

**2010 Mid Year Board Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2010, Ft. Worth, TX**

**Attendees: Steve Lawler, Jay Holder, Robert Tomlinson, Herb Cartmell, Brad Hoggan, Bill Barger, John McSweeney, Tom Coletti, Bill Mitiu, Freddie Rivera, Mike Tobin, Ron Pairan, Jim Greelis, Deone Roberts, Karen Clifton.**

Guest: Al Hassler

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

President Lawler opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with the flag salute and a moment of silence.

Following the flag salute and silence, President Lawler talked about efficient use of board members' time. The board spends 90% of the AU time on problems from 5% of the membership. That colors membership, and that's not fair. 90% of the AU members are super people. For example, the Texas Center convention coordinators continue to go over and above, looking for ways to build the sport. They like the direction we're going as a board. These Texas Center coordinators work hard, volunteer and also race. We salute them for their contributions.

Lawler stated that he sees the board moving on in a positive direction and building finances. With the limited income source, we need to find another way to duplicate what we have. The board incumbents are a good group to roll over for another two years. As we look to 2020, there are 6-8 things to accomplish. Many have a dollar limitation. We need resources.

Lawler commented on the quality of people on the board. He was reminded of Thanksgiving dinner with friends who are family and that atmosphere is nice to have. We are all teammates, all club mates, just different positions. We're on the same team with the same goals, just with different approaches. Frank Greenhall would have been proud of you.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes as written. Barger/Holder. Passed. Unanimous.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - McSweeney**

The prior job description of this position included a duty to "maintain complete and accurate financial records of the union". John indicated he does not perform this function. Dillon & Associates, P. C. performs monthly accounting and financial statements, payroll tax returns, annual audited statements and Federal and State income tax returns. John added that he performs selected specific functions and Karen reports all disbursements to the Treasurer and the President for review and approval.

He reported that he has check signing authority for checks \$1,000 and over which need two signatures.

Cash is reviewed by online access; Receivables, Inventory and Prepaid Expense are reviewed in far greater detail than the CPA firm does. Accounting for Band sales and Band cost has been changed for better clarity in management use of the data. By working exclusively with Karen, her position as Executive Director is reinforced. John reported that he and Karen kick his accounting recommendations around and reach practical solutions. It works well.

After discussion of investment yield and safety of principal, on motion by McSweeney seconded by Tomlinson, it was moved:

That a high yield account named "investment" be opened at J.P. Morgan Chase and the amount of \$64,000 be transferred to it. Funds in this account are to be classed as temporarily restricted and can be withdrawn only pursuant to specific motion in BOD approved minutes.

Board approval was unanimous.

McSweeney will submit BAR on CPA procedures.

#### **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – Tomlinson**

Tomlinson reported that the phone calls he has received were to inquire as to what we are doing about the hawk situation. He shared with callers that it is international law and is beyond our financial means to reverse.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT - Rivera**

For the past few months, Rivera has responded to problems with bird retrieval. He has stressed the importance, but finds that members do not follow through. He wears two hats, as a judge and as a speaker. He has been asked about 2020 matters and has explained that we are half way there. He makes the rounds to share information about board activities and accomplishments.

Freddie asked if it is possible to have a position statement prepared with regard to hawks. That would serve to answer current inquiries and address future comments. He suggested the statement be prepared by the AU lobbyist and that the AU prepare information about alternative methods for members to deal with hawk damage.

#### **RIGHT TO RACE – Clifton**

There is no news to report with regard to the Animal Welfare Act. House Bill 669 is pending a rewrite and is in the process now. We could feel an effect from the regulation as states may follow the example. For example, New Mexico has already implemented working on similar legislation.

#### **TRANSPORTATION – Lawler**

Each state requires health documentation across states lines, whether they enforce it or not. We need to share the importance of that with members.

