

**2008 Annual AU Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 14 & 15, 2008, St. Paul, MN**

Below is a summary of the minutes from the October 13-15, 2008, annual Board meetings held in St. Paul, Minnesota. The full minutes are also posted on our website (www.pigeon.org). Hard copies are available from the AU office by calling 405-848-5801.

Attendees: Steve Lawler, Robert Tomlinson, Freddie Rivera, Bob Barnes, Sr., Frank Greenhall, Gary Braden, Bill Barger, John McSweeney, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, Bill Desmarais, Brad Hoggan, Karen Clifton, Deone Roberts, Jim Greelis and Herb Cartmell.

Absent: Jay Holder, Tom Coletti

Guests: Barry Yu, Huan Jian, Cookie, Elwin Anderson

A few minutes were taken to welcome guests and receive gift publications from China.

The meeting commenced with the flag salute and a moment of silence.

President's Opening Remarks

President Lawler welcomed board members and showed a picture of the Tillamook Museum hangar while he and Gary Braden described their visits. As a result of the visit, Tillamook will be including more information received from the AU, about Homing Pigeons used during wartime, in their displays.

Steve reviewed elements of the AU's 2003 self-study and the initiation of the 2020 Vision plan in order to take a look at where we are going over the next 20 years. The six elements of importance were Historian, Membership Communication, Right To Race, Leadership & Retention, National Youth/School Program, Board Realignment. They are listed in order of priority as determined during the board meeting in Concord, California. He stated we missed recruiting two generations of flyers.

Continuing the review:

- Right To Race Committee's overview, which consists of three options: national legislation, precedence-setting court case, and homeland security status. Additionally, have a supplement list, prioritizes "best chance" options and create an in-depth scenario.

- National Database Committee coordinates the data gathering ability of WinSpeed© with a storehouse of race statistics accessible by the membership and bases the national awards on this format.
- Leadership/Retention Committee addresses how we get the information and training out to those members (local officers) most in need. We created zone meeting seminars, national convention seminars, state convention seminars, show seminars, and one-loft race seminars.
- National Youth/School Coordinator Committee deals with the selection process, qualifications, salary, and budget (funding). The detailing is to be created with the coordinator. Youth organizations and educational events are to be targeted.

In a side note, Steve mentioned that the Red Bluff Club has 60 members with over one-half of them being juniors.

- AU Historian & Office Realignment involved creating the position of Historian, with a focus and budget. AU is operating under a dual system since the creation of the Executive Director position and Secretary/Treasurer are duplicate positions, often sharing the same functions as AU headquarters. President Ex Officio, Executive Vice President and Vice President have very few duties and much talent. We appointed responsibilities of national awards chairman/finance chairman, and note taking duties to those positions. We revised constitution and bylaws language to shift areas of accountability providing for better member service.
- National Magazine – the national organization seeks ways to enhance/improve communication with members. Should the AU increase the number of publications? Funding? Possible enhancements? Vital information is often not shared via private publications.
- Finance & Budget Committee is charged with creating a war chest of funds for testing, research, program development, national youth coordinator salary, national magazine printing/distribution, etc. Where and how can we generate new dollars? Are there some options to have a gold band national futurity race, grant writing, and corporate opportunities? We need more income.
- Membership Drive committee deals with new areas of recruitment. We need to create a special advisory/task force to focus on recruiting women and show pigeons groups to the sport.

Steve stated that several items have been on the back burner. This official AU directional program was affirmed most recently in 2006. He concluded his address by saying that in order to talk to people, we need a game plan and he wanted to review these items with the board.

Motion made to approve July 2008 meeting minutes as distributed.
Braden/Rivera. Unanimous approval.

Officer Reports

Past President/Secretary, Frank Greenhall

Greenhall said he would have a presentation later on shipping legislation and will do a seminar on the "Right To Race," which incorporates previous information from Karen Clifton, Greg Smith, Gary Braden and himself.

Treasurer's Report, Bob Barnes

Bob stated that the Euros are down slightly now, however, have been on the increase for years. Travel expense was over budget due to the winter meeting and rising fuel costs. The 2009 budget needs to reflect travel cost increases. The cost of newsletters is \$9,000 over budget, before advertising.

Executive Vice President, Robert Tomlinson

Tomlinson received calls for things such as a need for an AU member ID number on Saturday night to do race results; downed bird issues; AU or local jurisdiction of issues; payment of dues through a center and a stolen bird complaint.

Vice President, Freddie Rivera

Rivera reported he did a lot of public relations work and committee work. Some members are still under the impression he functions in the capacity of Zone Director.

