

**2009 Annual AU Board Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2009, Seekonk, MA**

**Attendees:** Karen Clifton, Steve Lawler, Herb Cartmell, Jim Greelis, Robert Tomlinson, Freddie Rivera, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, John McSweeney, Bill Barger, Brad Hoggan, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, Bill Desmarais, and Mike Tobin.

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Steve Lawler**

President Lawler opened the meeting at 8:13 a.m. with a flag salute and a moment of silence, followed by opening remarks reviewing the meeting agenda and convention announcements.

Vice President, Rivera, was asked to share Dr. Greenhall's funeral with board members. He described the amazing attendance, including the area Amsterdam PC, a poignant bird release by Tom LaDuke and the over 500 signatures in the attendance book. Nearly 800 people attended. Karen Clifton read scripture and bagpipes played. Dr. Greenhall's funeral bridged the communities of school and pigeon, both of which were influenced greatly by Dr. Greenhall. There were opportunities to recount stories and the AU was well represented.

President Lawler continued his report with comments about the WSRPO. He would like to see a slow down of loss of membership, which is usually a product of club atmosphere. He proposed a model for WSRPO presented by President Lawler, Bylaws Chairman Cartmell, and the AU office, the weekend after Thanksgiving, stating that it is time to be proactive, rather than reactive. Vice President Rivera did the same with the Oregon State organization with four days of discussion of member retention and loft registration.

Historian Greelis was invited to film stories from board members about their experience with Dr. Greenhall, which stories were to be replayed at the awards banquet.

With Dr. Greenhall's departure, the AU Secretary position was left vacant. Duties are signing certificates and meeting minutes.

Motion nominating Barger to fill in as Secretary for the remainder of the year. Mitiu/Rivera. Unanimous approval.

Rivera/Hoggan to approve July 2009 Mid-Year Meeting Minutes. Unanimous.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – McSweeney**

McSweeney presented the financial statement and proposed budget, placing \$42,000 in reserves and \$10,000 in savings.

Discussion about the review of on-line banking, record keeping of checks over \$1,000 and the fact that registered mail did not work and another method is in process. McSweeney shared that he feels Clifton runs the office and that it is best to go through her rather than directly to employees. Clifton reviewed synopsis of the change in budget. Dues are down from last year. More members are joining as families, which is lower revenue. The yearbook advertising is down and the diploma cost is up. Interest income is negligible. Newsletter expense is down. Travel expense is down. Fees for credit cards are down. Fees are still due for alien bands. A quick solution would be to register through clubs. Barger shared that all are registered through his club. Discussion continued with a suggestion that a payment form be included in the secretaries' packet.

Discussion progressed to the \$5,000 that was pending for vaccine development. Hoggan will check on a potential veterinarian to take up the effort.

### **FINANCE & INFRACTIONS COMMITTEES/RAVEN STAR/EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – Tomlinson**

Complaints are down since the installation of a filing fee. Raven Star is doing a promotion with Raven Star Racers Inc. Grocery chain HEB promotes and shares the funds with racers. They are also doing presentations to retirement homes. Nothing new under Exec VP.

### **VICE PRESIDENT - Rivera**

Rivera shared that he attended the Oregon State organization and presented the overall AU plan to members.

### **Committee Reports:**

### **LEADERSHIP/RETENTION – Lawler**

On the local level in Washington State, there are more complaints than action. Lawler shared that he informed members of materials and services available if they choose to use them. He hopes to help create a replicable model for others. The goal is to double membership in 6 months to 1 year.

**NATIONAL YOUTH/SCHOOL COORDINATOR** – Ron Pairan was appointed as the new chair.

### **HISTORIAN – Greelis**

Greelis reviewed his task list:

- Prepare and ship AU historical display booth to the AU convention hotel.
- Prepare a presentation, *Pigeons in War and Peace*, complete with show and tell items for this year's round table discussion at the convention.
- Work on research project to determine past AU convention race and national race winners. Have identified most winners from 1993 to present.