#### **LEADERSHIP/RETENTION – Lawler**

Using the Washington state model, they gained 110 state members over the calendar year. They promoted the young bird race more and had 187 birds in a 200 bird capacity loft. The Western Open race hosted 80 lofts from 7 states, and 812 pigeons. They had birds from the west, east and north.

### **NATIONAL YOUTH/SCHOOL COORDINATOR – Pairan**

He began work on the pigeon project booklet because two girls in his club needed a project booklet for pigeons. Only one bird booklet existed in his area: exotic fowl. He explained that 4-H is a bottom-up organization as opposed to other organized youth groups.

Hoggan pointed out that 4-H will work to provide for a project, as they have the budget and county agents are sharing the information.

Pairan continued, suggesting that web sites such as NEA (National Education Association) have web sites that offer project suggestions and guidelines. That would be a good place to post the AU's information in accordance with their format. He also suggested that we have a presence at state conventions.

### **HISTORIAN – Greelis**

His latest efforts have gone to banners for the AU Centennial Celebration. While researching at the World of Wings library, he found information in the Homing Pigeon Exchange about how the AU came about. He also picked up memorabilia from Frank Greenhall's collection. Those items are currently stored in Oklahoma City. Also, Elwin Anderson donated photographs from conventions many years ago. Greelis will send his duplicate photograph collection for a collage to be prepared for the Centennial Celebration.

Pairan commented that he became aware of Roy Rogers memorabilia becoming available out of Branson. He suggested it would be nice if the AU or WOW might be able to obtain some of his pigeon trophies.

Greelis continued, with information about the planned pigeoneer monument and picket fence. A 2X2 foot rock etching on India marble has to be imported. Elwin Anderson is the planned image. The cost would be estimated at \$2800.

### **NATIONAL PUBLICATION – Lawler**

The Update newsletter is making solid progress. It is more informative and there is more reason to read it. We are currently working on advertising partners and are still in negotiation. We would still need another source of income. Printing costs increase annually approximately 5-10% each year.

### **SCIENTIFIC TASKFORCE – Clifton**

Clifton followed up with the veterinarian and has not heard back, and is not sure he is the proper choice. John McSweeney's son is a veterinarian. John will check if he would be able to assist. Lawler prefers to not limit to one person. The directive was to have a vet liaison and that person would prepare a blueprint to work with officials that is more concise and local than what we currently have. We need to know what each state requires. Lawler directed to add more and commented that a contact in each state would be wonderful.

### **JUDGE'S PANEL – Rivera**

It is working well and we have two sanctioned shows so far. Larry Cook, in Visalia, included City of Hope. Rivera wants to continue promoting a national show.

Grand Junction, CO is planned for a third year. The second received bigger turnout, so it is building. Kansas will not be repeating this year.

All judge positions are filled. He is now just getting backup judges. He received a request from someone to become a judge; however, that person is not willing to travel.

He sent out letters to all AU judges for feedback. He received positive suggestions.

Hoggan commented that we need a code of ethics as judges. We will develop that.

### **SPEAKER'S BUREAU – Desmarais**

Discussion yielded suggestions for names to add to the list: Dave Shewmaker, on genetics.

### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – Cartmell**

Cartmell's most recent work has been mostly local. His 4-H Sky Pilot group currently has 13 members from 11 lofts. The club has received support from Ed Minvielle/Siegel's (Benzing G2 clock), the Washington State Racing Pigeon Organization (grant money from the AU and the state organization), the County 4-H and the Poultry program. The kids all built the lofts themselves. Cartmell vaccinates. Birds were donated. Cartmell expressed thanks to Ron Pate, Steve Lawler, Rollo Johnson, Margaret France, Mark Almond, Larry Bell, and Steve and Patti Galloway of Tradewinds in Tacoma.

The newest 4-H group is the Thunderbird club in Bellingham, Washington, initiated by Jerry & Evelyn Guilmette. Plans are already made to share activities such as shows.

A Skypilot Manual has been prepared for board review and response. The first Flight For Sight with the Lions Club was successful. The Lions asked to do another event in the fall.

