



Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

Annual General Membership Meeting

January 31, 2024

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: See attachments for sign in sheet.
- III. Reports
 - a. President
 - i. Matt Lopez presented the President's Report.
 - ii. See attachments for President's Report.
 - b. Vice President/Drum Major
 - i. Bill Bryce presented the Vice President/Drum Major's Report.
 - ii. See attachments for Vice President/ Drum Major's Report.
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Jim Kraftchak stated that last year's meeting minutes had been sent out to everyone prior to the meeting.
 - ii. Jason Allen motioned that we accept the meeting minutes as written and that was seconded by Bill Bryce and it passed unanimously.
 - d. Treasurer
 - i. Tom Clappi presented the Treasurer's report.
 - ii. See attachments for the Treasurer's report.
 - e. Member-At-Large
 - i. Cliff Gill stated that while he didn't have much to say, the board worked really well together and that everyone should come out and see how it works.
 - f. Quartermaster
 - i. Cliff Gill presented the Quartermaster's report.
 - ii. See attachments for Quartermaster's report.
 - iii. Garry Winemiller stated that with the possible new name tags, that we make sure the magnet is strong enough to work on tunics.
 - g. Band Manager
 - i. Garrett McKenzie presented the Band Manager's Report.
 - ii. See attachments for the Band Manager's Report.

- iii. Garrett McKenzie also listed some potential upcoming gigs that he will be bringing to the new board for discussion:
 - 1. DC Warf on March 15
 - 2. Solace Brewery in Herndon on March 17
 - 3. Annapolis Parade on March 17
- iv. Garrett McKenzie also stated that playing is our best source of income for the band.

h. Uniform Officer

- i. Gary Winemiller presented the Uniform Officer's report.
- ii. Please review the Uniform Manual that is on the website as that will help you understand how the uniform is to be worn and what the various uniforms are.
- iii. The job of the Uniform Officer is to make sure that the uniform is worn correctly.
- iv. Just like it matters what we sound like, it also matters what we look like.
- v. Gary Winemiller stated that he agrees that we need a long sleeve white shirt because wearing a tie with a short sleeve shirt is wrong and looks terrible.
- vi. Caubeens and Scally Caps all look terrible and we need to find potential replacements for them.
- vii. If we are going to continue to wear the Scally Caps, then we'll need to make updates to the Uniform Manual.
- viii. Should anyone have any uniform questions please talk to Gary Winemiller.

i. Pipe Major

- i. Jason Allen presented the Pipe Major's report.
- ii. See attachments for the Pipe Major's report.

IV. New Business

a. Elections

i. Board of Directors

- 1. Matt Lopez turned the elections over the Gary Winemiller to run
- 2. President
 - a. Steve Boulton nominated Matt Lopez and Bill Bryce seconded.
 - b. Matt Bickertt nominated Kevin Byrne.
 - c. Kevin Byrne declined the nomination.
 - d. No other nominations were received.
 - e. Vote was held by acclimation and Matt Lopez was voted in unanimously.
 - f. Matt Lopez is reelected as president, congratulations.
- 3. Vice President
 - a. Kevin Byrne nominated Bill Bryce and Matt Bickertt seconded.

