

**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
Ogden, UT – October 19, 2015**

President Coletti called the meeting to order 8:05 a.m.

Attending: Tom Coletti, Karen Clifton, Lee Kohli, Ron Pairan, Kamal Hindi, John Hundrup, Toni Wiaderski, Freddie Rivera, Al Hassler, Jim Greelis, Joyce Stierlin, Al Porter, John McSweeney, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, Shannon Demler.

No guests were present.

After the flag salute and moment of silence, time was allotted for non-board member comments. There being none, motion was made to approve the minutes of the mid-year meeting June 2015 as posted to the AU website. Rivera/Wiaderski. Approved.

President Coletti opened his report stating that we have a couple of problems since the last meeting. It seems there is unawareness of what the office personnel does for the board and the organization. Coletti explained that he himself takes every opportunity to utilize Karen and staff for information and tasks, and that is on top of their usual duties.

We have drug committee issues that will be discussed during the drug committee portion of the board meeting.

In closed session, we will talk about knocking or not knocking off clocks and the progress with eWinspeed©.

Tom fielded a lot of calls regarding Bay Cities Combine.

He attended the Texas Center Convention and gained understanding of flying in the south and heat and humidity. In a prior board meeting, Tim Brandon made a presentation about flying in the heat. You can go to Louisiana and watch the great returns in 107 degree heat. He checked with Siegel's about the issue and Ed Minvielle warned to condition the birds for racing in the heat. This will be a difficult issue when revising guidelines.

Tom bought the Benzing Live System to learn the system. He has had issues, but he has enjoyed having his cell phone go off and 200 miles away, you get a notice of a bird's arrival. It works only on Atis M1.

Coletti has talked with a few people that believe the board is too cliquish. So he asked that the board mingle throughout the convention as much as possible and don't lose the very large name tags that identify board members in the mingling.

The Director notebook is working well to clarify rules. It's okay to leave it home, but be sure to stay on top of updates.

Executive Vice President Update (Holder)

He too attended the Texas Center Convention and was very impressed. They ran a very good convention. He was impressed with locals providing hospitality at the lofts. It was a short race because of heat.

Jay shared his experience with Benzing Live explaining items to review. It does not communicate with eWinspeed©.

He spent time with Karen and the copyright attorney going over copyright issues for the program. The process has been complete and the intellectual property is protected.

He is continuing to work with Comnez, Elizabeth and Mike Tobin on eWinspeed©.

As the Awards Chairman, Jay has been made aware of an issue in Minnesota with a consistent winner. This individual's time is as much as one hour ahead. With a member present in his back yard, the results are consistent with times of other flyers. Without presence in the yard, his time is exaggerated by as much as an hour. Top 5 pigeons were to be auctioned off, but he presold the birds prior to the auction. He could be rechipping on shipping night.

Awards and NDB issues have come up. He is still working on a technical code issue. Some of the old bird Hall of Fame results are inaccurate and Mike is working on that. Some of those awards may be delayed slightly.

Delay on eWinspeed© is troublesome, but work is still in progress. Comnez will be down to one programmer as the need reduces.

Vice President Update (Pairan)

Half way through their old bird season, two days before the 400 and 500 mile races, they received notification that their old bird season was canceled by Dr. Forshey, the Ohio State Veterinarian, because of concerns over Avian Influenza. He stated that he would reevaluate the situation after the Fall migratory season. At the time, several other Midwestern states were having similar problems. Lee Kohli and Ron met with Dr. Forshey in an attempt to persuade him to lift the ban on racing pigeons. Dr. Forshey was very blunt in informing us that his primary concern was with the poultry industry and the consumers, rather than with pigeon flyers. He asked Lee and Ron if they could guarantee that pigeons couldn't transport the virus on their feet or feathers, which of course, they couldn't do. The ban has continued through young bird season in Ohio.

Not only is pigeon racing banned, but there can be no mingling of birds among fanciers. Therefore, there have been no shows, no birds at the fair, etc. As a consequence, Ron had very little to report since the summer board meeting. Lee has succeeded in getting Michigan's Dr. Averil to lift the ban in that state, with certain stipulations. Lee will provide details in his report. With his background in poultry, Lee has been an invaluable resource for the AU. Following Michigan's lifting of the ban, Lee again contacted Dr. Forshey, but was unsuccessful in getting him to change his mind concerning the ban.

