

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
Omaha, NE – October 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Rivera 8:00 a.m.

Attending: Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton, Ron Pairan, Kamal Hindi, Alan Porter, Toni Wiaderski, Steve Lawler, Lee Kohli, Joyce Stierlin, Al Hassler, Shannon Demler, Brad Hoggan, John Hundrup, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, Jim Greelis.

Absent: Fred Werner, Bill Barger, John McSweeney, Bill Mitiu

Guest attending: Herb Cartmell

After welcome, introduction of guests, flag salute and moment of silence, discussion started regarding mid-year meeting suggestions. Coletti suggested Ogden, Utah because the 2015 convention is planned for Utah. Lawler suggested Oklahoma City in order to see the museum. Topic was tabled for “new business.”

Old Business

Officer Reports

There were no public/non-board member comments.

Motion made to approve minutes of the mid-year meeting as posted on line at www.pigeon.org. Lawler/Hoggan. Passed unanimously.

Presidents Report (Rivera)

Rivera said it had been a good four years. He appreciated the help he received during his term. As always, he traveled and met with fanciers in several states; most recently he visited California, Utah, Idaho, Texas, and Louisiana. All interactions were constructive.

Executive Vice President Update (Mitiu)

Not able to attend

Vice President Update (Holder)

He thanked board members for serving. It was a tough four years for the Executive Director, two members, and the board to navigate through challenges and he hoped never to have to do that again.

He thanked Lawler for two plus decades of service – 25 years. Others who are leaving the board: Brad and others that couldn't make it, have made a lot of contributions. He thanked them.

He thanked Clifton for enduring the last four years stating we owe a debt of gratitude.

Regarding his Vice Presidential work, he has been working with Mid Florida Combine for the Dixie Southern Race, which works with region and mini zone conventions the board has discussed.

He will utilize Clifton's knowledge of setting up conventions and run it as an AU event. They plan a fantastic race, good location, with Clifton's help. He stated that if board members could not attend, their bird entries would be expected. He anticipated around November 2015, possibly before the GHC Classic.

Rivera offered that it might be possible for Florida to take the 2016 AU Convention. Holder proposed to do the Dixie as a learning experience. There are between 40-50 handlers in Young Birds – good flyers – unfortunately they have anti pigeon ordinances in Orange County, FL. It is a big money county and commissioners are a challenge to reach. If we did a national convention, they may see revenue for their county and promotion of area attractions, etc. With that, they may give a break on ordinances. Currently pigeons are defined as poultry and are prohibited. They succeeded in establishing friendly ordinances in Palm Bay and Titusville. Maybe they can utilize the friendly ordinances in the area to sway opinion. We need to budget money for ordinance work because of region conventions.

Holder had a challenge in changing homeowner's insurance. There was absurd activity as part of resistance to insure where there are racing pigeons.

Hoggan had success with Farmers Insurance.

Holder wrapped up with a little e-Winspeed© information – how all the data will be tied. He announced he will provide a report next day.

President Ex-Officio Update (Lawler)

Lawler said this is his “last show.” He shared it was an honor to serve. He apologized to many for offenses, but assured that it is simply his passion that we go above and beyond being a redistributor of bands and diplomas. The question to the board was “What is your vision?” Look beyond taking care of business and look beyond to the desired end – that’s what he’d like to leave the board with.

Treasurer Report (McSweeney)

McSweeney was unable to attend. Clifton passed out the budget for review next day. She shared we are on track with the new CPA. Will pass out budget for review tomorrow. Karen said John has mentioned that he is very pleased with the new CPA and that we have a better, more accurate picture of expenses versus revenue by line item for specific year.

Rivera addressing Lawler (Right To Race Committee) regarding pigeon flyers contacting us re: Ebola. Coletti said he would address the topic next day.

Committee Reports

Judiciary Committee (Mitiu/Porter)

Porter is still passionate about this issue and said we still need committee person to work on this. Has not had a chance to talk to Greelis about this, but did speak with Matt Weisbrock about his experience in Illinois. What could we put together to enhance the handouts that we have used in the past? Do we have more specific handouts? What we have is vague. We could spend money to enhance this a little; maybe a video.

