

Vision & Guidance Statement

Balmoral Pipes and Drums

- 1) **MISSION:** Quality in execution and performance as a unified band on the Highland bagpipe, snare, tenor, and bass drums, with proper deportment, is the primary goal of Balmoral Pipes and Drums.
- 2) **MEMBERS:**

Pipers and drummers can become members of the band by invitation by the Pipe Major of the band. As of January, 2018, band members in good standing are: David Acres, **Vasilios Akis**, George Balderose, Caden Beeler, Mitchell Bjerke, Leslie Clark, **Lily Cunningham**, Robert Felsburg, Jenna Judd, Evan Kenep, Ken Kretchun, Alan MacIvor, Ian MacLeod, Lacey Mahler, Paul-Luc Parks, David Prezvia, Sean Regan, Rebecca Seaman, , Chris Welch, & Glenna Van Dyke.

Supporting Members: Andy and Valerie Beeler, Sharon & Larry Van Dyke, Lee and Teresa Cunningham

Section 2: Membership. *Proposed Changes in Vision and Guidance Statement August 10, 2016. Revised August 11, approved by unanimous vote of a quorum of band members on August 25.*

- A. 1. Candidates for admission to the band as pipers must be able to:
 - i. Tune their own pipes and blow steadily
 - ii. Play the following parade medleys correctly:
 - Scotland the Brave & Wings (4/4),
 - My Land & Land of My Youth (3/4),
 - Corriechoilie & Teribus (2/4),
 - O'er the Water to Charlie & Piobaireachd of Donald Dhu (6/8).The correct settings of these (and other band tunes) can be found on the band's website (www.BalmoralPipesandDrums.org . Access to the tunes is available via your email address when on file with Larry Van Dyke, band's webmaster.
 - iii. The Pipe Major and/or Pipe Sergeant shall be the examiners.
 - iv. If successful, the candidate's admission to the parade band then is brought to a vote. Necessary for approval is a majority vote of band members. Upon admission, the piper is admitted to band rehearsals.
 - v. Upon entry into the parade band, a new member must have acquired or promise to acquire within six months the proper kilt (Isle of Skye), a set of bagpipes, and band apparel (black Balmoral w/ black pompom), black sporran, black vest, green hose, Balmoral tie, matching cords and bag cover).
 - vi. To be admitted to the *performance* band or the *competition* band, the piper must satisfy the above requirements and be able to play

the relevant competition set correctly for the Pipe Major and/or Pipe Sergeant.

- vii. Non-beginner pipers seeking admission to the band may attend rehearsals, and shall be admitted to the parade band or the competition/performance band after meeting the abovementioned requirements.
2. Candidates for admission to the band as drummers must be recommended by the Drum Sergeant, and voted on by a majority of band members.
3. Beginners seeking admission as pipers to the band are invited to attend classes from 6pm-7pm during the evenings of regular band practice. Candidates can then leave or choose to stay afterward to observe band practice and may participate if invited by the Pipe Major or Pipe Sergeant.
4. Members of the band are provided with a pipe chanter, chanter reeds, and a cap badge [for pipers]; drum, harness, and cap badge [for drummers], which remain the property of the band.
5. If a piper does not participate in a band performance for a year, the chanter and cap badge must be returned to the band. If a drummer does not participate in a band performance for a year, the drum, harness, and cap badge must be returned to the band.
6. Removal of a piper or drummer from band membership, for whatever reason, shall be done by a unanimous vote of the band's Executive Committee: Pipe Major, Pipe Sergeant, Pipe Corporal, Drum Sergeant, & Band Secretary.

B) 1. Motion made and passed unanimously at AGM on Jan 11, 2018:

Pipers and drummers and support personnel can become members of the band by invitation of the Pipe Major or Drum Sergeant of the band, followed by a 3/4 vote of a quorum of band members at a regularly scheduled meeting.

B) 2. Motion made and passed unanimously at AGM on Jan 11, 2018:

Band members who are absent from band events for a one year period without communication shall be considered "Inactive" and not qualified to vote on an issue facing the band. If after six months we have not had a formal communication with an inactive member, the Pipe Major may request all band equipment to be returned. If, by their own request, a member resigns from the band, he/she shall then be dropped from the band roster.

B) 3. Motion made and passed unanimously at AGM on Jan 11, 2018:

A "Supporting Member" is a non-playing members who has demonstrated enough support for the band to become voting members of the band.

B) 4. Motion made and passed unanimously at Band meeting on Jan 18, 2018:

Parents of playing members who become supporting members are limited to one vote.

C) COMPETITIONS & PERFORMANCES:

1. The final roster for performances and competitions should be established at least by the second rehearsal before the event.

2. The Band roster for a competition or performance is to be made by the Executive Committee (Pipe Major, Pipe Sergeant, & Drum Sergeant) based on their assessment of a player's ability to perform at the event.

3. Competition results will be distributed to all band members participating in the contest.

- 3) DEPARTMENT: Band Members in performance are expected to wear: **Isle of Skye tartan** kilt, black vest, black sporran, white shirt, Balmoral tie, black balmoral for pipers and black glengarry for drummers, light green hose, flashes, black shoes, and green jackets during inclement or cold weather. Shirt sleeves should be either short or long, to be determined by the Pipe Major for each engagement. **Bagpipe covers should be forest green with green and gold cords and tassels, with cap badges for pipers (piper cap badge) and drummers (rampant lion cap badge).**
- 4) LEGAL CONSTITUTION: The Balmoral Pipes and Drums is a project of the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming, which is the legal entity responsible for the band's actions and for ensuring the band's non-profit tax-exempt status.