Perhaps we need to take a legal action that will reverse the restriction on racing pigeons.

Kohli stated he would be interested in Shannon Demler's opinion as an attorney as to what the next step should be and if a legal challenge would be appropriate. If the restriction is repeated next year, it will damage racing in Ohio.

Pairan said the Infraction Committee had only one complaint to deal with. Steve Jenkins did the investigation and it will be presented later in the board meeting.

Finally, the AU will have a booth at a Home School Convention in Cincinnati next Spring. Ron is still awaiting a response to see if they might allow him to be a presenter.

President Ex-Officio Update (Rivera)

Freddie indicates he is still getting a lot of calls because he was past President, so he is functioning as Ambassador for sport. He also went to the Texas Center Convention.

Treasurer Report (McSweeney)

McSweeney reviewed the 2016 preliminary budget. Round numbers indicate projections. Cost of bands depends on exchange rate. True correct cost for 2015 is closer to \$60,000, which is way down compared to the \$100,000 we had anticipated.

Dues income is fairly accurate. Advertising income varies. He was surprised the diplomas income stayed the same, keeping in mind that his preliminary figures are estimates.

On the interest income line, the past suggestion was to invest in stocks, but that is too volatile. That's why we leave it in the bank. A high interest account is a bare fraction higher. With most banks, too much out of checking creates a loss in interest rate advantage with higher cost to the checking account.

Operating expenses get a little closer to actual. We can get a break on the medical insurance. We have actually spent a little less on convention meeting expense. We can compare the mid-year meeting vs. annual meeting expenses and for that of director/staff travel.

The scholarship fund was approved at the mid-year meeting. We removed the NLA contribution of \$3,000 and added a scholarship fund of \$6,000.

Most of the expense category is static. We talked about reducing the yearbook size, but we've found that what is in the annual publication is needed.

Dues expense includes alliance organizations for the benefit of racing activity.

Contract labor is currently Tobin, Comnez, and Elizabeth, and that will be going down as the development of eWinspeed© nears completion.

Contingency funds are still available. We need to continue setting funds aside for maintenance.

Gross income has remained flat over the years. The board reviewed the proposed policy regarding release of financial information reporting to membership. We can

utilize the reported tax return from Bob Dillon, our CPA, which is a basic explanation of income/expense and assets/liabilities.

John will need to prepare a written policy for the board to adopt and will present to the board on Tuesday. It will be displayed on the AU website for members' ease of use.

Judiciary Committee (Porter)

Tabled until following day.

Committee reports:

Leadership/Retention (Kohli, Kamal, Roberts)

No report/tabled until June 2016.

Right to Race (Kohli/Clifton)

Kohli outlined his efforts meeting with State Veterinarians. Ohio is not budging on the halt in movement. Kohli was able to meet with the Michigan State Veterinarian, which resulted in allowing Michigan flyers to participate in races with restrictions: loft certification, AU membership, premise ID, and submission of race schedules on a weekly basis. The AU office will begin aggressive follow up to get members that have not certified.

The task right now is to find an Ohio lobbyist and/or retired USDA vet to visit with Dr. Forshey in order to dispel his argument that pigeons might spread Avian Influenza mechanically, which has been his concern. There is also question as to liability of AU members should they violate ban restrictions.

Senate hearing relayed several stories that were convincing in terms of restricting bird movement, whether considered poultry or domesticated birds. It has been a huge (negative) impact on the poultry industry.

It was agreed that the board can utilize the infraction process against a member who creates offense or problems.

The AU would publish notice that if there is an offense of illegal flight by a member, an infraction will be filed, with due process by the infraction committee, then board decision. Demler will write "will be enforced strictly" statement for publication to protect the AU and to provide helpful information as service to members.

Stierlin would like to see an AU rule that specifies this action. Demler will write it up and will try to incorporate the language that the individual can also be liable if caught.

Motion to approve the office and Kohli to work on getting professional consultant/expert, (the budgetary number to be resolved later), for Ohio in avian influenza issue. Kohli/Pairan. Approved.

