

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting
Tampa, FL –November 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order 8:00 a.m. and commenced with a flag salute and moment of silence.

Attending were Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton, John McSweeney, Toni Wiaderski, John Hundrup, Brad Hoggan, Fred Werner, Steve Lawler, Jim Greelis, Ron Pairan, Al Hassler, Bill Barger, Tom Coletti, Alan Porter, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts.

Guests: Herb Cartmell

President Report/Infraction Committee Appointments (Rivera)

President Rivera introduced the AU's new National Race Secretary, John Hundrup; AU's new Constitution and By-laws Advisory, Fred Werner; and Assistants to the Infractions Chairman, Walter Plazewski and Arnold Swain.

Rivera shared that he took a seven-week tour of various clubs across the country. He found increased member attrition from death. He discussed national database and loft registration, with members, explaining them as forms of protection and self-governance. Lack of awareness of current legal events was predominant.

He mentioned that drug testing will be addressed at Dr. Botha's seminar.

Executive Vice President Update (Mitiu)

Bill expressed that a new Board Action Request is needed to more fully explain the duties of the Executive Committee and define authority, responsibilities and limitations of such a committee.

A malfunctioning Benzing EBSS pointed out deficiencies in race rules. Bill asked that Tom, John Hundrup and Jay Holder assist on a committee to quickly review rules related to clocking systems and make any necessary adjustments to remove confusion between rules for wind-up clocks, computer clocks and EBSS. A final BAR will be presented to review and approval.

Vice President Update (Holder)

Holder advised that Elizabeth Brands will present e-Winspeed information to the board. There will be no disconnect on technical and pigeon racing needs. They will be ready for serious beta testing in February with board members. The intention is to be ready for Young Birds in 2014.

Holder worked on an infraction complaint with Hundrup and Coletti with consultation with Bob Tomlinson, past Infraction Chair. He was task heavy in Awards and National Database most recently. Hoggan, Holder and Mitiu discussed the situation pending a board decision on Tuesday.

Holder was appointed board liaison to Rick Mardis and will report in executive session after Mardis meets with the board. Holder expressed puzzlement at lack of awareness by members, though AU has published facts of the case. He would like to see increased publicizing of information to fully inform members that individuals were charged, not the organization. The Executive Director has been vilified and it was up to her to make decision after doing the board's bidding arranging for rooms during the 2010 convention.

Holder reminded the board that board decisions made behind closed doors in Executive Session should remain confidential. Discussion included sentiment that more needs to be published as to decisions that were made and the reasoning. Greelis suggested a counter be placed on the AU web site to inform as to total dollars donated to date.

President Ex-Officio Update (Lawler)

Lawler retired and spent the summer moving. He reported on the state race for Washington and stated that we are a verbal organization, not literal. Therefore, information is missed.

Coletti inserted that one of the things we lack in PR is fire control to clean up issues as they occur. It's something for the board to think about.

Hoggan contributed that we should devote a space on front of the website so members will take notice of current information.

Treasurer Report (McSweeney)

McSweeney reported that he has been working with the AU office to set up the bookkeeping program to match the budget reports. That involves additional account coding effective 2014. AU's accounting firm does not provide figures corresponding to the AU needs. Additionally, the bookkeeper that has been working with the AU office is moving to a different position and will no longer be working on AU material. McSweeney is interviewing a gentleman to assist the AU office. As it stands now, the 2014 budget is an exact copy of the 2013 budget because we do not know how reasonably close it is until December 31, 2013. Therefore the budget for 2014 will not be presented until the summer meeting. We don't know how else to do it to be reasonably accurate.

Past recommendations were to spend all monies as well as possible. Bob Barnes proposal was to transfer \$10,000 annually to a restricted savings account. This was not done in 2012.

Recommend transfer of \$20,000 in 2013 to catch up.

Barger commented that the board is to be congratulated on doing so well cutting expenses and saving so much money.

Committee Reports

Judiciary Committee – (Mitiu/Porter)

Tabled until July 2014

Leadership/Retention (Lawler)

Lawler reminded the board that we forget the obvious: we need to look for more opportunities for more recognition and awards. With that, members desire to remain in the sport. One way to do that is through articles and exposure. He has tried to write articles. We need to get names and pictures out there. He suggested that board members submit articles about members within a club, do the writing, or get club members to do the writing.

Hoggan commented that we have more following the National Database this year than in the past. He recommended we have an annual award that awards a trip to the convention.

