



**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.**  
**June 6, 2023**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Robert McKenna, Karen Clifton, John Hundrup, Steve Lawler, Jeff Life, Joyce Stierlin, Ronnie Shumaker, Dave Wilson, Gary Heindel, Al Christeleit, Robbie Whaley, Toni Wiaderski (via phone), CL Gage (via phone).

President McKenna called the meeting to order. He asked if all had received the minutes from the May meeting. All acknowledged they had. Dave Wilson said he had edits. McKenna asked him and any others with edits to send them to Karen via email by Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Bob called on Steve Lawler, Constitution & By-Laws Chair, to provide a committee update. Steve said that he had been instructed to have his committee review By-Laws for inconsistencies and corrections that may be needed. Steve said that specifically, he had been asked to review and provide recommended updates pertaining to sections 5.06 and 5.08 as they conflict each other. He said his committee has reviewed and he sent proposed updates to Karen to circulate to the board prior to the July meetings. President McKenna said that the board would review, vote and take action in July.

Ronnie Shumaker, Sport Promotion Committee Chair, reported that he sent a recap of his communication with the RFD TV marketing team regarding pricing. The proposal was for several tv spots and the total cost would be \$10,000 to \$15,000. Ads/programming would last for a month. Ronnie said that he felt that is costly and didn't think it would yield a good return.

Ronnie said he would still like to get 30 second ads for commercials.

Al said that CL knows Jim Jenner well and can get him to cut ads out of his videos. CL said he would talk to Jenner.

Dave Wilson asked Ronnie what the office was doing for sport promotion. Ronnie said that Deone had been working with Poultry Press and that ad is forthcoming.

Wilson said it would be great to get clubs to join in parades for the 4th of July. He said they had local club members in a parade recently and it was well-received.

President McKenna agreed that is a good promotion idea.

McKenna called on Al to discuss his choices for investigators for the Infraction Committee. Al asked what the board wanted to know. Bob asked who his choices are. Al said John Vance, Terry Finnerty, Lisa Schutta, Al's wife Joannie, and someone he knows that was a state prosecutor and retired.

Al said he did not have to have investigators approved by the board. Steve Lawler reviewed the by-laws and confirmed they do not need board approval. Steve did add that he will be on the committee in the capacity of Constitution & By-Laws advisor.

Al said he wants help with cases and that he may change investigators as he feels appropriate. Al said that an infraction should not be pending for a year and a half.

Steve Lawler reminded the board that any infractions recommendations do have to be approved by the board.

President McKenna interjected that the infraction Al was referring to that had been pending is complete and has been for months. It needs to be reviewed by the board in July. The board will vote on it at that time.

Al said Jeff was supposed to send him phone numbers of all parties involved but that he had not received them.

Jeff stated that he had indeed sent Al that information before we were off the call for the board meeting in May. Al asked him to resend it.

Steve said the board needs to follow specific steps when dealing with infractions.

Al said he didn't get approval of Steve as Constitution & By-Laws Chair. Karen explained the order in which the vote came. During the March meeting, Bob McKenna made his choices for committee chairs known, which included Steve as By-Laws chair.

After the meeting, an email was sent to the entire board asking for approval or otherwise. Though some board members copied everyone on the original email, some did not. Replies were sent to Karen. The majority of the board approved President McKenna's recommendations, 2 abstained and 2 were opposed so the majority carries.

Dave Wilson said that was done poorly and there should have been more communication and a chance for them to discuss the recommendations.

Al said, "Fine have it your way."

Dave Wilson complained that an infraction just filed by members in his club did not get picked up from the AU post office for 6 days. Karen said there was a holiday and a Sunday involved during that time.

Gary Heindel, awards committee chair, reported all is good and that he has received several applications for Registered Champions. Gary asked about the 2022 awards. Bob McKenna said there is still an issue with one race in a particular award category and that is working with the programmer.

Gary asked if the awards will go out to members. Karen said as soon as the programmer has corrected what needed to be corrected and she gets approval, she will print the certificates. Ronnie Shumaker asked if that would include the state awards. Karen said it would.

Gary asked if he could help with the state awards. Karen told him she appreciated it, but the process is automated. After printing, the certificates will be sent for signature. When received, Karen will put the appropriate letter with each certificate and get them mailed. Karen thanked Gary for the offer.

Joan Christeleit told the board she has been in touch with Greg Smith because they want to know why ballots from the 2022 election were returned. Greg advised that he would follow up with Honest Ballot. Joan said secretary information is incorrect for club members.

She said when she was NLA president and got labels, there were many returned due to incorrect addresses.

Dave Wilson said we should put out articles regarding updating addresses.

Karen told the board that is something the office already does and that notices asking members to make sure they have correct information on file are sent in the *Update* and e-Updates.

Steve Lawler asked if Joyce could send out a request for members to update their contact information via her race secretary email list.

Joyce reminded the board that the race secretary and secretary are different positions. Some members hold both, however, many race secretaries do not handle the club data, collecting of dues, distribution of bands, etc.

Steve cited 5.07: It is the member's responsibility to ensure his current mailing address is on file.

Joan thanked Steve for asking about Al's mom.

Ronnie Shumaker/Gary Heindel to adjourn. Unanimous.