



American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting
Houston, TX
October 31, 2023

Board Members Present: Robert Mckenna, Steve Lawler, John Hundrup, Jeff Life, Joyce Stierlin, Ronnie Shumaker, Gary Heindel, Robbie Whaley, Dave Wilson, CL Gage, Al Christeleit.

Guests: Doug Burnett, Jerry Michielli, Joan Christeleit

Welcome/Introduction of Guests/Flag Salute/Moment of Silence (President McKenna)

President Bob Mckenna opened the meeting at 8:06am.

July 2023 Mid-Year Meeting Minutes (McKenna)

Bob Mckenna called for a vote to accept the July 2023 meeting minutes as written. All voted to accept them unanimously.

President's Report (McKenna)

President Mckenna announced that Ronnie Shumaker had taken over as the head of diversity. He also mentioned that the audit has started. Mckenna provided the Board with an update on the programmer, Craig VanderGalien's, efforts and EWINSPEED® updates, noting that Joyce Stierlin will be providing further updates. President McKenna informed the Board of a letter received from a FL member that had received help from the office staff with information about loft registration and other support. The member won the case at the city council regarding the right to fly. President McKenna thanked Karen Clifton and Ronnie Shumaker for their help for the AU member.

Karen Clifton was absent from this year's meetings. She sent a letter of explanation, which was printed and reviewed by the present Board and guests. In the letter Karen submitted, she reminded the board of the fact that she was incorrectly involved in PETA's issues when performing her functions for the AU Board during the 2010 convention. Karen went on to say that given PETA's recent complaints to the Houston Police Department and threats, she felt it in the best interest of the AU not to attend. The Board agreed after discussion that Mary Kraft would draft a letter responding with the board's support of the decision Karen made. Mary suggested bringing the letter to tomorrow's meeting, which the Board could then read and agree to sign.

MOTION: Joyce Stierlin **MOTIONED** to accept this suggestion. Al Christeleit **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Executive Vice President Update (Christeleit)

Executive Vice President Al Chisteleit provided an update to the Board. He mentioned calling people and that he had chosen John Vance as an investigator, and his wife, Joannie, as an advisor, and he wants to get 2000 members back by next year.

Vice President Update (Whaley):

Vice President Robbie Whaley spoke on the current AU investigation regarding bird losses and more health issues. He mentioned sending millions of birds across the country to different lofts as well as concerns with bird health mingling and cross-breeding. Whaley proposed to advocate for more awareness about bird health/disease prevention and to have outlines + layouts in the future for newcomers to the pigeon sport. He suggested a method for instituting this could include designing a link on the website that may create this process for beginners.

Whaley emphasized that he has maintained close communication with Dr. Kazmierczak regarding the previous pigeon veterinary organization. Together, they express a shared desire to initiate and revitalize this program, aiming to gauge support and relaunch the organization. Their vision for the new iteration involves establishing a network of pigeon veterinarians. Whaley highlighted his intention to delve into research on the current challenges in the field of pigeon diseases. He plans to further consult with Dr. Kazmierczak and present these ideas in upcoming AU meetings, seeking feedback from the Board. One significant concern Whaley raised is finding a way for the AU to avoid co-mingling such as basketing each flyer's birds in a single shipping crate instead of distributing them among all available crates with other flyers' birds).

Ronnie asked for the Board's opinion on precautions and having to medicate pigeons will scare away newcomers. Whaley mentioned the cost-effectiveness of vaccines and that no matter what, knowledge should be presented to the newcomers to the sport initially, as this will also help them dictate the cost incurred initially when joining. Mary Kraft suggested directing new members to the loft registration program in place.

President Ex-Officio (Hundrup)

John Hundrup informed the Board he has been helping Joyce with EWINSPEED® Helpdesk calls. He shared he recently advised a member on policy calls regarding antibiotics legality—informing the member that all banned substances can be found on the AU website. Guest, Jerry Michielli, inquired where the list is- to which he was advised he could visit the AU website and click on “policies.”

