

**PRAIRIE PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014
Elmwood Legion #9, 920 Nairn Ave., Winnipeg**

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m.

In attendance: Wes Sheppard, Robyn McCombe, Pat Johnston, Kathy Brown, Gale Walker, Craig Weston, Bill Laird, Alex Peden, Dave Stewart, Denise Stewart, Ryan Stewart, Pam McKenzie, Evan Maydaniuk, Iain Graham, Tannis Kyrzyle, Larry Sylvestre, Ken Boath, Diane Kotelko, Mark O'Rourke, Jordan Perillo, Carmen Graham, Alex Cave, Tammy Cave, Matthew Cave, Graeme McCombe, David Armishaw, Nolan Armishaw, Andrea Stuart-Perillo, Jodi Sheppard.

Welcome to Everyone by President Wes Sheppard. Voting Rules and voting members were reviewed.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved by Gale Walker, PPBAM 2nd Craig Weston, WSF. Motion Carried

Approval of the AGM Minutes of Nov. 15, 2013 Motion to accept Minutes moved by Ken Boath, Prairie Thistle 2nd by Bill Laird, PPBAM - Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 1: President's Report – Wes Sheppard – See attached.

Agenda Item 2: Vice President's Report –Robyn McCombe – See attached

Agenda Item 3: Secretary's Report – Pat Johnston – See attached

Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report – Kathy Brown – See attached

Motion to accept Financial Statements as presented by Kathy Brown, 2nd Robyn McCombe, Anavet 303 **Carried.**

Agenda Item 5: Director of Public Relations report – Bill Laird See Attached.

Agenda Item 6: Director of Grading – Craig Weston, verbal report given, not report submitted.

Agenda Item 7: Director of Contests – Gale Walker – see attached.

Agenda Item 8: Band Reports - All Bands in attendance at today's meeting gave verbal reports; copies of emailed or printed versions are attached if submitted. Anavet Unit 303; Glenaura; Lord Selkirk; Prairie Thistle ; St. Andrews Gr 3; Transcona; and Winnipeg Police. .

Agenda Item 9: Contest Reports – Winnipeg Scottish Festival (next year Mar 28/15at Canad Inn Polo Park) – report from Craig Weston; Manitoba Indoor Games – Gale Walker; Manitoba Highland Gathering – Jodi Sheppard; Brandon Highland Festival - no report; Riverwalk Highland Gathering at the Forks, - report from Craig Weston.

See Reports attached.

Agenda Item 10: Old Business - no items.

Agenda Item 11: New Business -

- a) ANAPBA Meeting – Wes explained what the Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations was for – similar to our organization, but to provide groups on a larger scale to merge sharing of information. More continuity is needed and standards set for grading. Numbers are down in contests everywhere and pipe bands need good exposure. A summit has been planned for January at the Winter Storm contest in Kansas City. In the past we have sent 2 delegates. Only 3 associations have not confirmed attendance, ours is one. Discussion followed on sending 2 delegates, costs associated for hotel/ air or travel. **MOTION:** by Jodi Sheppard, Manitoba Highland Gathering; 2nd Ken Boath, Prairie Thistle, to send 2 delegates to ANAPBA in Kansas City in January 2015. Vote 15 For, 3 Against. Carried.
- b) Proposed Changes to the Constitution 8.5l **Currently reads** *“The Novice Bass shall play an M/S/R and the Professional shall play an M/S/R and a Hornpipe Jig.”*
Proposed Change to: *“the Novice Bass shall play 4 parts of a 2/4 March and the Professional shall play an M/S/R and a Hornpipe and Jig.”*

Motion by Ken Boath, Prairie Thistle 2nd by Diane Kotelko, proposed change as above. Discussion followed – Vote defeated.

