

**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.**  
**Mid-Year Board Meeting**  
**Las Vegas, NV – June 30, 2014**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Attending: Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton, Bill Mitiu, John McSweeney, Toni Wiaderski, Brad Hoggan, Bill Barger, Ron Pairan, Fred Werner, Steve Lawler, Mike Tobin, Alan Porter, Al Hassler, John Hundrup, Jim Greelis, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts.

Guests: Herb Cartmell, Jim Cartmell.

President Rivera opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with the flag salute and a moment of silence. Guests were introduced and welcomed. The floor was opened for non-board member comments and there were none.

### **Officer Reports**

#### President's Report – Rivera

Rivera thanked the board for the past four years: there were a lot of challenges and he was grateful for all who dealt with the issues. He traveled to various states and visited several organizations to hear members concerns, questions, ideas. Most members expressed satisfaction with what the AU provides/does.

#### Executive Vice President Update – Mitiu

Continuing along the same line as Freddie, Mitiu said it was his last meeting to speak and that it had been an honor and was pleased that the sport is in great shape. He reminded that members look to the board when action/decisions are needed. He was disappointed that election time produces few or no new candidates. Knowing there are plenty qualified members, he was disappointed that perhaps they are unaware of their ability to declare candidacy. He shared that he spoke with a veterinarian in charge of drug testing in Belgium who shared his protocols on racehorse testing and pigeon testing and has a list of performance enhancing drugs that are tested. They are trying for an international standard. He shared the jealousy among countries, so they can't get together on a standard. He sent the information to a lab in South Africa. We are very fortunate to have that available. The list of drugs is invaluable. We are seeing more interest here in the U.S.

Bill also indicated a few members still ask about the outcome of Mardis' trial.

#### Discussion:

Clifton – the trial is postponed until around September 16. Of the member surveys that were returned, there were a couple of inquiries as to how much money members have contributed, however, no accounting has been provided regarding funds sent directly to him so we are unable to respond.

Rivera – he contacted Randy Goodpasture, (who was collecting funds), who stated that he did not know how much was in the account. The account was turned over to Linda and Rick Mardis in March.

Totals from or passing through the AU are \$42,500 to Mardis, \$15,270 to Steele and \$9,636 from AU member donations, for a total of \$67,406.

McSweeney - what happens if Mardis loses the case?

The affect is not on club races so the sport should be fine. If there is an issue with one-loft races, those are not AU races but we hope those won't be affected either.

Rivera – when he has spoken with members, they do not care about the outcome as much as what happened to the money and how much was collected.

Mitiu – this can be likened more to horse state statutes to comply as this becomes the state of sport.

#### Vice President Update - Holder

The biggest activity has been ordinance issues. One he dealt with personally was the Palm Bay, FL issue. The Melbourne policeman and family man had a neighbor angry over a different issue; however the neighbor complained about the birds. The city looked and said there is no ordinance and they would have to look at it. The same thing happened to Jay a year ago. The ordinance is an exclusive ordinance that provides if it is not stated as approved, it is not approved. The Palm Bay man followed Jay's suggestions. The city was taken aback at the support information from the AU and they realized they were dealing with a hobby rather than an individual. Some council members were pro rights and felt that you should be able to use your backyard for your choice of hobbies, barring harm to others. They had a very positive result. Jay will be reporting that during his Ipigeon One Loft Extravaganza presentation in Vegas later in the year. He intends to extend his knowledge to other areas such as Orange County, FL to influence city council to positive change. Proactive, preemptive action on the part of the AU will go a long way to improve sport longevity.

#### President Ex-Officio Update - Lawler

1 - WSRPO fell on hard times – Ken Fraley asked that they look at the Constitution and Bylaws to revitalize the organization. Steve and Herb have been working on that.

2 - In March, he, Herb and SkyPilots went to Lindon again – the kids are getting older and the adults are watching the sophistication level increase. Red Bluff does everything for the kids. With Herb's group, the hawk problem interferes. Figuring out how to get them into racing is more of a challenge.

