

**American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.**  
**Mid-Year Board Meeting**  
**Denver, CO – June 10, 2017**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

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

Members present: Joyce Stierlin, Shannon Demler, Al Hassler, Jay Holder, Lee Kohli, Karen Clifton, Tom Coletti, John Hundrup, Freddie Rivera, Al Porter, Ron Pairan, Bob McKenna, Deone Roberts.

No guests were present.

Flag Salute/Moment of Silence

**Officer Reports**

*MOTION* was made to approve the 2016 meeting minutes as posted, Pairan/Holder.

President's Report (Coletti) – President, Tom Coletti, had a couple issues he wanted to share with the board. The first was the potential for the 2016 convention to result in law suits against the AU for non-performance of the convention host. Tom asked the board if they feel we should require bonds for Arizona and Illinois? As discussed in prior meetings, future convention hosts will be required to secure bonds in order to be granted the right to host a convention. A conference call with our attorney will take place later in the day and the agreement will be discussed in depth at that time.

Tom's other concern is that of counterfeit bands. Bill Mitiu and Vernon Young reported that counterfeit leg bands showed up in the GHC and samples were obtained. A member of GHC duplicated AU GHC personal bands. They reported to Tom that a manufacturer in China was able to make them nearly identical in appearance. Samples were passed around. The GHC member ordered them to prove that the counterfeit bands were easily obtained.

Rivera commented that three men in Mexico are making bands in the same manner. Karen was instructed to include photos in an article in the e-Update to warn members.

Coletti reminded the board that he had previously appointed an eWinspeed© committee. Committee members are Jay Holder, Joyce Stierlin, John Hundrup and Tom.

Tom reported that at this time development of eWinspeed© is shelved and the related budget of \$6000 per month budget is set to the side. Coletti has received a proposal to handle problems with the existing National Database (NDB). Coletti suggested a rewrite of the NDB and office database to allow proceeding with eWinspeed© in the near future.

Tom said that the current programmer indicates there are too many problems with the NDB. Tom went on to say that we had a good product, members enjoyed and benefitted from the NDB, and that Mike Tobin worked selflessly on the NDB. However, there are new problems that need to be addressed and it needs to be fully automated.

Tom said when the NDB is functioning properly, we will look for programmers to help finish eWinspeed©. Tom has received inquiries from a few programmers that have expressed interest in assisting with the project. One programmer is from Texas and is active in the pigeon sport. Joyce interviewed this gentleman and advised that when we were ready to send out Request for Proposals (RFP's), we will include him. Tom said another interested programmer is in central California. Karen has the contact information for both.

The third is Terry Gilmore's son who does programing for WinCompanion. Tom reminded all that the board had previously discussed live clocking and developing an AU program or leasing or partnering on one. So we have potential programming candidates. Tom said once the NDB is complete and functioning properly, we can proceed with obtaining a programmer for eWinspeed©.

Coletti is asking approval of a total of \$12,000 to be paid out in three phases to resolve the NDB & office database issues. This is the amount contained in the proposal from the current programmer (King Technical Services). We would then proceed with eWinspeed©.

Tom presented the King Technical Services (KTS) proposal providing a current system description consisting of two major components.

According to KTS the rewrite will take two months to program and a third month would be devoted to testing by the committee. The proposal suggests a three phase

process with a total project price of \$12,000 U.S. dollars at the payment schedule of 33% due with the order, or \$4,000; 33% due at completion of phase two; and the remainder due with the completion of phase three and final acceptance, of \$4,000. The proposal is good for 90 days.

**MOTION:** Hassler/Kohli - to approve proposal to reallocate the line item for expense to work on the NDB and office database, to \$12,000 budget for the proposal by King Technical Services. This includes a 90 day time frame for the project to be completed (30 days for each of the 3 phases).

Discussion: Jay Holder would like overnight to digest the information. Holder was asked by Coletti to review and report findings to John Hundrup.

Joyce Stierlin suggested looking at the information in item five of the proposal regarding zero-loss commitment, meaning the site will contain all the current functionality. No new functionality except that specified in the proposal will be developed and tested. Programming will be performed on a production site, not the public site, until such time as the site is ready to go “live.”