Wiaderski agreed and commented that anything to put the sport higher and make it for everyone is important.

National Youth/School Coordinator (Pairan)

Pairan commented that he is aware of Ronnie Shumaker's group doing three lofts and requesting donations.

Historian (Greelis)

Greelis shared the Midwest convention was in Omaha this past year. All prizes were gone in the first 10 minutes. He shared a sample race result sheet providing a handler list as potential for the AU convention race in Omaha in 2014.

He has been working on video clips for the AU website.

He commented that Lorrie Monteiro (curator for The American Pigeon Museum & Library) has done excellent work on the museum. The board needs to visit the museum and view the displays.

Judge's Panel (Barger)

Nothing has changed since mid-year: there are no new applications.

Coletti commented that there are too many judges with lack of judging experience. We need to increase the number of shows to provide the experience. We need 4 shows a year. It takes a year for a 5 show minimum before you can take a test.

Cartmell suggested we ask the current judges if they still want to be on the panel. The program can get old.

Constitution & By-Laws (Werner)

Werner described a race that contributes to member recognition. It is referred to as the Heinz 57 Race: the bird that comes in 57th is the winner and the bird and owner receive recognition.

He referred to a discrepancy in the sample bylaws that states "appointed" versus the AU bylaws that states "elected."

There was a matter of a member having been kicked out of a club. That member was required to pay dues but missed the deadline and he subsequently was not voted back in. The member asked AU to fix it.

There was also a matter of a club having money discrepancies and lost bands that were not accounted for. He read their bylaws which provides for little member vote.

The bulk of his time has pretty much been just reading their documents and checking if they followed their own documents.

Competition Standards (Hundrup)

Hundrup provided background on himself – he is from Washington. He has had racing homers for 10 years and has show birds. He attends the NPA National, Pageant of Pigeons; he judges by personal preference. In racing, the race is clearly the bird itself.

So far had 36 phone calls and several emails. Much is interpretation or lack of desire to look up the rule.

Veterans Committee – (Hassler)

Bob Cook, in Florida, has written articles for the Digest: how the sport has changed and progressed. He is interested in veterans and wants a veterans CD to do a display in the Ft. Myers area. He is working with area veterans for bird releases.

Agenda items were completed early. Various topics were discussed during the remainder of the time.

Coletti was reminded that they missed something on 3.10 rules regarding pigeon releases – failure to comply is a violation of the AU Code of Ethics. Rivera suggested he work with Hundrup and bring something back to the board in the summer 2014 meeting.

Holder commented that the rules are written into Winspeed.

Herb Cartmell (former By-laws Chairman and Youth Program Coordinator) provided an update on the group he has been working with (4-H Skypilot Pigeon Club). Herb indicated that 4-H and civic groups such as Lions have officer workshops to help club officers learn their duties and responsibilities. He suggested our Zone Directors hold seminars to offer training for club officers. Herb also suggested as clubs are working with civic groups, they should look for advertising opportunities. By advertising for a local civic club or charity, a pigeon club has gained partnership and support in the community.

National Office (Clifton)

Clifton shared charts reflecting membership numbers illustrating membership is slightly down. We sent letters to members that have not renewed for a couple of years and had a pretty good return.

In terms of retention, we are hopeful that inclusion of leadership and/or promotion materials in the secretary packets will encourage clubs to start looking at ways to improve conducting business and nurturing relationships. This was one of the things on the three areas of focus that we were tasked with doing.

Clifton requested clarification on the existing expense reimbursement policy AU 920 Section E to include that the per diem will be paid in accordance with current IRS rates. Motion to approve with language to be refined later. Hundrup/Pairan. Passed.

Clifton continued with some follow up from the July 2013 mid-year meeting regarding the Speakers' Bureau. The board asked that the office send a letter to the existing speakers to determine their desire to continue participating as many are never called on and some are regularly not available. We asked for response by about the 6th of August so that we could clean up the list before entertaining adding new speakers in view of receiving two applications. This date also allowed us to have a current list posted on the website and be in time for our yearbook publication.

We heard from several that asked to be removed. We didn't receive response at all from a few and we did receive responses that are currently listed on the site and in the book.

Motion to approve both applicants pending phone conversations with both. Lawler/Hoggan. Passed, Coletti opposed.

Rick Mardis was sent the same letter that everyone else received. He did not respond until some point well after the deadline. Question was posed whether the board wished to put Mardis back on the list.

