

**American Racing Pigeon Union
Annual Board Meeting
Cleveland, OH
October 19, 2022**

The meeting was called to order 8:00 am by President Hundrup. In attendance were Ronnie Shumaker, Gary Heindel, Toni Wiaderski, Terry Finnerty, Bud Williams, Karen Clifton, John Hundrup, Bob McKenna, Joyce Stierlin, Deone Roberts.

Guest: Doug Burnett

After the welcome, introduction of guests and the flag salute, President Hundrup led the board in a moment of silence in remembrance of those who have passed.

There were no public/non-board member comments.

The minutes of the 2022 mid-year board meeting minutes as posted on the website were approved. Stierlin/Heindel.

President's Update

President, John Hundrup, updated the board stating it has been fairly quiet for the most part and we have not had too many problems. The constitution and bylaws will be discussed later in the appropriate section, in the absence of Shannon Demler, who had resigned earlier.

Board members and the office staff are currently working on the national database to correct address and membership classification errors. The NDB programmer has had more tasks since errors were found in various data. He has put in more time than expected. The programmer's (Craig) contract was updated and finalized. The fee went to \$2000/month, which takes care of all expense: time, server, EWINSPEED® and junior real time application.

Craig's contract was updated and finalized. The new contract will be reviewed mid-year in the next year. Craig had not anticipated as much time as is used to handle intermittent items. He will also add enhancement updates. Add-on's to EWINSPEED® have added time to his programming efforts on our behalf.

Executive Vice President Update

Robert McKenna shared that he has been fielding phone calls. He received a call from a member that received an email, which was part of a scam, not sent or solicited by the AU. The scam email was requesting information from members to maintain their membership. However, the information requested was not information the AU would ask for. The AU issued an alert to members. Executive Vice President, McKenna, explained to the caller that it was a scam and asked him to disregard. The caller had

said he would contact his lawyers. Bob was able to calm him down assuring him the AU did not or would not request that information.

McKenna fields EWINSPEED® and National Database questions regularly. Vice President, Joyce Stierlin, explained that the awards processor was having an issue but that the error was corrected.

Vice President Update

Joyce Stierlin is still working on EWINSPEED® issues and membership classification. Classification is confusing to members entering data. Joyce said she would report further on EWINSPEED® issues later in the meeting.

Initial Budget Review

Karen Clifton stated that nothing major has changed. It is expected that legal expenses will go up. However, fortunately membership and band sales have increased so revenue is up as well.

Bud Williams asked if sizing of bands could be addressed. He said he has had a couple of calls from members saying the bands are too small. Clifton said she has also fielded more calls recently so she will need to investigate. McKenna commented he has compared size of bands and they do vary. Karen was asked to check with the manufacturer to see what options are available if we widen the bands to 9 mm.

Toni Wiaderski, NE Zone Director, asked why the AU did not assist him monetarily. He was not reimbursed for his Northeast Zone Meeting almost two years ago.

President Hundrup addressed the question stating that the local club(s) host a zone meeting. John reminded Toni that he is a zone director and that the zone directors present at zone meetings. Toni said he could not answer questions about EWINSPEED®. John also reminded Toni that he was asking for someone that was not on the Speakers' Bureau and was out of his zone, which would cost AU members more money. The AU board of directors approved the policy (AU910) of utilizing the zone director for these meetings to help minimize cost.

It was also noted that the Rhode Island club offered their meeting place for the zone meeting and that Bob McKenna being only 30 minutes away would have been a knowledgeable and available speaker to assist members with EWINSPEED®.

Wiaderski repeated that he needs someone to explain new programs and that he does not know the information so instead of using the closest board member, he asked Terry Finnerty to attend the zone meeting.

Joyce Stierlin said she has been helping members through speaker phone or ZOOM or Skype meetings.