Holder commented that he approves the proposal but thinks he should have seen the proposal prior to the meeting.

Coletti reminded Jay that he had previously said he did not want to be included.

The motion was approved with eight in favor and one abstained. McSweeney not present.

Coletti said a huge workload is borne by the staff at the national office, and by Shannon Demler (By-laws Chairman), John Hundrup (National Race Secretary), and Ron Pairan (Infractions Committee Chairman). Tom further explained that Alan Porter has taken on calculating some of the awards and that Joyce Stierlin has been a valuable asset assisting members with WinSpeed© issues and progress with NDB improvement and what should be included with eWinspeed©. Tom expressed appreciation of all and wanted to share what some of the board members have been doing in addition to their regular duties as not everyone is aware.

Coletti shared that Lee Kohli has great ideas to take promotion to the web and other social media avenues. He recognized Al Hassler for dealing with the Florida issues and Freddie Rivera as the AU ambassador on the road. Tom went on to thank Bob McKenna as Bob has taken on whatever is thrown his way and he is in

the IF territory. Tom thanked the board noting that he feels this is a great team working on behalf of the members.

Executive Vice President Update (Holder) – Jay Holder shared that there is a lot going on in the programming world. The challenge is that the programmer does not wish to be a part of the eWinspeed© development, but is more interested in correcting issues in the NDB and office database.

Holder said he does like the King proposal and believes both Joyce Stierlin and John Hundrup are doing a great job. Holder said he would like more feedback from the programming/technical committee. Other than dealing with stray birds and local activities, Jay indicates all within the scope of the Executive Vice President is going well.

Vice President Update (Pairan) – Ron said that he has had the usual activity: his club worked the 4-H day, handles stray birds, worked on several infractions and again was a guest speaker at the Ohio Homeschool Convention. Both Ron and Deone expressed that it was even better attended than the prior year and that more people requested information packets with an interest of possibly using pigeons as a study focus.

President Ex-Officio Update (Rivera) – Freddie said he has been doing a lot of publicity work especially when dealing with found birds. Freddie talked about the importance of responding promptly and appropriately. He has also done some work on the drug committee.

Treasurer Report (McSweeney not attending) - Clifton reported on behalf of McSweeney. Effective July 1, we are moving to a new CPA. The new CPA will handle payroll and financials as the prior CPA has, however, will also be teaching staff how to more efficiently utilize Quick Books. He spent time in the office observing QuickBooks activity. McSweeney seems pleased with the CPA selection.

## **Committee Reports**

Leadership/Retention (Kohli/Roberts) – Lee Kohli said he spoke with Jim Jenner after the 2016 convention and Kohli believes that recruitment is more important than retention. In the next six months, we need to focus on Facebook. Lee said perhaps the budget doesn't allow additional expense at this time, but it is a good time to prepare a proposal.

Right to Race (Kohli/Clifton) – Clifton reported that positives were reported earlier in the year in Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. Any movement restrictions were lifted fairly quickly as all were quarantined, surveilled and no further positives detected. Therefore, racing was not impacted.

National Youth/School Coordinator (Pairan) - Ron Pairan reported that the programs that are still going strong are the Homeschool groups, NW Junior Flyers and Ronnie Shumaker's programs. Ron said he hopes that more homeschool projects will develop as there did seem to be good interest at the convention he and Deone attended and reported on earlier.

Judge's Panel (Rivera) - Freddie Rivera shared that we lost two judges: Mike Brazil and Vince Janson as they passed earlier in the year. He went on to say that two judges returned to the panel. Rivera received one application from a flyer in Louisiana. Freddie said we lost one national show, which was run by Crazy Al. However, a new show is being hosted in Minnesota this year and Freddie will report after the event.

Rivera said he has been asked to judge in Mexico and Argentina. Freddie indicated he also still has the pigeon category plaques that Tom Coletti purchased on his own, which were to have been used in California. He will try to find good use for those at an upcoming show. Freddie said he contacted Dennis Aycock about a show in Phoenix during the 2017 convention and Dennis said he would ask local members if they would be interested. Dennis later told Freddie that none of the members wanted to chair the show locally.

