

APBA

ANNUAL MEETING

January 23, 2016

1. The meeting began with a welcome to all in attendance at 12:30 PM by APBA President, Mark Wheeler at 12:30 PM.
2. President Wheeler provided the ballot report from the past election. Elected to the Board of Directors were Mark Wheeler, Fred Hauenstein, Dave Augustine, Dan Kanfoush, and Kyle Bahl. Elected to represent the Region chairs was Buddy Tennell and James Chambers was elected as the Category Chairs Representative to the Board.
3. Steve Hearn, APBA Legal Counsel conducted the swearing in of all Board of Directors, Category Chairs, Region Chairs, and Commission Members.
4. The meeting was called to order.
5. A moment of silence was held for all members lost during the past year.
6. Report of the Vice-President. APBA Vice-President Fred Hauenstein reported that his main job was to support the President. In that capacity he and the president talked several times a week. During this past week he attended a lot of meetings and feels a lot of positive attitude, which is also supported by the large turn-out for this week's affairs.
7. Report of the Secretary. APBA Secretary Mary Williams reported that over the past year she had taken minutes at all the meetings.
8. Report of the Treasurer. APBA Treasurer Steve Compton thanked former treasurer Jose Mendana for the financial health of APBA. He reported a 2015 profit, per our CPA, of \$126,231. There are no taxes owed due to a carryover loss from 2013. The APBA balance sheet shows an increase of \$110,000. He presented the 2016 Budget which projects a profit of \$37,299 for 2016 based on current info. The search for the Executive Director is ongoing and that salary could have an impact on the bottom line.
9. Report of the President. APBA President Mark Wheeler reported that while 2015 was a year of challenges, we are financially sound again. There have been Insurance and Risk Management challenges but we are working through them. We are currently working to replace Ryan Berlin who will stay on to do the rule books and Propeller magazine. The search committee has a short list from the resumes we've received and is working through that. Interviews should be scheduled soon. While the committee wants to move quickly to fill the position, they want to get the right person in place.
10. Reports of the Category Chairs
 - a. Inboard. Inboard Chairman Mark Weber reported that commission members had been hard at work the last few days. They went through their rules, had over 90 people at their awards presentation, and are planning to do 2 driving schools this year with a possible third.

- b. Inboard Endurance. Inboard Endurance Chairman Ted Kolby reported that the category had a good year. They have added a new class, called the 6 Litre class. This is a capsule boat with a NASCAR motor and they are looking forward to its success.
- c. Modified Outboard. Modified Outboard Chairman Tom Sutherland reported that they had a productive meeting and will have 6 items for ballot. Their goal is to have motors for their classes readily available. They plan to expand their motor program to have Model 80 motors ready for racers to purchase. They are continuing the prototype of the RD fireball motor which Howie Pickerall is working on. They expect to have 6 up and running in the New England area this year.
- d. OPC. OPC Chairman James Chambers reported they had a good, safe, and competitive year. They had 164 total racing members which is an increase of 6 members from last year with 9 being new participants. Sanctioned events were down a little from 22 in 2014 to 19 in 2015. The bright spots continue to be the SST 45 class and the the SST 120 class with increased participation and excitement. The OPC driving school program held 3 weekend events for 9 participants and one of the participants purchased a SST45 boat and raced this past year. Thanks to Jim Fox and Fred Miller for running the driving school program. Again this past year there was no one site hosting the national championships, so again the nationals for the 6 classes were held at 4 different race sites. This year in Chicago, OPC had a very good commission meeting concentrating on safety issues, various ways to increase participation, minor engine rule changes and a 2016 racing schedule and for the first time in 3 years will include one site for the National Championships, Shreveport, LA.
- e. PRO. Pro Chairman Kristi Ellison reported that the Pro Nationals were once again held in Kingston, TN. Participating members are down a bit, from 172 in 2014 to 163 in 2015. They have 2 Hall of Champion Inductees. The category has accepted a bid to return to Kingston, TN in 2016 for the PRO nationals with 6 Modified North American Championships. Pro has also made contact with the US Title Series and sent a letter to Todd Brinkman and the Title Series Board of Directors requesting the opening of a dialogue with them to consider their return to APBA. The US Title Series Board of Directors will be meeting soon to discuss this. Pro will also have 5 items to go to ballot for this year.
- f. Stock Outboard. Stock Outboard Chairman Jeff Brewster reported they are working on adding the history to the SO page on the APBA website. Thanks to Mike Deck for the live-streaming of the Category Awards. This will be posted on you-tube. The category had a very safe year. Their championships were successful and were completed in spite of weather challenges. Membership in the category is up 2 members over last year. The commission worked hard over the last 2 months and for the first time since Jeff became the chairman, they were able to complete their meetings in 2 days.