Field Amendment – Motion by Gale Walker, PPBAM 2nd Jodi Sheppard, MHG, ***The Novice Bass shall play 4 parts of a 2/4 march and the Professional(Open) shall play an M/S/R or a Hornpipe and Jig. Motion Carried.***

C) Change in Dates of Scholarships - Pat advised that we have been finding that our cut off date for Scholarships of June 1st is too late for parents and students to get their entries into the band camps with some of their entry deadlines the same date. We would like to move our entry deadline up to March 1st with the scholarships being presented in April or May. We will be sending more information early in the New Year, Bands with youth please make your parents aware that this will be changing.

Agenda Item 12: Election of Officers- Dave Stewart, Transcona, was asked to run the election if one was needed. He agreed.

A proposed slate of officers was presented to the membership – advising the current Executive (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) and Director of Contests, Members at Large (2) would allow their names to stand – each position was opened to the floor for additional nominations (3 times) – none were presented. **Motion to accept slate of Officers as presented** – Ken Boath, Prairie Thistle 2nd Ryan Stewart Transcona **CARRIED.**

Vacant positions - Member(s) at Large –

Jordan Perillo, nominated by Alex Peden, SASPB 2nd Bill Laird.

Jordan agreed to let his name stand, no further nominations **Motion Carried.**

Nominations called for Director of Public Relations – no nominations were put forth. Position will be on hold for Executive to fill.

The 2014-2015 PPBAM Executive:

President	Wes Sheppard	Director of Contests	Gale Walker
Vice President	Robyn McCombe	Director of Grading	Craig Weston
Secretary	Pat Johnston	Director of Public Relations	Vacant
Treasurer	Kathy Brown	Member(s) at Large-	Alex Peden, Barbie Sands, Jordan Perillo.

Agenda Item 13: Champion Supreme Award Presentations – see list of award winners attached

Motion to Adjourn: Craig Weston, Wpg Police 2nd Dave Stewart, Transcona Carried – 9:07 pm.

Reports follow that were received electronically:

PPBAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Wes Sheppard NOVEMBER 14-2014

Good evening and welcome to all our members, guests and of course congratulations to our award recipients. This year has been a good year for our membership. Our contests are all alive with many new faces on committees and a large number of new volunteers, nice to see. Our member bands have fared well, numbers up and down but all groups holding their own. I am especially encouraged this year by the participation from our membership with regards to our scholarship process. This was the first year in many that the committee had an abundance of applications to sort through and evaluate. This shows a keen interest in education and skill development, something that will help sustain and promote our craft. As always, I want to thank the families and support networks that all our members and member bands have. Whether it is mom and dad taking kids to practice, grandparents showing up to fundraisers and buying way too many cookies, spouses looking after the house hold so we can get to band practice, that sibling stuck holding a rain cape while the band plays, you all play a huge role. You make what we do possible and for that I say thank you, we all do! I would like to thank the members of the executive for all their hard work, without them none of this would happen. We are looking for some new members this year on the board so please consider a position. It is a great group that makes all this possible. Thank you, Wes Sheppard.

VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT – ROBYN MCCOMBE

Good evening. I hope everyone has enjoyed browsing the "History" section of the Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba's website, where you'll find the histories and some pictures of many of our pipe bands. Feel free to contact us if you have further information or pictures to enhance this display. Now I am at work on the "Wall of Fame" project. This consists of compact biographies and photos of several of Manitoba's leaders in piping and drumming. You will be reading these on our website very soon. I already have some submissions on Mr. Fraser, George Lawrence, Don Morrison, Mr. Will and Marlene Stephen. Once again, I invite input from anyone in the pipe band community to send in information and/or pictures of key people like these. Over my years of involvement in the Highland community, I have had the pleasure of meeting or playing with many great piper/drummer leaders. However, that doesn't mean that I know enough about all of these people to put together a bio on them. I invite you to see me after the meeting if you are interested in helping write one of these bios for us. 'Many hands make light work'. I look forward to getting the bulk of this project completed over the year ahead. Now I wish to congratulate our Champion Supreme winners. The musical talent in Manitoba continues to remain strong. Well done! Thank you. Respectfully, Robyn McCombe

