**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 20, 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.)
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) - ABSENT – WORK OBLIGATIONS

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCTG

1. **MINUTES:**

T.F. moves to approve minutes from March, H.W. seconds, passed, all ayes. J.G. moves to pay bills, payroll, H.W. seconds, passed, all ayes. J.G. moves to pay travel expenses incurred by A.T. during his last month as Chairman for marketing trip to Las Vegas. H.W. seconds; passed all ayes.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

ALVIN TOPHAM (A.T.), former Chairman
PATRICK MCGINITY (P.M.), former commissioner; legal counsel

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

License: Boxing Promoter $500 ck. From Banner Promoter (Balulo?): J.G. reviews docs; all in order; gives docs to Jimbo for his files; license app accepted, T.F. so moves; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**:

BE received the following commission appointments: B.E. appointed Chairman 4/13; James (Jimbo) Stevenson appointed Co-Chairman 4/15, J.G. re-appointed Secretary 4/15; B.D. re-appointed commissioner 4/15; T.F. re-appointed commissioner 4/13; H.W. re-appointed commissioner 4/15. All districts appointed except one at large appointment still open. A.T. will remain at large commissioner until new appointment announced.

Jimbo and Russell will take care of boxing & wrestling shows; A.T. will still take care of MMA until further notice.

B.E. thanks A.T. for all his work and hopes we can continue to work together. Both have worked together for 16 years.

A.T. addresses commission on his plans and willingness to assist commission in any capacity at their request (even coordinating, etc).

J.G. thanks P.M. & A.T. for all the years they have put into the commission.

J.G. is going to set up a google calendar for the commission to keep track of events and will sent passwords to everyone, etc.

J.G. on contracts: need something in place for all Deputy Commissioners. Thinks Russell, Elmo and Jeff should sign off on this. Need to cover any issues that outlines responsibilities, authority etc.

J.G. needs all existing license numbers in order to produce all new series of licenses to set up system where all will be accounted for and tracked in J.G.’s office. J.G. also needs all show folders turned into him by next meeting, no exceptions; need central file system so we have addresses on licensees and who is licensed for what to make it easier to contact errant licensees. Would like to have this done by July. J.G. requests Addie contact Regina to discuss best practices for creating and maintaining licensee files/spreadsheet.

B.E.: show in Monroe did something different as far as getting into the dressing room. Person with license got commission wristbands that say “commission participant’. The only way to get into dressing room was to have a wristband. Worked really well. Will try to institute it at all shows. B.E. needs permission to get new wristbands. T.F. so moves, H.W. seconds; passed; all ayes.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

The Midget show at Barely Legal; J.G. finally got in touch with manager “Chrystal”; she was upset with the midgets because they told her they did not need to be licensed, etc., Alcohol & Tobacco called her and threatened her so she was upset. She shut the whole thing down. Myron Gaudet was asked by A.T. (a JP Sheriff) and he referred us to a couple who went down there and checked it out for us. They initially had three dates. Said they announced no wrestling; no wrestling but lots of tumbles, etc. Nothing that resembled wrestling. More like a comedy act. They will bill us for their time.

Russell says the midgets are fighting under Brian Miller’s license for the upcoming event at Jazz Fest. P.M. suggests we have someone come before the commission to make a fuss about the midgets trying to get around the system. P.M. wants to avoid a future situation.

The problem is we are one of the few state commissions that regulate wrestling so many of these out of state wrestlers do not realize when they are on the wrong side of the state of LA. We have no authority except to fine them $500; other than that, we report them to authorities.

J.G. suggests sending them a letter outlining authority of commission and educate them on rules in LA; A.T. suggests working through the ABC to contact all local alcohol regulators, to send a blanket letter to warn club owners the illegal midget wrestling shows. What about Culver with AG’s office? Will try to make an appointment and review the issue.

J.G. asks Russell to get the midget leader’s DLl# and other info if possible so we can have a way to get to this “Puppy” fellow. J.G. so moves; seconded by Jimbo, passed, all ayes.

On Ricco/Amy Schouest date dilemma: A.T. related at last meeting that we refused date for Ricco about the date already reserved by Amy Schouest; he was upset; threatened to bring attorney; was invited to come today; did not show; we do make exceptions for casino sponsored shows, not for promoter’s rented venue at a casino.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

Midget Wrestling at Fred’s; boxing in Monroe and Belle of BR; all shows went well; Christopher Jones, a boxer, signed a contract 3/3/2016; He was placed on administrative suspension due to breach of contract issue. Contracted for $2,500.00 and did not show up for fight. Jones called the promoter and said he wanted more money; B.E. said in the past, they are reported to Fight Fax and suspended broacher indefinitely; then if he wants to fight somewhere else, B.E. will contact wronged promoter to find out what he needs to recoup expenses to get replacement fighter; his opponent showed up; J.G. has copy of the contract and Mr. Scott’s license application. J.G. moves to suspend Mr. Jones and authorizes Russell to enter suspension; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes.

Mansfield wrestling on 3/19; problem up there at another show so A.T. wanted to handle that show personally; well done and nice gate for a small wrestling show. ($3000); 3/25 in Lake Charles - Legacy MMA show; well done, packed house; doing another show there perhaps in July; no paperwork yet but trying to work it out. B.E. had a call from them also about blood screening.

Show at Evangeline Downs by Tim Credeur well done, great job. The only problem was language in the ring. It was addressed at the time; apology was issued and accepted.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

WWE 6/12 BR; 6/12 Lake Charles; 6/13 in NO at Smoothie King; B.E. called Rich and said no mistake all WWE’s; there will be three WWEs in one weekend.

Monroe 6/25 by Chad Broussard; great fight by Mason Menard with Argentine fellow. Good press for LA fighter.

Demetrius Hill sent paperwork to do a show in Shreveport, LA; J.G. has bond docs, A.T. got check; date is 5/28; J.G. says all his paperwork is in order, bond is good.

A.T. turns into two files on shows by Mike Beadle and Mike Giroir 4/30 Amelia; Amelia and Plaquemines on 5/1. Paperwork is still being sent to A.T. and he will still deposit cks, keep paperwork for commission.

. J.G.: 4/29 all boxing charity event in Lake Charles by McNeese Univ. They got started off on wrong foot, got bad information; J.G. schooled him on rules, blood tests, medical requirements, etc.; J.G. received list of expenditures, etc., Kevin Babineaux mandated to be referee for the show; 17 fight show; 1 member of commission will be there, either A.T. or J.G.

J.G. advises if anyone wants to attend to let him know; should be a great event; J.G. tried to cover as much as he could so that the show goes smoothly. J.G. moved to accept charity show application; H.W. seconds; charity show accepted, all ayes. R.N. turns in past charity show financials on Relay for Life event on 3/26; all in order.

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

Should we have rules meeting just for rules? or 2 separate meetings; J.G. is going to make a compilation of A.T. and Russel’s suggested rules for wrestling; he will send copy to all to prepare for next meeting to discuss. May 16 & 17, looks good for everyone...16th for rule meeting and 17 for regular monthly meeting; venue to be determined.

 J.G. moves to adjourn; T.F. seconds; meeting adjourned.