Holder – netting and PVC pipe enclosure can protect young birds in a giant enclosure to settle. Hawks can scare them but can't kill them. Pull flights allows birds to exercise and get acquainted with the procedure without danger to themselves.

3 - Lawler continuing - Jenner shot hours of video for Young Wings.

#### Treasurer Report – McSweeney

We have a new CPA firm and bookkeeper. Adjustments to format and revenue classifications have been made to aid transition. To some extent, we have been handicapped, as the bookkeeping service keeps the records and acting records are not on the AU computer. There is a backlog on bookkeeping: statements for January through May 2014 will be completed soon and the old CPA firm will still be doing the tax return.

We have maintained tax exempt status. One point we need to correct is advertising revenue classification – change from advertising postage to sponsorship received for member ads and advertisement revenue for non-member ads.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Judiciary Committee - Mitiu/Porter

President Rivera asked that someone look into this again. Mitiu volunteered. No action has been taken and no report made.

Discussion:

Hoggan – have ordinance packet available for small cities, send to cities, post on-line, advertise.

Barger – he got with code enforcement officer, provided a business card, showed an area loft and the issue was dropped.

Rivera/Karen – we will try to combine information that would be available to present to cities. Karen will mail perception booklets & disease brochures to Hoggan and to Porter to organize. Porter will continue to work on task.

Lawler – this needs to be streamlined - use an index.

Holder – when it becomes important, we need to send somebody. It makes a good Presentation.

#### Leadership/Retention - Lawler

We need a replacement on the committee. He is excited that Coletti outlined an idea for putting together a zone project: sponsor and use a foundation where events that are happening in the zones would be supported by the AU in any way possible, in lieu of an AU national convention. We need to make it more affordable.

Coletti – we could even increase support to \$5000 to support an event and get folks on board who have run conventions. That has been viewed by some as threatening, so he

has backed off for now. How do we make it easier for rural lofts to have races and competition in race results.

Porter – his Midwest experience is that a lot of local people attend. It's tough to get people from out of area to attend conventions.

Coletti – in California, we passed a trailer around to anyone wanting to have the race.

Porter - they are 4 years out in volunteers to run the Midwest convention, but it's the attendance that suffers.

#### National Youth/School Coordinator - Pairan

Shumaker is still running his race in Mississippi. Other than that, Ron doesn't have anything additional to report.

#### Historian - Greelis

He did a presentation at a grade school, with a message sheet, put the message in the capsule, attached it to a white pigeon and released the pigeon. He took a picture of the message to show them the message arrived.

The youth race this year is a little different. Birds will be rotated in Omaha lofts and flown a day prior to the regular convention race. To get ahead of animal rights threats, he went to the Council Bluffs police station to apprise them of the race.

Last weekend was Midwest classic race. Omaha club was hauling and driver error coupled with race committee hold created challenges for about 5 clubs.

He filmed Bill Miller of Bulverde, TX, which is posted to the AU site; he met with Bob Cook of Ft. Meyers, FL to receive donated copies of old magazines and newsletters to scan and share with AU members; and he set up the traveling historical display at the American Pigeon Museum in Oklahoma City.

Over seventeen hundred AU convention birds have arrived and been distributed to lofts in and around the Omaha regional area. Having hosted a successful Midwest Convention the year before, the same convention committee has done an excellent job of preparing for this year's AU convention. Race handlers are being regularly reminded to keep the AU Convention website up to date on the status of race birds during the settling and road training stages. Also good communication from the handlers to the breeders is being emphasized by the committee leadership.

He will be doing a video interview of Terry Lynn as a recipient of Legend of the Sport.

#### Judge's Panel - Barger

He reported it has been quiet. Two people inquired for western district, which is full. There were no requests for other districts. The show committee was already

eliminated. With it being Barger's last year on the board, a new coordinator will be appointed by the incoming president.

#### Constitution & By-Laws – Werner

Fred dealt with an issue in Illinois that arose this past spring regarding the vote on a probationary member and not allowing him membership status to fly. This was the Kenosha Club issue where they changed the boundaries to be in agreement with the Chicago Combine and this probationary member was not in the new boundary and as a result not voted into permanent membership status. Mitiu did not agree with the fact that a club does this and the probationary member abides by the rules for 2-3 years and is not accepted.