Cartmell commented that we currently fly kids in the Sportsman competition division. He thinks it would be a good idea to add a third, Skypilot division, for all juniors and Skypilot members.

There was discussion to change the Sportsman's racing category to Juniors, or possibly Sky Pilot. Coletti suggested eliminating the race rule.

### **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – Cartmell**

The majority of his calls revolved around pettiness between club members that can best be handled on the local level. He attempted to pinpoint the reasons for poor club environments. He looked at alcohol consumption, personality conflicts, health problems, lack of officer training, folks with control issues, and self-interest. But it seems to go deeper. Many of the problems have little to do with the sport. The board's energy is better used to preserve and protect our "Right To Fly" and creating an appealing sport environment. Cartmell has appreciated the assistance of Zone Directors in diffusing volatile situations. Perhaps limits need to be set as to how much the AU board will address on the national level. Meanwhile we work to make clubs more fun, get clubs to treat their members better and train club officers along with the printed information that has already been provided.

Lawler commented that the problem with retention is always the environment. Two factors are competitiveness and trust. Hoggan said he presented information on club camaraderie at a recent presentation. Rivera said his club recognized rookies to encourage and retain.

### **COMPETITION STANDARDS – Coletti**

Coletti shared a list of most common race rule issues that come up during the months prior to the meeting. The highest tally was with regard to responsibility for following AU Race Rules. He also had a list of issues that the board discussed for tweaking race rules.

### **NATIONAL OFFICE – Clifton**

Clifton reported that membership drives everything we do and provided membership graphs. Thus far membership numbers show a slight increase for year. Last year at this time, our membership was 7958. As of July 8, we have 7974. Memberships will continue to be submitted through the end of the year with young birds.

There are still a few clubs that have not sent in their rosters. The office sends letters, however, Clifton asked that the zone directors contact them to determine if they are just late, lost their materials, forgot or if there is something we might do to assist them. Directors were asked to report by August 1.

Further, it is encouraging to see that we averaged 133 new members per month so far this year. Obviously, we still have members leaving so retention will always remain an issue. The fact that we are not decreasing is also encouraging.

Band sales are comparable to last year, down slightly. The euro is also much different than last year and that is to our advantage. They went up slightly on the cost but negligible. Part of the increase was due to them re-tooling with new shaping molds to ensure we have a minimum of 8 mm.

In reference to the size of the bands, we did advise the manufacturer that we found a variance that was not acceptable. It really wasn't that much, but it did tend to go lower rather than higher than 8 mm.

They retooled and have sent samples. In production there is going to be a slight variance, but going forward it will be 8 mm to a maximum of 8.5 mm. In the past, it was 7.5 to 8mm so some bands may have run smaller.

Clifton provided a brief update on shipping. A year ago, our DC contacts with the USPS contacted us to ask about certain shippers in specific areas that were making numerous claims.

We determined that only 2 were our members, which was good news, however, it still reflects on all shippers of live animals. The USPS was actually considering discontinuing shipping pigeons as a result.

They now have a 3-day window of time before a claim will be paid. A lot of the shipments actually arrive same day. The majority arrive second day, but there are a few instances where they will arrive on the third day.

The USPS wanted an extra day as a buffer because some areas are still not well served with Fed Ex. This beats the alternative of not being able to ship at all.

A lot of people think that because Fed Ex is everywhere and they do overnight deliveries, that the birds would be expedited the same way. However, even in areas where there may be a Fed Ex plane that goes every 30 minutes, those aircraft may not be the ones suitable for handling lives and are not pressurized or they may be carrying hazardous material or even something such as dry ice. If those things are on the aircraft, then they won't take live animals.

Karen discussed the issue of vendors selling bands to non-members. Many members are asking that we revisit that. Their concern is that it undermines their paying AU dues. It is important to note that if someone buys bands that don't pay dues, they don't get the benefit of newsletters, lobbyist, staff, yearbook, etc.

