**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JULY 10, 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.) – ABSENT- MEDICAL
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) - MEDICAL

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

**2) MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

 May minutes are distributed by J.G. May and June minutes are reviewed; T.F. has a question on Pg. 2 of June minutes on how will promoters learn of new rule to send reports to commission and the LifeShare bloodwork provider. R. Norris says LifeShare is sending out notices to all promoters, he and Russell are informing promoters at events. The Emergency Rule on this issue is posted on the commission website. J.S. moves to approve both; T.F. seconds. J.G. moves to approve financial statement and pay bills; J.S. seconds. Both motions pass, all ayes.

**3) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

 None.

**4) LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Ms. Voelker filled out her application for a promoter's license incorrectly. J.G. was in contact and advised of the correction to her personal name, Audrey Voelker. J.S. says she has 9/6 show. She approved of J.G. editing her application to reflect the change and so moves to accept the license application in that name. J.S. seconds. Motion carries.

**5) OLD BUSINESS:**

 Proposed NOI & new ER: J.G. says he doesn't believe "Pro Wrestling" needs to be specified on new "staged events" insurance policies approved during May meeting. Issue dead and will not be added to NOI:

 NOI will include rule that promoters can use instant replay but events will not be halted for instantaneous review unless fight is halted by referee over an egregious violation. Decisions of refs will still be final even if after fight review of IR shows a violation and those stats will be sent on as usual. J.G. so moves and T.F. seconds. J.G. will prepare the language and sent to Addie.

 NOI and ER will be amended to reflect that no un-licensed person can promote under a licensed promoter's license and will be strictly forbidden. A licensed Class B promoter can promote a Class A show under a licensed Class A license. We gave them that privilege when they applied for the B licenses but we can revisit it at the end of the year. J.G. will prepare language.

 NOI will also be amended on suspensions. When a violation produces a suspension, the person is suspended from all other types of licenses unless the commission gives specific permission; suspended person must appear before the LSBWC in order to have suspensions lifted. J.G. will prepare language.

 New ER will be submitted to reflect bloodwork language in previous ER with the $150 fee language and the rule on no non-licensed persons can promote under a licensed promoter's license.

 On Troy Brown, AKA "the Don King of LA": J.G. will send him a cease and desist letter and subpoena him to appear before the commission due to new activities covered under New Business below.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**:

 R. Norris has issue with no shows on cards, sometimes up to 19 out of 20 fighters; B.E. advised to stop that and try to get promoter's to get cards to you earlier. Not saying they can't change the card but that's becoming burdensome.

 Illegal Shows: Had 3 illegal shows in Shreveport and Ponchatoula; Jeremy Young was the promoter for 2. We got first one cancelled and he promoted the second under Josh Newell's license. J.G. contacted Alcohol & Tobacco to assist and received contact information to report these events and will relay to rest of commission. Mr. Young's defense was he wasn't charging for tickets but B.E. stresses they're still working dangerous moves, etc.

 The third we suspect is by Troy Brown, AKA "Don King of LA" scheduled for 8/3. We suspect he sells tickets for events at bars and when he's discovered a day or two before, he keeps the money but since bar is having a band, etc., no one has complained about not getting their money back if event was advertised as a side event. J.S. has researched addresses for him but none consistent. He needs to appear before the commission as these illegal advertisements/shows are possible scams. We've encountered this person before and J.G. will review old minutes for back story. J.G. moves the commission allow him to subpoena Mr. Brown to appear and explain himself. J.S. seconds. J.S. will also contact Alcohol & Tobacco to see if a rep can attend and we develop a more accommodating relationship with them. We have the authority to subpoena Mr. Brown, and if he lies under oath, he'll be in trouble. Past experience has shown when bad actors show up before the commission and recognize the serious of the matters, they usually straighten up and fly right. Also, the word will get out to others who may be involved.

 Bad Chad Broussard was front man for a show in Opelousas on 6/15 but worked a contestant's corner; doesn't look good. Brian Cullotta is promoter of record. The fighter appealed a decision for allegedly being hit on back of head and promoter working his opponent's corner. Chad is not a promoter but as front man he performs like the promoter so he shouldn't be working corners. All agree it's a conflict. J.S. will talk to him about that. J.S. and B.E. reviewed video of the head hits and looks like he was ducking in. We don't have authority to overturn ref/judge's decisions but since he's made a formal complaint on 6/18, we can't say it's meritless. We should ask him to the next meeting so he has the opportunity to make his case. J.G. will contact him and request his attendance at the next meeting. Not technically a violation of the Muhammed Ali Act, but really doesn't look well.

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

 MMA: No problems.

 Boxing: Bruce go head butted but he's ok. See Bad Chad in New Business.

**8) UPCOMING SHOWS:**

 MMA: AKA at the Horseshoe on 7/12; 7/20 at the Copeland Tower in Metairie; 7/20 at the Paragon. B.E. says to remind casinos they pay the $1,500 sanctioning fee, not taxes. Eric Garcia had a show approved for Lake Charles Civic Center that's been postponed until 8/3. Justin Verdon has a tentative show for the same date.

 Wrestling/Boxing: One in Morgan City and one in NO this coming weekend but may be cancelled due to Storm Barry.

**9) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

 Next meeting date 8/14 at capital if we can get the room at 10:30 a.m. B.E. will let us know. T.F. moves to adjourn; J.S. seconds; meeting adjourned.