

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
Tampa, FL
November 2, 2021

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

Members present: John Hundrup, Karen Clifton, Joyce Stierlin, Ronnie Shumaker, Bob McKenna, Shannon Demler, Terry Finnerty, Toni Wiaderski, Bud Williams, Jeff Life, Frank Meder, Deone Roberts.

Gary Heindel is currently delayed by flight cancelations.

Guests present:

Steve Lawler, Jim Greelis, Doug Burnett.

Following the flag salute and moment of silence in respect of those who passed, Hundrup opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made to approve the 2021 mid-year meeting minutes as posted on the AU website. Stierlin/Life. Approved.

Officer Reports

President

Officer reports began with President Hundrup. He shared that a generic pigeon photo was used in the AU website revision. It will be changed to a banded pigeon.

It was suggested that the Overall Ace Pigeon photo be used on the website to replace the current photo each year.

John shared that the automated national database is almost complete and the junior application is almost done. Both are currently in testing and will be discussed later in the meetings.

Talking about counterfeit bands, John said that the current problem with counterfeit bands blocking the load of legitimate bands is remedied by removal, which is currently taking place. He went on to say that as counterfeits and false uploads are noticed and/or reported, results will be removed to allow the legitimate bands to properly upload.

Hundrup reported that the AU Scholarship auction could not take place during the convention week. The convention host had a conflict with the existing auction they are hosting. The convention organizers lined up their auction many months ago.

John reminded a board member had made the suggestion that the AU Yearbook be printed in the The Racing Pigeon Digest. John estimated the Digest subscription count to be about 2300, which is less than our membership. The board discussed and it was decided to continue sending the yearly publication out from the AU.

Last, he said that his email will change from the cableone address to johnhundrup@gmail.com.

Executive Vice President

Executive Vice President, Bob McKenna, suggested to the board that the 2-year suspension for using counterfeit bands needs to be emphasized in publications. Karen Clifton indicated that it will be included in the eUpdates and other quarterly publications. She said a list of AU approved vendors will also appear in publications so members know which they can buy AU bands from.

McKenna added that we need to find a way to reach the new flyer before they buy bad bands. He also reminded that publications can be digitally sent.

Vice President

Vice President, Joyce Stierlin, shared that she is still fielding EWINSPEED® questions, and is assisting with testing on the office database and testing of the junior program. She added that she will explain progress later in the meetings.

Initial Budget Review

Executive Director, Karen Clifton provided the initial budget review for later discussion. She passed out a draft spreadsheet.

Committee Reports

President's Agenda

President Hundrup kicked off committee reports by asking Ronnie Shumaker, Southeast Zone Director, to take on the role of Youth/School Coordinator. Clifton will have a link placed in the Youth Projects section on the AU web page with Ronnie's contact info. Ronnie will submit write ups to provide details of various youth projects as more are developed.

Hundrup said EWINSPEED® tutorial and race rules are in Spanish now and listed in the AU *Yearbook* and on our website.

Shumaker interjected that a member in the SE Zone (Mark Pursifull) has been very helpful translating to assist members. Ronnie suggested it would be helpful if there were someone in each zone who could play that part. Perhaps they would agree to be listed on the AU website as a resource.

Vice President, Stierlin, noted that a member in the Pacific Mountain Zone, Armando De La O, suggested the Spanish tutorial and that it was an excellent idea.

Leadership/Retention

Terry Finnerty reported on the Leadership/Retention work. He said that the AU is having another fundraiser auction via iPigeon and that it will start the week of Thanksgiving and go for 6 weeks.

Finnerty went on to share that TOPS sent a new program for the youth project and that it works on iPhone and Android. He said that there was a problem with merging during testing. Terry explained that the clock is your cell phone and the procedure is the same as with a clock. He said there are a couple glitches with the Android version.

Finnerty explained that the program costs the club \$50, plus the chips. You get a print off of entry and it goes into the phone. The race is set up in the phone. You scan it with the download program. He went on to say for beginners he would recommend keeping the number of birds low. He also did not know if countermarks will be around eventually. The cellphone is the way of the future. The user scans in the phone automatically and it loads to the program as the clock does. The club unit is on the phone. It uploads to the cloud. Terry said it is very similar to Benzing Live.

With regard to promotion, Ronnie Shumaker suggested getting a price on RFD TV for running a video.

Terry Finnerty also suggested we get a cost estimate from Jim Jenner to redo Marathon In The Sky, separately from Finnerty's arrangement with the ESPN videographer.