Motion to approve the AU position statement that Shannon will write to indicate our concern and support for the USDA in stopping our members from illegally flying. Wiaderski/Kohli. Approved.

The office will be following up with members in Michigan to get them certified to show Dr. Averil we want to comply so that he will continue to have a favorable impression of the sport and allow racing and movement of birds.

National Youth/School Coordinator (Pairan)

Ronnie Shumaker is assisting a new youth project in South Carolina.

There are youth groups still working, such as Herb Cartmell's Sky Pilot program.

We will man a booth at a homeschool event in 2016. We are waiting on speaker approval to include a scheduled presentation. It is hoped they will allow Ron to present at the conference to encourage homeschool groups to adopt pigeon projects as a learning tool.

Pairan described his mentoring work with a new young member, Caleb. Caleb has already contributed to the Pigeon Tracks newsletter.

Historian (Greelis)

Greelis requested purchase of a camera. Motion to budget \$500 for new camera for use by the Historian, not to exceed \$500. Rivera/Wiaderski. Approved.

Jim has conducted and completed several interviews, which have been submitted to the webmaster for posting so members may view them. No additional interviews are lined up at this time.

Greelis has made a couple of trips to Oklahoma City to temporarily remove the display so that it may be shipped to the site of the convention and to restore it after use.

Judge's Panel (Rivera)

It is a challenge to find hotels for functions that include shows as not all are pet friendly. We haven't taken in new judges as the majority on the panel are not utilized since so few shows actually take place.

Hindi asked what the show entailed. Rivera shared that we would need to have judging cages & sheets for classes – usually about 13 classes per show. Then you have tear-down time. Hours are usually early morning until 4:00 p.m. Hindi said they could have it Wednesday at the convention.

Constitution & By-Laws (Demler)

His time recently has been mostly dealing with the convention so he has relied on Coletti, Greelis and Porter for back up.

Clifton advised that the club by-laws review is on-going and that 62 out of 287 are not in compliance. We do have bylaws for clubs that are no longer active. Currently we are through the "M's" in our review. We will continue submitting them to the committee for review and sending letters requesting amended by-laws as per the membership vote last year.

Competition Standards (Hundrup)

Below are some of the issues that he received emails or calls on since the board's last June meeting through September 29.

- The boxing of birds and the requirements pertaining to sexes and if one flyer's birds are allowed to be boxed in separate crates.
- Proxy voting.
- Shipping limit requirements
- Releasing non-race birds with AU race birds.
- Flying multiple teams in club only and multi club races.
- Combine section requirements to upload to the NDB and the shipping requirements to be a sanctioned combine race.
- Can members program and assign own chip rings.
- Official race results with called in or emailed in results
- Race schedule changes and requirements
- Antenna placement- Member had 60 inch antenna for a 31 inch opening
- Minimum requirements to assemble and ship races, club and combine.
- Partnership requirements.
- Flyer complained he was given a no clocking for not showing up at the assigned knock off time.
- Race secretary thought she could change the race schedule and course per race rule 5.02 because she didn't like the course that was voted on and passed twice by the membership before the race series started and also tried to change for the same reason after the races started.
- Shipping limits and a race within a race that exceeded the shipping limits.
- Bylaws did not include information, so Hundrup made a ruling. Most were satisfied except one member and that was satisfied later.
- Clarifying our WinSpeed© update requirements.
- Baytril being a prohibited substance because members were using it and said that it enhanced the performance of their birds.
- Member using BELG bands he purchased online. Hundrup let them know the flyer was unable to fly in AU sanctioned races with such bands.

Hassler had a question about assigning a number on chip bands and commented to make sure that birds are legally entered. That does not have to be the Race Secretary. Someone should be present to verify. Additionally, don't allow "0" in band numbering anymore. WinSpeed© will not accept it.

Veterans Committee (Hassler)

Nothing to report.

Drug Test Committee (Rivera/Coletti)

The Drug Test Committee was established when the GHC started having issues. Our policy is generic purposefully.

Texas Center agreed to test. It was found there was no enhancement, but as a result, things started cleaning up.

The GHC has the most rigid and focused of efforts: winners will be tested.

Baytril was indicated as a performance enhancer, but in fact it is not. It is usually good for cleaning out the birds.

