**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 17, 2019**

**EMBASSY SUITES, BATON ROUGE, LA**

1. **ATTENDEES:**
BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
JAMES (JIMBO) STEVENSON (J.S.)

JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)

HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.)
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) – ABSENT – MEDICAL

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

**2) BLOOD WORK HEARING, MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

 Hearing on alleged bloodwork forgery held first. Borello court reporter will send transcript as soon as completed.

 T.F. moves to accept March minutes, J.S. seconds, passed all ayes. T.F. moves to accept financial report; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes.

**3) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

 Michael Whitaker – Wrestler, to attend hearing

 Mike Beadle - Class B Promoter, to attend hearing

 Byron Avery - Media - Talkin Sports, to attend hearing

 Michael Forman – Wrestler, to attend hearing

**4) LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:** No Discussion

**5) OLD BUSINESS:**

 David Pitre issue: Pitre paid fines so subpoena was quashed; he agreed to all commission’s demands set forth in Mr. Green’s demands. He’s stipulated to all facts; J.G. moves to accept deal; promoter's license will be suspended for 3 years; can discuss if he can acquire a referee’s license. J. G. is of the mind to let him keep ref license. H.W. seconds. J.G.’s motion to accept deal w//Pitre passed, all ayes. J.G. will send order & notify Pitre he can keep referee license. J.G. gives Pitre's cashier's check for $1,000 to Addie for deposit.

 Fraudulent Blood Work Hearing & Results: Mr. Walker & Mr. Foreman admitted they used forged lab reports. They said they received the forged lab reports from wrestling promoter Robert Greif. Their licenses suspended for the rest of 2019. They will also be fined $1,000 each, which the commission will suspend if they testify in a hearing for Greif. They will have a probationary licenses granted for 2020-21 and they can reapply after that if they don't break any further rules. They accept the ruling. Greif is suspended immediately. J.S. moves that J.G. hire Attorney Shea to write letter and demand appearance at next meeting; suspended until then due to blood work fraud conspiracy. H.W. seconds. Passed, all ayes.

 All upset that wrestling contestants are turning in problem/forged medical docs (lab reports on HIV, Hep. C, etc.). B.E. suggests having every lab/doctor email all blood test results to him. Set up a spreadsheet with list of names dates, etc.

 OPEN DISCUSSION ON HOW BEST TO COMBAT PROBLEM OF FORGED LABWORK & WHO HAS ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSIGHT – PROMOTER OR COMMISSION (DEPUTY COMMISSIONER)

 Subject to final determination by J.G., the blood test results will be sent to Buddy (lab companies, etc). Buddy will compile a list of contestants, results with expiration dates. Verification involves examining lab reports for fraud and calling labs to verify reports are kosher. Wrestlers can direct labs to send reports to us. No HIPAA restrictions if voluntary by contestants; J.G. did this research years ago.

 J.G. moves that Addie submit a draft ER on verification of blood work process by deputy commissioner to relieve the promoters of the responsibility but they must pay deputy commissioner $150.00 fee. J.S. seconds; passed, all ayes.

 Rules Update: Final Rule on Wrestling Chapter, including Class B Wrestling changes will be published 4/20 and compilation of new title should be completed shortly thereafter.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**:

 HB405: This bill was submitted by Rep. Amedee to completely deregulate all wrestling in the state. Open discussion on educating the legislature on deregulation of wrestlers and what strategies can be deployed to stop this bill. In the meantime, please contact your representatives to vote against it due to safety issues for contestants and general public.

**7)** **PAST SHOWS:**

No problems; all went well.

**8) UPCOMING SHOWS:**

 Wrestling: Charity show Saturday night; Big Indian Chief doing the show (August Creppel); 5/4 Mike Beadle; 5/11 in Natchitoches by Vaughn;

 MMA: 5/11 & 5/17 by AKA in Bossier City; 5/18 in Ponchatoula.

 T.F. moves to accept shows; J.S. seconds; approved, all ayes.

**9) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

 May 22 at 10:00 a.m. back here at Embassy Suites looks good for all; J.S. moves to adjourn, T.F. seconds. Meeting adjourned.