

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Mid-Year Board Meeting Minutes
Midvale, UT, June 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Hundrup at 8:00 a.m. with a welcome, flag salute and moment of silence. No guests attended.

Present: Bob McKenna, Joyce Stierlin, Jeff Life, Toni Wiaderski, Frank Meder, John Hundrup, Karen Clifton, Deone Roberts, Gary Heindel, Terry Finnerty. Not present: Bud Williams

Motion was made to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes as posted on the AU website. Stierlin/Life. Approved.

Officer Reports

President's Report/Appointments to Fulfill Vacant Offices & Swearing In Newly Appointed Officers & Directors (John Hundrup)

Hundrup explained that John McSweeney resigned from the board for health reasons. The AU Constitution and Bylaws indicates that (Vice President) Bob McKenna would move into the position made vacant; Joyce Stierlin would move into the following position made vacant and Frank Meder was recommended for moving into the slot of Zone Director position made vacant. Al Hassler previously resigned from the board and with the election in progress; no appointment for the SE Zone Director position was made during the meeting. Hundrup requested a motion to approve the appointments. Motion was made. Stierlin/Life. Approved.

Thereafter, Hundrup administered the oath of office of appointees.

In Hundrup's President's Report, he shared the challenges with member sentiment regarding race activity in the midst of COVID19, EWINSPEED® and challenges with uploads in mandatory shutdown areas. In the Update newsletters, he reported we needed to do something. He commented that there are some comments about his statement. He said he is hoping for a solution to the challenge of lockdown orders versus uploads.

Hundrup shared a letter from Joe Houghton stating that he opposed expunging race results in the midst of COVID19. Houghton related it to political power issues. Individuals have the right to carry out racing. A few members agreed.

Another member, Jay Taylor, sent a message that he was opposed to expunging results because of COVID restrictions. They (in his area) followed local guidelines.

John Boyle opposed the decision to invalidate awards stating that AU dictates policy where no policy should exist.

Hundrup also shared that both he and the office had received calls and messages from many members saying they wanted the racing to shut down across the board because of the negative attention it would draw if, for some reason, members became ill or spread the virus.

Discussion regarding the varying stay at home orders in different cities and different states ensued. The board agreed that there is no way to really know what was required in each city across the country. Additional comments included letting the awards stand. It was suggested a statement be added in the National Award section of the AU website indicating results are in, however, races were flown during the Covid pandemic and not all were able to participate. John explained that with the BAR recently passed, which allows flying old bird season and the young bird season concurrently, members have time to complete the season and upload results.

Canadian bands were discussed. Members from Canada came back to the AU and according to policy, the AU waived the 1st year alien band fee.

AU pricing was discussed. It was determined that the AU is not out of line with prices. All organizations have been forced to increase. Many members want AU to change, however, just as with other groups, our costs have increased, but the increase we pass on is in line with other groups.

The AU has had a long-standing policy of not sharing members' email information without member permission. A member requested emails of all members to utilize. Stierlin explained that she shares with any club secretary that requests the information for California as the state organization secretary. Whether it should be done nationally, she is not sure. Members would receive more junk email as a result, which is not good. Meder offered that the plusses outweigh the negatives.

Hundrup took a moment to thank all the board members for donating their time to the board. He stated he can't praise Stierlin enough for her EWINSPEED® work. He noted that she donated was a tremendous amount of man hours to get the program up and running.

Executive Vice President Update (Bob McKenna)

Bob McKenna said he is sad to see McSweeney leave as he is very knowledgeable about the national organization and sport in general.

McKenna has been getting a lot of calls on EWINSPEED® rejecting alien bands if they have not been properly registered with the AU. He said in his area there were 50 unregistered bands and that people are furious that their birds are not showing up. Bob said that some clubs have gone back and forth between the organizations when some

issues come up and that the alien band fee is the latest issue. McKenna said it is not the cost, rather members are inconvenienced to have to register the bands by January 15.