Fred did discuss that a couple of the Board Action Requests to be reviewed require notification of members and/or a ballot. Issue will be discussed tomorrow. Priority given to the BAR first. Coletti suggested that the BAR be reviewed and then determine how to execute so to be in compliance with our by-laws.

#### Competition Standards - Hundrup

Since the convention most all of his correspondence with the membership has been helping with race related questions and not many major complaints about clubs or members, which makes his position enjoyable.

He did work with a club in Dec.-Jan. that was placing clocking limits on their races and didn't want to change, saying that the AU couldn't do anything except refuse to post the results on the NDB. After three weeks of phone calls and emails and requiring those to sign a compliance statement or their club possible being expelled from the AU, their new club officers sent in the signed compliance statement and rescinded the clocking limits.

At the first of the year, he fielded numerous calls about clubs needing to be chartered and how to do it. He explained how he did it for his club and combine and then referred them to the AU website to the sample form in the policies section and then informed them if they had additional questions to contact Fred who is actually in charge of the constitution and by-laws or to Karen for more help.

This last month he received three calls: two from Florida and one from Texas inquiring about drugs and doping. He emailed two of the callers a copy of the AU policy 400 and referred them to the AU policy site to prohibited substances for what the AU had listed.

Several calls also came in about flying YB's as OB's and one call about the Unikon system allowing the birds to be entered after a race entry sheet had been printed, both of which he will be addressing the board about at the meeting.

He submitted three BAR's for the board to address: one for electronic band scanning systems (EBSS) time variation malfunctions, one to reword race rule 3.10 about AU

code of ethics violations for release and race guidelines, and one for 2/3 voting requirement for race rule 5.02 C.

He had a call about flying old birds and young birds together, but confused about classification of bird because of race overlap. The OB and YB is defined in AU rules already.

There was discussion about a club that did not have enough members present for clocking and therefore did not qualify for AU races.

#### Veterans Committee - Hassler

He went with Greelis to Bob Cook in Ft. Meyers, FL. Cook donated several old books for the American Pigeon Museum and the AU. They were great additions to our collection.

#### Drug Test Committee - Rivera/Coletti

BAR NW-148 will be reviewed tomorrow. One of the committee members, John Vance, did a lot of research and reported findings to the committee. The committee is making the recommendation verbiage to the existing policy be amended, proposing request of results from organizations testing, etc.

#### National Office & Director Updates

##### National Office - Clifton

In March, a member of the coastguard reserve contacted us in order to gain information to make a presentation to the coastguard regarding the use of pigeons. He was apparently at a disaster preparedness drill and he thought the pigeons could be helpful with communication when all other means were down.

He has some familiarity with the birds. If presented to the coastguard by members of the coastguard reserve, they might take it more seriously.

We put this man in touch with club members near him that could visit with him and allow him to see their lofts so he would know what might be involved. That meeting was to take place in April, however, he had to put it off due to a schedule conflict. He was to contact our members in August so we'll follow up.

The FCI was going to require member countries to have the FCI logo on all bands and that we would be required to pay 1 cent euro per band. As a board, it was decided to continue to pay dues if they choose to accept, however, not to change our band manufacturer or what we offer members. In March, the FCI notified member countries that they are still requiring all to have the FCI and logo on the band, however, they are not requiring the 1 cent euro per band at this time.

We are working with an attorney on copyright for the eWinspeed©. We've had a couple of conference calls with the attorney and Elizabeth (programmer) and we are on our way to getting that done. We are in the process of determining which pages of code to submit.

Regarding shipping, Bill Mitiu had mentioned several shipments were coming and taking 3 days. To remind everyone, when we were able to work through the problems we had about 6 years ago and fed ex came on for the post office, they said then the 'guarantee' would be 3 days, however, to expect shipments to continue as the majority do and arrive next day, with a few taking two days. It was either that or we lose the service because they can't always make next or second day and they can't afford the claims/refunds members were seeking.

