

# 1999 ANAPBA Summit

## Friday Evening Session

### ANAPBA 1

Friday, October 15, 1999  
Evening Session, 7:00 pm  
Little America Hotel  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Uintah Room

#### List of Attendants

- \* Bob Allen - Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario
- \* Chuck Crowley - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Tim Gladden - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Paula Glendinning - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* June Hanley - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Lindsey Johnson
- \* Jim Laughton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Roddy MacDonald - Southern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Rob MacNeil - British Columbia Pipers Association
- \* Jeff Mann - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Reid Maxwell - British Columbia Pipers Association
- \* Albert McMullin - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Ian Moir - Midwest Pipe Band Association (United States)
- \* Dale Morton - Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association
- \* Ken Morton - Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association
- \* Frank Neelands - Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers
- \* David Noga - Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association
- \* Susan Thornton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Ian Whitelaw - Western United States Pipe Band Association

#### Welcome

Susan Thornton, Summit director and moderator, began the meeting by welcoming everyone and turning the time over to Tim Gladden. Tim Gladden took the floor and also welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. He explained that this has been a brainchild for quite some time to meet as pipe band associations and discuss challenges and ideas. Hopes are that this will be a good learning experience for us all. It will be a great opportunity to pick brains and learn of all the talents that are sitting in this room. Tim then shared a personal experience of visiting with the president of the RSPBA. He was very inquisitive and interested about this meeting.

## **Introductions**

Susan Thornton introduced the executive and advisory members of the meeting.

Jeff Mann - Director

Jim Laughton - Director

Paula Glendinning - Advisor

Rob MacNeil - Advisor

Bob Worrall - to arrive tomorrow - Advisor

Chuck Crowley - Director of Operations

Chuck Jamison - to arrive tomorrow - Director of Facilities

## **Presentation of each Association President about Challenges and Expectations**

The members of each association then introduced themselves and stated their expectations for the weekend.

\* Eastern United States Pipe Band Association. June Hanley and Albert McMullin. Looking to share things that are going well and to share ideas.

\* Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers. Frank Neelands. Would like a standardization of game format and rules. They currently do not charge bands to come and compete and perhaps it is time to start looking into that. Need to look at ways of charging for memberships.

\* Pipers & Pipe Band Society of Ontario. Bob Allen. Hopes are to resolve common problems.

\* Midwest Pipe Band Association. Ian Moir. Their association leans on what Ontario does.

\* Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association. Dale Morton. Expectations are to learn from other associations.

\* Western United States Pipe Band Association. Tim Gladden and Ian Whitelaw. Ian heads advisory committee. Works greatly on selection of judges.

\* BC Pipers. Reid Maxwell. Would like to see Highland games in British Columbia be more under the control of the BC Pipers.

\* Southern United States Pipe Band Association. Roddy MacDonald. Association consists of the state of Florida. Standards will be changing down there shortly and hopes to receive ideas for standards.

\* Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association. David Noga and Ken Morton. Would like to see if they can standardize rules of pipe band competitions.

\* Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba. Brian and Georganne Hoel will present tomorrow morning.

## **Background of Meeting**

Susan gave a background of how this meeting came about. About 6 years ago, when she was president of WUSPBA, Jim Laughton was treasurer and Jeff Mann was secretary, they began doing visioning sessions at annual meetings to learn where members thought the association should be going and what it should be doing. This process instituted major changes, and for the first time WUSPBA started registering soloists at \$20 a year. The Association began to track bands and soloists and they instituted championships. There were several questions about the soloist events and competitions, and so the WUSPBA looked at other organizations to see how they handled the competitions. This is how the dream of getting everyone together for a summit meeting came about. Jeff Mann took the initiative of raising the money for the summit meeting. We owe Jeff a huge amount of thanks, Susan said, or we would not be here today.

## **Preliminary Goals and Topics of Discussion for the Weekend**

Susan discussed the preliminary goals that have been set for the weekend.

1. Get to know each other
2. Understand how each association functions, and its strengths and challenges
3. Explore what we might work together to strengthen piping and drumming in North America
4. Dream a little about what we might become together and where we might go in the future.

## **Preliminary Topics for Discussion**

1. Improve the quality of piping, drumming and bands in our associations
2. Improve the quality of adjudication in our associations
3. Encourage band and solo players to compete in associations outside of their own
4. Assist game sponsors to improve the quality and quantity of solo and band events
5. Ensure a level playing field in band and solo events
6. Increase the use of each other's adjudication panels
7. Develop methods to address bands, solo competitors or judges who do not follow rules
8. Communicate better with our members and between associations
9. Share information about fund-raising to strengthen each association
10. Possibly explore a more formalized future (North American Pipe Band Alliance?).

## Presentation of Associations by Presidents

Time was then turned to the presidents to talk about their associations.

