

**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.**  
**Annual Board Meeting**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**October 20, 2020**

President John Hundrup called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. After the flag salute and moment of silence remembering those who have passed, the meeting commenced.

In attendance were Frank Meder, Joyce Stierlin, Terry Finnerty, Toni Wiaderski, Ronnie Shumaker, Bob McKenna, Bud Williams, Shannon Demler, Jeff Life, Karen Clifton, John Hundrup, and Deone Roberts. Absent: Gary Heindel.

One guest was present: Chuck Morris

There were no public comments.

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

President Hundrup conducted the swearing in of new officers. The following took the oath of office: Jeff Life, NW Zone Director; Toni Wiaderski, NE Zone Director; Ronnie Shumaker, Southeast Zone Director.

President's Report (Hundrup)

John Hundrup reported that the agenda was light this meeting. He mentioned a couple recent events: Karen Clifton attended the Midwest Convention and Terry Finnerty attended the Flying Clovers One Loft Race. President Hundrup also pointed out efforts carried out on behalf of the AU: Joyce Stierlin for work on the National Database and EWINSPEED®; Jeff Life for work on the Race Rules; Shannon Demler for work on the Bylaws; Bob McKenna for work on the Awards and Infractions; and office staff for day to day operations despite continuing setbacks from COVID and power outages.

John mentioned the Animal Welfare Act issue currently at hand. He said Clifton will provide information later in the meeting.

Executive Vice President Update (McKenna)

Bob McKenna listed a few items brought to his attention:

A member in Michigan complained because the AU was not having a General Membership Meeting that is normally conducted during annual conventions. The meeting was cancelled because the club hosting and coordinating the race and

convention activities opted to cancel all social aspects of the convention. The member suggested to Bob that the AU should have a “how to” section on the AU website for people who need more specific information about care and handling of birds. The board discussed that there is “how to” information on our site and on the blog. Since the member wasn’t aware, it was agreed the office would make it more visible and add to it as appropriate.

Terry Finnerty suggested a program where mentors monitor beginners to help.

Bob McKenna continued with his report. There were issues with the National Database with some skipping of results, perhaps from running OB and YB at the same time. Craig (programmer) corrected the issue.

We received a complaint that we should have a 10 bird limit. Finnerty commented that it is a club issue. Board members agreed.

Bud Williams said he would like to see a limit for maybe A and B races. He believes that would eliminate much of the arguments.

Joyce Stierlin says that it would become national control over races and believes we would be hurting more than helping.

Ronnie Shumaker expressed wonder at why someone would want to list fewer birds.

All agreed that the pigeon’s individual success is more important than numbers. Finnerty commented that fewer members means they want more released. He said he believes it again relates to promotion and retention.

Williams said it pertains to retention: we will not maintain these smaller lofts if they continue to attempt competition to higher number lofts.

Stierlin wondered if clubs could just have an A and B race? Williams said they have tried that. They can’t get the rule passed at the local level. Williams says he knows a few members that have birds but don’t fly anymore because they don’t want to deal with numbers.

Toni Wiaderski said in his area it seems to be location. The combine sets a limit on the birds. 15-25 birds is good. Some have less and don’t care about the limit in Old Birds and he thinks Young Bird is different.

McKenna continued and said he was asked by a member that if he won an Ace Award, will the AU come drug test his pigeon.

Bob said he was contacted by a member in the Dallas club regarding awards. Clifton said that typically awards go out at the same time as the bands, which is the end of December. McKenna said most awards issues have been corrected and that we would have to wait to generate awards until February 1, 2021, since the NDB remains open for uploads for both seasons until February 1 each year.

It was mentioned that the 2021 Tampa convention will be near the airport.

#### Vice President Update (Stierlin)

Joyce Stierlin said her focus remains on EWINSPEED® and that she will report on the status of the project during the meetings tomorrow.

#### Initial Budget Review (Clifton)

Karen distributed August financial statements and said it appears we are on track with the 2020 proposed budget. Because of the current situation travel expense is much lower, however, it is anticipated with the AWA and other legal matters, that expenses for legal assistance will increase. The board was asked to review and final discussion and approval would take place later in the meetings.

