

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
Chicago, IL - October 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Coletti at 8:00 a.m. with a welcome, flag salute and moment of silence. No guests attended and therefore there were no public/non-board comments.

Present were John McSweeney, John Hundrup, Karen Clifton, Bob McKenna, Joyce Stierlin, Jeff Life, Tom Coletti, Al Hassler, Lee Kohli, Ron Pairan, Terry Finnerty, Bud Williams, Freddie Rivera, and Deone Roberts.

Old Business

Motion was made to approve the mid-year meeting minutes as posted on the AU website. Hassler/McSweeney. Approved.

Officer Reports

Presidents Report (Tom Coletti)

Tom Coletti thanked the board members for their support. He commented that during his term there had been numerous obstacles and in spite of that, the board continued to work on assigned projects and committees.

He thanked Ron Pairan and Freddie Rivera for their service during their terms. Tom went on to welcome incoming board members. He extended appreciation to the office staff.

Tom also briefly reviewed his President's agenda noting that many of the items on the agenda, such as cost savings by reducing staff, travel-related expense of President Ex-Officio. Other completed items on Tom's agenda was improving the appointment policy pertaining to committee or board appointments made by a president in the event of a vacancy, revamping the eWinspeed© project to ensure timely completion, and zone realignment.

Tom encouraged the board to consider a couple of remaining items on his agenda. Specifically, electronic publications for additional cost savings, the use of an arbitrator to assist with member conflicts. He then went on to say that incoming President Hundrup will likely have his agenda and hopes the board will be supportive.

Executive Vice President Update (John McSweeney)

McSweeney stated that he would like to discuss the Director's job under new business. John said he will provide a proposed budget for 2019 a little later in the meeting. He indicated he had also been assisting with lost bird retrieval and promotion in Louisiana.

Vice President Update (Ron Pairan)

Ron shared that he participated in Fair day, gave birds to 4 different children and, as a result gained one new member. He will be doing a November presentation for a group of seniors using the 11 minute Marathon and doing a pigeon release.

Pairan said he assists with bird retrieval as well and that he picked up a bird from 50 miles away. It was a roller with an NPA band on it. The finder claims she called the NPA and they were rude to her. Ron went on to say that the finder claimed the NPA representative said they had no contacts and no intention to locate one.

Pairan also thanked everybody for his time on the board.

President Ex-Officio Update (Freddie Rivera)

Freddie thanked the board for participation of 18+ years. He has been busy retrieving birds. Freddie says it is hard to counter the attitude of some of the owners.

Rivera will be doing a school presentation November 28. He said he will discuss the AU Judges' Panel and shows later in the meeting.

Lee Kohli added that he will work on an article about Freddie and therefore will be interviewing Freddie for comments to include.

Treasurer Report/Initial Budget Review (John McSweeney)

John distributed the proposed budget and said it appears to mirror the 2018 budget. John said that, in large part, is due to the fact that expenses and revenue are projected to remain very similar to that of 2018. John asked the board to review and indicated the budget will be discussed later in the meeting.

Committee Reports

Leadership/Retention (Lee Kohli/Deone Roberts)

Kohli stated that social media is front and center to build new audience and potential members. Lee reiterated that he continues to see positive results for his personal business by advertising through social media. He said he believes the AU could have a positive result as well.

Lee said he will reach out to individuals he knows that are in the field of social media networking to determine cost and potential of using a firm or individual to assist with our needs.

Deone indicated that she has tested advertising through ads on Facebook and Google ads. She has targeted specific age groups, gender, hobby interest, etc. She went on to say that the ads have also encouraged action, such as buying a membership, cap, etc. The ads have included promotion codes so results might be quantified. To date, none of those ads have resulted in new members.

National Youth/School Coordinator (Ron Pairan)

Pairan stated he had nothing new to report. Six years ago, he wanted a junior database added, which was never done. Ron's goal was to have a database with only junior members' race results so they could see competition the way adult members do. He said he hoped that the AU Board might consider that for the future. President Coletti stated that it can be added to the agenda under new business.

Right to Race (Lee Kohli/Karen Clifton)

Karen Clifton shared that there are bird movement restrictions in Riverside County within certain parts of Compton, CA due to a virulent Newcastle Disease outbreak. She went on to say that there have been positive tests in San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Karen explained that updates have been posted regularly to the Import Update section of the AU website.

Karen also shared that there is currently an Avian Influenza outbreak was at a turkey farm in Stanislaw County (CA).

Judge's Panel (Freddie Rivera)

Freddie Rivera shared that the program runs smoothly and that the members he has talked to are aware that Tom Coletti will be chairing the panel when Freddie's term concludes. Freddie said there have been a couple of requests for judges for shows that organizations wanted to host.

Constitution & By-Laws (Shannon Demler)

President Coletti shared that Shannon Demler gave Tom an oral report over the phone. Tom said Shannon reported that nothing is happening and there have been no recent issues. Shannon told Tom he would not be able to attend the board meeting because he had court appearances.

Coletti believes the minor or petty issues are not being reported because people have come to realize that we have an attorney doing much of the reviews so there is no point in initiating frivolous claims or complaints.

Competition Standards (John Hundrup)

John Hundrup reported there have not been too many race-rule-related calls recently. John said most of the calls he received the last few months were because the caller would rather call than look up the race rule. The items listed below are those John reported.

A single flyer went to another club to ship at the combine level then closed race at his local club and he was disqualified.

A one loft race wanted to upload to the AU NDB because it is easier to view on the NDB than create their own site or upload to Racing Pigeon Mall.

Many calls pertained to the procedure to change race schedules while the races are in progress. He shared race rule 5.02.

Several calls pertained to requirement for a separate crate for each flyer on a trailer; a futurity that mistakenly uploaded to the NDB resulting in the deletion of an upset member; and counterfeit bands. A race secretary entered substitute band letter designations because the actual bands started with a number. An upload of NPA bands required removal of NPA and reupload.

Another issue was two oversized pads at the loft entrance. The club was notified. John said he had two calls from non-AU organizations that had electronic chip problems.

Another call was from a member wanting to ship at the combine level because only two members had birds to ship at the club level. John said he advised the member that under rule 4.02, they could go to another club rather than combine to ship.

