American Power Boat Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 25, 2020

1. President Chris Fairchild welcomed everyone in attendance.
2. Ballot Report was given by the President. Matt Yarno, Kyle Bahl, and Fred Hauenstein were elected to 3-year terms, Adam Allen and Robert Wilson were elected to 1-year terms. Council members elected to 3-year terms were Bob Wartinger, Patrick Gleason, John Wlodarski, and Mikey Pavlick.
3. Swearing in of Officers, Board Members, Region Chairs, Category Chairs, and Commission Members was conducted by Ed Hearn.
4. The Annual Meeting of the Association was called to order by the President, Chris Fairchild.
5. A moment of silence was observed for those members lost.
6. Report of Vice President – office is currently vacant, no report given.
7. Report of Secretary – Mary Williams reported that she had taken minutes at all Board meetings and teleconferences throughout the year.
8. Report of Treasurer – Steve Compton presented the 2019 financials.
9. Report of President - Chris Fairchild stated that he has only been in office for a short time but likes the direction we are heading in.
10. Report of Category Chairs
    1. Inboard – Dutch Squires reported that Inboard had a fairly safe, stable year, their membership up slightly, although they did lose some sanctions due to mother nature. Inboard is looking forward to the 2020 season with the start of a series called “Western Inboard Challenge” and “Eastern Inboard Challenge” with prize money to try to increase boat count and members.
    2. Modified – Mark Wheeler reported that Modified had a very good year with spectacular nationals in combination with the PRO Category. The category is showing growth in the hydro classes, while the runabout classes are slightly down. Looking forward to a new year especially with the 125 class. They will be placing Propeller ads for the motors.
    3. OPC – Chris Fairchild reported in the absence of Bill Gohr that OPC is maintaining their numbers. The bright spot is the NGK series. Classes are going strong and growing slightly.
    4. PRO – Kristi Ellison reported that PRO had a successful year. With the combined Pro/Mod nationals, 13 national champions were crowned, 13 records set, and had 9 high point winners. They retired Art Losvar’s number (R32). To increase entry into PRO category they lowered the entry age for K PRO to 9 with .500 restrictor, at age 10 a 5/16 restrictor, and no restrictor at age 11. They grandfathered 1-mile straightaway records, retired 1-mile straightaway course, and replaced it with a ½-mile straightaway record course. Will continue to support driving schools this year with their ambulance reimbursement program. They are proud to announce a combined nationals with USTS and APBA together at DePue and will also have 4 Mod classes. Pending approval of USTS will be an APBA race.
    5. Stock – Jeff Brewster attributed the success of the Stock Category this year to driving schools, the 300 Super Stock class and hard work of members and officials. Commission started work in November and examined 34 proposals. They also held a combined Stock and Mod commission meeting to discuss the 2021 Nationals.
    6. Unlimited – Jan Shaw, the new Director of Operations for H1 reported that in 2019 they had several races and 2 test sessions. They are hoping to have 8 boats at all events this next year and are working to add sites for the future.
11. Committee Reports
    1. Offshore – Rich Luhrs reported that Offshore is growing, especially in smallest classes. The biggest issue to be dealt with has been memberships not forwarded to HQ, and $$. As of 1 week ago 113 unresolved, as of Monday, cleared 40, still have 70 to go; and feels this is administrative negligence. The sport for first time in many years does not have any non-APBA competition. Successfully got all interested parties together and got commitment to strike written documents to unite all parties. Hope to do this in February. Have 20 events, looking forward to a great 2020. In 2021, hope to solidify UIM titles and status and have a true UIM world Championship.
    2. Thundercat/Special Events – Robin Shane reported that they are hoping for an increase in participation in 2020. A site is considering having a Thundercat driving school. Special Events: Robin reported that they are down a little in sanctions due to transferring some classes to category by committee. If there is something new to put on water, not covered by any category, this is where it should go to try and make it happen.