\* ***Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers - Frank Neelands.*** The Alberta Association is comprised of 5 games. There is one member from each game on the committee. In 1993, they formed a standardized game format and rules across Alberta. At the end of each year, a compilation is taken of who has won and certificates are sent out for the year. At each band competition, they alternate on what they will play. Funding, which is about \$25 per year, comes from donations from the Highland games. This covers the cost of printing certificates as well as other expenses. The judges' list from Ontario is used quite a bit as well as the use of local judges. There is approximately one grade 1 band, three grade III bands, and 10 grade IV bands represented. There are approximately 150 people on the mailing list for soloists. Rules from the old Prairie Pipe Band Association as well as other associations have been applied. Rules are basically the same throughout all 5 games with some exceptions.

\* ***Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association - Dale Morton.*** In 1996 the executive members were prodded to look at where competing bands come from. Over half of the bands were coming from out of Nova Scotia, and therefore the name Atlantic Canada was adopted. They act as a sanctioning body. Their judging panel is starting to grow. They recently implemented a testing scheme for judges and found three fully qualified judges for the piping side (this process needs to be done also for the drumming side). Their association is struggling with street bands and they would like to find a way of enticing them to come into the association. An educational program needs to be set up. Many people see the membership fees as a fee for competing only, however, memberships also include newsletters and discounts on workshops. The rules and regulations are based on Ontario rules as well as a few others that have been adopted outside from the Ontario rules. They also rely heavily on the Ontario judging circuit. John Walsch, chair of judging panel, developed the testing for judges. He developed two parts (written exam and oral/auditory exam). The auditory exam consists of playing tapes of band performances and expecting them to find the flaws. They also do a series of apprentice judging. They do not run the piobaireachd workshops but certainly support them, however, any workshops that are put on are advertised as association workshops. They have also have tried to encourage a better sense of cooperation among organizing committees for games. They are hoping to receive more funding from government services.

\* ***British Columbia Pipers Association - Reid Maxwell.*** The BC Pipers were founded in 1932. Initially they only represented British Columbia, but since the mid-1980's have included Washington and Oregon states. Their membership exceeds 600 on an individual basis. They started individual memberships just over a year ago. There are approximately 20 competitive bands and twice as many bands that are non-competitive. They have several activities, some of which are the winter program, professional piping and knockout competition, and the summer program, with all Highland games being run independently. Music grading and adjudication are governed by their advisory council, which decides what grades the soloist should compete at. Educationally, structured learning allows an individual

to take a judge's test after the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. Regional seminars are in the process of being set up to get active education along with the winter program activities.

Communications (newsletter) is available for everyone at the conclusion of this session. This newsletter is published quarterly as well as a news bulletin, which is published between the quarterly newsletters. There is a total of eight communication links that go out each year. The highlight of the BC Pipers is the annual gathering. It has been recognized world wide as a prestigious indoor competition and the BC pipers have brought in adjudicators from Scotland for piping events and to give recitals at this competition. Travel prizes for the open piping winner of the annual gathering is a trip to Scotland to compete. The amateur winner for grade I is given a trip to compete in North America. The drummer's knockout winner is also sent to compete in North America. They hope to extend the travel prizes within the next year or two. Money is generated through memberships that are charged. There is an annual operating budget of \$50,000 Canadian dollars. They have approximately \$150,000 Canadian dollars in a trust. They hope to leave this money in the trust and use only the money they earn on the trust, not the corpus itself.

\* ***Eastern United States Pipe Band Association - June Hanley and Albert McMullin.*** Their executive committee consists of seven members and is an administrative body. The association has four branches and it is geographically spread out. These branches have been inconsistent and it has been a goal to make sure each branch has good leadership and participation. A sanctioning package is sent out to each branch and they also work with a sanctioning officer. A monitoring office is present at the day of the games to make sure those bands that are competing are registered. Within three days, the points are tabulated. If bands want to be re-graded, there is a committee that will evaluate their written request. There is a certification process of different levels for the judges training program, with the highest certification is the graduate certificate. Playing and written exams are taken and an apprentice program is then put in process. AAB approves apprentices to be certified judges. The VOICE and web page are a big plus for the association. Information is now readily available and the number one site visited is the results page. EUSPBA would like to capitalize the use of the web page. Challenges that face the association are the lower grade bands. They need to think creatively about making grade I a more viable field, which means looking at both ends of the spectrum. Roddy MacDonald put together the written judge's exam and it is separate for each discipline. Anyone that has been on the panel for two years can take the ensemble. Albert maintains the aggregate points for all competitions.

\* ***Midwest Pipe Band Association - Ian Moir.*** Their association is a sanctioning body for the area shown on the map. A big challenge of this association is not to be the "Chicago pipe band association". They are trying to encourage lower grade bands to move up because they are heavily weighted in lower grade bands. One of their strengths is the fact that they are financially strong. They have implemented solo dues and it has helped greatly in enabling them to do more workshops. A two-page newsletter comes out once or twice a year, however they need to work on improving communication. The web site is not updated regularly and the newsletter is irregular. The registrar looks after all memberships and dues. Solo dues are \$20 for the first member of a family and any additional members of family are \$10. Band dues are \$150. They have an old style of selecting judges, which includes accepting nominations and

written resumes. Based on whether they know the applicants or think they are qualified is the process for them becoming a full or apprentice judge. Apprentice judges can judge up to grade IV in bands and grade III in solos. Apprentice judges are required to judge next to a full judge in order to be upgraded. A process needs to be made to find a way to get some judges off the judging panel because they have been there forever and their sheets are vague and their comments are opposite the other judges. May to July is their competing season. They are in the process of working out championship supreme judging criteria. Challenges are ways to get bands to move up to the next grade.