Lee Kohli asked if there is a possibility of innocence using a cloned chip band. Bud Williams suggested it might be possible if someone mistakenly or accidentally purchases a cloned chip. Bud said that in one situation at shipping, the security number did not match up when scanning at the club.

Veterans Committee (Al Hassler/Karen Clifton)

Karen said there was nothing new to report on a national level. She added that given the lack of response even from state or county VA offices, it appears all efforts should be at the local level, which means members must actively reach out to Veterans groups. This serves to assist Veterans but also potentially yield new members.

Karen mentioned that member, Charlie Klipsch in Missouri, did a promotion event and as a result, has developed connections within his community that may lead to a project with Veterans. Deone Roberts will further explain the project when she provides a sport development update later in the meeting.

The AU has encouraged members to have releases and events commemorating Veterans as part of the Cher Ami 100th anniversary celebration.

Bob McKenna attended the Smithsonian tours, which commemorated Cher Ami's 100th anniversary, along with lobbyist Greg Smith and Frank Blazich, the Curator at the Modern Military History, Division of Armed Forces History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian is guarded about memorabilia that are not on display for the general public. Currently Cher Ami is in storage but was brought out for our viewing.

Deone reported that member, Fred Werner, had two events honoring Veterans, which gained attention from local newspaper and television outlets.

Drug Test Committee (Freddie Rivera/Tom Coletti)

Tom Coletti said he had at least two inquiries regarding use of illegal drugs from Florida. Tom reminded the board of AU policy 400, which pertains to illegal drugs. Tom said we have a database in which specific prohibited drugs are listed. He went on to say that organizations must have a drug testing policy in writing and all participants (club/combine members, etc.) must sign and abide by the agreement. Coletti said there are penalties for not signing the agreement and that each organization has the right to suspend or remove a member from the club who refuses to sign. That can move quickly to an infraction and suspension from the AU. Testing must include chain of command on testing results from a legitimate lab and results sent to the AU with a policy of "no sign, no fly." Testing and control is to remain at the local level. The GHC has a form and procedure for drug testing. Al Hassler said that testing in the GHC is random every week with results posted on the wall at the club house.

Swearing in New Officers & Directors (Tom Coletti)

Coletti gave time to departing officers to share any last comments with the board.

Ron Pairan told the board that it has been a great experience for him. He said he has met a lot of good people and feels he is leaving the AU in good hands.

John Hundrup shared that he will miss assisting members with the race rules and that he has enjoyed helping people. John said he has dealt with most everybody on the board regarding race rules. As for activity as Zone Director in the Northwest Zone, John said is very quiet. John went on to say that e has never had an issue as Zone Director. He said he knows in-coming Northwest Zone Director, Jeff Life, will do a good job.

Freddie Rivera said that the AU has been faced with some obstacles and he hopes he has helped work to get beyond those problems. He said it seems like each board member wears many hats.

John McSweeney said he was surprised at the change of members' attitude when it was made known that he was serving as the AU Southwest Zone Director eight years ago. John said he has enjoyed serving members in the Southwest Zone.

Officers were sworn in.

New officers and directors took their positions and out-going officers and directors were allowed to leave.

Bud Williams, newly sworn in Southwest Zone Director, addressed Tom Coletti. Bud said that during the last few years, he heard a lot of negative propaganda and now after sitting with the board listening to the projects board members work on and the commitment they all show, he does not believe any of the propaganda. Coletti responded that by the time Williams completes his first year on the board, Bud likely won't believe any of the propaganda. Tom said a lot of the propaganda has to do with members being misinformed and that the propaganda is usually started and spread by disgruntled members that were ruled against on one occasion or another. Coletti implored the board members, especially the new board members, to read the President's Agenda and see just how much the board really does.

President Hundrup's Comments/Agenda/Appointments

After being sworn in, John Hundrup took the president's position and requested the board's approval to appoint Jeff Life as the Northwest Zone Director and National Race Secretary.

Motion was made to appoint Jeff Life as the Northwest Zone Director and National Race Secretary. Stierlin/McSweeney. Approved unanimously.

Hundrup shared that Jeff does have the required petition with signature of at least 25 members that support this appointment. President Hundrup administered the oath of office to Jeff Life and he was sworn in. Hundrup said we did recently receive an infraction that will be forwarded to Jeff and the Infractions Committee Chair, Lee Kohli.

John Hundrup reviewed the remaining appointments. John said that Shannon Demler has agreed to continue as Constitution and By-Laws Chairman and that Bob McKenna agreed to take the position of Awards Chairman.

John is recommending Lee Kohli to serve as the Infractions Chair and that Don Moore and Steve Pronai remain as investigators. Hundrup said we could use additional investigators and that he would like Joyce Stierlin and Al Hassler to be additional members of the Infractions Committee.

John said he would like Tom Coletti to chair the Judges Panel, Speakers Bureau and the Drug Test Committee and continue to manage development and completion of eWinspeed©. John said he and Joyce Stierlin would continue on the eWinspeed© Committee. President Hundrup also said he would like Jeff Life to serve on the Drug Test Committee.

Motion to approve remaining appointments as outlined by President Hundrup. Williams/Hassler. Approved unanimously.

President Hundrup's Agenda/Introduction & Review (John Hundrup).

John said he would like to see continued use of the Directors' Manual and that we will continue review and updates of the Director's manual. John explained to the new board members that the manual is updated twice a year during board meetings to include any rule or policy changes as a result of Board Action Requests or board action. He advised that each board member has a hard copy, as well as digital copies.

John said he will continue with the policy of no interruptions and show of respect for the speaker that has the floor during board meetings. John asked that board members hold their hand up to be recognized to speak and not speak over others. John asked that side conversations not be held in order to hear the speaker.

President Hundrup reviewed the travel expense policy/form, preapproval and what's expected.

In Policy 920, air fare or vehicle mileage (whichever is smaller) will be reimbursed; air travel is at coach rate assuming minimum 21 day advance purchase. John said that the AU follows the IRS per diem and travel reimbursement policies. The IRS has revised their reimbursement for travel days. John shared with the board that on the first and last day of travel, 75% of the IRS daily per diem rate will be allowed and reimbursed.

John also pointed out that In Policy 920.05, there is reference to phone cards, which is no longer pertinent.