The sentiment is that if we aren't enforcing that, then we should remove it. That would result in a significant loss of revenue.

One member had the suggestion that we go ahead and sell to vendors so we keep the revenue, however, those bands would be treated like alien bands so the NDB wouldn't recognize them.

In that case, those that are legitimately members simply need to call and give us their band lists and we will enter them (at no fee) and they will be recognized. Should someone call that is not a member wanting their bands registered, if they don't pay dues at that point, birds would not be registered.

Another suggestion was to require vendors to provide a monthly list of the people they sell bands to. If they are not AU members, they must pay us an extra .20 per band and send that to us. Each year, member applications are sent to the vendors.

Clifton indicated that a company had approached us to put together a member directory similar to what was done in the 1990's. We currently have our member list in the yearbook, however, this would be a book dedicated to lists. Members would be listed by state, city, alpha order, breed, club, etc.

The company would send a mailer to each of our members asking for them to fill out if they want to appear in the book. The content of that mailer would have to be approved by us first.

All of the responses go to them to compile. They would also make follow up calls to those that don't respond. Only once. There would be no repeated attempts if they don't respond the first time, those people simply wouldn't be listed.

This would be touted as the centennial membership directory. We could take orders during the convention and on our site.

There is no minimum for us to guaranty and we receive \$10 per copy sold. They go to print hoping to sell a minimum of 3,000. Lawler directed the staff to pursue a membership directory with labor outsourced only if council advises no conflict (such as violating members' privacy).

An update on the 2010 convention was given. 67 of the 100 blocked rooms are already reserved, menus selected, entertainment lined out, staffing in line. We have the items for the convention bags ready. Buses and tours are planned. Jim Greelis has offered to assist with decoration with old banners. Friday will be a birthday celebration and the awards gala will be on Saturday night.

The board discussed travel schedule for the annual meeting in November. It was agreed to arrive Saturday, November 6, and meet Monday through Wednesday.

Karen shared three matters that need to be resolved:

Bill Barger has asked that Fresno be placed in the Pacific Zone.

In Minnesota, there was a BAR that was approved that the AU set a budget of \$1000 per year for clubs that want to advertise. Clubs would submit a proposal and a specific amount of that \$1000 would be allocated to them. An amount was approved and sent to the Rocky Mountain RPC for graphics for trailer signs and \$500 was sent to New England RPC for race car/transport trailer advertising.

We have asked for reports but have received nothing since 2008. Karen recommended discontinuing. It was made available to members, nobody pursued it except for the two and we received no accountability or input.

Finally, in 2007, the board approved increasing lifetime dues from \$300 to \$400 in 2011. It has never been increased. Then in 2012, that would be raised again from \$400 to \$500. An increase in regular dues from \$25 to \$50 was approved. Karen suggested that was not feasible and recommended that dues remain the same and not increase.

Motion made to eliminate promotion advertising dollars for club use.  
Barger/McSweeney. Passed.

Motion to maintain current cost of dues and bands until further notice.  
McSweeney/Barger. Passed.

Motion to accept non-contested election results. Tomlinson/Coletti. Passed.

Motion to upgrade AU office software. Coletti/Tomlinson. Passed.

### **SPORT DEVELOPMENT - Deone**

Roberts reported an average of 133 new members/month through June 2010. Members had positive news coverage in several states across the country. The AU website currently offers a link through which public may request a School Information Packet. A record is created to assist evaluation of use. A sampling of requests includes a community college, CRPU, a children's museum, and Ireland. The AU's new Sky Pilot youth project booklet will be made available in the same manner, allowing evaluation of use for adoption as a standard. The AU maintains a spreadsheet of clock donors/recipients, and all requests have currently been addressed. Several youth groups reported most recent activity. Members had a wide geographic range of events across the country. We are starting to see links from various web sites linking to AU

youth project information. We are slowly gaining fans on Facebook social media. More details are provided in the 2010 Summer Update newsletter.

