

Cochin International Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2024

Call to Order

President Gail Carlson called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:05pm CST on April 28, 2024, by conference call through FreeConference.com.

Roll Call

- 1) Secretary, Micheal Tarvin, conducted roll call.
 - a) The following persons were present: Gail Carlson, Rich Barczewski, Jamie Matts, Micheal Tarvin, Lisa Reardon, Christie Ross, Ashley Foutch, Tonya MacRae, Dan Schwandt, Kathy Ashcroft, Mike Becker, and Lacy Michall.
 - b) The following person were not present: Tom Roebuck.

Approval of Minutes:

- 1) The minutes emailed out from Secretary Micheal Tarvin for the October 1, 2023; meeting was accepted as they are.
 - a) Rich Barczewski motioned to approve the minutes.
 - i) Christie Ross seconded the motion.
 - ii) All in favor
 - iii) no further discussion
 - iv) motion passed.

COMMITTEE & CHAIR REPORTS:

Junior Program: Lacy Michall

- a) Junior Chair, Lacy Michall, reported that the Junior of Year awards have gone over very well, and the kids have enjoyed the awards. She is going to continue these awards next year. Gail Carlson asked if the chair had a budget put together. Ms. Michall shared the Junior of the Year awards were about \$300.00 and for foresees a possibility of two Juniors who might come close to earning jackets in the upcoming year and the jackets run around \$65.00-\$70.00.
- b) Lacy Michall shared that she sent directors BB and RB pins to save on cost of postage expenses and has not had to mail out any pens yet so far this year.
- c) With all the different junior awards and expenses going into it the chair estimated a yearly budget of \$400.00-\$500.00.
- d) This next led into a lengthy discussion about the Junior Cochin Cash program. Due to this program never meeting the level of fruition it was set out to do, it has now placed strain on the club's treasury.
 - i. Lacy Michall stated she is receiving question about the Cochin Cash store, and she is unsure how to answer.
 - ii. Rich Barczewski stated Cochin Cash is a problem and is unsure if the program should continue or not especially with all the other junior awards. He suggested allowing kids who have it now to use it and then fade it out. Gail Carlson proposed the Cochin Cash holders could use it in the regular Cochin International store with 50% off any of the club's merchandise. An example being if a t-shirt was 20\$ then sell the club would sell it to a junior using Cochin Cash for 10\$.
 - iii. Gail Carlson was interested in hearing Dan Schwandt's perspective with having youth active in the program. Mr. Schwandt stated he did believe that this program does at least need an adjustment.