Constitution & By-Laws (Demler) - Shannon first reported regarding activity in his own club and indicated they have three new members. He believes it comes about as a result of the group being family oriented and working cohesively during the shipping process. Shannon said it is an inviting environment.

Regarding the Constitution and By-laws, Shannon said he finds that most questions he fields do not really pertain to the rules, but rather are emotional in nature and members call him to vent. He said that many of the calls are from the same members regarding same issues, however, they continue to call out of frustration.

Demler said he has been having problems with the Chicago group that is putting on the AU convention. Shannon said he feels this is concerning as they are planning to host an annual convention there. Shannon feels the interaction within the group

is immature and non-group minded. Demler also assisted the infraction committee as an investigator on a case and said he is very impressed with Don Moore's work.

Competition Standards (Hundrup) - John Hundrup reported that he has had the usual weekly complaints that he records. Of late, the concerns have included double banded birds, and mandatory pooling.

With regard to pooling, President Coletti reminded the board of prior issues and the board all agreed that problems should be avoided at all cost. Tom said we need to know that the host group will comply or we retract the convention agreement with the group.

Hundrup continued explaining issues that included shipping limits (members want AU to make a mandatory number); and minimum requirements for members present at shipping.

Veterans Committee (Hassler/Clifton) - Al Hassler had no new information to report. Karen Clifton reported that T Berekoff (Tennessee) had also indicated there was no follow up by the VA or the service providers after she made her presentations earlier this year. There was much excitement among the coalition of service providers, however, none have reached out to T for further involvement.

Drug Test Committee (Rivera/Coletti/Hundrup) – Regarding Diclofenac, Tom Coletti shared that a man in Florida used a product that he claimed was relaxing his birds. The man proclaimed that what he used was not on a prohibited list. Coletti asked John Vance to investigate Diclofenac and subsequently Vance reported that though it is used in horses, it is not determined to be safe for pigeons. The user soon disappeared, but Vance wrote a BAR to add to the drug policy.

If the board passes the BAR, it will become part of the AU drug policy.

Freddie said he worked with Vernon Young to write up a drug policy and the group will perform drug testing in the future. Freddie said that the GHC winners and race results were consistent with test results.

National Office Update/Membership Review (Clifton) – Karen Clifton provided membership mid-year totals and a list of clubs that have not renewed, new club charters, and new lifetime members. All zones are approximately equal in numbers with a total of 6361 for the halfway point of the year. Utah was shifted to the Northwest Zone, from Mountain Zone. Karen reported that secretaries of the

clubs that had not yet renewed had been contacted. Karen said what the office staff noted is that some of the clubs typically don't submit dues until late in the year because they are more interested in young birds and some don't worry about due dates because they don't upload to the NDB. Karen shared that several clubs on the list are in turmoil and a change of officers is probably eminent and dues and rosters will be forthcoming. Some of the clubs were smaller and struggling with only two or three members previously and so have disbanded or are taking a break and hope to submit dues next year. Clifton said that the office will continue to follow up with these clubs. She said this is a trend and occurs every year; clubs merge, disband and come back together.

Clifton announced the Scholarship applicants and winners and the fact that there were two contributions to assist with the scholarship awards. We received 23 scholarship applications. Nine did not comply with requirement of submitting certain documents/transcripts/or photos. The three winning applicants are Kennedy Beard (OK), Zachary Scrima (MA) and James Dye (KS). All will be notified.

Karen shared that we are seeking a new band manufacturer and had new pricing information, which was shared with the board. She reminded the board that the current band manufacturer only notified us in May that if orders were requested in different colors, each order would be charged (by the manufacturer) an additional \$213 per order. Karen explained that at the last minute, office staff had to call about 160 members or clubs to ask if they wanted to go with the standard color in view of the high price. She said that all but about five wanted to go with the standard color due to the cost. Clifton said the new manufacturer actually offers the bands for much less.

**MOTION:** Pairan/Rivera - to accept the new band manufacturer as proposed by Clifton. Unanimous.

Regarding PMV, Clifton spoke with Dr. Paul Miller and shared that Dr. Miller feels a vaccine will be approved in the fairly near future, though it is still in the testing phase with the USDA.