#### **NORTHWEST ZONE – Coletti**

Tom reported that the zone continues to be quiet with few exceptions. Because of many being spread out and smaller, they are self-reliant and sometimes distant in following AU rules.

Tom is attempting to reach out to members so they know they have an advocate. We did assist two members in Colorado. One with an ordinance problem. He received assistance from the office and the city has allowed him to keep his birds.

The other was out of concern that an AU member was poxing birds before the season to infect other birds. Tom asked some of our vets if they felt trying to infect other birds was futile. It took several months to resolve. They felt it would not be problematic.

Tom judged at five shows. In each case he provided an update on AU activities.

#### **PACIFIC ZONE – Barger**

Barger and Clifton conducted two zone meetings in Arizona. Dennis Branham took both to tour the 2011 convention facility. He anticipates a great 2011 national convention from the same group that created the 2008 Texas Center Convention. Barger spoke at a special seminar for the 395 Concourse. Other speakers includes veterinarians. A good contact to replicate this seminar is Sonny Congiarella at [flysonny@hotmail.com](mailto:flysonny@hotmail.com). Handlers and AU staff are working hard to make the 2010 AU convention a great once in a lifetime event.

Lawler directed that the AU office produce a form of recognition for Sonny Cangiarella.

#### **PLAINS ZONE - Mitiu**

North Aurora, IL attempted to exploit the state pigeon law by adopting an ordinance that makes it nearly impossible to keep pigeons. We are attempting to reach a compromise with the city.

#### **SOUTHWEST ZONE – McSweeney**

John reported that activity in his zone has been consistent with no new challenges reported. He stays busy assisting with lost bird inquiries and follow up. He divides his time between director and treasurer duties.

Lawler, Tom & Ron discussed the issue of Ohio releasing birds before sunup.

#### **NORTHEAST ZONE – Bill Desmarais**

Bill was unable to attend due to a family illness.

#### **MOUNTAIN ZONE - Hoggan**

He did the usual show judging. He spoke to senior citizens of Phoenix; about 50-60 people. They want to come out on race day. The average age is around 70. Phoenix will be changing direction of flight on 2011 convention and futurity. Discussion to take place.

### **SOUTHEAST ZONE – Holder**

He judged the Jacksonville show, was auctioneer and ran the awards banquet. He discussed national awards issues with GHC member. He did the annual release at church Easter Sunrise Service. He retrieved lost birds. He did a show-and-tell at school.

### **REVIEW OF PENDING ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS (Assigned/discussed 10/09)**

Young Wings is a Jim Jenner film project partially funded by the AU and inspired by the book "Last Child In The Woods," by Robert Louv. The book states that we have raised a generation disconnected from nature, which results in various problems such as obesity, addiction, behavior problems, attention deficit disorder and more. Jenner is taping based on concepts in the book. Dusan Smetana is collaborating on the project. Dusan is one of the top wildlife photographers in the U.S. and a competing member in the AU.

a. Video/CD production to capture historical interviews (pigeoneers, past presidents, etc.) Greelis to talk to JimJenner regarding compiling DVD. Greelis shared that he has not received a response to his inquiry.

b. Register trademark Sky Pilot. Completed.

c. Implement Membership Committee, create and empower. Cartmell is working with youth groups and civic groups to integrate nationally. His materials are helping other groups get started. Information was shared in his report earlier.

d. Finance committee will create a proposal for additional revenue. Chair, Tomlinson, reported that the plan is a Walk Of Honor. Fence pickets will be sold to raise funds. They plan to put in a BAR but they are running out of time for the centennial. The committee also reported that we will tweak accounting practices with the Treasurer.