\* ***Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario - Bob Allen.*** Association consists of 1,250 members, who must be a member of the society before they can play in the band. The executive committee appoints the music board. Some of the bands that are registered on their database are out of their jurisdiction. They sanction 12 games a year, with a possibility of 13 next year. They do not have sufficient judges because judges can only judge twice in the same event, which causes a problem. Entry fees include \$3.00 for amateur and \$5.00 for professional. Approximately \$10 of the dues goes back to the branch. They are trying to introduce association memberships for individuals who have quit playing in bands. They are hoping to soon have a rules and regulations committee to straighten out rules. They are also hoping to get regulations on making members fill out transfer forms in order to change bands. This will help so bands are not stacked. Oral and written tests are given for judges. Their association has been told that to prevent being liable for a violation of privacy, they should not exchange their list of judges, along with their names, addresses and contact numbers. Comment was made that their entry fees are very generous.

\* ***Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association - David Noga.*** This association was founded in 1990 when they split off from the Prairie Pipe Band Association. Policies were set up so that the Board of Directors can change the rules and regulations as they see fit. This has worked out very well without complaints. The association consists of 10 grade IV bands, one grade III band and two grade II bands. Approximately 90% of the funding comes from the Saskatchewan band foundation. Dues are \$100 per band and they return up to \$500 per band per year. Approximately \$2,000 is set aside for clinics and seminars. Ten executive members make up the association with no advisory committee. At the annual general meeting, each band is allowed two delegates. The bylaws are reviewed as needed. The prime concern right now is education. The quality of pipers has improved in the past year and hopes are to continue this. The association does not oversee competitions other than enforcing rules and regulations; however they do have a member that sits in on the competitions. Forms have to be completed for members to transfer bands. One transfer per year is allowed. A list of band members must be submitted before competition to eliminate members from playing in more than one band.

\* ***Southern United States Pipe Band Association - Roddy MacDonald.*** The Southern Association covers the State of Florida. Florida was originally a branch of the EUSPBA and has since broken off. Their season starts in November with a total of six games. All six games are championship games this year. The association would like to have branches run their own games. The association gives the branches sanctioning requirements

and then the branches do the rest. The approximate budget is \$2,200 with \$7 per individual for dues. The association consists of 24 bands and 450 members. The majority of bands are in grade IV and V levels. It is bothersome to the association when you have solo competitions but not pipe band competitions.

\* ***Western United States Pipe Band Association - Tim Gladden and Ian Whitelaw.***

The association is in a state of flux at the moment with many changes taking place. AGM is held in Las Vegas because it is centrally located. Season is February through October. A large game will consist of 30 to 40 bands. Membership starts with 250 and increases throughout the year as competitions take place. Advisory committee has nine members. Executive committee has the administrative and authoritative responsibility. The advisory committee provides advice of a technical nature for the executive committee. They have a very large judging panel due to a geographical spread. The lawsuit brought by a member band was very hard on the association and they are restrained by a settlement agreement regarding commenting on it. Hopes are to be past this and to move forward in a positive motion. It was stated that it is important to have liability insurance for the officers. A publication comes out four times a year. They have had more partially and fully funded meetings this year and are greatly influenced by what the BC pipers do. They also adopted EUSPBA requirements for solo sanctioning, however have made many changes since then.

*The meeting was then adjourned at 10:00 pm.*

# 1999 ANAPBA Summit

## Saturday AM Session

**Saturday, October 16, 1999**  
**Morning Session, 8:00 am**  
**Little America Hotel**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**Idaho Room**

### List of Attendants

- \* Bob Allen - Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario
- \* Chuck Crowley - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Tim Gladden - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Paula Glendinning - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* June Hanley - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Brian Hoel - Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba
- \* Georganne Hoel - Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba
- \* Chuck Jamison - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Lindsey Johnson
- \* Jim Laughton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Roddy MacDonald - Southern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Rob MacNeil - British Columbia Pipers Association
- \* Jeff Mann - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Reid Maxwell - British Columbia Pipers Association
- \* Albert McMullin - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Ian Moir - Midwest Pipe Band Association (United States)
- \* Dale Morton - Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association
- \* Ken Morton - Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association
- \* Frank Neelands - Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers
- \* David Noga - Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association
- \* Susan Thornton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Ian Whitelaw - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Bob Worrall -

### Welcome

Susan welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for the comments made last evening. She turned the time over to Brian and Georganne Hoel from Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba for their comments. Chuck Jamison was also introduced as a facilities coordinator.

***Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba Presentation of Association - Brian Hoel.***  
This is Brian's first term as president. The attendance at the annual meeting is always the

same and therefore they have difficult time electing new officers. The association consists of seven grade IV bands, two grade III bands and one grade II band. Solo piping has 15 registered members, 11 novice piping, 41 grade IV, 17 grade II, 12 grade I and seven professional. Solo drumming consists of 14 drum pad, 11 novice, 12 grade IV, six grade II, four grade I and five professional. A grading card must be presented at each competition in order to compete. Music requirements are contained in their constitution. The association has presence at four games each year with the possibility of dropping to three. The operating budget is approximately \$1,500 with 90% coming from band dues. The dues structure is as follows: competing bands \$150, non-competitive bands \$100, solo \$1, association members \$5, and a late fee of \$50. No branches or chapters are contained in this association. The executive committee contains a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer as well as four directors (grading, contests and judging, finance and budget, and band and public relations). Most terms are a year long, however most members are in for a lot longer than they want to be. There is no advisory committee at present. A newsletter is sent to the pipe majors semiannually or as required. The association is not a registered charity but incorporated. They do not routinely review bylaws, however this need to take place and is in process. No panel presently exists to add judges to the adjudication panel and there is not a formalized system for training judges. The association does not conduct workshops. The individual bands carry out education and training. They would like to have more control within their association.

David Noga then commented on the Prairie Pipe Band Association. It used to consist of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Alberta broke away quite a few years ago and it left Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It was difficult to get anything done because Manitoba was a so called "Old boys club." This caused the associations to split up.

## **Topics of Discussion from Friday Evening**

Susan then reviewed the preliminary goals and topics of discussion from last evening. These include the following:

- \* Making associations more businesslike
- \* How to standardize rules for bands and solo events
- \* Reciprocity for solos
- \* One person, one band. No "stacking" of bands. Refine database to prevent bands from switching members
- \* Need for new leadership
- \* How to take judges off the panel as well as adding judges to the panel
- \* How to get street bands to join as well as helping and nurturing lower grade bands
- \* How better to use the web site (communications) as well as upgrading newsletters and keeping web sites current
- \* Encourage games to hold band contest, not only solo contests
- \* Making sure competitors are in the correct grade when traveling to other jurisdictions

Discussion ensued and Brian Hoel mentioned that associations should have formal adjudicator lists for those judges that are certified. This will enable the associations to know who is and isn't certified.

Reid Maxwell stated that a shared list of band members would be very helpful, however there needs to be some type of waiver so members know that their information will be shared with other associations. This will help so that the associations are not put in a liable position.

June Hanley mentioned that their association is currently having problems with grading for members living on borders of associations.

Ian Whitelaw mentioned that most of the agenda items seem to stem towards the competitive nature. He asked the question: Is there anything that moves toward education to promote the art of the instrument?

Rob MacNeil asked: What can associations give their members other than newsletters and discounts? Is there anything else? What else can be provided? Maybe we need to look into educational services.

### **Common Problems and Concerns that need to be Addressed**

Rob MacNeil chaired this portion on the meeting. He took the preliminary topics of discussion and made specific talking points in order to break into groups. The points were also prioritized. Rob proceeded to go over the preliminary topics for discussion, which are as follows.

\* Improve the quality of piping, drumming and bands in our associations. Discussion ensued that this category should also include education regarding the art as well as the competition. Tim Gladden mentioned that this should also involve getting more people involved within the association. When you have a small amount of people doing the majority of the work, it is frustrating and hard to solicit help because people see the job as overwhelming. Ian Moir stated that without our members approval, there is not much that we can do other than feed off of other associations ideas and apply them to our own associations as best we.

\* Improve quality of adjudication in our associations. Discussion ensued that this should also include sharing judging lists and ideas of how to get judges of the panel as well as on. Bob Worrall stated that this could be a major priority for some associations and not for others, depending on the adjudication process for each association. We should increase the use of each other's adjudication panels.

June stated that many of the preliminary discussion topics fall into certain categories of Education, Communication, Competition, and Administration and suggested that the topics should be lumped into a category.

Ian Whitelaw stated that there should be some type of re-certification for the judges. This will enable the judges to stay current in their credentials.

\* Encourage band and solo players to compete in associations outside of their own. Reid Maxwell stated that maybe standardized music standards should be made across the continent to enable more bands to travel to compete. Rules should be standardized to have the same music requirements. Music requirements are different for each jurisdiction and so many bands and soloists do not compete outside of their own association. Information should be shared regarding contests, perhaps through a web site. The question was asked: Is there a priority of having a national championship? It was also mentioned that we should ensure a level playing field in band and solo events. Also making sure that members are in the correct grade when traveling is an important topic for discussion.

\* Assist games sponsors to improve the quality and quantity of solo and band events.

\* Develop methods to address bands, solo competitors or judges who do not follow rules. Discussion ensued that this should also include rules for games. Ken Morton stated that this could also include encouraging members to compete outside of their jurisdiction.

\* Communicate better with our members and between associations. Discussion ensued that this also includes using the web site better as an open forum to disseminate information. Newsletters could also be shared among associations.

\* Share information about fund-raising to strengthen each association.

\* Topics of discussion were then put into four categories and prioritized: Education, Communication, Competition, and Administration.