- b. No other nominations were received.
 - c. Vote was held by acclimation and Bill Bryce was voted in unanimously.
 - d. Bill Bryce is reelected as Vice President, congratulations.
 - 4. Secretary
 - a. Bill Bryce nominated Jim Kraftchak and Matt Bickertt seconded.
 - b. No other nominations were received.
 - c. Vote was held by acclimation and Jim Kraftchak was voted in unanimously.
 - d. Jim Kraftchak is reelected as secretary, congratulations.
 - 5. Treasurer
 - a. Kevin Byrne nominated Tom Clappi and Matt Bickertt seconded.
 - b. No other nominations were received.
 - c. Vote was held by acclimation and Tom Clappi was voted in unanimously.
 - d. Tom Clappi is reelected as treasurer, congratulations.
 - 6. Member-At-Large
 - a. Jason Allen nominated Matt Khale and Bill Bryce Seconded.
 - b. Tom Clappi nominated Cliff Gill and Kevin Mawn seconded.
 - c. Voting count was as follows:
 - i. Matt Khale – 12
 - ii. Cliff Gill – 7
 - d. Matt Khale has been elected as the Member-At-Large, congratulations.
 - ii. Band Officers
 - 1. Pipe Major
 - a. Steve Boulton nominated Jason Allen and Mike Rowe seconded.
 - b. No other nominations were received.
 - c. Vote was held by acclimation and Jason Allen was voted in unanimously.
 - d. Jason Allen is reelected as Pipe Major for a two year term, congratulations.
 - 2. Drum Major
 - a. Jason Allen nominated Bill Bryce and Steve Boulton seconded.
 - b. No other nominations were received.
 - c. Vote was held by acclimation and Bill Bryce was voted in unanimously.

- d. Bill Bryce is reelected as Drum Major for a two year term, congratulations.
 - iii. Gary Winemiller encouraged new members to seriously consider stepping up and filling some of the positions on the board.
 - iv. Gary Winemiller closed nominations.
 - v. Matt Lopez as the newly elected President thanked Gary Winemiller for running the elections and the membership for its votes.
- V. Good of the Order
 - a. Tom Clappi stated that he has been speaking with Mike Lacey and Mike is hoping that he will be able to rejoin the band this coming year.
 - b. Tom Clappi stated that James Lind's wife had to have hip surgery and will be out until May as a result. He sends his regards to the membership and will be back as soon as he can.
 - c. Kevin Mawn stated that he is still getting complements for the band playing at his wedding this summer and wanted to thank the band again for doing that.
 - d. Matt Lopez stated that we will need help planning the band's 40th Anniversary Party, so if you are interested in assisting, please contact him.
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm with motion by Kevin Byrne, seconded by Garrett McKenzie and passed with a unanimous vote.

NVFESPB
Presidents Report
January 31, 2024

- I. Had a very successful year with membership growth, new students, new music and lots of activity.
- II. Would like to thank our current board for their service and support this past year. We accomplished a lot together.
 - a. Vice President and Drum Major - Bill Bryce
 - b. Treasurer Tom Clappi
 - c. Secretary/Webmaster - Jim Kraftchak
 - d. Member At Large & appointed Quartermaster - Cliff Gill
 - e. Appointed Band Manager - Garrett McKenzie
 - f. Pipe Major - Jason Allen
- III. This year we will vote for our band leadership board of directors: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Member At Large. All serve a one-year term.
- IV. Also, for the 2nd time In our history, we will vote separately for our operational leadership – Pipe Major and Drum Major. Both serve a two-year term.
- V. This year we also start our 40th anniversary year. I am currently heading up an anniversary party for our band members and their families. We will host a party, much like our 25th for our members, honor our founders as we recognize where we came from and chart our future. The estimated date for this event will likely be in August, when we typically do not have events planned.
- VI. Last year we hosted a fundraiser in February. This year, with a full treasury, from brother Ed Snyder’s estate donation, and due to the activities planned we will postpone the fundraiser to later in the year.
- VII. While we do have uniform purchases to make for both new members and to replace old thread bare attire, the board has begun evaluating alternative vendors. This is because of the increased cost of Tunics which are nearly \$800 each due to their customization, kilts which are \$400 each and caubeens which cannot be found from old vendors.
- VIII. Last year we attended the
 - a. Annual Fundraiser at Patriots Bar and Grill
 - b. Alexandria, Manassas, and Annapolis St Patrick’s Day Parades
 - c. St Patrick’s Day event at Bunnyman and Heritage Brewing Companies
 - d. City of Alexandria LODD Funeral DFC Brian Hircik
 - e. Multiple Recruit Graduations including Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William Counties.
 - f. Henrico County LODD for FF Steve Whitson
 - g. Frederick County LODD for Chief Chester Taylor Lauck
 - h. NFFF Memorial in Emmisburg, MD
 - i. Celebration of Life for brother Garrett’s wife
 - j. Virginia Fallen FF Memorial in Richmond
 - k. July 4 Parade in City of Fairfax
 - l. MoCo Booster Member Funeral Kevin Nichols