Motion was made to advertise in 2010 AU Convention Book allowing members and non-members to purchase white, hard plastic picket fences, approximately 3' tall at \$100 each or 2 for \$150. All net funds received will go into special savings account monthly, monitored by AU Treasurer. In the spring of 2011, a committee will visit AU headquarters in Oklahoma City and arrange for installation. The fence will be located as directed by AU Executive Director. Greelis will complete "AU Pigeoneer" statue before June of 2011 (already funded by AU). Complete "flyers" to be available for distribution at November convention. Tomlinson/Barger. Passed.

e. Circo vaccine development (Hoggan). Utah State University is interested in working on it.

f. Create Specific Procedure for basketing/knock-off (Coletti, Greelis, Cartmell, Hoggan). In progress.

g. Partnership/voting rights guidelines (Coletti, Cartmell, Lawler). BAR is not done to clarify partnership issue. Suggested 1 team from 1 loft location unless club specifies otherwise and is not disruptive – Rule 4.03. Coletti to submit in November.

Programming Needs Update – Tobin

Mike shared information on a candidate and compensation was discussed.

Motion to start the part-time programmer at lower rate while he is familiarizing himself with the programs/procedures, to begin \$25/hour, 40 hours/month. Barger/Pairan. Coletti opposed. Discussion continued about raising pay in steps. 120 hours can be negotiated between Chris and Mike.

## **REVIEW OF NEW BOARD ACTION REQUESTS**

Motion to pass NW105-NW117. Barger/Rivera. Passed.  
BARs are as listed below:

NW 105 - Clean up of intended wording on non-AU races (1.07). There is confusion over awarding AU diplomas in a non AU race where AU race rules were not used. This request makes it clear that no AU awards of any kind can be awarded in any race that didn't use AU race rules.

NW 106 - Clean up 3.06. Need to reference AU Race Rule 2.06 as additional relief or help.

NW 107 - 4.01 Word clean up and references to other race rules for additional relief and help. Eliminate confusion, reference to other important race rules that may have an effect on interpretation.

NW 108 - Clean up rule 4.12.

NW 109 - Clean up rule 4.14.

NW 110 – Clean up rule 4.15.

NW 111 - Change rule 6.05 wording removing “No other race course available.” Remove the excuse to ask for bent airlines. This is an old antiquated, weakly thought out accommodation.

NW 112 – Add sentence to cover race station GPS measurements in rule 6.06. There is no reason to require two members to take a GPS measurement at a race station since all lofts will use the same measurement. It is too expensive to send two members to the station in many cases. Example: Hawaii where a boat or airline ride to the station island is necessary.

NW 113 – Clarify band number reporting in race results (7.04). There have been complaints that vanity bands are creating issues where the first four letters are the same for different vanity bands. This is creating potential problems in reporting the proper winning bird in WinSpeed©.

NW 114 – Amend 16.06 regarding antenna placement. There is confusion on using a sputnik with an antenna. We are restricting placing an antenna on the bottom of the sputnik but allowing the antenna on an aviary or landing board to be on the outside. There really is no difference using a sputnik other than the shape of the sputnik, triangular as opposed to the square or rectangle shape of the aviary. You should be able to place the antenna on the outside of the sputnik as you do with a landing board or aviary.

NW 115 – Clubs have the right to mix or not mix. Not all trailers are equipped to let all birds out at once. A slow release from crate to crate with one member's birds in one crate gives an advantage. When only one member is liberating the birds, there is less chance to cheat or play with the baskets mixed.

NW 116 – Clean up Rule 3.07. Need to reference Rule 2.06 as additional relief or help.

NW 117 – Clean up Rule 4.02 for ongoing clarification.

MTN 042 – Tabled to following day.

MTN 043 – Tabled to following day.

MTN 044 - Lifetime membership be eligible to pay an extra \$10 to add family members. Pairan/McSweeney. Passed.

PLAINS 039 - Infractions be followed up on to the fullest by the AU Board to ensure recommendations are followed up on. Discussion ensued with suggestion that the AU send a letter about AU's procedure, understanding that the board can't force the entity, about which the complaint was made, to do as the letter requests if it is a recommendation not a requirement. Lawler directed that the AU send a follow up letter reminding that the policy is in place and was followed, however, it was a recommendation not a requirement.

