

Minutes
2022 Budgerigar Association of America
Board of Directors / Member meeting
Grand National
September 23, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Josh Anthony at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Ocala, Florida.

Roll call

Josh Anthony
Greg Arena (absent)
Al Horton
Robert Marshall (absent)
Mick McGown
Dawn Sandve
Joe Bart Smith
Henry Timmes (absent)
Dewayne Weldon
Julie Willis

Attending via conference call:

Marcia Conley (joined meeting in progress via zoom)
Steve Higgins
Maureen O'Steen Broderick (joined meeting in progress via zoom)
Rick Spier

Also present as guests / members:

Judge Invitee Daniel Lutolf
Rae Cronin
David Ebert
John Joyner
Jessica Pigeon
Stu Sacks
John Zerafa

Josh Anthony

-Josh opened the meeting by repeating what Rick Spier said to him as Josh assumed his role of BAA Chairperson:
"Always remember, does this help the hobby? Does it help BAA?"

-Dawn Sandve is the new recording secretary

-Mick McCown is the new band secretary

-The minutes from the last BOD meeting held on Oct 29, 2021, at the Arizona Grand National in Arizona were read by Josh.

-Al Horton confirmed that the BAA is still a non-profit.

-The motions made and approved by the Board of Directors via email after the 2021 Grand National were read by Josh:

Motion: Pairs division motion - Paired birds entered in a show are allowed to be moved to separate cages so they can compete as individual birds as well.

Motion Passed

Motion: A new band supplier for the BAA was approved. The supplier is Lone Star Avian Leg Bands of Texas.

Motion Passed

Motion: A motion was made for the BAA to join The National Cage Bird society as the sole USA national budgerigar organization. The 2022 National Cage Bird Society show will be held in Tulsa, OK in November 2022.

Motion Passed

- Chuck resigned his position of Band Secretary / Mick McCown replaced him.
- Holger Moeller resigned his position of Recording Secretary / Dawn Sandve replaced him

Motion: Motion made to approve minutes as read.

Motion Passed

-Josh asked if the Committee Chairs would like to read their reports. However, since the board received the committee reports via email prior to the meeting, the reading of the reports was waived.

- Dawn is charged with getting the prior motion list from Josh to add all new motions to the official BAA file.

NEW BUSINESS

Item One

-Henry Timmes is to retire from the BAA Board of Directors but he will remain a BAA judge. His position of Advancement Secretary has been done by Julie Willis for 15 years.

Discussion

The possibility of combining the position of Advancement Secretary with the position of Ranking Secretary was discussed. Julie has unofficially been doing both for quite some time, and enjoys doing so, but she asked if anyone would like to assume the role of Advancement Secretary. The members of the board felt that Julie should continue both positions since she enjoys the work and is good at it.

Motion: Motion made for Julie Willis to take over the combined position of Advancement Secretary / Ranking Secretary.

Motion passed.

Item Two

-A member of BAA has brought forth a complaint about show etiquette. Interruptions are happening during shows. IE: Packing up early, breaking down tables, and loud talking during judging.

Discussion

The show manager is the person who should handle etiquette issues that occur during a show. It was suggested that an instruction list be read to the audience by the show manager before the opening of every show which would address what the expected behavior of those attending a show should be. The instruction list is to go out with the patronage and affiliation forms. It will also be included with every show packet.

- Rick Spier is charged with readdressing the etiquette article. Joe will publish it in the BAA magazine.

- Josh Anthony is charged with adding a small blurb about etiquette on the BAA website.

- Rick Spier is charged with creating the instruction list.

Item Three

-Should the BAA have a backup plan in place for all shows in case a judge or show secretary is not able to fulfill their assignment.

Discussion

Discussion centered around the question of whether a local judge should be designated as the backup judge for any given show in case the assigned judge is unable to officiate at the show.

Item Four

-Should the Pair Division be recognized as an official division of the BAA.

Discussion

Even though the BAA has practiced the Pairs Division for two years, there's still some question about how the pairs should be judged. It was determined that the BAA should offer more education to the judges about what the BAA is looking for in the Pairs Division.

-Julie Willis is charged with preparing educational materials to clarify how the Pairs Division will be judged.

