

**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.**  
**Mid-Year Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Salt Lake City, UT – June 9, 2018**

The meeting was called to order 8:00 a.m. with a welcome, flag salute and moment of silence for members who have passed away. Present were Tom Coletti, Karen Clifton, Joyce Stierlin, John Hundrup, Al Hassler, Ron Pairan, Shannon Demler, Freddie Rivera, Al Porter, Bob McKenna, Lee Kohli, John McSweeney and Deone Roberts.

The floor was opened for non-board public and member comments; however, no guests were present.

President Coletti opened with an invitation for motion to approve the minutes of the November 2017 meeting minutes as posted on the AU website. Rivera/Hassler; approved.

**Officer Reports**

**President's Report (Coletti)**

Tom stated it has been somewhat quiet. He advised that the board would be finishing up on infraction issues and board action requests and that these issues would be discussed in executive session. Further, Tom reminded the board that these matters are private and not to be shared. This is under recommendation of the AU attorneys. Tom added that our by-laws specify that all parties involved are notified within 30 days from the meeting and we will follow that protocol.

Tom told the board that our attorneys have been watching what has been going on in California with the handlers' attempt to get paid for the convention race. Our attorney spoke at last year's convention to clarify to members that nothing has changed.

At the previous meeting, Coletti asked the board members to consider being part of a convention committee to vet groups to host a convention. Tom reminded the board that there has been prior discussion regarding holding regional conventions. Tom pointed out that Ogden was intended to be a regional event and they did a great job of hosting a national convention.

Tom said this committee of just a couple people would be responsible for getting out and checking with members to determine interest in hosting a convention. Coletti mentioned that when he travels, he asks clubs if they would be interesting in hosting a convention.

Tom shared that Karen Clifton came up with a check list of things to do to prepare for a convention. Tom described it as a “how to” book for convention hosts. Karen was asked to get this book to the two individuals that were appointed to this committee.

Coletti reminded the board that at one time, we discussed offering a convention host seed money to get started. The 2010 and 2017 conventions were very successful. The office staff coordinated convention activities and the local clubs focused only on the race and the National Youth Race.

Tom said the idea of offering seed money to a host with a \$5000 bond is out because of legal ramifications and suggested that we use the 2017 format. He reminded the board of the past problems and that many of the board members and staff unfairly took much bullying and abuse for situations beyond their control.

Tom asked Bob McKenna and Al Hassler to form a committee, meet and come back to the meeting with recommendations for future convention hosts.

Coletti reiterated that we’re not interested in the race but the AU’s focus is identifying clubs that would be interested in hosting conventions and they have the option to run the whole thing, or half. The host still needs to secure a bond.

Alan Porter asked if the board had an idea of what the bond would cost. Karen Clifton indicated an estimate would be approximately \$1000.00, which is the same as the deposit a host is required to submit. Tom said Chicago doesn’t have a bond and legally we can’t force them to get one because they already had a signed contract with us to do the convention. Coletti stated that after Chicago, hosts will have to bond as it is now part of the new convention agreement and licensing contract.

Coletti continued to say that we need to get guys on a committee to get people to do the convention. Alan Porter said he will sit on the committee with Bob McKenna and Al Hassler. Tom told the committee members that the board is not going to tell them what to do or not do, rather we just want their ideas and recommendations. The committee will investigate how much the host organization wants to do for the convention and report to the board.

McKenna said he is aware of two groups who are interested and that one group would prefer to take the convention in a couple of years, not for 2019.

Coletti requested that McKenna get with Hassler and Porter to make determinations. Al Hassler said he also invited Salt Lake members to this meeting to make a presentation for putting on a convention. Coletti asked that they work

all that out and report to the board the following day. Tom asked that the committee select a chairman to provide status reports. Tom reminded the board that several convention hosts have expressed an interest in having a show as part of the convention.

Karen Clifton asked the board if they felt it would be boring for members to go the same location each year. Various board members commented that traveling to different regions allows fellowship with people in other areas.

Coletti said he will be attending the Mt. St. Helen's auction and combine/zone meeting in Portland and will again ask that group if they would have an interest in hosting the convention.

Tom then asked the board to sit in on a eWinspeed© study session at the end of the meeting tomorrow.

Tom asked all board members to stand. Coletti stated that we now have the reprogrammed National Database (NDB) up and running and there will be some minor issues that will be addressed and/or corrected. Tom said he was happy to manage the project, and was extremely appreciative of Joyce Stierlin for executing the project. Tom told the board that Joyce put in many hours testing and communicating with the programmers. He also thanked John Hundrup for his backup and working with Joyce to provide test support. Tom expressed that he believed we would not have the updated NDB without Joyce. The board took a moment to recognize and congratulate Joyce.