A suggestion was to enter the alien bands and program the NDB to bill the band owner. After 30 days, if the fee is not paid, the birds can be pulled from records. January 15 is the current date to register alien bands. Joyce Stierlin said she could discuss this with the programmer, Craig, to see if that is something not cost prohibitive. One suggestion was to move the deadline to register alien bands giving members more time and most agreed that was a good resolve.

Jeff Life said moving the date should work. He seriously doubts that people forget to register the birds, but rather they are deliberately delaying and will continue to object.

Stierlin reminded the group that if clubs are using the old WinSpeed©, which did not check for alien bands, they are accustomed to it. They send to race results websites from WinSpeed© for “real results”. They are discovering what Stierlin said long ago: sooner or later they will realize WinSpeed© no longer works.

McKenna also brought up a revenue issue, which will be a natural consideration as the organization and membership ages. Many of our members are Honor and more are qualifying. This will deplete our funds. He would like to see that category discontinued and another way of honoring the members instead. The board agreed. Those that already are honor members will be grandfathered in. In the future as members are submitted as honor members, they will still pay annual dues, however, the AU will send a certificate to them honoring their membership and loyalty.

Vice President Update (Joyce Stierlin)

Joyce acknowledged she remains busy with programming issues and volunteering to help members and race secretaries as they work with EWINSPEED®. In addition to those tasks, Stierlin as Vice President, her role is to support the President and she has been doing such.

Committee Reports

Review of President's Agenda

No new items were added and no newly completed items identified. The review was for the benefit of those who are new to the board.

Hundrup invited board members to share a bit about themselves so newer board members will get to know their peers on the board.

Frank Meder has been flying since early 60s nonstop. His first experience was to go to Ed Mathias' house. He had birds for opening the Olympics. Frank won the CSRPO

state race. He shared that he won a trip to Disneyland and that the CSRPO Disney Award was the highest award in California. Meder was able to visit the Disneyland lofts. Frank added that he likes to help clubs get what they need by working events, auctions, etc.

Joyce Stierlin added that in large part because of Frank's efforts, the Ft Sutter Club has become the largest club in the Sacramento area. She added that money the club receives goes to help beginners by giving them a new electronic clock, which helps membership grow.

Frank also shared that they have a feed system. The Ft Sutter Club sells seed that is 15-20% cheaper than the store. The money raised helps buy the clocks.

He said the club has 2-4 auctions a year with birds from in and out of the area. This year Frank said, auction birds are coming from Utah. He went on to add that the club feeds attendees. The club and donors get a portion of the auction funds. They also have a fireworks stand which can bring in \$12-15,000. All members are expected to participate in a variety of shifts or they can write a check for \$100.

Toni Wiaderski joined the AU in 1978. He used to play professional soccer. Has attended all the conventions and served on the board, had a break, then back to the board. In Poland, at one time, racing was a profession with an Olympics. He loves the sport and has met wonderful people at the events.

Gary Heindel has been flying 60 years. As a child, he chased a pigeon for a long distance and took it home. His mother said, "Oh let him have it." He has been in the hobby since.

Jeff Life flew for 20 years many years ago. Eleven years ago, he found a club and got back in. Jeff said he is about 1 ½ hours away from the club so he drives a lot.

Joyce Stierlin said Frank already knows her from California.

Bob McKenna said he is a 2nd generation flyer. His dad had pigeons and Bob caught the pigeon disease, so to speak. McKenna said he has held every office in the club and combine and he chairs a race his father founded.

John Hundrup started in show birds and got involved holding different offices in the clubs he belonged to. John also judges fancy breeds. He started racing in 2004. Now John devotes his time to racing and judges intermittently.

Right to Race (Karen Clifton)

The usual 4-5 members have called with ordinance issues and we have tried to use money the Sacramento club donation, with funds allocated to that. In 2 cases, Karen

said the neighbor complaints stopped and the city stopped citing the fancier. In 1 case, the member was going to move and we are waiting on follow up from the other.

