

109th APBA ANNUAL MEETING

LOS ANGELES, CA

January 28, 2017

1. The meeting was opened by the President, Mark Wheeler, who welcomed all members present.
2. Patrick Mell, Executive Director, gave the ballot report. Directors elected were Howie Nichols, Dan Kanfoush, John Runne and Jean McKay Schwartz.
3. Steve Hearn swore in all newly elected officials.
4. The meeting was then called to order by President Wheeler.
5. A moment of silence was held for members who had passed during the year.
6. Fred Hauenstein gave the Vice-President's report. He reported that the Vice-President's job is to support the president. He thanked Jean McKay Schwartz and Sharon Winer for an excellent promotions presentation and hoped this would lead to more seminars in the future.
7. Mary Williams gave the Secretary's report. The Secretary took minutes at all the Board of Directors meetings, Council meeting, and various committees throughout the year.
8. Steve Compton gave the Treasurer's report. (See budget report attached).
9. President Wheeler gave the report of the President. He mentioned he had hired a new Executive Director this year. We now have a new insurance company.
10. Category Chairs
 - a. Inboard – Jim Sechler reported that the Inboard category while facing many challenges is dealing with them and have put a plan in place for the next year.
 - b. Inboard Endurance – Ted Kolby reported that they are mostly in the west coast now. The flat bottoms have stopped racing with us, and they are hopeful that they will be able to adjust to the new rules and return to racing with APBA.
 - c. Modified Outboard – Tom Sutherland reported that they concentrated on promotion with newly created promotional brochures and a banner ad for the HydroRacer website. They also have started working with the new class committee for the new PRD Fireball motor and will be developing that over the summer.
 - d. OPC – James Chambers reported that they had a challenging year with the formation of a competing sanctioning body which caused them a loss of memberships. They have added 14 new members to APBA OPC. One of their bright spots was the return of a combined OPC Nationals held at Shreveport, LA. Also with the elimination of the series surcharge in insurance, they have added more series racing.
 - e. Pro – Kristi Ellison reported that participation is way down with the loss of the Title Series. The majority of their races are held on the west coast. They had their nationals at Kingston, TN but they have lost that site. They are working with the Mod category for a combined nationals at Constantine, MI and will be working with them for more combined events in 2018. She encouraged all local clubs who would like to add pro racing to their events to contact her to make this happen.
 - f. Stock Outboard – Jeff Brewster reported they had a good season. Their budget has remained the same while concentrating on promotion and engine availability for their members. They have been working for the last couple of months on the internet on topics for the national meeting and this year were able to adjourn early. He thanked the Historical Society for their great help in providing funds to

provide engines for the 300SSH sealed engine class which has shown remarkable growth for the category.