Motion to reinstate Rick Mardis to the Speakers Bureau list. Barger/Lawler.

Amended motion to reinstate Rick Mardis to the Speakers Bureau list pending Mardis submitting an updated application. Pairan/Hassler.

Further amended motion to hold off until Mardis makes presentation to the board at this annual meeting. Holder/Lawler. Passed: 6 in favor; 4 opposed.

Clifton discussed that the mid-year meetings are typically held in late July so as to avoid conflict with the Texas Center Convention and the 4th of July holiday. In 2014, Freddie is unavailable in July so it is suggested that we travel either June 22^d and meet 23 & 24 or travel June 27 and meeting 28 & 29. Hotel rooms are as low as \$40/night and flights are typically cheaper to a destination like Las Vegas.

Motion to travel for mid-year meeting 2014 June 29, meet 30 and July 1. Barger/Hassler. Passed.

Clifton presented an application for the 2015 convention to be held in Utah. Hoggan stated that current situation is that two clubs, maybe three want to get together to host the convention. His big concern is that no one there has attended a convention before and they need to determine who will run the hotel part.

Motion to award the 2015 convention to Utah with \$150 entry fee instead of \$200. Barger/Lawler. Passed.

Clifton presented 2014 AU convention information, which will be held in Omaha, NE. Karen explained that the Omaha group hosted the 2013 Midwest Convention and they did a fantastic job. There will be several representatives at the general membership meeting to provide an update on the 2014 convention.

Clifton indicated the infraction committee chairman has requested an increase in the complaint filing fee from \$25 to \$100 stating there are also potential legal problems. Motion to approve above. Lawler/Barger.

Amendment to the motion to set the fee at \$50. Porter/Pairan. Passed.

Sport Development (Roberts)

Roberts shared a list of member promotion activities that will appear in the next Update newsletter. Additionally she shared the challenge of communicating to three major attitude groups to entice new members. The younger attitude group appreciates digital dialogue and extensive instruction/explanation. AU has established a variety of information/contact outlets and will continue to expand those with more detailed instruction, especially for the novice.

Zone Director Reports (NW/Pacific/SW/Plains/Lakes/SE/Mountain/NE)

Northwest Zone (Coletti)

The Northwest Zone seems to still have issues in Washington. There was a member banned from flying because of problems in his Combine. The Combine and member seem to have worked something out as it has been reported that he will be able to fly in the Combine this year.

A group is having a challenge setting up a regional convention event. Maybe the office could help. Officers could visit. We're losing state races, so wondering what could be done to help. Western Open is going well. Regional is more affordable, closer for travel. The AU office assists with postcards and handouts.

Deone could check with attendees to see why they went. What gets them to handle an event? What gets people to linger? Maybe a model is the Midwest Convention Race.

Greelis commented that we could have four zones one year and the other four zones the next year and do a workshop on how to put the event together.

Coletti gave a mini zone meeting in Idaho with a good turnout. Had an opportunity to provide clarification of events in Oklahoma City legal proceedings. He advised members that the speaker list was being culled and those that wanted to remain need to get in paperwork.

Southwest Zone (McSweeney)

John continues working with the office on accounting issues for a smooth transition. We will be working with a new bookkeeper beginning the first of the year.

Otherwise, John has been busy with his club and combine and fielding lost bird calls. One concern a member brought to John, is the question of proxy/absentee voting. Discussion ensued and it was reiterated that the AU doesn't allow proxy voting.

Plains Zone (Porter)

Alan reported that he has dealt with ordinance problems in Rapid City and Schofield, WI. Members in both areas had contacted the national office and received literature to assist. The member in Schofield also got assistance from a local newspaper that was in favor of the city allowing persons to keep pigeons.

Porter shared that we have continued to get complaints regarding Dave MacKenzie and that while he did send in a handwritten note attesting to Dave and the other member forgiving one another for previous conflict, he was not able to get AU club officers to vouch for his membership.

Alan has taken a lot of time to help with lost birds and said he wishes there was a better system in place to handle the calls when the owners don't step up to rescue their birds.

There were two infractions in the Plains Zone since July meetings. They will be discussed in Executive Session along with a request from another club asking the AU Board to reconsider a previous expulsion.