Coletti went on to say that we were led down a different path for so long, that when someone (Joyce) stepped up to the plate and got the work done, it was mind boggling to see how much work it took to see the project through. Tom said there is not a person in this room or that has been in this room that could have done the work that Joyce did.

John Hundrup added that no one realizes or could have anticipated the number of hours that Joyce would end up putting into this project.

Tom shared his appreciation and acknowledged how much help John McSweeney, Vernon Young, Leon Furnish, Jack Blazier and Don Reidel have also been as they tested the NDB. Their input was valuable and very helpful.

Coletti said that Joyce came up with so many "what ifs" in anticipation of using the NDB in real application, that the programmer is actually doing double duty, well beyond the contract stipulations. Tom said there were concerns that the programmer would be overwhelmed and leave, so he made decisions on behalf of

the board. Tom told the board he authorized a verbal \$2000 contract to have the programmer finish the work. Tom and Joyce both felt if they had taken time to contact each person on the board, it would have been too late and the programmer would likely have quit.

Tom further explained that as testing was being done, the old server could not handle the input and calculating submissions and results. Therefore, the decision was made to put everything on a new server with storage capacity for the future. Once that was done, Tom said that the new server now handles the uploads very efficiently. He said that what took hours before now takes only an instant. Coletti would like the board to agree to pay the programmer to house the database on his server that would serve our needs. He said it will cost \$300 per month to do that and we are currently paying \$150 per month. With this new server, the Race Secretary gets immediate response from the database and entries are not stacking up slowing the system. Tom told the board that now that the national database and the office database are all in one spot, we're ready to continue with development of eWinspeed©.

Tom reported that reprogramming the NDB was within budget and reminded the board that previously we spent \$1500 a month (\$18,000 a year) for contract labor to manage and maintain the NDB. A motion was made to approve the monthly expense of \$300 a month to maintain the larger, faster server and adopt the contract for the programmer to further develop eWinspeed© Hassler/McSweeney. Approved.

Tom concluded saying that after a 1 ½ years, we will assess the progress and status of the NDB and review future costs at that time. Then the board will need to determine if a 3 year contract is to finish as planned or if a renewal is required. It will be at that time that notice is given to contract for future planning. Tom said we will have the opportunity to meet the programmer in Chicago.

### **eWinspeed©/NDB Study Session (Coletti)**

The study session was moved to the end of second day of the meeting. Coletti shared that at the end of the regular meeting, every chance we get, though not mandatory, there will be an end-of-meeting eWinspeed©/NDB study session. Tom said he suggests all board members sit in and participate in the meetings to become more familiar with both the NDB and eWinspeed© .

### **Appointment of John McSweeney-EVP (Coletti)**

Tom shared with the board that Karen received Jay Holder's resignation as Executive Vice President. Tom recently visited with John McSweeney to determine if he would fulfill the term since he is running for Executive Vice President this year. Tom reminded the board that if entering into an AU election,

the candidate must submit petitions with the appropriate number of signatures supporting the candidate. Likewise, if being appointed, the appointee must provide a petition with appropriate number of signatures. John has presented proper petitions with signatures and so in accordance with AU by-laws, may be appointed to fulfill the remainder of the term of the Executive Vice President. Motion to accept appointment of John McSweeney as the Executive Vice President-Hundrup/Hassler. Approved unanimously.

### **Social Media (Coletti/Kohli)**

Lee Kohli said he has been working with the office to move AU social media in a new direction. Lee said he has seen great results for his business utilizing social media. Lee indicated he had provided input to the office but then backed away because of personal business commitments.

Lee said he wanted to see more videos and photographs of pigeon flyers having fun and those that would encourage potential new members to get involved. Tom reminded the board that Deone has made good use of social media and encouraged all to review the AU's Twitter, Instagram and Facebook pages. Tom said he felt we have exactly what we want on Instagram.

Lee has been involved in a unique fishing hobby and feels that we should be trying to appeal to millennials and that social media is the way to target specific interest groups (beagle field trial participants, hunters, fishing groups, etc.). Lee said he will get more actively involved again.

At this time, Tom gave John Hundrup the floor to share what he foresees taking place during his upcoming term as President. Hundrup said there will be some appointments that he will seek board approval of. John said Shannon Demler serves well as the Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and he will talk to Shannon to see if he will continue in that capacity. John said he has talked to Jeff Life to see if he will consider taking over as National Race Secretary, and that he has a couple members in mind for Northwest Zone Director.

John asked Tom Coletti to head up the Drug Committee, Speakers' Bureau and Judges' Committee. John said he would like to see people coming back together and that how the AU governs itself has always been and remains a priority of his.