Motion was made to strike verbiage regarding phone cards and leave intentionally blank. Bud Williams/Joyce Stierlin. Approved unanimously.

John introduced the Board Action Request (BAR) form and encouraged new board members to utilize to request rule or policy change. Hundrup asked board members to encourage their constituents to use the BAR form when they recommend change as well. This gives members a voice and relates their concerns and needs to the board for action, when appropriate.

Something new John will implement with his agenda is that Officers & Directors will be required to submit brief articles for quarterly Updates and the Yearbook. John said this is the best way to update zone members on activities within their zone.

Also included in the President's Agenda is the completion of eWinspeed©. John reminded the board that the contract in place supports completion by year-end. Tom Coletti shared that the current contract does not include maintenance of the program or NDB and that those contracts should be drawn to ensure on-going support when appropriate. The current contract strictly pertains to completion of eWinspeed©.

John then asked officers and directors to introduce themselves and tell a little bit about themselves.

John McSweeney: John is the newly appointed Executive Vice President, has served as Treasurer and Zone Director for the Southwest Zone. He is very active in the Texas Center and is past president of the Texas Center.

Deone Roberts: Deone is the Sport Development Manager and looks for any way, low cost or no cost, to assist members in promoting the sport. Deone works with members to coordinate promotion events, advertising and media outreach. She utilizes direct mail when appropriate to encourage new or sustain members. Deone oversees the majority of the AU's social media outreach.

Freddie Rivera: Freddie is leaving the position as President Ex-Officio. He has almost 20 years with the AU board, serving as a Zone Director, Vice President, and President. He has served in many capacities including Judges Panel Chair. He thanked the board for his time with them.

Bud Williams: Bud is from Houston, Texas. He has had pigeons since he was 8 years old. He is currently the concourse and combine President in Houston, and serves as Race Secretary. He has been flying in Houston since 1987.

Terry Finnerty: Terry is from Cleveland, Ohio and a proud father of three kids. He is a 2nd generation pigeon flyer. His favorite childhood memory is of his father racing pigeons. Currently, Terry is part owner of a private ambulance service in Cleveland, which is the largest in Ohio.

In Cleveland, there used to be a high level of racing fanciers. Finnerty said they are currently regrouping. He has gone from a Race Secretary of a club to running a federation which runs 3-4 states. They are struggling with number of lofts in the area but have pulled the numbers up recently. He shared they are moving in a good direction. Terry said he has gotten a lot of questions answered at the meeting.

Ron Pairan: Ron was a school teacher and guidance counselor for 35 years. He served as Lakes Zone Director and Vice President. He has been on the board for 12 years. He has been racing since 1987. He has been his combine race secretary for many years.

Lee Kohli: Lee is from Ohio, not far from where Terry is. He has a grocery and pizza business. He said he hopes his lasting contribution to the sport will be bringing in Terry Finnerty. He encouraged him to be president of the local organization and Kohli thinks he'll bring those same talents to the AU board. Kohli has enjoyed it and he said it has been a great opportunity to be involved with the AU board.

Al Hassler: He started with homing pigeons when he was 6 or 7 years old. He went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad and was with the railroad for 42 years in various positions. He worked for Union Pacific and CSX. He also did consulting work in the U.S. and Europe. He moved ten or eleven times with his position. He started in Omaha, NE and now lives in Spring Hill, FL.

Bob McKenna: He is from Rhode Island and lives in Connecticut now. Bob is in the grocery store business as manager for a family owned company. He started racing as a junior. He has served as president of 2 clubs and has held all club positions.

Jeff Life: Jeff said that he was in a club for several years and that club eventually folded. He was without a club for 20 years, and then he started back in the hobby about 11 years ago. He drives 1 and ½ hours each way for racing, both to the club and to the combine, for a total of 6 hours every Friday shipping night. He races long distance pigeons because he is on the long end of the racing course. He retired as a hydro water man working on the generators 13 years ago.

Joyce Stierlin: She was a computer programmer for 30 years with the state of California. She retired about 12 years ago. She started flying in the 70's with her husband who has since passed away. She held positions in many organizations, mostly gravitating toward secretarial jobs. Joyce co-founded the Auburn Racing Pigeon Club in the Sacramento area. She is the secretary of the combine and the state organization. When Joyce came to the board, it was to help with eWinspeed© because she loves programming. One of her pleasures is being able to talk to all the race secretaries around the country.

Tom Coletti: He started in birds in 1960. He started with a single bird and the pigeon would walk to school with Tom and fly back home. He has had birds ever since then. In 1994, he joined the San Francisco RPC. He ended up as race secretary for the club, which included custodial tasks. Then he became recording secretary for the combine.

In 2004, he was asked to serve as Rules Chairman. Tom also served as Northwest Zone Director and as AU Bylaws Chairman. Tom just completed his four year term as AU President.

Karen Clifton: She started in 1999. Karen initially started as Sport Development Manager and then after a year- long transition period, took over as Executive Director. Karen works between board members and members. Karen is a liaison between committees, the AU lobbyist, etc., and oversees daily administrative function for the national office.

John Hundrup: He started with pigeons as a child. John first had roller pigeons and then got involved with homing pigeons. He and his wife, Arlene, got into pigeons as their children became involved with 4-H. Ultimately, John and Arlene became 4-H leaders. John has traveled internationally as a judge for fancy pigeons.

John became president of his club and has served as secretary and race secretary of the combine. John has served as AU Race Secretary for a number of years as well.

Hundrup continued with his agenda. He asked that board members read the materials sent prior to the meetings so to be prepared when at the meetings.

John then covered pending Items from President Ex-Officio, Coletti's agenda:

Mini Zone Conventions

Bud Williams suggested the AU set up guidelines for the mini convention, and make it a regional convention. Clifton shared she has a "how-to" booklet for convention hosts that would be helpful to a group hosting a mini or regional convention.

AU Museum

Bud Williams mentioned a traveling with display items to be exhibited at various museums.

Quarterly Newsletters Sent Electronically Only

Changing to an electronic newsletter saves about \$23000. Discussion centered around members reading neither digital nor print. John suggested that we continue to research and in time, electronic versions should be the method of distribution.