- iv. Rich Barczewski reminded the board the original pitch of the program was the Cochin Cash store was going to be paid for through donations and sponsorships, however, this the original plan never materialized and now having to be paid directly from Club monies. Mr. Barczewski shared is concern about how much Cochin Cash is out there.
- v. The Junior Chair conveyed that she thinks this the Cochin Cash program can go ahead and be replaced by the Junior of the Year awards because she believes that these awards mean more to the club's youth.
- vi. Rich Barczewski questioned how much Cochin Cash could be out there, Ms. Michall shared in 2022: \$425.00 and 2023: \$400.00 worth of Cochin cash has been distributed by her but is unsure to anything prior to her taking over the program. Mr. Barczewski was worrisome if this was all turned in how much it would hurt the club. Lacy Michall stated that since she took over the program only \$126.00 have been turned in and believes a lot it that is unaccounted for is held by youth who have probably aged out already.
- vii. Gail Carlson questioned what did the board what to do? Lacy Michall believed the President's proposal of 50% off the current Cochin International inventory would be good, however is unsure how the kids would feel. Whatever is decided she voiced that the board needed to make sure it was well communicated to the members. Dan Schwandt agreed the 50% off with be a good improvement to the current status.
- viii. Rich Barczewski advised the Cochin Cash program should go ahead and be discontinued, especially with the other awards they are receiving. Dan Schwandt agreed. Mr. Barczewski asked how we would go about discontinuing, if the Juniors should have their Cochin Cash redeemed by end of 2024 or mid-2025. Lacy Michall believed it would be best to ease out of Cochin Cash and just place focus on Junior of the Year and pins for BB and RB wins. She thinks that is enough as far as awards and simply let what is out there be redeemed and that's how we should move forward.
- ix. Kathy Ashcroft shared her concern of if we put a deadline will that force everyone to turn it in and burden the club, but she is an agreement in discontinuation and sees the 50% off the Cochin International's inventory as a viable solution.
- x. Rich Barczewski reminded the board of when the Cochin Cash was distributed the liability was assumed by the club and the club needs to make sure it honors it.
- xi. Mike Becker made a motion to suspend awarding cochin cash as of June 1st.
- xii. Dan Schwandt seconded the motion.
- xiii. Discussion:
- xiv. Mr. Schwandt stated if redeeming for 50% value of what is in Cochin International's store, the club will not actually be losing anything, since the Club will at least be getting back our cost.
- xv. Lacy Michall added the costs in producing Cochin Costs include the ink, paper, and postage.
- xvi. Rich Barczewski thought this would be good to use as a way to clean out current inventory.
- xvii. The President called for a vote of the motion on the table.
- xviii. The motion passed.
- xix. Gail Carlson now alerted the board to the second part of this decision to discontinue the Cochin Cash program on how to set up redeeming and what parameters to put in place such as a time limit, through end of this year or end of march next year? Mike Becker suggested pushing it off until 2025 in the likes of

June 30th 2025. Ms. Carlson proposed with May 31st 2025 to give one full year from the discontinuation date.

- xx. Mike Becker motioned all outstanding Cochin Cash must be redeemed May 31st 2025.
 - a. Rich Barczewski followed the motion with a seconded.
 - b. Discussion: Lacy Michall stated the club needs to make sure the members know exactly why this is ending so there is clear communication of what program was to be but never met and the issues that have come up. Rich Barczewski thought it might be appropriate write an article for the newsletter. Gail Carlson contended that this write up would need to be quick due to the quickly upcoming discontinuation date. Ms. Michall thought then just Facebook and email would suffice to communication. Ms. Carlson added to include the change is also in part to the new Junior awards as well. Lacy Michall and Rich Barczewski proclaimed they would work together on the announcement.
 - c. Gail Carlson asked if any other further discussion, there was none. Then if all we in favor.
 - d. The motion passed.
- xxi. Gail Carlson guided the board now to the final part of these decisions; how do the juniors go about redeeming their Cochin Cash. She shared the current inventory has already been paid for by Cochin International and recommends the Juniors can redeem their Cochin Cash up to 50% of the Cochin International state plus shipping.
- xxii. Rich Barczewski motioned the Juniors can redeem their Cochin Cash up to 50% of the Cochin International state plus shipping.
 - a. Mike Becker seconded the motion.
 - b. There was no discussion.
 - c. Gail Carlson called for the vote.
 - d. Motion carried.
- xxiii. Gail Carlson stated to coordinated with her on the write up, will also post in September newsletter, and she will work on updating website.
- e) Rich Barczewski circled back to approving a budget for Junior Chair.
 - i. Gail Carlson detailed the current budget was \$300.00 per year and suggested bumping up to \$500.00 per year.
 - ii. Lacy Michall felt like \$500.00 was enough.
 - iii. Rich Barczewski motioned the new Junior budget be \$500.00 a year,
 - iv. Micke Becker seconded the motion.
 - a. No Discussion
 - b. President called for a vote.
 - c. Motion passed.
 - d. Gail Carlson stated anything in excess would need approved.
- f) Gail Carlson shared that for 2015-2017 only 4 reach master and the program almost disappeared, but within just the last year had 4 earn master exhibitor. She thanked Lacy Michall for her work and all she had done for our club's Juniors.
- g) Lacy Michall exited the meeting following the completion of the report.

Master Breeder: Rich Barczewski

- a) No Report was given.