Colletti asked that the topic be put on the agenda for Wednesday, after brainstorming. Perhaps we could have pamphlets that are issue specific.

Rivera stated that the committee will meet and report Wednesday.

Leadership/Retention (Lawler)

Keep going out to membership. We need to go in as a speaker, not an exhibitor at educator events.

National Youth/School Coordinator (Pairan)

Homeschool interaction would be good. Perhaps use of Jenner’s “Young Wings” or a segment of it, would be helpful. We need to network and guide members to present to youth detention centers, schools, and 4-H.

Cartmell shared that his club is open to all pigeons with NPA assisting. They will be able to pull more kids from the poultry group.

Roberts directed to identify a variety of educator/administrator entities that host and coordinate national and regional conventions to see what might be needed to have the AU represented with a speaker to highlight the benefits of pigeon keeping and children. She will work with Ron, who will also reach out to these groups.

Historian (Greelis)

Greelis gave a loft report that the birds are doing well. He reported that he posted about 35 new historian video clips recently that include Terry Lynn and Bobby Gonzales. Over Labor Day weekend, he interviewed Ed Abramoski, the head trainer for the Buffalo Bills football team in the AFL and NFL. Ed had a great number of stories to share, including the fact that Merlin Olsen (NFL player, commentator and actor in Little House on the Prairie) had pigeons.

Greelis traveled to Oklahoma City to pick up the historical display to erect in Omaha. He mentioned the small trading card of war pigeons that he saw at the American Pigeon Museum. Each card had a fun fact on the back. It is a great promotion tool.

He had a good conversation with Jim Jenner and saw some video clips. Jenner had a few suggestions, including perhaps a new camera in order to have multiple shots for clips. He could take the videos to veterans organizations – ask for a grant – make the pigeon fact trading cards and video clips of pigeoneers.

He mentioned that Randall Carney, a past Promotion Person Award recipient, has been doing presentations at the Humane Society.

Judge's Panel (no chair)

No chair yet.

Constitution & By-Laws (Werner, not present)

Werner submitted a written report that he received many phone calls about the requirement that clubs, combines, etc, file their constitution and by-laws with the AU office. Most were generic regarding such issues as deadlines or the necessity for all clubs within a combine to file. Other issues included voting rights, replacement of officers, club bylaws, race results, and invitational club documents.

Newly appointed bylaws chair, Shannon Demler, was introduced to the board.

Competition Standards (Hundrup)

Hundrup reported that there is still issue with small clubs - necessary number of members present for shipping a race. Other issues presented his report included number of diplomas given, self-replacement of clock batteries, mechanical clock malfunction, stacking of race results, phantom flyers, club rule conflict with AU

race rule, flying partner's birds after membership dissolved, mechanical clock barred during repair of electronic clock, disqualification of club under 5 members, shipping limits, combined OB and YB races, issuing of chip rings, failure to set clock to master clock, fast bird race clocking error, lack of communication in combine and one loft race simultaneous release, and change of loft name during season. In all issues, he seeks resolution at the club/combine level as it is better for all parties involved.

Veterans Committee (Hassler)

Hassler provided background on Desmarais' prior work on Veterans materials.

Rivera stated that we have been contacted for an accounting of the money we provided for Rick Mardis. Mardis told the AU office that they would have the information within a month, but they have not received it. Our records reflect \$57,000 total, including approximately \$50,000 given to him (\$42,500 from the AU).

Pairan stated that we should report actual donations, report the results, and report there has been no response.

Demler shared that the attorney can provide the attorney expense information.

Drug Test Committee (Rivera/Coletti)

The goal is to have a database to determine which substances are considered performance enhancing substances. We can ask for organizations doing testing to send results to the AU. Rivera and Coletti gathered info from Mitiu and others in GHC. They finalized their plans in the GHC. They require all members of GHC to sign a document agreeing to random testing. Coletti asked if they would send information to start our database of substances and results. GHC just recently sent out tests and when they receive them will share with the AU. GHC did get results and they don't find any positives because members are under threat of testing. Fred Werner shared that the same thing is happening in his area. Bill Barger, same thing in his area (just did their first test) and doesn't think they have a problem. They are testing the top 3 birds and think members are not doping. The cost of testing 3 birds is \$500.