Names and information on testing companies can be obtained from committee members Mitiu, Werner and Barger.

National Office & Director Updates

National Office (Clifton)

The Mountain and Plains Zones both had membership increase through 2015. Year-to-date totals indicate membership is down by 46. We are still seeing individual members join and hopefully will experience a slight increase by year-end. In spite of a slight drop, the number of members joining the AU for the first time has increased this year. Clifton said the office continues to look for tools to offer clubs to run more smoothly and cohesively to make the club environment more inviting for new members. With the bickering that takes place in some clubs, that may well run members away.

It is also encouraging to see that our junior membership is up.

Clifton reviewed the organization by-laws status. 287 club and combine by-laws have been reviewed. Of those, 62 are not in compliance with what members voted to approve regarding club requirements for voting. Letters have been sent out and several amended by-laws have already been returned. The office will continue this project upon completion of year-end projects (bands, secretary packets, etc.).

With regard to the regional youth race, the Midwest Racing Pigeon Association is eager to host a youth race. They will be visiting with the club that will be hosting their convention next year and be in touch with the office so that we may help coordinate. This enables us to act on a suggestion made by one of our current junior members. He requested additional races for juniors.

We have a Speaker's Bureau applicant, Ron Zittler. Ron made a good presentation, however, the concern is that the bureau is not utilized now. We still need to vet the current list.

Hindi commented that perhaps candidates could submit a 15 minute video for illustration when they are applying to be on the Speakers' Bureau. Several liked the idea. Porter suggested finding out what clubs he has spoken to and who his references are. Motion to table until we check references. Pairan/Hindi.

Discussion: Hindi suggested finding out what the speakers are going to speak about so we can fill in the holes of topics in our list. The subjects current speakers discuss are listed in the yearbook. Hindi was appointed committee chair. We will be sending a letter to applicant that we are not taking more at this time. The office will again send out letters to the current speakers to determine their continuation.

In view of last minute requests to be placed on the meeting agenda, Tom suggested that such a request should be made with the office by 30 days prior to the board member packet mailing. This is fairer to the member wanting to make a presentation, as well as to the board members.

Karen asked for Update articles by December 15. This will allow planning and layout for the January newsletter.

The mid-year meeting location and date will be Ontario, California, Friday, July 22, through July 24, with return travel on the 25th.

Clifton provided an update on the AU Youth Scholarship, which is referenced in the Yearbook. Application will also appear in the January newsletter thus allowing all members the opportunity to apply.

The award booklet (less the Old Bird Hall of Fame awards) has been prepared and will be distributed during the evening of the awards banquet.

Sport Development (Roberts)

Roberts shared a list of member promotion activities that occurred since the last Update publication. They will appear in the upcoming Update. Also, the SkyPilot Trademark # 3,781,687 was renewed before the board meeting.

Zone Director Reports

Northwest (Hundrup)

Not much is going on in the area. The Washington State organization is going again. Hundrup, Steve Lawler and a group of volunteers have worked hard on this. They plan to approach the NPA in Vancouver in 2017, for an old bird show.

He got a call from Gary Braden and between those contacts, they hope to have an AU show at the NPA National event. Braden will judge at no charge because he is in the area.

Pacific (Hindi)

Hindi has been busy with planning of the 2017 convention. He has attended meetings and luncheons and tried to dispel some of the false information some members spread out of animosity. He has also enjoyed working with members that are very positive.

Kamal has helped with many lost birds and continues to encourage youth participation and fellowship among members.

Southwest (McSweeney)

They had a non-flyer that had a bird with an NPA band and by Monday he got a reply. They have a rep for each state so McSweeney was able to give contact information.

Fred King asked that we publish financial statements. McSweeney told him that was already on the agenda. Fred will make a combine report next month.

McSweeney provided a printed report of Benzing Live. A bad report came up. He was able to correct it, but had already submitted the report to Benzing. The GPS coordinates input has three different versions and every piece of information is important for accuracy in location.

At their recent combine meeting, voting and active racing eligibility was discussed.

Plains (Porter)

Not much has changed. The bird flu virus and states that banned racing took the headlines in the zones up north and midwest. Alan said he thought what Lee Kohli did in Michigan was excellent and we need to be able to duplicate something similar next year if this virus hangs on.