Finnerty spoke about his presentation at the Northeast Zone Meeting. He shared that he clarified how EWINSPEED® works. He said the AU should have an EWINSPEED® speaker to help people understand. There is negativity about the product because of the unfamiliarity. Finnerty believes we need to have an EWINSPEED® speaker/presenter.

Shumaker noted that Joyce Stierlin is the person to present and speak regarding EWINSPEED®. He asked Stierlin who was using EWINSPEED® in his zone. Through Stierlin and zone members, Shumaker is able to assist others with the program.

Finnerty shared that zone directors should be educated about the product that they are sharing.

Bud Williams shared that we may have an advantage that we are not taking advantage of by having EWINSPEED® seminars at conventions. He asked why time at this convention was not allocated for an EWINSPEED® presentation. Stierlin said it was mentioned for this year's convention but the convention agenda did not devote time to it.

Stierlin asked about putting the EWINSPEED® session at the end of the business meeting of general membership.

Gary Heindel, Plains Zone Director, asked how many clubs use EWINSPEED®. Stierlin provided that information at the last meeting. It was reshared with Heindel via email.

Finnerty offered that there need to be people in training. Joyce has been addressing that.

Committee Reports

President's Agenda

John noted the on-going items on the agenda:

1. Continue updates and review of Director's manual.
2. No interruptions and show respect of speaker that has the floor.
3. Require Officers & Directors to submit brief articles for quarterly *Updates* and *Yearbook*. *******Only a few articles and updates are being submitted by directors**. John asked that board members step up and submit articles and that the communication between the board and members is important.
4. Read the meeting materials prior to the meetings so that board members are informed and prepared for discussion.

5. Distribution of newsletters. In an effort to minimize printing and mailing expenses, there has been on-going conversation about only distributing quarterly newsletters electronically. It has been determined that the majority of our members still want to receive hard copies of the newsletter. The office will continue to query members and if members indicate they would prefer electronic distribution, those members will receive digital copies.

Several board members indicated that members discard the publications, which is a lot of money thrown out. It is still suggested that electronic publications are promoted.

Williams said it is helpful to have newsletters to hand to beginners. Gary Heindel said taking away the paper copy is taking away one more thing from members and they will criticize.

Ronnie Shumaker said that if there is a budget issue, then discuss options, but if not, we should continue with the hard copy.

Leadership/Retention

Finnerty asked about the contract with Benzing. Clifton said it is to be renewed in January 2023. John Hundrup said it has been four years since the original agreement was entered. He also noted that we are still waiting to hear back regarding the junior TOPPS timer and that Don Chapin says he still needs to get with Stierlin.

National Youth/School Program

Ronnie Shumaker and Bud Williams discussed a school with an FFA teacher joining forces with another school where they released birds. Shumaker commented on the how-to directions for the phone application regarding capturing bands and putting them in the program.

Ronnie also said that an Ohio woman is interested in possibly getting area kids to race from her backyard. He asked about EWINSPEED® having a fee for a new group. They will not be a typical racing group. Ronnie suggested perhaps this be part of a promotion grant for the group.

Shumaker mentioned also that a man in Arizona would like to work with a group of kids. The man does not have access to the club EWINSPEED®.

John Hundrup said fees are waived for this junior program.

Joyce Stierlin said there needs to be a club, and each junior needs to be an AU member.

Shumaker said the junior results are pushed to the top so it is easy to see.

He commented on a show on FFA TV. He would like to see 2 competing groups be covered by the program. Roberts is to get in touch with FFA TODAY and get with producers to see if they would be interested.

Shumaker asked if there would ever be potential for amateur status for those adults who cannot afford clocks. He stated he does not know how to put in an explanation whereby differentiation is made clear that it is the manual phone application.

Hundrup asked if someone would make a motion to waive the charter fee and the EWINSPEED® fee. Finnerty/Williams. Approved.

Right to Race

Clifton said there is nothing new to add. We are still waiting on the Animal Welfare Act status.

