



**PRAIRIE PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY, NOV. 25, 2016 - 1:00 PM
MINTO ARMOURY - 969 ST. MATTHEWS AVE; WINNIPEG, MB**

Meeting called to order at 1:08pm

In attendance: Craig Weston, Ryan Stewart, Kathy Brown, Alex Peden, Andrew Babineau, Dan Locke, John Dawson, Barbie Sands, Peter Heavysage, Pam McKenzie, Rob McLeary, Evan Maydaniuk, Craig Bennet, Iain Graham, Dennis Thomson, Sam Porth, Danni Mesojednik, Colin Gluting, David Rameson, Paul Turner, Scott Fidler, Cam Fidler, Liam Speirs, Dave Stewart, Diane Kotelko, Mark O'Rourke, John Hayles, Don Byers, Dennis Schindler, Adam Tingskou, Joseph Da Silva

Adoption of the Agenda: Paul Turner moves to adopt, Dave Stewart seconds, motion carries

Approval of the AGM Minutes of Nov. 15, 2015: Paul Turner makes motions, Diane Kotelko seconds, motion carries

Agenda Item 1: Executive Reports: Presented and attached below (page 5).

President's Report – **Craig Weston**; Vice- President's Report – **Ryan Stewart**;

Secretary's Report – **Alex Peden**; Treasurer's Report – **Kathy Brown**;

Director of Public Relations – **Andrew Babineau**; Director of Grading – **Scott Foster**;

Director of Contests – **Dan Locke**.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Kathy Brown motions, Dan Locke seconds, motion carried

Agenda Item 2: Band Reports – These were not read at the meeting, but are attached below (page 9).

Agenda Item 3: Contests Reports - These were not read at the meeting, but are attached below (page 12).

Agenda Item 4: Old Business

a) Requested Band Grading Changes

- 3 bands (Transcona: 4 → 5, Glenaura: 3 → 4, QOCH: 4 → 3) have requested grading changing, executive has approved all three
- Bands new grades were approved by the executive; membership is supportive of the moves and excited for the upcoming season

Agenda Item 5: New Business

- a) Proposed Changes to the Constitution – Draft Proposed Constitution Discussion and Motions. (see **bold and underlined text** for proposed changes)

8.3 Tune Requirements: Bands competing in competitions recognized and approved by the PPBAM will be required to play the following **(see below for the criteria of each set):**

Band Grade	Tune Requirements
I	- March, strathspey, & reel – submit 2 - selected at line - Medleys (5-7 minutes) - submit 2 – selected at line
II	- March, strathspey, & reel – submit 2 - selected at line - Medley (4-6 minutes)- submit 1
III	- March, strathspey and reel <u>(all four parted tunes)</u> - Medley (3-5 minutes)
IV	- Quick march medley - Medley <u>(3-5 minutes)</u>
V	- Quick march medley <u>(8 parts of march music)</u>

March, strathspey & reel (MSR): Each MSR shall consist of a 2/4 march, a strathspey and a reel. Each tune submitted must be a minimum of four parts.

Medley: Each medley shall consist of the bands’ own selection of music within the time constraints listed.

Quick march medley (QMM): Each QMM shall consist of eight parts of quick time marches, of any signature, as determined to be marches by the judges.

Where a band is required to submit more than one MSR or medley, there shall be no duplication of tunes between the sets.

- Questions about whether the QMM definition will be specific enough to remove further doubt about constitutes a march
- Discussion of MAP tunes – removes any question about what are marches; defined list of tunes on RSPBA website; will help bands going to World’s
- Others opposed as it stifles creativity; single time signature in choices; similar types of tunes without the chance to challenge more difficult tunes
- Discussion about creativity vs level playing field for different grades
- Propose to consider MAP tunes in future with Grade IV/V bands input, feeling not unanimous that it would be beneficial
- The above changes will be beneficial for the time being.
- Evan Maydaniuk makes a motion, Andrew Babineau seconds, motion carries

8.6 Disqualification: In the event that a soloist or band is disqualified for violating any of the above rules, they must be informed of the decision prior to the results being announced. If the competitor protests the decision, a temporary committee of three Board members will listen to the dispute and recommend a decision to the contest organizers.