Fill All positions on Infractions Committee, etc

John said that the committee right now is comprised of board members and two members that serve as investigators. Tom Coletti pointed out that the current by-laws read there will be five investigators on the committee and it has been difficult to find individual members that are willing to serve as investigators.

Bud Williams suggested changing the by-laws so that we comply. Specifically, Bud recommended changing the by-laws to read "...up to five investigators."

Clifton explained that changes to the by-laws may be made, however, the AU must provide 30 day notice of proposed change to members. If no opposition from members, then the board can formally vote and the change can be made.

National Office & Director Updates

National Office (Karen Clifton)

Clifton handed out a chart of zone and club membership status. The Lakes Zone and Southeast Zone have had a slight increase in membership. The Southwest Zone had a slight increase in junior membership. Nine new clubs have been chartered this year. Karen said there has been an increase in Lifetime members in 2018.

Karen pointed out that the last page of the handout reflects clubs that have not renewed in 2018. Many of these clubs renew during the young bird season and in order to receive their bands.

Clifton shared that a donation was made by the Sacramento Club. Working with the Ft. Sutter Club, Frank Meder specifically outlined how the money was to be distributed. \$20,000 was allocated to the AU Youth Scholarship Fund and they would like to see five scholarships go out next year at \$2000 each and another five for \$2000 each for the following year. Likewise they contributed \$10,000 to the Help A Beginner program and they would like to see five \$1000 awards go out this year and five next year. We have

discussed parameters for awarding money. It seems the youth groups stand out most. The Sacramento Club also donated \$5000 to help members with ordinance assistance. The Sacramento Club made the same generous donation to the California State Racing Pigeon Organization (CSRPO).

Karen briefly mentioned the Cher Ami celebration. AU Lobbyist, Greg Smith, coordinated with the Smithsonian. Greg arranged for 2 tours to allow a small number of members to tour and view Cher Ami and related World War I memorabilia. Karen said NE Zone Director, Bob McKenna, represented us and he will share more about the Cher Ami event in Washington D.C.

The curator of the Smithsonian, Dr. Frank Blazich, will be the keynote speaker Saturday night before the awards banquet.

Karen said that we have pushed social media postings for the 100th anniversary of Cher Ami event and related club events honoring Veterans and the birds in the war(s).

Clifton followed up on an email sent to the board previously regarding Delta Airlines. Pet Industries Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is an advocacy group in D.C. that the AU belongs to. PIJAC sent out a notice that Delta wants to impose more restrictions on animals shipped by air cargo. Karen said this affects a small portion of our members but we don't want to ignore any member encountering a shipping problem. As a result of PIJAC's efforts and that of animal hobbyist groups, such as the AU, Delta did eliminate some of the proposed restrictions and regulations.

Karen shared that we are working with the programmer to automate the club member renewal/update process. We currently send out a club packet to secretaries, they fill out the rosters and order forms and then send it back to the office. Office staff then enters the information in the office database. That process represents approximately \$3000 in supplies and printing. Likewise the secretary is tasked with pulling together all the information we need from the clubs.

Karen reported that Joyce put together some specs for the programmer, Craig, so that this process may be automated and easier for the club secretary. The members we have talked with seem to be pleased with the concept of on-line processing rather than pushing all the paper. When eWinspeed© is complete, the programmer will come back to this project, which gives the office time to contact each club secretary to determine combine/concourse affiliation and current race secretary information.

Clifton told the board that the winner of last year's youth race, Mecarte Olsen, will attend this convention (part of her prize for winning the 2017 race). She will be introduced at the banquet.

Karen asked the board for approval of dates and location for mid-year board meeting. Meeting in Salt Lake City was suggested as it is central for the majority of the board members. Clifton projected travel dates would be June 7, with return travel on June 10. Meetings would be held June 8 & 9. President Hundrup suggested Salt Lake City as the location because of travel ease for the bulk of board members. The board agreed to meet in Salt Lake on June 8 and 9, 2019.

Lakes Zone Director, Terry Finnerty, asked Karen if Zone Directors are to call the clubs that are shown on the handouts she provided that appear to have not renewed. It was agreed that the directors should call on those clubs and advise the office of the result so records may be updated.

Sport Development (Deone Roberts)

Roberts provided a printout of member activities that will be shared in the January edition of the *AU Update* newsletter. Members in Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin created or took part in promotion displays and presentations. Events in those areas will be shared in the *Update*.

Deone said that extra focus was on the 100th anniversary of Cher Ami. Deone reported that events in Louisiana, Montana, and Wisconsin celebrated Veterans. She went on to say that a cross country relay race also took place. Roberts said that we continue to explore digital avenues for attracting new members.

Lee Kohli asked about obtaining grants for projects and expenses related to assisting new AU members. Expenses would include building portable lofts, supplies, etc.

Tom Coletti suggested we need to get a professional grant writer right away that monitors registers.

John McSweeney said that former AU Executive Vice President, Bob Tomlinson, organized a 501c3 club and applied for a grant from Mobil Oil Company. John said they were awarded the grant, which helped his club offset shipping expenses.

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

Northwest Zone (John Hundrup)

John Hundrup reported that the Winnemucca Western Open race had again been flown. The Carson City race was flown on June 16 and had 595 birds from 40 flyers. The overall winner from Carson City was Dick Ensley of Marshing, ID with a bird that flew 1328 ypm and was the 300-399 mile winner as well. John Coray won the 400-499 section from Pocatello, ID and Jeff Life from Wenatchee, WA, won the 500-599 section. There was no clocking in the 600-699 section this year.

Since the summer board meeting, John was invited to attend the Dixie Southern RPA on June 23 to help them put together a racing pigeon show in Appling, GA, which was held in conjunction with their summer board and general membership meetings. They wanted to learn the “how-to’s” so they could continue to host shows to foster fellowship and participation. John judged the show for them. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Hundrup said he also attended the Mount St. Helens Combine annual picnic, seminar, auction and AU NW Zone Meeting, held in Gresham, OR. The guest speaker was Karl Wohlmacher from Edgewood, WA who is a very successful flyer in Washington state. Karl gave a great presentation on pigeon health. Tom Coletti served as auctioneer. Tom starts with a minimum bid and if the bid doesn’t go high enough, Tom will buy the bird and then donate it to any new flyer in attendance. The combine secured over 40

bags of pigeon feed along with grit and other items for a successful raffle. Over 60 people attended.