SECRETARY'S REPORT – PAT JOHNSTON

My duties during the past year included preparing the agenda and minutes for all Executive meetings, and handling correspondence on behalf of the Executive. I also received and tabled scholarship applications - 8 applications were received for our regular scholarships. 5 - \$200.00 scholarships were awarded this year to Ian McNicol, Donovin Kerr, Christopher Graham, Mackenzie Caterer & Danielle Caille. One student was unable to attend camp. 9 applications were received for the Marlene Stephen Memorial Scholarship and the scholarship for \$650.00 (\$400.00 from the PPBAM & \$250.00 from the Marlene Stephen Trust Fund) was awarded to Brandon Jackson. I have prepared all the notices to members and bands for our AGM today as well as all documentation, including Agenda, reports, Nomination list and recording attendance. I have notified winners of Champion Supreme Awards and ordered trophies. I would like to congratulate all the winners this evening for their hard work and commitment to their performances.

• From our meeting tonight, Pipe Bands and Competitions, please email me a copy of your reports if you have not already.

• Note: Nominal Roles and memberships are due Dec 15th to avoid the late fees. Thank You, Pat Johnston.

TREASURER'S REPORT – KATHY BROWN

Attached are the following reports; -Final year end statement - Final Budget recap - Mini Games Statement. Final Year end Statement

- Total revenue \$5,600.28 Total Expenses \$7,213.70 Actual Deficit \$1,613.42,
- Bank Balance actual is \$1,040.91 less outstanding cheque = \$579.24 (bank balance)
- Total Term Investments are \$5,000.00, breakdown is \$2,000.00 due Feb. 26/16, 2 x \$1500.00 each due Feb. 24/17. These are redeemable every anniversary date. Rates are 1.35% and 1.25% respectively. I will discuss this statement in more detail under Budget recap

Budget • Actual revenue is up from budgeted amount by \$500.28.

- Band Membership fees have been steadily decreasing over the past few years along with grading cards issued
- We have seen 3 Bands purchase a non-competing membership. This is a new membership fee adopted last year to encourage non-competing Bands to join our membership.
- Interest has increased due in part to having to cash out some of our investments to cover our shortfall this past year
- Expenses less than budgeted by \$1406.30. This year we have a double expense for the Champion Supreme awards. I had advised everyone last year that this would be happening. Normally, we do like to have this expense noted in the competition year. We were still under the budgeted amount for these awards. We had 2 scholarships that could not be used this past year so that expense was less than budgeted. Also, the Mini Games was under budget however next year that may change as we may need to look at a new venue.
- I had forecasted that we would end the year with a deficit of \$3,520.00 however we ended with a deficit of \$1,613.42. We looked long and hard at cutting different expenses but decided that we needed to give back to our membership through sponsoring the 4 games held in Manitoba as well as holding our own Mini Games. We were also determined to not increase any fees last year or this coming year.

- Starting in May of this year, BMO has started charging all community accounts a monthly fee of \$2.50, when we do not carry a balance of \$5,000.00. We are earning more interest monthly from our Investments by leaving them invested versus holding them in the account.

Mini Games I have attached a copy of the final statement for the Mini Games and will let Gale elaborate in her report.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS – BILL LAIRD

As the Director of Public Relations, I administer our website. Our Domain Name: ppbam.org is registered with TierraNet c/o Domain Discover. Our Domain Registration fee of \$34 for 2 years has just been paid, making our Domain Registration valid until Nov 12, 2016. The website is hosted by IX Webhosting. The webhost fee of \$190.80 for 2 years was paid in April, expiring April 15, 2016. Our website had a "Manitoba Pipe band History" section added last year. We are about to launch a "Wall of Fame Section", which will feature individuals who have contributed to the Pipe Band community over the years. This will be an open criteria section in order to be non-exclusionary, and we really encourage members to submit bios/histories/photos of the personalities who have given so much to our community. We have a start, and rely on members to participate in building this section of our site. I have been the web administrator for the past 3 years, and will be stepping down. The website isn't difficult, but does have some computer skill required. There are some tasks that need to be completed, so we are hoping for a smooth transition. I would like to thank the other members of the Executive for this opportunity, as it has been a great experience. I encourage other members to get involved, as this whole experience requires and depends on people to put in a little time to build a strong and vibrant Piping community. Thank you, Respectfully submitted, Bill Laird, Director