Coletti recommends we continue to keep asking for lists of substances that other organizations are testing for and for their test results. Hopefully, that would deter members from doping.

Litigation Update (Clifton)

Mardis was sentenced on 2 counts not just one as the original offer by the DA; was given deferred sentence for 6 months.

New Business

Swearing in of New and Re-elected Board Members (Rivera)

President Coletti's Comments/Appointments

Coletti's comments: Thank you for signature support on petition drive. Freddie had a hard past four years with PETA issue dragging Karen and Jim Steele into negative situation. We were advised to not speak of the case until it is over. Therefore Karen did not receive the support she deserved. Tom reiterated what Mitiu said previously, "regardless how you feel, when you vote, you are a unified board."

We had the plan to do PR with a "where's Freddie" map activity.

There were no failures. In Tom's four years he wants to change that climate. He wants to work internally with bylaws and procedures. That is where he will concentrate his effort. He wants zone directors to concentrate their efforts on membership.

One of the biggest problems Tom had as the NW Zone Director was coming up with something for his Zone Director report. He did zone meetings so at least he could have something in his reports. He encouraged zone directors to get out in their zones. He is hoping for a bit more participation and cooperation. Tom reminded the board that race rule questions are to be referred to John Hundrup. Shannon is the only one you refer to for bylaws. Past AU board member Tom Erskine explained that sometimes members "cherry pick" board members to get support for an issue. Questions go only to designated representatives.

Coletti handed out a President's Agenda - goals to work toward:

1. Create board consent calendar for items not controversial on agenda.
2. For good of sport added to agenda
3. Director report to target Director information only
4. No interruptions of speaker that has the floor
5. Release guidelines revision
6. Relaxed set of race rules – on hold
7. Mini-zone conventions – on hold
8. Rework of sample AU bylaws and constitution
9. Infraction committee appointments:
Vice President Ron Pairan, Chair
Steve Jenkins, Dean Breaux, Don Moore
Mountain Zone Director, member of committee

10. Bylaws & constitution, policies committee appointments
 Shannon Demler, Chair
shannondemler@hotmail.com
 435-752-3596
 Don Riedel
ddriedel@gmail.com
 715-495-8552
11. Executive Vice President Jay Holder, member of AU Race Rules
 Joyce Stierlin, member of Race Rules Committee
12. Reinstatement Board Secretary/member of bylaws and infractions committee
13. Travel expenses approval policy
14. Drug Testing Committee: appointments and database
15. Appointment of NW Zone Director for remainder of my term
16. Appointment of Pacific Zone Director – 4 years
17. Kamal Hindi
 909-348-3830 909-869-0290
 City of Industry, CA, PO 90933 91715
18. Historian responsible to be official photographer. Shall record activities at AU conventions. Responsible to take pictures of board.
19. Reissue AU Board of Directors handbook
20. Publish pictures of office staff along with contact information and job duties
 Fill all positions on Infraction Committee with Zone diversity in mind.
 More investigators are needed that can do face-to-face investigations and mediation.

Tom feels we have concentrated on 1 issue the past 2 years and it has brought us down a bit.

Pairan shared that he started flying in junior high. His kids got into 4-H and he wanted to get into pigeons. His kids lost interest, but he gained interest. He joined in 1987 and is in one combine and one club. He was a high school teacher teaching business courses first half, and was a counselor second half.

Bob Phillips was involved in AHPI. Then Dave Brehm. He ended up taking Dave's place. It has been a good education for him. The complaint procedure and the youth project booklet have been his focus. He releases white birds. It's a good PR draw.

Coletti said Ron was also on the race committee. He will remain there and will manage the infractions process assigning investigators and reporting to the board. When he was working on race rules, he was thorough, was articulate and can write well. So we will work to make rules in compliance with bylaws and constitution. I've asked Ron to work as an investigator as well. Steven Jenkins has been

approached, Dean Breau, Don Moore, and Wes Bright. Ron can vet these folks for the committee.