Finnerty displayed a slide show EWINSPEED® and mentioned the youth phone app. There are two different items presented. One was TOPS where the phone is being tested for racing with electronic bands.

National Youth/School Program Coordinator

For the youth clocking project, Shumaker suggested there needs to be an estimated value stated on the promotion agreement to repair or replace the antenna. Finnerty said 200 G2s are available to us and that an agreement would be signed by the beginner/guardian and sponsoring club.

Ronnie said that he tested the countermark system. He said he shares concerns with Joyce Stierlin. Ronnie said that he feels if he can do it, anyone can do it. The Race Secretary can set up the race; however, someone else can assist the junior as the coordinator, without access to affect the race. Shumaker shared the steps involved:

Enter countermark #'s
It goes to basketing table.
There are 3 tabs at top.
Easy to follow.
Click on youth.
Click on race.
Assign countermark to bird.

Shumaker explained that he set up mock races and attempted a race and that he could log in as one person and clock as another. Ronnie reported that has been fixed and that now, only countermarks assigned to him are the ones he can enter.

Shumaker agrees that the phone is the future; however, pulling the countermark is part of the experience. In a group like 4-H, the only supplier he is aware of that has countermarks is Foys. Ronnie expressed his opinion that if we decide to use this, it would be a great idea that the AU office has countermarks available. He added as for securing a countermark machine, perhaps we ask countermark machines to be donated for this use.

Ronnie concluded by saying it's now a matter of getting the kids interested and suggested races for kids may be shorter segments to make it rewarding and gratifying. He went on to say that we should call Foys and Jedds to find a source of countermarks and the machines.

Executive Vice President, Bob McKenna, said we need to establish guidelines for short distances.

Motion to approve youth clocking program as established.
Stierlin/Finnerty. Approved.

Shumaker said he will submit an article regarding the project in the upcoming quarterly newsletter.

Vice President, Joyce Stierlin, will receive information from Ronnie so she has a guideline to set these up in EWINSPEED®. Further discussion included that it is free and you need to be a junior member.

Finnerty said we need to ensure that participants are in the same junior category. He said he will provide information to be posted on the website.

Ronnie Shumaker said he sees the countermark approach as more appropriate for groups.

Former AU board member and meeting guest, Steve Lawler, commented that in Herb Cartmell's area, homeschooling is really becoming more popular and pigeons are very useful for their programs. Steve suggested that the AU will need to know the homeschool organizations to connect with (for mailings, advertising, conferences, and groups to work with).

Right To Race

Karen Clifton reported there have only been a couple of members that have approached the AU for ordinance assistance since the June mid-year meetings. She reported that one of these involved a member in Arizona. Karen said that the member was well-spoken and had club support. She added that he took all the necessary steps to educate officials and neighbors.

Ultimately, Karen, the member and his fellow members participated in a Zoom city council meeting. We were told all information would be considered and ruling announced at a later date. The city has notified the member that he must make modifications.

Karen reported there has been no update on the Animal Welfare Act and that the USDA still needs to post their proposed action with regard to which bird enthusiasts and groups will be regulated. It is anticipated that will be released early 2022.

Constitution & By-Laws

Shannon Demler, Constitution & By-Laws Advisor, reported that very few calls have been received from club officers or members needing clarification on By-Laws issues.

Shannon said that most callers just need help interpreting their By-Laws or call to receive a copy of theirs as often club officers do not have a current copy to share with members.

Competition Standards

National Race Secretary, Jeff Life, said his area had been relatively quiet as well and that no real issues have been reported.

Drug Testing Committee

Hundrup reported there were no updates and no calls for the Drug Test Committee in recent months. We are mirroring the GHC policies. John again commended the GHC for the work they had put into their program. He said had one call was received regarding penicillin g last year and that's all.

National Office Update

Clifton shared information from the national office. She advised that membership is trending up again and we have seen an increase in 2021. She reported AU membership is up 9.3% over 2020. The average number of new members is up again this year, though some of the increase is likely due to members becoming active again after Covid. Additionally, it was reported that a good number of IF members have joined the AU.

She said that the office is anticipating a slight increase in revenue since membership and band orders have increased. But Clifton pointed out that inflation continues and expenses may increase so the office continues to look for ways to operate more efficiently.

Karen indicated that she has been communicating with members to advise of the office automating the update and order process and most seemed genuinely excited about the digital process. It will be less work for the secretary and more efficient for clubs and the national office.