Lakes 027 - Change the Sportsman button to Juniors and create a duplicate database for junior members to be effective old bird season, 2011. Pairan/Barger. Passed.

Lakes 028 - Eliminate the 500-mile one bird derby award. Pairan/Barger. In discussion, Coletti said more interest is being shown and he asked that the bar be withdrawn. Pairan approved. Hoggan suggested the award could be structured more. Motion withdrawn.

Lakes 029 - Open AU Breeder's Award to all AU members. Withdrawn.

Lakes 030 Require 6 hour rest prior to 300 + mile races. Died for lack of motion. Local issue.

Pacific 038 - Change the loft airlines to the shortest on the property. Died for lack of second.

Pacific 039 - Amend Loft Certification policy to remove disallowing dirt floors. Withdrawn in favor of PACIFIC -040

Pacific 040 - Amend AU Convention policy and remove the requirement that handlers' lofts be certified. Amended to read "should be" rather than "are." Barger/Pairan. Holder opposed.

Motion that Coletti certify convention lofts for the 2010 convention. Mitiu/Barger. Passed.

NW 103 - Amend 5.07 regarding stacking of race results. Members are flying in two clubs using the same race team and reporting results in both clubs, which is stacking. Discussion resulted in refined description to include language "same release." A member belonging to two clubs and racing one team can't report in two clubs. Coletti/Pairan. Passed.

NW 104 - GPS/Bowen Measurements (6.02). Add wording to clarify mixing of GPS & Bowen measurements at the combine level. Coletti/Hoggan. Passed.

Following review of Board Action Requests, the issue of alien bands was discussed. Members in the New England area that handled 2009 convention birds have asked that alien band registration be eliminated so those birds still in their lofts would be eligible for AU awards. Barger/Rivera to waive registering alien bands for AU convention birds and to be retroactive to allow 2009 convention birds in the National Database. Mike Tobin to work with Bill Desmarais to get a list of those birds for programming and entering. Passed unanimously.

Coletti/Holder to adjourn.

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Guest: Al Hassler

#### **AWARD COMMITTEE UPDATE – Holder**

The committee has worked with Mr. Tobin clarifying issues associated with his recent awards programming activities. Excellent progress has been made and the bulk of the new national awards have been implemented.

The committee members continue to critique the results of the new awards and discuss issues as they arise.

The committee is discussing different options for automating the Registered Champion and Elite Registered Champion Awards.

The committee is discussing the alien band topic as it applies to National Awards.

The committee began discussions concerning One Loft Races as they relate to National Awards.

They submitted BAR's for discussion and consideration.

They processed several Registered Champion and Elite Registered Champion applications.

They have begun work on the next National Awards Booklet.

Discussion followed about cost of automating awards. Consideration was given to the short time in the long run to spend on creating automation, then the cost is considered minimal. A sort of AKC simulation as the goal is a work in progress. Any animal organization has developed this type of program to build prestige and credibility.

**NDB/WINSPEED UPDATE – Tobin**

Items were added to the task list and the list was prioritized. Completed items: implemented Old Bird Hall of Fame, Yearling Hall of Fame, Champion Loft. New items include adding Sprint Ace Young Bird, Old Bird and Yearling; Spring Champion Loft Young Bird and Old Bird (2-bird nominated); add zone and state categories for Ace Pigeon; divide Ace Pigeon finalist into three divisions based on birds. Future consideration includes software update, “nights out” in Winspeed. Additional items were added to the task list. Tobin to prepare article/articles for the AU Update to share updates/changes as needed.

Motion to accept suggestions as presented by Tobin. Barger/Rivera. Passed.

Motion to update software at a time recommended by Tobin and new programmer. Rivera/Barger. Passed.

The committee is to review and make recommendations on improving Winspeed website.

Motion to adjourn. Tomlinson/Barger. Passed.