- Work with the Greenhall family to inventory and move Frank's pigeon memorabilia collection to Oklahoma City.
- Begin putting together a notebook of magazine articles detailing AU efforts, responses, announcements on various topics, such as: the Avian Service Center, AHPI, Awards, Bands, Boy Scouts, Circo Virus, Diploma Rule, Drug Testing, Dues, Executive Director, Help-A-Beginner Program, Home vs. National Rule, Memberships (Family, Lifetime, etc.), National Office, New Castle Disease, Post Office Issues, Self Study Survey, Sports Promotion, Warm Pigeons & Men Website, West Nile Virus, WinSpeed© and Racemaster, and he will continue to work on the AU history chronology.

Greelis also reviewed the packing up of Dr. Greenhall's items. The plan is to begin articles in the Update with the theme of "100 years ago." It was suggested that we boost the budget to create items for 2010.

### **NATIONAL PUBLICATION – Lawler**

Until additional funding becomes available, the topic is moot. It may need to occur toward the end of the 2020 campaign. We need more articles and interviews. Hoggan shared that we need to press our awards more. For example, Ace Pigeon and Presidents Cup Winner should be front page. Holder volunteered that they can put the duty on the awards committee.

McSweeney & Hoggan are to discuss proposal to include the AU quarterly in the Racing Pigeon Digest.

### **RIGHT TO RACE - Clifton**

Clifton reported we had more response on shipping compliance. There is a problem of not being able to race out of California. Discussion of materials to send to race secretary. Information can be repeated in the Update newsletter. One example is the Avian Health Training Certificate which can be found on the state vet or Dept. of Ag web site. This information can be provided in the Update and colored brightly for attention to [www.Agr.wa.gov](http://www.Agr.wa.gov), or appropriate state. We need to get with the vet liaison. There has been no change yet on House Bill 669.

### **SPEAKERS' BUREAU - Desmarais**

Clubs continue to participate in the program, however, not a lot. We have advertised the program and few take part. This may be due to the fact that many auctions are held to cover the cost for speakers, which generates more revenue for the club.

### **JUDGE'S PANEL - Rivera**

It's going well. We have a diploma now that the office created. Show hosts will advise the office of how many places they intend to offer and certificates will be

prepared and then mailed to the host. Exhibitors' names and places will be printed on the diplomas at the time of the show(s).

### **SCIENTIFIC TASKFORCE – Clifton**

Nothing new to report. No recent outbreaks, only a few liaisons are still monitoring and/or sending updates to the office.

Discussion followed about featuring an article on products and treatments for YB diseases such as Adino, Ecoli and Circo. Ron Boyeur has success with immune booster. Maybe the article could be “reporting from the field.”

### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – Cartmell**

The 4-H poultry department runs 3 shows: poultry, pigeon and waterfowl for 5 days at the fair. They already have everything established. Cartmell shared original documents that can be included in the school information packet. The format includes a pigeon test, showmanship and roundtable. They rotate to show someone else's animal.

He plans to set up a display table in the fair walkway and man the table with 4-H youth to show passersby how to hold a pigeon, then release, with the theme “On A Wing And A Prayer.” They would release a pigeon and make a wish. Donations would go to the 4-H poultry program.

The Lions Club can hold a pigeon race. Civic groups seek fund raising ideas. This would improve awareness.

Cartmell continued explaining that we can mesh AU and 4-H and draw members from fancy clubs. We need to be careful on timing. YB racing cuts into fair season and vacation. Scheduling earlier may be necessary.

### **CONSITUTION AND BYLAWS – Cartmell**

Cartmell reported to the board that activity has been steady with problems that can easily be avoided if clubs have good by-laws in place. A member asked that the Board discuss how to remedy what he perceives as hate mail being distributed via email. It is out of AU's realm. The AU can't govern what an individual sends, receives, or reads via Internet or other. Suggested that these simply be deleted by the recipient if bothersome.

### **COMPETITION STANDARDS – Coletti**

Coletti supplied a handout summarizing recent issues:

1. band removal from race birds, which is covered in the AU Code of Ethics Policy 310.18 on stray birds.
2. family partnerships abusing shipping limits as covered in Race Rule 4.03
3. electronic band issue
4. section awards – he will prepare a BAR requiring a minimum of 10 lofts per section

Motion to run section awards for old birds as interim variance and no national awards given. Coletti/Holder. Approved. Holder, Coletti and Tobin to get together to iron it out.