MOTION: Gary Heindel **MOTIONED** to finance what Robbie needs to get vets together for his proposed program idea, the AU Veterinary Task Force, with a limit of 2k for startup costs. Dave Wilson **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Initial Budget Review

The Board passed out the 2024 budget for review and advised that tomorrow, they would vote to approve the presented budget. \$523,828.16 is the total for all accounts.

Committee Reports

Drug Test Committee (Whaley/Hundrup):

Both members noted that they had encountered a question from Spring Hill about policy with AU drug testing requirements and being banned from competition. The inquirer wanted to know if a competitor is found guilty, does AU take over in the process? Whaley shared that he had advised the question and answered that the Board isn't involved in handling kicking out of clubs/guilty charge follow-up, noting that the person in question would not be eligible for AU awards and that most things are at the discretion of clubs themselves. The Board agreed with Whaley's response, mentioning they are only involved in protesting expulsion. Whaley shared he had also had a question about whether a substance was banned and advised the competitor that since a banned ingredient was included, the substance was not allowed for use.

National Youth (Shumaker):

Ronnie Shumaker shared that Joe Collins recently contacted him from an Arkansas club regarding the implementation of the Junior cell phone system. He shared that Mike Parrish was approved by local 4H for pigeons and that he may contact them for support. Advisors Ethan and Morgan Busbee from South Carolina will assist with the program, however, it will not start until 2024 due to construction delays at Ethan's school. Ronnie encouraged anyone in the zones to share youth contacts who may be interested and the "Eyes To The Skies" pigeon project on YouTube when he has schools racing each other. He shared he wants to put the clocking system to use. The mentioned countermark machines have been donated, and a motion has been passed for youth groups to get access for free outside of the racing club.

Right to Race (Clifton):

Karen submitted a report for the Board, which President McKenna read aloud. Karen mentioned that one member had contacted the AU from FL about a city ordinance that was to be voted on and possessed the potential to make it impossible for him not to have pigeons. In response, the member sent letters to the city personally in an attempt to educate them and encourage them to base their decision on fact, not opinion. Karen reported that both she and Ronnie also sent letters supporting the flyer. Karen reported that the city ruled in favor of the member, and the matter ended well.

Constitution & By-Laws (Lawler):

Steve Lawler shared that most had been quiet in his club, noting he was waiting to review tabled Board Action Requests (BARs) pertaining to 5.06 and 5.08 election balloting, both of which remain pertinent to future elections. Lawler noted that he does not agree with Richard Callahan's language when it comes to 5.06 & 5.08 by-laws. The Board agrees they have edits and would like a revision and were in agreement to wait until this officially came onto the table later in the meeting.

MOTION: Joyce Stierlin **MOVED** to direct the committee to go forward with the review and present the package back next time. In the meantime, they are to act on three BARs tomorrow that were submitted today. CL Gage **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Competition Standards (Life):

Jeff Life informed the Board he had been considering the subject of rotating birds in crates vs having individual crates. He mentioned that they could change the policy, but he can't currently think of a way they could enforce this. The Board seemed to like the idea of adding a policy regarding this and began a discussion around a release guideline policy.

Gary Heindel mentioned that since 2015 the state vets in Wisconsin and Minnesota require that birds are not mixed in shipping crates.

Ronnie started the discussion about the current race release guideline of waiting 30 minutes after sunrise before releasing. He stated that in areas where the sun can be seen at sunrise should allow the birds to be released when the sun is visible. Ronnie added that waiting an additional thirty minutes puts birds competing in 500 mile and longer races at a disadvantage of being day birds.

MOTION: Dave Wilson **MOTIONED** to put forward a release guideline policy to allow earlier release (specified as 30 min after sunrise) Unless local conditions allow for earlier-- but never before the official sunrise. It was included in the motion that this will all be at the discretion of the local secretary. John Hundrup **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Promotion (Christeleit):

Al shared he has been trying to put together a promo deal, noting that he sent a video and Amazon picked up. He mentioned he has been told they will produce a 60 sec clip for no cost to AU. Al shared that Terry wrote thanks to board members for continued support. Al expressed he thinks the AU must continue to promote new ideas on social media for each state.