Treasurer's Report: Jamie Matts

- b) No Report was given.

Membership: Gail Carlson

- c) No Report was given.

Newsletters: Gail Carlson

- a) The Chair shared on the costs of the newsletter. Of the 246 members, 104 are mailed out. Gail Carlson posted a straw poll via Facebook regarding questions around the newsletter and the results as of April 22nd with 98 views – only 34 responding are as follows:
 - i. Add annual surcharge: 18 votes (53%)
 - ii. Email only: 13 votes (38%)
 - iii. Reduce content: 1 vote (2%)
 - iv. No change: 2 votes (6%)
- b) Ms. Carlson shared it is not just postage that continues to go up, but the paper and the ink too. She did share there is no overhead as the work is all being done in-house with printing out and putting together.
 - i. The Chair stated we are already saving as much as can, but costs keep going up. Rich Barczewski thinks there needs to be a cost apart of membership to cover cost. Gail Carlson thought this might change some minds but would be nice to at least cover costs. Mr. Barczewski also added possibly only print in black and white.
 - ii. Mike Becker shared his knowledge of the pigeon clubs that if you don't give email you cannot join.
 - iii. Ms. Carlson shared last year she emailed everyone still receiving paper and asking if would consider switching, with only one person changing. She suggested adding a surcharge of \$5.00 a year. Mike Becker questioned if that would cover all. Gail Carlson broke down the five dollars to \$3.00 for postage and \$2.00 for ink and postage.
 - iv. Mike Becker believes the newsletter should only be disbursed via email.
 - v. Tonya MacRae expressed that the board should be careful of any changes, and vouched for the members of her district and how much they enjoy receiving their printed copies. The Southeast Director conveyed the members believe the newsletter is part of what they are getting out of their membership. She suggested we need to do more fundraising to cover these rising costs.
 - vi. Rich Barczewski added that as officers and directors, we as board members need to be asking members to be flexible and doing their part to help the club combat these costs when we already have a strained budget.
 - vii. Gail Carlson thought of maybe 10\$ surcharge for year would be more accurate in covering the influx of costs.
 - viii. Rich Barczewski further stated the club only has so much money to operate on, and if general memberships would like this instead it could impact other areas of the club's budget. The club needs to cover its expenses and our treasury is dwindling because we are spending more than we have coming in with the increasing costs.
 - ix. Gail Carlson would like to give members an option on how they want to receive the newsletter and add to option on the membership form.
 - x. Mike Becker made a motion of \$10.00 per year for members who would like to receive paper copies beginning 10/01/2024 when new memberships for 2025 are being received.
 - 1. A second was given from Rich Barczewski.
 - 2. In Discussion Gail Carlson declared that those members with multiple year membership will be grandfathered in.
 - 3. The President called for a vote.

4. The vote passed and the motion carried.

Breeders Directory: Gail Carlson

d) No report was given.

Merchandise: Gail Carlson

e) No report was given.

Website: Gail Carlson

f) No report was given.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Northeast 1 / Lisa Reardon:

- a) Director, Lisa Reardon, stated awards are almost ready for the upcoming Eastern National.
- b) Gail Carlson reminded the board the Eastern National is at the Eastern New York State Poultry Association in Cobleskill, NY.

Northeast 2 / Open:

- a) No report as position is currently vacant.
- b) Gail thanked Rich for coordinating the Northeast 2 District Meet in April at the Delmarva Show.

North Central / Dan Schwandt:

- a) Nothing to report currently.
- b) Gail Carlson advised the director to be looking for a new Ohio state representative.

Southwest / Christie Ross:

- a) Nothing to report currently.

West Central / Ashley Foutch:

- a) Director, Ashley Foutch, stated the Nebraska State Poultry Association at Lincoln, NE is working on a bid for the 2025 Western National.

Southeast / Tonya MacRae:

- a) Nothing to report currently.

Pacific / Kathy Ashcroft:

- a) Nothing to report currently.