Constitution & By-Laws

Hundrup said he considered that a new board would be in place and a new president would appoint a Bylaws Chair.

John shared that there was a club in Florida that had a complicated issue with two competing clubs whereby the clubs would still be intertwined though they are not compatible.

Hundrup suggested remote shipping, which is allowed in the race rules. Also, the club bylaws need to be changed eliminating $\frac{3}{4}$ vote and that should be replaced with $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. The club representative will go back to club with the suggestion but that the club will likely leave the sport because of this issue, which is regrettable.

Competition Standards

In Life's absence, Hundrup reported that there were typical issues that are easily located in race rules to clarify for the members.

Drug Test Committee

Hundrup stated there were no calls.

National Office & Director Updates

National Office Update

Karen handed out graphs reflected membership numbers by zone and overall membership totals. At the current time, there are approximately active 6700 AU members, which is up again from 2021.

Clifton noted that the race rules, which were translated in Spanish and in the 2021 yearbook, will be updated and appear again in Spanish in the 2023 publication. Translated race rules are also posted on our website and the site also has a translator button for other languages.

Karen shared that a club member in Kentucky recently suggested having the diplomas translated to Spanish as well. Bob McKenna said the club is a Cuban club and the consensus was that it would be a good idea.

Joyce Stierlin said it will be a programming issue. It was suggested that Clifton is to get diploma forms to Craig and add it to the enhancements list. The motion was made and approved. McKenna/Williams.

Karen advised members that a junior member, Emme Plackemeier with the Flying Clovers club, will speak at the awards banquet. She will share her what she enjoys about her involvement in pigeons and a bit about the club.

Clifton shared that the board should plan to meet with Greg Smith on Saturday, prior to the general membership meeting, at 7am.

It was decided that no plans would be made for the mid-year meetings in 2023 until a new board is seated.

Finnerty asked if will we have break down of the number of members flying actively versus not flying but belonging to a club. Stierlin said it is on the wish list.

Ronnie Shumaker asked about the spreadsheet that Deone use to send out. The list shared names and contact information for new members within a given zone. Ronnie said this is helpful to him as a zone director so he may reach out to members in his zone. Deone will start sending that out again.

Sport Development

Ronnie Shumaker shared that Jim Jenner agreed on a price to add his video library to the AU website as a benefit to AU members. AU members will have access (at no cost to them) to Jim's videos for one year. We will provide a link and password for members to utilize.

The board agreed this would be of value to members and that the cost is well worth the investment. Ronnie acknowledged Jim for making this possible.

Roberts listed various promotion events that took place after from August through present. As members coordinate projects, the AU/Deone supports them with promotion

materials, advertising and social media exposure. These events are across the country and will be highlighted in the next quarterly publication.

Zone Director Reports

Northwest

Jeff Life was not present. John Hundrup shared that Life holds a zone meeting each year in Gresham, Oregon and that zone meeting has turned out to be the best social gathering for the area clubs.

Pacific/Mountain

Joyce Stierlin offered that Frank Meder's health has deteriorated and he won't be back at the board meetings.

Reporting for Frank, Joyce Stierlin said that the Bakersfield club will be handling the California State Racing Pigeon Organization convention this year.

Southwest

Bud Williams shared that he conducted two zone meetings in Texas earlier in the year. They were held in Beeville (with about 40 members in attendance) and Victoria with about 20 members. He said that both groups seemed appreciative for the opportunity to learn about AU projects and programs. Both groups had a few new members in attendance.

Plains

Gary Heindel reported 2022 has been the quietest ever. He had only a few election calls.

Gary said the Midwest Classic will be held again next year. He told the board that the group has not had meeting in seven years, which is a problem but the race goes off like clockwork.

Heindel said that the Greater Chicago Combine was to have handled the Midwest convention and race, but Gary said he could not get information from them. Heindel questions if a Midwest convention is needed anymore or if the race is viable. He said the Midwest Classic old bird race runs smoothly and the race is figured using EWINSPEED® with results done within a week and everyone is happy with it as it is. Gary reported that next year the convention and race will be run in conjunction.