Committee Reports

Right To Race, Karen Clifton

Clifton reported that the status remains the same on the issue of the Animal Welfare Act. We are still waiting on the USDA. Frank Greenhall will make additional comments in a seminar. Frank added that he sent 50 letters to state veterinarians and received 25 responses. To date, Vermont has the strictest regulation with regard to transporting animals across state line. Frank suggested the need to develop a race manifest to address authorities that stop flyers during transport.

Karen advised that the Leadership/Retention book will be available electronically upon request or via the web site. It will be mentioned in the secretary packets that will go out in December 2008.

Motion was made to send any news and information (content of newsletter), regularly, on electronic newsletter. Additionally, Pigeon Tracks is to be sent electronically to all directors. Greenhall/McSweeney. Unanimously approved.

National Youth Coordinator, Frank Greenhall

Greenhall will put a program together for presentation for local, state and national teacher organizations.

Membership Drive, Herb Cartmell

Cartmell reported that four of the 4-H members in his club flew with the concourse and that the kids want to race more than show. Additionally, three sets of parents are putting up lofts for themselves. Eight of the 4-H kids were distributed into four different clubs. The local police force captain, member Kent Baxter, is looking for a way to funnel at risk kids into the Skypilot program. Now is the time to sign up for 4-H, between now and February. Cartmell continues to work through the program to offer others a model to replicate nationally.

Historian, Jim Greelis

Greelis reported on the AU historical display. He and Herb set it up for viewing during the convention. The task now is to get the word out about renting it out.

Lawler suggested pursuing ways of working smarter, streamlining and generating more income. Rivera suggested using the Internet. Hoggan suggested pursuing partnership with a magazine. Cartmell commented about putting ads on an electronic newsletter format, such as Constant Contact.

Judges Panel, Freddie Rivera

Rivera reported that the Judges Panel has taken off in a big way. They are doing shows November 8, 15, 16, December, and up to January. There is a board action request regarding shows for discussion later. The budget for shows was decreased just when the program was taking off. Adjustments can be made according to requests, such as wanting a specific person. Then reimbursement can be according to distance traveled. Preference would be to use someone in the same region. It continues that if someone wants an AU sanctioned show, they need to contact Karen Clifton or Freddie Rivera. Rivera sets parameters.

Finance/Funding, Robert Tomlinson

Tomlinson stated that the committee members are Cartmell, Hoggan, Barnes and McSweeney. Barger has requested to be added to the committee, as well as Mitiu and Desmarais. Tomlinson is preparing an article on codicils and we are still looking at an Arch of Honor and a national auction, national raffle, grants, and corporate funding as money sources.

Tomlinson continued with a description of the Texas Hill Country Invitational. It is youth oriented, the theme is education, and they are partnering with Raven Star Outdoor Learning Center in New Braunfels. Members of the club are now on the Center's Board of Directors. The theme is "No Child Left Inside." A fund raising dinner is \$80/plate and 240 guests registered. All money goes to Raven Star. The grocery chain, HEB, during October 15 through November 15, is offering a portion of profit for every Kellogg product sold, to Raven Star. The PGA tournament's charity of choice is Raven Star. This is an example of what can be carried out nationally. He will do an article for magazines.

Speakers Bureau, Gary Braden

Braden said there have been two requests for speakers since the board's last meeting in July.

Greenhall suggested merging the budget of speakers and judges.

Scientific Taskforce, Karen Clifton

Clifton passed out the new "disease brochure" that offers correct information about the relationship of pigeons and disease. It is also posted on the web site. Oklahoma State University was mentioned for an area contact for Circo Virus research. They are busy right now, so will be a little longer to develop dialogue. Colin Walker had an article in the Digest magazine. Clifton is awaiting response with regard to something being available in Germany. To date we are still unable to connect with Dr. Cardona at UC-Davis regarding the AU's donation.

Constitution and Bylaws, Herb Cartmell

Cartmell reported we still have groups that can't get along. Some individuals will try anything and when there is a complaint we often don't get the whole story or they leave out some portions. Bottom line, we can't fix all and we can't please all and clubs need to do a better job of addressing the concerns of their members.

Competition Standards Committee, Tom Coletti

Coletti shattered his kneecap just before the meeting and sent his written report electronically. A list of the types of complaints was passed out at the meeting.

National Office, Karen Clifton

Clifton reported that year-to-date, membership is slightly down right now, by 213, but we always receive additional memberships from individuals through the end of the year. Total year-end numbers will be distributed in January.

Clifton continued, reporting that we have a centennial logo and ideas for entertainment for the 2010 convention. Because of the cost of centennial commemorative coins, we will need to have a quantity of either just enough for convention attendees only, or enough for all members, as the cost would be less.