Karen said that the quarantines in place in Southern California due to Newcastle have been lifted. The outbreak began in May 2018 and many members in that area have not been able to train or race. The state veterinarian recently announced the restrictions have been lifted and members are now free to race. Karen commented that the members in Southern California really struggled. She said they are to be commended for their patience and compliance.

Competition Standards (Jeff Life)

Jeff said he fields a lot of phone calls. He said he refers EWINSPEED® technical calls to Joyce. Jeff added that live clocking was a dominate issue for a while until the BAR approving the 2 systems was passed. Life has received calls from members wanting to know if they can race due to COVID. He said he advises that members need to follow local and state guidelines. He said that race rules require certain actions, but he tells members they need to still stay safe according to local regulations.

Jeff said there is an issue with smaller clubs that cannot come up with a third person to meet the minimum presence requirements currently in the race rules. Life said he has submitted BAR's asking that minimum presence is changed from 3 to 2 competing members. Jeff said in his opinion the integrity of the race is held with the race secretary; therefore, changing from 3 to 2 does not affect the integrity of the race. He said he would like to see the rule change.

Constitution and Bylaws (Shannon Demler)

Demler was not able to be at the meeting. John Hundrup stated that he felt things have been fairly quiet with regard to By-laws issues.

Drug Test Committee (John Hundrup)

John said a member did submit a BAR to add drugs like cocaine and marijuana to the banned substance list.

Bob McKenna said he has suggested we use the GHC list. Hundrup responded that the current policy is vague. McKenna said the GHC policy is similar to the IF policy which is actually the FCI policy.

National Office & Director Updates

National Office (Karen Clifton)

Karen explained that during the COVID19 period when Oklahoma City had a safer at home order, the process of data entry slowed quite a bit. She said employees worked

from home and rotated hours in the office so only one was in on a given day. Karen said that data entry will be finished within a couple of weeks and then we will have a better feel for current membership totals.

Clifton handed out a list of clubs that have not renewed. Bob McKenna reported that he hears clubs in Hawaii are quitting because they can't double band, according to our rules. They want to be able to.

Reviewing 2021 band sales, there is a decrease of personalized bands ordered and an increase in stock band orders. The club dues renewal list was reviewed. Karen shared that neither the Judges' Panel or Speakers' Bureau are used very often and we have no requests, to date, for the year.

President Hundrup reminded the board that the AU bylaws include a voted-in treasurer position. However, several years ago, membership approved removing the position of treasurer and secretary. John added that the by-laws had not been updated. Hundrup explained we have two CPAs hired to review our books each month. Stierlin suggested removing the item from the bylaws and Clifton asked if it is simply an administrative issue. Life stated that it would be good to clean up the bylaws and the board agreed.

Clifton handed out financial statements and explained that there was a house bequeathed to AU and that was in need of major repairs. The AU received \$18,000 from the sale of the house and the land was sold to another entity. Some of those funds went to the estate.

Karen shared that we received 18 scholarship applications and that we will continue to watch for any submissions postmarked by 6/1/20. When all have been received, the committee will review and 5 scholarships will be awarded.

For the 2020 convention update, Clifton has not received any new information. She deferred to Bob McKenna in case he had more information. McKenna shared that because of COVID19, they were not sure about the hotel yet. The hotel wanted a guaranteed minimum of \$15,000 to hold rooms. The pigeons would not be allowed at the hotel so the people would be shuttled to the clubhouse. He said a guarantee of 50 rooms each night was required along with payment. The convention chair had been receiving calls from people saying they would not attend this year because of Covid. The committee is checking out another hotel, but that hotel doesn't have restaurant or catering capabilities. McKenna said that the youth race handler has a large property and it was a potential for a gathering, perhaps with a large tent. He said they are looking at options and will determine course of action at their June 22 meeting.

Stierlin shared that CSRPO members they are dealing with it in California with regard to scheduling a gathering and business meeting for CSRPO. She said they are looking at future dates to host an event where they could gather and perhaps hold the meeting.

McKenna said the group in D.C. is still planning on the races because birds are already there. Bob said he will provide an update after they have their June meeting.