Lakes Zone (Pairan)

Pairan shared that it is nice to be able to report that it has been kind of boring in the Lakes Zone this summer. In his area they had great races with good returns. He is not aware of any complaints or club or combine conflicts. His club continues to promote the sport by releasing

pigeons at the Lancaster Festival, the Carroll Old Timers Festival and at a program honoring breast cancer survivors. He received a call from Don Campbell asking if he could borrow World War II message capsules for a presentation to an elementary school class in Northern Ohio. Don told Ron that he spent an hour with 52 very enthusiastic students, and it went so well he thought he might be asked to do a presentation to another class.

Ron also dealt with a lot of lost bird calls. He praised the members within his zone for being so responsive.

Ron will not be running for Lakes Zone Director again. He indicated that Lee Kohli continues to do a great job promoting the Ohio-Penn races. Harry Boos was the man behind this great series of races for many years. Since his passing a short time ago, Lee has done a wonderful job of making sure that these races continue to flourish. Lee has expressed interest in running for the Lakes Zone position.

Pairan put in a good word for Joanie Christeleit and the National Ladies' Auxiliary. Last year they presented 15 scholarships to deserving descendants of AU or Ladies' Auxiliary members. His older son was fortunate enough to win a scholarship a couple of years ago. He asked that we please consider lending your financial support to this wonderful group of ladies so that they can keep their scholarship program alive.

Southeast (Hassler)

Hassler stated that the Frank Greenhall race would ship Wednesday night. The youth race is schedule for the 200 miles station. The Greenhall race will be at 250 miles. The 300 mile station will release birds Friday morning pending favorable conditions.

He did not make it to the Dixie Southern this year and to date there is no one to do it for 2014 yet. Lawler commented that it is a great regional convention event.

Hassler said he will speak with someone to arrange for him running the Dixie Southern for the next year.

Digest articles are bothering him. Al added that it is obvious that the writer of the articles doesn't have all facts and that just leads to spreading wrong information, which does nothing positive for the sport we supposedly love. Karen is a salaried employee and does pay for her individual membership. Karen interjected that she has paid individual dues since 2000.

Mountain (Hoggan)

Hoggan assisted with an ordinance issue. He was invited by Roller enthusiast to talk about the AU's assistance with the World of Wings. He advised listeners that AU members donated the first \$1 million. He spoke also of the PETA and Rick Mardis situation. He retrieved birds from as far as 300 miles and has identified members to assist on wayward birds.

Northeast (Wiaderski)

Wiaderski has received no serious complaints. The Wallingford RPC had a Northeast Zone Meeting in September. The weather was beautiful so they had the meeting outside. The honorary guest was Freddie Rivera and AU members, though they were hoping for many more. Freddie provided updates on the situation in Oklahoma City and other AU updates. He also discussed young bird health, medication and vaccination of young birds and old birds. He touched on loft certification.

After the meeting, Wallingford Racing Pigeon Club organized a Combine Picnic and Auction from which the money went for expenses and upkeep of the club building. They presented diplomas and trophies for Special Races. Members of the club and combine prepared excellent food. Tony and Sandy Patti from New England Pigeon and Livestock Supply, LLC were present for anyone to purchase any supplies they needed. He praised Pete Avallone, President of Wallingford Club and Kris Burtle, Vice President, for organizing and getting everyone together to come with their families for this event. He also thanked Freddie, AU President for his visit to Connecticut for the North East Zone Meeting. He was appreciative for donated birds for auction for their building.

His school and boys' & girls' club presentations were successful. It could turn into a district project with three schools.

WinSpeed©/NDB/Programming (Tobin/Holder)

Elizabeth Brandes presented eWinSpeed. There was lengthy discussion of first four letters of band lettering, captured on recording. There are three levels of access which translates into more data/more fees. For example, to send an excel file, an upload fee can be charged for the first upload or they can do it for free themselves. In this program, awards can be tied to pedigree.

Motion to adjourn. Barger/Hassler. Unanimous.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc. Annual Board Meeting Tampa, FL – November 19, 2013

Attendees: Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton, John McSweeney, Toni Wiaderski, John Hundrup, Brad Hoggan, Fred Werner, Steve Lawler, Jim Greelis, Ron Pairan, Al Hassler, Bill Barger, Tom Coletti, Alan Porter, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts.

Non board guests were Rick Mardis, Jerry Gagne and Dr. Botha.