### **Executive Vice President Update (McSweeney)**

McSweeney said he had a tremendous advantage watching how the position of the Executive Vice President functions under Steve Lawler, Frank Greenhall, Bill Mitiu, Tom Coletti and Jay Holder. McSweeney said he will do it his way and support the President's desires and make sure his plans are carried out. John noted

that the President needs the support of the Past President and Executive Vice President to help execute plans.

### **Vice President Update (Pairan)**

Ron Pairan said he attended the Findlay show with his grandchildren. Ron said that Tom Barnhart was also at the show and was judging while there.

Ron said he also spent time with youth at the 4-H Day in Lancaster, Ohio. While at the Ohio Penn Show, Ron was the official judge. He pointed out that it was the first year for the show, so participation was low.

Ron said he has spent some time on complaints and that those will be formally discussed tomorrow while in executive session.

### **President Ex-Officio Update (Rivera)**

Freddie Rivera reported that members using counterfeit bands has become an issue. He reported that a member in his area attempted to enter birds in a race and the Race Secretary spotted the bands. In another situation, a member knowingly bought bands from a different manufacturer and the bands were confiscated.

Karen Clifton stated that several companies solicit members and offer to create duplicate bands. In some instances, members may not realize that they are not genuine AU bands.

Tom Coletti said that the board recently voted to change the bands so duplications would be readily apparent. The samples Freddie provided do not look like genuine bands and are easy to detect. Tom also noted that Race Secretaries will reject race entries and, in some instances, members' results in the NDB have been eliminated if counterfeit bands are used.

### **Treasurer Report (McSweeney)**

John McSweeney said that the AU has used a bookkeeper for about 8 years now. That individual would make adjustments, however, John said our CPA determined the methods were not consistent with accounting practices and so the CPA had to reclassify information.

John said we now have an accountant that accesses our accounting remotely in real time and provides clear reports for filing with the IRS. McSweeney said he anticipates that next year, the reports will be even clearer as the books are cleaned up to proper procedure.

Coletti shared with the board that McSweeney said our reports should be put out for membership. The financial forms are now published on the AU website.

## **Committee Reports**

### **President's Agenda (Coletti)**

Tom pointed out that 25 of his 37 objectives have been completed while he has served as the AU President. He said 5 have been withdrawn and 7 are still pending. Those pending were addressed.

1. Mini Zone Conventions. The convention committee was created and will come up with some suggestions as to how to proceed and if there is interest.
2. AU Museum – the board previously discussed how to display the artifacts and memorabilia in the AU's possession. Suggestions included a possible traveling display but with reservation due to security concerns, and use of additional display cases in the AU office. The board discussed adding an additional 1000 square feet at the office to display items. In discussion, one consideration was a virtual tour adapted to the AU office. No decisions have been reached and this remains in pending status.
3. eWinspeed© - Joyce Stierlin and GHC to test. Now that we are prepared to proceed with continued development of eWinspeed© beta testing will be forthcoming and progress reports will be provided the board.
4. Membership database to reflect multiple clubs per member. This is pending completion of the NDB/office database project. Joyce needs this done prior to the development of eWinspeed©.
5. Arbitrator. Initially it was thought that having an arbitrator would be of benefit to members. The board has determined that is not as critical at this time, however, will still be of benefit to members on occasion. Coletti suggested that person be someone on the board and that attempts at mediation be made on a case by case basis.
6. Offer quarterly newsletters electronically only. The approximate savings would be as follows:
  - \$ 500 – layout/design
  - \$5000 – printing
  - \$2200 – mailing/postage
  - \$7700 – approximate X 3 quarters - \$23100 annual savings.The majority result of the recent member survey indicates it is not favored.
7. Fill all positions on Infraction Committee with Zone diversity in mind. More investigators are needed that can do face to face investigations and mediation. We need volunteers. Tom Coletti said he felt this should be on the incoming President's agenda.

### **Right to Race (Kohli/Clifton)**

Karen Clifton shared that information on the virulent Newcastle disease outbreak has been posted to the AU website. Testing of backyard flocks has been done in Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties. The good news at this point

is no restrictions have been imposed as yet. Karen said she monitors the California Department of Food & Agriculture daily and will continue to post updates on the site and via e-updates.

### **National Youth/School Coordinator (Pairan)**

Ron Pairan said there was not a lot of new information to share. He said there is low success with 4-H, though some groups do well. Al Hassler asked Ron if he had a feel for how many kids keep pigeons beyond their involvement in 4-H. Pairan said he was uncertain but would guess that not a lot stay involved with pigeons immediately after they leave 4-H activity.