- Makes sure the bands find out about problems prior to disqualification
- Prescribe three committee members in question before contest
- Dan Locke makes motion, Liam Speirs seconds, motion carries

- b) Pete Heavysage – Barbie Sands presenting their idea for assembly performances in elementary schools in Winnipeg
 - Strong need to attract new players for the entire association with bands, contests and soloists all declining for a number of years
 - As a proposed way to combat this trend, would like to perform pipes and drums at local elementary school to generate interest among youth
 - Attempts in the past have been somewhat successful but weren't continued
 - Propose to hand out pamphlets to students with information about how to become involved in piping and drumming, nearby teaching bands where they could receive instruction
 - Plans will be developed, contacts made with elementary school music teachers
 - Need for players who might be free during weekday mornings for assembly performances (retirees, university students, shift-workers)
 - Anyone interested should contact Pete or Barbie for more information if they would like to become involved
- c) PM Al Clarke spoke about Ceremonial Guard
 - Pipe Major Alan Clark from the Band of the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa delivered a presentation on his organization. He described the audition process, the recruitment into the Army Reserve as a musician, the pay and benefits, the university education subsidy, and the future employment opportunities. Information can be found at www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/ceremonial-guard/index.page. Pipe Major Clark can be contacted via email alan.clark@forces.gc.ca for any interested player.
- d) Membership fees
 - Executive is proposing no change in fees compared to last year
 - Dan Locke proposes, Ryan Stewart seconds, motion carries

Agenda Item 6: Election of Officers

- Adam Tingskou (as a non-voting attendee) asked to run any potential elections. He agreed.
- President
 - Barbie Sands nominates Gale Walker, Dan Locke nominates John Dawson
 - Election by ballot
 - John Dawson declared President by vote
- Vice President
 - Ryan Stewart lets him name stand
 - No other nominations
 - Ryan Stewart declared Vice President
- Treasurer
 - Craig Weston nominates Pete Heavysage
 - No other nominations
 - Pete Heavysage declared Treasurer
- Secretary
 - Alex Peden lets him name stand
 - No other nominations
 - Alex Peden declared secretary
- Director of Public Relations
 - Andrew Babineau lets his name stand

- Gale Walker nominates Dennis Schindler
- Andrew Babineau withdrew his name
- Dennis Schindler declared Director of Public Relations
- Director of Grading
 - Scott Foster lets his name stand
 - No other nominations
 - Scott Foster declared Director of Grading
- Director of Contests
 - Dan Locke lets his name stand
 - No other nominations
 - Dan Locke declared Director of Contests
- Member(s) at Large
 - Barbie Sands lets her name stand
 - Jordan Perillo lets his name stand
 - Dennis Schindler nominates Heather Purvis
 - Dave Stewart nominates Gale Walker
 - Dan Locke nominates Roland Reid
 - Liam Speirs nominates Andrew Babineau
 - No other nominations
 - With up to six potential positions, Barbie Sands, Jordan Perillo, Heather Purvis, Gale Walker, Roland Reid, Andrew Babineau all declared Members at Large

Agenda Item 7: Champion Supreme Award Presentations – See below, attached (page 13).

Motion to Adjourn: 2:25pm – Dave Stewart makes motion, Andrew Babineau seconds, motion carries

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President's Report, Craig Weston:

2016 was a pretty quiet year in the PPBAM, we only had two running Highland Games, The Winnipeg Scottish Festival and the Brandon Highland Gathering. This year we were missing contests that had been previously running, the Manitoba Indoor contest, Riverwalk Highland Gathering and the Manitoba Highland Gathering in Selkirk. Although we only had two contests, there was a good turnout for solo entries at both, more in fact at WSF than there had been in previous years.