Review of Board Action Requests

PLAINS-042 Award national database by the percentages outlined under AU race rule 1.06, with the minimum of 10 diplomas for any award. (*Tabled from July 2013 Meeting.*) It is seen as too much going through the AU office as it is. Rule 1.06 is a reference: give diplomas to top 5% or fraction thereof. Give any bird UPR score to be awarded a certificate requires a minimum of 10 items to accomplish in e-Winspeed. Motion to hold until after e-Winspeed implementation and evaluation. Tabled. Holder to advise Don Lowe.

SW-040 Correct inconsistency between race rules and our sample Organization Constitution & By-laws. Race Rule 3.04 to be amended as follows: "A Race Committee shall be elected or appointed by the President..." We are pushing clubs to send constitution and bylaws. In our actual document, it states "elected." In club documents, it states "appointed." We need to further define. Motion that our document is minimum standard required and consistent. Lawler/Barger. Passed. Verbiage to be incorporated and posted on site.

PAC-057 Revise Release & Transportation Guidelines (policy AU 330) for racing homing pigeons, primarily regarding inclement weather and transportation guidelines. Publish AU 330 with the race rules in the *AU Yearbook* each year.

Discussion included reminder of Tim Brandon's presentation at the prior board meeting. Language should be a best practice suggestion. It appeared that the BAR was submitted to force an individual to update his shipping trailer and would not apply to membership overall. Died for lack of motion.

Motion to suspend Rule 3.10 until studied further, with a presentation to be made at mid-year 2014. Barger/Holder. Passed.

PAC-058 Add language to race rule 6.01 regarding the release point as follows: "If a race release point changes by more than 30 feet, the airlines of all affected club members must be adjusted by GPS or Bowen Survey."

Discussion included comments about the variance in readings for GPS vs. Bowen Survey – that the clubs that use Bowen are no longer accurate if they move the release site and that the GPS or Bowen location are important at the loft, not the release site. There will be a time in the future when all will be on GPS and it would be worthy of consideration then. Dies for lack of motion. It is left up to local clubs. There was a suggestion of adding the topic to future member feedback surveys.

Constitution & By-Laws (Coletti)

Tom reminded the board that they voted to have all organizations provide CB&Ls by 2015. He drafted an article that was edited by board members and sent to Karen for publication. He understood it was a vote off the table. A member requested the minutes and saw that it was voted by the board. Lawler responded that it is at the discretion of the board to make a motion without a BAR. There needs to be an addition to the minutes officially. Minutes are approved by email.

Motion to make official correction to the Mid-Year Meeting 2013 minutes to cover the topic. Barger/Hoggan. Passed.

Holder reminded the board that charters will be required in order to use e-Windspeed.

Rick Mardis provided an update on his legal proceedings in Oklahoma City. He stated that when plea deals were offered, he was willing to take only if for pooling but not for entry fees. He could not afford to have his race entry fees affected and leave that to his son. The District Attorney would not accept that.

Mardis stated he spent \$20,000 with the first attorney, but found it necessary to hire a different attorney. To date he says he spent \$92,000 and \$28,000 more is need until the agreed upon cap is reached. He was refunded \$5,000 from first attorney and forwarded that to the second attorney. An additional \$20,000 came out of donated funds monitored by Randy Goodpasture. He received donation checks for about \$6,000 which he turned over to the attorney. Auction birds add money to the account. The AU contributed \$25,000 to assist several months ago.

His preliminary hearing was August 16. He got key statements from two PETA people on the stand which serves the racing side. The response from one assistant D.A. was that entry fees are not illegal; however, the other assistant D.A. says they are illegal.

Mardis sent out letters to horse shows regarding entry fees and to fishing organizations.

An Oklahoma law defines betting which does not include offers of purses, prizes or premiums with regard to public events, for example rodeos, shows, fairs, etc. where there is a monetary

prize. D.A. Haddock does not agree with that. He quoted from a case 10 years ago regarding coon hunting and entry fees. Pooling is an issue that needs addressing; however the entry fee is different. The judge seems open minded and to have common sense.

The trial is set for January 27. Helms asked that Mardis tell all the good things AU does. Rick said PETA decided who was most important, therefore, they selected Rick Mardis.

He spoke at the meeting to ask for moral and financial support. Pairan asked if the "entry" charge is defeated, but not "pool," what happens. Mardis responded that there would be a fine and a felony charge. He said Tom Rorie will testify. The detective had incorrect information on probable cause.

Executive Session

Board entered Executive Session to discuss Mardis' request and vote. Barger/Lawler to vote and to come out of executive session.