Canada / Mike Becker:

- a) Nothing to report currently.

International / Open:

- a) No report as position is currently vacant.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Status of (privately paid) commissioned artwork for the 2023 yearbooks:

- a) Gail Carlson has been receiving questions about the use of the artwork that was commissioned for the 2023 yearbook. She has been referring these requests back to Tom

Roebuck since the club did not own. The President asked for a better clarification for what is the true status of the commission artwork and what was the intention.

- b) Rich Barczewski believed it was the now the club as that was the intention behind his donation to the commission.
- c) Gail Carlson restated that the intention was never made clear and just needs an answer and Tom Roebuck who led the project and could give a definitive answer was unable to attend the meeting.

501 (c) (3) Update:

- a) Gail Carlson reported that the club officially has a 501 (c) (3). The EIN number received 11/28/2023. The application filed 02/21/2024, costing \$275.00 and was approved 02/28/2024. Still filled out Form 990-N for 2023 and filed 04/05/2024 that was received via e-postcard.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ads for APA/ABA yearbook:

- a) Gail Carlson posed the question to the board if the club should go back to collective members ads in the APA/ABA yearbook. This type of add would have a club banner at the top of the page and members would pay to have their ads underneath.
- b) Ms. Carlson made the board aware that last year the club paid \$550 in 2023 for full page color ads in APA and ABA yearbook and doesn't believe we got much back out of it. Jamie Matts agreed with Gail completely didn't believe the cost is worth it and thinks we should go back to collective ad.
- c) Gail Carlson said the members ads would be at a cost of \$20.00-\$40.00. She stated that Cochin International members do not have to be APA/ABA members to advertise in these yearbooks. Rich Barczewski mentioned that we must make members aware.
- d) Mike Becker motioned that the club does a collective members ad in the APA/ABA yearbook instead of a full-page color ad.
 - i. Rich Barczewski seconded the motion.
 - ii. All was in favor and the motion passed.
 - iii. Rich Barczewski volunteered to coordinate the members ads and Gail Carlson stated that she would work on the banner.

Fall Election for all Officers & Directors:

- a) Gail Carlson stated a Letter must be declared by 08/15/2024 for running in this year's fall election. She alerted the board that if you are rerunning must have two letter due 08/15/2024, letter of candidacy and normal article for the September 1 newsletter. Everyone must submit a letter of candidacy even if sitting on current board, as all Officer and Director terms expire at year-end.

Memberships in APA/ABA:

- a) Gail Carlson brought to the board asking if the club should join the APA/ABA. She stated that these organizations charge \$25.00 for breed club memberships. Ms. Carlson noted that she knew with the ABA they will only take corrections to standard from breed clubs that are members.
- b) Mike Becker supported the idea of the club joining so to make Cochin International has a voice when it comes to any standard changes. He then motioned for the club to join APA and ABA
- c) The motion was seconded by Christie Ross.
- d) All was in favor and the motion carried.
- e) Gail Carlson will work with Jamie Matts on these memberships and getting them paid.

2024 District Meet for Canada:

- a) Gail Carlson asked District Director Mike Becker about the status of the 2024 District Meet for Canada
- b) Mr. Becker stated he is working on it and the president requested him to keep her posted.

Bids for 2025 Nationals due by July 30th:

- a) Gail Carlson relayed to the board that the 2025 National Meets are to be held in the Northeast 2 and West Central Districts. There have not been any bids received yet.
- b) These bids are due July 30th, and the board will vote on what has been received at the next meeting August 4th, 2024.

All other business:

- a) Dan Schwandt stated he would like future schedule meetings when they don't conflict with major shows as such that he was just at.
- b) Gail Carlson did state she look at show dates and for three weekends all has something going on, so she just picked one.

ADJOURNMENT

- 1) A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm was made by Gail Carlson and Mike Becker seconded. All in favor, no further discussion, and the motion passed.
- 2) The next meeting date is August 4th, 2024.