We haven't had an influx of calls so hoping that doesn't become the trend. The alternative to the 3 day guarantee is to do away with the service all together.

In the process of dealing with another shipping issue which was a matter of a local postmaster setting his own rules up in California, Clifton learned that the USPS employee she has been working with in DC now prefers that she work directly with his 7 subordinates. Hopefully, that will make it more efficient because of response time. This does mean establishing relationships with them. She requested that the board let the office know if they become aware of members having difficulty with shipping.

Regarding our election, we sent out email reminders to the officers & directors late last year and then posted notice of the election and the process on page 9 of last year's *Yearbook* and on page 10 of the January 2014 quarterly *Update* so all members had time if they wanted to run for a position.

Uncontested positions of President will be filled by Tom Coletti, EVP by Jay Holder, BP by Ron Pairan. Lee Kohli ran uncontested in the Lakes Zone and Joyce Stierlin in the Mountain Zone. There was no paperwork submitted for the Pacific and the SW Zones so those positions will be filled by appointment with board approval in the new term when Tom takes seat as President.

We have sent out member surveys in the renewal packets this year. To date, we have received 18 back. All indicated favorable experience/interaction with the AU office, except for one.

The negative response was "Question use of all funds. No change is not good for all. I think the AU took the easy way out."

Of the 17 that were positive 13 utilize the national database, 9 use our promo supplies, 5 receive the electronic newsletter, 6 dealt with ordinance issues and indicated they were happy with assistance received from the AU.

One gentleman who expressed overall satisfaction with the AU office and that he utilizes all services referenced on the survey had a question regarding donations sent. He wanted to know if any excess money from the trial would go to the AU Legal Fund.

**SURVEYS WERE RECEIVED FROM:**

- 3 – NW ZONE
- 2 – PACIFIC ZNE
- 4 – SOUTHWEST
- 1 – LAKES
- 3 – PLAINS
- 4 – ANONYMOUS
- 1 – NORTHEAST

On June 13 and 14, the American Pigeon Museum had their official grand opening. We posted on Facebook and in our e-newsletter to help let members know. Several of the current board members were present. Deone and Karen spent most of Friday at the museum to visit with guests regarding the racing aspect. Jim Jenner attended, helped with pre-event publicity and debuted a couple of new videos (Queens Wings and Young Wings).

The Young Wings video is a project he undertook starting in 2008. The AU funded a portion of the production (\$10,000.00). The video is great testimony to the benefit of youth being active with nature and animals and, specifically, pigeons.

Jim indicated he will get copies to us to forward to the board ahead of time and will also be providing approximately 550 dvd's to include in the secretary packets this year, which was part of the agreement in 2008. The video is well done and hopefully will encourage members to get out and make presentations.

Membership numbers are slightly less than the same time period last year though we are continuing to receive members for those new and those interested in flying young birds. A year-end report will be provided in December.

To follow up on a member suggestion to lower the cost of advertising in the *Yearbook*, Karen asked the board if they wish to lower the cost of advertising. The board agreed that the cost has been the same since 1999 and has not increased and that other printing has consistently increased not decreased. Decision made to leave the pricing as it is.

It was decided to travel to Omaha on Sunday, October 19. Meetings will take place on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and as needed through the remainder of the week.

Sport Development - Roberts

Roberts shared various activities by members throughout the country, which will appear in the next issue of the AU Update. Retention remains an urgent issue, along with harmful language that has appeared in press that the general public reads.

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

### **Northwest Zone Report – Coletti**

As usual the Northwest Zone remains quite. There were no new issues reported last meeting. There is one Infraction working in Washington left over from last year that hopefully will be addressed at the current board meeting.

Portland continues to be the most active area in the Northeast Zone, thanks mainly to Gary Braden and his Combine. Tom will again be attending their annual show and mini zone meeting.

The Western Open continues to grow. There are some growing pains but as usual John Hundrup has a handle on them and continues to do an outstanding job with rules.