    3. Junior Classes – Jeff Williams – Numbers fell somewhat, which is normal as competitors move on. Held Nationals with lower than usual numbers, NACs, Divisionals and had a safe season. Our inventory consists of 5 engines and 9 long blocks, and we also have 15 gearcases on order. Mercury has donated a 4-stroke 20 Motor which will be tested with an eye towards the future.
    4. Inboard Endurance – no report
    5. New Classes – Jean Mackay-Schwartz – no new classes brought to the committee.
    6. Jet/Outboard River Racer – Jan Shaw reported that the Jet River group will have 6 races, as will the Outboard River group. This year will be traveling to various locations and hosting a UIM world event.
    7. Race Rules and Management – Matt Yarno – The race management committee met and has 2 rule proposals for the Board to consider during their meeting.
    8. Hall of Champions – Co-chair Tracy Trolian reported that APBA will be inducting 17 champions and all 17 will be in attendance.
    9. Safety & Rescue – Bob Wartinger reported that the group is working on consolidation of safety rules for Inboard, OPC, and Offshore. They expect to have these back for Board consideration within the next 2-3 weeks. Will have the dual challenge of educating drivers and inspection of safety issues.
    10. Scoring – Sally Titus reported that the committee met and finalized the scorer’s test. The test will be available on-line and can be taken on-line or mailed in. They are currently working on a program to score marathons. This year’s Scorer’s Award was given to Jill Glossner.
    11. Vintage – John Krebs reported they will have some minor by-law changes. Membership up in 2019 and still growing. Are continuing to acquire speed data and will put it together for discussions with the Board on managing speed.
    12. International Affairs – Fred Hauenstein reported that they are mainly interested in working on our relationship with UIM. APBA is the sole authority for UIM in U.S. Allows us to sanction world records, hold world championships, and run true international races. Also allows us to certify racers to race in foreign races; this certification is required to race at UIM races. UIM has maintained a relationship with the Olympic committee so boat racing is an Olympic recognized sport. We are obligated to uphold UIM rules in US races. When running an international race in US, we have certain specific requirements that must be abided by. Any communication between APBA, APBA members, and UIM needs to go through APBA headquarters.
    13. Digital Age/Promotion – Rachel Warnock reported that the Digital Age Committee is a new committee formed to focus on the creation of marketing strategy, creation of media hits, and support and aid for national races for each category. Promotion – Jean Mackay-Schwartz reported that the Promotion Committee is working on a promotional plan to help marketing of APBA at local events. They are working on a club’s promotional plan and will bring this to the Board soon. The second annual APBA Best Site Award was given to Lock Haven, PA. She stated that the committee remains dedicated to assisting clubs in marketing their race sites and APBA.
12. National Headquarters Report – Rebecca Nichols expressed thanks to Jan Shaw, Ana Cappeletti, Holly Jones, and Tracy Trolian for all their work on the National Meeting. She also expressed her appreciation for all the support she had received since beginning as the APBA Director of Operations in mid-summer. Since then the parking lot has been resurfaced, the roof replaced, and we are now working to build a better on-line store, hoping to keep inventory accurate. The focus on social medial has ramped up with the hiring of Holly Jones, who is also working on digitalizing old records. Sabrina has been with APBA for 42 years and works on memberships; Cindy for 38 years and does the sanctions and points, Linda has been our bookkeeper for 10 years, and Tana has over 20 years with the Propeller and the Yearbook. The entire staff works very hard and we appreciate their patience and support. IT has improved and we are making major strides in this area. Back Office is weakest link and we are working on that.
13. Easy Click Update – Chris Fairchild reported that they had a very frank meeting with Easy Click and are going to move forward with prioritizing projects.
14. New Business
    1. Motion by Ed Hearn to approve all the decisions of the 2019 Officers, Board of Directors, Commissions, Referees, Inspectors, and Committees. Seconded by Kristi Ellison, the motion passed unanimously.
    2. Motion by Ed Hearn that approval of decisions of Officers and Directors be placed on agenda for next year, seconded by Kristi Ellison. The motion passed unanimously.
15. Motion by Mark Wheeler, seconded by Aaron Stephens to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Williams, APBA Secretary