Alan said he knew that Karen and the office, along with several other pigeon flyers, worked hard in their states and all the states with bans and restrictions to get the state veterinarians to approve a method that would allow racing.

He reported that Minnesota and Wisconsin are holding seminars to discuss the disease and recommended bio-security procedures to use to help control spread. This was one of the requirements by the Minnesota State Veterinarian to allow members to continue to race.

Porter feels we should keep our Scientific Task Force active to help with sharing information and continue to supply more information as it comes forward. This is meaningful and supports our sport so to allow us to continue flying.

He said there were no other big concerns brought to his attention since June, other than the stray bird reports.

He drafted some thoughts on the ordinance issue that was presented at a later time during the meeting.

The Midwest Convention had slim attendance. Attendance seems to depend on location.

Lakes (Kohli)

He brought the board up to date already on the Avian Influenza. This has been all consuming for Lee and where the majority of his efforts have been utilized in his zone for the last year. He has traveled on several occasions to meet with State Vets on behalf of his members.

Lee experimented with a presence on social media without success in getting much participation.

Southeast (Hassler)

There is not a lot going on and he handled only 2-3 stray bird calls.

Mountain (Stierlin)

Auburn RPC had the Nevada County fair display with Krissy O'Malley and provided area contacts, but members were unsuccessful in inviting the contacts to watch race returns or attend other club events. However they felt the fair was a good public relations opportunity for the sport. 18-year-old Krissy is president of their club.

Joyce uses Benzing Live and said it is exciting to watch. Many of the flyers in the Camellia Combine use it and anyone can view immediate race returns online for these flyers. There was an issue with two M1's "freezing up" race 1 so it could not be selected

next shipping night. The clocks were reset to factory defaults via the Club System, the Fancier Name was re-entered into the M1, and the bird data was re-transferred from Pidex. Then race 1 became available again.

Joyce reported there has been no real conflict in her zone and she will be attending the CSRPO annual convention in a few weeks.

Northeast (Wiaderski)

The zone is quiet. He did a presentation for seniors and will be doing a presentation for boy scouts & girls scouts, and a high school.

Toni has been referring stray bird calls to the club president because Toni's paperwork was stolen and no longer has their band distribution list.

2016 Convention Update (Hindi)

So far it is going smoothly. The website has been up for a while. The benefit auction will be at the Compton clubhouse. The youth race is switched to Saturday morning. They will have a seminar, race, magician, music and barbecue; then go back to the hotel for the auction and dinner.

The show will be Wednesday, ship Thursday and race Friday. Monday and Tuesday will be early dinner for the board.

10% rotation is required. They will have a youth one loft, Getty Museum, Hollywood & celebrities homes, a City of Hope auction and a Belgian auction.

Kids will get a t-shirt & hat for each youth entry, and a gift card. They will have their own youth dinner.

Review/Update President's Agenda (Coletti)

Directors that are up for election need to get a declaration and petition in, in time. Start as early as possible. Four Zone Directors are up for re-election. Karen put a first notice in the yearbook so all members may be aware and notice will appear again in the January newsletter.

New/pending items

He is recommending a hold on creating a board consent calendar for non-controversial items to be placed on the agenda. The current agenda is not crowded.

Tom thanked the board for not interrupting the speaker that has the floor and stated that it makes the meetings much more efficient.

Tom said he thinks we need to touch on release guidelines revision again. Hundrup & McSweeney will review.

With regard to having a hold on a relaxed set of race rules, Pairan said perhaps this pertains to NDB and keep it on the list. Holder opposes change because of conniving manipulation.

Mini zone conventions remain on hold.

The reworking of alternate sample AU bylaws and constitution was to have been presented at this meeting, but will need to be presented at the mid-year 2016 meeting.

AU museum (small display of artifacts and memorabilia) remains on the list for consideration of a possible traveling display. There are security concerns, and additional display cases would be needed in the AU office.

AU office building expansion and creation of a band fund for the building remains on the list. The committee will consider expanding at the current location with research and recommendation regarding buying versus renting. Would we buy and rent the first building and then sell or lease, or would we sell or lease current location first, then buy or rent a new building? The building replacement/repair fund is on the agenda for approval on the 2016 budget.