### **Committee Reports**

#### President's Agenda (Hundrup)

Hundrup went through the list of items to accomplish and all that have been completed.

#### Leadership/Retention (Finnerty/Life/Roberts)

Regarding the promotion auction, Terry Finnerty said overall the project has been well received and that he has received commitment for approximately 40 birds so far.

Finnerty went on to say that he would like to complete an interview with Joyce Stierlin covering the top 10 questions regarding EWINSPEED®.

Terry reported that there is an app being developed for the phone that records the countermark so that junior members may use a cell phone and not incur the expense of an electronic timing system.

Finnerty repeated that the AU should support one loft races so that they might support the AU. Finnerty had a conversation with Joe Nemelka about how to get results for a one loft race. Terry went on to say that some guys can't fly regular

club races because of restrictive ordinances. Terry believes the AU should recognize one loft races by writing about them in our yearbook.

Terry also said that to assist with recruitment and retention, we should have more promotional materials translated to different languages and said he was glad to learn that we offer members the ability to translate on the AU website.

Bud Williams commented that he would like to see us translate more of our materials for other ethnic groups.

#### National Youth/School Coordinator (Williams)

Bud said though the programmer has nearly completed the project, it will still need to be tested. He said we need to find small youth groups to test and get them to use it.

Joyce Stierlin said the timing is typically for young birds and that Beta testing could begin as early as next month.

#### Right to Race (Clifton)

Karen updated the board on the pending Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Karen advised that she and Greg (AU lobbyist) participated in the three listening sessions hosted by the USDA. The USDA requested input from various bird hobbyists to determine which groups should be regulated or exempt and if regulated, what criterion should be used.

Greg will be posting comments on our behalf as he did in 2004 and will argue that AU members should not be regulated as the organization has many self-regulatory programs in place that most members utilize. The USDA will subsequently present proposed regulations offering one more opportunity to amend and then will present regulations as required by the DC District Court. The process will likely take up to a year or two.

#### Constitution & By-Laws (Demler)

Shannon reported that an organization's Bylaws & Constitution provides for handling most issues at the local level. He added that it is easy to spend the \$50 to file a complaint with the AU and then have travel costs on top of it. Shannon said quite often if kept to the club level, they tend to be inactive and not want to deal with an issue or conflict and the problems are resolved.

Demler said that he has found telling members there is no room for debate if regulations are already set within the organization By-Laws eliminates a lot of friction.

Shannon concluded advising that things have been relatively quiet with regard to By-Laws issues.

### Competition Standards (Life)

Jeff stated that the COVID situation and quarantines in California has resulted in many questions from members. Many seek AU input as to whether or not they should proceed with races. Jeff advises all should heed local and state restrictions.

Jeff said that a lot of calls he receives pertain to shipping limits. Life explains to callers that limits should be changed at the club and that if it is not in writing, recorded by the club, it is not a rule.

### Drug Test Committee (Hundrup)

John Hundrup stated that the existing list is vague and the AU continues to receive requests for a more in depth drug policy. John said he has been working with John Stephen who belongs to the Gulfcoast Homing Club (GHC) who is very knowledgeable. John will continue to work Mr. Stephen to compile a meaningful list of banned substances, forms for testing, etc.

GHC uses the fecal sample for testing because other methods don't yield enough information. John said that an updated policy on banned substances and list will be published on the AU website.

Williams made a motion to publish information on the AU website before Old Bird season starts. Hundrup believes it will be ready fairly quickly. He will take an email vote to confirm we're ready to implement. It will be in sync with GHC: as theirs changes, ours will change.

## **National Office & Director Updates**

### National Office (Clifton)

Karen reported membership is down slightly, but several clubs have returned to the AU and memberships and rosters are still coming as members are starting racing again. Many paused or cancelled the Old Bird season.

Karen indicated that the new employee that replaced the former office assistant is working out very well and is very enthusiastic and pleasant when dealing with members.