Southeast

Ronnie Shumaker said he is still liberating for the concourse. He has been working a lot with the metro club. He commented that his zone membership is spread out. Shumaker said he has recently visited with Bob Dale who started a new club in the Southeast Zone.

Ronnie reported that the Dixie Southern race is going to a one-loft version, and is being hosted this year by the Peach Classic. Shumaker said that the group seems satisfied with it.

Shumaker advised the board that Karen McMurtry has been one of the key contacts for the 2024 AU convention. She is likely not able to handle birds for the convention because of developments in loft location. The point person may change from McMurtry. Ronnie said the group seems eager to host a nice convention.

Northeast

Toni Wiaderski said he usually does presentations at schools, but he has not done them this year. He said he has traveled a lot to pick up found birds.

Lakes

Finnerty said discussion lately in his area has been whether they fly old birds and young birds together. He said the main thing he has been working on is the convention.

Bud Williams said what he has noticed is that if the convention host takes care of the spouses, the conventions are successful.

Gary Heindel said they have an issue with members just wanting to fly birds, but not attend the conventions.

Ronnie Shumaker said the Florida group hosting the 2024 AU convention is planning great entertainment for convention attendees.

Motion to adjourn. Williams/Heindel. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting
Cleveland, OH
October 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President John Hundrup. Guests welcomed were Dave Wilson, Doug Burnett, JC Crowder, Jim & Diane Stevens, Ron Pairan, Sterling Leroy, Jerry Michielli, and Don Chapin.

Conventions (Future) Update

Bob McKenna deferred to Bud Williams regarding the convention in Houston, the first weekend in November (11/1-11/4).

Williams shared that they've had three committee meetings: a handlers meeting December 10 where the basic format was determined. The entry fee will be \$200/bird; 3 for \$500. The split goes east and west and there will be a bonus prize for the breeder who has the best average speed of 2 races. They will auction off the top 30 birds after the race. PIPA is coming in with auction birds from Europe then another auction to offset import fees. Bud said that they have quite an itinerary set up; the women have something to do each day. One man has an art studio. He will take the women over there and maybe auction the paintings off. Williams said he is co-chairman. If there are any questions, Bud asked that members contact him. He added that the convention information is posted on the Texas Center website: txcenter.org, in the left hand column. Bim Crowder will be the handler for the National Youth Race.

Bud said there will be 2 races: Thursday and Friday. They are expecting 1500 birds: 49 are signed up to be handler with 30 birds each, making 1500 birds. He told the board that lofts are on rotation. Additionally, the race is 300 miles – from Waco perhaps towards Lubbock or Amarillo. Williams said he is not in favor of the direction because of 2 one-loft races coming that direction. He will work to have the direction changed to north so as not to entangle with one loft races from the other direction.

Bud shared with the board that Hobby airport is the best to fly into due to proximity of the convention hotel adding that Hobby is Southwest's hub.

Williams said he would like phone numbers of people running the convention in Florida in 2024 so to invite them to attend and hopefully learn. He went to say that they are looking for a sponsor for the convention bags and pens. Bud said he thought perhaps the Florida club hosting the 2024 might. Ronnie Shumaker said he will forward that information to the Florida club.

Bob McKenna reported on the 2024 convention to be held in Florida. Bob said he contacted them and has not heard back. Bob had a meeting with them earlier and they were excited about hosting the event.

Award Committee

The awards chairman, Bob McKenna, said there is nothing new to report. He reminded the board that February 1st is the deadline for uploads. Awards will be generated and the website updated again after that time.

EWINSPEED®/NDB/Office Admin Database

Joyce Stierlin provided summary of the latest activity as she has continued to work with the programmer. Joyce said the programmer fixed the backend issue with adding a band series. She added that a race name can no longer be changed after results are uploaded to the NDB.

