

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Minutes of the Annual Board Meeting
LaMirada, CA - November 12, 2012

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

President Rivera called the meeting to order 8:00 a.m. After the flag salute and moment of silence, the floor was opened for non-board comments; however no guests were present.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Rivera

President Rivera shared that he traveled to several locations, judging and promoting. Groups outside the U.S. are interested in joining the AU. He suggested we need to develop appropriate fees to cover membership mailings. He shared he is out most of the year visiting with members and public relations. He believes it pays off in the long run and has for 63 years. He mentioned the importance of hearing from Zone Directors regarding activities in their areas.

PAST PRESIDENT COMMENTS – Lawler

We must please on two fronts: members look to the board to execute plans to make problems go away. We need to continue to look down the road further, and past what is going on around us presently, to ensure progression of the sport. We can't afford to be just reactive, but must also be proactive.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – Mitiu

With regard to ordinance issues, two towns in the Chicago area are outlawing pigeons. We have good policies in place to help individuals; however, a municipality is a different matter. How do we fight that? It would be unreasonable to expect a member to take that on.

Discussion includes ideas of appointing a board committee to examine options. One individual was known to spend \$70,000 of his own money to address his area problem; however, that would be unreasonable to expect of anyone. Some state organizations perhaps could work on it, but many do not have state organizations. This relates to our right to race issue. It has been hinted that financial donations wouldn't hurt.

After discussion, President Rivera appointed a Judiciary Committee consisting of Alan Porter, Bill Mitiu and Jim Greelis. They are to come back to the board with their recommendation.

Another issue is the bird losses and what actions we can take to be proactive. Could Cornell agree to take on a study as to cell phone interference, for example? Can we pay students to do a study? Consensus was that we need to be proactive rather than sit back. Clifton to contact Cornell and report in July 2013.

VICE PRESIDENT – Holder

Holder's most recent work has been committee work. He has met with Elizabeth Brands weekly on Winspeed©. Elizabeth's background is NASA contacts and software development and she is a brilliant addition to the team. She has developed a basic structure for the database, screenshots, and splash page that opens the program. He has not been spending as much time on awards most recently, but rather working on an ordinance issue.

TREASURER/INITIAL BUDGET REVIEW – McSweeney

The board reviewed the preliminary estimate. Large groups of numbers carry over in the same amounts to 2013. The cost of bands is hard to pin down because of the exchange rate: dollar to euro. Advertising income is pretty close. There are some outstanding receivables from the previous year.

With regard to expenses, the payroll tax went down; however it will probably go back up in 2013. Accounting and legal will go up because of current events. Show judging travel requests go through Barger for approval, then to McSweeney's report to keep track of spending. Contributions are the same. Supplies, awards, postage and telephone are about the same. Contract labor is estimated at \$66,000, which is probably correct for 2013. We will continue with the slush fund again for 2013. There may be an expansion needed sometime at the office.

The intention on the slush fund was to set aside 64,000 annually, compare the current price of bands to the previous and apply the difference. This has not been done for two years. Hoggan stated that his original intention was to invest to subsidize the AU in the future and avoid raising fees and dues.

Committee Reports

RIGHT TO RACE – Clifton – Animal Rights/Lawler – Transportation

There are no updates on shipping or threats. The Right To Race is the first pillar of the 2020 Vision. Without it we don't have an organization. It is time to focus on this – dealing with different state laws and special interest groups. This is the #1 focus to maintain the organization. With regard to transportation, we've been lucky. States that have big poultry population seem fine. There have been no outbreaks. If/when that happens, then we have to adjust.

LEADERSHIP/RETENTION - Lawler

Our job is to preserve and promote. We are spending time preserving; however, looking forward, we'll be spending money to do that. Zone meetings are one avenue. How do we develop and retain leadership? We need to get over to membership that we are on the same team until the birds are in the air. We already have the zone meeting concept. We can incorporate a leadership seminar. For example, a 5 minute video/PowerPoint packet followed by 10 minutes on how to retain people, would increase the sense of belonging and brotherhood. We can get the message across at a zone meeting.

Guests, Jerry & Teresa Michielli from the Spokane RPC, were introduced.

NATIONAL YOUTH COORDINATOR – Pairan

There were no new developments. Ronnie Shumaker still has the Students vs. Teachers Race going.

HISTORIAN – Greelis

He has obtained more art and articles for the historical display. Frank Greenhall's collection was featured for this convention. In a 1927 American Racing Pigeon News from the Elwin Anderson collection, he pointed out an article that compared the progress from 1911 to 1927. Membership was approximately 4800. There is also an article about how to promote.

JUDGES PANEL – Barger

The section is full in the west. There are openings in central and eastern sections. The Certified Show is discontinued for lack of requests. Judges are judging regular shows.