Shannon Demler shared that he lives in Logan, UT. He is a criminal attorney. He started with pigeons in 1996. He met Brad when he was a young boy. He has held numerous positions in the club. He hopes to bring insight and clarity to bylaws.

Lee Kohli grew up in NW Ohio. He has had pigeons all his life. He met Ron, working in the Penn Ohio Federation. He said there are lots of needs in his area and he would like to share the benefits of AU with some of his membership. We can do more to sell AU to members.

Coletti said that Don Riedel, from Wisconsin, and Alan Porter, will help Shannon on the bylaws committee. Hopefully they can come up with a couple more people. We need to make sure we're following them and that our sample bylaws are consistent with our bylaws. Don Riedel's cell phone 715-495-8552.

John Hundrup has been around pigeons basically all his life. He got back in for children in 4-H. He started racing just 10 years ago. He had been in the NPA all his life and done shows. He wasn't sure he would be able to do it, but being Race Rules Chair is a way for him to give back. His stepdad was always in politics. He said somebody needs to step up and do it. So, he agreed to do this. He's got broad shoulders. He enjoys doing it. Very few people, when he is done, seem upset with me. He doesn't mind doing it at all.

Coletti stated that he's doing a great job. He has a committee: Jay Holder, John McSweeney, Joyce Stierlin, Ron Pairan and Shannon Dimler. Our bylaws state that interconnection with different areas of regulation is necessary to say in sync.

Coletti has known Joyce Stierlin since 1996. His first experience with her is help on a clock that she didn't even use. He is glad to see a female join the board.

Stierlin wondered what the job would entail – meet a couple times a year. When push comes to shove and someone needs to step up, she is usually one who does. Her pigeon racing goes back to the 70's. Her husband went out on stakeouts. The husband's friend kept pushing pigeons and her husband finally said okay. They figured out how to race together. She dealt with gathering documentation for developing constitution and bylaws and finally got it voted in. Now she is the one they call for a ruling. She is also interested in electronics. She was a computer programmer, mainly mainframe. She has the interest in things going that way. Getting young folks in via electronics will be a positive for the sport.

Coletti was impressed with Kamal Hindi's friendliness and excitement. He is young and has a different take on our sport. He has a lot of flyers, minority flyers, and young flyers in his area. He's perfect. He's got crazy enthusiasm.

Kamal shared that he has had birds all his life. His dad always brought racing pigeons home. When his dad passed away, he got into it more. He flew first race as a junior and it kept him out of trouble. He met best friend in high school and has been a great influence in his life. There are concerns that members feel the AU doesn't do anything. Now he can give back to the AU, which helped him when he was a kid. It can go back to the old days of promoting and sharing the sport with others.

Appointments

AU Judge Committee – Freddie Rivera was appointed to chair the committee to make sure we have a good pool of certified judges. Rivera would like to have a show at an AU Convention, just for the locals. Birds would not have to be sent in. It would just be another form of enthusiasm for the sport.

Drug Committee – Coletti will be on the committee. Rivera has agreed to stay on. Bill Mitiu has also agreed to stay on. He is down in the Florida area doing the drug testing work now and can get information back to Freddie.

John McSweeney is a special appointment. He did not run and did not fill out papers. He is appointed as Southwest Zone Director. He also serves as Treasurer.

Coletti would also like to reinstate the Secretary position to be in compliance with bylaws as best we can so all can sync. We don't have an executive board, but we do have an Executive Committee.

We let the Infractions Committee go by the wayside. We need to get back to where we are supposed to have it. He met with members in Oregon and realized their point. As we develop this Infractions Committee, we build with people in different zones. Face-to-face settings should improve the system.

Has asked Greelis to be Historian for the board, besides his usual Historian duties.

Review of Tabled Board Action Requests

SE-038 Formally create an Executive Committee to consist of President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Past President and Executive Director. At the discretion of the President, the committee may be assigned special tasks and responsibilities, and may assist the President with business decisions.