\* Education /Adjudication

\* Improve quality of Piping and Drumming Bands

\* Improve quality and use of each other's panels. (adjudication)

- \* Competition

- \* Encourage competition outside jurisdiction and standardizing requirements (National Championships). (#1 priority)

- \* Ensure correct grade when traveling/level playing field. (#1 priority)

- \* Assist games sponsors/increase band contests

- \* Communication

- \* Communicate better with web sites and newsletters. (#1 priority)

- \* Share fund-raising information

- \* Privacy and Sharing issues

- \* Administration

- \* Reciprocity and sharing (#1 priority)

- \* Be more businesslike

- \* Dealing with bands, solo players and games who violate rules

Members were then divided into groups and June threw out the idea for each group to discuss each category for approximately 15 minutes. In doing this, each group will be able to comment on each category of topics.

The members of the summit then took a short 5-minute break and reassembled in the Arizona room for group discussions and brainstorming ways to address concerns and problems, with Jim Laughton, Paula Glendinning, Rob MacNeil and Bob Worrall chairing the discussion groups.

The group reassembled in the Idaho room at 11:35. Jim, Bob, Paula, and Rob shared thoughts on how the brainstorming sessions went. Many groups felt that there was not enough time to discuss all the ideas that were raised. The communications element seemed to be the dominant topic throughout the groups. Comments were very positive and the content of the brainstorming session will be shared following lunch.

*The group then broke at 11:45 am for a photo shoot and then lunch.*

# 1999 ANAPBA Summit

## Saturday PM Session

**Saturday, October 16, 1999**  
**Afternoon Session, 1:00 pm**  
**Little America Hotel**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**Idaho Room**

### List of Attendants

- \* Bob Allen - Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario
- \* Chuck Crowley - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Tim Gladden - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Paula Glendinning - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* June Hanley - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Brian Hoel - Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba
- \* Georganne Hoel - Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba
- \* Chuck Jamison - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Lindsey Johnson
- \* Jim Laughton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Roddy MacDonald - Southern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Rob MacNeil - British Columbia Pipers Association
- \* Jeff Mann - Western United States Pipe Band Association
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- \* Susan Thornton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Ian Whitelaw - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Bob Worrall -

The group reassembled in the Idaho room at 1:25 to report the results and ideas that were shared in the brainstorming session held prior to the lunch break.

## Brainstorming Results and Ideas from Groups

### *Competition*

Jim Laughton

- \* Would like to see a re-grading of bands and soloists to some acceptable standardization
- \* Need to activate an advisory/grading committee to keep track of tabulated points, etc. The purpose of this is to share this information internally and with other associations

Bob Worrall

- \* Do we standardize the grades up or down for tune requirements?
- \* Need to address the standardization of solo events
- \* Sharing of all contest information on web site is a great starting point
- \* Associations could help fund soloists and bands in competition travel
- \* We should share strategies on how to raise the quality of the event
- \* We could look into how different games associations solicit corporate sponsorships
- \* It is critical to share membership and grading information among sister organizations
- \* A prerequisite could be made that bands/soloists visiting other jurisdictions must present a membership card that shows the grade they are participating in
- \* Mis-graded players coming from sister organizations need to be reported immediately

Paula Glendinning

- \* Her group was interested in seeing more standardization among the organizations
- \* How do we encourage the associations to want to standardize?
- \* Our job is to sell this idea to our executive committees

Rob MacNeil

- \* Discussion was devoted to the lower grades and standardization of the events
- \* The music requirements for those grades should be appropriate to the level of the players in those grades (mostly marches)
- \* Small MSR's could be played in grade IV as bands are moving to grade III
- \* Are music requirements for grade III, II, and I already standardized across the organizations?
- \* Are the requirements the same for how long they are required to play?
- \* Concept of a National Championship was discussed

- \* When traveling to other associations, players need to stay in the same grade and not jump around
- \* It is up to the associations to be in control of assigning a grade, not for the bands to decide this
- \* Hopes are to have much more communication among the organization continent- wide

## ***Education***

### Bob Worrall

- \* "Code of conduct" for judges. It would be good to share the existing codes of conduct among the organizations
- \* The quality of the adjudication sheet is critical
- \* Need to have high qualifications for the judges
- \* Associations need to ensure that the adjudicators are qualified for the components they are judging
- \* Professional development for adjudicators needs to take place
- \* We all need funding. Where is that funding going to come from?
- \* Associations should share their "expert" or "A" lists.

### Jim Laughton

- \* Sharing requirements and the criteria used to establish panels
- \* Workshops in the off season can be used to stress the art of the instrument rather than the competition factor
- \* Vary topics to appeal to cross sections and levels

### Paula Glendinning

- \* Could be most important topic for pipers and drummers, however it can be the most difficult
- \* Each association could compile a list of what they do to encourage education and share it with others
- \* Seminars and clinics may be needed at some associations and others are already doing this
- \* Scholarships or clinics can be made available through communication among the associations

Rob MacNeil

- \* Highland games are usually one-day events in Canada, at least. Why not use the expertise that is there for adjudicators to conduct a clinic (educational experience) on the Sunday after the games
- \* Seminars should continue through fall and winter so there is a year-round learning experience
- \* Take the expertise to geographic areas that have difficulty coming in
- \* Can there be any use of technology to disseminate information? Possible satellite broadcasts?