DIRECTOR OF CONTESTS – GALE WALKER

The Winnipeg Scottish Festival was held on Feb. 15, 2014. The new committee did a very good job of retaining the integrity of the games and should be commended. There were no protests or rulings required during the contest. There were some minor issues with posted play times that were rectified when pointed out to the committee member(s). Both solo and band events went well and appeared to be supported by the membership. The PPBAM Indoor Games was held March 15th 2014. There were 40 solo competitors registered for 57 individual competitions. There were 4 mini-bands in 3 classes who participated in the mini-band events. There were no protests or issues during this contest and all who attended enjoyed the day. The Brandon Highland Gathering was held April 26th, 2014. This was the second year for the new games committee and the contest was organized well and further skills were acquired by the committee and volunteers to ensure it ran smoothly. There were 56 solo competitors who participated in 98 individual competitions. The contest has 9 bands that competed in 3 classes in 6 events. There were no formal protests or issues to resolve. The Riverwalk Highland Gathering was held May 24, 2014. This is the third year for this contest and the first for the new committee. There were 28 solo competitors who participated in 80 individual competitions. Many players used this contest to play up. The contest had 7 bands competing in 4 classes in 7 events. It was a wonderful day and the contest was in the books before the heaven's opened. There were no issues or protests brought forth. The Manitoba Highland Games was held June 21, 2014. It was held in a new venue at Legacy Park in East Selkirk. This contest was adjudicated by only local judges which was a departure from previous years. The rationale when explained to competitors was well received. This contest had no formal issues or protests that were brought to my attention. Overall, this year has been a good year for our contests. We have managed to sustain all the contests and a big thank you goes to all of the committees for all of their hard work in providing the members with the opportunities to compete. I would just like to encourage all members to support these games more by having more solo competitors entered in the 2015 contest season. Respectfully submitted by Gale Walker, Director of Contests

BAND REPORTS

ANAVET #303 – Robyn McCombe Non-competing Members 2013-2014 November 14, 2014

The ANAVET #303 Pipe Band had another busy year performing for the usual parades and venues including rural Manitoba and at the Rockwood Unit. (See list below) A decision was made to remove the lengthy parade in Brandon from our band engagements. This was the first summer in a long while that we didn't perform at the Scottish Pavilion at Folklorama – apparently a slip-up with the new Folklorama executive! I believe we are already invited for next year. Some of our members, due to age, illness or hospitalization are not able to join us anymore, or at least, not on a regular basis. We enjoy any time they can come out to a practice or to an event

– if not to play, then, for fellowship. A terrific gathering was organized this summer so we could spend time at Riverview with our past Pipe Major Bill Ramsay, which was enjoyable for all who participated, and Bill was very appreciative. There have also been things to celebrate, like weddings and retirements, which the band takes great pleasure in sharing together. Our novice players continue to be keen and join us when they can. Being with us is helping them grow as musicians and will help keep our band membership strong. Some of them tried their hand at some competing and have made good progress. Actually, we've had some experienced players head back in front of the judges with great success too! We still have impressive numbers when we're all together, and this is why we still provide good performances on a regular basis. Even this month we had a very good turnout for Remembrance Day, and the members of Rockwood Unit couldn't say enough good things about our performance. As we appreciate our connection with Unit 303 and the privilege of using their practice rooms, they really appreciate the flare we bring to their events. As Pipe Major, I am always grateful to the members that support me and the band with their time and talents; be it tuning, guiding the novices, filling in when I'm absent, being dependable and encouraging. It is so appreciated, and I look forward to another great year. Respectfully submitted by: Robyn McCombe Pipe Major ANAVET #303 Pipe Band