As most Board members know, Tom will no longer be the Northwest Zone Director after the 2014 AU Convention. If all goes well, he hopes to have a replacement to finish the two remaining years of his term. He will be looking in Oregon and Idaho for an active AU member to take over.

Tom has been working on AU promotions in his area with the help of Deone, giving out yearbooks, stickers and coins to local feed stores.

There are stores where the youth get their supplies for chickens, goats and pigs. He is trying to get them interested in pigeons. Some have gone to his loft to handle the baby pigeons but so far none have convinced their parents they need another hobby.

He will finally have a new club forming in his area. It will barely have enough members to fly but such are the conditions living in a rural area. Club memberships large enough to sustain enough flyers to be legal is very hard in those areas. He has reported on this problem many times as the Competition Chair. He still believes there has to be a way to accommodate very small clubs. Each week they struggle to be a legitimate club shipping races.

Jim Greelis and Tom had to put working on this issue aside for a while, but this is something we as a Board should look at again. We need to look at what constitutes a flying club and what do these clubs do when they can't muster up three competing lofts.

We are forcing members to get very creative in a way that isn't good for the sport... phantom flyers, strange club memberships and combine agreements, etc.

### **Pacific Zone – Barger**

It has been peaceful and quiet since the AU convention. There have been few lost bird & ordinance issues and all were handled successfully. He attended races in San Diego and a show in Bakersfield.

#### Southwest Zone – McSweeney

He handled several stray bird calls.

He seldom has questions concerning WinSpeed© that come from his local area, however, he did get one. This gentleman lives in Utah and could not get the arrival records from the BENZING clocks to download into WinSpeed through PIDEX. After a couple of phone conversations, he succeeded and appreciated the help.

Locally the Lafayette RPC sponsored a state race. The schedule for young birds was such that John's club members were not able to even consider participating. One club in his combine did participate. The schedule for the old birds was such that his club could participate but they had only three active members and very few birds.

In his combine (GNOC) they have members with huge teams of birds and unlimited shipping. They also have members with small teams of birds. This past old bird season they instituted a five bird shipping limit as a separate race released 30 min. after the last race from that station. Their next meeting is scheduled for late June or early July and they will find out if the membership wants to continue that race.

Last fall John participated in tests of the Benzing Live as presented at the convention. This year at the end of the race season they requested that I do further testing. Time has not allowed him to work on it.

#### Plains Zone – Porter

From Illinois Alan had some follow-up regarding infraction number AU2013 Illinois-1 of last year. It involved the Greater Chicago Combine (GCC) vs Si Korski, Zyla, and Obrzud. The GCC caught and suspended for 5 years 3 guys for supposedly manipulating AU bands. We voted to uphold the Infraction Committee recommendations. Subsequent documentation has been received by the board and will be reviewed in Executive Session tomorrow.

The next issue in Illinois that arose this spring was a decision handled by Fred Werner regarding the vote on a probationary member and not allowing him membership status to fly. He doesn't agree with the fact that a club does this and the probationary member abides by the rules for 2-3 years and is then not accepted.

The third issue he recalled from Illinois dealt with basketing birds in groups of the same flyer in the same basket. John Hundrup handled this and alluded to the fact it is pretty much a club issue, but should be as consistent as possible within each club as to how they want to do it.

In Minnesota, things appear to be calmer now.

On a different note, Gary Heidel, Race Secretary/Treasurer of the Midwest HPA has been working with the Midwest Race Secretaries and the AU office to get the clubs in compliance with submitting charters and constitutions and by-laws. He has also spoken with Jay about some concerns with the new version of eWinSpeed©. Many clubs figure their races at knock-off but don't have an Internet connection and use the desktop version of WinSpeed©. They may not be able to figure their races at knock off when the newest cloud version of WinSpeed© is released, unless they have an Internet connection. Maybe we can get more clarification on this because there are several clubs that I'm aware of that currently use desktop WinSpeed© to figure the race at knock-off without Internet connection and then upload to database later.