Ronnie Shumaker updated the group on banners created for tables at conventions as well as general advertising and displayed a draft of the banner for the Board to see. Ronnie informed everyone he was ordering ten banners at a cost of \$40 per piece. Ronnie also stated that he would pick up the banners and ship directly to clubs or combines that requested them. It was agreed to provide the banners at no cost with free shipping.

Regarding the current marketing contract with Jim Jenner, Ronnie shared that the contract is set to end at the end of the year but that Jim will be happy to renew it and has agreed to include documentaries on the website for \$4,000.

MOTION: John Hundrup **MOTIONED** to continue the current marketing subscription for one year with Jim Jenner. Dave Wilson **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION: Dave Wilson **MOTIONED** to purchase ten display banners, which will be given to contacts free of charge. Al Christeleit **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION: Dave Wilson **MOTIONED** to set up a committee to create a generic website sponsored by the AU for all clubs in the US with an initial budget of 2k. Gary Heindel **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Shumaker also presented the idea to the group of creating an official position to help generate ethnic voices in independent groups. He expressed that he believes a mediator is needed to communicate with ethnic groups about rules and that they would possibly need multiple groups. The group spoke of possibly calling this position a diversity chair, which they would create to represent multiple groups in Zoom meetings. They expressed the importance of this position having a certain number of allotted minutes on the agenda during the diversity slot.

National Office & Director Updates

National Office (Clifton)

A report written by Karen Clifton was read. Karen reported that in 2022-2023, membership is up in the NE, SW and SE zones. She reported 1,606 band orders were placed for 2024, totalling approximately 860,000 bands. Once the bands are received, they inventoried, checked for accuracy, repackaged, weighed, postaged and sorted for shipment.

Karen shared that Mary Kraft started assisting in admin and already assisting members with promotion events and that she has a very strong background in admin and QuickBooks/organization. Karen informed the Board in her report that she had recently sent an email to zone directors asking for input regarding the Help-A-Beginner program. Karen noted that there are now two individuals that have volunteered to coordinate beginners' and mentors' efforts in the program.

MOTION: Dave Wilson **MOTIONED** for Paul Koffman, CO, to hold the head of the helper beginner program. Ronnie Shumaker **SECONDED**, and the Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION: Ronnie Shumaker **MOTIONED** to add Al Muller (FL) as the second Help-A-Beginner coordinator. John Hundrup **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

The Board began discussing the next meeting date and location.

MOTION: Joyce Stierlin **MOTIONED** for the next meeting date for the Board to take place the 16th-18th of July in Denver, CO. The Board voted with six members in favor, **MOTION PASSED**.

Sports Promotion (Kraft):

Mary Kraft shared her update and passed a graph around displaying new members from January 1st, 2023, through October 23rd, 2023. She noted that there are 721 new members in

total and that she had seen 4-5 more new ones before she left last week. Since September, seven clubs have called for events. She gave a run-through of these clubs, noting that an Illinois club reached out about having an auction in November and was inquiring about getting mailing labels created for them. The Missouri Show Me Racing Club reached out about wanting promo material at bird release. The River Bend Pigeon Club called and wanted material as well. Kraft mentioned she sent them a three-page flyer. The Southern Flying Club in Ohio was reportedly doing a 4-hour event in the future, and Kraft mentioned she sent promo material to them and other various clubs as well.

Kraft reported that Homeschool Magazine contacted her for a new ad and that small ads have been put onto Facebook, with a reported 41 reach-outs and 400 clicks.

Wilson suggested putting promo items for orders available to members on-site.

For QuickBooks, Kraft mentioned she is currently working on outstanding invoices, reporting she has less than 13 to go.