GLENAURA PIPES & DRUMS – 2014 Band Report submitted by Pipe Major Leigh Ward

This year was a busy one for the band, filled with parades, performances and competitions. On the competitive circuit, we participated in a number of local competitions, including Winnipeg Scottish Festival, Brandon Highland Festival, Riverwalk Highland Gathering, and Selkirk Highland Gathering. We would like to congratulate our fellow bands on another successful season. We were pleased to see that some competitions continue to offer the Slow March 6/8 band event in addition to the Medley and MSR, as having a variety of events, sanctioned or not, allows our members to participate and hone their skills. On the parade and performance front, we travelled to Selkirk, Park River, ND and Hoople, ND for parades and we performed at the Scottish Pavilion during Folklorama. We have continued to foster our relationship with 402 Squadron Pipes & Drums by partnering with them on some of their parades, such as Gimli Canada Day and Cavalier, ND. As our band continues to grow, so does our need for new uniforms and equipment. To help raise funds, we launched several fundraising activities this year, including organizing a Burger and Bevy Night and hosting a Robbie Burns Dinner. To help continue to raise needed funds for our band, we have launched a fundraising plan for this coming year. Highlights of activities include: • Robbie Burns Tea – tentatively planned for the afternoon of Sunday, January 25th in Selkirk. • St Patrick's Day 25th Anniversary Celebration – to be held around St. Patrick's Day and mindful of events that other bands are planning. Will take the form of a typical social. • Rumours Comedy Club – band to sell tickets for a comedy show and share in the profits sometime in the spring. • Parades & summer gigs – will evaluate our list of parades and performances over the summer. To stay in the loop regarding these activities, we invite the piping and drumming community to follow us on Twitter (@GlenauraBand), join our Facebook group (Glenaura Pipes & Drums), and watch our website for updates (www.glenaura.ca). We look forward to maintaining a healthy piping and drumming community in Manitoba. Good luck to all bands in the upcoming season! Warm regards, Pipe Major Leigh Ward
Glenaura Pipes & Drums.

Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band – submitted by Larry Sylvestre

This past year was a most enjoyable and a successful one for the band. The band members participated in the local competitions and as per tradition we made the annual trip to Moose Jaw and Regina for the Highland Games. The band performed at a number of parades this summer, however we chose to perform slightly less than previous years. Our summer parade performances included Morden, Brandon, Altona, Winkler, and St. Malo. We have had a very successful recruitment drive and we have been able to attract a number of new students to the band this fall. As for graduations, we had one young man who graduated from the band this year - Patrick Kotelko - who was the band's bass drummer. The band made two significant changes this year. First, in recognition of the late Mr. Robert Fraser, we are honoured to now be called the Lord Selkirk Robert Fraser Memorial (RFM) Pipe Band. Second, we have made a significant change to the band's constitution this year and we are happy to announce that we are now a "youth band" rather than exclusively a boys band. We are very excited about this change and are proud to report that we there are four young lassies currently attending our Saturday morning lessons on a regular basis. The band as a whole is looking forward to the New Year as we continue preparations to travel to Scotland for the World Pipe Band Championships in 2015.

ST. ANDREW'S GRADE 3 REPORT – Alex Peden, Pipe Major

2014 was a successful year with significant growth for the St. Andrew's Pipe Band. With the same leadership, Dave Chorney and myself were able to grow our band both in terms of bodies and our sound. Also, we were happy to add a number of young bodies to our organization that will help us bolster our ranks in the future. In addition to strong performances throughout the local circuit and a number of parades, the band traveled to Pleasanton, CA for a weekend of solid performances and placed fourth in the MSR competition. Looking forward to 2015, the band plans on continuing to build on our successes and continue to work on improving our sound and technique. The band would like to thank all the judges and competitors for making the piping season possible. Alex

