

SUMMIT MEETING – January 11-13, 2002 Airport Delta Hotel - Toronto
ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATIONS
DRAFT

Saturday Morning, 8:30 to 12:00 (Chaired by Bob Allen)

Attending: Aaron Noga, Rob MacNeil, Susan Thornton, Jeff Mann, Bob Allen, Paula Glendinning, Amanda Hammond, Kevin Blandford, Roddy MacDonald, John Geddes, Iain MacDonald, David Noga, Marlene Stephen, Georgann Hoel, Jim Scott, Charlie MacDonald, Jeff Middlebrook, Nancy Taylor, Al McMullin, Reid Maxwell, Kimberley Chisholm, Ray Holmgren, Wendy McCormack, Paul McCormack, Chris Hossack, Rob Caudill, Bob Worrall, Trevor Frye, Andrew Bertoff, Ev Hazzard, and Dale Morton.

Minutes of 2000 Summit, circulated for reading, were brought back to the floor for discussion. Feeling by some that the Code of Conduct had not been properly addressed – a clean copy had never been produced. It was pointed out that amendments had been made “on the floor” at the Chicago meeting, as result of revisions brought forth by *ad hoc* committee of Chris Hossack/June Hanley/Dale Morton. A “clean” version had been posted on the website; however, it was agreed that a copy of the Code of Conduct would be circulated today and re-visited. Moved / David Noga, seconded / Paul McCormack that the Minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

On-line Registration (Chris Hossack) – Chris apologized for not knowing more about that the proposal, as it had been put together by Kevin MacHeffner. Susan Thornton commented it was her understanding that the ANAPBA website was intended to be used for the on-line registration. A database would be developed for verification of band and individual registrations, for use in tracking “out of association” competitions. Concerns were expressed that there was potential for redundancy. PPBSO has its own database, but the information would be helpful for verifying members from other associations. EUSPBA also has its own membership list, published on website. Consensus that it would be major work to set up a single all-encompassing database, and topic was deferred to the afternoon session for group discussion.

Grading Committee (Rob MacNeil) – concept from previous summits that there should be continent-wide grading of bands and individuals, but never really accomplished. Important that both bands and individuals should be able to move freely to other associations and have confidence of being registered in proper grade. Also would be a good check for organizers of major solo competitions, e.g., Nicol-Brown and George Sherriffs annual competitions, and the Kirkwood invitational, held every second year. Some discussion followed as to whether all associations have a grading committee, and further, how to ensure that same standards apply across the Alliance. Rob concluded there needs to be a mechanism to establish grading standards that are common from association to association. Reid Maxwell expressed the feeling that adjudicators move throughout different jurisdictions; therefore, they should be in good position to observe what the standards are globally and be able to “grade” bands and individuals accordingly. Consensus that the issue should be referred to a working group later in the day.

Certification of Adjudicators (Al McMullin) – two documents were tabled for discussion; one drafted by Rob MacNeil and the other by Al McMullin. Rob proposed an adjudicator certification standard that would be uniform and serve as an umbrella all across North America, while Al’s approach was more localized in nature and scope. The recommendations, covering both solo and band aspects of piping and drumming, were thought to be deficient in terms of the educational aspect associated with adjudication. There was agreement that we need to have confidence that the certification standard will yield top-flight adjudicators; set the benchmark relatively high, although it may take some time for the process to mature.

It was discussed as to whether the committee would be prepared to develop a common certification standard; however, that was not an immediate goal of the committee. Consensus seemed to dictate that the recommendations should go back to the local Music Boards for discussion and eventual development.

Distance Learning (Iain MacDonald) – in summarizing from the previous Summit, Iain stated that it is difficult to determine what each association's expectations and financial means are towards achievement of this initiative. It was generally felt by the committee that they required some "live" event to test the concept. Although there appears to be a number of alternative systems in the marketplace, the committee concluded that not all associations have equal access, and also realized that financial capabilities varied considerably across the Alliance. Even with state-of-the-art systems, there are still problems to be encountered with respect to "real time" aspects. Concluded that this initiative is still a work in progress, but that associations are encouraged to record some of their local sessions and make them available on-line. It was suggested that the Alliance should perhaps be provided more of a facilitating service, with regard to enabling links to other educational sites.

ANAPBA Championship (Bob Allen) – to date, this concept includes only Gr. 1 bands, with a target date of 2003 for implementation. Maxville Highland Games Committee has indicated their interest in hosting the championship, providing it didn't cost them a lot financially and providing as well that they had the backing of the Alliance. There was a request for the RSPBA to have North American qualifiers, similar to the system that they use overseas. RSPBA was receptive to at least discussing the idea, although they cancelled a tentatively scheduled meeting last year. Major questions as to how ANAPBA would fund a truly "North American Championship". Discussion as to whether bands from outside of North America (e.g., Australia, New Zealand, South Africa) would be permitted to compete. There was an expressed feeling that to accept them into such an event might have considerable negative effect on "The World Championships" in Scotland. Bob stated that Maxville is still definitely interested, but they need to have the issue of North American qualifier status resolved before they would be willing to proceed.