We have a new advertising opportunity of 1/3 page, front and back, insert for information and new member packets from the national office. Because of the cost of mailing yearbooks, we will change to mailing on a need basis.

Clifton reported that all is going well with the new leg band manufacturer.

The deadline for articles for the winter Update is December 15.

Motion was made to attend and have meetings in conjunction with the Texas Center Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 15-19, 2009. Rivera/Barger. Passed with Barnes opposed stating that those board members that are willing to

pay the required fees and meals represent the AU board. Discussion: Tomlinson, Barger, Greelis, Rivera, and McSweeney plan to attend.

Zone Director Updates

Lakes Zone Director, Ron Pairan, indicated he attended the Lake County Fair in Indiana with Bill Mitiu. The Northwest Flyers do a great job of promoting in their area. They presented AU promotion material and held a release for visitors.

Ron and fellow club member, Terry Lynn, also released birds for a festival in Ohio. They will hopefully continue with this promotion effort.

Ron and Deone will be attending the Ohio-Penn Federation Banquet and will conduct a zone meeting.

Pairan also attended the Fairfield County Fair and was pleased to report that the number of 4-H members who have pigeons at the fair is on the increase. Ron wants to see this progress and implement a program similar to that which Herb is coordinating.

NW Zone Director, Gary Braden, reported he attended the Oregon State Racing Pigeon Association Convention and Race in August. He also attended the Mt. St. Helen's Combine's Lawn show and thanked Bill Desmarais and Freddie Rivera for their support through bird donations.

Gary went on to say that Circo and Adeno viruses are causing major losses in training and races in the Northwest and that several flyers have said they wouldn't fly young birds as a result. Gary suggested we need to get information to our members on how to diagnose and manage these outbreaks.

Pacific Zone Director, Bill Barger, shared that he attended zone meetings with Karen in California (San Diego and Compton). Conversation focused on hawk problems and loft certification. Bill shared with members at both functions that they have access to BAR's. He stressed that we can't change or fix something if we aren't aware and he encouraged members to use them and/or to call on him. He also asked both groups if they were happy with the AU office, zone director and direction that AU was going. Responses were positive.

Motion was made to bypass reports that were not submitted in the proper time frame. Barger/Braden. Passed with Desmarais opposed.

Tabled Board Action Requests

NE-026 If race results cannot be transmitted electronically, they may be submitted on floppy disk. Holder to submit an article for the January newsletter explaining that those who can't access via WinSpeed© are to contact him and get files to him. He will verify validity of results with Tom Coletti. This will be on a case by case basis. Greenhall/Desmarais. Unanimous.

Plains-036 Provide plaques for places, and mandatory classes in AU sanctioned shows with AU to provide diplomas, trophies. Died for lack of motion.

Plains-037 Withdrawn in favor of Lakes-020. Due to Tom's injury Lakes-020 and Mountain-044 were tabled until July 2009. See below.

Lakes-020 Combined with MTN-044. Desmarais/Greenhall. Postponed for Coletti to present July 2009.

Review of Pending Assignments (assigned/discussed 7/2008)

- a. Convention Committee (Karen Clifton) – reported that the cost of a planner coordinating with the hotel, etc. is \$7000-32000 depending on services provided.
Braden proposed an AU race. Discussion included shortening the convention time, members making their own hotel arrangements, changing the month, and basically attending a race and maybe a social dining event.
Motion was made to change convention dates to open dates from July through February; to change percentages from 70/30 to 60/40 – 60 to breeder; 40 to flyer. Mitu amended motion to go to committee to provide new verbiage for the convention agreement reflecting these changes. Second by Pairan. Approved unanimously.
- b. Video/CD production to capture historical interview (pigeoneers, past presidents, etc.) Project on hold to discuss w/WOW to avoid duplication of efforts/cost (Jim Greelis). Will need to submit to Public Broadcasting System through another state because information does not apply to Nebraska.
- c. Register trademark Sky Pilot (Deone Roberts). In the process of registering in 4 areas of use.
- d. Implement membership committee, create and empower. On hold. Herb working with youth groups & civic groups to integrate nationally – update reported earlier.
- e. Review options for 2010 convention race (Bill Barger) Mardis will have youth race. Entry fee \$150. \$200 fee for Randy Goodpasture's loft. He will process birds and post to web site. Split is 60/40. Motion to accept as stated. Greenhall/Mitu. Passed unanimously.
- f. Compile Project Guide to include a loaner loft agreement (patterned after Red Bluff 4-H & NW Junior Flyers) to available to others conducting youth projects. Plans could also be posted on website – Will need more pigeons. Timing show activities with race season is a challenge with 4-H. Parents opted for racing rather than show. Barger will provide young birds to take show schedule; others can be for racing. Rivera offered birds also. NW Juniors coordinator, Tim Tessier, has provided a copy of the loft loan agreement. Red Bluff Club coordinator, Walt Shaffer, has provided a drawing of loft plans. Herb to make recommendations July 2009.