Clifton finished with handing out two new award nominations, which will be reviewed by the board the final day of meetings.

Leadership/Retention (Terry Finnerty)

Terry said he is done with the EWINSPEED® videos and interviews with Joyce and will be working on promotion videos next. The purpose is to appeal to all ages, especially younger groups by posting on social media.

Finnerty talked about ways to improve retention. He believes with so many things negative right now, some may not be motivated to race or get involved. He said that he felt that with one loft races, some members would rather not pay dues but participate in those. Finnerty said those individuals would miss the camaraderie. Terry added that there are other issues: neighborhood restrictions, poor club relations, time at work and family commitments, and electronic clock affordability. With the one loft races, there is a promise of high rewards and prestige from possible sale of babies off winners. Terry suggested maybe we could just list some of the one loft races in the yearbook as some one loft race coordinators are AU members and it would not hurt to give them credit.

Hundrup countered that they have no regulations and when we can't regulate, the money aspect becomes a negative for AU, costing thousands of dollars.

Finnerty continued with the idea that once every two or three years, we could do an auction with proceeds to support youth group promotion/retention efforts. Finnerty suggested all money raised would go 100% towards sport promotion/retention.

He said we could raise money to purchase used electronic clocks for junior and senior members and that would help make the sport affordable. Further, if enough money is raised, we could have someone make beginner lofts to help get others started.

Hundrup appointed committee members to work on this: Terry Finnerty as chairman, Toni Wiaderski, Bob McKenna, and Gary Heindel to serve on the committee.

Joyce Stierlin asked if promotion efforts would target youth versus seniors. Finnerty said it would just be promoting in general, but it's a good question for the committee. Terry then solicited thoughts on video clips that could be shared to attract new members.

Jeff Life suggested featuring photos of the top 10 one loft race breeders and then ask for a bird to be donated to the auction to support promotion.

Sport Development (Deone Roberts)

Deone said that events have been canceled even into September and beyond until the COVID situation is clear. She said some groups and individuals are still successfully gaining new members despite restrictions. Deone added that we have held off on national social media ads until COVID clears more, mainly because of the necessary contact for people to participate.

Roberts said it was encouraging to see that the average number of new members coming in each month for January through May was 72. It is down from the typical 100 average, but encouraging considering reduction in movement. When the promotion video clips are completed, Deone said she believes more social media ads can begin.

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

Northwest (Jeff Life)

Life shared there is not really anything outstanding in the zone. He said that auctions seem to have lost their luster. It's a quiet zone, so there is not really much to promote.

Pacific (Joyce Stierlin/Frank Meder)

Joyce shared that Southern California is back up from Newcastle Disease shutdown. Newly installed Pacific Zone Director, Frank Meder, said people in the zone want to have auctions and events.

Plains (Gary Heindel)

Heindel said the zone went from dead silence to feuding with strife between two organizations. Gary said confrontation occurs and suggested maybe there could be a regional plan by the AU, opening up Old Birds and Young Birds where some areas have longer racing seasons. Gary said he believes COVID has caused more problems than we'll ever realize.

Lakes (Terry Finnerty)

Terry said that he just stepped down from several positions within his local organizations to work on things for the AU, such as the promotion committee mentioned earlier.

Southeast (currently unfilled)

Northeast (Toni Wiaderski)

Wiaderski attended various club meetings and has future visits planned. He did do some high school presentations, plus presentations at Boys and Girls Clubs. He said he has been somewhat limited due to pandemic restrictions.

Future Convention Hosts (Bob McKenna)

Tampa Combine – 2021

Ohio – 2022

Frank Meder asked what happens if a convention host must back out. Hundrup explained we make nothing off the conventions; the host is responsible. We simply hold our meetings and awards banquet while there. John added that we have had to find substitute hosts in the past but it adds a lot of work to the office.

