

MINUTES
Southern Branch – EUSPBA AGM
Holiday Inn, Greenville, SC
May 30, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Albert McMullin, Chair; Peter Armstrong, Secretary; Tom Crawford, Treasurer; Eugene Armistead, Shannon Hall, Jimmy Bell, EUSPBA President

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair, Al McMullin at 10: 05 A.M.

WELCOME: Jimmy Bell, President of the EUSPBA bid a welcome to all in attendance and expressed his appreciation for everyone’s interest and participation in Branch activities.

Acceptance of Minutes from 2009 AGM: Approved with the note the date listed for the 2010 AGM / Greenville Games was the dated listed prior to it being changed.

REPORTS:

Chair: Albert McMullin reported that the initial goal of returning the Southern Branch to operational status had been achieved. There has been the establishment of a Branch email address that allows the officers to more easily correspond. The face to face meetings have been beneficial and established good working relationships and enhanced goal setting. Several ideas discussed at the last AGM were reviewed:

1. Using extra piping judges to provide immediate feedback to bands (if you want to know exactly how that would work, contact Al McMullin directly). The “spring” Southern Games were contacted about this, only one responded saying they would not have any extra judges available in the afternoon.
2. Breakfast with the judges (coordinate with judges to make be available for breakfast on Sunday morning and then informing competitors that they are welcome to join the judges for breakfast so long as they had their score sheets available to discuss details with the available judge). Still a good idea but nothing has been done to date.

Secretary – See attachment. Additional discussion on email lists suggested that the membership application should have a place for the individual to select whether they want their email address to be included on an email subscription list to receive Branch and/or EUSPBA email communications.

Treasurer – see attachment

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Results of Branch proposals submitted to the 2009 EUSPBA AGM:
 - a) Proposal 1: Provide a variety of forms on line: Sanction Package, Expense Reimbursement request form, Branch Guidelines, Monitor Handbook.
 - i) Done with the exception of Sanction Package – denied by Executive Committee (EC)
 - b) Proposal 2: Provide members with an explanation of how the compensation of Officers by-law was passed
 - i) Discussed at AGM and resolved

- c) Proposal 3: Update Policy Manual
 - i) Acknowledged by EC, some updates done, others still outstanding
 - d) Proposal 4: Adhere to current judge selection prerequisites or revise them.
 - i) No resolution
 - e) Proposal 5: Put EUSPBA expenses, contracts, etc. on the website for membership information.
 - i) Concurred by EC, not done yet
 - f) Proposal 6: EC and Music Board minutes are made available to the membership on the website.
 - i) Music Board minutes will not be posted due to discussion of individuals and confidentiality of such discussions.
 - ii) EC minutes were sent to the Branch Chairs. Southern Branch decision is to post these on the Branch website.
 - g) Proposal 7: Change Branch guidelines to allow electing an Officer-at-Large vs appointment by the Branch Chair.
 - i) EC agreed, no changes made to date.
- 2) Southern Branch Workshop: Discussion was held regarding the nature, cost, location and selected date for a weekend Branch Workshop was not conducive to it being financially successful. Other discussion regarding Mini-workshops and future plans are discussed under new business.
 - 3) Branch Policy Manual: In the process of being updated by Al McMullin.
 - 4) Band Mid-Section comments program: The idea was presented at the 2009 AGM and agreed to be implemented within the Branch. Discussion was to hold a workshop and implement judging at selected Southern Branch regional games. Tyler Frye was contacted and enthusiastically endorsed the idea and to provide a workshop. His schedule did not allow him to be available at any regional games as well as cost of sponsoring the workshop was deemed excessive. The Band Mid-section Score Sheet will be done for the first time at the Charleston Games.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Election of Branch Chair: The election was conducted by EUSPBA guidelines. With a branch membership of 370 individuals and 42 bands, only 14% replies were received. Albert McMullin was re-elected.
- 2) Discussion of postcard questionnaire: Results of the questionnaire are posted on the Branch website and will be forwarded to the EC for their information and consideration.
 - a. A discussion was held regarding the Branch necessity to initiate any and all activities within the Branch. It was decided that if members wanted an event, then they need to ask for it. The Branch is willing to sponsor it but the requesting group needs to be willing assist in facilitating it. Eugene Armistead and Peter Armstrong agreed to work on a guideline for bands or individuals to how to request events, describe the responsibilities of the requesting group and the support to be provided by the Branch. It is hoped to increase education within the Branch by bands or small groups asking for and getting

what they want in lieu of previous methods of producing programs that people are not interested or only partially interested in.

