

APBA

ANNUAL MEETING

January 24, 2015

1. Welcome by President Mark Wheeler. The Invocation was given by Jim Reily.
2. Ballot Report was given by Steve Hearn. Election results for Board of Director Election had Howie Nichols, Jean McKawy Schwartz, Jan Shaw and Bill Thompson were all elected.
3. Swearing In of newly elected Board of Directors, Region Chairs, Commission Members and Committee Members was done by Steve Hearn.
4. Meeting was called to order by President Mark Wheeler.
5. Report of Vice President. Dutch Squires reported been meeting with the office staff once a week and have had a good working relationship with the Board of Directors.
6. Report of the Secretary. Mary Williams reported she took minutes at all Board of Director and Council meetings and provided them for posting on the APBA website.
7. Report of the Treasurer – Jose Mendana reported for 2014 year ended with a \$94k surplus compared to budgeted \$50k. Projections for next 5 years show a continued surplus.
8. Report of the President – Mark Wheeler reported that thanks to Jose and Finance Committee we have our first budget surplus in several years. Finance Committee has met frequently to achieve this goal. Pleased to report regatta insurance costs for most categories have gone down.
9. Reports of Category Chairs
  - a. Inboard – President Wheeler gave the report in the absence of Category Chair, Mark Weber. He stated that thru Mark Weber's efforts, the IRC is now undertaking 3 independent stand alone driving schools.
  - b. Inboard Endurance – Ted Kolby reported that they have had growth in the GN class
  - c. Modified – Tom Sutherland reported meetings went well this week; have maintained their membership participation numbers this year. Have had a pipe kit program going for several years with 2 national champions using the kits this year. Are expanding the program into motors and boats in order to have reliable equipment available for new drivers so they can be competitive with their ability.
  - d. OPC – James Chambers reported they had a good but challenging year. Lost their national championship site from last 30 years so the nationals were held at 5 different sites. This will happen again this year. Bright spot is the OPC driving school with 3 weekend events last year and 4 planned for this year.
  - e. Pro – Kristi Ellison reported stabilization in the Pro Category this year. Had increased participation due to World championships in Florida in October. Had national champions crowned and set several records. Challenges continue to be the split between APBA Pro and the Title Series. Are working with the Modified category to increase participation at the Kingston, TN race. Will be hosting 7 NAC's this year and conducting a combined Summer Nationals in 2017 with Mod. Also going to work on an eastern series to increase local Pro racing. Will be looking at rules to make them more

compatible with Title Series to make it easier to racers to return to APBA. They had 1 driving school reimbursement in 2014 and awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a Kingston, TN high school student.

- f. Stock Outboard – Jeff Brewster reported they had a good year and had 3 national events with no problems – Winter Nationals, Summer Nationals, and Marathon Nationals. Have reversed the loss of category participation and begun to increase those numbers. We are beginning to expand our 302SS program in various regions.
- g. Unlimited – no report

#### 10. Committee Reports

- a. Offshore – Mark Wheeler reported that we will have inductees into the HOC and have two offshore groups who will each be putting on 5-6 races this year.
- b. Outboard Drag – no report
- c. SLT – Robin Shane reported that SLT's will be requesting rule changes and presenting a budget. Had 6 events and set a record this past year. Category showed 20% growth. Anticipate another 6 events including a national marathon, will be doing more promotion. Also requesting a name change from SLT to "Thunder Cat" to bring in line with rest of world. Will be adding a P750 class that will meet all UIM regulations. A group in the northeast have already begun work on bringing this class to the forefront.
- d. Junior Classes – Pat Gleason reported that the J classes continue to be a bright spot for APBA. Gained membership this past year. This year for the first time ever held the inaugural J World Championship for J hydro – an international event with 4 entries from around the world. Had eliminations at nationals in JH and AXH, crowned NAC winners, two inductees into the HOC. J has a scholarship program where deserving members who have participated in j in the past are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship for college costs. This year had 5 applications and thanks to Historical Society, awarded all 5 applications a scholarship. As always looking for financial support for scholarship committee.
- e. Archives and Records – Jan Shaw is now the chairman. No report
- f. Hall of Champions - Ernie Dawe and Tracy Trolan. Ernie reported that they hope to continue the high standards of Fred Miller. This year there are 21 inductees, 20 of whom will be here for the induction ceremony. Any changes to HOC criteria will be published by the appropriate category chair. Fred Miller was thanked for his years of service.
- g. Safety Committee – Eli Whitney reported they met with good attendance. Discussed 2014 races, confirmed the upper 50% of helmets to be one solid color, amended GSR #3 to delete the MIL Spec standards. Will be using the Snell 2000 helmets only until Nov 1 2016 when Snell 2005 will be the standard. Putting emphasis on concussions and will be forwarding to the Board a protocol for concussions. Had a presentation from Bob Wartinger on Boat Racing Safety thorough the world. Will be asking for schedule change for next year to not

interfere with other meetings, and for a budget to do education and study advances in equipment, etc.

- h. Rescue Committee – Ken Smith reported that they had put together information to start concussion education and awareness.
  - i. Scoring Committee – Lisa Jennings reported they are continuing to work with Ryan Berlin on a computerized scoring program. The 2014 Scorer’s Award was given to Ann Shaw from Region 3. They also opened their meeting to allow scorer’s to take the test and 1/3 of the APBA scorer’s took advantage of this and have completed their test requirements.
  - j. Special Events – Dutch Squires reported that the goal is to give people the opportunity to race with various programs until they grow to fit into one of our categories. This year had some flat bottom style boats which came from Australia and came over to run at some events. The Inboard category has agreed to run them next year under the “experimental” classification. This shows the potential that is possible to make racing grow.
  - k. Vintage – John Krebs reported that membership is up this year with an increase in members, an increase in races, and a new high points system. Have created a promotional fund from each entry to help with promotion of Vintage. A couple of years ago they came up with a Vintage Hall of Fame which they are still working on. For 2015, will be testing some OPC vintage boats to get them back on the water.
  - l. International Affairs – Fred Hauenstein reported the APBA is the only US group who can send drivers to races in other nations and the only group who can sanction world events and records. At the 2014 UIM Assembly dealt with over 200 proposals and recognized world champions.
  - m. Government Affairs – Steve Greaves reported that they had been in existence for 1 year to look at any government mandate that might affect boat racing such as minimum age or education requirements to drive a boat. Are looking for members to have coverage in each state. A highlight this year is California which passed an age requirement with work from Jean McKay-Schwartz which has a boat racing exemption. Currently monitoring an Illinois proposal which would eliminate J age drivers. Working with Ryan Berlin to establish a place to report proposed mandates members encounter so we can monitor them. Also working with aquatic life, 2-stroke motors, and drone usage.
11. National Headquarters Report – Ryan Berlin reported that job descriptions have changed and the office is currently working on on-line registration which will lead to on-line scoring and updated results. Working on live-streaming events across the country and that has been very successful this year.
12. New Business
- a. It was reported that Fred Hauenstein had been elected Vice-President of the UIM.
13. Motion to adjourn by Dave Augustine, seconded by Bill Thompson. Meeting adjourned.