- g. Finance committee will create a proposal for additional revenue to report in July 2009.
- h. 2011 convention update (Tomlinson). Will know after November 5 if San Antonio is a potential host.
- i. Address combining race seasons, the affect on WinSpeed© & the NDB (Coletti/Tobin/Holder) Will be addressed by a Board Action Request later in the meeting.
- j. Need to review inconsistencies with the atomic clock time and the manual setting. How do we deal with manual clocks, which are often given to youth and new flyers? (Coletti) Tabled for Tom to report July 2009.
- k. Clifton to provide recap of expenses for the Board attending the 2007 convention. Clifton/Cartmell to report on cost of hiring a convention planner. Covered previously. The cost for the last board meeting was \$22,595 (travel and meeting needs).
- l. Methods to provide revenue (including raising membership dues, cost of bands, changing price break on bands) to be discussed. Suggestion was to explain to members via press releases about the weak dollar, increased cost of doing business, and put a vote to membership. Greenhall to chair committee and report. (Greenhall, Hoggan, Barnes, Greelis, Clifton). Discussion followed: change current vanity band cost from 70¢ to 75¢, no matter what quantity; stock bands to 45¢; diplomas from 20¢ to 25¢; set up and color change fee \$30; Lifetime membership to \$400, then \$500 for 2012 and regular dues to \$50 2012.
On the point of increasing the member fee, Hoggan & Braden will propose an investment account for the AU. Concern arose regarding family membership. Barger suggested tabling until the July meeting as he wants time to take the recommendation on band increases and look at what the vote was previously.
- m. Coordinate with a vet (possibly the one in MA) to serve as a clearinghouse for members/liberators regarding laws/health certificate requirements for transporting and releasing. (Greenhall/Desmarais) Still working on it.
- n. Approach state vets to seek variance from health certificates in lieu of AU loft certification. (Greenhall, Braden, Desmarais, Rivera). We need to get self regulation before approaching state vets. Greenhall suggests a race manifest, to include certificate of inspection, loft registration certificate correlating AU information with member information, loft birdage list, loft entry sheet, loft total race entry sheet (all of these can be generated off WinSpeed©), race station location, date, time, release time, vet info on state regulations that transporter passes through. Yes, we could do it easily if we become self-regulatory. It is mandatory. We need also to consider biosecurity for transporters.
- o. Create a way for members to generate membership ID cards from the website. (Tomlinson, Desmarais, Holder) The committee did not meet. Dropped.
- p. Remove boundaries for the Texas Center. It was decided to research the by-laws and determine if centers are still necessary and functional. Do we

keep them and remove boundaries? (McSweeney, Cartmell, Mitiu, Rivera and Barger). There are 850 members in the Texas Center; over 1,000 in the AU in the same states. Lawler suggested dropping the centers; therefore, there would be no boundaries. Barger suggested they be dropped for lack of participation. Tomlinson suggested waiting until July when Texas Center officers can meet with the board. Committee to report July 2009.

NDB/Winspeed, Mike Tobin

Tobin distributed a handout for WinSpeed© handout. Hall of Fame is a priority. He was instructed to make adjustments so that several groups' data can be uploaded to NDB, rather than wait on results to compute. Some people are forgetting to reset margins, which presents a problem and waste of diplomas. WordPad is different.

Motion was made to adjourn. Barger/Braden. Approved.

October 15, 2008

Attendees: Steve Lawler, Freddie Rivera, Bob Barnes, Sr., Frank Greenhall, Gary Braden, Bill Barger, John McSweeney, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, Bill Desmarais, Brad Hoggan, Karen Clifton, Deone Roberts, and Herb Cartmell.

Barger brought up a point of order. The minutes are to be posted to the web site. It is not done. The review process needs to be reduced and he submitted that two weeks to respond to the minutes, as distributed to the board, is adequate. Then proceed with posting.