- m. Richmond FD LODD Firefighter Rodney Coles
 - n. 9/11 Event at Mission BBQ in Chantilly, VA
 - o. Wedding for brother Kevin Mawn
 - p. Fairfax County Retirement Association Memorial at Franconia, VA VFD FS405
 - q. Vienna Halloween Parade
 - r. Baltimore City LODD for EMT/FF Rodney Pitts
 - s. Baltimore City LODD for Lt Dillon Rinaldo
 - t. City of Manassas Veterans Day Parade and then the Veterans Day Service
 - u. Chincoteague Parade, MD
 - v. Retirement Party for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Captain Gerry Morrison
 - w. Retirement Party for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Matthew Lopez
 - x. Total LODD – 7 (last year we did 10)
- IX. We recruited new drummers and pipers:
- a. Our senior piping Students have progressed – Mike Rowe and Kevin Mawn
 - b. Had half a dozen new student from Fairfax County Police Department, but we are down to one
 - c. Our Bagpipe and Drums instruction continues to be strong for both students and incumbents.
- X. I was optimistic about 2023, but am even more excited about 2024 for our board, our band, and the fire service. We are trending fewer LODDs but as I stated last year, more firefighters are being diagnosed with early stage cancer, it is still killing many older retirees. I excited because I see the opportunity to expand our reach, through improved communication and new recruitment strategies. Once we get new folks in the door and committed we are fine. The problem is getting them first to know we are here and then to take the time to come to rehearsal. That will be the challenge and opportunity for the new board.

Northern VA Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipeband 2023 Annual Vice-President and Drum Major Report

There are no major concerns or events to report from the previous year 2023. We held our annual fundraiser at Patriots 2/2023 and raised \$5,163.

The BoD met regularly and discussed/voted on items as they arose. Many discussions were held in regards to what the band will do for its 40th Anniversary which will occur next year.

Other recurring items discussed were:

- ** Band recruitment
- ** Annual Fundraiser
- ** Uniform changes (long sleeve shirts)

As current Drum Major and Vice-President I don't foresee any major issues facing us in 2024. Major items we will focus on will be 40th Anniversary and annual fundraiser but otherwise the upcoming year should be business as usual.

Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Quartermaster Report

As part of my commitment to maintaining and updating our equipment and uniforms, a comprehensive reinventory will be conducted coinciding with our upcoming rental storage location move. This report outlines the current inventory of the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band (NVFESPB).

Uniforms and Accessories:

- **Band Tunics:** 16 (various sizes) - Ordered from J. Higgins.
- **Band Kilts:** 7 (various sizes) - Sourced from Lochcarron of Scotland (www.lochcarron.co.uk). Contact: Joanne (jo@lochcarron.com).
- **White Uniform Shirts:** 4 - Sizes: 17, 17.5 (2), 16.5. Bill is responsible for orders.
- **Band Sweaters:** 7 - Sizes: Small (4), Medium, Large, XXL. Available at www.galls.com.
- **Band Sporrans:** 4 (daywear sporran) - www.jhiggins.net.
- **Sporran Straps:** 4 pairs - www.jhiggins.net.
- **Sporran Chains:** 6 - www.jhiggins.net.
- **Belts:** 7 (various sizes) - www.jhiggins.net.
- **Belt Buckles:** 8 - www.imperialpipeco.com. Manufacturer: Farooq in Pakistan.
- **Shoe Buckles:** 6 pairs - www.imperialpipeco.com. Supplier: Farooq.
- **Flashes:** 3 pairs - www.jhiggins.net.
- **Band Badges:** 8 - Ordered by Gary Winemiller.
- **Rank Insignia for Tunics:** www.jhiggins.net.
 - Sgt.: 2
 - Corporal: 8
 - Pvt.: 11
- **Epaulettes:**
 - Pipe Sgt.: 4 pairs
 - Pipe Corp.: 1 pair
 - Pipe Pvt.: 7 pairs
 - Piper: 6 pairs
 - Drum Sgt.: 9 pairs
 - Drum Corp.: 12 pairs
 - Drum Pvt.: 3 pairs
- **Pipe/Drum Tunic Insignia:** Various quantities.
- **Band Ties:** 8 - Provided by Gary Winemiller.
- **Rain Capes (Green):** 5 - www.Hendersonvroupltd.com. Note: Green capes are no longer in production.
- **Caubeens:** 5 (various sizes).
- **Soft Caubeen Badges:** 12.
- **Metal Caubeen Badges:** 2.
- **Original Band Cape:** 1.
- **Music Stands:** 4.