11. Committee Reports

- a. Offshore. Mark Wheeler reported that they held 11 events last year. There are 2 groups involved: P1 running spec classes mainly in Florida and OPA which hosted 8 races and has a motto that they will find a class for whatever you bring.

- b. Outboard Drag – In the absence of Chris Fairchild, President Wheeler reported that there was not a lot of activity last year. They are working with a new race site for a race.
- c. Thunder Cat. In the absence of Jeff Howie, President Wheeler reported that as most of the members are located in Region 6, they will hold their meeting in conjunction with the Region 6 spring meeting.
- d. Junior Classes. Chairman Pat Gleason reported the classes are doing well with a healthy increase in membership. There were 71 sanctions that included the J classes. Strong driver school programs were held in the northeast, the Midwest and the northwest. Mercury motors are currently available for the class, and 6 new boats are under construction at the Hydroplane Museum in Seattle.
- e. Archives and Records. Archives and Records Chairman Jan Shaw reported that the committee had met and has obtained a book scanner which will enable them to digitally copy all of the older rule books and save them within the library system. They will also be cataloguing the older Propeller Magazines that are not digital. Discussion was also held on putting some of the older trophies in vaults.
- f. Hall of Champions. Co-Chairman Ernie Dawe reported that they had a successful event last year and are looking forward to the 2016 event. They have 21 inductees and prior to the bad weather in the east, all inductees were scheduled to attend.
- g. Safety Committee. Safety Committee Chairman, Eli Whitney reported they had met twice this week and received reports from the categories. They held discussion on radios and have developed 3 changes to safety rules for consideration by the Board of Directors (GSR 2.B, GSR 5.d, and GSR 12). They are using the Propeller Magazine for monthly communication with the members. They discussed adding a definition of the environment where cell training should take place in. They had a demonstration of new head and neck restraints and Bob Wartinger did his annual safety report.
- h. Rescue Committee. Rescue Committee Chairman Ken Smith reported that 2015 was a challenging year. They had a good meeting and have proposed a standardization of air fittings across the categories.
- i. Special Events. In the absence of Special Events Chairman Scott Shatz, Mark Wheeler reported that APBA had been contacted to help find insurance for an inter-collegiate boat race event. APBA will be providing this insurance and gaining exposure to new potential racers.
- j. Vintage Committee. John Krebs reported they had a large meeting. They are dealing with the challenge in losing sites and are going to work on a model from Region 10 to attempt to increase events.
- k. International Affairs. Committee Chairman Fred Hauenstein reported that in this role his major effort has been to work closely with the UIM to make sure APBA is represented in the world body. This has led to a lot of work for the UIM as well and some reward as he is now the UIM's Vice-President. During the past year he attended UIM meetings in various places and was able to get some favorable changes one of which will allow APBA drivers to compete in European continental championships.

- I. Governmental Affairs Committee. Chairman Steve Greaves reported that the committee met via email during the year and in person during the past week. Significant updates during the past year included membership in the committee has grown to 11. They are still seeking additional coverage in other regions. They have monitored state legislation activity concerning minimum boat operator age that involves the J and K classes in 3 states during 2015: New Jersey, Florida, and Illinois. In New Jersey, an amendment to exempt boat racing from the minimum age requirements passed and became law. Credit for this passage goes to Scott Glossner and Sheri Runne. Illinois is an area of concern with minimum boat operator age requirements in current law keeping J and K classes off the water. Michael Mackay pushed for an amendment exempting racing that passed the House but later stalled in the Senate. In Florida, we were alerted to a potential interest in raising the minimum age for PWC operation. Concern is that legislation might involved all watercraft. Gene Engle will be monitoring this. With Ryan Berlin's assistance, the committee launched a web contact page that allows race planners to identify regulations of concern to the committee. The Committee continues to monitor other areas of regulatory concern that might impact boat racing such as minimum boat operator age, boat registration, fees for registration, launching and events, aquatic invasive species, environmental issues, exclusionary periods of park usage, drone usage, and ethanol to name a few.
 - m. Scoring Committee. President Wheeler presented the report for chair Lisa Jennings. The scorers are working on the 2016 scorers test and once it is done will post it on the APBA web site. The 2015 Scorers Award was presented to Jan Shaw at the Category Awards Ceremony.
- 12. National Headquarters Report. President Wheeler reported that with the departure of Ryan Berlin as a full-time employee they are down one staff member. The staff successfully processed all sanctions, high points and memberships.
- 13. Old Business
 - a. Ed Hearn made a motion to approve the actions of all directors, officers, and commissions during 2015. Seconded by Kristi Ellison, the motion passed unanimously.
- 14. New Business

There was no new business.
- 15. President Wheeler asked if there were any objections to moving up the start time of the Board of Directors' meeting . There being none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Williams

APBA Secretary