Motion was made to send minutes out to the board of directors for review and allow two weeks to respond (with such notation), after two weeks, post to the web site. Discussion: there are too many diversified comments. Give one week; make corrections; highlight corrections; resubmit. Greenhall suggested two weeks. Lawler stated that this was a pilot project on time line. Greenhall/Barger, post full minutes, not abbreviated, on the web site. Lawler, additional comment, post full on the web site and abbreviated in the Yearbook. Lawler, summary, after compilation, allow two weeks to respond, revise. Two weeks allowed, then post to web site. Barger comment, acquiesce if no response. Office directed to post the note in the newsletter that minutes are posted on the site or available by contacting the office.

Motion (amended) to distribute board meeting minutes via email, allow two weeks for response and if no response within two weeks, note to board members that minutes will be posted to the AU web site per revisions received within the two week period. Barger/Pairan. Passed with Greenhall opposed.

Overview: Do You Have the Right to Fly? Frank Greenhall

Greenhall recapped his presentation for the seminars on Saturday. He sent information to each state. Until we are self-regulatory, we cannot take on the federal government. Motion to make the Race Manifest a part of best practices. (Greenhall/Rivera) Approved unanimously.

Greenhall administered the oath of office for new directors, Bill Desmarais and Bill Mitiu.

Lawler reviewed general membership meeting presentations: Rivera will cover judges and loft certification. Greenhall will review best practices and right to fly. Hoggan & Pairan will review awards and NDB. Desmarais will review how to be more active in the community and preview next year's convention. Lawler will review various programs such as Help A Beginner and taking advantage of AU resources. Clifton will function as moderator.

Awards Committee Update

Ron and Gary reported in Jay Holder's absence. Holder is working on automation of Registered Champion. He is also working on Yearling Hall of Fame and Presidents Cup. Yearling Hall of Fame will commence with 2009 Old Birds and will include previous Young Bird.

Review of New Board Action Requests

NW-091 Allow young and old birds to be released at the same time in official AU races. See NE-029 below.

NE-029 Amend rules, award dates and by-laws (if necessary) to permit merging of race seasons should an organization desire to have a single season for old and young bird racing. Combined with NW-091, and MTN-045. Tom Coletti to provide final language in July 2009.

MTN-044 Revise rule 4.05 to allow a designated race secretary and/or race committee member to knock-off a race when there are not three competing members at a race knock-off. Was combined with Lakes-020. Tom Coletti to report in July 2009.

MTN-045 Remove rule 7.10 so to allow combining young bird and old bird series and combined young bird and old bird releases (also combined with NE-029, NW-091). Tom Coletti to provide final language in July 2009.

Lakes-020 Relax the requirement to have three participating (competitors) present at knock-off and instead require three active members to be present at knock-off. Combined with MTN-044. Tom Coletti to report in July 2009.

Motion was made to release young and old birds together; break out the race within a race in calculations, separate release by 30 minutes, transported on the

same vehicle. Discussion: Braden – this will allow flexibility to deal with rules in their own area. Amendment: Greenhall – accept all three and allow awards committee to make appropriate changes to the rules. This will replace 7.10. Calculation to begin in 2009. Greenhall/Hoggan. Unanimous approval.

NW-092 Limit the term of the Help-A-Beginner coordinator to 2 years. Board would review to consider replacement or extension of existing term to keep the program fresh and avoid placing a burden on the volunteer coordinator. Discussion: Barger - this is an appointed position and restricts the President to make decision to change or to simply review every 2 years. Pairan – suggested withdrawal. Died for lack of motion.

NW-093 Amend drug testing policy and reimplement committee to review procedures and advancements in testing. Substances should be defined to determine what members should not use. Cost for testing should be determined and passed on to members. Discussion: Cartmell – this should be changed to generic terms. “Cost for testing should be determined and passed on to members.” is stricken. Discussion: Greenhall – opens us to lawsuit. Amend to require committee to review, define what to end up with, i.e. policy and list general areas. Lawler appointed committee consisting of Cartmell, Desmarais, Rivera, Mitiu, and Barger. Cartmell/Greenhall. Approved unanimously as amended. Committee to report July 2009.

NW-094 Amend 9.07 of the AU By-laws to eliminate liability as a result of releasing files regarding infractions. Greenhall/Barger. Passed unanimously.

NW-095 Commission the AU Scientific Taskforce to compile information (to be posted on the website) pertaining to recognizing the signs of and managing Circo and Adeno virus. Discussion: with permission, will be compiled from Colin Walker’s article and posted to the web site. Information will go to Ed Minvielle, who works with Colin. Braden/Greenhall. Passed unanimously.

NW-096 The AU board to review the Help-A-Beginner program to ensure best policies and practices are in place. Died for lack of second.

NW-097 The following language to be added to Article V-Disputes. B. Members leaving to form another club. When a group leaves one club to form another club or organization, they immediately relinquish all rights and privileges to the club, unless there is an agreement, in writing, which is dated and signed by the club officers and the group leaving. Comment: Cartmell noted that a group is already defined as five to make a club. Lack of motion.

