

AU Board Meeting (Zoom)
Sunday, March 26, 2023 – 3:00 p.m. CST
Officer Installation

Attendees: John Hundrup, Robert McKenna, Joyce Stierlin, Jeff Life, Gary Heindel, Ronnie Shumaker, Karen Clifton, Greg Smith, CL Gage, Al Christeleit

Incoming President, Robert McKenna, opened the meeting and thanked all for their time on a Sunday. He noted that John will be serving as President Ex-Officio and would conduct the individual swearing in of newly elected board members. He indicated he was pleased that more were involved in the 2022 election and glad that it has come to a conclusion.

AU Legal Advisor, Greg Smith congratulated all and encouraged the board to share new ideas, move forward and work together. Greg said the AU stands for that which is family oriented and that he hoped the AU board would continue to embrace that symbolism.

John reported the new directors: Robert McKenna, President; Al Christeleit, Executive Vice President, Robbie Whaley, Vice President (did not attend the meeting); Joyce Stierlin, Pacific Mountain Zone; Dave Wilson, Lakes Zone (did not attend the meeting); CL Gage, Southwest Zone.

Hundrup then swore in those in attendance. He then thanked the board for the support he has received serving on the board for ten years. John turned the meeting over to President, Robert McKenna.

President McKenna will swear Dave Wilson and Robbie Whaley in at a later time.

McKenna shared with the board that he wanted to move forward with making committee chair appointments and is looking forward to mid-year board meetings to be held in July in Salt Lake City. Meeting dates are July 8 and 9, 2023, and will take place at the Midvale Staybridge. Karen added that travel should be planned for July 7 and return travel on July 10. She advised the new board members that they should submit travel-related receipts for reimbursement along with the IRS daily per diem after the meetings.

Al said he wanted to see the board reconvene via zoom before July to proceed with committee work and ultimately providing updates to the full board. McKenna said he is open to more frequent meetings but has concern about meeting via zoom as some issues are sensitive and handled in executive session. Discussions from those sessions are to be held confidentially. Robert said he would look at dates for a May meeting and let the board know.

Robert then said he wanted to see a new committee formed and referred to it as the Diversity Committee. He views the goal of the committee as identifying different ethnicities involved in the pigeon sport in order to better serve them. Robert said that we have the race rules in Spanish, as well as a number of EWINSPEED® tutorials.

AI noted there is an increasing Hispanic population in his area and agreed it made sense to form such a committee. He said he would like to serve on that committee. Discussion ensued. potentially the committee would identify members to assist with this outreach. Southeast Zone Director, Ronnie Shumaker, suggested that each of the seven zone directors could assist and identify key members in their zones to serve on the committee.

President McKenna went on to ask if AI Christeleit would serve as the Infractions Committee Chair. Robert explained that as complaints are received at the national office, a copy is sent to the committee chair. The chair reviews to determine (in accordance with the policy found at <https://pigeon.org/pages/pdf/infractioncomplaintform.pdf>) if appropriate to proceed to investigation. The chair then appoints an investigator and advises the office so a case number may be assigned. The investigator is in contact with parties involved, summarizes findings and then makes a recommendation to the board. The board reviews the recommendations at the subsequent board meeting and votes to take action. The committee chair then notifies involved parties of the final outcome.

(Note: There are currently three investigators on the committee, Don Moore, Jim Greelis, Steve Pronai.)

Committee chair is responsible for identifying qualified individuals with appropriate background/experience to conduct formal impartial investigations and interviews and summarize same for the board.

Robert announced that Gary Heindel has agreed to chair the Awards Committee. Gary will be responsible for working with the programmer as needed and review and approve national upload results. Upon completion of review, Gary will notify the office so that the appropriate certificates and plaques may be prepared for members.

McKenna said that Steve Lawler has agreed to serve as the Constitution & By-laws Chair.

President McKenna asked if CL Gage will chair the Convention Committee. McKenna explained that the chair is responsible for seeking convention hosts and working with convention hosts to make sure they have the resources needed to execute a good event, provide ideas for guest activities, entertainment, promote attendance, etc.

The chair will actively work with the 2023 Houston convention host and offer assistance as needed. The chair would do same with the 2024 host, North FL Racing Pigeon

Combine, and the 2025 host, Greater Chicago Combine. The open conventions are 2026 and beyond.

McKenna complimented Gage and his wife for their work hosting Texas Center conventions. Gage agreed to serve as committee chair.

President McKenna then said he would like Robbie Whaley to serve on the Drug Test Committee with John Hundrup and chair a new committee (Avian Influenza). McKenna asked Gary Heindel and Karen to be part of that committee as well.

McKenna asked Karen to provide him with a list of email addresses for the newly elected board members. He will then send an email asking for a vote to approve the referenced committee chairs.

Al said he questioned John Hundrup remaining on the board in the capacity of President Ex-Officio because John had previously said he would not continue. John said it was simply a change of mind and that he had advised the full board while still serving as President in a prior meeting.

It was decided that a date in early/mid-May would be established for the board to meet via zoom. McKenna will advise.

Hundrup/Christeleit to adjourn. Unanimous.