Clifton suggested convention travel dates to Phoenix be Monday, November 13, the board meetings on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and the convention commences on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Coletti said the board would meet Tuesday and Wednesday, and asked board members to check air fares to get lowest possible fares. The board agreed.

Karen reported that we will need the board's help with stuffing convention bags and possibly a couple of shifts at the registration entrances just watching to make sure people in the shipping room have a name badge. We will ask the board to help monitor at all events. If someone does not have a name badge, they need to check with Deone Roberts or Karen as they will have the master list.

Handlers are being asked to pay a minimal amount, which will cover the cost of their meals on Friday and Saturday evening. Therefore, they will have access to events and should also all have badges.

Sport Development (Roberts) – Roberts provided a list of activities and press events or notices that have occurred since the last Update newsletter. Press and event locations included members in Alabama, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Details will be provided in the August AU Update newsletter.

### **Zone Director Reports**

Northwest Zone (Hundrup) – John Hundrup said Jerry Michielli held a big event in Washington called “Duel In The Sky.” John said it was well attended and that Jerry made sure it was an enjoyable event for public, as well as pigeon flyers. Hundrup said he has a couple zone meetings this summer to attend and is looking forward to visiting with members. He will be in Portland and Powell Butte, OR.

Plains Zone (Porter) - Following the AU Convention last December in California, Alan Porter attended a mini-seminar and auction gathering in St. Paul, MN, put on by the Royal RPC that he wrote about a year ago. Alan said that the club was created in 2015/early 2016. Porter said he presented the club charter to them when they had an auction and gathering, which included a Friday night seminar and Saturday morning seminar with Alex Beiche. Alan said the event ended with a Saturday evening gathering and banquet as well. It was a well-attended event with fanciers from Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, South Dakota and, of course, Minnesota. Alan said that everyone appeared to enjoy getting together that time of year.

While attending the function, Porter spoke a few minutes about what's going on in the AU and sportsmanship and club hospitality. He said they were a great group of young hard workers.

Porter said he also attended an awards banquet at a small club in central Wisconsin. For a smaller club, Alan said they had a well-attended banquet with a few other guests from other Wisconsin clubs. He shared that the club is in an area of Wisconsin that makes it hard to fly or ship with other clubs. As a result of this, they have opened up their club boundaries to be able to take in new members to help with rising club costs. He said it is not uncommon in rural areas to have club members now 75-100 mile radius or greater apart.

Alan said that there are young bird auctions for special young bird races going on now. He has attended four such events in southern and eastern Wisconsin.

Porter concluded saying that he has been assisting Jay Holder with the AU Awards Program and he has assisted with stray pigeons.

Lakes Zone (Kohli) – Lee Kohli reported that there are clubs in his zone that have conflict and he has tried to assist where possible. Some issues have gone to the Infractions Committee, which will be heard later in the meeting.

Lee said he has submitted several member award nominations for members within the Lakes Zone, which he feels are very deserving of recognition.

Lee is also still very much interested into getting millennials involved and will bring a proposal as to how we might increase positive awareness via internet and other social media venues.

Southeast Zone – (Hassler) – Al Hassler said everything is going well at the GHC. The only breaking thing within his club is the issue of the counterfeit bands. Al said that his club has discussed stamping the wing of the pigeons and then bringing the winning birds back to the clubhouse to release to the home loft to make sure they are the same birds.

Hassler said he has not attended zone meetings so far this year and that he missed the Piedmont Combine meeting, which was held in January. He reported that the Dixie Convention will be in Orlando again this year. He went on to say that the event will be combined with the Citrus Bowl Race. Al said the combine will have a directors' meeting the week following the AU mid-year board meeting. Al indicated the North Atlanta Club will hold the Dixie Convention next year and that New Orleans might be a location for 2019.

Mountain Zone – (Stierlin) – Joyce Stierlin reported that she received a complaint from a combine member whose club split up. She said the club that left to start a new club took 14 to 16 crates off the combine trailer. The original club that left and started a new club was technically no longer a member of the combine. Each side had their reasoning for taking the crates. Stierlin said she pointed out to them that the crates were marked as combine crates and pointed out that they are no longer in the combine, so that pretty much settled the issue.