Reporting on the Speakers' Bureau and Judges' Panel, Karen said there has been only one request this year for a speaker. We also had a member that called the office to ask about virtual meetings with speakers. The board discussed that participants and the speakers would all need to have access to the appropriate

equipment and internet. It was agreed that if speakers are amenable to virtual seminars and there is an interest, that would be fine. There would be no reimbursement as no travel would be involved.

Clifton has spent a good amount of time on the AWA situation (discussed earlier) and that the office is preparing for receipt, inventory and distribution of bands, as well as year-end distribution of the club secretary packets, which will completely occupy November and December.

In closing, it was determined that travel to Salt Lake City for mid-year meetings would occur on June 21. Meeting dates would be June 22 and June 23 and return travel on June 24.

#### Sport Development (Roberts)

Deone reported that COVID restrictions regarding gatherings and closures paused much of the promotion activity, but there were a few individuals that managed to do promotion during this time.

Roberts said AU Member, Randall Carney, gave a presentation to a an Omaha Scout troop. With the COVID19, the Scouts are unable to do normal Scouting activities so he asked Randall to talk to the group about pigeon racing. After the presentation, Randall suggested that at one of their flag ceremonies he could release his white birds. They thought it was a great idea and will suggest it to the district leadership.

Deone added that in Missouri, AU member, Charlie Klipsch, got the attention of public radio and the station did a great interview that was playable on the Internet, along with a print copy. She said it was an excellent promotion presentation featuring the club. Because of the Internet links, it was also easy to share the information on social media.

In Michigan, the Flying Clovers held their national youth race and that Terry assisted them on race day. Another AU member, Mike Netzkey, heads up the 4-H based group. Deone said he has been extremely successful in getting the information published by all the available media in the area.

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

##### Northwest (Life)

Jeff said the zone was pretty quiet, except for the usual characters. There was an issue with an upload wherein the club was not recognized when it was done on the combine level.

### Pacific/Mountain (Meder)

Frank explained a situation with a member confronting ordinance issues. A neighbor was pressing the issue. Meder and the AU member met with the city four times. Ultimately, the city agreed for a temporary stay to allow the member to fly through the old bird season.

Frank added that when quarantines and COVID became prevalent, the season postponed because of restrictions on gatherings. The city then fined the member \$500. His argument was that he was not able to fly old birds. City officials disregarded and repeated billing him at an increased amount each time.

The member had a lawyer that acted on his behalf and the lawyer presented a state or county declaration that states homing pigeons are exempt from ordinances and, therefore, could not be banned. The city officials then voided the fines and allowed the member to finish old birds since the club has resumed the season.

### Southwest (Williams)

It has been quiet in Texas. The summer Texas meeting was canceled. The Texas Center election could not be held.

Regarding the stray bird issue, Williams stated we need to establish a policy to reinforce members making proper attempt to retrieve found birds. He suggested the clubs be encouraged to take action if club members don't respond to finders and retrieve birds.

The board agreed to add the verbiage below to the end of AU Policy 320 and to the AU Code of Ethics:

“To preserve a favorable image of the hobby of racing pigeons, the AU encourages AU organizations to establish assessment and/or disciplinary action for those members that fail to retrieve found pigeons or have another fancier retrieve a found pigeon. This includes communicating with finders in a timely manner.”

Williams/Finnerty Motion was made to accept the draft of the policy. Unanimous.

### Lakes (Finnerty)

Terry said the Lakes Zone has been quiet and was happy to report that a new club within the zone joined the AU.

Finnerty said he attended the Flying Clovers' National Youth Race and helped as he could.

### Southeast (Shumaker)

Ronnie Shumaker stated that for him the joy is of the pigeons, not necessarily the racing. He discussed having shared the hobby with possibly 450 students or more through his school projects over the years. Ronnie said that to his knowledge, one are racing today, but in the future they will have a favorable opinion and may join again.

Shumaker said he had recently retired and was excited to be part of the board and looks forward to helping make a difference and get acquainted with the members in the Southeast Zone.

President Hundrup asked board members to introduce themselves and give a little background, for Shumaker's benefit.

### Northeast (Wiaderski)

Toni Wiaderski explained he recently held a high school presentation to share pigeons with local students.

