

ABDA 1st Quarter Board Meeting

1-10-2022 via Zoom Hosted by Hilde Stappgens

Started at 7 PM

Present: President Tim Gallagher, VP Hilde Stappgens, Treasurer Carol Hedges & Member at Large Chuck Stielstra. Bud Rice was out of State and Derek Tomlinson was unable to connect.

Members: Membership is up from last quarter, from 75 to currently 85 memberships. This includes 51 individuals, 31 family, and 3 corporate memberships.

Treasury/Budget: Balance of about \$22,000, ending December 31, 2021. The balance is much lower at the end of 2021 than 2020 because we had higher costs to transport judges, higher costs to ship Chukar, the new wire bird cages, and new signage, a late charge for rental of Training Fields LLC, plus about \$4,000 for bird costs accrued in 2020 were not paid until early 2021. ABDA hope to create budgets for activities in the future. Hilde suggested we hold about \$20,000 in our accounts to address future contingencies. Bird costs will go up again in 2022 to about \$26/bird. Tim suggested the association be more conservative in its expenditures this coming year. Tim noted memberships bring in about \$5,700/year. Bird costs increased from FY20 to a total of about \$20,400 to \$28,00 in FY21. Part of the increase was due to an increase in the order from 1200 to 1400 birds. Bird costs increased mostly due to shipping costs and to a lesser degree on food costs. Birds come with risks due to disease, vermin, and escapees. Thus, ABDA needs to consider risks, but is not in business to make money off bird sales. Event costs and income are part of the equation: events brought in about \$35,000 and birds cost about \$29,000, including transport from airport and feed. ABDA needs to improve its corporate sponsorships from 3. Midnight Sun Retrievers has about 50 sponsors. Entry fees for events need to increase because of bird cost increases. Tim suggested we put forth event budgets for the April 2022 Board Meeting. Chuck asked if ABDA could use another means of transport other than Alaska Air Cargo, such as Lynden Air Transport? Hilde noted the birds need to be shipped from Billings, MT to ANC in a timely fashion as with Alaska Air to reduce casualties during transport. Freight goes by weight, not volume. Chuck

may look into shipping options. Tim asked if we could find a local vendor? Hilde Said we are committed to our Wyoming vendor this year, but a local vendor in the Point Mackenzie area would be ideal. She estimates ABDA and NAVHDA groups would need at least 2000 birds.

2022 Events:

Derek Tomlinson will not co-share leading of Family Fun Day next year, and Jason Croft is not now a member of ABDA.

Dan Branvold will lead Pointing Dog Novice Classes and Mike Kasterin will lead Flushing Dog Novice Classes.

Bud will lead Chukar Challenge event.

Hunt test leaders are yet to be determined, but likely to be similar to previous years.

Hilde noted ABDA has only 6 training days so far at either Bird Dog Acres LLC or Training Fields LLC. She asked to request 2 more training days at TF LLC at \$300/day on July 7 and August 6 or 7. These would also be bird pickup dates for members. The other 6 training days are concurrent with Family Fun Day at TF LLC, Chukar Challenge at TYF LLC, and Hunt tests at BDA. Tim opposed the extra expenditure in keeping with being more conservative this coming year, but the 3 other board members present approved of the idea. Chuck noted we still have training opportunity at the Robinson Field for which we have donated \$500 the last 2 years.

FY22 Bird Program:

The program is underway. The grower had fertilized eggs in December, but we have not yet heard if chicks hatched. It is typical for growers not to communicate right away.

Board Nominations:

Hilde Stappens for President

Bud Rice for Vice President

Secretary – no nominees yet

Derek Tomlinson goes off board as Past President.

Tim Gallagher becomes Past President

Board of Game Proposals:

Bud sent comments by due date of 7 January 2022. He had forwarded the email from Alaska Small Game Biologist Rick Merizon in late November to other Board members, which email described links to proposals and due dates for comments.

TF and BDA LLC Issues: The 5mph speed limit was greatly exceeded when some members drove through BDA to the Chukar Challenge at Robinson's Field.

Discretionary Expense Requests: No new requests.

Action Item:

We still want to establish a mentorship program. Some members help various individuals already, but a coordinated effort would be better. Chuck indicated the Covid-19 pandemic inhibited face to face interaction with members to establish a mentor program. He agreed to outline expectations for mentors.

The new Secretary shall not only complete meeting minutes, but also send out emails and correspondence to members. Hilde has done that and Stacey Dean had continued to monitor email inquiries.

The Meeting Adjourned about 8:30 PM.