sim called the meeting to order at 1:06pm

2. **Roll call of member bands**

Band roll call executed by Stuart Barr.

Representatives of 20 member bands in attendance.

29 individuals in the room, plus 12 on FaceBook Live webcast.

Bands officially represented: *Celtic Cross, Chicago Celtic, Chicago Highlanders, City of Chicago grades 3 and 5, Dundee Scottish, Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville, Fountain Trust, Grand Traverse, Greater Midwest, Kansas City St. Andrews, Madison P&D, Michigan Scottish, Midlothian Scottish, Milwaukee Scottish, North Coast grades 3 and 5, The Alliance, Turlach Ur grades 4 and 5.*

Advisory Committee present: *Jim Sim, Scott McCawley, Stuart Barr, Tom Jewell, Andrew Lockwood, Sherry Sievewright, Tom Weithers, Steve Stuart.*

3. **Approval of Minutes of the 2017 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 very closely with the budget projections. The MWPBA ends season 2018 with just over \$14,000 available, consistent with the end of 2017.

Highlights include that the MWPBA is yet again a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

MWPBA purchased a video camera this past year, and Stuart Barr and Steve Stuart recorded most band and solo performances, and posted them to the MWPBA YouTube channel. We are delighted to report that the band performances for season 2018 resulted in over 10,000 views, and The Swinton Open performance views number over 1300! This is clear affirmation that we are providing a valuable service to our members.

The financial report was approved, and Stuart thanked.

Jim thanked Stuart for his professional reporting of the MWPBA finances throughout the year and our close alignment to budget.

#### 5. **Registrar's Report – Band**

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

The Band Registrar's Report was approved.

Non-competing bands were encouraged by Jim to join and support the MWPBA as Sustaining Members.

Jim also remarked that of 47 member bands, 38 competed in Chicago, and that the MWPBA is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest pipe band association in North America.

#### 6. **Registrar's Report – Solos**

Tom Jewell presented his Solo Registrar Report.

Jim remarked that Tom goes through and vets rosters to verify that all entrants to solo contests are members, which is a significant task.

The Solo Registrar's Reports was accepted, and Tom thanked.

#### 7. **Chief Steward's Report**

Sherry Sievewright walked through her first Chief Steward's report (attached), which provided an excellent summary of all MWPBA contests this season.

Sherry was thanked for her detailed report.

#### 8. **Education Committee Report**

In Mike Kotch's absence, it was stated by Jim Sim that discussions of possible Education Committee initiatives is deferred to the Board. Expect news soon.

#### 9. **Music Board Report**

Tom Weithers presented his (separate) Music Board Report, which he chairs. (Other members of the current Music Board are Andrew Hoinacki, Scott McCawley, Chris Apps, Jim Enright, Brian Donaldson, and Adrian Melvin.)

Tom also explained how the Grade Level Assessment forms work and are used for determining regrades. These are treated anonymously within the Music Board. There will be a new one-year experiment – any player with an AGL will be offered an upgrade (expect notification within the next week or so). Those receiving the offer are to petition to upgrade and will be accepted. However, a single BGL will result in a downgrade.

There was a single proposed rule change for 2019, which is to align the definition of "Junior" versus "Senior" with EUSPBA, Senior being defined as "18 and over". However, it should be absolutely clear of the definition of "18 as of when" – in the current Rules this is defined as by the "First Games". The proposal was amended to read age 18 on Jan 1. The proposal to approve the Rules was approved.

## 10. Vice-President's Report

Scott McCawley walked through a number of initiatives and achievements by the MWPBA this past season, including that the bylaws were updated to fix terminology, dues, and add a dissolution clause in support of the 501(c)(3) application.

Also surveys were successfully sent out to the Executive Committee, then the Governing Committee (being the member bands) for votes. The by law amendments were ratified back in January.

There was also a repeated request to make sure that band rep contact information is correct. It was stated that only 32 out of 45 bands responded to surveys.

A members code of conduct was drafted and posted, including and adjudicators Code of Conduct. This was completed and posted by February.