Joyce reported a person in the Central Valley is a club hopper. He joins various clubs and breaks them up. She said he tried to rejoin the original club but was encouraged to make his new club succeed and it appears he is making that effort.

Stierlin gets a lot of stray bird reports. Joyce said when she receives report of an out of area bird, she emails members in those areas with the band information and a member closest will retrieve and care for the bird.

Stierlin has been working on eWinspeed© development. Joyce has also been fielding WinSpeed© calls and offering technical support. She reported having received 126 calls in the last six months and the main problems are with members that have Windows 10 and need the DAO file, which was removed from the website because it was causing problems with Norton. Windows 10 installs the program in a different place on the computer when loading. Joyce said she was also able to determine that the desktop shortcut would lead back to the prior program and create problems for users. Joyce has created a menu or installation guide for members using Windows 10 and that has helped get members up and running.

Northeast Zone (McKenna) – Bob McKenna shared information about the loaner loft program and Tim Tessier’s group, NW Junior Flyers. Tim has asked him to judge young birds in the summer. Bob said one young girl of the group is in 4-H and wants to learn to judge. McKenna said he will put her in touch with Rivera for judging information and standards. Karen said she would forward the links with the standards to Bob.

McKenna said he attended a club banquet dinner to present awards. He said they also had an auction and gave birds to junior members to raise.

McKenna found a “split 2<sup>nd</sup>” loft bird with a counterfeit band and is unable to locate the owner.

Bob reported that he received a phone call regarding inability to get vaccines. The caller told Bob he would like the board to work on or obtain a vaccine for pox.

Tom explained the past funding that the AU has provided various individuals and/or universities for development of vaccine and it is a very lengthy and costly effort, with minimal result.

### **Executive Session**

The board went into closed session for conference call with Greg Smith to discuss convention agreements, infractions and membership reinstatement. Upon exiting Executive Session, the following votes were taken.

In the matter of Whitmer vs. Stark and Byrd: **MOTION** to accept the recommendation of the investigator. Hassler/Holder. Approved.

In the matter of AU National Race Secretary vs. West Side Concourse: **MOTION** to accept the recommendation of the investigator. Holder/Porter. Approved.

In the matter of the Roger Dranuski complaint: **MOTION** to accept the recommendation of the investigator and impose a two year suspension of two of the respondents, however, if criminal activity is confirmed, respondents would be expelled. Kohli/Rivera. Approved.

With regard to membership reinstatement, no motion.

Meeting adjourned 5:20 p.m.

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**Mid-Year Board Meeting**  
**Denver, CO –June 11, 2017**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

President Coletti called the meeting to order 8:10 a.m.

Members present: Joyce Stierlin, Shannon Demler, Al Hassler, Jay Holder, Lee Kohli, Karen Clifton, Tom Coletti, John Hundrup, Freddie Rivera, Al Porter, Ron Pairan, Bob McKenna, Deone Roberts.

No guests were present.

**Executive Session**

Rivera/Kohli to accept incentive proposal . Unanimous.

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

Executive Vice President, Jay Holder, reported that the current programmer may not wish to continue with eWinspeed©, however, would like to redesign the NDB and office database. Jay referred to the proposal that the programmer submitted to President Coletti, which was submitted to the board yesterday. Jay provided Joyce with suggestions for items he feels should be added to the programmer's scope of work as he begins and completes the redesign, which was approved by the board yesterday.

Jay has worked with several programmers, which have indicated they would see eWinspeed© to completion, however, it has been decided there are too many issues with the current NDB. Correcting these issues will allow more efficient programming of eWinspeed© in the future.

Holder thanked Joyce for the work she has done assisting current WinSpeed© users. Jay said Joyce has been an asset to the members and he appreciates her efforts.

Joyce Stierlin reported that she stays busy with WinSpeed© technical support and has developed "how to" instructions for members installing using Windows 7, 8 or 10.