The Executive of the PPBAM this year has quite a lot of "new blood", previous President Wes Sheppard, Vice President Robyn McCombe, Secretary Pat Johnston and Director of Contests Gale Walker had all stepped down after several years on the Executive leaving their positions open. To Join the current Treasurer Kathy Brown and remaining members at Large Barbie Sands and Jordan Perillo we had Alex Peden step up to be Secretary, Ryan Stewart as VP, Dan Locke as Director of Contests, Scott Foster as Director of Grading, Peter Heavysege and John Dawson as Members at Large and myself as President.

These new members have a lot of Great Ideas on ways to make the PPBAM vey strong in the Future, especially Dan Locke and John Dawson, these two Individuals have gone above and beyond in their Mission to help the Association grow and be strong for years to come.

Unfortunately with a new business venture I am unable to stay on as President for 2017, it has been a pleasure representing the Association, and I look forward to seeing what happens in the years to come.

Secretary's Report, Alex Peden:

This year, my first in the position, my duties included coordinating Executive meetings, preparing the agendas and minutes for all meetings, and handling correspondence on behalf of the Executive with the membership.

Once again this year, we solicited scholarship applications for summer band camps. We received three applications in total, and were happy to award PPBAM scholarships to Ian McNicol and Kierann Sylvestre, as well as the Marlene Stephen Memorial Scholarship to Charles Irvine. All three attended the Sound Advice Camp in Regina, and we are pleased to hear that they learned a great deal and enjoyed their time. However, this is the second straight year where applications have been down and I would like to work with local youth bands to determine how else the executive can help students with their piping education with these scholarships.

I will be preparing all of the documentation for today's meeting for the website, including reports, nomination lists and attendance.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the Champion Supreme winners for their hard work throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report, Kathy Brown:

Financial Report

- Revenue as of October 2016, \$4,170.00
- Expenses as of October 2016, \$2,963.89
- Surplus \$1,206.11
- Bank balance \$5,669.58
- We have no investments as it is better to keep a balance over \$5,000.00 in the bank account to avoid a monthly service charge of \$2.50.

Budget

- Revenue less than proposed by \$325.00
- Expenses less than proposed by \$1251.11. This was due in part as we are giving medals for Champion Supreme versus more costly trophies and sponsorships were down as we only had 2 requests. We also only had 2 scholarship requests.

This year we did not receive any Judge's fees as decided at the last AGM. We also did not have our own competition so we did not have that revenue as well as expense.

After several years as Treasurer, I am resigning and wish the new Executive every success in the coming year.

Director of Public Relations' Report, Andrew Babineau:

-Took over the webpage from Dennis Schindler in December 2015. With support from Dennis, was able to figure out the details for the website

-We are currently at 118 Members for the Facebook group. Had some problems with Spam accounts but took care of it by simply better screening each member before accepting them.

-Website visits are up to 13,786 visits to the website

-Was not able to spend as much time as I would have liked working on the website so information sometimes took a while for me to update, Dennis was still lending me a hand with that.

-Generally, the website and Facebook page has been working well and if anyone has ideas to improve, I'm willing to listen to suggestions

This has overall been an interesting experience. I will be letting my name stand for next year as this has been a fun experience and would like to continue with it in the future.

Director of Grading's Report, Scott Foster:

I send my regrets that I am unable to make today's meeting.

Let me start off by Acknowledging the efforts of our 2016 executive. For most of us, it was our first year in our positions. 2016 was a very short competitive season for the PPBAM. With Selkirk games not hosting a piping and drumming contest it made it a summer without any local competition. The Winnipeg Scottish Festival in March was well attended and very successful. The organizers of this event have pulled off another contest with positive feedback from the community. The Brandon Highland Festival was run in April of this year but is seeing a decline in competitor entries especially in the solo entries. The Festival itself has struggled in volunteers is well. The Brandon committee is currently looking for interested parties within the piping and drumming community to help run this contest. My fear is that Brandon may be the next contest to go, As the support in this event is declining every year.

