

**Minutes of the  
American Birding Association General Membership Meeting  
Friday, December 10, 2021**

American Birding Association Headquarters

93 Clinton St #744, Delaware City, DE 19706

The annual general meeting of the American Birding Association (ABA) was held on Friday, December 10, 2021 at the American Birding Association Headquarters, 93 Clinton St #744, Delaware City, DE 19706. Twenty-one people were in attendance. Of the total in attendance, 21 were identified as ABA members, 1 of whom had not returned a proxy to ABA and who was therefore eligible to vote at this meeting.

In attendance from the Board of Directors – Julie Davis (Chair), Willie Hendrickson, Jordan Roderick, Magill Weber, Amanda Mangan, Arnella Trent, Paul Riss, David McQuade, Jeff Rusinow, Lili Taylor

In attendance from the ABA Staff: Kelly Smith (Board Secretary), Greg Neise, John Lowry, Frank Izaguirre, Nate Swick, David Hartley, Jennie Duberstein, Katinka Domen, Laura Guerard

Guests- Carl Bendorf, Jennifer Lazewski

### **Introductions**

Board Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Chair Julie Davis introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Davis thanked Jeffrey Gordon for his 11 years of service as the President and Matt Fraker for his 9 years of service (three full three-year terms) as a Board Director and for his work as the RSEC Committee Chair.

### **New Directors, New Hires, & New Job Duties**

Chair Davis introduced Jeff Rusinow who is standing for a first three-year term as a Director and Paul Riss who is standing for a third three-year term as a Director. Chair David also introduced two new hires: Laura Guerard who will oversee Young Birder Programs and Katinka Domen as the new Events and Travel Coordinator. Chair Davis explained the revisions to editorial duties that occurred over the past year. Frank Izaguirre, the reviews editor and a long-time contributor to *Birding* magazine, has been promoted to editor of *Birding* magazine, splitting the responsibility with Ted Floyd. He will oversee three issues per year while Ted will continue editing three issues. Frank will also continue as reviews

editor while also writing the biweekly *Birds and...* column for the ABA's website. Michael Retter is Editor of *North American Birds* magazine & Special Issues Editor of *Birding* magazine. We are currently sending out 2 issues of *North American Birds* each year and the next issue is on its way to members right now. Michael is also in charge of the regional reports which are now online. Working with volunteers, Michael cleared a five-year backlog of regional reports in about 8 months. New reports are now put on the website within a month of receiving them.

## **Committee Updates**

The Recording Standards and Ethics Committee (RSEC) has a new chair, Laura Keene, and it added Nathen Goldberg as a new member. Our development and fundraising committee is chaired by Jordan Roderick. The committee has finalized the strategic plan to create a new path for 2022 which includes hiring a Development Coordinator. The job is currently posted on our web site. The Financial Committee is chaired by Willie Hendrickson who reports the budget for 2022 has been finalized that our first loan PPP loan has been forgiven. In 2021 we were awarded a second PPP loan, and the paperwork to have it forgiven has been submitted.

## **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting held in Delaware City, DE and via Zoom, on December 5, 2020.**

Kelly Smith explained that she had copies of the 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes for review. On a motion from the floor, the members present approved unanimously to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approved unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

## **Election of Directors**

Board Secretary Kelly Smith explained that proxy ballots had been inserted in all copies of the November 2021 issue of *Birding* magazine for members who receive hard copies of the publication. Members who receive the publication electronically were emailed a copy of the proxy ballots in November 2021. Secretary Smith said that the Notice and Proxy had also been posted on the Association's website and that ballots for the election of directors were available at the meeting.

Secretary Smith, serving as attorney and agent for the members represented by proxy, reported that 407 valid proxies had been received and were available for review. By a show of hands, it was determined that among those present at this meeting there were none were ABA members who had not sent in their proxies for the election of Directors. Therefore, 407 members were present either in person or by proxy. Secretary Smith declared that the annual meeting was valid for conducting business since more than the required 100 members eligible to vote were present or represented at the meeting.

Secretary Smith announced that in accordance with the ABA's bylaws, the Nominating Committee had presented a slate of individuals to be nominated to be Directors of the ABA Board. At its Board Meeting on August 19, 2021 the Board had voted to present the recommended slate to the membership for consideration at this meeting.

The following people were nominated for a first full three-year term: Jeff Rusinow (Milwaukee, WI)

The following Directors were nominated for a third full three-year term: Paul Riss (Hamilton, Ontario)

Biographies of all candidates had been provided to members with the proxy material mailed to them.

A motion from the floor was made to accept the slate of directors as presented to the members. Members and agents present at the meeting were then asked to vote on the slate as a whole rather separately for each nominee. The members and agents present and voting approved.

The number of votes for each candidate were as follows:

Jeff Rusinow- 392 yes and 15 no

Paul Riss- 397 yes and 10 no

Secretary Smith said that as a result on which each candidate received greater than 50% of votes for, that both candidates had been elected to the Board of Directors for their respective terms. Details of the voting are available at the ABA Headquarters.

#### **Closing Remarks- Chair Julie Davis**

Chair Davis thanked everyone for attending and invited everyone to attend the December 19 ABA Bird of the Year reveal party with artist Christina Baal in Philadelphia or to watch it live-streamed on our website, social media pages, and YouTube.

There being no further discussion or questions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.