Award Committee (Bob McKenna)

Bob reported that there are 5 new Registered Elite Champions. He also stated that the 2019 Young Birds and forward have programming glitches that need work before awards can be sent out. McKenna told Karen to wait on resuming preparation of certificates, plaques and web updates.

Bob noted that alien bands have been kicked out of race results but that people are also generating race results in old WinSpeed© with unregistered alien bands. Then they upload to EWINSPEED® and those birds are kicked out. WinSpeed© results are posted on various websites; however, not in the EWINSPEED®. Bob said that per AU rules, alien bands must be registered, and now the discomfort of the race result difference is evident. Discussion returned to the need to register alien bands.

Terry Finnerty said we could use Constant Contact to send flash messages and reminders of various deadlines, tasks, etc. However, signing up for the e-newsletters is voluntary, not automatic, so he questions how many would receive the information.

Another suggestion was that in the Update newsletters, we should remind members there is a free Google translator on the AU website for ease of reading in Spanish or other languages.

Clifton said a member wants to purchase an email list. Usually this needs to be done with recipient permission. Joyce Stierlin said we could place a notice in the Update that we will be selling an email list and if you want to opt out, let us know.

John Hundrup asked if there was a motion to approve the sale of an email list of AU membership database. Finnerty moved to approve the sale of the email list at a cost of \$2000. Motion died for lack of second.

Hundrup said it was suggested we move the deadline date of the alien band registration to May 15. Motion to move the date of the alien band registration deadline to May 15. McKenna/Stierlin. Approved.

Jeff Life said we need to change Rule 7.09 to change the date.

Hundrup solicited thoughts about directors not attending meetings when expenses have been paid for (hotel, air fare and various fees). The board agreed that board members should be responsible to reimburse if they have made reservations, the AU has paid for those expenses and then the board member not attend. It was decided that the travel policy should be updated. Motion to add language to the director's manual regarding reimbursement for accommodation and transportation expenses of meeting attendance if missed by the director's own hand. It should include language about notification that the meeting will be missed. Meder/Wiaderski. Approved.

There was discussion about discontinuing the Honor Membership classification. McKenna would like to see that discontinued because the membership is aging and there will be revenue loss. Those already in would be grandfathered in.

Motion to discontinue Honor membership classification and grandfather in current Honor members; recognition for those in the future to be recognized with a certificate, beginning year 2021. Finnerty/Stierlin. Approved.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Stierlin/Life. Approved.

The meeting was adjourned 5:00 p.m.

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The meeting was called to order by President Hundrup at 8:00 a.m. No guests attended.

Present: Bob McKenna, Joyce Stierlin, Jeff Life, Toni Wiaderski, Frank Meder, John Hundrup, Karen Clifton, Deone Roberts, Gary Heindel, Terry Finnerty

Not present: Bud Williams

EWINSPEED®/NDB/Programming Update (Joyce Stierlin/John Hundrup)

Stierlin provided a handout of program enhancements that she would like to see made. She asked that the board let her know if there are things they believe would be helpful to have added to the enhancement list. The current list includes items brought up from race secretaries as they work with the program.

Review of New Board Action Requests

PLAINS-049

Decrease the minimum distance of races from 75 to 60 miles to qualify for inclusion in the AU database.

Gary Heindel said the reasoning behind this BAR is to be able to include everyone in Wisconsin in racing. Joyce Stierlin said it is not trivial programming and that there are items to consider: pieces, wording, yearbook, office, AU website locations to update. She said it's doable, but it just takes time. John Hundrup said it is currently a race rule issue rather than programming at this time.

Stierlin/Heindel. Unanimous approval. To be effective January 2021.

PAC/MTN-056

Provide a race rule so EWINSPEED® can reject clockings for a bird that was previously entered in the current series in another loft name, regardless of the club from which it was entered.

Stierlin said this is needed for EWINSPEED® because of situation where this happened. Example was the bird homed to someone else's loft. Once the series begins, if the bird is in the wrong loft, clocking is rejected.

Finnerty/McKenna. Unanimous approval. To be effective January 2021.

