

**September 26, 2023**  
**AU Board (Zoom) Meeting**



Present Board Members: Bob McKenna, Joyce Stierlin, Gary Heindel, CL Gage, John Hundrup, Jeff Life, Ronnie Shumaker, Al Christeleit, Dave Wilson, Steve Lawler, Robbie Whaley, Karen Clifton

Guests: Don Lowe, Ed Daniels, Paul Benson, Drew Lesofski, Paul Kaufman, Beverly Gottlieb, Ronda Mariani, Joannie Christeleit, Rich Callahan, Dylan Tucker, Terry Finnerty, John Vance

President Bob McKenna opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Bob indicated that Ronnie Shumaker (SE Zone Director) wants to step down as Promotion Chair and that Bob wants to nominate Al Christeleit to replace him. Al asked to give up Diversity Chair. Bob noted Ronnie was willing to chair the Diversity committee.

Al asked why not appoint Terry Finnerty and that Terry had raised money through the auctions. President McKenna stated he wanted someone on the board to serve as chair to save travel-related expenses. Bob also commented that Al had said he wanted to chair the Promotion committee.

Ronnie said it is not a matter of who the chair is and that Terry could work for the chair of the committee. Ronnie said he wanted to step down as the Promotion chair because of the social media work. He noted that promotion is not all about fundraising, rather getting the word out about the sport.

Al said he would chair and have Terry serve on the committee.

President McKenna called for a vote. All voted to pass unanimously.

Bob thanked Al. Al said he needed the support of the board and that the board should help with promotion efforts.

Bob then called for vote to approve Ronnie Shumaker as the Diversity chair. He asked if there was discussion. Al said he was fine with it. All voted unanimously to appoint Ronnie as the Diversity chair.

The next item on the agenda was an Awards committee update. McKenna advised the board that lifetime member and former board member, Jeff Travers, noted errors in the Champion and Elite Champion awards calculation.

CL asked if the awards are calculated manually.

Bob explained that they use to be manually calculated, however, are now automated. Jeff noticed the calculations were incorrect. Mr. Travers was instrumental in the early calculations and has programming knowledge. Jeff has been working with the programmer, Craig, and that it has been a good match. Bob asked for approval to appoint Jeff as an awards committee member. All voted unanimously in favor.

President McKenna asked Joyce Stierlin (Pacific Mountain Zone Director) for an update on EWINSPEED®. Joyce indicated that the upgrade is proceeding on track and that the transfer to the new server went well and is complete.

Continuing, CL provided an update on the 2024 convention. CL said he is trying to get them motivated. Lou (2024 convention chair) was to get a list of handlers, hotel information and bond information to Karen, however, has not.

Al asked if they don't provide the information needed, what happens to the convention. CL said the 2025 Chicago convention host is not able to move to 2024 and will proceed with preparing to host the 2025 convention.

CL said Florida (2024) is handled. Al asked again what would happen if the 2024 host falls out. Karen said the office could coordinate the convention aspect if a group that has conducted convention races would step up to host just the race.

Al said he didn't want another experience as the 2016 convention.

Karen repeated that when the AU stepped in when a host had to step down, it was 2017 not 2016 and that the 2017 convention went well.

CL said Florida is set, just behind. He is going to call Lou to ask for the needed information and report back to the board.

The next item discussed was that of hiring a stenographer for board meetings. President McKenna asked Al if he had talked to Gene Yoes' wife who was a stenographer by profession. Al said the AU should pay for her trip and convention hotel stay and registration.

Bob asked if the new Sport Development Manager, Mary, could assist. Karen said she is still learning but could assist.

Ronnie Shumaker commented that a motion was made in July to approve hiring a stenographer and CL was going to get quotes. Ronnie said that in the July meeting, he asked about potential cost. At that time, Ronnie said he felt the board needed an estimate before voting to approve the expense of a stenographer and that another board member blew up saying it should not be put off. Ronnie asked if someone that voted on the prevailing side could make a motion to reconsider. CL made the motion to rescind. No action was taken on the motion. Ronnie asked CL for his quotes.

CL said he was quoted \$500 an hour or \$1800 for a full day if the service he talked with could even fit it in given their schedule.

Ronnie asked Bob if someone made the motion in July, could that person rescind the motion in view of the expense included.

CL said he would rescind his motion. Ronnie said he would second. Gary Heindel (Plains Zone Director) said he thought that was a bad idea because some of the board members keep saying the AU board always does the same thing. Gary added that if we didn't hire a stenographer, then we would be back to taking meeting minutes the way we use to.