### **Communication**

Bob Worrall

- \* Imperative to get a North American web site. This would require some funding to get it going and keep it maintained
- \* This web site should contain events, requisites, adjudicator and certificate levels, competitors, championship supreme winners, concert information, education materials and information, workshop dates, piping/drumming school dates, etc...
- \* A paid position for a web master would be imperative
- \* Share strategies on how to run different events

Jim Laughton

- \* President and executives should have regular communications as well as share minutes and preliminary ideas

Paula Glendinning

- \* Share judges lists immediately
- \* Use check-off box to release information of band members (wavier). This will help with the privacy issue
- \* Should have links to other association's web sites even if we do not have a North American web site
- \* More formal communication between the executive boards (regular and often)
- \* E-mail list should be available within each association as well as among North America
- \* Must have a moderator to eliminate junk mailings

Rob MacNeil

- \* A possibility for the web site would be to put each association in charge of a certain section of the web page
- \* Adjudicator could be provided with e-mail accounts for direct communication
- \* Each association could extend newsletters with other association presidents

## **Administration**

Bob Worrall

- \* Reciprocity is a big issue
- \* There is not a tracking process to see if bands are repeatedly competing outside their jurisdiction, therefore we do not know if this is being abused
- \* Reciprocity is based on primary residence. There should be flexibility in border situations and let the bands decide in which association they pay dues
- \* Need to share concerns of over/under grading of bands with sister organizations
- \* Expand the focus to non-competing members (a broader musical focus)
- \* Come up with a North American code of conduct for soloists, bands, judges (share codes)
- \* Clear expectations of the games associations need to be made

Jim Laughton

- \* Sharing of rosters need to take place before the games to prevent stacking of bands
- \* There should be penalties to enforce the code of conduct
- \* Need to respect other association suspensions

Paula Glendinning

- \* Sharing judges' list, at least the names
- \* Share certification processes among organizations

Rob MacNeil

- \* Need for reciprocity needs to be defined. Do we go beyond North America?
- \* Reciprocity is easy to establish for the members, however it is harder for the adjudicators
- \* Associations must appear professional and responsible
- \* Focus on core values and projects to meet the needs of members

At this point in the meeting a 15-minute break was taken. Break 2:30-2:45

Prioritization of Brainstorming Ideas

Bob Worrall chaired this portion of the session. The group was to prioritize each idea presented to determine if it is short or a long-term goal or if it should be a directive/recommendation for the associations to take action on.

## **Competition**

Standardization of grades. It was decided that the standardization of grades is definitely important but will take time to establish consensus at this meeting; possibly a committee should be established. Grade IV seems to be the most controversial among the associations. Ian Moir stated that he supports a small MSR rather than medley. It was stated that certain bands could be mis-graded in associations. Bob Worrall stated that the rules have evolved to meet regional needs and this makes standardization more difficult among us. Reid Maxwell stated that standardization would encourage bands and soloists to compete more widely across the continent as well as in Scotland. Grade IV bands need to work on marches and small MSR's in order to receive the fundamentals that they need to know to move up in grades. Each organization has a different idea of standardization. Do we take the higher standard of grading or lower? Susan suggested that we move on to a different topic and come back to this later because there still is much to be covered and this topic may be too complex to be accomplished this weekend.

To activate a grading committee to track and share with other associations. It was suggested that it would be a good idea for each association to activate a grading committee. Bob recommended that each association activate a grading committee to monitor the grading of bands and notify the home association if bands are competing above or below the grading standard.

Sharing of Information. It is recommended that each association put their association's information on their web site.

At this point in the meeting Ian Whitelaw stated: Why can we not make standardized contest requirements? Tim Gladden supported Ian in saying that they would like to go away from the meeting with recommendations in hand to present to their association. Tim suggested that they meet in small groups this evening to come up with recommendations. Bob Worrall suggested that we get through all of our topics and go back to our advisory boards and have them recommend standards.

Travel and Fund-Raising. A recommendation was given to help soloists travel to outside competitions and to give soloists fund-raising ideas to make travel possible. It was also recommended that strategies to run events be shared.

What is the most efficient way to share membership and grade information? Ian Moir stated that it should be posted on individual web sites to be most effective. It will be up to the recording secretaries of the associations to decide how to disseminate this information to sister organizations.

Susan reiterated Paula's point that any idea we take back to our organizations would need to be "sold" as to why the concepts are important.

North American Championships. The idea of a continental (North American) championship was up for discussion. Frank Neelands stated that in order for a championship to take place, there needs to be some sort of standardization. Ian Moir added that he would be very interested in a championship, but that funding would need to be raised in order for this to

happen. Reid Maxwell, Bob Worrall, Ian Moir and Jeff Mann are to be the organizing committee for this championship. If the money is available, a championship could possibly take place in 2001.

Control of Grading. A recommendation was given for the band associations to promote and demote grading rather than the individual bands to decide what grade to compete in.