Post in newsletter to advise members. Any response, petition, etc., received will be reported in October 2014. Final vote was taken during annual meetings. Holder/Rivera. Unanimous. (No petitions received. 161 ballots in favor received and 14 ballots not in favor received.)

National Office & Director Updates

National Office (Clifton)

Clifton submitted membership charts reflecting membership by zone and trends. She shared that approximately 412 clubs and 30 combines chartered that have submitted by-laws. She shared her visits with the Midwest and Dixie Southern conventions. She spoke of a junior's desire to have more youth races.

Rivera mentioned there could be an AU youth pigeon show at the 2015 convention. Stierlin mentioned that the winner of the CSRPO race receives a savings bond.

Holder suggested that he could sponsor the 2015 Regional Dixie Southern Youth Race.

Pairan reminded that results are separate for the junior race. They receive separate awards, on top of NDB general results and awards.

Clifton continued, stating the bands are on time. Secretary packets will go out in December.

She asked where the board would like to meet in June. Coletti proposed Utah. Utah was approved by the majority in a board survey. Travel will be June 26. Meetings will be 27 and 28. Return travel will be 28 or 29. Meeting will be Saturday and Sunday. Agenda can be set for 9 a.m. if that helps. All were in favor except one, with a schedule conflict.

Sport Development (Roberts)

Roberts distributed spreadsheets reporting "new to AU" and "not renewed" numbers. She reported that revitalization of member promotion will begin in 2015. The list of promotion activities, since the previous Update newsletter, will appear in the January Update newsletter.

Zone Director Reports

Plains – Porter

John Hundrup has been very good at addressing issues in Elgin, IL and the North Valley/Fox Valley Combine.

He said the board has also seen emails from John regarding the Twin City Concourse/Money bird disqualification. John will probably have more for us at our meeting.

A concern arose dealing with Benzing chip bands from Chicago Combine and a flyer in Kansas City. These issues deal with chip bands not working in 2015 and Ed Minvielle updating a flyer's clock when he specifically told them not to. This may mean his clock won't work in 2015 with his club's Benzing software. This could mushroom into a big problem for some of our members toward the end of this year and beginning of next year. Of course, this will fall into our Constitution and By-laws deadlines also. Might not be fun!

He sent a couple emails out to large groups asking them to support the vote on the change to the AU Constitution & By-Laws. He heard back from Jim Gabler who wanted an explanation of Porter's position.

He has been dealing with a zoning ordinance being written in Stoughton, WI which is in his back yard. It was brought to the Stoughton city council by Rosalie Bjelde who wishes to have permission to fly pigeons.

He contacted Bill Mitiu and Matt Wiesbrock about their thoughts on how to handle pigeon ordinance problems and what they suggest the AU work on as part of the judiciary committee report. Hope to have a little more to report on about this at the convention.

Lastly, Alan informed the Board that he is having serious concerns and issues with staying in the pigeon sport. It has caused significant stress in his life this past four months and is affecting his retirement time with his wife and children. Currently, he is planning to sell as many of his pigeons to downsize as much as possible.

Adjourn

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting
Omaha, NE – October 21, 2014

AGENDA

Attending: Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton, Ron Pairan, Kamal Hindi, Alan Porter, Toni Wiaderski, Steve Lawler, Lee Kohli, Joyce Stierlin, Al Hassler, Shannon Demler, Brad Hoggan, John Hundrup, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts.

Absent: Fred Werner, Bill Barger, John McSweeney

Guest attending: Herb Cartmell

The meeting was called to order 8:00 a.m. and started with the viewing of a news report video illustrating good sport promotion. The video featured a member that did a fantastic job talking only of the positive aspects of the hobby.

Welcome/Introduction of Guests/Non-Board Member Comments

There were no comments.

Presentation was made to departing Zone Director, Brad Hoggan. Departing Director, Bill Barger, was recognized, though not attending.

WinSpeed©/eWinSpeed©/NDB/Programming (Holder)

They are not planning any more up dates to the PC version of Winspeed©. No more bootleg copies will be capable. Mike Tobin will still be assisting, but is stepping down from database duties. He's done a great job for twelve years. He has always prepared the board with notice that backup for his work is necessary should something happen to him. There may be a day when we can absolutely cut off technical support for the PC version.