Joyce noted that they are still working on the task list (wish list) before further enhancements will be made.

Stierlin went on to say that average statistics are about the same. For 2022, active users in the 1st half of the year were up to 449 and in the 2nd half, to 338. Uploads during the 1st half of the year were 6915 and 2263 uploads were made during the 2nd half of 2022. Total help calls for the 1st half of 2022 were 339; for 2nd half, 376 calls were received.

Joyce said she and the programmer are still working on the office database to clarify terms of family membership. She said many club secretaries did not understand the designation of family and head of household.

Gary Heindel asked if there is a backup plan in case of a catastrophic occurrence with the programmer. Gary noted the programmer works with McKenna on awards as well, monitors the server and updates the programs he uses. Gary asked what would the backup plan be? John Hundrup said he will check on options.

The meeting paused for introduction of a guest entering the meeting. J.C. Crowder introduced himself.

Review of Pending Board Action Requests

LAKES-033

Ron Pairan
(Terry Finnerty)

Make section of the AU Champion Loft more fair to everyone. The current method of selecting Champion Loft is determined using a limited number of races out of all flown. Races flown should be counted to determine Champion Loft. Recommend a flyer must have flown a minimum of 10 races in old birds and 6 in young birds to be eligible. While this method is still not perfect because some will still have an advantage because they will have club/combine/concourse results to choose from and some fly in more than one combine, it will go far to level the playing field.

Finnerty was to discuss further with Ron and report in October 22.

Finnerty questioned if it could be streamlined or add more criteria to it. Is there a way to make it more balanced? Commit to lower number of races in choices. Equalizes opportunity.

Mckenna suggested may take your 5 best.

Race requirements were examined. Ronnie Shumaker offered that he called Pairan and talked about there being some groups more frequently in a week, such as Florida racing 3 times in a week. Ronnie said some clubs may fly 6 races in a series and some may fly 12. The clubs would have an opportunity to pick their best races. He is flexible of choice quantity, but to balance groups to select from. Ronnie suggested perhaps dividing total points by total races. Shumaker didn't know if that is feasible or worthwhile.

Bob McKenna said he understood that Ron wants to fly more races, for example 10 races instead of 5. Shumaker said Pairan is not set on these numbers. He would just like an equitable way to measure.

It was noted that many clubs have had to cut back on number of races simply because of cost.

Ron Pairan arrived and explained that he believed the way the races are done now is not fair. He said that by virtue of the difference in the number of races, it is not equitable to select when the number is not even. Ron added that the bigger clubs have more opportunity. A minimum would need to be set. He suggested using all the races and come up with an average.

Vice President, Joyce Stierlin, asked if an individual flyer be required to race each scheduled race.

Pairan said should be for consideration and that more defined parameters are needed, which is why he was not specific in the Board Action Request (BAR) he submitted.

Ronnie Shumaker asked if there is a way to average in order to equalize opportunity. Is there a way to come up with a national average to know how many races to fly to make a minimum? Ronnie suggested that we may be that we need a category.

Bob Mckenna suggested there could be a birdage category established.

Shumaker said he thinks it's too broad and needs more consideration. He said he thought a committee should be appointed to review and report.

Ron Pairan said he will rewrite the BAR and submit to committee for hashing out.

Shumaker believes this is too broad to reword. He thinks he should get feedback from members to understand what they want.

The BAR is tabled to rewrite and resubmit.

Bob McKenna also suggested adding state champion diplomas.

Motion to add award certificates for best bird each state in NDB. Finnerty/Shumaker. Approved. (These will be printed from home office – scheduled date to print February 2.)

An AU member in attendance at the board meeting, Jim Stevens, offered that something could be printed out by the race secretary.

Another guest attending, J.C. Crowder, said he believes the awards mean more coming from the AU.

Clifton can prepare certificates for each state.

Guest, Sterling Leroy, entered the meeting and introduced himself.