- g. Unlimited – Doug Bernstein – no report

11. Committee Reports

- a. Offshore – Mark Wheeler reported that they had several events and he had the opportunity to participate in and race in an offshore boat. Most offshore racing is bracket racing which requires the driver to stay under a specified speed.
- b. Thundercat – No report
- c. Junior classes – Pat Gleason reported they were part of 58 sanction dates with 95 members in 2016. He attributed growth to the driving schools, the Harm project, and a new Hydro East program (Portland OR). Will be inducting 2 new members to the HOC.
- d. Archives & Records – Jan Shaw reported that the first old rule book (1969) will be available on-line in about 30 days. She has had several requests from people to find rules that are not in the rule book now, but were there in the past.
- e. Hall of Champions – Ernie Dawe and Tracy Trolian reported that there are 21 HOC inductees, all of whom are present. There are 9 first-timers and one raced 29 years before he made it into the Hall. Ernie thanked the Historical Society for all their support.
- f. Safety – Eli Whitney reported they met twice over the meeting period. They ratified the safety rule changes from Race Management, formulated an Air Supply Standard to be put in the Rules as GSR 18, which has been approved by Race Mgmt. They held discussions on labeling of safety harnesses, they have a growing list of capsule training sessions, ratified new standards for harnesses for Inboard, ratified Stock outboards ban on locked throttles, proposed developing an incident data base within the safety committee to attempt to isolate trends, and specific areas that need improvement, discussed ways to list dunk school graduates in a more timely manner, discussed a volunteer info medical tag to be provided in membership packets and encourage drivers to follow through with these. They will be requesting a budget from the Board of Directors to test and develop head and neck restraints for non-restrained drivers.
- g. Rescue Committee – included in the Safety Report
- h. Scoring – Lisa Jennings reported that the scorer's test will now be taken only every 2 years. Those who took it last year will not need to take it until next year. They also met with Steve Compton and Ryan Johnson on a project to update the membership data list
- i. Special Events – Scott Schatz reported that special events is a place for anything that wants to race on the water. Their mainstay is the Jet River events in the northwest. They identified areas of Risk Management concern and will be taking steps to abate those concerns. Another area they are working on is the new aggressive work being done for Personal Watercraft racing. They feel that membership can show significant growth from this area. Also, the Outboard Drag program has been moved into Special Events and they are working on a junior Outboard drag program.
- j. Vintage – John Krebs reported that events were down over the past year but they are working to partner with other categories to do joint events. They are working on promo posters.
- k. International Affairs – Fred Hauenstein reported on his work with the UIM. He expressed his gratitude at being able to represent APBA and said he is looking for others to work with UIM also.

- I. Government Affairs - Steve Greaves reported that his committee monitors government action around the country which might affect boat racing. In Illinois, a boater age requirement, which was 12 yrs old, has had an amendment exempting boat racers from the law. He asked that everyone let his committee know of any future laws which might be coming on the horizon. Chris Fairchild gave the committee a presentation on a dedicated boat race facility being developed in Springfield, OH, which could be used as a model for other areas. They also heard a report on the increase amount of ethanol in the regular gas and a reduction in the availability of non-ethanol gasoline. He also discussed the RPM Act before congress which is to protect motorsports from the effects of the EPA. He requested that the Board of Directors take an official position on this and ask our members to support it with their elected officials also.
 - m. Rules and Race Management – Dave Augustine reported that their committee had worked with Howie Nichols to clean up the General Safety and General Race Rules. This will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
12. National Headquarters report – Patrick Mell reported that he has had an interesting 10 months. His first task was to hire Tana Moore to restore the Propeller Magazine to its previous high standards. Propeller Magazine is now mailed every other month, with a newsletter in between. We also just mailed our first Annual Yearbook which reflects events from the past year. He reported he also upgraded the computers and installed a security system for them. He has also been working on changing procedures to increase response time from required member forms. He is instituting a bidding procedure to reduce costs. He has also developed club support documents to help the clubs when they are securing events. The office is currently working on upgrading systems to better serve the members. Patrick reported he will also be working on improving our on-line merchandise offerings.
13. New Business.
- a. President Wheeler reported that there has been discussion on changing the focus of the annual meeting to showcase more on seminars on promotion, etc and less on meetings.
 - b. John Runne spoke on the direction he feels APBA should move towards to secure our future. He expressed the desire to refocus the organization to grow the sport and eliminate the decline in membership. He requested the support of the Board of Directors, the Historical Society and all members to come up with solutions to our problems, come up with a plan, and execute it. He volunteered to take charge to create a plan to start this process by creating committees to solve our problems and break down barriers to get people started in our sport. We have a unique family and we need to change our attitude, our focus and our agenda in order to grow our family and save the sport we all love.
 - c. President Wheeler then asked Board of Directors members to come up with ideas to redesign the national meeting to move in the direction we want to go
 - i. What do we need to do to make national meeting more useful in terms of marketing, etc
 - ii. How to shorten commission meetings
14. Ed Hearn made a motion to approve actions of officers, directors, referees, race officials, and commissions for 2016 racing season. Seconded by Roger Carr. Motion passed.
15. Motion to adjourn by Tom Johnston, seconded by Roger Carr.
16. Meeting adjourned.