Coletti commented that he does not comprehend why individuals would not find some form of internet access in this day and time. Many locations offer wi-fi that you can access. With all the money spent on medication, nutritional supplements and equipment, why wouldn't someone find a way to access in the Internet? It is what is coming.

The AU National Database continues to operate well under the care of Mike Tobin and will continue to until Mike retires at the end of 2015. Prior to the end of 2015 we expect to have the NDB rewrite completed and integrated with eWinspeed©.

National awards are operating well. Some future expansion recommendations are:

Sprint categories across all of our awards
Junior awards that mirror our Open division awards
Automation of the Registered Champion and Elite Champion Awards
Further automation of award certificates

Complexity of project and health issues of the eWinspeed© programmer have delayed the first phase of the project. Also, the scope of the project has grown as it has progressed. Costs associated with the project remain well under budget. The revised estimated completion date is mid-December 2014. A second programmer has been contracted. That will double the pace of the project without adding additional programming costs. Any equipment purchase remains the property of the AU that is transferrable from one programmer to another in the future.

Following the completion of programming and testing of eWinspeed©, our next phase will be the redesign and reprogramming of the National Database and AU website. The three websites will exist as one on a single server instead of three, this will provide vastly improved security.

The AU will be able to obtain copyright protection.

We will be doing extension testing prior to going “live.”

Holder suggested as you do zone meetings, capture demographics information via surveys as on the speaker’s survey form where you request age, and more variables that may assist AU service to members.

Hindi suggested when rosters are sent in, request information on the form. For this year, do an insert in the secretary packet.

Coletti said that with Lawler leaving the board, our leadership and retention chair is leaving. Newly appointed committee members are Hindi, as Chair, and Kohli working with Roberts.

Review of New Board Action Requests

SE-039 Any elected board member who has served 4 years or more be given a lifetime membership with the AU.

Discussion centers around the work and travel involved as a board member, but there could be a perception issue. Joyce – could this go to membership for a vote. Majority of current board members are lifetime already. If people leave the board, the demographics change.

Hassler/Died for lack of 2nd. He was instructed to bring this back in June based on comments of the day.

NW-150 Reword race rule 5.0 for clarification. Proposed wording:
Only active racing members are eligible to vote on an organization's race-related matters. An "Active Racing Member" is an organizational member who has shipped, clocked and reported in at least 2 races of the same regular series per year the previous year. This rule is a minimum requirement although local organizations may adopt a rule requiring higher levels of participation as a qualification to vote on race-related matters.

Discussion: Coletti commented voting is based on participation.
Joyce suggested wording that if you flew in yb, vote in yb; if you flew ob, vote ob – clarify the question by putting an example in. Hindi stated this applies to specific club. Demler suggested to remove "per year" as a redundant phrase.

It doesn't matter if it is the same combine. It has to be the same club. A representative is sent to the combine meeting that represents the club vote. Demler asked why not let it be handled at the local level. Lawler responded that membership came to us and asked us to set up a minimum standard because there was abuse at the local level.

Hundrup/Pairan with amendment to remove "per year." Passed unanimously.

NW-151 Add to the race rules that all AU organizations must keep on file for at least 90 days their members' basketing and arrival lists for each race and to make them available in the event that they are needed by the AU National Race Committee to make sure they are in compliance with AU race rules.

Comments: Holder – fantastic tool; Lawler – also a way to examine speeds
Hoggan – sometimes ink cartridge is old and they are illegible.

Hundrup/Hassler. Passed unanimously.

NW-152 For investigative purposes, an organization's race committee may require a flyer to replace a chip with another chip supplied by the club at the time of basketing. Refusal to comply disqualifies the bird. Hundrup/Pairan.
Unanimous.

NW 153 Develop a procedure/policy on handouts for ordinance problems improving response method on Right To Fly. Present in Salt Lake City in June.

