**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 15, 2021**

**TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

**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) MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

No minutes to approve from December 2020. Commission reviewed December/January financial report, bills to be paid for December and January. T.F. moves to approve; J.S. seconds. Approved, all ayes.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

No guests in attendance.

**4) FINALIZE EMERGENCY RULES.**

NOI will be published Jan. 20; second submission will be made in March with Final Rule to be published in April barring no inquiries or hearings. Addie will confirm that latest Rules are posted to commission website.

**5) APPROVAL OF 2021 BUDGET:**

Due to Covid restrictions and no events, no budget was created or approved. Budget issue will be revisited when state restrictions due to Covid are lifted. Approved, all ayes.

**6) PREVIOUS SHOW REPORT:**

No previous shows to report due to Covid and the Bishop show that was a disappointment as far as the venue not taking charge in the enforcement of Covid masking rules, etc. Bishop group did their duties really well and are to be commended for their efforts.

**7)** **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

The commission will stay the course as far as no new shows will be approved during the Covid pandemic.

The Bishop group has been approached to do a televised boxing show in February. Since there will be no public in attendance and the Bishop group did a very good job, maybe we should consider approving this show.

OPEN DISCUSSION: If the Bishop group performs as well as they did at the Civic Center show and there are no public guests, it might work out, i.e., covid blood tests, the quarantining of contestants, etc. B.E. will get with the T.V. people to discuss. Will need no Fire Marshall in attendance as there will be less than 250 attending. J.G. moves to authorize J.S. to approve show under following conditions: safety rules are confirmed, no entourages in attendance (just fighters in corners), absolutely no audience in attendance. T.F. seconds, approved, all ayes.

Ricky N. will have Amber Bishop call J.S. to discuss particulars. She has inquired, since no gate tax and profit from tickets, how she will cover the blood testing costs which were $3,800 for the MMA show in November. J.S. believes the T.V. people will cover that cost. We will charge the usual $2,500 fee or 5%, whichever is less, for a televised show to the T.V. producers. J.G. moves to give J.S. authority to negotiate the blood test question and the tax/fee with the producers; T.S. seconds, approved, all ayes.

**8) OLD BUSINESS:**

J.S. reports there are still illegal shows going on. Will re-focus on this issue. J.G. says to let him know what he discovers so he can report to his AG contact.

**9) NEW BUSINESS:**

WWE bond: B.E. will send to J.G. They haven’t contacted Russell for any new shows for 2021. Russell is getting a lot of calls from state promoters about shows. He must advise them to contact the commission on shows.

Ricky Exe: Russell asks that everyone keep Mr. Exe, a longtime official, in their prayers as he is battling cancer; a loyal partner and fine gentleman.

Body Building Entities: J.S. reports he’s been approached by body building associates, who conduct a lot of these shows, that they would like to be under the commission’s umbrella and regulated by us. Steroid use, which is already illegal, a problem. J.G. says they are already testing for that. It would require a new set of rules to the boxing title. It’s a good industry but it would require some research into their testing systems, etc., in order to take it under further consideration. B.E. suggests they relay their set of rules that they abide by currently for our review. Questions on licensing and how we could help the industry thrive; could we add some structure? J.S. will get with the body building reps with these questions in mind and report back for next meeting. He will send any documentation to J.G.

**10) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

The commission will schedule a teleconference for March. Date and time to be determined and will be broadcast to all at a future date; J.S. moves to adjourn; J.B. seconds; approved, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.