McSweeney read Bob Barnes' letter to the board that we should start putting aside \$10,000 to cover expansion, repair, or moving. Coletti wants two accounts of \$10,000 each with specific focus on building fund and rainy day fund: building versus contingency two different purposes. Demler asked if that kind of money was available and Coletti responded that we do have that in the contingency fund. We will add a line item in the budget.

Motion to establish additional contingency fund separate from building fund as a budget line item. Rivera/Holder. Passed, McSweeney opposed.

John McSweeney, John Hundrup, Joyce Stierlin and GHC will test eWinspeed©.

Membership database should reflect multiple member clubs. Mike Tobin will work on the programming. Coletti would like it fast tracked. Right now, Tobin is working on Holder's tasks for eWinspeed©, which is not leaving time for all issues. Tobin will continue work on moving Illinois members to the Lakes Zone and adding multiple club option.

When Holder finds someone who can take this on, he will advise the board.

We confirmed a public relations firm, so that is completed.

Having an arbitrator – is there a way to get along without having to file infractions? Could be handled by discussion with Zone Director or Office to diffuse.

Adjourn

Annual Board Meeting Minutes Ogden, UT – October 20, 2015

President Coletti called the meeting to order 8:00 a.m.

Attending: Tom Coletti, Karen Clifton, Lee Kohli, Ron Pairan, Kamal Hindi, John Hundrup, Toni Wiaderski, Freddie Rivera, Al Hassler, Jim Greelis, Joyce Stierlin, Al Porter, John McSweeney, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, Shannon Demler.

Guests present: Jerry Michielli, attending to hear status of eWinspeed© & data control from clocks.

WinSpeed©/eWinspeed©/NDB/Programming (Holder)

His report was in 3 sections.

WinSpeed©/

There are no more updates. Mike continues to provide limited support. He cautioned that if we make any changes in race rules or race structure that would affect WinSpeed©, we will not be doing updates to accommodate for those changes in the desktop WinSpeed©. Microsoft will eventually push down an operating system that will not work with it. It is working with windows 10 so it is good for a while longer.

National Database

Mike was notified by the server that we accumulated data amount that exceeded the limit. We can buy more space and keep building data or we can remove some data. Awards use up to 5 years data in Hall of Fame. We took 2004 through 2009 off the server, but saved it for loading on the new server. He had three inquiries about old data whereabouts. They were reassured it is retained and can retrieve what they need.

Next step as we finish eWinspeed© will be that Elizabeth will handle tie in. Uploads will go directly from eWinspeed©. Stierlin asked if she has a race that does not qualify because of inadequate participation, can she still get average speed? Holder shared that if the race does not qualify, it won't upload. She can save data and upload for average speed.

Coletti asked how the data is retrieved. Holder explained you would call him or Tobin and they will retrieve. The NDB will go from php to a .net. The website and the NDB will be on the same server.

Support for old version:

There will be a time that codes are no longer provided to requesters for the old desktop WinSpeed©. Users could load the old version requiring a code on a computer just in case. So if you are planning on upgrading computers, it would be wise to load the program with the installation code while you can.

The Hall of Fame started having errors. Tobin is still working on it.

eWinspeed©

When uploading data from the clock, get data from PC, Atis file, TauRis file, etc. There are things Elizabeth had to do to get it to work correctly. Extension on files does not indicate lofts. It won't work that way. We are close to finishing, but not able to estimate a date because of glitches that need to be ironed out.

The filtering is only for the new data.

In each conversion of the eWinspeed©, there was a hiccup that had to be worked out. .net is more popularly understood and widely used.

Stierlin said she met with Hanno Troll to ask questions. Michael Gantner and Thomas were there. Gantner indicated data concerns are easily addressed.

eWinspeed© has exquisite security through Microsoft platform. Elizabeth is working to maintain security.

Michielli asked if there was concern that some members will not want to use the NDB product. Coletti responded that the program will lock those folks out. The deference already exists. As an organization, we should just proceed with our product.

Michielli – You're not concerned that the small club will not want to use it?

Coletti – We have to be realistic what we can chase.

Michielli – Aren't you eventually going to want to do live?

Coletti – No. At this time we are addressing eWinspeed© first.