Continuing with issues:

1. clearing clocks before knock offs. Instead of printing, they are hitting delete.
2. B birds got out with A birds – to be addressed when BARs addressed

### **NATIONAL OFFICE – Clifton**

Clifton reported that the secretary packet can now be handled electronically. 53 clubs have indicated a preference for electronic. 2010 stock bands are lettered “centennial.”

Motion to allow individuals and clubs to select stock bands with or without chip pockets, pending approval of the band. Rivera/McSweeney. Approved. Tabled until after Benzing presentation.

AU will send a letter to manufacturers letting them know we are ordering the bands and allowing members to procure chips to fit the bands. AU will inform members to contact the particular band manufacturer and to allow AU members to buy bands for the particular clock. A decision will be made after both Benzing and Bricon presentation are done.

Clifton handed out flyers for the 2010 centennial convention in Oklahoma City.

She also reported that membership numbers are slightly down from the same time last year but we are hopeful a spike will occur with young birds, which typically happens toward the end of the year. Final numbers will be reviewed at year-end.

Phone numbers were requested for the report on clubs that did not renew to make follow up by Board members easier.

It was decided that the mid-year Board meetings will be held a few days prior to the Texas Center convention at the same hotel.

### **SPORT DEVELOPMENT – Roberts**

Roberts reported on press & events in several states, and two new youth groups in Oregon and New York. Information and details pertaining to those events will appear in the next AU Update newsletter.

### **ZONE DIRECTOR UPDATES**

### **Northwest – Coletti**

Coletti visited clubs in Oregon for a Zone meeting and judged a show hosted by Gary Braden and club. Basic topics were Circovirus, electronic bands, and communicating with the AU.

Washington and Oregon have been battling young bird Circovirus for a few years and are hoping for a vaccine break through. Clubs are mixing birds before race season with the hope of any sickness concluding prior to the first race day.

There were many questions about the “cloned” bands and Coletti advised them to follow the clock manufacturers advice if they are concerned about warranty issues. A few members wanted to know if AU would offer chip rings. They were advised it is being tested around the country and that some would be available in 2010 in limited numbers and clock distributors.

The third basic topic was a desire for better communications directed to their area. Coletti will work with clubs to keep AU informed of activities in their area and provide them with a pipeline to answer questions.

### **Southeast - Holder**

Holder reported that the Greater Tampa Bay Concourse split.

### **Lakes – Pairan**

The Lancaster Pigeon Club attended the Lancaster Festival Farm Day to display birds, AU brochures, bands, clocks and more.

Hawks came in earlier this year and created damage.

Member suggestions include requiring each club to submit the race schedule in advance to post to the AU website. If they do not, then bands could be withheld. One member received a call from a hunter who shot the member’s pigeons. The hunter had the impression that he would receive a reward. The member suggests the AU educate hunters on the difference between doves and homing pigeons and make them aware that killing a homing pigeon is a federal crime.

Pairan shared that he is looking forward to the Fairfield County Fair and has encouraged children to take pigeons as a 4-H project. He anticipates growth in popularity of showing.

### **Northeast – Desmarais**

Most recent activity in the area has been concentrated on the 2009 AU Convention. It certainly has generated a lot of excitement and the handlers are anticipating a great convention, though losses have been experienced as a result of a new illness that has appeared in the U.S. for the past two years.

The passing of Frank Greenhall was deeply felt as Frank was very active for many years, personally doing shows and making appearances at many of the club and combine functions. The way his name is mentioned daily, it almost seems as if he is not gone. Bill said he is sure his memory will continue up in our area at least for many, many years to come.

The Jersey area is eager to host the AU Convention Race.

Desmarais shared that he has handled many calls from outside his zone, either with lost birds or disagreements.

He expressed accomplishment of hard work in convention preparation and hopes for a successful event.

### **Pacific – Barger**

Everything is going well so far this year. Barger attended the 395 Concourse meeting in June to settle several complaints that were being sent to Coletti. There will be more to report after the CSRPO Convention in November, Fresno Super Show in December and the Bakersfield Show in January, all of which he plans to attend as both an AU Representative and Judge.