With regard to school groups, Ron went on to say that we've tried a lot of things over the years and we haven't had much success with anything. Ron reminded the board that he went to a homeschool educators' convention in Cincinnati two years ago and it cost us between \$1000 – \$2000. He was a key note speaker, presented the many benefits of keeping pigeons, how they may be incorporated into studies, and was well received. He said he and Deone Roberts talked to hundreds of people and that quite a few came back to the booth to request packets of information. Pairan asked Deone about response to our follow up mail outs, emails and phone calls. Roberts said there was no response.

Ron said he's done a 4-H Day in his county for many years and it's the same thing. He visits with people, has a variety of birds to see plus materials used in racing such as feed and equipment. His club picked up one junior flyer one year, but she did not return after that first year. Ron asked board members for suggestions to push the youth effort.

Lee Kohli shared information about Mike Netzky's 4-H group in Petosky, Michigan. He said the only problem Mike was having was finding a source for feed for the youth in his 4-H group. Lee said the club is doing well and Mike is having great success with getting kids involved, though Lee doesn't know how many will stick with it.

Pairan said the Boy Scouts used to have a merit badge. Adult members of his club were previously either in Scouts or 4-H. Ron talked about the parents staying involved even when the youth get busy with college, marriage, careers, etc. He said that Tim Tessier estimated 40% of the parents of the youth he works with end up getting involved in the hobby.

### **Judge's Panel (Rivera)**

Freddie Rivera said he has been real active this past year and that there are three big shows lined up this year. The shows will be held in Denver, Minnesota and



another in Buffalo. The show in Maryland is the only AU sanctioned show. He said he has also been contacted about a show in Mississippi.

Freddie said two judges have recently passed away and suggested adding new judges. He said he has an application from a member interested in becoming a judge. Tom Coletti mentioned that there is a moratorium on adding new judges, as so few shows take place and only one or two judges are being used. He further stated that the original intent is that judges in all zones would be utilized.

Rivera contacted the 2018 Chicago Convention Committee to see if they would like to include a show with the convention, but the committee did not foresee enough time to include it. Freddie said the only way he thinks having a show in conjunction with our convention is that the host handles the race and the AU puts on the show.

Coletti said that was the arrangement in California. Tom personally paid for plaques and then was told there would not be a show.

Rivera pointed out that at that convention, the local group coordinated the entire convention. He suggested that a local club only coordinate the race and that the AU would handle the show and convention. Karen reminded the board of related expenses involved with hosting a convention.

John Hundrup said that what may occur at convention is that handlers may not be able to take time to deal with bringing in the show birds and setting up for it. He does not believe people would fly birds in and that the race handlers will be too busy.

Rivera said we will never know unless we try.

By-Laws Chairman, Shannon Demler, said shows are pretty active in his area; however, you do run into the challenge of handling both a race and a show. He suggested perhaps making a slight change in the itinerary would help. He said having the show on the day of knock off may allow handlers to be available for a show.

Alan Porter suggested alternating the shows and races. He said a consideration may be to have a race convention one year and a show convention the next year to see how it works.

Joyce Stierlin said the California State Racing Pigeon Organization (CSRPO) is taking a different approach. The CSRPO is offering to help fund a group that is

coordinating a show if they make it a state show as well. She said those interested in shows attend since it is already in place.

John Hundrup asked Freddie if the gentleman that applied to be a judge has taken the test. Rivera said he has not yet tested, however, he had the application. Hundrup asked if he needs to set something up to have the applicant do the hands-on part of the test. Rivera explained there are three steps to becoming a certified AU Judge. First, the applicant must have judged for a certain amount of time, then he or she needs to pass the written test, followed by the hands-on judging test. Hundrup asked when the last portion takes place, and Rivera explained that when there is a show that he judges, the applicant can come to that location and will have an opportunity to take that portion of the test.

Coletti said the next opportunity for testing will be Chicago and asked how many certified judges are in the room. Three members on the board are judges. According to the policy pertaining to the judges' panel, we are to utilize current certified judges as the panel to supervise the applicant testing. Clifton will provide the rules and written test along with a copy of the application to Coletti for Chicago testing and transition as the new committee chairman. If the applicant will be at the convention, we can set it up for him to test there.

### **Constitution & By-Laws (Demler)**

Shannon Demler, By-Laws Chairman, indicated it had been quiet during the first six months of the year and had no further report.

### **Competition Standards (Hundrup)**

John Hundrup said that it has been quiet with regard to the race rules. Within the last month, John said he has received calls about how to change race schedules because of poor races this past season. He explains to members that any changes must be made in accordance with AU race rules.

Hundrup reported that the Bay Cities Combine had an issue with two flyers reporting birds' times that were incredibly fast and unrealistic. He said that the combine wanted to disqualify the flyers. Shannon Demler worked with members of the combine and got it straightened out. John said he gave them a choice to reinstate both birds or the entire race would be disqualified. The combine results ended up being disqualified after examination of data in the NDB.

