

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

Friday Evening, 6:15 to ~9:30

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, and Dale Morton (Joined later in the evening by Bob Worrall, et al.)

Welcome to participants by Jeff Mann, including expression of thanks to Bob Allen and the PPBSO for hosting the Summit. Jeff turned the chair over to Susan Thornton to moderate the evening session.

Susan indicated that minutes of the previous Summit in Chicago had been circulated for reading by participants. Moved by Ray Holmgren, seconded by Roddy MacDonald that the minutes be read overnight by participants and brought back tomorrow for discussion and approval.

Introduction by participants:

Dale Morton – newly appointed provisional Executive Secretary; Past President of Atlantic Canada PBA

Aaron Noga – not affiliated with any association; recently appointed as ANAPBA Treasurer

Rob MacNeil – Director of ANAPBA for past three years

Susan Thornton – ANAPBA 2nd Vice-Chair; former President of WUSPBA

Jeff Mann – ANAPBA Chair; elaborated on reasons for stepping down from executive position, saying that he feels the Alliance needs someone with more credibility to lead

Bob Allen - ANAPBA 1st Vice-Chair; President of Pipers and Pipe Band Soc. Of Ontario

Paula Glendinning – ANAPBA Board of Directors

Amanda Hammond – ANAPBA Press Secretary, appointed July 2001

Kevin Blandford – newly appointed ANAPBA Historian; Vice-President of WUSPBA

Roddy MacDonald – Vice-President of Southern US Pipe Band Association

John Geddes – President of Southern US Pipe Band Association

Iain MacDonald – member of ANAPBA Distance Education Committee

David Noga – President of Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association

Marlene Steven – Advisory representative, Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba

Georgann Hoel – ANAPBA Assistant Press Secretary; Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba

Jim Scott – PPBSO; member of host organizing committee

Charlie MacDonanld – Vice-President PPBSO

Jeff Middlebrook – Advisory representative, Mid-West Pipe Band Association

Nancy Taylor - Advisory representative, Mid-West Pipe Band Association

Al McMullin – President Eastern US Pipe Band Association

Reid Maxwell – Vice-President, BC Pipers Association

Kimberley Chisholm – President, BC Pipers Association

Ray Holmgren – Vice-President, Alberta Pipe Band Association

Wendy McCormack – Secretary, Alberta Pipe Band Association

Paul McCormack – President, Alberta Pipe Band Association

Susan laid out basic ground rules for the Summit: each association will be entitled to one vote, to be cast by the president (or designated representative) of that association.

REPORTS

Jeff Mann – addressed internal matters including:

- appointment of Amanda Hammond as ANAPBA Press Secretary;
- resignation of Lindsay Johnson as ANAPBA Exec. Secretary;
- appointment of Dale Morton as provisional Exec. Secretary;
- appointment of Aaron Noga as ANAPBA Treasurer;
- appointment of Kevin Blandford as ANAPBA Historian

Jeff commented briefly about the impact of events of September 11 on ANAPBA members. As well, there was mention of communications with South African PB Association regarding their concerns about the flawed current “World Championships”, and expressed wish to forge some kind of relationship between their association and ANAPBA. They could not realistically consider attending the Toronto Summit because of devaluation of the South African Rand.

Bob Allen – only one ANAPBA function this year, that being his attendance at the Pleasanton Games in California, where executive members met with Greg Gordon (Australian PBA) and Allan Cameron (New Zealand PBA). Discussions with New Zealand led to development of reciprocity agreement between their association and ANAPBA, agreement in principle with certification of adjudicators and grading standards

Susan Thornton – major official act was to initiate the “call for pipers” as a memorial to those killed in the September terrorist attacks. This included issuing press releases to television and radio, and major newspapers to publicize the event. World-wide uptake of the idea; messages channeled to EUSPBA, the area that had been most directly affected. Those messages were subsequently put on the EUSPBA website. Participants observed a moment of silence in respect for those killed in the terrorist attacks.

Dale Morton – only activity since recent appointment has been an update of the ANAPBA directory.

Aaron Noga – update of financial situation, including fact that only three associations were paid up with regard to membership dues. Aaron indicated that there were some outstanding expenses for website costs, legal fees for incorporation of ANAPBA, and sundry expenses associated with the Summit, those costs having been borne by Jeff Mann. Jeff had incurred substantial personal expenditures over the past few years but primarily interested in recouping the legal fees of \$600 for incorporation.

Amanda Hammond – summarized activities as Press Secretary, including an update regarding efforts of the various associations in implementing the Alliance music recommendations.