### **Southwest – McSweeney**

After the board meeting in Oklahoma City, McSweeney attended the Texas Center Convention. He visited Roland Guitierrez's home and learned about his coordination of the Texas Center Convention. The ladies auxiliary had several ladies activities. Other AU officers and directors attended and we spread out to communicate with more members. At the business meeting we presented the AU decision concerning termination of business centers and recognition of social centers without boundaries. A review after the convention shows that our time was well spent.

Since the convention, most of McSweeney's time has been spent setting up and understanding his new duties as Treasurer. With input from Tomlinson and Clifton, we should be able to evaluate my contribution at the annual meeting.

He shared that he had a few calls concerning club problems and offered practical suggestions where possible. Rules issues were referred to Coletti.

At the club and combine level, he pushed for education.

In the Greater New Orleans Combine two individuals received AU Awards this year:

1. Henry Nienaber received the Elwin Anderson Legends of the Sport award. He polices the race activity from start to finish. This gets all participants aware of what should be done.
2. Maureen Williams received the Person of the Year award.

One can see her influence in every communication whether it be feed orders, sports promotion, club and combine notices. She is an organizer.

At club level, the two new members were given a spreadsheet showing the computations needed to compute YPM. Next will be a spreadsheet showing the computations needed to compute standard AU points. Race results are emailed to many individuals with a link to the AU site and suggestion to check the NDB.

### **Mountain – Hoggan**

Brad indicated his zone is quiet. He is interested in races for multiple lofts within a clock. He will be judging this fall.

### **Plains – Mitiu**

Mitiu indicated that he had attended the Midwest convention recently and that a member asked about the rule eliminating a flyer if minimum distance is not met. Coletti advised that it does not eliminate the entire club, rather just that member. Mitiu to contact the club inquiring to advise that they are misinterpreting the rule and the entire club would not be penalized.

## **REVIEW OF TABLED BOARD ACTION REQUESTS**

MTN-042 Adjust point system for awards. On hold. Jay to report during National Awards update.

MTN-043 Establish time for implementation of awards for short & middle distance races. Tabled for Tobin to report.

NW-099 Amend scoring in WinSpeed©. Recommendation is to leave it alone. We already have standardized point system.

PAC-035 To allow true national competition in the Marathon & Marathon Triple Crown National Ace Pigeon Awards, amend criteria for these awards. Mileage or elapse time should be considered when defining which races qualify for Marathon & Marathon Triple Crown. Some clubs follow AU release guidelines and others don't. Therefore, some members are forced to enter birds in races with less probability of safe return, which eliminates them from qualifying for these awards. Discussion was that implementing program of awards including subjective variables would not lead to a desirable outcome or one that anyone can understand. Died for lack of second.

SE-029 Decide if it is illegal for AU member(s) to interfere with AU races by knowingly releasing training birds to mix with race birds when these AU members do not belong to the affected club/combine/concourse conducting the race. Recommend: AU members not belonging to a club/combine/concourse not be allowed to knowingly release pigeons within 35 miles or 30 minutes of when the affected race is liberated. If an AU member is found violation of this rule, then punishment will be determined by the AU board.

Already done in 10.0 & 7.23. Coletti will prepare a cross-reference to other rules and add to policies and procedures.

### **NEW BOARD ACTION REQUESTS**

PAC-037 Adopt a policy that AU mid-year board meetings be held in conjunction with Texas Center Convention. Withdrawn. May not always be cost-effective and there may be need to get to other locations for accessibility to members in other regions.

Motion to approve 2010 mid-year meetings at the Texas Center, with travel on July 11, meetings on July 12 & 13 and travel on July 14. Barger/Hoggan.  
Unanimous.

NW-101 AU Race Rule Update and clean up. This is the first comprehensive look at our race rules since being published. This is to clean up and start reorganizing the rules for ease of use, clarity and practice. Over the years as rules have been changed, some rules conflict with those changes. Some were orphaned by placement in the wrong section (to be addressed later). This is to reference supporting rule numbers for better understanding by our members. There are no rule changes in this document that the board has not already previously approved.