NE-034 Eliminate requirement to register alien bands. All bands should be recognized if the owner is an AU member so that members get credit in the NDB.

Comments: Clifton – they feel they should be able to see the bird in NDB; Coletti – you don't get that benefit unless your club is AU; Holder – small income, there's a reason we do that fee – minimal requirement – you can have an alien band for that small fee; Pairan – probably get rid of this quickly because of “regardless of a band” indicates wide open and from that standpoint alone, should not receive a second.

Coletti/Dies for lack of 2nd.

SW-041 AU BOD develop a “region” concept of youth races to increase the number of YB races available to youth across the country. Holder/Pairan. Passed unanimously.

PLAINS-043 The state of Illinois and its AU membership be moved from the Plains Zone and be incorporated and represented into the Lakes Zone effective immediately. Porter/Hundrup. Passed unanimously.

Budget Review/Approval (McSweeney)

McSweeney was not able to attend. Clifton stated receivables look better than on the handout as these statements are from August. September reflects payments received for bands. John has been working on new accrual accounting – vendors have paid portions split – now becoming current. Regarding revenue, we don't anticipate as much for legal defense fund because no current crisis. Dues down slightly because more families take advantage of family membership. Hopefully band revenue will be up slightly. Accounting costs will go up slightly. New CPA costs more but he provides better services. Expenses down. Health insurance goes up slightly. Budget on handout is 2014-2015 – advertising will be down a little bit – on yearbook. Diploma income is about the same. Not as many promotion widgets are purchased. Most racing pigeon clubs already use Winspeed© so not as many new programs are sold so that revenue is down slightly. The same holds true on videos. Little is earned on interest income. Credit card fees increase each year. Travel is down a little. We need to talk about Ladies Auxiliary contribution. They are considering dissolving.

Comments: Pairan – may want to continue scholarships despite dissolution of NLA. Rivera – judges speakers bureau – would like to increase budget – propose \$5000. Coletti – we are allowed to transfer line items. Rivera – then leave as.

Clifton – 2 new cameras are not built into budget. Coletti – should go under software or office supply. Clifton – putting under office supply – increase to \$5500.

Coletti – net change in presented budget is \$1500 more. Tobin’s budget may need a bump so he puts it to bed completely. May actually be reallocated in order to maintain tech support for office.

Executive Session – Infractions Review

Jay/Al motion to end session and approve recommendations regarding budget and of the infraction committee. Unanimous.

Review of Director Manual

Coletti asked Demler & Hundrup to examine their respective subjects and present comments at the next meeting in June.

The manual will provide guidance, but remains a work in progress.

First item, policy #920

Travel expense - The travel request expense form provides an estimate prior to travel. Be reasonable. Be ethical. Share with Coletti, McSweeney and Karen in an email.

As we update the manual, how do we tell if we’re seeing the old or new information, e.g. drug policy 400 – date accepted by board. When changes are made, replacement portions will be mailed to you, with the summary sheet. That newer summary sheet remains in the front so you can readily see what has changed and when.

We will send bylaws/constitution change with the cover sheet as one of our most recent changes.

November 1, Coletti is going to Boise for a Zone Meeting. Has already submitted the form to Karen: estimated miles and cost of fuel for driving there.

Karen worked through proposed changes in convention agreement and policy.

Motion to accept as rewritten. Holder/Rivera. Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn. Hassler/Holder. Adjourned.

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Omaha, NE – October 22, 2014

Attending: Brad Hoggan, Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton, Ron Pairan, Kamal Hindi, Alan Porter, Toni Wiaderski, Lee Kohli, Shannon Demler, John Hundrup, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts.

Absent: John McSweeney

Board convened 10:00 a.m. for a presentation by Don Chapin on the Mega Clocking System.

Presented reasons for using:

1. Fully certified by FCI for over 10 years. Thirty countries use it with major use in Holland. Diell Electronic Mega System is the main supplier of leg bands. FCI certification is a logo on the band. It has an aluminum insert. I-com will not be certified anymore.
2. Entry system is a good price. You can receive ½ credit on trade in clock and antenna. Up to 15 chips/second/antenna. Antenna will scan through thickness equivalent to telephone book thickness.
3. Mega System 3000 is approved by all authorities. Mega 4 veld is the most popular. It registers and baskets all chip rings (there is a conflict with FCI statement – for example, iCom).