More people are exhibiting pairs now since the birds can also be exhibited as a single bird. It was felt that if the BAA were to start to give points to pairs, and if it were also to give a year end award to the highest-ranking pair, that more people would be interested in exhibiting pairs. Daniel Lutolf shared that both Pair and Team Divisions are offered in Europe and that a Year-End Award is given for the Pair with the most points.

Motion: A motion was made to start to award points in the Pair Division and to give a year-end award to the highest-ranking pair.

Motion Passed.

The discussion about pairs continued. It was suggested that an article be written for the BAA Journal about pairs and that a standard be created for judging pairs. The quality of birds, plus the overall harmony of the birds in a pair is considered when judging in Europe. The board should look at the Zebra Finch standard in the UK for guidelines about how to establish a pair judging standard. In addition to creating an Exhibition style pair division with similar birds, it would be a good idea to consider establishing a breeding pair division as well. IE: Never pair cinnamon sky to cinnamon sky. It was pointed out that such a division would work great for recessive varieties. It was suggested that the BAA give clubs the option to have a breeding pair division included in their shows and, that in the beginning, the breeding pair division would be done solely for fun. The breeding pair division was thought to be an excellent educational tool for BAA members.

Item Five

-Would it be beneficial to have a checklist made for what's required to host the BAA Grand National.

A BAA club is interested in acting as the host for the 2023 Grand National but they would like to have a checklist to follow. Items such as Show Hall minimums, etc. would be included on the checklist as well as any potential stumbling blocks that could occur. It was suggested that past show managers be contacted in order to get their input on what was necessary to host a Grand National and to create a checklist from their input.

-Dawn Sandve is charged with making a checklist for hosting the Grand National.

-Julie volunteers to act as advisor.

-Joe Bart Smith also volunteers to work on the checklist.

Item Six

-Marcia Conley joined the BOD meeting via zoom and was asked if she'd like to comment on the treasurer's report.

Marcia felt that covid has had a negative effect on the activity of the BAA and that club affiliations are down. She pointed out that the current 2023 BAA band orders are down which is most likely due to the delay of member bands in 2022.

Discussion

The board discussed the cost of BAA's annual dues when the Journal is not included with membership compared to what the annual dues should be when the Journal is included with membership. It costs \$25 per year per member to send out the BAA Journal on a quarterly basis. Historically, BAA dues were decreased when the BAA didn't publish a journal. However, once the BAA began to produce the journal again, increasing the club's costs, the price of membership was not increased. BAA member dues used to be \$45 a year when the Journal was included with membership. The price of membership was decreased to \$15 per year when the BAA didn't have a Journal.

Motion: A motion was made to increase the BAA membership dues, since it now includes the Journal, to \$45 starting in 2024. (Motion amended to \$25 after discussion)

Motion passed.

The BAA membership price increase will be implemented in 2024 instead of 2023 because some people have already sent in their member fees for 2023. It was suggested that an article for the Journal be written explaining why the BAA membership price was dropped and why the resumption of the publication of the Journal necessitates a price increase in member dues.

Marcia Conley shared that the BAA recently restocked items needed, such as show tags, etc., which has affected BAA funds. In addition to the restocking of needed items, the BAA does not have as many shows now as it had during the pre-covid period, so the club's income is lower than normal.

Item Seven

-The National Cage Bird Society has invited BAA to attend its show as the sole national Budgerigar society.

Discussion

The National Cage Bird Show is different than a BAA show. The actual show takes place on a Friday which means that the birds are checked in on Thursday. The show awards are given out on Saturday. The 2022 National Cage Show will host a Friday night banquet with a '70s theme ball. Mary Ann Silva is judging the Budgerigars.

-Joe Bart Smith is charged with writing an article about The National Caged Bird Society for the Journal.

Item Eight - 2022 Judges Panel Report

-The 2022 Judge's Panel Report was delivered by Julie Willis as the Judge Administrator.

The following items have been brought forward from the Judge's Panel Meeting held on the morning of September 23, 2022:

Item A

-The panel voted to start judge training for Mike Abbate and Joe Vargo. Both have met all the requirements needed to become a judge except for Time as Champion. BAA has an allowance in place that allows BAA to waive one requirement if doing so is in the best interest of the hobby. Since BAA needs more judges, the Time as Champion requirement was waived for both Mike and Joe. Both Mike Abbate and Joe Vargo were approved to be official BAA Judge Candidates.

Item B

-Once a judge is on the BAA Judge's Panel, they are on it forever, even if they choose not to judge anymore. If they choose to no longer be affiliated with the panel, then they do so on their own and it's up to them to inform BAA.