Coletti provided a handout with the clean up of race rule 5.04. The following should have been eliminated as of the meeting in Detroit:

Page 3, 1.08

Page 5, change Standards Committee Chairman to National Race Secretary

Page 8, 2.0, change National Race Committee to National Race Secretary

Page 9, Committee and Secretary changes

Page 11, Secretary and Committee

Page 17, AU National Race Committee

Page 18, 4.13, remove "if less than three competing members from each location"

Page 25, 7.10, change "races birds" to "race birds"

Page 27, 7.27, using baling wire, electrical wire or twist ties

Page 29, 8.05, see AU race rule 2.7

Page 30, remove note "no longer new technology;" does not apply anymore

Page 42, 10.01 reference. Remove 10.02 "left blank intentionally;" 10.04 and liberator, shipped and released

Page 43, rule reference

Page 48, left blank intentionally

Page 51, committee

Motion to accept changes as presented in race rule clean up. Pairan/Rivera.  
Unanimous.

NW-102 Allow Clubs to award section awards. A section is defined as a geographical area or boundary (approved by the parent organization) that competes against each other within that organization. Diplomas may be awarded for the winners of a club section as well as a combine section. Each club in the section must maintain the minimum number of five (5) competing lofts per section to award a section award. Example: Each combine must maintain at least two (2) clubs with 5 competing lofts in each club to award combine section awards. Effective 2010 old birds. Coletti/Pairan. Unanimous.

Motion to name the youth race the Frank Greenhall Memorial Youth Race. Pairan/Mitiu. Unanimous.

NE-032 All lofts are required to have a survey for each loft antenna, and only one antenna is permitted per loft survey. Lack of motion. Most concerns are covered in 16.06.

### **REVIEW OF PENDING ASSIGNMENTS**

- a. Video/CD production to capture historical interviews (pigeoneers, past presidents, etc.). Greelis to talk to Jim Jenner regarding compiling DVD. Pending.
- b. Register/Copyright Sky Pilot. Deone is in the process of registration.
- c. Implement Membership Committee, create and empower. On hold. Herb is working with youth groups and civic groups to integrate nationally.
- d. Finance committee will create a proposal for additional revenue to report October 2009. Tomlinson passed out a handout of 13 ideas. The remaining viable idea is the World of Wings and Arch of Honor. Fence pickets would be available for sponsorship. Tomlinson, Greelis, office and anyone else is solicited to come up with an idea.

One idea submitted by Tristen Wells was a multi level direct marketing plan.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF 1000 MILE RACE UPDATE – Coletti**

Coletti reviewed and no action taken by the board.

### **Tuesday October 20, 2009**

**Attendees:** Karen Clifton, Steve Lawler, Herb Cartmell, Jim Greelis, Robert Tomlinson, Freddie Rivera, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, John McSweeney, Bill Barger, Brad Hoggan, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, and Mike Tobin.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. and discussion continued on the definition of section. Coletti passed out a BAR allowing clubs to award section awards previously reserved for combines.

Motion to define a section as a geographical area or boundary (as approved by parent organization) that competes against each other within that organization. Coletti/Barger. Passed with McSweeney opposed.

#### **AWARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE – Holder**

Regarding champion loft awards, Jay explained that parts of the BAR submitted has formulae that are subjective (distance factor) and would be difficult to understand and not provide desirable outcome.

The master loft award is a local award and the number of points earned in a race are divided by the entry. It is comparable to the national champion loft award. The yearling Hall of Fame must have at least one qualifying race with the best eight races.

Jay explained that the national champion no longer exists since the Ace took its place.

The Registered Champion will be discussed Thursday when the BAR is revisited.

#### **NDB/ WINSPEED© UPDATE – Tobin**

Tobin presented the following as NDB priority schedule from the July 2009 meetings:

Combine OB and YB seasons;

These have all been complete. There have only been three clubs to upload old birds after August 1, 2009. Mike suggested going back to one season at a time. Any clubs flying old birds after August 1 would email Mike their data and he would upload to the NDB. This would only be allowed if flying old birds after August 1. Discussion ensued and it appears we have created more work and confusion for the majority of our clubs to benefit just a few. This would allow both. Hoggan/Coletti. Unanimous.