Greenhall read a letter he received from Harold Gruston regarding the cost of birds and the cost of the sport.

NW-098 - That the board approve a \$2000 portion of the new advertising budget for a series of 1/4 page cartoon (or other) ads to make performance pigeon members aware of the legal problems and a proposed \$5 increase in dues to try to solve the problem as outlined in the Wilder report page 25. Wilder volunteers to create such advertising and submit to Deone Roberts for insertion in racing and roller pigeon media. Campaign to last 5 months and upon its conclusion the board would measure effectiveness and response by asking clubs to take an informal poll of their members to gauge the campaign's effectiveness. (Questionnaire to be provided.) Might be included in the AU newsletter.

Wilder's research regarding the Migratory Bird Treaty was discussed. Herb passed around a mock up of an ad he would like to see published. He proposes an advertising budget to start an awareness campaign. Ads would be generated to the various pigeon publications to raise awareness and funds to begin work on amending the MBT. Greenhall suggested adding \$2000 to budget for ads pending Greg's review and recommended action plan. Karen reminded the board that Greg has received a copy of his report and wants to do further research to provide an opinion as to potential action. She also asked why we would create another fund when the legal defense fund is already in place. Frank/Ron. Approved unanimously pending review and recommendations of Greg Smith.

NE-028 Per diem for officers and directors only be paid for attendance at AU Board meetings. Discussion: expenses are provided in policies covering convention and mid year meeting. Greenhall/Rivera. Passed. Braden opposed.

NE-030 Realign zones by moving Wyoming and Colorado from the Mountain Zone to the Norwest Zone. The Mountain Zone is the largest in number and the NW Zone is the smallest. This will even the zones and workload for the directors. Greenhall/Pairan. Passed unanimously.

Lawler appointed Tom Coletti as the Northwest Zone Director. Greenhall/Hoggan to approve appointment. Passed unanimously.

Lawler appointed Cowboy Loreface as HAB Coordinator. Greenhall/Mitiu to approve appointment. Passed unanimously.

NE-031 The AU retain a vet by 2012. Greenhall/Tomlinson. Passed unanimously.

NE-032 Give combines and clubs more control over "Phantom" flyers or lofts. Modify AU190, Section 7 regarding partnerships to read:

Allowing any kind of partnership(s) where more than one team is to be flown from a specific location is strictly determined by the highest level chartered AU Organization. A partnership is equivalent to one vote, regardless of the size of

the partnership. A change from this standard is a decision the chartered organization must make before the race season starts.

Note: Other references in 4.03 will also be changed to chartered AU organization, or highest level chartered AU organization as appropriate.

Greenhall/Desmarais. Unanimous.

MTN-041 Reinstatement and reappointment of AU Treasurer to maintain proper controls/monitoring of expenses. Discussion: Lawler – this is contrary to established policy and not a cheap proposition - \$3,000-4,000 annually. We looked at five offices that duplicate. Secretary and Treasurer fit. It was a constitution and bylaws change. Greenhall – Tomlinson automatically takes the Treasurer position. Amendment to motion – to retain indefinitely. Greenhall – this must be published in minutes for a period before President can appoint Treasurer. If no objection from members, to reinstate. Hoggan/Barger.

Vote:

Hoggan – yes

Tomlinson – yes

McSweeney – yes

Rivera – yes

Desmarais – yes

Greenhall – no

Mitiu – yes

Pairan – yes

Barger – yes

Passes 8 to 1. Will be published in Update and consider membership objection.

MTN-042 Adjust point system for awards. Discussion: there is a disparity. Need to give birdage also. The new system changes quite a bit. Greenhall – send to committee for review and report in July 2009. Hoggan/Greenhall. Passed unanimously.

MTN-043 Establish time for implementation of awards for short and middle distance races. Will be sent to committee for report in July 2009. Hoggan/Pairan. Passed unanimously.

PAC-032 Reduce the printing cost of the AU Yearbook by removing the membership and band lists and placing them on the AU website. Barger/Greenhall. Passed unanimously.

PAC-033 Revise AU Policy 400 to remove reference to drug testing and an administrator. The AU drug testing taskforce has not been active or administering tests due to lack of requests and liability (inconclusive results). The policy should be updated. Barger/Greenhall. Passed unanimously.

LAKES-021 Require approval of President and Financial Officer for AU travel. Applies to staff and directors. Copies of receipts to be submitted to office for payment within two weeks of travel. Barnes/Greenhall. Amendment: change to and/or. Passed unanimously.