Karen asked board members to submit articles for the January 2022 newsletter by December 2.

Clifton then asked the board when and where they wanted to meet for the 2022 mid-year board meetings. It was decided that Denver is an easy place to travel to and from and since a hub, is usually more economical. Board members opted to fly in on July 10, meet on July 11 and 12, and return on July 13.

Sport Development

Deone Roberts shared recent information about promotion activity and goals. She explained daily tasks that she performs to assist with administrative functionality of the office, as well as promotion efforts.

Roberts reminded the board that promotion events that the AU has assisted members with are listed in the Update newsletters. Deone added that the only promotion event to add to those that were listed in the August newsletter, is a television interview with a local flyer, Tom Beard, in Oklahoma. Deone said that Tom did a fantastic job and has always been keen to work with public in a positive and professional manner.

Roberts went on to explain that so much more is done on-line now to draw attention to whatever member or club event is being done, simply to direct attention to a particular club. Deone said that using social media has been more successful recently than other methods.

She reported that the AU recently placed a ½ page ad in an elementary education magazine to draw interest for information requests. This would include exposure in homeschool groups.

Roberts displayed what the typical information packet contains so the board would be aware of what is sent out to inquirers. Mailing a packet is around \$1. If youth information is included, the additional weight requires more postage. Deone said that running an ad specific to youth projects, drew a lot of interest.

Roberts shared statistics provided by Facebook to illustrate the minimal cost of running an ad. An \$18 ad yielded 1700+ recipients, of which the bulk were 65+ in age. More women than men responded. More response was in California. Most were on mobile phones on their news feeds.

Deone also said the following week, we ran two silly posts on all social media apps that we use and the week after those were posted, we sent out more information packets than we have in a long time. Almost half of those requested youth information. These were just posts on social media, not advertising. This is the most information packets in one week that we have sent out in a long time.

So far this year, we have 962 new to AU members from 1/1/21 to 10/18/21. So we are almost back to 100 new/month joining. It has been a couple years since we have been at that level.

Zone Director Reports

Northwest Zone

Jeff Life reported on the Northwest Zone. He said there was not much going on. In Utah, they are more active and progressing well. He added that membership in Spokane, Idaho, and Washington have not grown. Jeff said Tacoma is active and that they utilize social media, but membership is still low. Oregon is spread out.

Life discussed 4-H involvement in his area. He said the 4-H group is picking up and that Homeschool is a great angle. With 4-H, there are background checks and you must become a leader. Jeff said there has been a vaccine mandate and that blocks some people from being 4-H leaders if they refuse the vaccine.

Jeff said that a promotion effort resulted in a senior center becoming excited about pigeons, but he is not sure that will evolve.

Pacific Mountain Zone

Frank also shared his opinion that the need for continued Spanish translation was necessary.

Meder said one member in his zone was recently cited for pigeons by the county. The county kept fining him, though he wasn't causing trouble. Finally the county got a judge to go after him. The judge, however, was aware that by law the member was allowed to keep the birds. So Meder was advising board members to be aware that they can point out the law that states that pigeons are legal.

The California state convention will be hosted by Bakersfield in 2022. Ed Minvielle is coming out to do an auction to include Hapyco's final sell off. Members could preorder Siegel products and Minvielle would drive it down.

The meeting broke for lunch and reconvened 12:00. At that point Plains Zone Director, Gary Heindel, was able to join the meeting.

Southwest Zone

Bud Williams reported on the Southwest zone. He said it is pretty quiet. He shared that the SPCA confiscated 400 birds from a member. The member is from Mexico. The member had a person taking care of his birds. That person put rat poison out. With so many dead rats being visible, authorities thought someone had died on the premises. Though the member had excellent birds, he was forced to find new homes for them.

The Texas Center convention was held in Pensacola, FL.

Southwest Zone Director, Williams, went on to say that he believes imposing a penalty on his club members for not retrieving birds, has worked to reduce incidents of members not properly responding to finders.

In the zone, it is business as usual; status quo with disagreements.

Williams's club has 4 new members, including one new, one who had race before and his grandson.

Plains Zone

Heindel reported on the Plains Zone. Gary said it has been quiet in his zone and that he has been fielding calls from members. He went on to say that overall members within his zone really like EWINSPEED®.

Gary went on to say that the Hmong community is growing. Younger guys want shorter races and that older members seem to want longer races. Heindel said that with that friction, some members want to break off from the club. Newer members want to have shorter races and not pay the shipping costs of the longer races.