Drum Majors Competition (Chris Hossack) – Kevin MacHeffner solicited input from some associations to see what they wanted with respect to DM competitions. Consensus that most wanted to use RSPBA requirements. Many associations do not have sufficient numbers of Drum Majors to warrant grading at an individual level. Among suggestions put forth for consideration by ANAPBA were that DM be affiliated with a pipe band to ensure continuity with common band practices. Also, suggested that a slow march competition should be implemented, and that standard size field for DM competitions be established.

Development Committee (Jeff Mann, on behalf of Jim Lawton) – Bylaws have been prepared; waiting to submit application to IRS for 501(c)(3) status to be able to grant tax receipts for individual or corporate contributions. Next step would be for ANAPBA to initiate a similar process with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency for similar "charitable organization" status.

Are We on the Right Track? Reaffirmation of ANAPBA Mission / Future Direction

Open Forum: (led by Jeff Mann)

Jeff summarized value ANAPBA to date as: i) facilitating communication among local associations, ii) unification of stance among associations relative to issues of common concern, and iii) encouraging the development of standardized adjudication certification. Consensus that the group is not comfortable in assuming an over-all advisory role, but would rather focus on the music; greatest value of ANAPBA would be in coordination of those efforts to establish common ground.

Expressed concerns that we need to be very careful in specifying roles and expectations of the Music Board. Clearly, the intention was not to have another Music Board, but merely to enable and encourage communication among existing music boards at the local association level.

Discussion regarding whether the existing Board of Directors of ANAPBA has fulfilled its mission, and perhaps move to next level with presidents of each of the ten associations forming Board of Directors. Some concern that ANAPBA may be moving away from original intent of pooling of resources for common recommendations towards assuming active role in doing things. Currently, there is no structure in place to coordinate such a role; therefore, we may be potentially assuming certain responsibilities and incurring associated liabilities. If ANAPBA moves from a recommending body to actually doing various activities, may have to consider incurring costs for insurance to protect individuals concerned. As an example, the creation of an ANAPBA Championship – even if through encouragement of Maxville to take on that role – we may be assuming certain legal liabilities.

(Break for lunch)

Continuation of discussion of future role for ANAPBA – (session joined by Ed Neigh)

Perception among some participants that ANAPBA may be heading into areas in which it was not originally intended. There was a suggestion that we compile a list of avenues and/or projects in which the Alliance wishes to be involved:

- Continued communication;
- Education/learning – ability to share information and expertise at local levels to other associations through links to various websites; (ANAPBA only a “clearing house” for ideas)
- Musical liaison – what is being submitted by competitors at various levels? For example, what are professionals submitting as tune selections at Maxville?
- Adjudication certification programs – emphasis on delivery by home associations, thereby absolving Alliance of any legal implications through perception of ANAPBA certification; [Note: issue of using adjudicators only for their certified capabilities to be re-visited]
- Establish non-profit status for Canada as well as US; and,
- Establish structure for Board of Directors.

Return to discussion regarding protection against liability – Midwest PBA protected by way of Errors & Omissions insurance. Consensus that going through the Bylaws would be a lengthy process that would not be accomplished at the Summit. It was suggested that the association reps bring back any concerns by March; only complication is IRS requires addressing issue of revenue (i.e., membership fees collected). Generally agreed that we observe the status quo until association reps can get together to resolve the issue of how to fund the Alliance.

BREAKOUT INTO WORKING GROUPS:

Reporting for Presidents Group (Rob MacNeil)

- Financial issues – need to clear past year expenses and get down to “bare-bones” budget for future. Agreed by reps that each association would contribute same amount (\$120 US for 2001 and \$350 US for 2002), with due consideration given for the smaller associations with limited financial means.
- Structure for executive – host association for next Summit would act as Chair, with subsequent meeting site acting as Vice-Chair; rotation of chair through the successive host associations. Consensus that we need appointed secretary and treasurer for continuity, but combined into one position. Financially related matters will require unanimous agreement by association presidents (or designated representatives); other decisions would require only 50% + 1 of

membership. Consensus that Alliance remain as advisory body, therefore removing liability issue. Executive re-vamped, thereby removing some corporate structure, which will require revision of Bylaws to incorporate simplified executive structure. Chris Hossack and Jeff Middlebrook volunteered to review draft Bylaws and modify to incorporate changes to exec. Structure.

Reporting for Distance Learning Group (Iain MacDonald)

- Brainstorming session (proceedings drafted by group > *flipchart sheets not available for transcribing into Minutes – retained by Amanda Hammond?*)

Suggestion that working group be formed tomorrow to look at grading issue. Suggestion that ANAPBA encourage development of a uniform adjudication sheet. Comment from Ed Neigh that we can't get agreement among adjudicators now; therefore, common form would have to be very basic in terms of the information contained therein. Suggestion that perhaps adjudication sheets from all associations could be made available electronically.

Key Items Coming Out of the Summit:

- Grading
- Ability of presidents to go back to their associations to explain benefits, what was accomplished, etc. and authorization to spend resources.
- Input of Music Boards invaluable in grading issue
- Educational aspects have to be tied together in terms of adjudication certification, results, etc. down to score sheets
- Music liaison among various associations (Technical Music Boards) to raise standards of piping and drumming across the continent

(Adjournment at 1745 hrs.)