LAKES-022 Approval for AU travel shall be obtained and emailed to the office no less than six weeks prior to an event. Barnes/Greenhall. Amendment: four weeks, unless there are extenuating circumstances, and is approved by President, Financial and Treasurer. Passed unanimously.

New motion – Returning to the issue of cost of bands, motion is to increase costs to 75¢ for personalized, regardless of quantity. Cost increase breakdown follows:

1-500 75, cents

500-1000, 55 cents

1000-2100, 45 cents

2100-5000, 40 cents

5100 and up, 35 cents

1 year later, raise from 45 to 50 cents

raise color fee from \$20 to \$30

raise diploma cost from 20 to 25 cents

In the year 2011, increase Lifetime membership fee from \$300 to 400. Address other member dues at a later date. Greenhall/Barger. Passed unanimously.

New motion to replace Braden with Hoggan, from the board, on the awards committee. Greenhall/Tomlinson. Passed unanimously.

SE-027 Due to funding, revamp show program so to allow AU reimbursement of up to \$400 total for no more than two judges for an AU organization hosting a show. Make the policy consistent with the Speaker's Bureau policy. Barnes suggested combining a budget of \$4,000 for shows and judges. Barger suggested amending the AU Sanctioned Show agreement to one sanctioned judge required and others can be local judges. He would like to see separate budgets and would like to see "from within the zone" stricken. Rivera/Greenhall. Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn and finish remaining BARs, budget and other items. Greenhall/Mitiu. Approved unanimously.

Friday, October 17, 2008

Attendees: Steve Lawler, Freddie Rivera, Bob Barnes, Sr., Frank Greenhall, Bill Barger, John McSweeney, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, Bill Desmarais, Brad Hoggan, Karen Clifton, Deone Roberts, and Herb Cartmell.

LAKES-023 Remove the word "AU" from convention races. Died for lack of second.

LAKES-024 All clubs or combines notify the AU of dates and locations of releases. If not done, said clubs or combines will not be given AU awards or AU bands and publish in AU Update or Racing Pigeon Digest. Died for lack of second.

LAKES-025 AU publish band list as done in years past with Ralston Purina. Pairan/McSweeney. Passed, Greenhall opposed. Pairan is directed to contact Purina to see if they would be interested in sending this out. Greenhall expressed concern that we would give our list to a private company.

Discussion: Greenhall commented that the board already voted to place the band information, club list, etc. on the AU web site. If there is a smash race, that is left to the club to handle. Clifton commented that the release sites were posted to the AU web site at one time, but due to a number of problems that resulted, it was removed. Greenhall wanted LAKES 025 removed from consideration. Lawler explained that it was a request to see if Purina would consider doing it at no additional cost to AU. It was general consensus that the list would not track some of the band listings such as AA, clubs are located more easily now thanks to the Internet, and that to mail such booklet in the secretary packet would increase the weight and therefore increase the cost of postage. Tabled until Saturday.

NW-099 Change WinSpeed© formula to adjust scoring numerically. Unirates are low. All agreed to send to committee for review and report in July 2009.

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Attendees: Steve Lawler, Freddie Rivera, Bob Barnes, Sr., Frank Greenhall, Bill Barger, John McSweeney, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, Bill Desmarais, Brad Hoggan, Karen Clifton, and Herb Cartmell.

Steve provided an update on Tom Coletti. Tom will send issues he wants the board to consider for the next meeting.

President Lawler asked John McSweeney to give an update on the Texas Center. John indicated they have requested that boundaries be removed so they can solicit social members from anywhere to boost their membership.

It was decided that our July 2009 board meetings would be held in Oklahoma City. Board members will fly into Oklahoma City on Saturday, July 11. Meetings will be held on Sunday, July 12, and Monday, July 13. Barger, Tomlinson and McSweeney already planned to attend the Texas Center convention, which will

be July 15 through July 19. They will meet with Texas Center officers to discuss center issues. Others to attend will be identified later. McSweeney/Greenhall. Passed unanimously.

Lawler to appoint Desmarais as the Speakers' Bureau Chairman and to serve on the Judges' Panel committee. Greenhall/Rivera. Unanimous.

Desmarais discussed the need for a Political Involvement committee to encourage members to involve themselves in their communities and city government and to seek positive change and support for the sport. He sees that would be one part of the committee. Lawler to appoint Desmarais to create and chair the committee. Greenhall/Rivera. Unanimous.

Discussion to move Maryland to the NE Zone. Tobin to change database. Pairan mentioned Wisconsin was not changed on the contact page in the yearbook. Clifton indicated it was changed in the previous newsletters, however, the book designer didn't catch those same changes.