Scott stated that there will be a change of venue for the Swinton Open solos in 2019. We need a new venue, since the Church used in 2018 cannot accommodate this year.

Scott was thanked for his report.

## 11. President's Report

Jim offered thanks to all volunteers and stewards at all games, and all Officers and Reps, and all member bands and soloists. Other associations discussing how to handle being late to the line. We don't have that issue in the MWPBA, so thanks for your cooperation! Thanks to the games organizers – they are always willing to listen and help.

Regionals Solos participation is starting to gain traction. Qualifiers will now be in March and April to encourage entries. Attendance was up this year! May 4<sup>th</sup> is the Finals this year. Already lots of Open players looking to come to The Swinton. Get your body to the event!! It is free for the audience. There were 1300 views of our videos of the Open Solos alone. You are strongly encouraged to come and give your support. With the Regional Finals and The Swinton Open on the same day, it is quite a full day of entertainment!

We need more bands to compete at the latter half of the season. Also soloists. At the final games, there could be differences made to the Champion Supreme points standings to win.

At Alma, 3 associations had representative bands competing. For Chicago, 6 associations participated. Judges are from multiple associations. Chicago is becoming a major event!

Thanks were given to The Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville and John Adair for support of the underprivileged in Brazil, in providing some uniforms and equipment. (Cristiano Bicudo of Sao Paulo, Brazil, was presented with the Balvenie Medal at last week's Glenfiddich.)

Jim reiterated that a Code of conduct was created. There was an incident involving an Eastern and Midwest band, handled well by both associations (the incident occurred outside the midwest). Read the Code of Conduct!

Joseph Horwath is invited to the Sherriff Invitational for the top amateur pipers at the end of November, and will be sponsored by MWPBA. We wish him luck in the contest.

Winter Storm 2019 will be January 18-20, and the MWPBA will again be sponsoring. The Terry McHugh Regional qualifier will take place that weekend, same as before. Entry forms coming soon. Thanks to Winter Storm for workshop attendance scholarship support.

Other Regional Solo qualifiers: March 9 will be Milwaukee; Apr 6 at Alma. Others TBD. Finals on May 4. Adding St Louis qualifier, for 6 total.

The Highland Games summit (conference call) will be on January 12.

No known change to Games. May be able to add back Quad Cities. Other should be same dates, no other changes.

3 x Gr2 and 3 x Gr3 bands have already asked about Chicago, bands that were not there in 2018. The event should be even larger this year. Chicago location at same park as 2018, but contests will be in a better spot in the park.

For ANAPBA, Tom Weithers is working on a rubric for ensemble for contest adjudication. Hopefully something to share next year.

Jim looking for ways to get participation levels up at the end of the season, and asked for new ideas.

Kim Johnson asked whether will we ever have quarter-contests / mini-bands back again? Jim states that participation in the past was poor. However, for some games that are struggling, it may come back as an unsanctioned event. Andrew states that BCPipers does that.

There was prior talk of a school/academy. Any progress on that? The Board is currently looking at that:

- Any thoughts on a scholarship to a young piper?
- Potential to partner with any school such as Monmouth. Perhaps to host an event there?

This will come up at Highland Games Summit – the biggest contention for Games is the travel budget, being a moving target for a Games budget. Could a Games put more money into prizes and eliminate the travel money? Perhaps it could be restricted to a static number of bands, e.g. at Kincardine. Could prize money be offered to more places? This would give Games a finite cost. Note that most Games lose money on P&D. If bands would avail of beer tents it would make the organizers happier.

Question raised on whether the MWPBA should apply for any local grants. Jim stated that perhaps the local games should do that. The MWPBA does not need more money. Or perhaps the MWPBA should fund travel money?

Kim Johnson asked that the MWPBA ensure that the closing ceremonies are kept short. Jim states that there used to be an opening ceremony. Now at few games. We have reduced this. However, the massed bands show really pays our fees.

