



## Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

### Annual General Membership Meeting

April 14, 2021

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Matt Lopez, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Board Member at Large/Pipe Instructor Jim Ryan and, Pipe Major/Quartermaster Jason Allen, Gig Czarina Lisa Heilbraun, Steve Boulton, Gary Winemiller, Matt Bickert, James Lind, Kevin Byrne, Louis Santano, Jim Martin, Garrett McKenzie, John Burns, Andrew Timpner. See attachment for sign in sheet.
- III. Reports
  - a. President
    - i. Matt Lopez stated that for the first half of 2020 the band did almost nothing due to the pandemic. Then we started doing rehearsals via Zoom thanks to Jim Ryan and that allowed us to learn some new tunes and progress as a band. Then Jason Allen was able to get us into Station 17 so we could practice outside the firehouse in the parking lot, which allowed us to put the new tunes on the big pipes and play together. This has put us far ahead of other pipe bands in quality of playing and music. Then as it got colder we were able to move inside, albeit socially distanced to continue playing in Station 17's Bingo Hall. Then as the pandemic worsened we returned to Zoom meeting for rehearsal. In 2021 we were finally able to get use of the Fairfax Fire Academy's high bay and again could resume in person rehearsals.
    - ii. The Annual Meeting was delayed due to the pandemic.
    - iii. We were able to recruit a few new drummers and pipers as well as having some prospects from Fairfax and Prince William counties agencies.
    - iv. The band was able to participate in a few events over the year including:
      1. Ed Snyder's funeral
      2. LODD funerals
      3. Modified National Fallen Firefighters Weekend

4. St. Patrick's Day events where we were able to raise some money
  5. There will also be some upcoming events in June and July
- v. We need to be proud that we've stayed together , honored our fallen, played some fun gigs and enjoyed each other's company. We also should be proud of what we accomplished and how we've been able to move forward as a band despite the pandemic.
- b. Secretary
    - i. Jim Kraftchak stated that last year's meeting minutes had been sent out to everyone prior to the meeting.
    - ii. Kevin Byrne motioned that we forgo the reading of last year's meeting minutes. Jason Allen seconded that motion and it passed unanimously.
    - iii. Steve Boulton motioned that we accept the meeting minutes as written and that was seconded by Jason Allen and it passed unanimously.
  - c. Treasurer
    - i. Tom Clappi was not present and Matt Lopez presented the Treasurer's report.
    - ii. Gary Winemiller asked if the band received any donations and if so did thank you notes go out. Jim Kraftchak stated that yes we did receive donations and those that he had been informed of had thank you notes sent.
    - iii. Jason Allen motioned that we accept the Treasurer's report as read by Matt Lopez. Kevin Byrne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
    - iv. See attached Treasurer's Report for full details on the band's finances.
  - d. Quartermaster
    - i. A copy of the inventory report can be found in the attachments of these minutes.
    - ii. Jason Allen stated that Phil Nannery is moving out of the area and has turned in all his items.
    - iii. Gary Winemiller stated that he still has all the badges if anyone needs one.
    - iv. Jim Ryan asked if Garrett McKenzie and Andrew Timpner have been outfitted yet? Jason Allen responded that since Andrew is in the military and will only be with the band for about a year and a half, he was hesitant to order him a custom tunic and would see what we had that would fit him.
  - e. Uniform Officer
    - i. Gary Winemiller stated that he has gotten a design created for name tags and they are around \$24 each. He had an example and passed around the band to show folks what it looks like.

- ii. Gary Winmiller also stated that we need to get ties that are uniform in appearance as folks have different ties. He suggested that a clip-on tie would be more uniform as that way all the knots are the same and they are quick and easy to put on. Some people voiced a potential objective to using a clip-on.
  - iii. The Uniform Manual is up on the website and folks should go review it.
  - iv. Gary stated that he wanted to have a uniform class and inspection and Jason Allen asked if he would like to do that on a normal rehearsal night or some other night. Gary responded that he'd like to do that on a normal rehearsal night.
  - v. Gary also stated that per the bylaws if anyone wants to recommend any changes to the uniform that it needs to be put in writing and submitted to him so he can evaluate it and submit it to the board.
  - vi. There was a discussion about the caubeens being hard to come by and Jim Ryan if we can't get caubeens, what do we do?
    1. Jason Allen stated that he has 4 winter and 1 summer caubeen left in inventory.
    2. Steve Boulton mentioned that maybe we can get our caubeens from the same place that Ode gets his for the Utah band.
    3. Jason Allen and Steve Boulton will work to follow up and see if we can find a new source for caubeens.
- f. Drum Major
- i. Bill Bryce was not present and did not send in a report.
- g. Pipe Major
- i. A copy of the Pipe Major's report can be found in the attachments to these minutes.
  - ii. Jason Allen provided his report.
  - iii. Gary Winemiller stated that he spoke to the Fairfax Fire Museum and that they would be interested in displaying Ed Snyder's pipes when they have the space for them. Matt Lopez stated that the pipes had been returned to the Snyder family.
- h. Band Manager
- i. Lisa Heilbraun stated that while we didn't do much over the last year, due to the pandemic, we do have some events coming up.
  - ii. The upcoming events are:
    1. Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial in June
    2. Fairfax 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
    3. Manassas is having a halfway to St. Patrick's Day Parade in September sometime
    4. The Fairfax County Fire Retirement picnic is still scheduled for September

5. National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Weekend will be in October. They are talking about moving this event to May but that is not confirmed yet.

