**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

**BATON ROUGE, LA**

1. **ATTENDEES:**    
   BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)   
   JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)

JAMES (JIMBO) STEVENSON (J.S.)   
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)   
HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.) – ABSENT – DOCTOR APPT.  
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) - ABSENT – FUNERAL

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCTG

1. **MINUTES:**

T.F. moves to approve minutes; J.B. seconds; minutes approved, all ayes; T.F. moves to pay bills and payroll for November and December; J.S. seconds; approved, all ayes.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Belle of Baton Rouge reps: Erick Andry and Eugene Smith

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:** No Discussion
2. **NEW BUSINESS**:

Fight in Argentina: did ya’ll see the video? Jimbo had concerns about the record; problems with dead people’s names on the fight card and other such problems; Boxrecs (Greg) World Pugilistic Records are not good. Fight was canceled for that fighter. Upset with Greg for trying to blame the commission for records not being posted in Fight Fax in time and the fight was cancelled. Records that were received for the fighter were getting worse and worse. If the records of a fighter are not up to date in Fight Fax, we must go by what is posted there, not what the promoter says he did.

They also had another kid they could have used that had a legitimate record but Greg didn’t want to use him.

On license renewals and new year shows: B.E. requests that any existing licensees can have a show in January before renewals. In addition, cancelled shows’ show date fees can be transferred to new show date.

Files: submitted by Ricky Norris from Raxx show and 6 shows from Russell on his past shows

On files and records: J.G. would like permission to scan in file records and destroy the hardcopies; T.F. so moves, J.B. seconds, all ayes.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

On security at the Belle of BR: responsibility is part Belle, part commission; dangerous situation when the fighter was pulled from the ring under the ropes. The commission has discussed it and we need to limit the number of people within the safety zone. The seats in the safety zone belong to the commission. We can let you sell them, with our permission, but you have to be responsible for the amount of people and their conduct in the zone. J.G. talked to Matt about miscommunication of number of corner men in the safety zone (2 each); no entourage or family members, etc. There needs to be only one or two ways in or out and a process to check that those that belong in the safety zone should be there. And your paying guests.

J.G.: some years back in Lafayette, there were 5 or 6 guys in each corner that turned into a brawl with the people in the corners. Security has to be stepped up on who gets in the safety zone. I constantly run people out of the corners when I oversee event because the promoter and/or security are not watching the entrances to the zone.

Eugene Smith: confirms that is not the commission’s job to keep people out of the safety zone and corners and will do better.

R.N.: is there any way to secure the corners where the barriers meet to keep people from moving them and getting in? Also, people will listen to an armed police officer rather than a security officer from the Belle.

J.G.: you must stress to the buyers in the safety zone that their conduct must be acceptable.

R.N.: especially the ladies will get excited and run up to the ring, pushing on the judges while they’re trying to judge the fight.

J.S.: we appreciate ya’ll coming to talk to us and appreciate ya’ll trying to keep the sport of boxing going in the state.

T.F.: I saw the video and saw someone pull the fighter, who was out cold, out of the ring. That was a sure way to break someone’s spine. Very dangerous.

Only the commission can license corner men, not promoters. The commission will issue the wristbands for the ringside tables and corner men. Absolutely no guests at the ringside tables.

J.G. told Matt he was responsible for people he lets in the safety zone and he has to monitor their conduct. You need to protect your high rollers; they don’t want some trashy drunk sitting next to them.

J.S.: who controls the music? (promoter does)

B.E.: glad you brought that up. We have a problem with the offensive language in the music.

Eugene Smith: all rap songs have clean versions. These are family affairs.

B.E.: Enough said. Our goal is to have safe and fun events. Thanks for coming. They’ve always been helpful whenever we’ve asked for the help. Moreover, Matt should get all wristbands from us and not have his own.

REVIEW OFWRESTLING EDITS BY JOHN

J.S. moves to have Addie re-edit and submit at next meeting.

1. **PAST SHOWS:** No discussion
2. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Oren Hawxhurst wrestling in NO; Mike Beadle in Amelia, David Pitre in Houma.

WWE dates: Jan. 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th; Jan. 7th in Bossier City, Jan. 8th Lafayette, 1/9 New Orleans WWE Raw and Lake Charles each, 10th in BR.

Boxing; MM at Belle 12/10; Lafayette 12/10; may change to Cypress Bayou; Matt had a day in March at the Belle, but no paperwork yet.

MMA: 12/10 Kim Addison in Shreveport & MM 1/21 at the Belle BR

Reminder to send all dates to Brian Avara.

J.G. moves to accept upcoming show date; T.F. seconds; passed, all ayes.

1. **NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:**

No meeting in December as usual; B.E. will set date after conferring with all at end of December, early January. T.F. moves to adjourn; J.B. seconds; meeting adjourned.