Combine OB season and best previous OB season for Old Bird Hall of Fame with different distance categories;

Still working on the middle distance. Combining seasons (above) pushed it back.

Yearling Hall of Fame (Combining YB & OB season).

Mike discussed the Mexican Federation's request for WinSpeed© and NDB and WinSpeed© copy protection. It was decided that since WinSpeed© and the NDB were created around AU race rules, no changes should be made (costly with programming and concerns for copy protection). A copy of WinSpeed© was sent to the president of the Mexican Federation. We will ask what tweaks they feel

would be needed to accommodate them and then the board will review. A “template” of the NDB will not be given at this time. Mike is to gather information regarding cost and requirements for an additional programmer to help with tasks.

Tobin reviewed his task list:

Add zone and state categories for Ace Pigeon;  
Divide Ace Pigeon finalist into three divisions based on birds;  
Further subdivide OBs – all, middle distance, long distance;  
Add UPR Champion Loft and Team Score (currently in WinSpeed©);  
AU Speed Record awards will be manually updated; and  
Breeder’s Award and Long Distance Challenge do not lend themselves to automation;

Mike reviewed items not yet discussed/prioritized:

American Champion All Distance;  
American Champion Long Distance;  
AU Registered Champion; and  
AU Registered Elite Champion

He outlined additional tasks:

Office database “club charter dates” project

Items not yet prioritized:

Add names to Full Report drop down list;  
Have selector – display real names or display loft names;  
Enter a flyer or a bird and see the summary page lines for all the databases and all the awards; and  
Add Ace Pigeon weekly race reports.

Mike discussed BAR’s submitted that pertain to WinSpeed©.

NW-090 – provide a single weekly Winspeed© race report that includes data for both the UPR and new standard points reports.

NW-055 – add the following to the UPR awards in Winspeed©: Sprint Ace Young Bird, Sprint Ace Old Bird, Sprint Ace yearling, Young Bird Sprint Champion Loft, Old Bird Sprint Champion Loft (2-bird nominated). 75 mile minimum.

Change diploma numbers to print the following diplomas for UPR Ace Pigeon: Middle Distance, Young Bird, All Distance: up to unirate = 10%; Long Distance, Marathon: Up to unirate = 15%; Marathon Triple Crown: All qualifying birds; In any event a minimum of three diplomas if there are qualifiers (top 20%).

Other suggestions:

Add EBSS option to select file location in addition to default locations.

Add option to print diplomas by person instead of by race

Some printers don't print from WinSpeed© - implement new print routine for blank forms.

For race reports for combine or higher, add: club, number lofts and birds, bird position in club.

Add section info on reports.

Capitalization of 1<sup>st</sup> letter of names or first three on race reports.

Motion to accept proposal as written. Barger/Holder. Unanimous.

### **CURRENT AU-SANCTIONED/SEMI-NATIONAL RACES**

Coletti will do a BAR regarding general or family partnership.

Motion to make effective immediately that clubs may be awarded section awards. Mitiu/McSweeney. Suggestion offered to follow Washington example. Coletti will visit and call.

### **Other:**

Motion to purchase a vehicle, under 25,000 miles, for AU office use.

Barger/Coletti. Withdrawn. Tabled for 1 year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Review/Approval of 2010 Budget – McSweeney. Contingency to be reduced by \$1248 (storage). Pairan/Holder to add \$1000 to the Speakers/Judges budget.

Unanimous. Clifton to transfer 80% of net gain to high balance savings.

Mitiu/Rivera to approve amended budget. Unanimous.

Mitiu/Rivera to adjourn. Unanimous.

### **October 21, 2009**

**Attendees:** Karen Clifton, Steve Lawler, Herb Cartmell, Jim Greelis, Robert Tomlinson, Freddie Rivera, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, John McSweeney, Bill Barger, Brad Hoggan, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, and Mike Tobin.

### **Executive Session**

Barger/McSweeney. Motion to meet at 8:00 or 8:30 a.m. on Saturday prior to general membership meeting to finish clock topic, allowing time to review with Greg Smith. Unanimous.