PAC/MTN-062

Bill Curtis
(Frank Meder)

Re-institute the Honor member to recognize members that have spent their lifetime supporting the AU.

Joyce was to discuss with Bill and report in October 2022.

Joyce suggests asking the members to apply for Honor member status. Terms for eligibility are 75 years of age or older and having been an AU member for 50 years. Honor members still pay annual dues of \$30, however, upon submitting an application, will receive a certificate of acknowledgement.

Motion to adopt this policy. Stierlin/McKenna. Approved.

Two new guests came in: Jerry Michielli and Don Chapin.

NW – 194

Jeff Life

EWINSPEED® use the birds' correct speed to determine position on race sheet. All birds clocked in dead time will have the same speed.

Joyce Stierlin to program and evaluate. Will report in October 22 at the AU convention. Joyce Stierlin said this is already taken care of.

Hundrup said that Joanie Christeleit submitted a BAR asking that the election be nullified. This one has already been addressed.

President Hundrup clarified Terry's earlier question regarding notification of receipt of BAR's by the AU. John explained that according to the bylaws, no notification is required until action has been taken on the BAR's. At that time, the zone director contacts the BAR submitter not the national office.

Finnerty again asked if the person submitting should be notified within 2 weeks by letter? It was repeated that the zone director notify members submitting BAR's notifying of status. It was also noted that all members have been notified that the election would be re-run as there have been several updates posted on the AU website.

After break, two new guests came in: Jerry Michielli and Don Chapin.

Review of New Board Action Requests

SE-046

Drew Lesofski
(Ronnie Shumaker)

Shumaker said he has presented the idea of changing dates of dues due dates.

Clifton explained historical deadlines, for example in time to meet band manufacturer deadlines— club rosters by march 31; individuals are fiscal – anniversary.

Joyce Stierlin shared the logistics of the database and dues.

John Hundrup held a poll for standard area deadlines for dues:

Williams – Jan

Finnerty – Jan

Wiaderski – Jan

Heindel – Jan

Shumaker - Jan

Stierlin – staggered

Mckenna – Jan

Hundrup – Mar

Heindel – physically submits and pays by March 31 but dues go Jan 1 – Dec 31

Shumaker – March 31 to March 31. Jan-Dec throws all the schedule off and you lose membership months.

Shumaker moved to table this to have Drew rewrite and resubmit. Shumaker/Williams. Approved.

Shumaker will advise Lesofski.

Final Budget Review/Approval

Williams repeated his request for larger bands. Clifton said that other manufacturer options will be checked as well.

Motion to increase size of band to 9mm. Williams/Finnerty. Approved. Karen advised that the manufacture may charge more and that she would report to the board.

Williams asked if there is a way to eliminate storage facility. Items currently being stored include donations from Elwin Anderson, Frank Greenhall, history travel display crate, archived rosters and pamphlets and printed flyers that there is not room at the office for. Williams said people still believe the museum is part of the AU. Clifton explained that the board was very fond of Elwin Anderson and Frank Greenhall items. Williams said there is no intention to disrespect, but we could donate this and save thousands in expense. Hundrup mentioned we could have a board meeting here and board members could sort through items. Williams thought that would work – perhaps plan a summer meeting there. Hundrup mentioned the new board may want to discuss it.

Finnerty questioned proceeds from the pigeon auction. He also asked if there was a rainy day fund. Karen provided the board with the totals in AU savings accounts (one \$56,000; one \$20,000; one \$18,000). These are in addition to the restricted fund and operating checking. Finnerty asked also about the scholarship fund. John Hundrup said it would be good to hold another auction to maintain the scholarship program.

The first scholarship auction McKenna coordinated raised about \$7500. Bud Williams said if the board gathers birds, they would have the auction at the 2023 convention in Texas. Hundrup said it would be good to have a committee. Finnerty said he can make calls to solicit birds. Bob McKenna can work with iPigeon. Bud Williams said they can hold the auction during the award banquet.