John reported that wildfire smoke in the NW region delayed and shortened races again this year, including the Oregon State Race.

Hundrup said that Jeff Life has been spending more of his time trying to get the Washington State Race reorganized and to have a state race flown in old birds this next 2019 season, from Burney, CA. John said Jeff has had some positive response and all are hopeful that the state organization will revive.

Pacific Mountain Zone (Joyce Stierlin)

Stierlin shared that combines are still regrouping and that the Compton club is trying to get reorganized after Bill Barger's passing.

Joyce reported that her club (Auburn RPC) gained two new members through the county fair promotion display the club hosted.

She went on to share that Frank Meder and the Ft. Sutter Club host a firework stand annually. The club loans new members an M1 and Benzing Live unit with proceeds from the firework sales. Four new members applied for membership this past year and two have remained.

Joyce explained that the Sacramento RPC folded for failure to pay taxes. The club is dissolved and liquidated and donated money to CSRPO and AU.

Stierlin offered a reminder that we are ambassadors wherever we go. Joyce said she released trainers at the airport when the firemen were coming into assist with wild fires recently and they asked many questions about the sport.

Southwest Zone (John McSweeney)

McSweeney shared that the fastest growing club in his area is in Baton Rouge, LA. They are now picking up Tangi Club birds for training and releases. So he is seeing some growth.

John attended the Texas Center Convention, which was held in Denton, TX. He said there was a good turnout and there were no problems. John said there are just a handful of people talking again about the Texas Center wanting to act independently as a social organization.

Plains Zone (Alan Porter)

President Hundrup reported that Alan Porter will arrive at a later time for this meeting and will provide a zone update at that time.

Lakes Zone (Lee Kohli)

Lee Kohli suggested that we use a cap or jacket as an award. He said winners of the Ohio Penn Federation have been given jackets as awards. He said that the recipients are all very proud of the jackets and that the jackets have enough information to spread awareness of the sport when worn in public.

Kohli said the upcoming Ohio Penn event will include a show all day. AU judge, Tom Barnhart, will be judging the show entries. Lee said that Dr. Paul Miller will be speaking again this year.

Lee said that the Ohio Penn is growing and they are trying to build excitement. Lee said he feels that we should look at different things to generate enthusiasm.

Lee mentioned that the board allotted \$7500 to promote. Lee suggested that perhaps we could promote Ace Pigeon with a jacket or similar award. Kohli said we need to get the fever going. An attractive jacket would be given to the award winner and that should he or she win same category in subsequent years, we would provide patch to add to the jacket.

Kohli would like to see more applied to social media. He said that part of the \$7500 budget he has will be used to increase our efforts on social media. Lee said he had good ideas and contacts that could help point us in the right direction but then got busy with personal projects. So Lee is anxious to get started on this and will be talking with contacts he has to see what their cost would be.

Terry Finnerty shared that we need to talk about the sport and develop the pride again. Lee agreed and said he believes we lose members that never win races.

Southeast Zone (Al Hassler)

Hassler welcomed the new directors. Al said there would be a zone meeting in Gaffney, South Carolina in January 2019, and he will attend. He said the Dixie Southern will be in Atlanta in November but will not be attending.

Hassler thanked Ron Pairan and Freddie Rivera for their service. He also shared that all was well with the Gulfcoast Homing Club.

Northeast Zone (Bob McKenna)

McKenna said the Boston Concourse is down from 200 lofts to 27. He said poor weather has interfered.

Bob shared that the Northwest Junior club now has 30-40 junior members. He said the club volunteers build loaner lofts for the kids that join. McKenna said they found cages for the junior members in the club. Bob also helped get the club's computer up and running after it crashed.

McKenna said that a local town council was considering an ordinance on pigeons and he made it a point to attend to assist another member. He reported that with the information from the AU, the township ended up removing the ordinance, which was favorable for flyers. He said a lot of positive information about the sport was shared during the meeting.

McKenna mentioned that he potentially has a group that would like to host the 2020, but he is not sure if they have enough members to execute. As they have discussed hotel accommodations, they considered a casino location. No decision has been made at this time.

Bob also shared about his experience with the Cher Ami tribute at the Smithsonian. He met the curator and lobbyist, Greg Smith, and took personal pictures, but he does not have permission to distribute the pictures. Bob mentioned possibly running a fundraising event for the purpose of refurbishing museum displays.

During general discussion, John McSweeney provided a handout regarding the zone director and promotion and asked that the zone director is copied on communications, especially email. John said the handout points out that the Zone Director is one of the greatest promotion tools. He feels it is important to demonstrate unity and genuine concern for members' needs. This strengthens relationships between members and clubs.

John continued saying that the AU office receives inquiries by email and if the Zone Director is copied, he or she should follow up, i.e., stray birds, ordinance issues, new members. He said that creating a network of members in the zone to welcome new members and answer inquiries will simplify communication and increase responsibility and comradery. McSweeney said that sending postcards as follow up is also helpful communication. He pointed out that the AU office has postcards to use. New members appreciate and comment on their welcome and the effort the director went to.

President Hundrup reminded board members that articles for the *Update* and *Yearbook* are due December 15, April 15, July 15 and August 15.

Southwest Zone Director, Bud Williams, said he runs ads on Craigslist and as a result his club got 6 new members and 4-5 former members returned. He suggested perhaps a more helpful promotion tool would be the utilization of articles or ads on Craigslist.

John Hundrup commented that the committee to address these things consists of Lee Kohli, Bud Williams, Terry Finnerty, and Deone Roberts and they will begin exploring possibilities this year.

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

The member awards committee commenced immediately after the board meeting adjournment. All present were asked to participate in award determinations.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
Chicago, IL – October 16, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Hundrup at 8:00 a.m. No guests attended and therefore there were no public/non-board member comments.

Present were John McSweeney, John Hundrup, Karen Clifton, Bob McKenna, Joyce Stierlin, Jeff Life, Tom Coletti, Al Hassler, Lee Kohli, Alan Porter, Terry Finnerty, Bud Williams, Freddie Rivera, and Deone Roberts.

President Hundrup referenced discussion from the previous day and asked Plains Zone Director, Alan Porter, if he would provide an update from his zone.