This inventory will be thoroughly reviewed and updated during the storage location transition to ensure accuracy and readiness for the band's needs.

Quartermaster Update

The Board of Directors has recently assigned several important tasks to ensure the continued high standards and functionality of our band's attire and equipment. Here are the key updates and initiatives:

- **White Long Sleeve Uniform Shirts:**
 - I am in the process of identifying a suitable white long sleeve uniform shirt. A sample of the selected shirt will be available for review at the time of this report.
- **Replacement Name Tags:**
 - To enhance our uniform's appearance, I have sourced three examples of replacement name tags. These samples will be presented for consideration and selection.
- **Scally Caps Replacement Options:**
 - In response to the need for replacing our scally caps, I have procured four different samples. These will be evaluated to select the best option that meets our quality and style requirements.
- **Caubeens Sourcing:**
 - To identify a reliable source for replacement caubeens, purchases have been made from two different vendors. These samples will be assessed to determine the most suitable supplier.
- **Tunic Sourcing:**
 - Similarly, for our tunics, purchases have been made from two vendors to evaluate and select the best source for replacements.
- **Kilt Replacements:**
 - Recognizing the wear and tear on some members' kilts, I have purchased three kilts for those members whose kilts were significantly worn. This ensures our uniform standards remain high.
- **Storage Location Transition:**
 - In a strategic move to optimize our resources, I am coordinating the transfer of our rental storage location from a 5X5 unit to a 10X10 unit. This change will not only provide us with more space but also result in a significant cost saving of over \$300 in the year 2024.

These initiatives are part of our ongoing commitment to maintain the professional appearance and functionality of the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipes and Drums.

Treasurer's Report 2024

NVFESPD- Treasury Overview- FYO 202									
DO NOT TOUCH/CHANGE									
	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23			
Income	\$672.00	\$7,163.00	\$600.00	\$6,055.00	\$0.00	\$450.00			
Expenditures	\$293.00	\$1,371.48	\$1,264.59	\$981.00	\$4,300.71	\$1,611.00			
Balance	\$19,074.43	\$24,865.95	\$24,201.36	\$29,075.36	\$0.00	\$23,613.65			
Income	\$500.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$550.00	\$2,116.00			
Expenditures	\$362.00	\$721.61	\$831.00	\$577.55	\$131.00	\$3,839.00			
Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,274.04	\$22,696.49	\$23,115.49	\$21,392.49			

Income Types	Expenditure Types
Donations	Administrative
Fundraiser	Drum Corps
Gigs	Instructors
Membership Fees	Pipe Corps
Merchandise	PO Box
Other	Quartermaster
Parades	Scheduling Software
	Storage
	Travel
	Website
	Other

2024 Band Manager's Report

1. 2023 Performances

During the calendar year 2023, the band executed 29 public performances in the following categories:

Performance Type	Number
Funerals	9
Memorial Services	5
Parades	6
Formal Ceremonies	3
Informal Ceremonies	1
Pub Gigs	3
Fund Raisers	1
Other	1

The numbers shown above only reflect those gigs which were listed in Team Snap. Solo gigs booked through the band are not included.