Discussion:

Holder - Antenna has interchangeable Y.

Printer specific – load printer program. (Don has not tested variety of printers. His uses DOS language.)

Software updates – can't use without serial port. (It will be plug and play. Each clock manufacturer has its own version of connection cord.)

Internal battery replacement. (They say they'll set up in U.S.)

GPS required. (Mega is ready for Benzing Live. Most likely will use Wincompanion.)

Rivera – Bands scanned in to special antenna box & program pairs band number to chip. Each club unit costs approximately \$40. A program comes with it.

Porter – It appears to be a TauRIS universal console for scan variety with generic housing.

Who is U.S. seller? (Once approved, Don Chapin.)

What is a copy clock? (Clock that can be taken with you, but base can stay to receive more. 1000 bird count built in.)

Hoggan – Winspeed© interface? (Jay said will develop.)

Coletti – Consider reliability, support & maintenance – how it affects members.

Holder – Software in English? (Yes) Manuals in English? (Yes)

Coletti – U.S. tested? No. Interface for Winspeed©? (Can satisfy.)

Hoggan – What about batter maintenance? (U.S. company is waiting for approval. \$60 replacement software updates.)

There are 3 models of chip rings. Mega = \$1.60.
Antenna is \$350.77

Internet packet is more secure than SMS.

Coletti – and the assurance of clock supplier in U.S.? (Yes, Don Chapin.)

Motion to approve use of the Mega Clock contingent upon ability to provide ASCII file with existing U.S. PC. Winspeed© tech will help him develop.

Pairan/Wiaderski. Passed unanimously.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting
Omaha, NE – October 25, 2014

Welcome/Salute/Moment of Silence.

Introduction of Board and Committee Members

President's Comments – Coletti

Coletti again thanked prior board members, those recently stepping down and gave special thanks to Freddie Rivera who completed his term as President for dealing with a difficult couple of years. Special recognition was also given to Steve Lawler for 25+ years of service on the board.

Tom then shared a bit of past with pigeons and how he became involved. He indicated his first convention was the one the late 90's in San Francisco and then expressed appreciation to the Omaha convention host for an excellent convention.

Coletti said he wanted to focus on the AU's by-laws and procedures to ensure we were consistent and responsive to members. He made introduction of new committee members and incoming board members.

Motion to approve minutes from 2013 Annual Membership Meeting as posted on the AU website. Braden/Lawler. Unanimous.

Update on Laws in South Africa – Frank McLaughlin

Frank helps organize the race and has been in communication with the organizers in South Africa. The publication circulating on the Internet was premature and inaccurate. The organizers will be meeting with local officials and the race will be protected.

eWinSpeed©/NDB Update – Holder

Jay indicated the program is still being developed and hopes to have testing soon before going live with the program. He encouraged patience as the scope of the project has grown as it develops.

Lobbyist Update – Greg Smith

Greg again recapped the many projects he has worked on for the AU and membership (shipping protection, legal issues, working with the USDA to successfully discourage non-regulation, National Animal Identification Surveillance, etc.). He also counsils the AU on legal matters from time to time.

He gave an overview of the recent litigation and its conclusion. He reiterated that club races were never in jeopardy, rather money associated with one-loft races. He encouraged all race coordinators to always communicate with local officials to discuss local laws to ensure compliance.

In closing Greg emphasized the need to remain good ambassadors for the sport when dealing with the public and to focus on fellowship and unity of the sport.

Good of the Order – Don Chapin asked about what was necessary or beneficial to have with you when transporting birds across state line. Lawler indicated they keep a manifest of the birds (easily printed from WinSpeed©). Don said he was aware of that practice but wondered if the AU had new information. A copy of the seminar/presentation by Dr. Greenhall a few years ago will be sent to Don. It discusses how to interact and educate an inspector.

McLaughlin/Chapin to adjourn. Unanimous.

Adjourn