Desmarais asked the board about a \$500 sponsorship for sportscar racing. There is concern about open-ended requests for advertising. Greenhall/Barger to allocate \$1000 of the budget for organizations wanting sponsorship. It was agreed these requests to be submitted to Sport Development Manager for review/approval and allocation. Hoggan to get design company information to Deone. Desmarais race car request is first application. Approved by the board unanimously.

Executive Session - Greenhall/Hoggan to approve budget and employee recommendations. Unanimous.

Barger requested a new policy be implemented. Policy would mandate all Board Action Requests to be submitted one month prior to meetings. President will determine if a late BAR is an emergency. If not, late BAR's will be tabled until the subsequent meeting. Barger/Greenhall. Unanimous.

Greenhall/Barger to adjourn. Unanimous.

Annual AU General Membership Meeting – October 16, 2008

Clifton welcomed members. Meeting began with a moment of silence and salute to the flag. Clifton then introduced all Board members and recognized Dr. Gary Braden as the outgoing NW Zone Director.

President Steve Lawler shared with members that for the last several days and for the next few days their board members were working through issues and on programs to serve the AU membership. He thanked those for attending the general meeting.

Past President/Secretary called for a motion to approve minutes from the October 2007 general meeting. Braden/Vernon. Unanimous.

President Lawler called on Freddie Rivera, Chair of the AU Judges' Panel, to discuss the current program. Freddie reported all judge positions have been filled. Freddie shared that if an organization is interested in hosting an AU show, they should contact the AU office for the show agreement and call on him if they have questions. The program is a cost-share program. He reported that there are currently two sanctioned shows lined up for 2008 (Colorado and Kansas).

Freddie also discussed how important loft certification is and urged members to get their lofts certified. He said it will become more important than ever in the future to avoid government regulation.

Greenhall shared brief comments from the seminar he will conduct on Saturday. He also urged loft certification and that members should be focused on making sure they have proper paperwork when crossing state lines with birds. He said he felt that until we are self-regulated completely, we will be vulnerable to government restriction and that we would be wise to be proactive.

Hoggan & Pairan reviewed awards and the National Database in Chairman Holder's absence. They reported that more clubs are uploading to the database, reminded members to watch for submission dates and methods as some are automated and some are not. They shared that the board recently approved working on a case by case basis with those that are not able to get results electronically and that committee chairman Holder will be available to work with those individuals.

Desmarais previewed next year's convention. There will be many unique guest activities, plenty of good food and they are looking to have a great race and youth race.

Deone Roberts asked members to call on her to assist with promotion projects and highlighted several projects that have been held recently in Minnesota alone. She has been very active working with members across the country and our continued membership numbers reflect that promotion does work.

Lawler mentioned taking advantage of AU resources such as the Help-A-Beginner program to help with promotion efforts. He thanked the entire board for their hard work.

Clifton introduced the AU Lobbyist, Greg Smith. Greg addressed membership and reported that there is currently no new national legislation that will hurt us and he continues to monitor that on our behalf. He expressed that it is possible with a new administration there may be more sympathy for animal rights groups

so he will make sure to watch and work with the national office to be as proactive as possible.

Greg reminded members that this is truly a time when being good neighbors and supporting city government is important. He referred to the materials he prepared for AU members a couple of years ago that are still available through the AU office in order that they may lobby their local officials.

He shared that he will ramp up research into the hawk situation to determine what strategy best fits our needs and report to the board.

In closing, he thanked the membership for the opportunity to work with them.

Questions from the floor were taken. Dick McKane asked why the meeting was moved from Saturday to Thursday saying that it had always been on Saturdays. He said that it was inconvenient since he works during the week.

Karen explained that it was requested last year so to make it easier for the members that do attend the convention. Some will leave after the race so would not be present on Saturday. It was also noted that there were approximately 60 members present and in the last several general meetings, held on Saturdays, there were only about 20 members present.

Past President, Frank Greenhall, further explained that it was requested by members. He then asked of those in attendance how many prefer the meeting to be held during the convention (prior to Saturday). All responded they prefer it during the middle of the week, with the exception of Dick.

Dick McKane also said he didn't think members should have to pay for WinSpeed© update disks. He said that he believes members paid for it years ago through their dues.

It was explained to Dick that there have been constant upgrades and enhancements since the program was first developed. Additionally, because members constantly ask for changes and it costs money to pay a programmer to continue to work on the program, there will be on-going expenses.

Dick asked for a breakdown of membership dues. A breakdown will be provided.

Motion to adjourn. Olson/Lawler. Unanimous.