TRANSCONA & DISTRICT PIPE BAND – Dave Stewart, President

Good evening, The Transcona and District Pipe Band had an active year by participating in all sanctioned PPBAM contests as well as a number of community parades and performances. The band also performed at two Folkorama Pavilions over the summer. The band had a very successful Bud Spud in October last year and an equally enjoyable Burns dinner this past January, where everyone had a great time. A big thank you to the piping community for supporting both events! Our band members continue to work hard on perfecting their skills with weekly lessons and entering solo competitions throughout the year. The beginning of this band year saw the addition of more players and students. With a larger, eager band and the continued dedication of our instructors and parents, we're well on our way for an excellent year. A year very significant to the band....our 50th Anniversary! We'll mark the occasion with the Transcona and District Pipe Band 50th Anniversary and Home Coming Celebration, June 4, 5 and 6th 2015. This event will coincide with the annual Transcona Hi Neighbour Festival and include a Ceilidh on Thursday night, a banquet on Friday and on Saturday, a parade and Transcona's first band competition. The Transcona 'Hi Land' Gathering is expected to draw many spectators, most of whom will have never seen a competition up close. Our intention is not only to draw attention to our band, but also to the bigger piping community in Winnipeg. We look forward to visiting with former members, instructors and families that have all help shape the history of this organization over the past 50 years. We also know we can count on the support of the piping community to come out and help celebrate this milestone event. We want to thank the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band for their generous gift of a scholarship for one of our members to attend the Sound Advice band camp in Regina this past July. We'd like to also thank the many dedicated volunteers in our community who work hard each year to make our local competitions and Scottish events a big success. Congratulations to the Champion Supreme Winners who are receiving their awards tonight and we wish the best of luck to our fellow pipe bands, games organizers and PPBAM executive for a fun and successful year!

CONTEST REPORTS

MANITOBA HIGHLAND GATHERING – WES SHEPPARD

The Manitoba Highland Gathering saw some change this year. Our normal site at the Selkirk Park has been lost to us for a few years due to a conflict with the Solstice celebrations. In response, the Gathering has shifted locations to the Town of East Selkirk and their recreation facility. There was much change that had to happen with a new facility and there was of course some moving pains. All in all, the site proved to be very good although the rain soaked field did make the event interesting. Our contest numbers held where they usually are, not as high as in previous years and we had good participation from our member bands. The contest ran on time and almost made it through massed bands before the rain hit again. Thank you to our judges. This year we used all PPBAM adjudicators, a few of which were doing double duty during the day. We have an excellent adjudication panel here and we were pleased to have them. Thank you to all our volunteers. We are always looking for more. Come out, it is a lot of fun and is a great group to work with.

Champion Supreme Awards 2014

PIPING

Chanter	Evan Evaniuk	Prairie Thistle Pipes & Drums
Grade 5	Alex Cave	Transcona & District Pipes & Drums
Grade 4	Christopher Graham	Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band
Grade 3	Evan Maydaniuk	Glenaura Pipes & Drums
Grade 2	Kieran Norberg	Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band
Grade 1	Jordan Perillo	No Band at this time

DRUMMING

Drum Pad	Riley Howels	Prairie Thistle Pipes & Drums
Grade 5	Trevor Clement	Prairie Thistle Pipes & Drums
Grade 4	Nolan Armishaw	Transcona & District Pipe & Drums
Grade 3	Aaron Rosin	St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Gr 3
Grade 2	No Award	
Grade 1	No Award	
Novice Tenor	Gracie Hall-Dawson	Prairie Thistle Pipes & Drums
Int. Tenor	Mackenzie Caterer	Prairie Thistle Pipes & Drums
Novice Bass	No Award	

PIOBAIREACHD

Grade 4	No Award	
Grade 3	No Award	
Grade 2	Kieran Norberg	Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band
Grade 1	Jordan Perillo	No Band at this time

BANDS

Grade 5	No Award
Grade 4	Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band
Grade 3	Winnipeg Police Pipe Band
Grade 2	No Award