The question was again raised whether the general consensus is that travel money was no big deal? If there is no travel money, then bands may not show up for massed bands? Also, if no entry fee, bands may not show up... It was noted travel money is important to KC, since most games are far away.

This will all be discussed further at the Highland Games Summit.

One last note is that the MWPBA is on email, twitter, and FaceBook. Sign up to keep informed!

Jim thanked both Steve Stuart and Julie Parry for their help in all that they do for the MWPBA.

Jim Sim was thanked for his report.

## 12. Business Items

### a. Advisory Committee Proposals

#### i. Judging Fees:

*The MWPBA Rules and Regulations section IV "Responsibilities of Games Sponsor" shall be updated to clearly state covering of set judging fees and expenses, as deemed appropriate by the Advisory Committee.*

*This proposal was Approved.*

b. Membership Proposals

i. Proposed by Char Yetaw:

*(Paraphrased) I would like to propose having a Registered Tenor Instructor in addition to the existing Registered Drum Instructor.*

The Board and ANAPBA is against proliferation of Instructors and having players playing in more than one band.

There was the separate issue of dual musician raised. Can a player be a snare in one band, and a tenor in another etc.? Some associations states that an RI must be lead, others must not etc. This is all over the map. No other known association allows a separate tenor drummer RI.

For ANAPBA in Jan, there will be discussion of losing dual musician / RIs.

There was a vote to allow a Piping Instructor, Snare Instructor, and Tenor Instructor. The proposal was voted down (with a single vote cast in favor.)

c. Discussion items

i. Any other business

There was an announcement from Scott McCawley that Jack Thompson passed away, the previous owner of the Scottish Shop in Summit, IL.

13. **Election of Officers**

The following were elected for season 2019:

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, Dan Tesch, elected unopposed  
Area Representative (East) – Keith Murphy

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

14. **Announcements**

The City of Chicago is selling a set of Premier drums. Contact Andrew Hoinacki for details.

On March 2, City of Chicago Pipe Band will be holding a fundraiser, and will be going to Scotland this year.

Stuart Barr stated that the MWPBA will be joining RSPBA in 2019 as an Affiliate Member, which will reduce entry fees for MWPBA member bands in Scotland. Bands are advised to have runners if they participate in the Worlds. Rosters need to be in early to the RSPBA.

Support our fine sponsors!!

John Adair thanks the association for video recording of the games this year.

### 15. Presentation of Champions Supreme Awards

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

- Grade 2 – Midlothian Scottish Pipe Band
- Grade 3 – North Coast Pipe Band
- Grade 4 – Turlach Ur Pipe Band (upgraded to grade 3 for season 2019!)
- Grade 5 – Celtic Cross Pipes and Drums

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

Piping, Light Music	Open	Laureano Thomas-Sanchez
	Grade 1	Joseph Horwath
	Grade 2	Rhys O'Higgins
	Grade 3	Thomas McCollum
	Grade 4 Senior	Tim Hess
	Grade 4 Junior	Yingtong Xie
	Senior Novice	Paul Napolitano
	Junior Novice	Nelson Clayton

Piobaireachd	Open	Andrew Lewis
	Grade 1	Kolya Sier
	Grade 2	JKoseph Fischer
	Grade 3	Duncan Peterson-Jones
	Grade 4	Yingtong Xie

Snare	Open	Cameron Bolley
	Grade 1	(not awarded)
	Grade 2	(not awarded)
	Grade 3	Ken Decker / Ian McDonald
	Grade 4	Nathan Vanderleest

Tenor	Advanced	Brianna McDonald
	Intermediate	Kiera O'Higgins
	Novice	Linda Keathley-Stamey
	Group	Kiera O'Higgins

Bass	Advanced	(not awarded)
	Intermediate	Brianna McDonald
	Novice	Linda Keathley-Stamey

Drum Major	Open	Douglas Weisheit
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### 16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Sim at 3:02pm.

Attachments:

- I. Financial Report
- II. Band Registrar Report
- III. Solo Registrar Report
- IV. Education Chair Report
- V. Chief Steward Report
- VI. Music Board Report

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