This was my first year in my position as the Director of Grading. I acquired the position from our current president Craig Weston. In my first year I have noticed a lack of participation in higher grade levels, especially in solo Snare Drumming. I believe some of is due to heavy university work loads. My hope is to see more interest in the higher grades over the next year. I have had some regrading requests this fall and will take some careful consideration over the next few months in preparation for our first contest in the spring.

It's been a pleasure working with the current executive and serving the PPBAM membership.

I would like to wish all of our competitors the best of luck in today's contest hosted by the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders.

And finally, I would like to congratulate our Champion Supreme Winners of 2016.

Director of Contests' Report, Dan Locke:

Levels of success among the games this season were mixed. As the first contest of the year, the Winnipeg Scottish Festival once again had a healthy attendance from both soloists and bands. The Brandon Highland Festival maintained a steady turnout, but the coordinator of the piping and drumming events has indicated that he will not be overseeing the event next year. Efforts are underway to find a replacement and interested parties are encouraged to contact myself or the Brandon Highland Festival directly.

Unfortunately, the Manitoba Highland Gathering in Selkirk could not find a piping and drumming coordinator this year and was therefore unable to run any competitions. Despite the short band demonstration that took place, the absence was notable- particularly given that this was the Manitoba Gathering's 50th anniversary. A suitable candidate has come forward to oversee the contest in 2017; their availability will be confirmed in the new year.

In terms of new events, the inaugural 79th Highlanders solo piping and drumming contest will be running over the course of the winter months in an effort to increase activity during what is traditionally the off-season for players in Manitoba. The event will report back with attendance figures at next year's AGM.

With respect to policy and regulation, I have begun to solicit input electronically from a number of judges and pipe majors, in accordance with my responsibilities as Chair of the Contest Committee mandated in the PPBAM constitution. This committee has not been convened for a number of years but early feedback has been positive. Discussion topics have included a Manitoba summer school, potential venues for new local games, and a shared teaching program. Any band leaders, judges, competing soloists, or other interested parties are encouraged to provide me with their contact information so that a Contest Committee mailing list can be created for the coming year.

I have also served as the PPBAM's liaison at a number of teleconference meetings with the Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations. This year's ANAPBA Summit will take place in conjunction with the Winter Storm event on January 13-15 in Kansas City, Missouri. The agenda will include a number of competition-related items of potential interest to the PPBAM including standardization of music requirements for each grade and rules related to instructor-players and the reciprocity agreement which allows our soloists and bands to compete in other jurisdictions through their PPBAM membership.

BAND REPORTS

Glenaura Pipes & Drums

This year our band participated in the Brandon Highland Gathering and Regina competitions. Due to a number of other commitments by our members, we had difficulty fielding a full band for the Regina competition so we played for marks. Still, the competing members found the trip worthwhile and we placed in a number of solo, quartet and a march events. We congratulate our fellow bands on another year of competitions.

For the coming competition season, we have taken stock of our current membership and the direction of our band. After careful consideration, we have submitted a request to the PPBAM to compete as a grade 4 band. We feel that the composition of music and calibre of playing at the grade 4 level better suits the needs of our current competing members. Moreover, we are hopeful that moving to grade 4 will allow us to attract prospective new recruits who may have been hesitant to join a grade 3 band. We are looking forward to discussing this at the PPBAM AGM and are hopeful other bands will be supportive, as this will help our band remain motivated and competitive. As we all know, strong bands make a strong pipe band community in Manitoba.