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

- NW: Jeff Life voiced to the Board that many are still unaware of what the AU does. He noted his club had decreased to 40 members. A member named Tim from St. Louis is reportedly using social media to promote and doing well.
- Pacific Mountain: Joyce Stierlin shared that the zone meeting will be held in January. She reported that combines are shifting and regrouping, especially in Southern California. Sacramento Camellia City Combine and San Francisco's Bay Cities Combine are having talks about forming a concourse. She also reported they are experiencing issues keeping a truck driver.
- SW: Gage reported on the SW zone. He shared that regarding the Texas Center convention, no one has stepped up yet. He mentioned there hadn't been much activity besides the AU and that the insurance company affirmed the bond. Leroy asked what the purpose is of having an organization bonded for the convention. Steve noted that it guarantees money is there when payment comes, although this only covers race costs. Leroy mentioned he is not bonded but has the money.
- PLAINS: Gary Heindel shared that it has been quiet in his zone, often losing members. He expressed he wants to clean up the AU database and indicate who is a member of each club. Joyce will look these people up as some reported they didn't pay, and there appear to be discrepancies in data reported by club secretaries.
- LAKES: Wilson shared that his zone is done flying for the year. Not many problems were reported. He mentioned the Chicago Snow Fest coming up.

MOTION: Al Chisteleit made a motion to make Robbie a speaker. CL Gage **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

- SOUTHEAST: Ronnie Shumaker mentioned attending festivals and sharing info. He announced that the convention flyers will be out soon for the “Florida Invitational Combine Orlando,” which takes place December 5th-8th.

Conventions (2024 & Future) (Gage)

CL gave information about Tampa and Eric Alvarez hosting a future convention in FL.

Awards (Heindel):

MOTION: Gary Heindel voted to drop the 400 mile requirement to 375 miles for the AU NDB awards (HOF Yearling). Al Chisteleit **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Joyce reported on EWINSPEED® noting that the programmer has upgraded all 10,000 code lines of eWINSPEED® programs to modern code standards and made changes to speed up processing such as items listed below:

Birds now load only when the loft is selected from the Loft list. Clockings only load when a flight is selected in the Clocking List. Load times should be improved. The band end where data is stored has been brought up to date with modern technology. Security and database performance speed have been increased. The programmer has documented code so anyone else who may work on it in the future will understand. The current code uses JavaScript ES6. Joyce reported that the next stage is to upgrade the National Database by adding a Club Secretary option, adding historical transaction info to the Online Roster, adding a SHARE button on Race results and AU Awards to easily email these to your friends, and showing AU Award specific calculation details.

Motion to Adjourn: President Bob McKenna **MOTIONED** to adjourn at 2:58pm. Dave Wilson **SECONDED**, and the meeting **ADJOURNED**.

Respectfully Submitted by Minutes Services.

**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting
Houston, TX
November 1, 2023
AGENDA**

Welcome/Introduction of Guests (McKenna)

Board Members Present: Robert Mckenna, Steve Lawler, John Hundrup, Jeff Life, Joyce Stierlin, Ronnie Shumaker, Gary Heindel, Robbie Whaley, Dave Wilson, CL Gage, Al Chisteleit.

Guests: Doug Burnett, Jerry Michielli, Joan Christeleit

President Bob McKenna welcomed guests to the meeting. After the welcome, introduction of guests and flag salute, President McKenna led the Board in a moment of remembrance of those who had passed.

Mary shared the drafted letter supporting Karen in her decision to refrain from attending the meetings. The board approved and signed the letter and asked Mary to give it to Karen upon returning to Oklahoma City.

EWINSPEED®/NDB/Office Admin Database (Stierlin)

The Board felt this had been adequately covered in yesterday's meeting.

Review of Pending Board Action Requests

NW 195- (Steve Lawler) Amend and update by-laws 5.06 through 5.08.

CL noted these would be compromised revisions they are to make communally. The original was 5-5 did not pass. Ronnie shared his concern regarding paying postage on return envelopes.

CL noted that a 2/3 majority vote is needed to pass directives and advised that electronic mailing is objectionable to some.

The last issue facing the Board is the possible expense incurred by having first-class ballots returned. They agreed there were additional postage concerns.

Al shared a letter mentioning re attached by-laws document, noting the small change to 507- adding the word "Calander" to year.