Joyce also provided proposed eWinspeed© objectives, recommendations for enhancements after initial rollout is working smoothly, and changes to Winspeed© and Race Secretary's pages on the AU website. Enhancements include simplifying the merging process, defining the race at the highest organization level and use that race header for all subordinate levels, aggregating clockings from clubs to higher levels to produce combine and concourse results and compiling open competition results in the same manner (based on release date/time) from same GPS coordinates.

Joyce suggested another benefit from the enhancements is that members will not have to rely on their race secretaries to upload results before the season deadline and it will protect the integrity of the NDB by assuring races are conducted according to AU rules by chartered organizations. Joyce reported that the enhancements will also make it easier for race secretaries to access information they need. She said members will also have display access to member, club, combine and concourse information, as well as race schedules, coordinates and other race-related data.

John Hundrup interjected that he works with the committee to ensure race rules are considered as new development and/or changes are made. He said he is anxious to assist with testing.

***MOTION*** to accept Stierlin's changes. Rivera/Hundrup. Approved.

2017 Convention Review (Clifton) – Clifton shared that the tours, entertainment and speakers are lined up. Shannon Demler suggested a roundtable discussion among flyers take place on Thursday afternoon at possibly 3:00 p.m. Shannon suggested we could select from attendees for participants and appoint a moderator. He said he thought this would offer an informative and interactive activity for those convention guests that arrive prior to shipping, which will also be Thursday, November 16, 2017. Karen will monitor registration list to see who might be interested in sitting on the panel.

Ron Pairan heads the auction committee on which Shannon Demler and Bob McKenna also serve. Ron said that birds will be shipped to McKenna. He also shared that Freddie Rivera procured donations of birds. Pairan said the birds will be listed on iPigeon and a link provided on the convention website. Bob McKenna will then ship the birds to Arizona. Ron said a handler has been hired to care for

and to ship the birds to buyers. He explained that iPigeon adds shipping costs automatically so the cost of shipping is covered.

Lee Kohli asked Ron if we are covering bases to avoid criticisms in auction handling. Bob McKenna said he will carefully handle all birds, quarantine and handle vaccination.

Karen Clifton commented that we need to confirm the fee for an on-site handler so there are no surprises and all are fairly compensated for their assistance.

Shannon Demler said we need a projector, plus ability to communicate with iPigeon, as well as cages.

Clifton will bring the AU projector. Karen also updated the board on convention speakers. Both Drs. Miller and Harlin have agreed to attend and present. Karen also provided an update on convention registration and asked the board for assistance with convention preparation after our meetings on November 15.

### **Executive Session**

After exiting Executive Session, the board agreed to not renew membership with the FCI at this time. **MOTION** to drop AU membership in the FCI. Porter/Hassler. Unanimous.

Benzing Software Demonstration (Hanno Troll) – Ed Minvielle introduced himself to the board and then introduced Benzing representatives, Hanno Troll and Thomas Zimmermann. Ed asked the board to consider approval and use and lease of Benzing Live.

Ed went on to say that he didn't think the board should be concerned about the money issue involved in one-loft racing because he feels the future of the sport is more of participation in one-loft futurities.

Tom reminded the board that the AU is committed to AU club races, not futurities and money.

Hanno Troll and Thomas then demonstrated Benzing Live and mypigeon.com for the AU to consider renting. Al Hassler asked to click on his personal address to demonstrate to the board some of the features and maps integrated into the system.

### Review of New Board Action Requests

PLAINS-044 Increase pigeon band size. Failed – lack of motion. Karen was asked to reconfirm with the manufacturer that the size shall only vary from 8 mm to 8.10 mm, no less than 8 mm, which is the international standard.

MTN-051 AU develop a secure race program where race results can be uploaded in real time. Update related race rules in a reasonable period of time. Failed – lack of motion. However, this will be added to enhancements in eWinspeed©. Adding a module to the enhancement list for eWinspeed©.

MTN-052 Approve Benzing Life “Evaluation@Loft” files and evaluation sheets generated by the secure Benzing server from the Benzing Live Systems to be allowed as official race record data for AU races. Holder/McKenna to approve. Four in favor/five opposed. Failed.

Discussion: John Hundrup commented that we would need to change the race rules and that the AU would be giving companies that have systems with these features a monopoly over other clocking systems.