His club sent a team of birds to Ronnie Shumaker in MS at the end of May, and that might be a nice way to get more teams there and offer club competition also. He is hoping to meet him when he comes to Madison in June to pick up a truck track from a past active flyer in our club.

The following are things Porter is wondering about:

Lost birds continue to take a significant amount of time! Are there ways to cheat with the current chip bands being put on the birds? What are the rules for reelection of directors? He may wish to have someone appointed to follow him. Can we have a legal AU race in different time zones?

He would like to spend a little time going over our constitution/by-laws and race rules. These seem to need the majority of our attention when we have questions or problems. If we read and address these for accuracy, consistency, and appropriateness, it might help all of us as we make decisions. Is there such a thing as past precedence and are these decisions part of an index to these documents somewhere?

He thinks we need to be so far above board on National issues of the sport that all the wise flyers and club officers will want to stay with the AU and support us. This means getting them to buy in on tough issues that we face, continue to offer them advice and useful material, being just and forthright in all our decisions. There is a lot of name calling, neigh sayers, doubters, bad mouthing and more that leads to frustration for us. Not sure if we can correct this or if it's the background of too many in our sport.

#### Lakes Zone – Pairan

Things have been relatively quiet in the Lakes Zone since the board last met. The only exception is an incident in Michigan that involved one lady who didn't want a pigeon loft near her. He saw pictures of the loft in question and it is very neat and clean. She mailed numerous anonymous letters to public and state officials, which resulted in a proposed bill to weaken current law regarding the keeping of pigeons. Local pigeon flyers met to plan strategy, and Ron was able to drive to Michigan to represent the AU. They also received packets and advice from Karen. It appears at this point that

lawmakers have lost interest in promoting the bill, so he thinks things will remain as they are.

Locally, Ron and his club continue to release birds on Memorial Day at a local cemetery; display, release and give away birds at their county 4-H Day, and do releases for the Lancaster Festival and a Cancer Survivors event.

He learned that a new club is starting up in West Virginia. Only one of the members has ever flown pigeons before, but they seem very excited. There are very few pigeon flyers in West Virginia, so it is good to see a club being formed.

Most everyone on the board met Ezra Lee "Coop" Kohli at the convention. Lee is also from Ohio, about two hours northeast of Ron in Amish country. He owns a couple of businesses and has had pigeons nearly all his life. He is very involved with the Penn-Ohio race series and is an excellent writer. He will do a great job as the new Lakes Zone Director.

#### Southeast Zone – Hassler

He and Jim Greelis met with Bob Cook in Ft Meyers, FL. Cook donated several old books for the World of Wings and the AU. Outside aviaries are going up around his area, which allows the young birds to come out of the loft and get a good look around and fly back up into the loft. His own aviary is 12 x 20 and can be a good solution to having young birds become accustomed to the presence of hawks.

#### **Review of Tabled Board Action Requests**

PAC-057      Revise Release & Transportation Guidelines (policy AU 330) for racing homing pigeons, primarily regarding inclement weather and transportation guidelines. Publish AU 330 with the race rules in the *AU Yearbook* each year. It was tabled at the previous meeting because it can't be both rule and guideline. Superseded by NW 146.

Hanno Troll and associate presented Benzing Live seeking board approval. Discussion regarding potential use of the application will be held over for next day.

Adjourn

**July 1, 2014**

The board convened at 8:00 a.m.

Members present: Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton, Bill Mitiu, John McSweeney, Toni Wiaderski, Brad Hoggan, Bill Barger, Ron Pairan, Fred Werner, Steve Lawler, Alan Porter, Mike Tobin, Al Hassler, John Hundrup, Jim Greelis, Tom Coletti, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts.

Visitor: Herb Cartmell

WinSpeed©/eWinSpeed©/NDB/Programming - Tobin/Holder

There is a schedule delay. They anticipate testing during young bird & old bird to get kinks out.

Factors that are impacting project completion: developer's availability during early part of 2014 due to illness; complexity of the project; web host uncertainty.