Porter offered the Midwest Convention as somewhat of a mini convention type of event. He said the convention was well attended this year and that it will be hosted by Eastside Members of the Detroit area in 2019.

Porter also shared that there have been no issues and all seems to be well in the Plains Zone.

WinSpeed©/eWinspeed©/NDB/Programming/Testing (Coletti/Stierlin/Hundrup)

Joyce Stierlin said there would be a demo of the NDB and eWinspeed © programs in the afternoon with the programmer, Craig Vander Galien.

Tom Coletti said that he is responsible for managing the contract. He continued to explain that the security of eWinspeed©. Tom a window will appear after a user logs into the program. The User Agreement will appear in that window and the user must confirm understanding before proceeding. This agreement includes explanation that the software is the property of the AU and only approved use is allowed. Tom said that each time a user logs in, there will be a legal statement and the user must agree in order to proceed. Tom explained that a report will be generated showing each log in attempt. Coletti added that at a later date, the board has discretion to license to other users. The programmer is preparing for use on every interface and Windows 11 is already adjusted for.

Terry Finnerty mentioned section differentiation in results. Stierlin said that would be easy and fast to do.

AU Competition Standards Chairman, Jeff Life, commented that a physical knock off (in accordance with AU race rules) will still be required.

Joyce Stierlin reported on issues she deals with when members call regarding the NDB. She said most calls are for basic information such as how to log in. Joyce did share that there was a roster issue wherein no race secretary was designated. In the past, results were instantly sent through WinSpeed© and that is still an issue for some. Joyce said award requirements are listed for a helpful guide. She said some members are calling because they are seeing their results “redlined” in the NDB. This indicates data is needed. There are alerts that notify the programmer if a file was renamed and

therefore changed the format and could not be uploaded. In some instances, this also indicates names are misspelled or incorrect member ID numbers are used. The inconsistency between what a race secretary enters into WinSpeed© and what is in the office database can also cause “redlining.”

Joyce asked the board for thoughts on how to ease into validating bands against band orders. Bud Williams suggested to allow only 4 letters on the bands. Stierlin explained that we already require just the first four letters on the bands be entered in WinSpeed©. Joyce pointed out that a race secretary may enter other the first four band letters.

John McSweeney suggested that stronger notice regarding registering bands in the NDB is needed. McSweeney said the AU could send information out to each race secretary with instruction to help ensure the correct first four letters are entered.

Bud Williams suggested a webinar where race secretaries are required to participate. Williams had been successful in renaming the upload file to a file type not approved, so he and Stierlin will get together to work on that issue.

Coletti reminded the board there is a maintenance contract which is separate from any other type of task. He reiterated a maintenance contract needs to be in place.

Review of New Board Action Requests

SW-043

John Hundrup stated that Shannon Demler had advised in a past meeting that no board member be investigators on the Infractions Committee. John said we have Lee Kohli as the committee chairman. John explained that once the chair receives an infraction, he reviews it and then forwards to the investigator. Once the investigation is complete the committee submits findings and a recommendation to the board for review and action. The committee includes Kohli, Hassler, and Stierlin. Investigators are Don Moore and Steve Pronai.

Tom Coletti said the point was to have the proper number of investigators and that board member can't be investigators.

Hundrup said AU member, Jim Greelis, would like to be an investigator.

Motion was made to approve Jim Greelis as an investigator on the Infractions Committee. Williams/Hassler. Approved.

Subsequently, John Hundrup reviewed the by-laws:

Section 9.01 states that the President, with advice and consent of the board, shall appoint a chairman of the Infraction Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Chair shall serve on the committee. Five investigators shall be retained.

Section 15.01 states that the committee shall be comprised of a chairperson and the Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and 5 individuals shall be retained.

The president, with advice and consent of the board of directors shall appoint a chair of the infraction committee. The constitution and bylaws advisor shall serve as a member of the committee.

The board discussed correcting the verbiage to read "...up to five individuals shall be retained."

John pointed out that if that change is made, 15.01 will also need to be amended.

Clifton will publish the information in the January newsletter and assign a BAR number. Newsletters will be distributed mid-January. So to allow time for mailing and the 30 day period required in our by-laws, the board would formally vote on March 2, if no opposition received from members by March 1.

Motion was made to change the wording from "must have five members" to "up to five members." Williams/McKenna. Approved.

Tom Coletti said page 21 of the Bylaws & Constitution needs to be updated.

Hundrup said that during the meetings on October 15, the board had discussion on promotion and the budget that was for Lee Kohli for promotion. John said he read what was recorded in the minutes as what was approved for Lee. The motion was made to approve a budget of \$7500 for web-based promotion and was to be placed under the sport promotion category. Web-based promotion expenditures up to \$7500 was approved. John said if money is to be spent on the purchase of coats for award recipients, a motion needs to be made to change the conditions.

Tom Coletti said it is treated as a line item budget. Lee Kohli said the majority will be used for web-based promotion and possibly \$1000 will be used for coats. Coletti told John Hundrup, that as president he has the right to transfer the funds anywhere there is a need. Hundrup clarified and stated that to avoid problems, we should be more specific.

Motion was made to drop "web-based" from the stipulations for promotion expenditures. Stierlin/Williams. Approved.

Executive Session

Upon exiting executive session, motion was made to approve the proposed budget, salary adjustments and dues structure. Coletti/Williams. Unanimous approval.

Review of Director Manual changes, with new pages 13, 26-59, 122-129, 155-162 that were approved in November 2017. Any changes this meeting will be sent out to the board by Clifton.

President Hundrup then reviewed the agenda for the annual General Membership Meeting to be held Saturday, October 20, 2019.

eWinspeed Study Session

National Database (NDB) programmer, Craig Vander Galien, was introduced and given the floor to share information about programming and operating eWinspeed©. He works in the Chicago area and grew up in rural Wisconsin. He said he went to school for programming and marketing as a minor and has been doing that since he was 13. He thought he'd be better suited to do something other than programming in college and has been doing web development.

Craig demonstrated eWinspeed© login and viewing of various elements on the site, such as national results, races and bird explorer. Craig said he is continuing to make additions and that much information calculates and shows on the screen according to location.

Joyce Stierlin mentioned that they are working on the ability to share race results by email.

The eWinspeed© will be continuously adjusted according to corrections and wish list.