Ronnie suggested electronic voting would increase voting turnout. He expressed his main concerns being cost and participation. For his tested method, he noted all a voter would need is an email address.

CL noted his main priority is engagement and that the current bill of return postage at around \$1,200 is worth the investment. Only 17/18% are consistent voters currently.

MOTION: Joyce Stierlin **MOTIONED** to provide postage paid on return ballots. John Hundrup **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION: Al Christeleit **MOTIONED** to add the word "calendar" inserted in 5.07 prior to "year." Gary Heindel **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION: CL Gage **MOTIONED** to accept the AU board action request as written by Richard Callahan, with the addition of the calendar prior to the year. **PASSED** by a majority of 9 votes.

NW-197 (John Hundrup) Remove Board Members that Miss Consecutive Board Meetings

John proposed the idea of adding language to the constitution and bylaws, stating that if a board member fails to show up to two AU board meetings, they are to be removed. He shared that he thinks if members are consistently missing meetings, they should be removed from the Board. He suggested adding verbiage to the by-laws "A board member missing two consecutive meetings without reasoning would be removed." The Board agreed that if a board member is removed, the president would still make an appointment, subject to board approval, and that the appointee will need 25 signatures from members in their zone supporting the appointment.

Joyce expressed Zoom meetings should be included in the attendance requirement and the importance of participating in those as well. She expressed there shouldn't be a phone call made during meetings to get a Board member's vote on an item if that person did not participate in the Zoom meeting.

Wilson expressed an idea of pulling members who were constantly absent aside and addressing the issue with them.

MOTION: John Hundrup **MOTIONED** the proposal of any board member or officer who misses three consecutive meetings to be subject to removal, where a 2/3 vote would still be required to be removed as stated in the AU Constitution. This would include Zoom meeting attendance. The motion was **SECONDED** by Ronnie Shumaker; The motion **PASSED** with seven votes in favor.

SE-047, (Ronnie Shumaker) Edit the American Racing Pigeon Union's constitution & by-laws to conform with how the Union is to be referred to in both the CB&L as described in I Objective.

Ronnie mentioned editing how the ARPU is identified in the Constitution & By-Laws. Noting there are 60 days to rectify name and inconsistencies. Steve noted he thinks by-laws should be corrected (grammar and punctuation). This would not be a major overhaul of what is written but simply a correction.

MOTION: Ronnie Shumaker **MOTIONED** to ACCEPT SE 047. The motion was **DROPPED** due to lack of a second.

SE-048 (Ronnie Shumaker) Safeguard the individual freedoms and right to political self-determination of members of the Union without the imposition of persecution or negative consequences by the Union.

Safeguard the individual freedoms and right to political self-determination of members of the American Racing Pigeon Union (Union) without the imposition of persecution or negative consequences by the Union.

Ronnie gave an overview of the item and discussed its context in safeguarding individual freedoms. Members have expressed concern about board members suggesting they be punished (not able to purchase bands, etc.) should they not participate and vote in an election.

MOTION: Ronnie Shumaker **MOTIONED** to ACCEPT SE 048. The motion was **DROPPED** due to lack of a second.

SE-049 (Ronnie Shumaker) Alphabetize the Board of Directors states within their respective zones.

Ronnie presented SE 49 and the idea of alphabetizing the list of states and territories in membership, which would remain a minor tweak. The Board disregarded this item as it had already been accepted previously. Noting it was already passed and implemented.

SE-050 (Ronnie Shumaker): Strike the reference to Centers throughout the by-laws.

MOTION: Ronnie Shumaker **MOTIONED** that the Board accept. CL Gage **SECONDED**. Motion **passed** unanimously, with note this will be done in overhaul.

SE-051 (Ronnie Shumaker)

Paul Hanna submitted BAR requesting changing the requirement to 390 to 410 mile range for Hall of Fame yearling qualifications. After discussion, it was decided to change to 375 from 400. Heindel/Shumaker. Unanimous.