Our performance schedule was another busy one this year. We were honoured to once again participate in the Pride Parade as a massed band, winning an award for “Most Creative Walking Group.” We also participated in a vigil as part of a massed band at the Manitoba Legislature for the victims of the Orlando shooting. We’d like to acknowledge the members of the Winnipeg Police and St. Andrews Pipe Bands, along with other bands and individual pipers and drummers who joined us for these important events. Seeing Manitoba’s pipe band community come together to support events like these is, I think, one of the fundamental reasons for playing our instruments.

Other parades and performances included the Manitoba Marathon, Selkirk parade, 4th of July parade and performances in Park River, North Dakota, a parade and performance in Brouck, North Dakota, a performance at Folklorama’s Scottish Pavilion, and a performance of the Selkirk Legion for Remembrance Day.

We’re constantly updating our Twitter feed @GlenauraBand, Facebook group “Glenaura Pipes & Drums,” and website www.glenaura.ca.

We look forward to the upcoming competition and performance season and wish all the bands the best!

The Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada Pipes & Drums

The 2015-16 season marked a successful return to the competition circuit for the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. The band participated in the Winnipeg Scottish Festival and won the grade 4 events at both the Calgary and Canmore Highland Games. Several of the band’s pipers also formed a composite military band with our colleagues from the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa to win the North American Championship in grade 4 at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario.

In the coming year, the band intends to participate in all local competitions and will be travelling to the Saskatchewan Highland Gathering as well as the Calgary and Canmore Highland Games. The Camerons are also exploring opportunities to visit France in 2017 to support the anniversaries of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the Dieppe Raid. Preparations are underway to participate in the upcoming Canada 150 celebrations as well.

The band has also organized the first in what we hope will become an annual series of solo piping and drumming competitions held over the winter months. This period has traditionally been fairly inactive in terms of competitions in Manitoba, but other jurisdictions have had successful results running similar contests and early feedback suggests there is interest in the PPBAM as well. Individual members of the band have been approached to help run the Brandon and Selkirk competitions and the Camerons are currently exploring the possibility of taking on one of the summer games.

In terms of personnel, the band remains under the leadership of Pipe Major John Dawson, Pipe Sergeant Dan Locke, and Drum Sergeant Kurt Hunter. The Camerons have added several new pipers and drummers to our roster over the past year and look forward to growing the band's numbers over the coming competition season. To that end, we have continued to develop our weekly teaching program in collaboration with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders Army Cadet Corps. As always, the band is happy to hear from anyone interested in joining and would like to remind any prospective members that the organization is open to serving military members, those who may be interested in enlisting, or anyone who would like to play as a civilian volunteer. For serving members, the regiment provides part-time employment with competitive pay as well as opportunities for full-time service and education reimbursement programs. Any interested pipers or drummers are encouraged to contact Pipe Major John Dawson at qochpipie@gmail.com. Thank you.

Lord Selkirk Robert Fraser Memorial Pipe Band

The last year for LSRFMPB has been a very good one, albeit a little more routine one than last year with no Scotland trip to report on. The band has settled into our new location and certainly enjoys the extra space, as we certainly needed it with an influx of new members to begin this year.

The band had five members graduate this past summer from the band. Pipe Major Angus MacLellan, pipers Ciaran Scanlon, Ian McNicol and Alex Cave, and Drum Sergeant Jonathan Fennell have all graduated on to their next musical challenge. Recruiting has been excellent so far this year, with 17 new first year students, 10 pipers and 7 drummers, so the future looks bright. Currently we have 47 active members of the band, be them students or kitted members.

LSRFMPB's parade schedule was more back to usual this year with no Scotland trip. The Band paraded at Brandon Travelers Parade, Minnedosa Fun Fest, Sunflower Festival in Altona, Hanover Ag Fair, and Winkler Harvest Festival. The band also performed one night at Folkklarama, with the Drummers Revelry added to standing performances this last year being a real crowd pleaser, and at the RCMP Musical Ride in Stonewall.