John explained another situation where a club in Ohio had a problem because they were not following AU rules on basketing, scanning and shipping their own birds. Hundrup said he disqualified the race so that they would be in compliance with AU race rules.

### **Veterans Committee (Hassler)**

Hassler reported on an event John Vance proposed, which is a relay race from Washington State, down to Oregon and will be named the Old Glory Flight. Al said there is already a website for the event. The relay would continue down through California, Nevada and Arizona, to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida and eventually in Tampa. Message capsules would be on the pigeons and they will stop every 100 miles. The hope is that the event draws donations for a charity that is building homes for veterans in Tampa. Hassler said his schedule won't allow that much time, but he offered Vance suggestions in working with other groups. A GoFundMe fund raiser would collect the money for the veterans' effort.

### **Drug Test Committee (Rivera/Coletti/Hundrup)**

John explained that there was a club in Florida with a member whose birds kept getting tested and he continued to win. Feces tested positive for an unknown substance. Apparently, the flyer used an item that calms the birds down. It makes them calm in the basket. The lab tested for cocaine, but results have not been shared. The member was eventually suspended. So that member and several of the other members in the club decided to start a new club near Al Hassler. Tom said it was determined that those members could not start a new club, rather must adhere to the terms of suspension of the club they belonged to.

Tom said that he received a call reporting that they were using a substance that is a steroid. This particular product is banned for horses. Coletti asked Hundrup to write Board Action Requests (BAR) to ban both these drugs. He went on to say that the GHC is refusing to comply as they do the testing, but they do not share the results. Therefore, the AU cannot support them when they make rulings and/or take disciplinary action. Tom said he believes the purpose of drug usage is generally greed and gambling.

### **National Office Update/Membership Review (Clifton)**

Karen handed out the bank statements as of May 31. Tom Coletti said he believes it is a waste of time to send expenses by mail on a monthly basis. These expenses and related information are sent to the President, Treasurer, CPA and bookkeeper. It is a duplicated effort and the office should be spending time on other projects.

Clifton handed out the member award nominations that have been received and said that these would be reviewed by the board and ultimately worthy nominees would be selected to receive these awards.

Karen shared membership graph and year-to-date totals, which reflect a membership increase of 318 members. Additionally, this increase includes 74 new juniors. Karen pointed out that both the Pacific and Mountain Zones are slightly larger, as they were combined into the Pacific Mountain Zone.

Karen also distributed a handout comparing 2017 band sales to 2018, which reflects a decrease of 7000 bands.

Clifton reported that the 2018 convention looks good so far and that the convention committee has indicated that race entry fees have been deposited in a separate account maintained by the host committee. The AU has advertised for the convention host and we hope to see another good turnout for the event.

There were flyers sent out with each membership packet this year. Karen explained that on one side you could sign up if you wanted to be assigned a mentor and the other side asked if members wanted to serve as a mentor.

She said that we have had an amazing response from members offering to mentor new flyers, however, only two requests to be assigned a mentor have been received. Karen asked the board for recommendations to help increase participation. It was discussed and determined that the Help-A-Beginner (HAB) program be opened up to those that may have been out of the sport for a while. These individuals may benefit from the knowledge of others, which would enhance their chance for success. Likewise a member that may not be getting input or help from their fellow members will be eligible to participate in the HAB program. Karen will get this information out to members in the August newsletter.

Karen reported that there were 27 scholarship applications received for 2018/2019. She said that all were incredibly worthy and the applicants were sharp and had great aspirations. Ron Pairan agreed that the applicants presented themselves well and that selecting three was a challenge. Three applicants were identified and will be notified of receiving the scholarships.

With regard to the AU Speakers' Bureau, Karen shared that there are only two or three on the existing list that are ever requested. She asked the board to consider opening it up for new applicants to join the panel of speakers.

Clifton also reported that the 2018 election is still underway and that it will conclude July 15. We will allow enough time for any ballots sent that are postmarked by no later than July 15 to be received. At that time, ballots will be tabulated and the winners will be notified and invited to attend the 2018 AU Convention where they will be sworn in and seated.

Karen reminded the board that former director, Dr. Gary Braden submitted a BAR regarding board training. Clifton checked with a couple of different companies or consultants that offer this training and found rates to vary from \$2,000 –\$12,000.

Karen said it largely depends on what market meetings take place in as much of the expense relates to travel.

It was decided that the incoming President would make the determination if we should proceed and, if so, will seek board approval for arranging training.

Karen asked the board to decide if they want to convene for annual board meetings on Monday, October 15, and Tuesday, October 16, as the convention starts on Wednesday. It was decided to travel to Chicago on Sunday, October 14, and return on Sunday, October 21.

