# Meeting of the Board of Directors

# Budgerigar Association of America

## Grand National 2019

## Minutes

Chairman Joshua Anthony called the 2019 meeting of the BAA Board of Directors to order at 1:05 pm on Friday September 13, 2019 at the Mountain Laurel Resort in White Haven, Pennsylvania.

Board members present were: Joshua Anthony, Julie Willis, Greg Arena, Maureen Broderick, Chuck Romano, Robert Marshall Jr., and Richard Werner.

Board members present via conference call were: Rick Spier, Al Horton, Marsha Conley, Stephen Higgins, Bob Wilson, Larry Moore, and Henry Timmes Sr.

Board members absent were: Holger Moeller and Dewayne Weldon (Dewayne was forced to disconnect from the conference call due to technical difficulties).

Guests attending were: Chad Babin, Bob & Jo Vargo, Joe Smith, Brian & Tanya Draxler, Dawn Sandve, Dr. Michael Cannizzaro, Barbara Waterman, Marcia Halbert, Nelson Carpentier, Rodney Silva, Kevin & Meredith Smith, Greg Lovell, Robert Hofstetter, Stephen Fowler, and Daniel & Sophie Floyd.

The minutes from the 2018 Grand National Board of Directors Meeting held in Houston in October 2018 were read. A correction was made by Band Secretary Chuck Romano to the dollar amounts reported from band profits. A motion was made to accept minutes with aforementioned corrections. The motion was seconded and approved.

## Board Member Reports/Old Business

### Treasurer – Marsha Conley

Marsha presented a handout with income & expenses for 2017 & 2018 since calendar/fiscal year 2019 is not yet finished. Her report showed net loss of $3,215.17 in 2018 compared to a profit of $5,527.66 in 2017. She attributed this to the costs of printing “Budgerigar Journal” and a decrease in profit from band sales. Marsha indicated BAA would have been closer to breaking even had we received the deposit from the 2018 Grand National before the end of 2018.

Marsha considered moving some funds from our checking account to our savings account for a marginal increase in interest. She decided it was not really worth it given the low interest rates.

Marsha asked if anyone needed deposit slips. Greg Arena, Maureen Broderick, and Stephen Higgins all indicated they needed more. Chuck Romano stated that he had enough slips.

Marsha stated that she prefers receiving e-mails at her work account instead of her Yahoo account.

### Judges Panel – Julie Willis presenting for Bob Wilson

The Judges Panel first announced they had approved their minutes from last year.

There was a brief discussion among the judges about wire cages which was discussed in the board meeting later.

The panel discussed new judges’ trainee packets.

The panel could not elect a new Judge Administrator due to a lack of a quorum at the meeting to do so. Julie Willis and Rodney Silva will run for the position.

An application to become a judge is pending for John Carroca, Jr. from Massachusetts. As soon as some basic requirements are confirmed, the panel will sign off so that John may begin training. Bob Wilson is awaiting verification from Greg about John’s time in BAA and from Chuck about his band purchase history.

A discussion was also held about how much weight poorly-marked birds should have in winning top awards.

Bob Wilson expressed concerns about showing respect at shows. He wanted clarification from both the Judges Panel and the Board of Directors about the conduct of people attending shows due to outbursts, comments, and actions taken by those disagreeing with the judge’s actions at shows. He wants to make it clear that disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

Rick Spier said he would write an article for the “Budgerigar Journal” regarding show etiquette. Julie Willis received a draft of it – she informed Larry Moore that he should have it soon.

Other disucssions were held about how other countries handle judging and judge training.

The Panel discussed need to do a better job of sharing knowledge in the journal. More interviews and possibly restoring “Judge’s Notes” articles are potential actions to be taken.

Julie expressed desire that Judges need to attend the panel meeting via conference call or in person at least at every other Grand National due to low attendance at this year’s meeting.

### Webmaster – Joshua Anthony

Josh has added Google Translate to the website which can translate into 103 languages. He asked foreign language speakers to check its accuracy and confirmed it was generally good.

Bob Wilson indicated that the wide variety of Spanish dialects makes the Google translation incomprehensible. Some in Mexico have offered to do translations.

Josh stated that more pictures are needed for the website, not just Best in Show photos. He requested more photos from all club shows. The galleries on the website received over 20,000 views last year.

