

MINUTES OF THE COCHINS INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 5, 2025 by Conference Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. CST by President Gail Carlson, and roll call was taken:

PRESENT: Gail Carlson, Rich Barczewski, Jamie Matts, Lisa Reardon, Dan Schwandt, Tonya MacRae, Mike Becker, Jack Swanson

ABSENT: Tom Roebuck, Aaron Klecka, Lacy Michall (Junior Chair)

A quorum was noted, and with no Secretary, the minutes were recorded by Gail Carlson.

OLD / CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Minutes of the previous BOD meeting (August 4, 2024) were approved.
2. *MSP Barczewski/Becker* entered into minutes the BOD vote by email on October 11, 2024 to select Aaron Klecka as the new Southwest District Director for the 2025-26 term.

DIRECTOR & CHAIR REPORTS:

1. Junior Program Report: Lacy was absent. Gail reminded everyone that the Cochin Cash program was discontinued, and Juniors have until May 31st to redeem their Cochin Cash for up to 50% of retail price of any merchandise in our general store (excluding shipping cost).
2. Master Breeder Report: Rich is recording show reports daily as they come in. He reminded everyone that they should be sure that AOV winners are reported. Mike said he will contact the Ontario Poultry Breeders about sending in the show report from our Canada District meet in October. Gail reported that the 2024 Annual Exhibitor Awards will be announced in March this year.
3. Treasurer's Report: Jamie asked if he should again order the rosettes for our National Meets from Norogala, as they are about to have their winter sale.
MSP Barczewski/Reardon for Jamie to order the rosettes for our 2025 Nationals from Norogala.
4. Membership Report: Gail reported that memberships are down from this time last year, but are in line with our annual average. A few membership renewals are paying for Newsletters by mail; most are opting to change to email.
5. Newsletter Report: Gail reported that with the change from mail to email, the number of Newsletters being sent by mail was cut in half, and the savings will be seen in the next financials.
6. Breeders Directory Report: Letters and Breeder Forms will be sent to all members in April. Directors should encourage everyone to participate. The 2025-2026 Directory will be published in August.
7. Merchandise Report: Gail reported that sales of clothing have dropped off drastically, mostly because everyone already has their tees and hoodies. She asked everyone to please email her with suggestions of what other merchandise we may add, i.e. pins, aprons, journals, tote bags, etc.. Tonya asked Gail to send a supply of the discontinued sweatshirts and hoodies, and she will try and sell at her upcoming District Meet.
8. Website Report: Gail had nothing new to report.
9. Northeast 1 Director's Report: The 2025 District Meet is set for September 6-7 at the Twin Tier Poultry Club in Bath, NY. Lisa deferred her concerns to the State Rep discussion later in the meeting.
10. Northeast 2 Director's Report: Position is vacant; no report.
11. North Central Director's Report: Dan reported the 2025 District Meet will be April 26-27 at the Dayton Fancy Feather Club in Greenville, OH.
12. Southwest Director's Report: Aaron was absent; no report.
13. West Central Director's Report: Position is vacant; no report.
14. Southeast Director's Report: Tonya reported all is ready for the 2025 District Meet, being held January 25 at the Anderson Poultry Club in Pendleton, SC. The SE members have raised funds within their District for their awards. The Legacy Awards were reimbursed by the Club.
15. Pacific Director's Report: Position is vacant; no report.
16. Canada Director's Report: Mike reported that all is quiet in Canada right now.
17. International District Report: Jack reported that he is actively reaching out to increase our International membership. He has been in touch with former member Bart Leyssen of Belgium, who raises LF.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2025 Nationals:

- WESTERN: West Central District (No District Director)
October 25-26, 2025 / Minnesota State Poultry Assn. / Hutchinson, MN
- EASTERN: Northeast District (No District Director)
November 22, 2025 / Virginia Poultry Breeders Assn. / Ruther Glen, VA

We do not yet have judges lists yet from either show to make our selections for Cochin judges.

Our MN State Rep Rick Klehr has volunteered to coordinate our Western National.

John Burgess has offered help with the Eastern National. Rich and Jamie have also volunteered to help.

2. 2026 Nationals: We are now soliciting bids (which must be received by July 30, 2025) for:

- WESTERN: Pacific District (No District Director)
- EASTERN: North Central District (Dan Schwandt, Director)

3. 2025 National and District Meet Funding Allocations were then discussed. The Club is currently allocating for Nationals \$800/meet x 2 meets = \$1,600/yr. For District Meets we are allocating \$200/meet x 8 meets = \$1,600/yr. That is a total of \$3,200/yr. It was agreed that it is fiscally prudent and necessary to reduce this major expenditure. Districts need to look to the example that is being set in the Southeast District, where their members are raising funds internally for their awards.

MSP Barczewski/Matts to set the 2025 allocations for Nationals at \$500/meet x 2 meets = \$1,000/yr, and District Meets at \$150/meet x 8 meets = \$1,200/yr. This is a total of \$2,200/yr, which will be an overall savings of \$1,000/yr. There is no change to funding for the Legacy Awards, which are considered part of the District Meet funding.

4. Fund Raising was then discussed. It was noted that the best fund raisers at shows are silent auctions, and everyone is encouraged to find donors that can contribute birds. A pair can easily bring in \$50 - \$100. Table raffles of poultry-related items are also great to generate revenue. And of course, we should encourage non-member winners to join our Club and support our Breed. It was noted that all funds raised at National and District Meet tables always goes back directly to the Club's general treasury.

5. District Director & Officer Vacancies: We will continue to search for qualified individuals to volunteer to serve in these positions:

- Northeast 2 District Director
West Central District Director
Pacific District Director
Secretary (Officer)

6. State Representative Program: Lisa asked if the Rep has to live in the respective State. We have members that are willing to serve that live in close proximity to a neighboring state. It was noted that as this program is not defined in our By-Laws, and is rather a BOD initiative, we can adjust the parameters to allow members to serve outside of their State. All Directors are encouraged to review their respective State Reps, fill in any vacancies if possible, and make sure they have the team in place that is still willing to serve.

7. The next BOD meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2025.

8. MSP Schwandt/Barczewski to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. CST as there was no further business.