PAC/MTN-057

Keep both OB & YB series open all calendar year. Allow both series to run concurrently but require separate OB & YB races at least 30 minutes or 35 miles apart. Set cutoff for both OB & YB races to be uploaded to the NDB by February 1, of the following year.

This was passed via email to accommodate changes to race season/series due to Covid-19. Approved. To be effective immediately.

Jeff Life said race rules will need to be updated.

Stierlin thought it would be helpful to have a map of where releases are occurring, open only to race secretaries to see, not the public.

PAC/MTN-058

Enhance information provided in the AU Prohibited Substance list to clearly define what drugs are actually illegal to use in racing pigeons by providing examples. Add methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and marijuana to the list of prohibited substances in the policy.

The member that submitted the BAR wanted to know why items such as cocaine and marijuana are not listed. He was familiar with the list from IF, which is basically the FCI list/policy. BAR was suggested and there really is no problem to add substances to the list.

Tabled. We will get the new list from Bob McKenna.

NW-188

To accommodate clubs with few members that at times fall from 3 members to 2 members, a BAR was submitted to request changing minimum presence rule from 3 to 2, which affects rule 4.0, 4.02, 4.04, 4.05. Life/Stierlin. Passed unanimously. To take effect January 2021.

NW-189

Loft and station surveys restricted to the WAAS enabled GPS due to accuracy. Joyce shared you can use Google Earth to get possible location, but WASS for accuracy.

Died for lack of motion.

SE-044

Implement a system for tracking bands on birds that are transferred from one fancier to another. Would encourage more responsible record keeping. Transfers would be for a fee and it was suggested that would be additional revenue for the AU.

The AU already has an Ownership Transfer form but it would be impossible to enforce making members fill out paperwork every time they sell or gift a bird to someone else.

Stierlin said that with the volume of our bands, it appears to be an insurmountable task. She also offered that when the bird clocks in EWINSPEED®, it is recorded to which loft. She said this is something that could go on the wish list.

Karen Clifton questioned if this would be a hindrance when other people want to give birds to new members. Because of a fee per bird, it could be off putting. Jeff Life agreed it could be.

Gary Heindel brought up that many young birds go into auctions and change hands and asked how the AU could possibly track that?

Died for lack of motion.

NE-038

Allow non-registered alien banded birds to race in AU races. Recommend programming a routine in EWINSPEED® so that the bird is allowed to race and receive a clocking. EWINSPEED® generates a bill to register the birds. The bill would be sent to the club and the club will submit the appropriate fee. If registration is not paid within 30 days, the birds will be deleted from the database. Failed for lack of motion.

Stierlin/Finnerty to move alien band registration from 1/15 to 5/15 each year. Passed unanimous. To take effect January 2021.

Executive Session

Infraction Review. Upon concluding Executive Session, it was voted (as follows) to approve committee recommendations.

AU2020CA-1 Motion to approve investigator's finding. Stierlin/McKenna. Approved. Unanimous.

AU2020WI-01 Motion to approve investigator's recommendation. Life/Finnerty. Approved. Unanimous.

AU2020FLORIDA-01 Motion to approve investigator's recommendation. Stierlin/McKenna. Approved. Unanimous.

Review of Member Awards

Nominations submitted by members were for several awards and were reviewed and approved. Those recipients to be honored will be notified, plaques order and a yearbook article written to feature their contributions to the sport.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Stierlin brought up discussion about the new promotion committee and the clocks idea. She would like to see the committee also work on the Youth Project that adds separate

youth races with online real-time results for our juniors. Will allow use of countermarks without clocks and also allow recording of bird arrival times via cell phones. Committee Chairman, Terry Finnerty, agreed to have his committee work on this project.

Finnerty asked how treasurer position is handled. John explained we have two different CPA's reviewing financials and bookkeeping. One does the annual audit and the other does monthly bookkeeping.

Finnerty asked if Ron Pairan is still assisting the Scholarship Committee. Clifton said he had previously agreed to assist with the review process, which will begin upon return to the office next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.