The Band competed three times this year, at the Winnipeg Scottish Festival, the Brandon Highland Festival, and our annual trip to the Saskatchewan Highland

Festival in Regina on the May long weekend. Excellent results from both the Band and individual competing Members at all. The overall showing from the Band and Members in Regina was definitely a highlight of the year.

2017 is the 60th anniversary of LSRFMPB, and a celebration is currently in the planning stages for the fall of 2017. We'll share updates with all as plans are cemented.

As always, all of us involved with the LSRFMPB wish continued good luck finds all members and bands within the PPBAM. We're all stronger together working toward the continued success of the Pipe Band community, and the sharing of the culture associated with to everyone we can, to ensure all of our Bands future prosperity.

St. Andrew's Pipe Band

The St. Andrew's Pipe Band has been very fortunate to have enjoyed a fantastic year for our band. a very successful year in 2015. Continuing under the leadership of PM Alex Peden and DS Dave Chorney, the band worked very hard in many facets to improve our sound and technique. In the end, we were rewarded with many good plays throughout the local circuit, including several 1st place results in Brandon and Regina. This was all a precursor to a long-awaited Scotland trip. For many members, it was their first time overseas and everyone greatly enjoyed the many sights and sounds Scotland offered. In terms of results, the band was happy to receive second place in the Grade III Dundonald event leading up to the World's. Finally, on the big day, we narrowly missed out on reaching the Grade III Finals at the World's, placing 7th out of 15 bands in our qualifier. To everyone involved, the performance was one of the best plays of the season, and one of the most memorable of our lives.

Looking forward to 2017, the band is eager to continue to improve our sound and reach new levels with our playing. The core of the band remains committed to the group and is excited to meet new challenges in the upcoming year. Anyone interested in joining an exciting band is encouraged to contact us through our website at www.sapb.ca.

As always, the band would like to thank the army of judges, contest volunteers, and other competitors within the association for all of their hard work that makes the contest season possible.

CONTEST REPORTS

Winnipeg Scottish Festival

The Winnipeg Scottish Festival celebrated its 22nd annual event March 26 at CanadInn Polo Park. This was the second year at this location and the only contest in the province that uses the concert formation for the band competition. The contest had 64 solo competitors competing in 109 solo events during the morning. The band events saw 1 band competing in the Grade 5 quick March event, 3 bands competing in the Grade 4 quick March event, 2 bands competing in the Grade 4 medley event, 2 bands competing in the grade 3 MSR event and 3 in the grade 3 medley. There was one band competing in both the MSR and medley competition at the Grade 2 level. The committee had to deal with a disqualification on judges' discretion. The event was well attended by the public and the Ceilidh at the end of the day was an enjoyable way to conclude the day.

This year the WSF will be held March 4, 2017 at CanadInn Polo Park. Please plan to attend.

PPBAM 2016 CHAMPION SUPREME WINNERS

The PPBAM Executive would like to congratulate the following Champion Supreme Winners for 2016:

Bands

Grade 5 - Prairie Thistle Pipes & Drums
Grade 4 - Lord Selkirk RFM Pipe Band
Grade 3 - Winnipeg Police Pipe Band

Solo

Piobaireachd

Grade 4 - Sasha McGreevy
Grade 2 - Mark O'Rourke
Grade 1 - Kieran Norberg

Light Music

Chanter - Jaden Labram
Grade 5 - Cameron Dawson
Grade 4 - Leighton Bennet
Grade 3 - Christopher Graham
Grade 2 - Melissa Orobko
Grade 1 - Kieran Norberg

Snare

Pad - Cole MacLeod
Grade 5 - Kyle Kryzyk
Grade 4 - Alix Rydberg
Grade 3 - Spencer Clark
Grade 2 - Joseph Da Silva

Tenor/Bass

Intermediate Tenor- Aislyne Stewart/Annabelle Farrell
Open Tenor- Anna Fritschij
Novice Bass- David Caille