Craig said we are on a faster server now, so results and awards will be timely rather than delayed. Craig shared that security is top notch. When Craig is not working on the eWinspeed©, he works in high end security, so he utilized high end security for eWinspeed©.

Exact GPS location is not automatic through eWinspeed©, but rather through your clocking system.

Craig said that with the new server, capacity for accumulated data is much greater now.

Craig said once the system has been tested extensively and fully functioning, we can consider incorporating live clocking. Stierlin estimates that will take through the end of the year.

Terry Finnerty, Lakes Zone Director, said he was looking for a sort function to accommodate sections in race reports. Stierlin and Coletti assured Terry that will be available.

Craig said over half of the views of the NDB are via cell phone.

Coletti said all ideas and questions are funneled through Joyce. Once she understands, she can communicate the wish list with Craig. Tom added this is the 8th time we've had a demonstration of eWinspeed© and is excited that it works.

Craig further explained there is an activity log and it is monitored, so should there be an issue, it can be pinpointed. If there are multiple log ins on the same ID, that can be pinpointed as well.

The eWinspeed© database and the NDB database are linked. Access for members to eWinspeed© still needs to be discussed, i.e., is there a button on the NDB page?

During a discussion of GPS location of a loft, John Hundrup pointed out that it is illegal to obtain GPS coordinates from Google Maps, Benzing Live, GPS. You must physically go to the loft to take coordinates with WAAS-enabled GPS. Stierlin said that function will be available in time.

Terry Finnerty pointed out that in his club, not one member cared about the database until this past year. But utilizing the NDB is so much better.

Bud Williams pointed out that the phone apps are not accurate for reading GPS and there must be four places after the decimal. He said if you add "00," then your coordinates are wrong.

Joyce Stierlin said that the race secretary has to be designated to upload to the NDB and that future developments will depend on specifics such as this.

Regarding data for eWinspeed©, Karen Clifton asked if we should be approaching clock manufacturers now. Tom Coletti said they do need to be approached and instructed on how we need to see the data. They can be notified that by a certain date, if the clocks are not configured to work with eWinspeed©, the clock will be eliminated from the approved list.

Stierlin said the board needs to consider taking out the "redlining" in the NDB. She said those results should not show up at all and should be rejected from the results.

Good of the Order

Bud Williams brought up the issue of helping junior flyers. He said people talk about it but don't do it. He went on to say that there are so many kids from single parent homes that can't afford clocks, etc., but it seems all kids have cell phones. He'd like to see the AU build an interface using the cell phone, using countermarks whereby the race secretary puts the countermark numbers in the database and kids enter the proper information into the cell phone and results are viewed.

Stierlin responded that there is not currently enough security for adults and the variety of security issues.

Coletti said we had a category in the NDB before. Maybe we do a different age group for specs in NDB. Maybe we need to have this added to the scope of work on the NDB and eWinspeed©. Tom suggested the possibility of having special awards for juniors. Coletti suggested appointing an information committee to explore the possibility of that and report at the summer meeting. Then later we can form a committee to develop the scope of work. Williams and Finnerty volunteered to be on the committee.

Discussion turned to alien bands. In view of the Texas Center or any organization getting their own bands, John McSweeney suggested members need to be made aware that those bands will not be recognized for racing. Bud Williams said members will be alienated if we don't allow those bands to be registered. Tom Coletti said he doesn't understand people who join an organization and then turn around and pressure for a change in the rules. Williams said it is not just a couple people, but many uninformed people that will be upset. McSweeney suggested pointing out what is required in the newsletter so people are forewarned. Lee Kohli said the quarter horse association in

Texas will not modify rules to accommodate a group. He agrees with getting the information out so members are warned. Coletti said members are supposed to have a copy of the race rules, but they do not. AU race rules spell out which bands are authorized. John Hundrup said notice could be made in the January *Update* and through Constant Contact.

Lee Kohli suggested we send a series of letters so to give multiple notices.

Hundrup said band manufacturers approved by AU are approved by FCI and we do not know the source of bands that were purchased by the Texas Center.

Kohli asked John McSweeney how many Texas Center members leave. McSweeney said maybe 15. Notice will be in the January newsletter and will appear multiple times in monthly electronic newsletters.

President Hundrup called for further new business.

There being no more new business, motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Hassler/McSweeney. Approved.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
General Membership Meeting Meetings
Chicago, IL – October 20, 2018

The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. Karen Clifton welcomed attendees. After the flag salute and moment of silence, Clifton congratulated the local hosts, the Greater Chicago Combine, and thanked them for a nice convention.

The first order of business is to approve the general membership meeting minutes from 2017 as published on the AU website. Stierlin/Coletti. Approved.

Clifton turned the meeting over to President Ex-Officio, Tom Coletti, for swearing in of new officers and directors taking office. The newly elected introduced themselves: John McSweeney (Executive Vice President/New Orleans, LA area), Joyce Stierlin (Pacific/Mountain Zone/Penryn, CA), Bud Williams (SW Zone/Houston, TX area), Terry Finnerty (Lakes Zone/Ohio), John Hundrup (Washington/President), Lee Kohli (Vice President/Ohio), Jeff Life (NW Zone, National Race Secretary/Washington). Coletti administered the oath of office.

Clifton remarked that Tom Coletti remains on the board as President Ex-Officio. The Plains Zone Director, Alan Porter, could not attend. Karen then introduced Deone Roberts, Sport Development Manager. Clifton recognized officers leaving the board: Ron Pairan, AU Lakes Zone Director, Vice President, and Infractions Chairman and Freddie Rivera was the SE Zone Director, President, President Ex-Officio and Chair of the Judges Panel. Clifton turned the meeting over to President John Hundrup.

Hundrup thanked all who attended and supported the convention. He thanked Ron Pairan and Freddie Rivera for their service. John said Freddie was on the board 15 years and Ron served for 12 years. He thanked the office staff as the organization's backbone. John said they work hours and hours and many people have no idea what they do for members and they hold the organization together for all of us.

Hundrup thanked Andy Waclaw and the Chicago Combine for putting together the convention.

John shared that he has been asked what his platform is coming into office. He said he is here to help direct and guide the board to run smoothly. John said eWinspeed © is the biggest push right now. John Thanked Joyce Stierlin and Tom Coletti for their dedication to the completion of the program. John explained the National Database is completed.