VETERANS AFFAIRS – Hassler

Johnny Marks in Omaha did a great presentation. Hassler and Greelis are working on a presentation members can use to do events. Greelis captured a portion of Desmarais' presentation in Arizona. That can be used as illustration. Mitiu suggested maintaining 50% military information in the traveling AU display. There was a call for high dpi military images for Jim Greelis as Historian.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE/4-H – Pairan

4-H is a good program for pigeon involvement. Herb has been an advisor for years. Hoggan suggested we obtain a list of county agents and let them know we have the materials.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS – Coletti

Coletti provided an overview of the issues for the past year. They include office authority, voting issues, schedule changes, improper shipping night procedures, shipping limits and shipping in multiple clubs.

The AU Bylaws is a general template and does not address club issues. He would like to work on the bylaws and constitution, but needs assistance. Barger, Mitiu, Porter and McSweeney will work with him.

COMPETITION STANDARDS/Initial Review - Coletti

Discussion ensued regarding rules to cover serious competitors and rules for leisure hobbyists.

NATIONAL OFFICE – Clifton

Clifton presented membership information (showing similar numbers to prior year-to-date). She also shared information about counterfeit leg bands being sold on line. Greg Smith was involved in order to request cease and desist from that particular vendor. An electronic newsletter was also sent to those members on the contact list to alert them to the counterfeit bands.

Clifton presented relief effort coordination by Ray Torres for the Sandy relief effort. Several newsletters have been sent encouraging members to assist with relief efforts. Ray is working locally to identify credible groups that would benefit from a contribution. They want to keep the fund open for a longer period of time as the existing funds are used, the need still remains.

Finally, options for the mid-year meeting were discussed. Several options were discussed. Board asked to return next day to finalize a location.

President Rivera shared that he had been approached by a club in Mexico that wants to join the AU. They would like to join AU as clubs and want to see what AU has for benefits.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT – Roberts

Roberts shared the latest press, social media interaction and events since the last Update newsletter. She announced that a new Youth Ambassador was coming on board – Dylan Patera out of Washington. She reminded the board that approximately 900 new AU members had not been in the AU before and receive the Director “welcome” letters to encourage communication with the board. The interaction is important to creating a cohesive group.

ZONE DIRECTOR REPORTS

NORTHWEST ZONE – Coletti

The zone has some controversy in Washington State. A meeting was set up to work through the issue, but the complainant did not show up. The matter is dropped.

Zone meetings have been very beneficial to share the latest from the AU office and answer race rule questions. I-Com band information has been a big hit.

The Fly No More organization has been a matter of concern to members. They believe they are losing their birds to this group. The word is out that dove hunters can extend their hunting season by shooting pigeons.

PACIFIC ZONE – Barger

Barger had nothing new to report.

SOUTHWEST ZONE – McSweeney

McSweeney had nothing new to report since the summer meeting.

PLAINS ZONE – Porter

Porter shared that he received a solicitation to donate to the World of Wings.

LAKES ZONE – Pairan

Pairan judged the Lancaster Pigeon Club annual young bird show, and represented the AU at the Lake County Fair. That area does a nice job of promoting. His club does an annual release for a breast cancer support group. He has also been active in reuniting wayward pigeons with their owners.

SOUTHEAST – Hassler

No written report was received, however, Al said there is a proposal to coordinate a one-loft old bird race to benefit Alzheimers. He is active with bird retrievals.

NORTHEAST – Wiaderski

He reported no major activity. They are rebuilding the area with auction birds.

WinSpeed©/NDB/PROGRAMMING - Tobin

Windows 8 will be the biggest change since 1995. Desktop WinSpeed© should be good for at least 3 more years. WinSpeed software is designed for older computer chips and can't utilize all the memory available on new computers. Looking for a solution.

National Database website security changes have been made as approved. Computer awards during upload for large organizations late in the season is a problem and uploads deconflicted.

WinSpeed© tech support is free and usually helpful. Unfortunately, he is not available on weekends. Seeking board members who would be interested in serving in the capacity

GUEST PRESENTATION

Jerry Michielli

He described his process of hooking up for real time race results. He suggested having WinSpeed© on a server, open the web browser to eWinSpeed, hit "new race," enter loft name, and a list of his birds appears. The bird running over the antenna registers the bird. The server is on the cloud, therefore can be accessed anywhere.

SECOND E-WINSPEED PRESENTATION

Jay Holder

He presented a printout of the website prototype pages to-date. It is in the design and development phase. The designer can begin coding php for framework the same as the National Database.

2012 CONVENTION UPDATE – Barger

Everything is ready to go and functions begin with registration on Wednesday.

2013 CONVENTION UPDATE - Mitiu

Planning is going well. Some advertising has been done. Entries will be in the convention race and the classic race, with convention entries first. It will be the week before Thanksgiving at the Doubletree for \$119/night. The ladies have met and started planning activities.

INFRACTIONS/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board voted to approve Infraction Committee recommendations. Hoggan/Hassler.

Adjourned.

**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
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LaMirada, CA - November 13, 2012**

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

There were no guests present.

