

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 9, 2024

The Executive Board meeting was called to order by New 2024 President Jim Atieh, at 9:28 AM at the Wyckoff Reformed Church, Wyckoff, New Jersey. The following members were in attendance:

Jim Atieh, President

Tom Donch, 1st Vice President

Gaspar Lesznik – 2nd Vice President

Mike Kelley, Treasurer

Scott Japko – Assistant Treasurer

Rich Bernarde, Secretary

Harry Bennett, Immediate Past President

Doug Cooper, Past President

Marty Valerio – Communications Director

Jim Webb - Membership Chairman, Absent

David Voehl, Past Membership Chairman

Jim Mallen, Liaison to the WRC

Tom Van Lenten – Communications Committee

John DeSantis – AU Band Leader

John Murphy - Picnic, Trips & Tours

Joesph Pullaro – Picnic, Trips & Tours

- New AU President Jim Atieh called the meeting to order at 9:28 AM. Jim proposed that the minutes from the Board and General meetings of December 12, 2023, be approved. Seconded by Doug Cooper; all concurred.
- AU's June BBQ – John Murphy and Joe Pullaro attended the Board meeting to discuss AU's June BBQ. AU's BBQ will be held at the Red Barn in Allendale. The Red Barn will charge a \$1,000 facility fee for up to 150 guests. Nicolas Market has been selected as the caterer.

Nicolas Market did a fantastic job at last year's BBQ. The AU Band will be playing at the June BBQ. The cost to members is \$35/person. Wives and significant others are welcome.

- Treasurer's Report - Mike Kelley reviewed the December 2023 Treasurer's Report. Our cash position remains strong. We made our 2023 budgeted payment of \$2,000 to the WRC and have made an incremental payment of \$2,438. In November, AU had a *Thank You* luncheon for the club chairman, co-chairman, and the AU Board for all the time that they donate to AU during the year. The luncheon was very well received and cost \$1,108. Doug Cooper requested the latest 2024 Budget. Mike promised to email the final 2024 AU Budget Rev 6.
- 2024 Dues Status – New Assistant Treasurer Scott Japko updated us that we have 87 non-paying members and 286 members have paid. Rich Bernarde mentioned that he has not seen the current list of members that have not yet paid their 2024 dues. He mentioned that he wanted to follow up with any of his friends that have not yet paid as he attends monthly AU meetings. The Board thought that this was a good idea. Scott promised to email the current list of non-paid members to the Board.
- 2023 AU Financial Audit – AU's 2023 books and records will be audited by Frank Nusspickel and Gabe Carifi.
- Membership - Dave Voehl informed us that membership stands at 336. Dave Voehl sat in for Jim Webb who was attending a Trips and Tours meeting to finalize arrangements for the January beefsteak dinner. Dave Voehl mentioned that three members have requested to receive the monthly newsletter by US Mail. The Board agreed with their request.
- Communication - Marty advised the Board that as our Webmaster, John Abrahamsen requested that all AU Board communications to our members comes directly from the AU President, Jim Atieh, with no CCs. General communication should come directly from the Communications Director, Marty Valerio. Again, with no CCs.
- AU Band – Due to the loud volume at which the AU band plays at, it makes it extremely difficult for members to have a conversation during the social hour before the General meeting starts. In December, Jim Atieh informed the Board that going forward the AU Band will no longer be playing at the General meeting. But instead, the band will be playing a performance/concert periodically on a separate date and time at the WRC. Wives/significant others will be invited to the band's performance; members could bring their lunch and dancing, if desired, would be an option. Jim Atieh mentioned that nobody listens to the band during the social hour. Jim Atieh acknowledged that no matter how hard the Board tries, we can't get our members to come and listen to the AU band. John DeSantis agreed that nobody listens to the band. John also agreed with having several performances/concerts throughout the year. However, John was very concerned that nobody would show up at a Band's performance/concert. To address the loud

volume which the band plays at, Gaspar Lesznik researched the topic and downloaded a decibel app to his phone that would measure the exact volume or decibel levels which the band plays at. Gaspar stated that 70 decibels is a safe volume level, which is typical of a conversation. At 100 decibels the volume is extreme and potentially damaging, this level is typical of being next to a jack hammer. Gaspar stated that he will measure the band's volume level the next time the band plays at the General meeting. Rich Bernarde thought that this was a great idea and stated that he will do the same. John DeSantis stated the band will make a significant attempt to lower the volume which they play and to pick softer songs. Rich Bernarde stated we have been trying to get the band to play lower for three years with no result; Doug Cooper stated that that it was more like six years that the Board as been trying to get the band to play lower, with no positive result. Harry Bennett proposed that we reverse Jim Atieh's decision to discontinue not having the band play before General meetings in lieu of their own performance/concert as a different date/time than the General meeting. Rich Bernarde disagreed and wanted to continue with Jim Atieh's December plan. There was substantial dissent among the Board. The Board put this to a vote, and Harry's proposal to continue the band playing, pending a decibel/volume check was passed by a majority vote.

- Marketing of AU – New 2nd VP Gaspar Lesznik asked the question, how do we grow membership? What type of Marketing does AU do to try and grow the membership? Essentially, the answer was that we have not been doing any Marketing in the last three years other than manning a booth annually at Wyckoff Day at the Wyckoff YMCA. Gaspar suggested that we start using Instagram to generate interest in AU. There was a fundamental unfamiliarity with Instagram amongst the AU Board. Jim Atieh asked Gaspar to give the Board a brief introduction to Instagram at the next Board meeting, Gaspar agreed. Rich Bernarde asked the Board if they were aware that AU has a Facebook page. Most of the Board was not aware that AU has a Facebook page. When Rich asked who has the password to the Facebook page, no one knew. If the event that the person with the Facebook password passes away, Facebook makes it extremely difficult to change the password. The assumption was that Don Kirkpatrick has the password. Jim Atieh will follow up with Don to ascertain if he does. Rich recommended that going forward both the President and Treasurer have the Facebook password.
- AU Organization Chart - Gaspar Lesznik prepared an AU organization chart. AU never had an organization chart before. We reviewed the organization chart. Gaspar did a magnificent job in preparing the organization chart. Certain tweaks were suggested. Gaspar will update the organization chart and we will further discuss it at the next Board meeting.

- Practices, Policies and Procedures – The Board reviewed the revised Practices, Policies and Procedures document. After a brief discussion we put to a vote and the revised document passed. No further changes needed.
- Speaker Program – Tom Donch updated us on the planned General Meeting speakers. Today, Katherin Nolan from AARP Foundation will speak on Income Taxes. For February, the discussion will be on heart disease, the presentation is titled, This Is Not Your Father’s Disease. March we will have a physical therapist discussing how to stay active in retirement. In May, we have the Spring luncheon and there are speakers at the luncheon. June, there will be a discussion on gun safety.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bernarde, Secretary