Shannon Demler said that his local group may be able to take the 2019 convention and he will advise as soon as possible.

Karen explained that the response to the member survey sent asking about members receiving electronic publications and the race rules appearing in the yearbook was very small. However, of the 67 surveys received, 56 wanted the race rules back in the yearbook.

Motion was made to put race rules back in the yearbook. McSweeney/Pairan. Approved.

In closing, Karen said that Jim Gabler requested that we conduct a membership survey to determine how many members want the AU to control race schedules. Jim believes too many clubs are not following the rules and he wants to make changes. Tom Coletti stated that this is already addressed in the AU race rules.

Jim specifically wants the AU to rule that once a club creates a schedule, the AU shall certify it and it cannot be changed and that decertification and recertification would be required. The board was asked if there is any interest in creating a BAR for this.

Ron Pairan asked if it is worth it to create the BAR and vote and finish review? Coletti reiterated that this is covered in the AU race rules and that he would not approve of this change if he were to vote. Pairan countered that Gabler has a right to submit a BAR. Al Hassler said that Jim should follow the process and file a BAR if he wants the board to review and consider potential change. Joyce Stierlin suggested the infractions process is available and that if people are not following the rules, club members can go the infractions route. The consensus was that the board has no interest in the suggestion for a survey for that issue since it is already covered in the race rules.

### **Leadership/Retention (Kohli/Roberts)**

Lee said he had nothing new to report. Deone said she continues to look for ways to encourage members to make use of club leadership information available from the AU to help strengthen clubs to assist with retention.

Stierlin suggested that we send the Director Manual in digital form to all board members and let each board member handle how to store it.

Pairan asked if Kindle could be used. Coletti responded that there is a fee per page.

Motion was made to supply board members with iPads and charge the board members at the end of 2 years. Hassler. Fails for lack of second.

Motion was made to transmit the AU Director Manual electronically. Hassler/Hundrup. Approved.

### **Sport Development (Roberts)**

Deone Roberts listed groups she worked with by state since the last report in the May Update newsletter, which includes Alabama, California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, and Washington.

She also reported on School Information Packets that have been mailed out and will be following up with those contacts to see if something can be developed in their respective areas.

Roberts said she has also assisted with ordinance issues that arose during the first half of the year.

Roberts finished by sharing what information has been gleaned from dealing with social media applications. She went on to explain that we have been working with an online marketing group to further develop our use of social media. Deone said we are only working with them for a 3 month trial period. Our goal is to build a following and influence, as well as gain new members.

Lee Kohli asked how we can effectively target the audiences we want. Roberts shared a brief overview of social media targeting methods for advertising. She explained that you can advertise requesting an ad only go to certain interest groups and that we will target hunting and fishing groups and animal hobbyists.

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

John said the Winnemucca Western Open was flown with an increase from 901 birds last year to 1175 this year and added that the Western Open had another 19 flyers this year for a total of 87 flyers.

John said that the Carson City race is next weekend for the second Western Open, but they don't have as many birds flown from Carson City as they have from the Winnemucca race.

He said he will be attending the Portland Zone Meeting again this year in the Portland area. They normally have 60-70 people in attendance. John said it is a good event auction with speaker(s), and this year Tom Coletti is auctioneer.

Hundrup said he did go to his grandson's school and did a presentation and that the teachers seem more interested. After the presentation video, the kids all participated in a release. John concluded that other than the normal zone meetings he attends, his zone has been quiet.

### **Pacific/Mountain Zone (Stierlin)**

Joyce Stierlin said that it appears Southern California is reorganizing itself. She said that different combines are forming and clubs are regrouping trying to renew itself. She said sometimes it may be because of conflict but other times it is simply a matter of changing direction and trying something new.

Joyce said that the CSRPO convention will be hosted again by the Bakersfield club and it will take place November 2-3.

She said the Fort Sutter club in her zone will be providing membership with Benzing Live this year.

### **Southwest Zone (McSweeney)**

John McSweeney reported that Bud Williams conducted an area wide race out of Little Rock, Arkansas. John said it was an open race and that you don't have to be a member of the Texas Center to participate.

He said that the Texas Center show program is very heavy and that the Texas Center winter meetings will be January 12-13, 2019 in New Braunfels, Texas.

John said that a member, Guillermo Cisneros would like the AU to find out if there is an interest in shows around the country. He said Mr. Cisneros would like to have an AU show program organized in such a fashion so that it would be advertised. Guillermo is asking that we change our award diplomas by adding a purple seal to award for show.

Tom Coletti posed the question if it is a good idea to do it, or if it is just one man's opinion? Tom suggested maybe offering purple ribbons instead.