Final Approval of Budget

Treasurer McSweeney had distributed draft of 2014 budget. Though it is anticipated revenue will be fairly consistent with 2013, we will not have a clear picture of the final 2013 budget until 2013 is closed. Not anticipating changes, the board agreed to review the 2014 budget during the mid-year meetings.

Infraction Committee/Executive Session

Infractions were discussed. Hoggan/Barger to exit session and accept recommendations as discussed. Unanimous.

Awards (Holder)

Holder presented a copy of race results, which were questioned by the club and pulled. Holder spoke with the club president and confirmed they examined the results. One organization claims the club did not have authorization to pull results. Holder established there was no meeting, but rather was done in a phone conversation. The bird breeder filed a complaint and has threatened lawsuit. Holder recommended handling at the local level.

Discussion: no action has actually been taken; if results are taken down he would regret it; if the federation is not taking action, we should leave it alone; no way to prove guilt; three levels of investigation should have occurred.

Motion to table until the June 2014 meeting with Holder and Hundrup to work on until something can be implemented. Barger. Motion amended to include a disclaimer to add property language for the website. Hoggan/McSweeney. Passed.

What they bring in June goes in race rules and web site, plus public notices.

Guest presentation (Gagne/Botha)

Gagne was recently elected President of NPA. He wants to find a way to join all organizations in some sort of council to discuss common problems we have. He would also like a veterinarian included. NPA membership is at 2000 and will be at 4000 in two years. Couple that with 8000 in the AU and 4000 in the IF.

In cooperation with PIPA and SPCA, Dr. Botha receives questions channeled to him to have central control of information going out. He suggests an AU representative attend the NPA board meeting in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Botha shared that his country started dope testing in 2004. It is a minefield of controversy. Products were placed on the banned substance list that should never have been placed on the list.

There was no additional pending business and the board adjourned for the day.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting
Tampa, FL – November 20, 2013

Benzing Presentation (Hanno Troll)

On-line Benzing Live offers real live time data as birds arrive. Connect unit to clock and antenna. The data goes to the cloud and is accessible anywhere there is an internet connection. Results are calculated as the birds come in. The owner watches on the cell phone or computer as it proceeds. There is zero adjustment on time and the device has GPS. Viewer can Google and see loft live. Time, location, & accurate clock transmit to make a secure race with a secret code number of the chip. This can be incorporated through Winspeed©, live, and check security codes after. There is another memory in the chip in order to put the chip in the club unit. It is a secret number chip that changes with every pigeon you scan. Counterfeit chip will not provide complete number match and therefore will not provide legal result. A question mark is displayed on the sheet. It has always been that way with the chips. The copy chip has thousands of chips using the same serial number. Therefore a rule can be written (since there is a one second variance) that over 24 seconds variance invalidates results. New updates require print prior to going to Winspeed©. Hanno presented for AU approval for U.S.

Discussion included: There is a need to educate more. AU has to get the word out. The unit updates from the website.

Coletti sought clarification that they were asking the AU to approve use in the U.S. If we want to utilize Winspeed© with the program, he will need to make a program. Approval was sought to use the clock as the official result to use with Winspeed© and upload to NDB. Coletti and other directors volunteered for beta testing. Once completed, Holder will proceed further. Minvielle believes this format should be approved for every clocking system in the U.S. The cost is \$495 for the device. There is also a SIM card cost.

Motion to approve Benzing Live system to be used in races with caveat that club brings results to club house for finalization. Hoggan.

Motion amended that results be reviewed on the next basketing night. Holder/Hoggan. Passed.

Drug Testing Protocol

Rivera shared that there is a fear of lawsuits if drug testing is voted in.

Minvielle is involved as vendor. He recounted that a board member asked him over 15 years ago to not sell banned substances. Since that time, he hears about competitors who sell the banned substances. He wants an even playing field. Long Island Combine got involved and got positive readings for a crazy variety of substances. Now they're involved with a lab that does testing on horses and dogs – 90% of results are positive for illegal substances. Belgium wanted to know how to do it. All must sign off and each is responsible for their own birds and that they follow protocol.

A handout was provided giving guidelines for enforcement. With a signature on file, they are unable to file a lawsuit that is false. Since that, results are that guys are winning races and playing by the rules. Tests are reduced to 0% positive now.