He said that IF officers will soon be changing. Bob McKenna said he anticipates Kevin Williams from Boston becoming President and Susan would become the band contact for the IF.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Williams/Wiaderski. Approved.



**Annual Board Meeting  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
October 21, 2020**

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

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

No guests present.

WinSpeed©/EWINSPEED®/NDB/Admin Database (Stierlin/Hundrup)

The meeting proceeded with the EWINSPEED® report from Stierlin. Stierlin shared a report showing statistics as shown below:

Average Statistics

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Active Users per month</b>	<b>Activity per month</b>	<b>Uploads per month</b>	<b>Total Help Calls</b>
<b>Jan-Jun 2019</b>				<b>276</b>
<b>Jul-Dec 2019</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>1776</b>	<b>701</b>
<b>Jan-Jun 2020</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Jul-Oct 2020</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>122,875</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>375</b>

Number of organizations using Winspeed©:

1-15-2019 247 (old PC WinSpeed©)  
 6-12-2020 308 (new EWINSPEED®)  
 10-6-2020 350 (new EWINSPEED®)

Organizations using EWINSPEED® (by Zone):

ZONE 1 NORTHWEST 52 ORGS  
 ZONE 2 PACIFIC MTN 54 ORGS  
 ZONE 3 SOUTHWEST 64 ORGS  
 ZONE 4 PLAINS 71 ORGS  
 ZONE 5 LAKES 56 ORGS  
 ZONE 6 NORTHEAST 14 ORGS  
 ZONE 8 SOUTHEAST 39 ORGS

Stierlin provided a list of the organizations by state within each zone. She reminded the board that as computers become obsolete, those members still using old WinSpeed©, would need to convert to the new EWINSPEED®. The old program is no longer supported.

Ronnie Shumaker believes more emphasis on establishment of EWINSPEED® needs to be shared with members. He believes there are likely quite a few members that are not aware of that change.

It was pointed out that this information has been shared in AU publications for the past couple of years.

Bud Williams said he agreed and it should be mentioned in every publication we send out.

Shumaker shared that zone directors could compare the membership spreadsheet with the list of those using EWINSPEED® and call the ones that are not using the new program. He added that the zone directors need to let members in their zone know they will not get their results if they don't switch to EWINSPEED®.

Bob McKenna and Frank Meder both agreed that members are comfortable with what they have been using and have ignored updates.

Terry Finnerty suggested putting an article in the Digest. Joyce Stierlin said she will prepare an article.

### **Review of New Board Action Requests**

#### **PAC-059**

Add option to EWINSPEED® (Local Reports), not NDB to use old PC WinSpeed© points calculation (with distance included as a factor). Finnerty/Williams. Approved.

#### **SW-044**

At one time in the NDB, there was capability to search for birds. The search would produce who was flying the bird, show number, organization, year and the club. Bud Williams suggested that the programmer has the old module that can be re-utilized.

Motion was made to add the same type of band search ability we had in the original national database to EWINSPEED®. Finnerty/McKenna. Approved.

SW-045

This is a proposal to make changes to the bird result page to include bird speed and also to use acronyms for the organization names instead of the full organization name.

Joyce Stierlin said we do not have abbreviations captured anymore. Craig can work on a list and it should be easy to do. Bud Williams said he would like to see a composite of birds rather than an individual bird so he could view the entire loft. At one time, the field would populate with all the birds rather than an individual bird.

Motion was made to make changes to the bird result page to include the bird's speed and to use acronyms for the organizations' name instead of the full name (to avoid the extra step of going back to the proper race to view the speed).  
Stierlin/Finnerty. Approved.

Finnerty pointed out it is another selling point for EWINSPEED®.

Board entered Executive Session. Upon concluding the session, motion was made to accept final budget recommendations. Williams/Finnerty. Unanimous.

Motion made to accept membership recommendation. Williams/Finnerty. Unanimous.

Williams/Finnerty. Motion to adjourn. Unanimous

Good of the Order

Review of Member Award Nominations

Stierlin/Williams. Motion to adjourn. Unanimous.