Joyce Stierlin said it may be possible to develop a template for Winspeed© and put a seal and ribbon on it.

Tom said we can't do this for just one person rather we would need to determine if there is a greater interest to justify expense.

John also shared that he will be attending the Texas Center Convention, which is July 18-21.

McSweeney finished by stating that in Arkansas and Louisiana, activity is poor. He said the members there just can't seem to get a strong club going.

### **Plains Zone (Porter)**

Alan Porter said the Plains Zone is a cohesive zone overall. Alan talked about the upcoming Midwest Racing Pigeon Association's young bird convention and race. He said this year the event will be hosted in Green Bay.

Alan typically has the opportunity to share what AU projects are in progress and get input from members at a mini AU Zone meeting during the Midwest convention.

He said he would talk to members within the Midwest, since several states and clubs are represented to determine if there is an interest in hosting an AU convention.

### **Lakes Zone (Kohli)**

Lee Kohli said there has not been much activity in his zone, no outbreaks or infractions to deal with.

He did say that there was a situation where a member was accused of cheating. Lee said that John Hundrup has worked with some of the members in the zone to provide rulings on race issues.

### **Southeast Zone (Hassler)**

Al Hassler shared that the Dixie Southern Racing Pigeon Association (DSRPA) would be holding board meetings to discuss further promoting the DSRPA and the sport. They will be hosting an event in Appling, GA later in June. Hassler is sending birds to their auction, which will be live and on iPigeon.

Hassler said the Northeast Atlanta Club is hosting the Dixie Southern Convention in November.



Al went on to say that the only negative thing that is occurring within the Southeast Zone has been the doping issue.

He closed by advising that all of the feed donated to members that were hurricane victims in Puerto Rico has been distributed and everybody benefited. Tom Coletti said he thought it was tremendous PR on the part of the AU and other partners involved. Tom said we do care about our members and we want them to know it.

### **Northeast Zone (McKenna)**

Bob McKenna reported they have had bad weather in most parts of the Northeast Zone this year and even as late as March.

He said thirty people attended the Zone Meeting that he held. He explained there are some members that haven't received awards for two years. He said he explained the problems with the National Database (ND) and that the AU has been working with programmers to resolve the issues and that we were close to being able to get those awards out.

McKenna said currently we have only a few substances listed that are prohibited for pigeons and members don't know what is allowed and what is not. Members asked Bob when or if the AU would expand on that list. He said the AU wants to be able to provide that information, however, clubs that test don't share results so we have no way to know which substances to include on the prohibited list.

McKenna said members have also asked about progress with eWinspeed©. He said he has explained the numerous setbacks we have encountered and that we now feel we are on the right track and should be able to resume work on eWinspeed© soon.

Bob shared that the Northwest Junior Flyers' auction raised \$8000. He was able to meet some of the kids when he attended. McKenna was on a panel that shared information about proper racing and training procedures.

### **Infractions Review/Executive Session**

The current infraction was reviewed in closed session. Upon coming out of executive session, Rivera/Kohli made a motion to approve recommendation as submitted by the Infractions Committee. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn. Pairan/Hassler. Approved.

## **Mid-Year Board Meeting Minutes Salt Lake City, UT – June 10, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am. Present were Tom Coletti, Karen Clifton, Joyce Stierlin, John Hundrup, Al Hassler, Ron Pairan, Shannon Demler, Freddie Rivera, Al Porter, Bob McKenna, Lee Kohli, John McSweeney and Deone Roberts.

### **eWinspeed© Study Session**

Tom Coletti did a presentation on the background of eWinspeed© and the outline of what needs to happen next. He commented on the numerous delays and reminded the board they approved his working with the programmer. Tom went on to say that the NDB rewrite was slightly delayed, however, after testing was complete, we have gone live and continue to work on some issues as reported by members. He also shared that the project came in within budget.

Tom said that the AU has been trying for seven years to get web based eWinspeed© produced. It is a software, intellectual and hardware product. Tom talked about the AU's original race calculation software program, Racemaster. It was a DOS based program and served the needs of the time given technology available.

Tom then shared that member, Mike Tobin, was a computer hobbyist who took over the development of Winspeed© and did a tremendous job with the program. Ultimately, Mike retired.

Tom said the board decided to transition to a web based application. Coletti said that John Hundrup, Joyce Stierlin and Jay Holder looked at the web based database start up. The code was old and the NDB was starting to fail. The programmer could not work with the old code. So the NDB was reprogrammed and we now have new code and a new server to sustain the program and allow for future growth. Coletti said at this point, we are able to return our focus to eWinspeed©.

Tom asked the board to review the following items and discuss what needs to be done and how to complete eWinspeed©.