Finnerty commented that the sport promotion auctions need to be continued by the new board.

Guest, Don Chapin, presented information for the youth phone app. The scanner is the size of a cell phone. He said the programming works like the club system. Each flyer has the phone app and uploads birds in their phones. Don said the user would touch the band to proper window in the phone app and the band goes to the website for clocking. Through EWINSPEED®, results can be transferred. Chapin said the scanner would cost about \$35 and that bands are \$2 each. The birds would be caught and then the band scanned in on the phone.

These results do not go into AU awards. These do not go into EWINSPEED®. The format for the DOO file is not compatible.

Chapin said it goes into TOPIGEON.

The board then moved to Executive Session. Upon concluding, Wiaderski/Finnerty motion to adjourn.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual General Membership Meeting
Cleveland, OH
October 21, 2022

Karen Clifton welcomed members in attendance. In the absence of a flag, members stood for a moment of silence out of respect for those that had passed.

Board members were introduced.

President John Hundrup
Executive Vice President Bob McKenna
Vice President Joyce Stierlin
Sport Development Manager Deone Roberts
NW Zone Director Jeff Life was not able to attend
SE Zone Director Ronnie Shumaker needed to leave early
SW Zone Director Bud Williams
Plains Zone Director Gary Heindel
NE Zone Director Toni Wiaderski
Lakes Zone Director Terry Finnerty

President Hundrup requested approval of 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes as posted on the website. Motion made. June Romero/Al Christeleit. Approved.

In the President's Message, Hundrup stated it is a trying time with the election activity going on. Our lobbyist, Greg Smith, is standing in for bylaws chairman who resigned, to facilitate process of conducting another election.

AU lobbyist, Greg Smith, was introduced and shared that this is the 19th convention he has attended. He was originally hired as a result of a shipping issue, PETA actions, and now the election. The first 15 years were uneventful, but that changed with the shipping challenges.

During the 100th year celebration period, PETA filed for criminal charges and the district attorney was required to follow through or himself be charged.

Now, in the election issue, AU bylaws dictating the responsibility to fall to the legal representative. This will result in an opportunity to conduct a more modern method of running a re-election. Smith has conducted many ZOOM meetings to discuss what would be needed.

There has been a flurry of activity to ensure the AU membership database is accurate for transfer to the mailing house.

A new election will take place. Mailing will be by first class. An outside voting service will be used, which adds to the cost. It is not known yet if it will be postage paid return, QR code to differentiate – much depends on methods used by the mailing house. The goal is to have the election completed for January. The member advisory groups have been most helpful in understanding how to proceed.

John Nelson asked if it is possible to the ballots to be dual language: front/back, Spanish and English. That will add to cost.

The bylaws will need to be updated since the last update in approximately 1994.

The estimated cost of re-running the election will be higher because of what we've discussed here will be in the high teens. We can't jump immediately to an on-line method because of resistance from those who are not using internet.

Each ballot will be numbered.

Hundrup introduced Bud Williams to comment on the 2023 convention in Texas. Bud shared that the convention information is posted at txcenter.org. Bud added that there will be 2 races. Entry is 3 birds \$500 with the third bird on rotation. The bonus for being in both races is that the average speed Best Breeder will be awarded \$5000. The race will be 300 miles; both sections to the same location. There is space for 1500 birds in each race.

Williams also reminded members that the Hobby Airport is the preferred airport.

Bob McKenna shared that the 2024 convention will be in Orlando.

Mike Netzky asked about the bonding of conventions. Hundrup said it had been an issue in the past, but now the race is not associated with the AU and it is up to the hosting entity. Netzky asked if bonding is a good idea. Hundrup said it is not required, but it would be good.

Joe Rosticil shared that they bonded the current convention through an insurance agent. He recommends going to a bonding agent.

Motion to adjourn. John Nelson/Mike Netzky. Approved.