Kevin Blandford – has been working on website to update information pertaining to various associations, links to other sites of interest, and gathering data on all pipe bands in North America.

[Query from Reid Maxwell as to whether the press secretary and historian appointments should have been made by the executive, without consultation with membership. Response by Susan that we are a volunteer organization and that it is not always easy to get people to fill positions. She also noted that there is some uncertainty about how much authority the executive should have].

Paula Glendinning – many misconceptions and rumors about ANAPBA, what it is trying to accomplish, etc. She has written an article for RSPBA to explain that, basically, we are trying to establish lines of communication among the respective pipe band associations across North America. As an example, she spoke of the virtual dissolution of the border between Canada and USA in the aftermath of September 11.

Rob MacNeil – spoke about the educational function of ANAPBA, noting his opportunity over the past year to travel to other jurisdictions and meeting with Greg Gordon in context of highland games and piping/drumming education. Clear that there has been sharing of expertise and information among the various associations at a local scale as well as across the continent. At the same time, stressed that we have to be able to show tangible results from ANAPBA to local situations.

Local Association Progress on ANAPBA Music and Other Recommendations:

Southern USPBA (John Geddes) – difficult to accomplish all of the competition recommendations; moving slowly. By-laws updated to reflect changes. New website (suspsba.org) has regulations and implementation dates. Comment by Roddy MacDonald that tremendous changes already in place regarding solos. Information going out in newsletter, but not being received by all Canadian Associations. Code of Conduct adopted.

Saskatchewan PBA (Iain MacDonald) – season consists only of two competitions; therefore, trying to proceed slowly. Band recommendations have been implemented; solos expected for next year. Don't have a newsletter. Code of Conduct not yet addressed but didn't foresee problem.

Prairie PBA of Manitoba (Georgann Hoel) – don't have many competitions but big one coming up next month in Winnipeg. Don't have newsletter. Also, don't have Code of Conduct. Website is ppbam.org

PPBS Ontario (Charlie MacDonald) – successful in adding Gr. 5 to their competition, and Gr. 4 now using the recommended march medley. Minor changes to solos and piobaireachd; trying to evolve slowly to meet ANAPBA recommendations. Comment by Bob Allen that they are essentially compliant but minor variations in solo events. Publication is *Piper and Drummer*; website version slower in coming along. Website will contain new Rules & Regulations. Adjudicators Code of Conduct okay, but Code of Conduct for members still under discussion.

Mid-West PBA (Jeff Middlebrook) – departure of Ian Moir has left them at disadvantage; has not seen anything written down with respect to implementation of recommendations. Generally in compliance with “spirit” of solo recommendations, if not in actuality. Adhoc committee for adjudicators. Problems with recommended boundaries; lumped in with Colorado, which is too far to travel.

Eastern USPBA (Al McMullin) – in compliance with band and solo recommendations. Didn't see a problem with adjudicators Code of Conduct; tried similar one with members previously but received a lot of flack. Have problem with boundaries and “primary place of residence”. Arkansas – where does it belong? Issue of adjudicator certification to be addressed later in terms of clearing up uncertainties and differing categories of music that an adjudicator can judge. Newsletter is *The Voice*.

BC Pipers Association (Kim Chisholm) – only one event last year where Gr. 4 played march medley. Generally happy with results; may alternate next year. In compliance with solo recommendations. Code of Conduct not formally adopted but has been discussed - verbal expectations of adjudicators. Newsletters sent to all association presidents and their respective newsletter editors.

Alberta PBA (Wendy McCormack) – added Gr. 5 this year; weak in solos, particularly piobaireachd. Games Committees pose not problem; whatever the Association decides will be okay with them. Doesn't see problem with Code of Conduct. Newsletter not well coordinated; will e-mail to association presidents.

Atlantic Canada PBA (Dale Morton) – in compliance with band recommendations except Gr. 4 march medley. Recommendations for solos accepted in principle by membership for implementation 2003, but to

be referred back to soon-to-be established Music Board for ratification. Code of Conduct in place. Newsletter distributed to other associations; possibly moving soon to electronic format as cost saving measure and better distribution to membership.

Western USPBA (Kevin Blandford) – band recommendations have been implemented; expect to have solos on stream in upcoming competition season. *(Note: need input here – missed some stuff).*

General discussion regarding “dues” for ANAPBA membership:

Lack of consensus regarding what each respective signatory association should pay, despite general agreement at last Summit in Chicago that associations contribute \$20 (\$30 Cdn) per registered band. Some concern that there is an apparent inequality for larger associations, whereas each only gets same vote at the table. Agreed to defer further discussion on the issue until tomorrow, after hearing Bob Allen’s presentation.