**What is the condition of the eWinspeed© programming code to date?** John Hundrup said the code is in place, therefore, the basic functions are in place. Hundrup shared that you can see what templates are there, but clocking, security and merging are missing. It was decided that we need Joyce Stierlin and John Hundrup to get back to viewing the code. Hundrup is to make sure link is accessible so that he may view the various templates.

**Who will manage the project?** The board asked Tom Coletti to manage the project. The board agreed that Tom would manage the project with no external interference from outside vendors. Coletti asked for the board's assurance that eWinspeed© will be all that is worked on. The board agreed and again asked Tom to manage development of eWinspeed©, stated that no external interference from outside vendors will be allowed, and that all else is on hold indefinitely until eWinspeed© is finished. Motion to assign Coletti as manager of eWinspeed© work. Kohli/Rivera. Approved.

The board reaffirmed that there will be no consideration for any outside programming while we develop eWinspeed©. That means no vendor request or member BAR asking for approval of the outside vendors' existing or new programs be included in eWinspeed© or the National Database will be considered until eWinspeed©. The board voted to give Coletti complete and total cooperation and authority and this goes on indefinitely or until eWinspeed© is completed through BETA testing and out to members. At that time, the board will decide whether or not they want to license the use of the data from eWinspeed© and the National Database to outside entities.

### **Costs**

#### **Estimated budget to integrate NDB with eWinspeed©.**

Tom again shared that the NDB was reprogrammed within the approved budget of \$12,000. He went on to say the estimate on this current process is maybe \$50,000 and said the new programmer, Craig, will need to submit a bid. Craig's copy becomes the master. Craig has submitted the non-disclosure agreement and needs to be sent code. Karen was asked to forward that information to Craig.

**Develop and refine "wish list" of what we want eWinspeed© to do.** Stierlin wants permission to send specs of what she observed to Craig. Tom approved and asked Joyce to communicate that information to Craig. Stierlin will also send the current list of specs to the board for review/input.

**Vendor clocking interfaces.** Tom asked the board to consider whether we give accessibility to vendors at our development cost vs. selling licenses to hook up. Tom said the specifications out of clocks would need to be one standard system. He said this would require 1) encryption and 2) copyright law. All data has to be treated with the same method and same level of resolution.

Stierlin said the AU ID should be in the clocking specifications.

Tom suggested that we work with our attorney and use encryption safeguards to protect our product. eWinspeed© is already copyrighted. Outside vendors who want to use our data would pay a license fee.

**Consider the wishes and direction of new president and board.** Tom said he will manage the project and that he felt the board should provide input to the incoming President, John Hundrup , as well as Joyce Stierlin.

**What level of expertise do we expect from eWinspeed©?** Craig will work with the software and complete programming tasks. Stierlin will handle the direction of the project and Hundrup will assist with testing.

**Travel expenses to meet and work with program developers.** The board agreed there will be need for face to face meetings with the programmer. Karen will help coordinate meetings and will ask if Craig will be available soon.

**Expected commitment for programmers and committee members is 100%.** All involved should be completely committed to seeing this project come to fruition. It will be a tremendous value for our members.

Other items to consider include office needs now; how many race secretaries will have access/control; access/log in/expiring access.

Joyce Stierlin created a group email and has been sending out information about the new NDB. After a week of production, we have 131 races uploaded and 1000 users. Those accessing the NDB are understanding that only race secretaries will be able to upload to the NDB.

### **Review/Action – New Board Action Requests**

NW-179 Amend AU policy that disallows suspended members to purchase AU bands. Failed for lack of second.

NW-180 Add Clenbuterol and Boldenone to the list of prohibited substances for use in pigeons (AU Policy 400). Rivera/Pairan. Unanimous.

SE-043 Add Penicillin G to AU Policy under 400.02 (list of banned substances). Rivera/McKenna. Unanimous.

### **Review of Director Manual**

Updates from November 2017 and the updated revision index were sent to board members previously.

### **Annual Member Awards Nominations**

The entire board discussed and determined recipients. Nominees selected for member awards are:

AU Publicity Award – Jerry Michielli

AU Hall of Fame – Chic Brooks, Frank Garcia, Peter Hultman, Don Moore

AU Rick Phalen Leadership Award – John Hundrup

AU Elwin Anderson Legends of the Sport – Nick Cisco, Jack Blazier, George Miller, Bill Barger and Wally Tienprasid

AU Breeder Elite – Jones Boys

**Convention Committee Report (Porter, Hassler & McKenna)**

Shannon Demler shared that a local member was to attend the meeting to discuss Salt Lake area members' hosting the 2019 AU Convention. However, the member did not come to the meeting. Shannon will follow up and advise the board.

Motion to adjourn. McSweeney/Hassler. Approved.