2. Upcoming 2024

- a. The following performances have been booked for March 2024:
 - i. March 2, Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade
 - ii. March 9, Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade
 - iii. March 16, Bunnyman Brewing Company
- b. The goal is to book 2 paying pub gigs after the Manassas Parade

Other traditional events planned for 2024 include:

- NFFW – First weekend of May
- Rolling Thunder (Do we want to do this?)
- Fairfax City Independence Day Parade – July 4th
- Fairfax County Retired Memorial Celebration – September/October
- Vienna Halloween Parade – Wednesday before Halloween
- Manassas Veterans' Day Parade
- Scottish Christmas Walk – First Saturday of December (Do we want to do this?)
- Chincoteague Christmas Parade

3. The board approved a new Performance Approval and Band Manager SOP. A copy will be provided to each member at the AGM, and the BM will review the highlights at the meeting.

4. Questions?

Pipe Major Report
2023
P/M Jason Allen

Another busy year in the books and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our 39th year completing our mission of honoring our fallen and their families with our music.

We held a very successful fundraiser spearheaded by our fabulous Drum Major/Vice President Bill Bryce. Marched in multiple parades. Honored our fallen and continued to better ourselves with world class instruction.

We have also grown. We have many new piping students that are coming along quite nicely. Even a couple are close their auditions. We are still however in need of drummers. Our bass drumming spot is securely in the caring hands of Cliff and this year Matt Kahle was promoted to Drum Sgt. and lead tip. I'd like everyone to think of ways we can recruit new drummers for the group. I remember the days we would march down the parade route with 5 snares, 5 tenors and a bass.

We've added music....

One of the harder things to manage in this position is keeping the interest of the band while also trying not to leave anyone behind. The truth of the matter is that we have folks of differing abilities, time and expectations of what the group should be doing.

The Desi's set is now two years old and hopefully we will debut it in Alexandria. The new march medley is coming along quite nicely but the truth of the matter is some folks will not be able to play it and that's ok. It's harder than most of our normal stuff on purpose. Like I said it's hard to manage what people want to do and what keeps them interested. I strongly believe that half of the band would be happy playing the old stuff over and over again the way it's always been played and the other half want to try new stuff and be more challenged by the music. However I am looking forward to being proved wrong if re-elected.

Yes, I will be seeking re-election as the Pipe Major but there are some things I want everyone to know.

- I will continue to provide weekly emails outlining the plans AND the expectations.
- I WILL hold folks accountable to those expectations.
- I will continue to work with the BOD to ensure we have the best instruction available. Yes, my plan is to retain Tom as our instructor.
- I plan on recommending to the BOD that pipers and piping students increase NEXT YEARS dues to 150.00 to help with our instruction costs.

- There will be new music each year in hopes it keeps folks engaged and excited about playing their Instruments
- I will continue to work with the D/M to ensure the band looks and sounds it's best.

It has been my honor to be the Pipe Major of this awesome group. I hope I have the opportunity to continue to serve you as the P/M for the next two years. If not, I will serve in any way possible to ensure we continue to complete our mission.

2024 Sign in Sheet

	NWFES PB	Gm	Mtg	1-31-24
	Name			
1	Matthew Lopez			
2	GARY W. WINTERICKER			
3	STEPHEN W BOULTON			
4	ERIC C. JONES			
5	CLIFFORD GILL			
6	Matt Bickert			
7	GARRETT McKEOWN			
8	Kevin Byrne			
9	Molly Knudsen			
10	Jim Connor			
11	Matthew Kahle			
12	BILL BRUCE			
13	JASON BRASSER			
14	MIKE ROWE			
15	KEVIN MAW			
16	JASON ALLEN			
17	JOHN BURNS			
18	TOM CHAP			
19	MIKE LACY			
20	TOM MURPHY			
21	CAM ANTONIO			
22	LISA HEILBRAND			
23	JIM KRAFTCHAK			
24				
25				