A member asked if there was a way to contact Josh regarding website issue. Josh indicated that there is a submission form on the website at the bottom (the “Contact the webmaster” link).

Barbara Waterman asked about the presentation of the website on mobile phones – it’s only half-visible. The homepage doesn’t always show up. Josh believes some of this may be due to issues with the mobile phones themselves and should improve as time goes on.

Stuart Sacks asked if there were any copyright restrictions on using World Budgerigar Organization description of budgie varieties. Josh doesn’t believe there are any restrictions.

Dawn Sandve asked about use of an electronic entry form. Some are having problems downloading and filling in the current entry form.

Greg Arena suggested possibility of using PDF forms for easier use with cell phones & tablets, but Julie expressed some concern since some show secretaries use copy-and-paste to transfer data from entry forms to their show spreadsheets.

### Journal Editor – Larry Moore

Larry reported problems with the printer being slow to mail the magazines, but the quality is good.

Larry stated that he is still having trouble obtaining material – both articles and photos.

He is not getting any feedback or critique on his preparation of the journals – positive or negative. He also wondered whether the journal meets member needs.

Maureen Broderick expressed a desire to restore show reports to the journal. A list of upcoming shows is also missing.

Overall, mostly positive feedback was expressed in the meeting room.

Stuart compared the “ABS Bulletin” to our “Budgerigar Journal” and noted we had more articles whereas their magazine had mostly judge reports. He felt our magazine had more substance.

Josh reminded about article competition that was motioned and accepted in 2018. He suggested including a form in the next edition (December 2019) to select a favorite article from the past year.

Bob remarked that this differed from other societies that actually compete based on article quality. He suggested the articles be judged by the Board with a free membership awarded. Larry liked the idea.

### Club Affiliations – Stephen Higgins

Stephen reported that four new clubs affiliated with BAA this year. Two of those were foreign – one from Canada and the other from Mexico. The foreign clubs opted to affiliate only without putting on a BAA-sanctioned show. The two domestic clubs both produced new shows.

Member Robert Hofstetter stated that the Illinois Budgerigar Society was not listed in the journal or on the website. Josh Anthony confirmed that it was on the website. Julie & Larry assured Robert that this was not intentional and that they will address it.

### Ranking & Advancements – Julie Willis

The rules for ranking and advancement were changed at the 2018 Board of Directors meeting. Member Joe Smith indicated that the website had not been updated causing confusion. Julie apologized for confusion and pointed out that any member could self-advance under one of the new rules adopted. Joe advanced to Intermediate.

Julie announced that Jimmy Strong has met the requirements to advance from Novice to Intermediate.

Julie reported that several others are close to advancing from Intermediate to Champion.

Julie reminded everyone that she is available to anyone wanting to know where they stand or ask any questions.

Julie stated that the tracking of points awarded is complicated, especially with the rare varieties. This used to be done by division based on wins and number of birds in the division. The current approach is becoming unwieldy with the top bench and more Rare budgies making their way into it.

A motion was made to make Rare an independent division again. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Band Secretary – Chuck Romano

Chuck mentioned some factors to keep in mind when reviewing his report:

* The cutoff date was September 1 and several orders were received after that date.
* Since the cutoff date differed between 2018 & 2019, a fully apples-to-apples comparison of revenue is not possible.
* Difficult for Chuck to align his numbers with Marsha’s since she works on a calendar/fiscal year while he operates on a different calendar for the bands.

Chuck reported an increase in the number of band orders and total number of bands sold:

* A total of 9,900 bands were sold during his reporting period with a profit of $1,195.00.
* There were many small (quantity 25) band orders indicating more people entering the hobby for the first time.
* A total of 27 first-time orders were tallied.

Profit decreased year-over-year from $1,686.45 to $1,195.00 due to increase in band cost from manufacturer last year (the Board had opted to keep band prices as-is at the 2018 meeting). Chuck expects this to improve.

A motion was made to keep only the last five years of band order paperwork to reduce storage space requirements. Motion was seconded and passed.

Upon further discussion, another motion was made to reduce the paperwork storage time from five years to two. Motion was seconded and passed.

Chuck reminded all members to keep him updated with their e-mail addresses.

### Patronage Secretary – Maureen Broderick

Maureen reported income so far for 2019 as $769.75.