**October 24, 2009**

**Executive Session**

**Attendees:** Karen Clifton, Steve Lawler, Herb Cartmell, Jim Greelis, Robert Tomlinson, Freddie Rivera, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, John McSweeney, Bill Barger, Brad Hoggan, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, Greg Smith, and Mike Tobin.

Holder/Hoggan to allow FCI to complete their review and reconsider in 2012. No action taken at this time. Unanimous.

**AU Annual General Membership Meeting – October 24, 2009**

Members and guests were welcomed. Convention host, Bill Desmarais, thanked all for attending the 2009 convention and expressed gratitude for breeders participating. He also thanked numerous members and his fellow convention committee members for their assistance to make the event a success.

Karen Clifton introduced all AU Board members and committee members.

President Lawler lead the flag salute and a moment of silence/reflection.

Eric Olson/Jerry Vernon to approve minutes from the 2008 Annual General Membership meeting. Unanimous.

President Lawler explained that the Board met for several days to discuss issues that members have shared that are of concern, new policy, race rule changes, program updates and board action requests.

He thanked the Board and committee members for their volunteer service as they often give up their vacation and personal time and are not compensated.

Deone Roberts provided a Sport Development update and shared several projects from within the northeast zone as well as around the country. She indicated that after attending zone meetings within the northeast zone, several members tapped into AU resources and have successfully promoted and increased membership. Junior membership in the northeast zone is up as well.

National Awards Chairman and AU SE Zone Director, Jay Holder, discussed the various awards that members may apply and qualify for during the year. He asked that members watch the annual publications and the website for updates and changes.

Clifton provided an update for the 2010 AU Centennial Celebration to be held November 10 – 14, 2010, in Oklahoma City. The race will be three one-loft format, 2000 bird maximum. There will be numerous tours and activities in and

around Oklahoma City to include tours of Route 66 historical museums, Oklahoma Art Museum and the Capitol. Race details are posted on the AU website and other details pertaining to registration, hotel and activities will be posted soon. A hand-out was passed out.

A proposal to host the 2011 convention in Southern California and Phoenix were presented. Membership voted to have the 2011 convention in Phoenix. Membership would then be asked to vote on 2012 at the 2010 convention next Fall.

President Lawler introduced AU lobbyist and legal advisor, Greg Smith. Greg indicated he was happy to visit with members again. He looks forward to attending and has become very fascinated with racing and has participated in the races the last couple of years.

Greg shared that there is a trend with legislation to regulate pet ownership as evidenced in several proposed bills across the country. He has been focused on HB 669 through the year and continues to monitor to ensure our needs are met.

Smith also frequently visits with PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Counsel) to share information and glean what he can pertaining to legislation that might impact all animal hobbyists.

As he monitors, he discusses with the national office if and when our members should be encouraged to petition elected officials. As a result, several electronic newsletters have been sent to members.

Greg advises that there is no change with NAIS or with the impending Animal Welfare Act regulations. Many other issues (war, election, H1N1, etc.) have taken front seat to those issues.

He also reminded members that they should be aware of words or actions that may cause opponents to initiate a campaign against pigeon keeping. He suggested that members look for opportunities to work with local officials to gain their support when proposed legislation or ordinance issues arise.

Smith encouraged members to consider compliance with state regulations when transporting birds across state line. To avoid problems, members should contact their state vets and/or Department of Agriculture to determine what requirements are in place (health certificates, etc.).

Greg concluded by thanking the AU and AU membership the opportunity to work on their behalf and become better acquainted with the racing community.

**Other:**

Vinnie indicated he appreciated the AU and will take notes to his club to encourage promoting and utilizing resources provided by the AU to promote and retain membership.

Pete (Boston Concourse) said they continue to have raptor problems and asked for help teaching members how to deal with the situation. Members were reminded that it is illegal to trap and instead should seek a permit to legally trap and monitor migration.

Dick Lipski and Dick Altoff asked if the AU would implement a penalty on members that do not properly respond to lost bird calls. Perception and the importance of responding appropriately was discussed.

Eric Olson/Ron Pairan to adjourn. Unanimous.