Tom Coletti commented that this method of marketing live clocking is meant to put pressure on the board.

Lee Kohli said he likes the concept of not having to go back to club house, but feels it is too early to make that decision. Lee suggested that we should examine further to make a sound decision.

SE-042 Appeal a decision rendered by John Hundrup regarding Anthony Smith and to allow he and his wife to fly as a partnership and receive any recognition earned by them in the 2017 old bird season. Failed – lack of motion.

NW-168 Add Diclofenac to the list of banned drugs in AU Policy 400. Diclofenac is one of the most potent NSAID’s on the market. Use of the drug in animals is controversial due to its toxicity and has been banned for veterinary use in many countries. **MOTION:** Rivera/Pairan – unanimous.

NW-169 Nomination of AU Member of the Year awards. Remand to the Award Committee for consideration.

NW-170 Allow WinSpeed© back-up files to be used by third party software. John Hundrup will call Don Chapin and ask for specific purpose for wanting the data.

John will then email the board for a vote and report back to Don Chapin.

**MOTION:** Table for consideration in the Arizona annual meeting. Rivera/Hassler. Rivera and Kohli against.

NW-171 Topigeon Timer be authorized for use in a pilot program for up to 30 timers in the 2017 race season using continuous knock off mode. Failed – lack of motion. John Hundrup to request software and timer from Don Chapin so that John may review the system. John will report back to the board in November.

NW-172 Topigeon Timers be added to the AU's approved ETS list. Died for lack of motion. Approval will be contingent upon passing of NW-171).

MTN-053 Modify Race Rules 4.02 and 4.05 to read as follows:

4.02 Club Participation. A minimum of three (3) competing members from three (3) separate physical loft addresses are required to assemble and ship the race. However, as stated in section 4.01 three (3) competing members must be entered in the race for it to be recognized as an official AU club race. Clubs that enjoy combine, or similar affiliation, may ship a race for awards at the combine level provided the club has assembled a “minimum-presence” of three (3) competing members from three (3) separate physical loft addresses. In such cases, the three (3) competing members from three (3) separate physical loft addresses must be present to complete the shipping process at the club. (10/15)

When a team's owner cannot attend assembly/shipping of a race, an AU member from the same competing organization may substitute for the owner. The substitute (if a non-competitor) shall contribute to minimum three (3) presence.

4.05 To close a race, organizations (a club, in this example) must have a minimum of three (3) competing members present, representing three separate loft addresses, in order to knock off clocks. The three competing members must be from the same competing organization, i.e., the same club, combine or federation, etc. When a team's owner cannot attend closing of a race, an AU member from the same competing organization may substitute for the owner. The substitute (if a non-competitor) shall contribute to minimum three (3) presence.

If a loft is flying more than one club, the first knock-off may be used by the second club for the official results, if approved by the second club. (7/07)

Motion was made to accept this proposal. Hassler/Rivera. Approved. John Hundrup will rewrite the rule and provide it to Karen Clifton.

### Review of President's Agenda

Tom Coletti presented new items added to the President's Agenda.

The first addition becomes Item 10. Tom would like to see the term of the President Ex-Officio changed from a four year term to a two year term. Tom suggests that the President Ex-Officio might travel to the board meetings during the first two years of the term to provide guidance, if needed. After that, Tom recommends the President Ex-Officio does not travel and this will save funds. Tom further suggested that if a President Ex-Officio chooses to step down after the initial two years of his or her term, he or she may do so.

This would amend By-law 3.07. **MOTION:** Pairan/Porter to adopt change. Four in favor and five against. Failed.

Also to be added is Item 11, to disallow a board member from serving as convention chairman or serving on a convention committee. Tabled until November 2017, as the AU attorney has already begun the rewrite of the convention agreement. This initiative began in early December 2016. The revised agreement will be distributed in November.

Tom also suggested that the process of granting a convention to a local group seems to require more canvassing as we have now experienced problems out of our control.

Coletti presented his (new) Item 12 regarding the approval process for President appointments. Tom said that currently our By-laws indicate the AU President may appoint (with Board approval) a director or officer to complete the term of a vacated office.