#### IV. New Business

##### a. Instructor Payment

- i. Jim Kraftchak stated that the Instructor Payment authorized by the board is to offset the dues for the instructors because in order to be a member in good standing you have to pay your dues.
- ii. The Instructor Payment Committee met and after some deliberation determined that their recommendation to the board would be the following:
  1. Those eligible to be instructors are:
    - a. Pipe Major
    - b. Pipe Sergeants
    - c. Drum Major
    - d. Drum Sergeants
    - e. Someone who has a nationally recognized credential greater than anyone else in the band such as a Grade 2 piper or drummer
  2. The requirements to be paid would be 10 hours of verifiable instruction.
- iii. Based on the committee's recommendations the board agreed with the eligibility for instructing but decided that the Pipe Major and Drum Major would present a list of instructors to be paid to the board for approval rather than having to deal with tracking hours.

##### b. Bylaws Update

- i. Matt Lopez stated that the eligibility change that we voted on last year for Pipe Major and Drum Major caused some concern that we were excluding some folks by requiring a fire service background. As a result the Bylaws Committee was reformed and addressed this issue.
- ii. The current language reads:
  - 4.1 Pipe Major: The Pipe Major (PM) is the musical director of the band and is responsible for selecting the band's music, directing its musical performance and is defacto Music Committee Chair. The PM or Drum Major shall have a fire service background.
- iii. Per the board approved language, the bylaws are now proposed to read as:
  - 4.1 Pipe Major: The Pipe Major (PM) is the musical director of the band and is responsible for selecting the band's music, directing its musical performance and is defacto Music Committee Chair. The PM or Drum Major shall have an

emergency responder (fire or law enforcement) or other emergency rescue services officer experience.

- iv. Jim Ryan motioned that we accept the update to the bylaws as written and this was seconded by Kevin Byrne.
  - v. Matt Lopez opened the floor for discussion on the motion.
  - vi. Jim Ryan stated that he felt the language adheres to the spirit of what the band is.
  - vii. Matt Lopez hearing no other comments or discussions called for a vote on the amended language. The update passed unanimously.
- c. Elections – Due to the pandemic, the elections are just now being held.
- i. Board of Directors
    1. Matt Lopez turned the elections over the Gary Winemiller to run
    2. President
      - a. Jason Allen nominated Matt Lopez and Jim Ryan seconded.
      - b. No other nominations were made
      - c. Vote was held by acclimation and Matt Lopez was voted in unanimously.
      - d. Matt Lopez is reelected as president, congratulations.
    3. Vice President
      - a. Jim Ryan nominated Bill Bryce and Kevin Byrne seconded.
      - b. Jason Allen nominated Jim Martin who declined.
      - c. No other nominations were made
      - d. Vote was held by acclimation and Bill Bryce was voted in unanimously.
      - e. Bill Bryce is reelected as vice president, congratulations.
    4. Secretary
      - a. Jason Allen nominated Jim Kraftchak and Matt Lopez seconded.
      - b. No other nominations were made
      - c. Vote was held by acclimation and Jim Kraftchak was voted in unanimously.
      - d. Jim Kraftchak unanimously reelected as secretary, congratulations.
    5. Treasurer
      - a. Matt Lopez nominated Tom Clappi and Steve Boulton seconded.
      - b. Jason Allen nominated Jim Ryan who declined.
      - c. No other nominations were made
      - d. Vote was held by acclimation and Tom Clappi was voted in unanimously.

e. Matt Lopez stated that Tom Clappi may need help due the change of his duties at work. Jim Martin stated that he would be willing to work with Tom as “Deputy Treasurer”.

f. Tom Clappi is reelected as treasurer, congratulations.

6. Member-At-Large

a. Kevin Byrne nominated Matt Bickert and Lisa Heilbraun seconded.

b. Matt Lopez nominated Jim Ryan and Jason Allen seconded.

c. Count was Matt Bickert 10, Jim Ryan 5.

d. Matt Bickert is the Member-At-Large, congratulations.