The Long Island group got one guy certified for testing. The bird goes into a box or they swab the bird. The swab is not as good. The bird provides droppings in the box; the tray is pulled and tested.

Holder brought up "threshold testing." Minvielle offered that there are people in the sport that have already set limits. Testing cost is from race funds. If positive, test again. The 2nd test is cost to the fancier. \$150 fee for each substance test.

This was placed on the June agenda and Freddie will appoint a committee to see if wording is proper in the example provided by Ed from the Long Island Combine. The committee will be appointed prior to time to provide the report.

The meeting was adjourned 11:00 a.m.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting
Tampa, FL – November 21, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Rivera at 9:00 a.m. Those present: Steve Lawler, Deone Roberts, John McSweeney, Toni Wiaderski, Jay Holder, Karen Clifton, Freddie Rivera, John Hundrup, Fred Werner, Ron Pairan, Alan Porter, Brad Hoggan, Bill Barger. Bill Mitiu was not present because he was covering duties as one of the convention chairmen.

Meeting was called to order followed by the flag salute and moment of silence.

Board members and staff were introduced.

President Rivera asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the mid-year meeting 2013 as posted to the AU website. Lipski/Cartmell. Passed.

Rivera asked that Coletti introduce John Hundrup as the new National Race Secretary and Fred Werner as the new Bylaws Chairman.

Holder provided an update on awards and explained the progress on e-WinSpeed. He highlighted some of the features it will have and the benefits to members. Jay said beta testing would be done soon.

Carter Mayotte, Duane Kugler and Jim Greelis (all Omaha, NE) provided an update on the 2014 convention planned for Omaha.

Brad Hoggan submitted a request for membership approval of the 2015 convention bid by Utah members for Salt Lake City. Motion to approve for the 2015 convention. Dick Altoff/John Vance. Passed.

Deone Roberts shared a promotion update and stressed the importance of the proper public perception. Deone reminded attendees that the AU had numerous resources to assist with promotion and public image. Deone mentioned the ease of communicating with the office and

receiving information. More members are obtaining literature and handouts via our website and email.

Greg Smith, AU Lobbyist, presented an overview of some of the projects the AU has taken on to assist members (from shipping concerns to USDA issues). Greg then provided an update on the situation stemming from the PETA accusations.

John Vance asked if case law had been established as a result of certain negotiations. Greg told him no. Vance repeated his question and was again told that no case law had been set.

Dick Lipski Jr. (Milwaukee, WI) reminded all present that members must be vigilant about retrieving their stray birds or they risk greater exposure to abuse accusations. We must all be responsible owners. Alex Bieche (Vacaville, CA) suggested there might be a mandatory coverage of this type of information, just as a company would have a safety meeting. Perhaps there could be a penalty involved for not demonstrating responsibility.

Tom Wesner (Metairie, LA) suggested that veterinarians could be the first contact and AU could have a lead guy in each state. Carter Mayotte suggested taking care of it at home. Herb Cartmell offered a suggestion of picking up the bird within 24 hours or the owner does not fly. John Vance (Capistrano Beach, CA) stated it is a violation of the image and action should be taken.

President Rivera stated that this has always been important to the AU and possible sanctions would be reviewed in the June 2014 meeting. Dave Booth (Brooksville, FL) offered that there could be a sanction against the member who turns another in. He expressed a member that has been turned in for lack of proper response may attempt to retaliate.

Alex Bieche (Vacaville, CA) told the board the AU charges too much for yearbook ads and that they should do like he did with the CSRPO book. Alex feels that more will place ads if the cost isn't as high.

Tom Wesner (Metairie, LA) posed a question regarding AU By-laws not allowing proxy voting when there is a personal conflict with a meeting time. Coletti responded there has never been a proxy vote. High abuse was reasoning.

John Vance (Capistrano Beach, CA) shared that he was upset about there being no convention race held because birds are also in the classic race. Vance said he feels no one knows truth because nothing was broadcast to attendees. Hundrup responded that weather posed a problem and that with PETA scrutinizing all aspects of the hobby, that may have played a part. Vance complained that the AU should have made them send the birds to the race. AU board involvement is unlikely. Roland Gutierrez (Mounds, OK) stated that AU has nothing to do with the race; it is up to the host organization doing the race. Vance questioned why no one told him. Hundrup offered weather as reason. Members questioned how Vance had heard and asked if he went to the race committee.

President Rivera thanked members for attending.

Cartmell/Lipski to adjourn.