Tom said he would like the potential candidate selected for appointment and awaiting board approval be required to submit a petition with a minimum of 50 signatures from members within the zone (if a Zone Director) supporting the appointment.

Coletti said that perhaps a candidate should be more carefully vetted prior to granting an appointment. Tom said he believes that when a recommendation for

an appointment to the board is offered, that candidate should supply a list of AU members that would support that appointment.

The board agreed additional criteria should be met. **MOTION:** McKenna/Hundrup to require a candidate up for appointment to submit a petition with a minimum of 25 signatures. If the candidate is to potentially fill a vacated Zone Director term, the signatures must be from AU members from within that particular zone. Unanimous.

The next new item (Item 13) presented by Tom Coletti is to adjust the Mountain Zone and Pacific Zones. Instead of having two states divided, the board agreed members would be better served with the consolidation of California and Nevada, Hawaii and Arizona into the Mountain Zone, which would be renamed the Pacific Mountain Zone. This would mean a significant cost savings for members.

Shannon Demler asked if there would be any public relations issues as a result of eliminating the Mountain Zone position. The board agreed the Pacific Zone Director could serve all of California, in addition to the other states proposed. **MOTION:** McKenna/Porter. Unanimous.

Karen Clifton will ensure any proposed by-law changes will be published appropriately in the August newsletter. If no opposition is received to any of the proposed changes, a final vote by the board will be taken to confirm and then results will be presented to membership in the subsequent publication.

Tom's newly added item number 14 pertains to potential cost savings. Tom suggested that the AU Board utilize video calling for summer meetings. He notes there is a potential savings of \$10,000 to \$12,000 if video conferencing is used. Some equipment would have to be purchased for all directors' computers, but Tom feels this would still represent a cost savings.

Joyce Stierlin said this would prevent members from attending, which is not what the AU Board encourages. The board encourages members to attend annual and mid-year meetings. Lee Kohli interjected that he did not think it was a good idea as it would be difficult for anyone to sit at a computer for more than 8 hours a day for multiple days in a row. Lee said he thinks that would lead to poor discussion and decision making. Tom Coletti asked the board to think about it and vote on it in Arizona.

Item 15 presented by Tom was to consider only offering the AU Yearbook electronically. It appears a lot of members don't read the publications. The books cost about \$47,000 each year to design, print and mail. Lee Kohli said he believes most people get on a computer, phone or other mobile device to check race rules, NDB, etc. so it might be worth exploring. Ron Pairan said he believes that the publication is important to members and there are still some members that do not use computers. He suggested removing the race rules from the book as those are posted on line and race secretaries would be inclined to look at our website and then follow up with John Hundrup, National Race Secretary, if an interpretation was needed or a rule challenged. Ron said that would save money as it would reduce the size (number of pages) of the book.

At this time, Tom presented his last new item on the President's Agenda. Similarly, to reduce expenses, Tom suggested not designing, printing and mailing the January, May and August newsletters, rather making those available via email. The three publications cost approximately \$7000 each to design, print and mail, which would equate to an approximate \$21,000 savings per year.

Ron suggested that a notice be put in the Secretary packets to ask if members want to receive the publication electronically. Karen Clifton said that in the past when we have encouraged members to receive it electronically, approximately 20 members responded.

Tom asked that the board continue to think of cost saving ideas and, specifically, these and return to board meetings in November for further discussion.

### Committee Assignments

Tom asked that Shannon Demler, Ron Pairan, and Jay Holder consider how future conventions and races will be held. Tom raised the questions: Do we restructure the convention? Should the entry fee be lowered to \$35 per bird? Should an AU convention only be held every three years or so? Should clubs be subsidized to coordinate a convention and no race entry fee be charged? Tom said it is possible that would mean more participants without the potential problems that appear to be money related.

Shannon, Ron and Jay agreed to discuss and bring ideas to the board at the annual meetings in November. Shannon Demler said he will consult with AU Lawyer, Greg Smith as well.

There are no pending items. **MOTION:** Rivera/McKenna to adjourn. Unanimous.  
Meeting adjourned 4:50 p.m.