## ***Education***

A Code of Conduct for the judges needs to be established. A recommendation was given for the Western, Ontario, and Eastern associations to send out their current code of conduct to the other associations. It was further recommended that each association have their own code of conduct, however they will need to be similar in content. Jeff Mann, Bob Worrall, June Hanley, and Rob MacNeil will work on a committee to draft a code of conduct for the North American pipe band associations. It was also noted that a competitor code of conduct should also be drafted.

Is it a goal to have a standard level that every judge has to meet? Should examinations be a requirement? Reid Maxwell believes that exams should not be required, noting that passing a test does not always make you a good judge. Bob Worrall stated that there should be some type of minimum requirement. Tim Gladden stated the question: What is it going to take for each association to make their judges' list credible to other associations? Albert McMullin agreed that it would be a good idea to have a minimum requirement. Recording secretaries need to let other associations know how judges are put on their panel. June asked if each association could give a short synopsis of how judges are put on their panel at this point in the meeting. Paula Glendinning agreed that this should take place. Following is a short synopsis of how judges are added to the judging list in each association.

June Hanley - An individual must pass a graduate exam, have been a professional open prize winner for 10 years, and complete a written exam and apprentice program before being put on the panel.

Reid Maxwell - Judges are selected through an honor system. Individuals who have stopped competing and are credible are asked to be on panel. There is currently no system for taking judges off the panel. It was noted that the BC Pipers' list is one that is used by a number of other associations.

Ian Moir - Judges have been selected through the honor system in the past. However, in the past two years, resumes have been asked for to document and confirm individual experience. No minimum requirement has been set. An apprentice program has been implemented this past year.

Roddy MacDonald. System is similar to EUSPBA. There is currently an "A" and "B" certification system. "B" is for judging lower grades and "A" for higher grades.

Frank Neelands - There is currently no judging panel. Many judges used are from Ontario. Each individual games hires their own judges.

Brian Hoel - Mostly through reputation and experience is how an individual is selected to be on the panel.

Tim Gladden, Ian Whitelaw - There are currently two judges' lists. The advisory committee makes recommendations to the executive committee for approval of an individual. Senior judges oversee a junior and their sheets are evaluated. There is also a certain level of expectation as far as minimum requirements. Their experience must contain participation in an open professional, grade I band as well as have significant success in a grade I band. This policy has just been implemented and they are trying to "clean house".

Bob Allen, Bob Worrall - Currently the music board makes a recommendation to the executive board. There is a 10-year band rule and band exam. There is an "A" and "B" certification. The individual must have participated in open, professional for "A" certificate. The examination component is simply for professional development.

David Noga - No formal selection process is set-up at this point in time.

Dale Morton - Their Association has recently formalized judging certification. Criticism or complaints will cause the association to look at an individual's sheets for evaluation. They have an examination process as well as a minimum requirement. The individual must apprentice for three games and the sheets are evaluated.

Consensus was that the judging selection processes are very different, however the end result will probably be the same. Recommendation was made to have a standardized minimum requirement for selection of judging panels. Bob Worrall recommended that we make a very general statement of a minimum standard. Each association is to write down minimum standards and distribute to the other associations. Albert McMullin, Tim Gladden, Brian Hoel, Ian Whitelaw, and Jeff Mann will work on committee to gather information and try to standardize this process.

Associations should put together active teacher's list for web page. It was stated that there should possibly be a teachers certification program. Currently, none of the associations have a certification program for this. However, if this list is posted to the web, it should be included with a disclaimer. A recommendation was given to encourage each association to promote teaching education and put together an active teacher's list. This area has been greatly neglected in the past.

Web site for the North American Pipe Band Alliance. This web site could be as simple as containing links to each association. It was noted that some of the information would need to be secured. Ian Whitelaw motioned that there should be a paid position for a web master to maintain the site. Tim Gladden and Rob MacNeil will head the committee for the NAPBA web page. Currently Manitoba and Alberta are the only associations without a web site, however they are both interested in having their own web page and will take this back to their executive committees. It was also recommended that a broadcast e-mail list be available.

Association Newsletters. A recommendation was given to exchange newsletters between associations. It was also noted that one copy should go directly to the editor of each association.

Reciprocity. The issue of outside bands coming repeatedly to another jurisdiction will be discussed at a later date. There needs to be an agreement on how many times they can compete.

Workshops. A recommendation was given for workshops to emphasize the art of the music rather than the competition factor. This will help to involve the non-competing members. Also, other associations need to be made aware of events/seminars/workshops that are taking place. Ian Whitelaw suggested that these workshops could be taped and sold as a fundraiser.

Workshops at Games. A recommendation was given to the associations to take advantage of having brought in judges, and use those judges to provide a workshop before or after the games. Associations should also try to hold workshops in the fall and winter in order to have year-round activity in the associations. It was also stated that expertise should be taken to different regions of the associations. It may be a possibility to set up a satellite or remote learning for workshops. Ian Moir and Rob MacNeil will be looking into this as a long-term goal.

Scholarships. It was also recommended that every association sponsor scholarships to workshops and clinics.

