

## ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday September 10, 2024**

The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 9:29 AM by 2024 President Jim Atieh. The following members were in attendance:

Jim Atieh, President

Tom Donch, 1st Vice President

Gaspar Lesznik – 2nd Vice President

Mike Kelley, Treasurer, absent

Scott Japko – Assistant Treasurer

Rich Bernarde, Secretary

Harry Bennett, Immediate Past President

Doug Cooper, Outgoing Past President

Jim Webb - Membership Chairman

Jim Mallen, Liaison to the WRC, absent

Marty Valerio - Communications Chairman

- President Jim Atieh proposed that the minutes from the Board and General meetings of July 9, 2024, be approved; all concurred.
- Treasurer's Report – In Mike Kelley's absence, Scott Japko, Asst-Treasurer presented the Treasury report prepared by Mike Kelley. Scott advised that our cash position continues to be strong at \$26K. Generally, the next year's budget would be reviewed at this time. However, the review of the 2025 Budget was deferred to the October 2024 Executive Board meeting.
- Membership – Jim Webb advised that as of today (September 10, 2024), we have 323 members. Seven new members have joined AU this year.
- Care and Concern – Nothing to report.
- General Decline in Membership/Meetings – Regrettably, there has been a general decline in AU membership and in attendance at the General meeting and several club meetings. Joe Pullaro spearheaded a group of several members to try and ascertain why attendance has been declining. Joe will attend the October Executive Board meeting and update the

Board on what his team has found. The Board enthusiastically awaits discussing this with Joe.

- Annual Breakfast – Gaspar informed the Board that everything is set for AU Annual Breakfast at the Brick House is Tuesday October 8. The full cost (buffet breakfast and gratuity) of the breakfast is \$24.00 per person, but the Board is subsidizing it and the member cost is \$18.00 per member.
- General Meeting Pizza Party – To encourage and stimulate increased attendance at the General meetings, the Board is providing pizza and refreshments for today's General meeting. Pizza will be available during the social hour and the AU Band starts at 2:00 PM.
- 2025 Board Nomination Committee – Doug Cooper advised that the Nomination committee has picked four members that are both willing and qualified to serve on the 2025 AU Board. For 2025, the Board needs a new Second VP, Treasurer, Asst-Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Thank You Lunch – The Board approved a *Thank You Lunch* to be held at FINO's in Allendale as a way of saying thank you to all Club Chairman, Co-chairman, and Board for their hours of dedication provided to AU during the year. Gaspar Lesznik and Rich Bernarde have volunteered to coordinate the luncheon.
- Trips & Tours- After many years of leadership and dedication as the Trips and Tours Club Chairman, John Caikowsky has decided to step down. Tom Van Lenten has graciously stepped up and will be the new Trips and Tours Club Chairman. The Board wishes Tom the very best in this endeavor.
- Distinguished Service Award – The Board had a brief cursory discussion for the appropriate person to receive this year's AU Distinguished Service Award. Several candidates were identified. No final decision was made. Follow up will be made at the November Board meeting.
- Spring Luncheon – The Board discussed the spring luncheon that was held at Portobello's this year. The general consensus was that Portobello's food and service was excellent, however the room was tight for our group. Follow up will be made with the Indian Trail Club for 2025. Perhaps changing the date of the week will lower the cost. In addition to the Indian Trail Club, the Board will follow up with other nearby caterers.
- AU Band - The volume at which the AU Band plays at continues to be of concern. There was numerous complaints from our members about not being able to have a conversation while the band is playing. Not directly related, there was a brief discussion about possibly establishing an AU rock band club in the future, focused on playing classic rock from the 60's/70's/80's. The intent would be to have no impact on the activities of the official AU Band.

- Marketing - Gaspar Lesznik feels that AU membership would be significantly increased if we did more Marketing. Gaspar is performing some preliminary work on potentially establishing a Marketing team. This effort will be continued.
- By Laws – Marty informed the group that he will discuss the various changes made this year to the AU By Laws and a vote by membership will be called.
- Speaker Program - Today, two representatives from The Vista in Wyckoff will be speaking about “Downsizing Your Home.” In October, we will have our annual breakfast at the Brick House in Wyckoff, the discussion will be on Medicare and the various changes made to it. The speakers specialize in Medicare and obtaining secondary insurance coverage for individuals. The discussion promises to be extremely enlightening. Continuing with past traditions, Tom Donch has graciously agreed to arrange speakers for the January/February 2025 General Meetings for the incoming 2025 1<sup>st</sup> VP Gaspar Lesznik.
- The Board meeting concluded at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bernarde, Secretary