Current status of the project: master pages are complete; file upload function is near completion, along with import/export of data; merge function will be complete in July; report capability to be completed this July. Reports will be available in PDF, Excel, MS Word, CSV, HTML for view on page, graphs that allow generation of templates for printing on AU Award Certificates. Full beta testing can begin early August.

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

SE-038      Formally create an Executive Committee to consist of President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, Past President and the Executive Director. At the discretion of the President, the committee may be assigned special tasks and responsibilities, and may assist the President with business decisions. The vote is to proceed with bylaw amendment with this language. Coletti 12.02 – there are 2 ways to amend: by membership or by board of directors by 2/3. Motion to accept as written with proper notification to membership by Karen, i.e. newsletter. Barger/Holder. Passed.

SE-039      Set a standard for time variances for EBSS systems by period and cancel NW 147. Amended: Any EBSS clock which varies more than 5 second[s] per 24 hour period shall be disqualified by the local AU chartered organization. The local AU chartered organization shall require proof of repairs before authorizing use of an EBSS clock, which was found to be faulty.

Discussion: McSweeney – would you consider tying with NW 147 to require proof of repairs?

Mitiu/Barger as amended. 7 for, 4 against. Passed.

MTN-047      Include verbiage in Code of Ethics to indicate that our bands should be used for registered homing pigeons only. Clean up language from AU affiliated to AU chartered throughout the rules. Hold off until lists of chartered and non-chartered is complete. Hoggan/Lawler as amended. Passed.

MTN-048      Allow AU convention host to have multiple releases/races when the short end to long end is such a factor. Hoggan/Lawler. Passed.

SW-043 Amend Policy 100 to remove reference to Centers and to include requiring submission of an organization's CB & L in order to charter that organization. McSweeney/Pairan. Passed.

NW-145 Clarify and document that no AU organization may require, severe, unrealistic and restrictive voting requirements that take away the rights of the majority to govern their organization in a democratic way. Holder/Hassler. Motion to accept as written with proper notification and ballots to membership. 8 approve. 3 opposed. Passed.

NW-146 Amend race rule 3.10 "Best Practices for Pigeon Releases," which are guidelines, before it is considered a violation of the AU Code of Ethics. New language: 3.10 AU members are required to be familiar with and abide by the most current "Best Practices for Pigeon Releases." Coletti/Hoggan as amended. Passed.

NW-147 Add a race rule for EBSS malfunctions for systems that have too much variance in their clock timing. This would be placed under race rule 16.15 that has been reserved for EBSS malfunctions. New language: Any electronic band scanning system (EBSS) running in excess of five (5) seconds fast or slow in a 24 hour period shall be disqualified. Dropped for SE-039.

NW-148 Modify AU Policy 400, Administration of Prohibited Substances to Racing Pigeons to include an AU database of substances found in tested racing pigeons by organizations that have tested for substances.

Additionally, organizations doing testing are requested to share their results with the AU for inclusion in the AU Drug Testing Database. (Policy 400 changed from should to shall.) Coletti/Wiaderski. Passed.

NW-149 Change the voting margin in race rule 5.02 C if BAR NW-145 is passed. New Language: C. If agreed to by 2/3 of the competitors in the race series. McSweeney/Hassler. 2 opposed. Passed.

### **Discussion of Benzing Live**

Porter – must meet minimum requirements rather than require approval

Holder – feels system is fantastic – dependent upon user abilities – needs instructions – seem to have a good support system via Siegel's

Lawler – since Baltimore, doesn't believe we've tested systems – Benzing takes effort to show to us – they are an excellent company – if not ready to go, would not be used in Belgium, Germany and more.

McSweeney – data does translate to WinSpeed© fine; can't speak to other aspects

Coletti – during rules chair, agrees with Steve, only one that showed a clock was when Oostlander asked AU to test – we've never enforced this prior to use. Only Minvielle would demonstrate in the past.

Motion to approve system for use, with caveat that we reserve the right to approve any system used for race figuring. Barger/Pairan. Passed.

Hanno invited back in for announcement.

Executive session.

Meeting adjourned.

President, Executive Vice President, Vice President, President Ex-Officio, Executive Director met to identify national award recipients.