Item C

-A question was raised about what BAA judges think about an exhibited bird that is not spotted. Daniel Lutolf said that Europe has started to have shows where birds do not have to be spotted. The change is happening because animal rights activists are getting more active in Europe. Daniel believes that in ten years' time, the birds will no longer be spotted.

The following motion was made and passed at the September 23, 2022 Judge's meeting:

Motion: Show clubs can now chose to have shows where no birds are spotted. Exhibitors can bring spotted birds, but they may be penalized a bit.

Motion passed.

This concludes the items brought forward from the Judge's Meeting. The minutes now reflect BOD activity.

Item Nine

-Should spotted birds at a Non-Spotted / Natural Presentation show be penalized.

Discussion

Discussion ensued and a decision was made so that there will not be a penalty if a spotted bird is entered in a Non-Spotted / Natural Presentation show. It was decided that the option to have a Non-Spotted / Natural Presentation show be added to the Patronage / Affiliation form by adding a check box to the form. A BAA member attending the BOD meeting asked if the BAA is still following the WBO standard regarding spots.

Motion: A motion was made giving BAA Clubs the option of holding Non-Spotted / Natural Presentation Shows. The judges are prepared to judge birds either way, spotted or non-spotted, at all BAA shows following the 2022 Grand National.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item Ten

-There is a new variety that has recently come to the USA: The Melanistic Spangle.

Discussion

The Melanistic Spangle has begun to be added to the existing variety of spangles in Europe but more and more clubs are now including it as a new variety. The BAA board discussed how the Melanistic Spangle should be classified and debated if it should be moved into the AOV section. It was noted that there is a standard for the Melanistic Spangle on the WBO site. The possibility of adding the new variety, the Melanistic Spangle, into the AOV was raised.

Motion: A motion was made to include the Melanistic Spangle in the AOV Section.

Motion passed.

Item Eleven

-Annual reports

Discussion

Prior to the current BOD meeting, the board discussed publishing all committee annual reports, except for the Treasurer's report, in the BAA Journal. The question of accessibility to the Treasurer's report by club members seeking to know the status of the club's treasury was raised. It was determined that the Treasure's report will not be published in the Journal. However, the report will be read during the Annual Board of Directors / Members meeting. Any member interested in the status of the BAA Treasury Report is welcome to attend the BOD meeting.

Item Twelve

-Band prices

Discussion

Jeff Gaines of Lone Star Avian Leg Bands is the BAA's new band supplier. He has been extremely responsive to questions from the board, and he quickly fulfills band orders. The bands offered by Lone Star Avian Leg Bands are of high quality and fit the birds well. The cost of the current 2023 band prices to be fulfilled by Lone Star will remain as advertised since some members have already purchased their 2023 bands. However, the cost of BAA bands fluctuates a lot depending on the quantity ordered. This fluctuation affects the BAA's profits from band sales. Although the BAA band prices are set for 2023, it was determined that the Board needs to address profit margins for the 2024 bands prior to notice going out to members that its time to order their 2024 bands.

The Lone Star Avian Leg Band Company now offers a new option for the standard coloration band that is recognized by the world avian community for each new year. They can add either a gold or silver rim to the colored bands. The question of allowing BAA members to have the option of adding either gold or silver rims to their bands was debated. Some board members felt that adding the rim might create a problem because some exhibitors might feel that the ringed bands would be considered to be "marked" bands. Concern was also raised whether the ABS would accept the rimmed bands as well as the unrimmed BAA bands as the official BAA band. In addition, a question was also raised as to whether there should be one standard band for a national society. The decision was made to allow BAA members to add either the gold or silver rim to their bands. The member would have to order their rimmed bands, and pay the additional fee for the gold or silver rim, through Mick McCowen.

Item Thirteen

-2023 Grand National

Discussion

No club has taken an official interest in hosting the 2023 BAA Grand National. However, there is a club that is considering hosting the GN and there is also a possibility that two clubs, Dallas and Louisiana, could act as co-hosts of the National.

BOD meeting adjourned.

Josh Anthony asked if there were any other items to be discussed by the Board. Since no new business was necessary, Josh suggested that the 2022 BAA Board of Directors meeting be adjourned.

Motion: Motion made to adjourn the BOD meeting.

Motion passed