- 3) Submittal of new AGM proposals: Approved. Jimmy Bell provided additional discussion regarding the EC discussion on regarding the proposals. See attached.
- 4) EUSPBA Championship: There was discussion that the 2010 EUSPBA Championship (July 17, Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, Florence, MA) would be truly representative of the EUSPBA. That due to its location, Southern Branch bands were at a disadvantage to attend due to the cost of travel and associated time to do so. The discussion was in order to fairly include Southern Branch bands, the Grade 3 & 4 winners on July 17 are allowed to be challenged by Southern bands either at the Charleston or Stone Mountain Games.
- 5) Additional Branch meeting dates for 2010 & 2011: A meeting is schedule for Sunday, after the Charleston Games for interested members. The Agenda items will be how to improve Branch relations with Games Piping & Drumming Directors and discuss any additional suggestions to the Executive Committee at the AGM, to be held on November 13 in Baltimore, MD.

Announcements:

- 1) Stone Mountain Games will be sponsoring a Celdih for pipers, drummers and bands Saturday night of the Games. More information regarding location, time, call for participants, etc. will be posted on the Stone Mtn. website and on the Branch website.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00P.M. by Chair Albert McMullin.

PROPOSED SOUTHERN BRANCH AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 2010 EUSPBA AGM

- 1) Proposal – No Executive or Branch elected officer can serve in a paid non-elected position.

Rational – It is a conflict of interest for any voluntary, elected officer of the EUSPBA Executive Committee or a Branch office to decide on contracts, salaries or other compensation for a paid position when it involves another EC or Branch member. One such position is Membership Coordinator. That is not to say such positions should not be paid. They are essential to the proper operation of the Association and the persons performing these jobs need to perform them responsibly and diligently or the Association suffers. Hence, some form of compensation seems reasonable in order to ensure the duties are ably performed and if they are not, that person should be quickly replaced. However, it presents an unnecessary conflict within the EC or a Branch to ask an individual to step down from one position yet still retain a position in the EC or Branch. Additionally, an elected officer has agreed to work in a designated position. The work necessary to fulfill that responsibility should not be diluted by additional responsibilities within the Association that could be performed by others. Especially when decisions by the EC or Branch may impose more work on that individual. An elected officer cannot cast a vote in good conscious and for the good of the Association if it will effect them personally in another position within the Association.

- 2) Proposal – No one person can hold more than 1 office or be chair of a lesser committee at the same time.

Rational – It weakens any organization to have one person doing the majority of the work. It lessens the involvement of others but more importantly, the corporate knowledge that made those duties an efficient and effective part of the Association is lost when that individual leaves. In the instance when the individual has an accident or suddenly is no longer able to perform those duties, it leaves the Association with not one position to fill but two or more. The Association should not set itself up for failure to its membership by putting “all their eggs in one basket.” The Southern Branch acknowledges that volunteers are hard to find and good volunteers are even harder to find, but there is a greater responsibility to protect the operation of the Association than there is to serving the interests or desires of any one individual.

EUSPBA SOUTHERN BRANCH
SECRETARY 2010 AGM REPORT

The Branch Officers met twice during the year (November & December) in Atlanta to discuss Branch agenda items. Other significant correspondence and discussion was conducted via email throughout the year.

At each meeting the following was discussed: Branch Workshop and Mini-Workshops, AGM proposals, Band EUSPBA representatives, Branch representation at Games, computerized Band Tabulation Worksheet, Monitor Workshop, Branch Policy Manual, PCP program, Band mid-section and the immediate judge feedback program.

It was agreed to put new items on the Branch website including: AGM minutes, games dates, workshop dates, workshop summaries, etc.

Also new was the attempt to contact the membership via email. This had marginal success as many emails on file were returned due to outdated addresses. Several members responded on how better to send blind copy addresses, for which I am thankful for the hi-tech lesson.

Respectfully Submitted:

Peter Armstrong
Southern Branch Secretary

EUSPBA Southern Branch Financial Report

09/01/2009 - 05/30/2010

Starting Balance (09/01/2009)		\$1,691.35
Bank Fees (ended 11/10)	\$36.00	
Meeting Expenses	\$65.57	
Travel Reimbursement	\$250.00	
Printing - Postcards	\$208.40	
Postage	\$229.20	
Ending Balance		\$902.18