She is re-ordering Budgerigar Society standard books since we sold out our stock.

New show cage tag clips have been purchased that are clear instead of white.

The design of the medallions for the Grand National was changed slightly:

* All ribbons will have red, white, and blue with a stars & stripes pattern to denote they were won at the Grand National. Two strips of this pattern will run along the length of the ribbon.
* A narrow strip of color may be inserted into the middle of the ribbon between the two stars & stripes patterns to indicate the winner’s award or division.
* BAA will now donate medallions for Best Junior, Best Young, and Best Young Opposite Sex in addition the medallions already donated for Best in Show and Best Opposite Sex.

A motion was made to cover every major division with a medallion award at the Grand National. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Plaques & Awards – Dewayne Weldon

Dewayne was absent due to technical difficulties with the conference bridge.

### Membership Secretary – Greg Arena

The following membership statistics were noted:

* Membership ticked up slightly to 176 from 171.
* There were nine sponsored memberships and five complimentary memberships in 2019.
* We had two new international members join from Mexico and Pakistan. The membership from Mexico was sponsored by Bob Wilson. Larry Moore corrected a mistake in the report to indicate that he had sponsored the membership from Pakistan.
* Number of non-renewals within the Novice division increased from 21 in 2018 to 33 in 2019. There were 27 memberships that were not renewed after just one year.
* Membership growth slowed from 46.2% in 2018 to 2.9%

Julie asked if the membership growth slow-down compared to last year may have been due to the 2018 Chairperson election. Greg answered that he believed this was likely.

A motion was made to establish a shared e-mail account for PayPal notifications to try to reduce electronic membership processing times. Motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to establish a mentorship program for members not near an affiliated club. This would be purely voluntary. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Member Retention – Robert Marshall, Jr.

Rob reported that many people don’t answer their phone when he calls them because they don’t recognize his phone number. He suggested mailing postcards as an alternative.

Marcia Halbert suggested sending a letter with an application inside instead.

A motion was made to implement Marcia’s suggestion. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Member Liaison – Richard Werner

Rich reported that he worked with Robert & Kathy Thornber about starting their new club (Western Massachusetts Budgerigar Society) and their first show held in June.

Rich also talked with Marcia Halbert about the possibility of Tri-State Budgerigar Society hosting the Grand National in 2020.

Rich spoke with a new club formed in Michigan. This club opted to affiliate with ABS for 2019 but they assure Rich they will affiliate with BAA next year.

Julie pointed out that Rich was performing an important job helping new clubs understand what they need to do to organize and host a show.

## New Business

### Tabled Motion - Reviewing position of Member Liaison

Bob Wilson suggested title change to reflect greater focus on working with clubs. He said that some were confused that the liaison was an interposer between the Board of Directors and Rich.

A motion was made to change Member Liaison title to New Club Development & Member Recruitment. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Business affiliations with BAA (tabled from e-mail discussion in June 2019)

Larry Moore said foreign companies just want a certificate they can put on their wall/website indicating they are affiliated with BAA.

Numerous questions were raised about the rationale, motivation, and benefits of hypothetical business affiliations with BAA. Larry responded by saying his contact in Pakistan wished to start some kind of worldwide band code database.

A motion was made to accept business affiliations with BAA. Motion was seconded but failed.

### Evaluation of varieties for possible move to Rare division (Stuart Sacks & Julie Willis)

Stuart ranked how many birds were shown in each section recently – counting both birds and number of exhibitors (note that the same bird appearing in multiple shows would be counted multiple times). Grey Green was ranked most popular. Stuart & Julie believe some varieties should be moved over to the Rare division.

A motion was made to move Recessive Pied, Lacewing, and Greywing into the Rare division. Motion was seconded and opened for discussion.

Maureen Broderick and Stephen Fowler (both present) were originally on the committee that formed the Rare Division. Maureen endorsed this proposal. Stephen disagreed stating that moving these three sections would not necessarily encourage more breeding of these birds, but said he would not object to moving them.

Motion was passed. Change will take effect in 2020.

### Split up Rare division’s pied section

A motion was made to separate Rare division Section 37, currently called “Clearflighted Pied, Dutch Pied, and Frosted Pied” into two distinct sections:

1. Clearflighted Pied & Dutch Pied – noted that these are very similar varieties.
2. Frosted Pied

Motion was seconded and opened for a brief discussion. Motion was passed. Change will take effect in 2020.

