**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JUNE 23, 2021**

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

JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)   
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.) – ABSENT - MEDICAL

HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.)   
ORAY ROGERS (O.R.)

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER – ABSENT – WORK OBLIGATIONS

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) – ACCTG

**2) MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Approval of April and May minutes. J.G. moves to approve minutes, J.S. seconds; passed, all ayes. Financial report reviewed. J.B. moves to approve report, H.W. seconds, financial report approved, all ayes.

**3) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Oren and Perry Hawxhurst

**4) LICENSES:**

Oren and Perry Hawxhurst: Both were fined $750 each and suspended for the incident at the Kenner Mall in February of 2020. Suspension has been served. J.G. moves that the commission reduce the fine to $500 each and lift suspensions. J.S. seconds; approved, all ayes. Oren applies for new license. J.G. gives Addie checks from Hawxhurst to deposit.

They try to remit a license check for Matt Lancie’s Class B license; his 2020 license is good for 2021 since no one could have shows after Mar. 2020.

**5) NEW BUSINESS:**

Daniel Redmann: Mr. Shea had to resign as the commission’s outside attorney to investigate illegal shows, etc. J.G. moves to retain Mr. Redmann as the commission’s new attorney at current rates plus travel. J.B. seconds; approved, all ayes.

Steve Trumble: Issued a promoters license in 2019; contacted J.S. on getting another one for this year. Reserved 3 shows but never got any off the ground. Never worked with a promoter, etc. J.S. advised he come to this meeting to talk about it. He recommends telling him we’re not going to refund his show reservation fees if he continues to overbook shows. J.G. recommends he post money for the show 2 weeks before the show date. Grant license and if it fails, license will be revoked. J.G. will contact him and let him know. J.G. so moves and JS seconds.

Russell needs a new server and new external hard drive; J.G. moves to allow Russell to purchase a new PC; J.S. seconds. Purchase must kept under $1000. J.G. recommends Best Buy or Office Depot.

B.E. would like to have a meeting in Lafayette or Opelousas to present a plaque to Bobby Dupre to honor his years of service and perhaps Chad Broussard will have show and we can have the meeting up there for the event. J.S. will give Chad a call.

**6) UPDATED GUIDELINES DURING COVID:**

After Open Discussion and audience input: J.G. moved and J.S. seconded the following; approved all ayes.

All events, the commission will proceed pursuant to the Governor’s order lifting mask and social distancing requirements**. NOTE:** *Venues have the right to dictate stricter standards if desired and will dictate how strict or lax they will operate concerning the wearing of masks and social distancing of the public and others. These rules will be determined between the venue and the promoter.*

The commission will abide by the lifting of the mandates on 5/26 with the following exceptions:

1. Contestants will be required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test; tests are ideally performed at the event, but is acceptable to be turned in with the other medical docs within 6 days of the event.
2. Other participants (corner men, seconds, wrappers, officials, etc.) must provide proof of vaccinations or wear a mask throughout the event.
3. Kept in place will be our requirement that there is no physical contact to and from the ring between the contestants and the public (no high fiving, etc).
4. Once a contestant completes their event, they are free to leave the confined area but will be unable to return.

***THESE ABOVE RULES/GUIDELINES WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.***

**7) OLD BUSINESS:**

Leslie Watson: Mr. Watson was suspended until he completed his anger management courses. He has made several harassing phone calls to various members and their staff. If you recall, he had to be removed from one meeting. We had a hearing about this in June 2017. He left threatening messages on B.E.’s voicemail. Dr. Ferguson recommended 25 anger management visits. He got angry and left. He was suspended until then. J.S. says he contacted him on same. J.G.’s office and Addie wanting his suspension lifted. Left messages on B.E.’s office phone; sent threatening texts to J.S. Please advise J.G. if he contacts anyone else on the commission and J.G. will review steps, call police or get restraining orders issued. J.S. says if we don’t hear from him again, ok. If he contacts any of us again, then address it. B.E: should we reiterate the actions he needs to take to get suspension lifted. J.G. advises we call the police; J.G. will send him a letter telling him to cease and desist, and/or get his anger management done to get suspension lifted.

**8) PAST SHOWS**:

MMA: one at Houma Civic Center by In your Face promotions and one by Bishop in Monroe on 5/28. Ricky said shows ok. JG has files on both.

**9) UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Elev8te has a show on 7/24/21; Bishop in Bossier at the Civic Center on 6/25 televised on TV. JG moves to accept these shows; JS seconds, approved all ayes.

Boxing on 7/10 at the Ott Center in Gretna by Goodfellas. Think Jonathan Liberto licensed last year. J.G. moves to approve show contingent on confirmation of 2020 license. J.S. seconds.

J.S. Mangero bond looked funny; J.G. will review back at his office. Also Nicholas Cooper docs got to JG? Maybe under RSO promotions; J.G. will check on that also.

***Normal procedures will be followed for all future events (event date approval, reservation fees, etc.) with the addition of the Covid Rules outlined above.***

**10) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

7/21 looks good if room available. B.E. will advise us later. J.S. moves to adjourn; J.B. seconds; meeting adjourned.