Review of New Board Action Requests

NW-199 (John Vance) Leave results in the NDB unless the member is guilty race rule violations, which require removal or as spelled out in the C&BL at time of offense.

Vance discussed the issue of awards won prior to 2012, as well as whether this info is staying present or not. Regarding a 2010 award, Joyce noted the flyer is still listed in first place; just the race details are missing for an unknown reason. Gary noted he had already contacted the programmer, and it was not possible to recover the info. The Board had the idea of restoring awards and accomplishments that have been blanked out anyway, except with race rule violations. The matter was TABLED as the submitter is due to show up tomorrow, and the issue could also be resolved at next January's meeting.

MOTION: a Motion was made to table NW-199 until January. Joyce Stierlin **SECONDED**, and the Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

NW-200 (Jeff Life) Identify every AU member ever disciplined for an infraction violation who did not receive a copy of the final recommendation of the infraction committee in their case.

John Vance discussed board action on by-law 23.01 specifically dealing with infractions, notifying issues and who takes care of notifications (office or Board). Robbie suggested anyone impacted has the option to request.

MOTION: Robbie Whaley **MOTIONED** that past members should be able to seek a request for 23.01 to be provided. And that 23.01 and be provided in the future by the chairman of the infraction committee. Joyce Stierlin **SECONDED**, and the Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

MOTION: Jeff Life **MOTIONED** to accept NW-200. The motion was **DROPPED** due to the lack of a second.

PLAINS-052 (Doug Harms) Identify contacts that might have access to NDB results prior to 2010.

Post results on the NDB from 2000 forward. Files from 2000 to 2015 are missing.

Gary explained he could not find old records prior to 2010, explaining that files are not there.

MOTION: Gary Heindel **MOTIONED** to accept Plains 52. The motion was **DROPPED** due to the lack of a second.

PLAINS-053 President's Cup corrections so the requirement of using prior young bird season races and next years old bird races be used to calculate awards.

Review of awards. Deferred to executive session. Awards to be corrected.

MOTION: Gary Heindel **MOTIONED** to move Plains 053 to executive session. Robbie Whaley **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

PLAINS-054 (Gary Heindel) Clarify actual members of a club (not guest flyers).

Gary explained that in a Northern club, it was reported that four members paid dues initially. One member reportedly moved to Illinois due to health issues, and three members are reported to remain. When they got the by-law, it stated they had six members-- 3 of whom paid dues. They want to disband but showing 6/7 members, and only three exist possibly. The Board discussed whether this was classified as an AU issue or club issue, noting it may be possible they paid dues in two different clubs. After investigating the issue, the Board agreed that this is a club issue, not an AU one. Gary will revisit the issue with the club themselves.

PLAINS-055 (Gary Heindel) Change shipping and clocking limits.

CL presented the issue with clocking, noting the current system creates a non-level playing field. AU awards ship one race 20 and clock 20. Joyce noted this would be a change to award qualifications. She then suggested creating a new AU awards committee to come up with recommendations.

Robbie noted group sending only five birds creates the unfair advantage of a player being classified as doing better compared to other groups sending more. The Board agreed a possible committee is needed to look at and review this. Life mentioned they could also address additional awards. Joyce noted the upcoming NDB rewrite coming soon—which will allow the membership to understand better the breakdown of factors coming into points.

MOTION: CL Gage **MOTIONED** to approve Plains 055. The motion **DROPPED** due to a lack of second.

PLAINS-051 (Gary Heindel) Amend 5.02 of the C&BL to ensure candidate transparency by requiring that they disclose in their bio if they are or are not an active club racing member. Amend 5.02 of the (American Racing Pigeon Union) ARPU constitution to ensure candidate transparency by requiring that they disclose in their bio if they are or are not an active club racing member.

Don Lowe presented the BAR explaining the ARPU only has governance authority over club pigeon racing, therefore, it is important that all eligible candidates running for a national office be required to disclose in their official “candidate bio” if they are or are not an active club racing member in their local organization as described in 5.0 of the ARU race rules. Naming the club to which they belong will give membership the ability to look up a candidate’s club racing participation. 5.03 of the ARPU constitution already requires a candidate to belong to an ARPU affiliated club.