### Use of BAA insurance by “non-budgie clubs”

By-laws currently state that “non-budgie clubs” can use our insurance. Concern was expressed over use of insurance by non-bird clubs.

A motion was made to amend the by-laws to state that “non-budgie **bird** clubs” can use our insurance. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Allowing show pairs or show teams

A discussion was held on allowing show pairs or show teams:

* “Show pairs” are defined as a cock & hen of same variety in a standard show cage
* “Show teams” are a larger group of five in an enlarged show cage.

A motion was made to create a Pairs Division for a cock & hen in the same section. Motion was seconded and opened for discussion.

Discussed how & when to judge pairs. It was pointed out that the World Budgerigar Organization has a webpage explaining rules for judging.

Motion passed.

### Data maintained by each board member should be accessible by at least two other board members.

The idea of a cloud account was floated.

A motion was made to form a committee to investigate. Greg Arena volunteered and will lead the committee. Marsha Conley, Al Horton, and Bob Wilson also volunteered to serve on the committee. Motion was seconded and passed.

### Presentation for 2020 Grand National

Stephen Fowler gave a brief presentation on behalf of his club, Arizona Budgerigar Society, offering to host the 2020 Grand National in Arizona sometime in late September 2020.

Two possible locations were suggested: Sun Lakes and Camp Verde.

Stephen admitted that the club had lost many long-standing members and was running low on funds. He assured the board that the club is now rebuilding and has about $4,000 in the bank. The club currently has no Novices. Stephen wants to try to build excitement locally via the prestige of the Grand National. He expressed interested in growing into the Hispanic community and is hoping to attract exhibitors from California as well.

Stephen reminded the Board that the Arizona Budgerigar Society had organized two Grand Nationals in Camp Verde in the past.

Camp Verde is 90-100 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor airport while Sun Lakes is 20 minutes from the airport.

Camp Verde has four hotels available. Pricing for hotel rooms was ranging between $80 and $100 per night.

A motion was made to award the 2020 Grand National to the Arizona Budgerigar Society. Motion was seconded and passed.

Stephen will provide more details in the coming months.

### Showing purchased birds

An option for showing purchased birds, particularly for Juniors, was discussed. No points would be awarded. Purpose would be simply to evaluate a bird.

Decided this would be left up to the individual clubs. No motion was made.

### Establish fiscal year

A discussion was held about establishing a fiscal year for BAA. Marsha Conley stated that BAA’s fiscal year currently matches the calendar year. This works out better for bookkeeping purposes since the Grand National is held on differing dates from year to year.

No action was required since a fiscal year is already in place.

### New show cage option

Bob Wilson stated that he has nothing new to report since last year. Prices from the South Africa source were too high at $13.00 per cage compared to the Egypt source at $4.00 per cage.

A larger order must be assembled in order to save on international shipping costs. Greg Lovell said that when bulk shipments are not used, freight was $66.00 per cage from the Egypt supplier for a total of $70.00 per cage.

Board decided to table this for another year to continue investigating our options with regard to cost and logistics. Logistics include: shipping, size of the new show cages, and compatibility with our current show benches.

## Floor Opened for Discussion

### Qualification by members involved in partnerships to become a judge

Concern was expressed by Rich Werner about members involved in partnerships and their qualification for judging – i.e. if one member is newer to the hobby than another.

### Judge Bios

Greg Lovell requested that the Judges Panel provide a brief bio along with each name and contact information to help decide which judge they’d like to hire.

Julie Willis felt that this should be something judges do voluntarily.

### Qualification on time requirement to become a judge

Marcia Halbert expressed concern about the requirement to be in the Champion division for 48 months together with the required number of wins as a Champion. She indicated that it was theoretically possible for a Novice to advance quickly and become a judge while in her case she had already spent 30 years as a Novice & Intermediate and would need to wait another four years after becoming Champion to become a judge.

Julie offered to bring it up with the Judges Panel since the panel is autonomous from the body of BAA members and the Board of Directors.

Marcia questioned another requirement to become a judge of purchasing bands from BAA while all other members do not have to purchase BAA bands. Julie responded that a candidate should display some loyalty to BAA in order to become a BAA judge.

### Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm (3 hours, 48 minutes in duration)