7. Gary Winemiller closed nominations.

V. Good of the Order

a. Matt Lopez requested that have a moment of silence for the departure of our brother Ed Snyder.

b. Jim Ryan thanked last year’s board for keeping the band moving forward through the pandemic.

c. Gary Winemiller stated that he has been told many times that bands only last around 30 years and we are on year 36 so that is a testament to the commitment to this band.

d. Matt Lopez challenged the membership to find 1 person each over the next year to join the band.

i. Jim Ryan suggested that the band waive the dues for any individual that successfully recruits a new member and that new member completes three (3) on street events with the band.

e. Jason Allen stated that the caubeens on the front table were purchased by the band in an attempt to find a new source of caubeens but that none of them are useful for the band because they are not right. Any member who wants one is free to take one.

f. Gary Winemiller stated that the band should start planning a big trip similar to the Ireland trip of a number of years ago.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with motion by Kevin Byrne, seconded by Steve Boulton and passed with a unanimous vote.



## Treasurer's Report 2020

### Starting Balance:

- January 01,2020 \$14173.24

### Ending Balance:

- December 31,2020 \$10,004.95

### Income/Deposits:

▪ \$ 3472.18

### Expenses:

▪ January- \$591.58  
▪ February- \$1,33.50  
▪ March- \$1,259.77  
▪ April- \$1,034.62  
▪ May- \$97.00  
▪ June- \$97.00  
▪ July- \$222.00  
▪ August- \$97.00  
▪ September- \$97.00  
▪ October- \$2233.75  
▪ November- \$381.00  
▪ December- 97.00

- Admin-
  - o Go Daddy- Website
  - o Team Snap
  - o Storage Facility-
    - 2020- \$97.00/ Month
    - 2021- \$105.00/ Month
  - o USPS Mailbox
  - o Misc. Small Admin supplies-
    - Stamps
    - Thumb Drive
- Quarter Master-
  - o Uniform Supplies
- Gigs-
  - o Gettysburg- NFF
- Good of the Order-
  - o Flowers for Events



# Northern Virginia Firefighters Pipes and Drums

## Pipe Major's Report 2020

COVID RIGHT?!? – is there really anything to this P/M's report??? Well, absolutely there is!!

- Even though **MOST** of our mainstay events were cancelled due to the global pandemic. However, we were able to perform in the 2020 Alexandria St Pat's parade, the Mission BBQ 9/11 event, a modified NFFF event in Emmitsburg MD **AND** we were able to provide mission critical support for other memorials and LODD funerals.
- We adapted to the social distancing regulations and were able to continue with rehearsals, via the ZOOM platform, when MANY other bands put things on hold.
- Into 2021 when things loosened up a bit we were able to start meeting in person again and building on what we had learned via ZOOM and it shows!
- Of course, we lost our friend and founder Ed in February after a long and courageous battle with Cancer. Eddie made sure the weather wasn't going to make things easy for us, but I believe he would have been extremely proud of how we honored him and I can tell you that his family was extremely moved at what we did.
- In March we finally got to get out and play for fun again and I'm gonna tell ya, I had a BLAST! We sounded really good! Its obvious that folks are working hard.
- We've got some new tunes under our belts – Flett from Flotta, Murdo's Wedding, Molly Darling, and the Irish Set to name a few.

- We welcomed a couple of new folks to the group with Andrew and Garrett.
- Also, John Burns is working hard and is improving every time he comes to rehearsal.
- Unfortunately, we are losing Phil Nannary to a move south, so if you see or speak to him, please wish him well.

So, looking forward to the rest of 2021.....

- We have two upcoming events – The VA Fallen Firefighters Memorial on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> and The Fairfax Independence Day Parade on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- We will be focusing on readying ourselves for those events at rehearsal as well as introducing a few more tunes.
- I also cannot thank Jim R enough for his help and guidance over the last year. He has helped me become a better P/M and made our band sound the way it does.
- IMO we are the best service band in the area!!

J

# NVFESPB Inventory

Jan-20

Item description	Size	Condition	Quantity	Years of service left
Band Tunic	various	serviceable	14	varies
Official Kilt	big	serviceable	3	
	not so big	serviceable	1	
Probie Kilt	30	serviceable	1	
	46	serviceable	1	
Band Sweater	sm	New	4	
	med	New	1	
	large	New	0	
	XXL	New	3	
Rain Capes	various	New	6	
Summer Caubeen	various	New	1	
Winter Caubeen	various	New	4	
Sporran	One size	New	3	
Sporran Straps	One size	New	5 pair	
Sporran Chains	Reg	New	3	

	Long	New	2
Belt	Med	New	1
	LG	New	0
	XL	New	2
	XXL	New	0
Sholder Boards	One size	New	A lot
Pipe Drum Tunic Patch	One size	New	A lot
Belt Buckles	One size	New	14
Shoe Buckles	One size	New	6 Pair
Summer Caubeen Badges	One size	New	11
Metal Caubeen Badges	One size	New	8
Hackles	One size	New	7
Flashes	One size	New	3
Red Sash	One size	New	1
Private Stripe	One size	New	6
Sgt Stripes	One size	New	1
Major Stripes	One size	New	0
Corp Stripes	One size	New	0