Michielli - Will Benzing allow data to go to eWinspeed©?

Holder – you would obtain email from Benzing Live website. The data is uploaded to eWinspeed©. We have not addressed that yet. First we're getting eWinspeed© to function as we intended.

Coletti - We are not allowing Benzing Live to load to eWinspeed©. We have the filters in our data retrieval that we need for NDB race results and restrict to AU competition.

Stierlin - 1st 4 letters of the leg band are used to filter. Is this the opportunity we have to ask the members do you agree to use the format?. Clubs are actually doing otherwise and various people make entries.

Michielli - You mentioned Elizabeth will be moving on. Have you thought about using a company vs a programmer?

Holder – Yes.

Review of Tabled & New Board Action Requests

Tabled Board Action Requests

NW-156 Add to the race rules the minimum requirements for a combine race to be an AU sanctioned race. Withdrawn pending NW-160.

PAC-059 Change rule 1.08 to "...with three competing lofts per section to award a section award." Withdrawn pending BAR NW-160.

NW-159 Add verbiage to the race rules to clarify and specify proper methods for uploading to the NDB. To read as follows: Only AU approved methods, programs, and electronic band scanning systems may be used to upload race results into WinSpeed©

and the AU National Database. All AU race rules must be followed to upload. Any organization that is found to be in violation of this rule shall have their race results and birds removed from the AU National Database.

Discussion: Some clubs not printing basketing and arrival sheets and using a website to input information then upload directly into NDB, rather than do a printout. They don't own a printer, for example. There is no verification printed copy which is against race rules. Therefore this added language.

Stierlin/Rivera. Approved.

SE-40 Amend race rule 10.06 for the purpose of allowing multiple races to be released 15 minutes apart, instead of the current required 35 miles or 30 minutes apart.

Discussion: Florida members and birds are confronted with difficulties, i.e., heat and humidity and one major highway serving ALL the clubs.

If club refuses to follow 35/30 rule, results are kicked out and the National Race Secretary may file an infraction.

Holder/Pairan. All others opposed. Failed.

New Board Action Requests

NW-160 To have the AU recognize as an AU sanctioned race, competitions in which race birds are entered by three (3) individual AU members with surveyed lofts at three (3) separate, physical loft locations. The following race rules would need to be rewritten to reflect this change. 1.08, 4.01, 4.02, 4.04, and 4.04-1. Porter/Hindi.
Approved.

Proxy voting was discussed. If other than in person, it is proxy. There were 2 issues, we approved proxy voting, but did not approve email voting or mail voting. Hundrup shared that the minutes stated that email voting is not allowed. It is up to each organization. He felt we had discussed the mail and email voting, but it was not audible on the sound recording, therefore they were revisiting the topic.

NW-161 – allow email, telephonic and postal voting. Allow as Hundrup has described.
Discussion: Pairan – In person is better because of the discussion to properly weigh an issue. He thinks we should allow because of distance between club members. Another example is that one man recorded proxy votes and recorded them with no witness, then destroyed them. Pairan is in favor.

McSweeney – He is against proxy because of leading others who are easily led and create email messages on behalf of those easily led.

Wiaderski – One example in favor is in the event of a snow storm, communication could still be possible via email if weather prohibits gathering.

Stierlin – Although in-person voting is preferable, email, mail or phone voting is allowed. Her club often polls by phone such as with a race date change due to weather. She would consider phone also.

Motion to accept that mail, email and phone voting are acceptable at the discretion of each organization. Hundrup/Pairan. Passed with 3 opposed: Kohli, Holder, McSweeney.

SW-042 AU will publish on their website the financial statements furnished by CPA firm, currently Dillon and Associates PC. There will be a button on the website to see it. McSweeney/Pairan. Approved.

Judiciary Committee (Porter, Greelis, Clifton, Roberts)

Porter revisited the judiciary committee issue. The committee is in favor of doing things he provided in his report, which utilizes materials the AU has created and currently uses. We can continue to improve publications for individual ordinance situations.

He also suggested that we begin including articles in the publications that feature the materials we currently have, provide recommendations for members to be proactive, and to share our advocacy materials on a repetitive basis so members would become familiar with what is available and what has been successful.

Executive session (Infraction/Budget Review)

Motion to approve recommendations. Pairan/McSweeney.