Gary has been handling items that members bicker about and want to take to AU.

Lakes Zone

Terry Finnerty shared Lakes Zone status. Their clubs fly as a combine in old birds. Other clubs bring birds. YB was tough with losses. Terry fielded complaints about rules and clarified issues for members.

Terry said he attended Toni Wiaderski's meeting and explained EWINSPEED®. Finnerty attended the Hoosier One Loft race and he said it was a fun experience. He also mentioned he is working on the convention to be hosted in Cleveland in 2022.

Southeast Zone

Ronnie Shumaker, Southeast Zone Director, provided an update. He said he has been reaching out to members in a lot of areas to introduce himself. He is trying to get Nashville, Chattanooga and Atlanta clubs to race together. Ronnie said the biggest challenge is their dwindling membership. He would like to support them under AU guidelines.

Ronnie added that he gets a few calls from Florida now and then but that there are really no disputes or problems in his zone at this time.

Ronnie went on to say that he believes social media (Facebook) is helping to connect members and potential new members with existing flyers.

Shumaker also shared that he has been staying busy with the junior clocking program and EWINSPEED®.

Northeast Zone

Toni Wiaderski provided a Northeast Zone update. Toni said he did a couple of presentations at nearby schools. Wiaderski said he was glad that Terry was able to attend their meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting for the day. Stierlin/Life. Approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Minutes of the Annual Board Meeting
Tampa, FL
November 3, 2021

Members present: John Hundrup, Karen Clifton, Frank Meder, Joyce, Stierlin, Ronnie Shumaker, Bob Mckenna, Shannon Demler, Gary Heindel, Terry Finnerty, Toni Wiaderski, Bud Williams, Jeff Life, Deone Roberts.

Guests present: Doug Burnett, Steve Lawler, Jim Greelis

President Hundrup called the meeting to order 8:10a.m.

2022 Convention

Finnerty provided a 2022 convention update. He stated that information will be released after completion of the current convention. He pointed out that an ad and handler list appear in the yearbook. The plan is to fly birds on a young bird schedule. They will download Benzing Live training mode so they can list inventory. The convention committee plans to communicate with breeders by using postcards.

Terry said the youth race will be on the short end, maybe 60-80 birds on a 200 or less distance. He added that Siegels and Foys may come to set up booths and that Lizzie Mae will provide the feed.

He said that they will take guests to the casino, and malls and they will have a magician one night for entertainment. They will be pushing the auction. Finnerty will handle board birds. There will be sections, along with overall wins for more recognition benefit.

Ronnie Shumaker said he will make a run with birds from the Dixie area to enter in the AU convention in Cleveland. He noted that will save on shipping and he will begin coordinating with members in his zone in April. This will overcome some cost and shipping transit delays.

Finnerty said that the group will have a fall auction to kick it off. It will be through iPigeon and will be U.S. pigeons.

The board agreed it would be good to be able to engage more guests/spouses while at the convention. Terry then suggested to the board that the convention host might offer a powder puff race for wives of fanciers. He said he would talk to the convention committee. Terry asked several board members and other meeting

attendees if they would be interested in submitting race entry and birds. Several said they would support the powder puff race. Finnerty will follow up with the convention chairman.

Future Conventions

Bob McKenna reported that there are no new applications for conventions after 2022. We need to figure out how to stimulate new applications. The group brainstormed about potential locations: Nashville; Washington, D.C.

Member guest, Steve Lawler, pointed out that since the AU can no longer run the race, the convention should be able to keep the birds.

Award Committee

Awards Chairman, Bob McKenna, reported on the Award Committee activity. Bob commented on the delay in getting awards out. In addition to programming issues earlier, there were numerous certificates that had been printed and mailed to President Hundrup for signature. They were ruined in the mail by moisture and had to be regenerated and start the process all over again.

Karen has been working on the certificates, plaques, letters and website updates and will continue to do so until caught up.

EWINSPEED®/NDB/Office Admin Database

Stierlin passed out a handout with information. Joyce noted that the programmer spent time on the following:

- Junior real-time system
- Office online roster process
- Distance factor option for local Champ Loft/Bird points
- Various processing optimizations to speed response time
- Loft address box to record loft location different from home address
- Edit to prevent duplicate race header when another org releases at the same station/date/time and not part of a higher level org such as combine.

Joyce said the average number of users doubled in 6 months and that the calls she is receiving has more than doubled in 6 months. She noted that uploads per month has increased 30% in 6 months and the total help calls increased 40% in 6 months. Stierlin said we now have 445 organizations who utilize EWINSPEED®.