John shared that the 2019 convention will be in Ogden, Utah again, running October 23 – 27 next year. John said it will be run by the Northern Utah Racing Pigeon Combine. They hosted three years ago. The convention will be at the same hotel.

John said that Frank Blazich will be speaking at the dinner on Saturday. He is the curator with the Smithsonian. He will speak about Cher Ami's 100th anniversary.

Tom Coletti began an update on the progress of eWinspeed©. He said he negotiated and monitors the contract for eWinspeed© and he found some good people to work on it: Joyce Stierlin and John Hundrup.

Stierlin continued with sharing that we have a great programmer, Craig, who has been instrumental in making the NDB what it is. She said everyone can now view the race results, AU awards and information. Joyce said general public can get that level of access as well. Joyce said it is vital that the AU has the correct Race Secretary in the NDB as they drive the data with race uploads.

The AU awards certificates have been automated. That was a huge accomplishment. All the certificates are now current to AU 2018 Old Birds.

Stierlin added that eWinspeed© is a modernized version of WinSpeed© and runs on the Internet and that it is no longer a program that has to be downloaded or installed. Any computer with Internet can get to eWinspeed©. Members of the AU paid for the development of this program. AU members are the ones who are going to use it. It is free to them and to all the chartered organizations listed with the AU. That is why we stress updating the information. Stierlin will provide tech support for desktop WinSpeed© until eWinspeed© rolls out. She will also offer tech support for eWinspeed©.

She went on to say that the clocking will work very much like it does right now and that all approved clocking systems may upload. Support information that makes eWinspeed© run, i.e., race schedules, members information, chartered organizations, alien band registration, regular band registration, will reside in eWinspeed© or office tables. She said the program will use GPS coordinates. Joyce added there will be no more merging, it will all be done in the program. There will be no more relying on race secretaries to get results out to various flyers. Joyce said that control of the releases will be done by the race secretary, at that level. She continued that open races are a challenge and that open races will be all clockings where a release is done in the same geographical location. eWinspeed © takes the data and produces results.

Joyce told meeting attendees that we have transferred to a larger server to house the NDB and the office database, which equates to faster merging, as well as more capacity to store accumulated data.

She said that the AU office staff is working on identifying chartered organizations and multiple club memberships. Joyce said we will also work on automating the member renewal process so that the club secretary will have limited access to the office database.

Stierlin reminded members that unregistered bands will not be allowed.

She went on to say that the programming now includes maintenance of tables, zone and club information. Joyce said security features will be added and that members need to be listed accurately with the AU office. Additionally for race secretaries to have access, they need to be designated as the club race secretary with the national office.

Joyce reported that the next phase will probably be in November and will allow “display only” capability of table information. She mentioned that Bird Explorer in the NDB will list awards per bird. Hopefully in December, Joyce said we will add the local reports that are in WinSpeed©. We will automate diplomas for an entire series or specific people.

Stierlin reported that a leader board that will show the current first place for every award in the series will be added and that we hope to initiate beta-testing in December.

One member in attendance, Mike Netzky, asked if the breeder will be shown on the race winners. Stierlin said that it is not at this time, however, would be added to the enhancement list.

Lee Kohli asked how much time had been put into this program. Stierlin said she started with the project about two years ago and puts in about 100-200 hours per month. With current user support the time has probably doubled. She credited the people who contribute the ideas and information and that she has really enjoyed communicating with race secretaries to make improvements.

She was asked if there would be a function for trainers. She said that had not been mentioned, but she will put it on the enhancement list.

Joyce was also asked when she would expect clock manufacturers to receive directives on changes they need to make to interface with eWinspeed©. Stierlin said it is a separate project not under her control.

Following Joyce’s update, Deone Roberts provide a sport promotion report. Deone gave praise to Fox Valley Combine in Illinois noting that they conducted two major promotion events that garnered excellent press coverage, with the Morton Arboretum Children’s Garden and Cantigny Park programs. She said AU Lobbyist, Greg Smith, would likely share what took place in Washington D.C. at the Smithsonian Institution as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Cher Ami.

Deone shared that several members across the country joined the Cher Ami tribute with promotion events, many of which honored Veterans.

Roberts also mentioned that the AU has items donated to share with beginners and that a list of those items is typically shared in the electronic newsletter. She encouraged members to share that with new fanciers and for all members to sign up for the e-newsletters.

Karen Clifton then introduced Dustin Maxfield who shared information regarding next year’s convention. He flies with the Northern Utah Combine. The same group hosted the event in 2015. Dustin said they are still ironing out details, but they will pretty much be like the 2015 convention. Clifton said there are flyers on the table outside of the meeting room and that information will be posted on the website. She encouraged members to select handlers, send birds and attend the convention.

AU Member, Bob Brumegin, asked if sending birds to handlers in both sections, can the birds be shipped together to save on time and the cost of shipping. Dustin said he would check into that.

Clifton then introduced AU Lobbyist, Greg Smith. He has been a strong advocate for the AU and the racing pigeon community for many years. Smith thanked the board for the 15 year journey with the organization. He shared the wide variety of ways the AU has defended the organization and sport.

Greg said that former AU board member, Dr. Gary Braden, in Oregon, introduced Smith to the AU organization. Greg went on to share information about efforts to keep members flying in the midst of various virus outbreaks, work to protect shipping rights, confronting animal rights activists, dealing with Washington DC officials, airlines, Federal Express and much more.

Greg said the AU has always responded with as much fact as possible and with principle. Smith said the AU's biosecurity and loft certification program were reviewed and approved by the USDA.

Smith then spoke about the Cher Ami anniversary celebration. Greg reached out to business associates at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. in order to promote a joint venture to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Cher Ami. The museum curator uncovered many items and memorabilia from World War I that are not on display for public. Smith arranged two tours for pigeon flyers. Greg went on to say that the curator has become obsessed with finding out more. He says the artifact is likely the most important in the museum.

Greg thanked the AU board for allowing him to part of our organization and said he has enjoyed working on our behalf.

One member commented on the importance of pigeons in the event communication during emergencies.

Clifton asked for questions, concerns, and comments before adjournment. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Pairan/Hassler. Approved.