Motion to adjourn from executive session. Hassler/Holder. Unanimous.

AU member, Don Chapin, made a presentation to the board regarding the updated Mega clocking:

There are no limitations on number of birds in clock. No limitations on the number of antenna pads. Up to four fanciers in one clock. Training and race data can be stored in clock up to one year. Clock data can be sent from clock to phone, website, or email as birds are being clocked. Data of clocked pigeons can be stored in antenna data box. The android clock can be restored from the data in the data box. The clock can print stored data wirelessly to a wireless printer. Program updates can be linked wirelessly.

Assignments for Annual Membership Meeting

- Welcome/Salute/Prayer (Clifton)
- Introduction of Board (Clifton)
- President's Welcome (Coletti)
- Approval of 2014 Meeting Minutes (Coletti)
- Treasurer's Report (McSweeney)
- eWinspeed© Update (Holder)
- Promotion Update (Roberts)
- Lobbyist's Report (Smith)
- Other?

Good of the Order

Adjourn

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Ogden, UT – October 24, 2015

Executive Director, Clifton, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. Following the flag salute and prayer, she introduced board members.

President Coletti welcomed the members and provided a synopsis of the board meeting.

Motion to approve 2014 meeting minutes as posted on the AU website. Michael Romero/Carter Mayotte. Approved.

Treasurer McSweeney advised that the budget would be finalized in December and a certified copy of the financial statements would be posted on the AU web site to include the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income.

Executive Vice President Holder provided an update on eWinspeed©. Jay indicated that support of WinSpeed© will continue for a limited time. Eventually codes for the desktop version will not be given out and support will cease. Jay reported that most programming glitches have now been worked out in the new eWinspeed© but testing will still need to take place to confirm it is ready to roll out to members.

Holder also shared that we were advised by our administrator that there was too much data on the server. Therefore, some data was removed, however, has been archived so it is still accessible. It will be reposted when eWinspeed© is up and running.

Development Manager Roberts addressed the membership with a reminder that materials to aid growth and retention, as well as sport advocacy, are available to them as part of their membership.

Pacific Zone Director Hindi gave an update on the status of the 2016 convention plans and youth race. Romero offered to assist with set up. Hindi advised members that a benefit auction would take place to offset the convention expense.

Lakes Zone Director Kohli updated the membership on the status of AI in his zone, along with information on loft certification program and the Scientific task force. He shared that the board approved the expense needed to retain an expert (retired USDA or veterinarian) to assist with on-going discussions with those state vets that have restrictions on pigeon racing.

National Race Secretary Hundrup provided an overview of issues that have come up since the last board meeting. He also discussed the changes in the race rules (listed above in the Board Action Request review).

Bylaws Chairman Demler provided an overview of issues that have come up since the last board meeting. Shannon reminded members that club, combine and concourse by-laws need to be in compliance with the “no greater than 2/3 majority voting” that AU

members approved in 2014. He let members know by-laws are being reviewed and if not in compliance, the office will send a letter.

AU Lobbyist Greg Smith provided an update on the issues with Avian Influenza. He explained that the economic impact has been extreme and the poultry industry has felt the loss. Greg created a briefing document for the AU, which will be used to help advocate. It is also a good tool to offer State Veterinarians or other officials we encounter that may be concerned that pigeons are susceptible to AI.

Greg also discussed past efforts by various groups to draw negative attention to the sport and/or eliminate the sport. He reminded members that our own best tool for advocacy and positive promotion is our members.

Kamal Hindi provided an update on the 2016 AU Convention, which will be hosted by the 395 Combine and the East Course Combine in Ontario, CA. They have speakers lined up, will host an auction, the convention race and youth race, and the hotel is the Embassy Suites. The hotel offers complimentary airport transportation. The site-seeing tours include several museums, wine tasting and balloon ride. Evening entertainment will include a comedy show, DJ, casino night and Sinatra tribute.

Registration will include all events, activity transportation, all evening meals and full breakfasts, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, seminars, race, youth race, tours and more.

They will be holding an auction to benefit the convention to help with start-up expenses on December 6, at the Compton RPC club house.

Motion to adjourn. John Nelson/Dick Althoff. Approved.