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.*

# 1999 ANAPBA Summit

## Sunday Closing Session

**Sunday, October 17, 1999**  
**Closing Session, 8:00 am**  
**Little America Hotel**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**Idaho Room**

### List of Attendants

- \* Bob Allen - Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario
- \* Chuck Crowley - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Tim Gladden - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Paula Glendinning - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* June Hanley - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Brian Hoel - Prarie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba
- \* Georganne Hoel - Prarie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba
- \* Chuck Jamison - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Lindsey Johnson
- \* Jim Laughton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Roddy MacDonald - Southern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Rob MacNeil - British Columbia Pipers Association
- \* Jeff Mann - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Reid Maxwell - British Columbia Pipers Association
- \* Albert McMullin - Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Ian Moir - Midwest Pipe Band Association (United States)
- \* Dale Morton - Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association
- \* Ken Morton - Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association
- \* Frank Neelands - Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers
- \* David Noga - Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association
- \* Susan Thornton - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Ian Whitelaw - Western United States Pipe Band Association
- \* Bob Worrall -

Susan Thornton opened the meeting and said the purpose was to continue to discuss the topics and ideas presented at yesterday's meeting. The topic of reciprocity was discussed. Should the home association be able to control the grading for those members that live within their jurisdiction?

### Sanctioning

Clear expectations for games' sanctioning was discussed. Should there be a standard sanctioning? How should the judges be treated? Jim Laughton agreed to draft instructions for how judges should be treated. Reid Maxwell stated that we should also look at the amount

that judges are being paid. He believes that the pay is not high enough for the work they are doing. Ken Morton mentioned that if you raise the judge fee too high, organizations will not use the judges' list; they will only be able to afford to bring judges in and will be forced to use local judges. Each association stated the amount that their judges are paid, which ranged from \$150 to \$300, with \$150 being the low and \$300 being the high. It was recommended and agreed that judges' lists will be shared throughout the organizations.

### **Final Suspensions**

Should each association respect each other's final suspensions? Bob Allen made the comment that one association's suspension may not be a suspension in another association. Many stated that this should not matter. It is recommended that each association should respect the suspensions of other associations.

### **Future Direction**

Susan asked the group where the possible future direction of the "North American Pipe Band Alliance" should go. Do we want to have future meetings? Tim Gladden stated that if a formal meeting were to take place, the appointing of officers would need to take place. David Noga stated that we cannot commit our associations to a formalized meeting and association without the memberships consensus. Jeff Mann proposed that we formalize a North American Pipe Band Alliance because there has been great benefit this weekend. Bob Allen agreed with Jeff that we should form an alliance rather than an association, but not to go beyond this point at this time. Reid Maxwell supports the fact to come back again if things start happening that have been talked about this weekend. Reid suggested that we have this same group meet again next year and to leave the executive and advisory committees as they currently stand. Susan stated that if we were to have annual meeting, associations would need to ask their memberships if they would fund for the travel for at least one individual on an annual basis. Ian Moir stated that for an alliance to be formed it would be a good idea to have a mission statement, values and goals to take back to their associations. Jim Laughton and Ian Moir agreed that a draft of a mission statement should be made.

At this point in the meeting, a letter that was drafted to the executive officer of the RSPBA was distributed.

Bob Allen stated that the letter was acceptable. A vote was taken for a unanimous consensus to send this letter out to the RSPBA.

### **Standardization of Music Requirements**

Rob MacNeil then chaired a discussion on the standardization of music requirements. A spreadsheet of current music requirements for each association was distributed and a discussion ensued.

- \* The proposal for Grade I bands is two medley 5-7 minutes and two MSR's
- \* The proposal for Grade II bands is one medley 4-6 minutes and two MSR's

\* The proposal for Grade III bands is one medley 3-5 and one MSR, minimum of four parts.

A vote resulted in unanimous support for these three proposals. It was further agreed that associations that currently do not have these proposed requirements would take these recommendations back to their associations for a vote within the membership. It was further recommended that this change take effect by the 2001 season.

\* Grade IV Band Competitions

The proposal for Grade IV is a march medley of any time signatures, from 2:45-4:30 minutes, and also a small MSR (four-part march, two-part strathspey and two-part reel). Ian Moir stated that he could not sell this to his association because Grade IV bands want to play a medley. Discussion ensued on what the requirements should be for Grade IV bands.

Bob Worrall made the proposal of one medley of 3-5 minutes and alternate that with a quick march medley 2:45-4:30 minutes. A vote was taken and three associations opposed this proposal (EUSPBA, Manitoba, and SUSPBA). Ken Morton made the point that agreeing to this proposal just states that we agree to take this back to our associations as a recommendation. A vote was taken for the associations to take this proposal back to the associations (Southern and Eastern Pipe Band Association's remained opposed to this proposal but agreed to make this recommendation to their associations).

At this point, a unanimous vote was taken to keep the current advisory and executive committee.

Ian Moir and Bob Allen volunteered to host the next meeting if funding could be raised. They will take this back to their associations and a decision will be made at a later date of the location of the next meeting.

A unanimous vote was taken for each member to attend then next meeting if possible

Susan officially closed the meeting at 10:45 am. However, members that did not have to catch an airplane stayed on to draft the mission statement.

It was agreed that this mission statement would be submitted by e-mail to all participants for their approval or suggested changes.