The Balmoral School's Treasurer shall maintain a clear accounting of the band's income and expenses, available by request to any band member and issued to all band members at the **Annual General Meeting**.

Income earned by band activities shall be earmarked for band equipment or other expenses, and unearned income from donations to the band can be used for either band expenses or Balmoral School expenses, depending upon need.

Liasons between the Balmoral Pipes and Drums organization and the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming's Board of Directors shall be maintained by Balmoral School board members Lacey Mahler and George Balderose.

A record will be kept of all band meeting decisions and elections, including a list of band members in attendance at meetings, and located in the Balmoral Pipes and Drums file in the computer at the Balmoral School office, 1414 Pennsylvania Ave, Pittsburgh, PA. 15233. 412 323-2707.

OFFICERS: The Executive Committee consisting of the following offices, appointees, and staggered terms of office, beginning January 2018.

a. Pipe Major-	George Balderose	3 years (from 1/17)
b. Pipe Sergeant	Sean Regan	2 years (rom 1/18)
c. Pipe Corporal	Vacant	2 years
d. Drum Sergeant	David Acres	3 years (from 1/17)
e. Band Secretary	Lacey Mahler	1 year (from 1/18)

Duties:

Pipe Major: Is the musical director of the band and as such has the final say on repertoire, expression, tone, and musical interpretation;

Pipe-Sergeant: Assists the Pipe Major whenever appropriate and leads the band when the Pipe Major is not available.

Pipe-Corporal: Assists the Pipe Major whenever appropriate and leads the band when the Pipe Major and the Pipe Sergeant are not available.

Drum-Sergeant: Responsible for the drumming music and beatings, maintaining a drum corps of snare, bass, and (later on) tenor drums to accompany the pipes and to develop a drum fanfare.

A) Motion made and passed unanimously at AGM on Jan 11, 2018:

- 1. Pipe Major may decide to hire a Piping Instructor to assist with teaching the band, at a fee to be mutually agreed upon by the Pipe Major and Instructor.*
- 2. The Pipe Major and Drum Sergeant may agree to hire a Drumming Instructor to assist with teaching the band, at a fee to be mutually agreed upon by the Pipe Major and Instructor.*
- 3. The Piping and Drumming Instructors serve under the authority of the Pipe Major; and may be dismissed for financial reasons, for pedagogical reasons, for lapses of availability, or for questionable personal conduct that reflects negatively on the reputation of the band*

Band Secretary: Shall maintain an attendance record for each band rehearsal and performance, a record of any motions voted on or approved unanimously by the band, and shall apply to whatever competitions the band wants to participate.

Term of Office:

Upon expiration of a term of office, an officer can be re-elected, or a band member may be nominated by another band member. If a nomination receives a second, an election will be held at the next band meeting constituting a quorum and decided by a simple majority.

- 5) **MUSIC COMMITTEE:** The Officers of the band are all members of the band's Music Committee. The duties of the music committee are to review the band repertoire, add and delete tunes as appropriate, and approve all printed settings of music.
- 6) **PERFORMANCES** by the band can only confirmed by the Pipe Major. The minimum number of members required for a band performance is 5 pipers, two snare drummers, and one bass drummer. The Pipe Major or the Pipe Sergeant need to be participants. The Pipe Major has the authority to make minor exceptions.
- 7) **PROCEDURAL MATTERS:**
A band member who has a suggestion to bring to the attention of the band should first notify a member of the executive committee, who then has a responsibility to bring the issue to the attention of the entire executive committee for discussion.

The executive committee has the authority to find merit with the request and to forward it to the band membership for discussion and a possible vote, to reject the request with an explanation, or to hold the request in abeyance until a later time.

- 8) **BAND DECISIONS:** A quorum is 33% or more of total band members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. A simple majority of band members constituting a quorum is necessary to validate elections of officers and band decisions requiring a vote.

All special band meetings potentially requiring a vote must be preceded by two weeks' notice to all band members.

Executive Committee votes require all executive committee members to be present to discuss and vote which could be at a band meeting or conference call. If the executive committee decision is not unanimous, it is to be brought to the band members at the next meeting when there is a quorum for a vote.

- 9) **BAND PROPERTY:** Band members who are pipers shall be provided with pipe chanters, chanter reeds, **and cap badges**. Drummers shall be provided with drums, sticks, harnesses, **and cap badges**. These items are the property of Balmoral Pipes and Drums and shall be returned to the band when a band member leaves the band or when the Pipe Major or Drum Sergeant determines that a piper or drummer is not attending practices or otherwise not advancing the goals of the band.
- 10) **WEBSITE:** The website's address is BalmoralPipesandDrums.org. Larry Van Dyke is the webmaster. Web content must be approved by the Pipe Major.
- 11) **COMPLIANCE:** Failure or refusal to abide by the above provisions may result in reclassification of a band member by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- 12) An Annual General Meeting is to be held each year **during** January.
- 13) Any amendments of this statement requires 2/3 vote of a quorum of band members.
- 14) Band meetings shall abide by Roberts Rules of Order.
- 15) **RATIFICATION:** **The changes to this document were made at the Annual General Meeting on January 18, 2018, by a unanimous vote of a quorum of those present.**