Stierlin also listed all the organizations that use EWINSPEED®.

She added that automating Registered Champion and Elite Registered Champion awards has been added to the wish list, and that Long Distance and All Distance still would need to be automated.

Hundrup read the requirements for an open. This information will be posted to the AU website:

Open Race Requirements For Using EWINSPEED®

All Open races require AU board approval and needs to have the organizer of the race to submit a written request with information about the race at least 2 months prior to the race asking for approval.

All AU race rules need to be followed.

Only AU chartered organizations and AU members are allowed to enter the race.

All organizations must use a single central location used for sunrise/sunset times that is defined by the Open race secretary.

All organizations must use a single time zone defined by the Open race secretary.

If any organization is found to be in violation of any of the AU race rules, their results will be removed from the Open results and the NDB.

Motion was made to approve the changes made and to make the adjustments to the existing rule 5.05. Finnerty/Heindel. Approved.

Discussion:

Page 2, 2nd paragraph, Hundrup objects to requirement to go up even in the face of potential bad conditions. He would make it not required, but not refundable.

Shumaker suggests tabling it and perhaps make it an email vote later and noted it does go against the rules.

Stierlin also added that the organization must be AU chartered or EWINSPEED® can't handle it. Hundrup confirmed that will be possible. The matter was tabled.

Review of New Board Action Requests

PAC MTN – 60 Tri-City Combine is exempt from concourse membership in ewinspeed. Withdrawn.

PLAINS – 050 Amend Article VII of the U Constitution & BY-Laws to avoid spending time and resources on referendum votes until the BAR process has been fully utilized. Died for lack of motion.

LAKES –032 Remove all special races from being counted on a national level for awards. There was discussion about a variety of races and their labels. Bottom line is the local specials should not be uploaded to EWINSPEED®. The BAR was withdrawn.

The board entered executive session.

After executive session, motion was made to accept the budget as proposed. Life/Heindel. Approved.

There was a motion to adjourn. Heindel/Finnerty. The meeting was adjourned 3:30 p.m.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Minutes of the Annual General Membership Meeting
Tampa, FL
November 6, 2021

The meeting commenced 9:00 a.m. with a welcome by Clifton, flag salute and moment of silence. Clifton introduced AU board members.

President Hundrup addressed the meeting with a thank you to the Greater Tampa Bay for a great convention. He acknowledged board members and their contributions, including the youth program for race results, fielding questions on EWINSPEED® for one loft races.

Executive Vice President and Awards Chairman, Bob McKenna, updated members regarding getting slowly caught up on distributing awards after several times being stopped to deal with programming concerns. Bob indicated that the elite award is on the wish list for automated awards through the national database.

Vice President, Joyce Stierlin, has worked with the AU programmer for a number of years. She explained that over the last year or so she has worked with the programmer to automate the office database, the new youth application and dealing with guest members in the database. Joyce continues to offer tech support to assist members with EWINSPEED ® and she receives approximately 400 help calls per year.

AU lobbyist, Greg Smith, presented to the membership. He reminded members that we are up against forces such as animal rights groups, United States Postal Service (USPS), and Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Smith told members that he submitted comments to the federal register to request that fanciers be exempt from those owners of birds that will be regulated by the USDA and we are waiting on them to present their proposed regulation. Consequences of AWA activity may affect airline and USPS cooperation.

Smith has worked with great allies in D.C., such as Dr. Frank Blazich at the Smithsonian. He advised the reconditioning of the preserved military homing pigeon is estimated at approximately \$5000 - \$10,000 per bird. There are perhaps 4-5 birds at the Smithsonian. Smith suggested a GoFundMe account may be helpful in raising funds for their restoration.

Member comments:

Ed Minvielle shared that the AWA affects chicks too. Perhaps we could focus on that to prevent problems for pigeons.

Smith responded that the USDA does not want to regulate, but must comply with regulations put before them.

There was discussion of shipping costs. Minvielle said we need to educate the membership about proper shipping. Smith said he would research law and perhaps that will help the post office clerk understand. Gary Beall shared that birds are delivered to a section center and members may have to go there themselves to pick them up, for the birds' wellbeing. Concern was expressed about submitting too many claims if the birds do not arrive within 3 to 4 business days. It was also noted that the action could jeopardize our ability to ship the birds at all. There was also input that one post office clerk said to submit every time there is a problem.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Steve Lawler/Charles Oshaben.

Approved.