COMPETITION STANDARDS FINAL REVIEW – Coletti

Coletti provided a brief review of Board Action Requests prior to voting.

REVIEW OF PENDING BOARD ACTION REQUESTS

LAKES-030 - With approval of clubs & combines, flyers with measurements of less than 75 miles would be eligible for local awards. The NDB would be programmed to automatically expunge any flyer measuring less than 75 miles as well as that flyer's bird entry. Discussion: Tobin commented that the NDB is programmed. Barger/McSweeney. Unanimously approved.

REVIEW OF NEW BOARD ACTION REQUESTS

MTN-046 - Allow small clubs (who race with a combine) and ship multiple races at the same time to have less than the required three competing lofts for one or more of the races provided they have at least three competing lofts for at least one of the races. Lawler/Pairan. Unanimously approved.

NW-141 - Clarify rule 5.07 to avoid confusion as to the intent of flying multiple teams/switching birds on lists in one combine (organization) vs. another where the results may or may not be merged together. Amend third paragraph in 5.07 to read: **A member may fly two or more teams in the same club or two or more clubs in the same combine on the same release provided: 1) This practice must be provided for in the organizations' race rules along with how to handle any bird limits that are imposed. 2) The member must make distinct and different lists of birds for each team. No individual bird may be listed on two or more teams, i.e., no "crossing." 3) For each team flown the member must use his real name but different loft names. Each loft name must have a different letter prefix for their AU ID in WinSpeed such as AU, AA or AB, etc., and be followed by the correct numerical part of the AU ID. Members are allowed to fly in two or more clubs without providing separate and distinct bird lists provided that the clubs are not flying the same releases.** November 2012. Hoggan/Hassler. Unanimously approved.

NW-142 - Clarify dead time (13.01). Rule to read as follows: Closing of races of each day shall be one-half hour after the official local sunset. The starting time each morning shall be one-half hour before the official local sunrise. **The period between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 Minutes before sunrise is defined as "dead time."** Lawler/Barger. Unanimously approved.

NE-033 - The AU set a policy in place providing as follows: Each loft will be identified with a name that is not offensive to the sport, birds or public. Names should not insult, insinuate or imply that this sport consists of cruel vindictive human beings. A name such as Fly or Die Loft sends a horrendous message to the public and children. Hoggan/Pairan. Unanimously approved.

SW-038 - Allow birds to be raced in more than one club. Many members fly in more than one club and it serves no purpose to restrict the way a fancier races his or her birds. Died. Superseded by NW-141 (above).

FINAL BUDGET REVIEW/APPROVAL – McSweeney
Band sales figures were revised. Board went into Executive Session.
Mitiu/Holder to approve budget/salary adjustments.

The Texas Center Convention will be in Phoenix July 11-15.

Hoggan reported on an ordinance issue. He shared that he also had a meeting with Jim Gabler who would still like to see a merger with World of Wings. Discussion followed.

It was decided to hold mid-year meetings in Denver. Board members are to travel on July 19. Meetings will be held on July 20 & 21 and return travel that night or the 22nd. Other suggestions were Atlanta and Denver, being good airline hubs to keep costs and travel time down. Travel will be Friday, meet Saturday and Sunday and return travel late Sunday or Monday.

Other announcements included plans for President Rivera to speak in Puerto Rico and Brad Hoggan to speak in Hawaii.

The floor was opened to miscellaneous comments. Lawler suggested to look to areas to run a convention race and the AU provide the convention party portion. Hoggan will talk to his area about the new concept. Greelis will speak to his area. One idea was to develop a cruise convention, watching the race take place on a big screen.

Adjourned.

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Minutes of the AU General Membership Meeting
LaMirada, CA - November 17, 2012

In attendance: Karen Clifton, Bill Mitiu, Steve Lawler, John McSweeney, Jim Greelis, Al Hassler, Ron Pairan, Brad Hoggan, Alan Porter, Toni Wiaderski, Mike Tobin, Bill Barger, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts.

Guest speaker attending, Greg Smith, AU Lobbyist.

Executive Vice President Mitiu provided introductions.

Jim Greelis gave a brief update/overview of his work recording AU history, whether interviews or materials.

Jay Holder briefly covered rules and regulations we follow and promoted loft registration as a beneficial service to members. He also outlined awards that can be won in the AU competition.

Deone Roberts gave a brief overview of benefits to youth groups and youth growth & development and the success of promotion in general.

Bill Mitiu presented an update on the 2013 convention in Florida.

The floor was opened to comments. John Vance presented information on standardizing drug testing.

Greg Smith spoke to the issue of threats to the sport. He pointed out the numerous controls in place regarding humane care for birds, proper handling, code of ethics, race release guidelines, etc. He further quoted from these guidelines and commended AU members for taking the care they do with their birds.

Greg also discussed his efforts with regard to the counterfeit leg bands and encouraged members to pay close attention.

A video presentation of the speech will be posted to the AU website.

Adjourn. Barger/Holder