After lengthy discussion, it was decided requiring active racing activity being disclosed in a candidate’s bio was adequate.

MOTION: Al Christeleit **MOTIONED** to accept PLAINS-051, Ronnie Shumaker **SECONDED**. And the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

NW-201 (Jeff Life) Add six functions to eWINSPEED - live clocking, changed bird placement (running tab of birds received by law, 4th, 10th, local report more accessible, split screen added, multi-function to be sellable to 1 loft races.

The Board accepted a late request from guest, Jerry Michielli. Jerry read his request aloud to the Board. The request is as follows: Make advances to eWINDSPEED®. Added six functions- live clocking, changed bird placement (running tab of birds received by law, 4th, 10th,) local report more accessible, split screen added, multi-function to be sellable to 1 loft races. Joyce noted all of these should be expanded with specific detailed requirements and taken as “Wish list requests” that are to be individually assessed by cost-effectiveness. She requested he adds to his BAR “to be added to wish list”. Bob assigned this request to NW-201.

MOTION: AL Christeleit **MOTIONED** to accept BAR NW-201 Gary Heindel **SECONDED**, and the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Final Budget Review/Approval

Bob confirmed everyone had a chance to review the budget. Projected 2024. 10k projected.

Vote of approval: Al Christeleit/Gary Heindel. **PASSED**.

The Board then moved to an executive session. Upon concluding executive session, Gary Heindel made a motion, which was seconded by Al Christeleit, to change President Cup Award

since 2016 to the present to use the requirements listed on the 2023 AU NDB and give duplicate awards to the new winners leaving prior winners in place. Passed unanimously.

Bob reviewed Saturday's meeting agenda and reminded everyone of the dress code.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: CL Gage **MOTIONED** to adjourn at (no time listed?). Gary Heindel **SECONDED**, and the meeting **ADJOURNED**.

Respectfully Submitted by Minutes Services.



American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
Houston, TX
November 4, 2023
AGENDA

After the welcome, introduction of guests and flag salute, President McKenna led the Board in a moment of remembrance of those who had passed. He then introduced board members in attendance (Bob McKenna, Al Christeleit, Jeff Life, Gary Heindel, Dave Wilson, Joyce Stierlin, Steve Lawler, Mary Kraft)

President's Message (McKenna)

McKenna thanked the attendees of the conference and noted the need to promote AU—highlighting that mission cannot be done alone. He emphasized that the AU board and membership work better together.

eWINSPEED®/NDB (Stierlin)

Stierlin spoke of the current project going on. She mentioned the three major phases. 1) Upgrade the server with modern technology. 2) Modernize eWINSPEED®'s 10k lines of code and 233 functions for efficiency and maintainability. This includes retrieving each flyer's Bird list and Clocking details only when requested. 3) Add current statistics to the NDB front page that highlight significant details of our Sport: 1.7 million birds in the database. 47,394 races flown. 20 million miles flown in 2023.

Legislative Update (Lobbyist Greg Smith)

Greg Smith introduced himself, announcing it was his 20th year representing the AU. He shared regulation updates and mentioned the new award being given out in Washington. Smith also took questions.

2024 Convention Update (Lou Gurino or Gage)

It was announced the convention would be held in Orlando, Florida. The Board was thanked for putting on the convention.

2025 Convention

In Andy Waclaw's absence, President McKenna spoke on his behalf. He mentioned Waclaw is hosting the convention in 2025 in Chicago.

McKenna noted he received recent contract for the 2026 convention to be held in Tampa, FL. The Board agreed in favor.

Member Don asked about the vet startup. Member Jimmy asked about the recent loss of membership and spoke on the importance of advertising and wanting membership reported.

Don also asked Gary Heindel what was being done with regard to Avian Flu since it has been reported in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas.

Adjourn

MOTION: John Vance **MOTIONED TO ADJOURN**, Dave Wilson **SECONDED**, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Minutes Services.