Al said it was a bad decision to rescind and that it would be cheaper to pay Gene Yoes' wife for transportation, convention registration, meals, hotel, etc.

Dave Wilson suggested engage on a temporary basis with her and see how it goes.

Al asked what the board wanted him to offer her. Ronnie suggested paying Mrs. Yoes \$1000 a day and she pay her own expenses, which would be \$3000 for 3 days. President McKenna noted that the Saturday meeting is approximately an hour and \$1000 for that day seems high.

Al said that the convention host can give up one of their free rooms.

Ronnie asked if he is talking about paying expenses to attend convention for Gene as well or just his wife. He noted that board members are reimbursed, not their spouses.

Al said Joanie had a quote for \$350 for the first two hours and then \$175 per hour or portion thereof after the first 2 hours. Joanie suggested 9 hours the first day, 6 on the second day. The company that quoted is in New York but has access to stenographers all over.

Ronnie asked Al to send an email with the quote.

President McKenna then asked for an update on Constitution and By-Laws (CB&L). Steve Lawler, CB&L Advisor, told the board he has not heard anything from the attorney that CL and Al said would review all bylaws in 30 days.

Al said that Richard Callahan was to call him. Al then said that Richard told him that he just needs to know what problems there are and he will look at it. Al said he will contact Richard and get him in touch with Steve.

Steve commented that per bylaw 3.08, any proposed changes to bylaws are to be submitted to him to present to his committee and then ultimately to the board for approval. Al agreed.

National Race Secretary/NW Zone Director, Jeff Life, then provided an update on Race Rules. Jeff said the most common questions of him right now pertain to people wanting to crate their own birds.

Jeff said he has several race rules that he feels need to be reviewed and possibly revised and that he wants board discussion. Ronnie asked if he could send out any Board Action Requests (BAR) pertaining to race rules early so to be ready to discuss and act in Houston next month. Jeff said he would get his BAR's to the board ahead of the meetings in Houston.

Drug Test Committee Chair/Vice President, Robbie Whaley, reported that there are no real updates from the committee. He said he has received one inquiry and referred the caller to the drug test policy and list of banned substances on the AU website. Robbie asked John Hundrup if that is what he would have done when he was chair of the committee.

President Ex-Officio, John Hundrup, said he did that routinely when members would call to inquire as to which substances are legal or banned. John added that the list and AU policy is based on the GHC protocol, which is that which is followed in Europe.

Robbie said other than the recent inquiry, he has had no complaints.

AI said he got a copy of the audit quote and that the engagement form requires signatures and asked who should sign it. Bob and AI will sign the contract.

President McKenna said BAR's should be sent into the office 30 days prior to the meetings (by 9/30/23).

Steve Lawler asked that any tabled BAR's be included with the meeting packets that will be sent out a couple weeks ahead of the meetings.

CL asked the status of Andy Rodriguez. President McKenna reminded him that would be discussed in Executive Session in Houston. Karen will send copies of the original case to board members with the meeting packets.

With no additional board business, Bob opened the meeting to general members.

Beverly Gottlieb said her club uses the old WinSpeed© program and that the club does not have internet access. She said it would be too expensive to access the internet and they should be able to use the old the program.

Joyce said other clubs run front end clockings on a zip drive and then take it home and access the internet and use EWINSPEED®. Joyce said the board can discuss.

Ronnie asked Bev if she would present a BAR to the board. Bev agreed to submit

Beverly then suggested change to dead time and was asked to submit a BAR. Jeff Life asked to confirm if there was a specific award for day birds. Joyce asked her to specify how she wants to see the bird acknowledged and when it would be seen. Beverly said at cut-off.

Bev agreed to submit a BAR for this request too, and be specific about how day birds would be indicated on the race reports.

Don Lowe then asked about the cost of the audit AI mentioned. AI told Don it was not to exceed \$10,000.

John Vance said he wanted BAR's to be reviewed and that we should hire a stenographer because he said his comments in general membership meetings are not reflected accurately. Vance also said the general membership meetings should last 2 to 3 hours so people can speak. He said attending the convention is not about seminars, banquets or the race, rather the membership meeting.

Bob McKenna said the meetings are not limited to an hour and that few people attend.

Ed Daniels told the board that he didn't hear about the BAR he submitted. He said CL told him there was no second so the BAR died. He asked if he understood that correctly, which was confirmed by the board.

AI thanked guests. Ed Daniels thanked the board.

Heindel/Christeleit to adjourn. Passed unanimously.