**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 18, 2017**

**BATON ROUGE, LA**

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

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

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

1. **MINUTES:**

J.G. moves to accept minutes as written; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes. J.B. moves to accept financial report and to pay bills and payroll; J.S. seconds, passed, all ayes.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Joe Ancona, promoter license applicant

Brigid Collins and Richard Barker, attorneys for Mr. Ancona

Jim Matthews, Russ Gilardi, Vincent Papia, and William Mellor as character witnesses for Mr. Ancona

Mr. Shea, attorney for the Commission

**4) LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:** No discussion

**5) OLD BUSINESS**:

 Hearing for Joe Ancona, who was denied a promoter’s license at September meeting.

Brigid Collins and Richard Barker, attorneys for Mr. Ancona step forward; Mr. Shea is representing the Commission, who presents his investigation to the commission and Mr. Ancona’s attorneys.

Mr. Ancona’s attorneys requested a continuance for the hearing so they may review Mr. Shea’s report.

Mr. Ancona has a show on 11/3 with Alan Gray, who will promote the show for him. J.G. moves to continue the hearing, H.W. seconds so Collins & Barker can review Mr. Shay’s report. Passed, all ayes. Hearing is continued to a later date, date to be determined.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**:

B.E: J.S. had a request from a Ms. Byers to see if she could box in LA; had two fights CA, FL. She’s 62 years old. J.S. explained rules on fighters over 40, etc., and could not approve that fight. B.E. reviews rules on fighter’s medical requirements for fighters over 40. B.E. reviewed this with her last year.

J.S.: one of our local promoters was going to put her on his card in Laf., don’t think we need this in LA. .JG. suggests we have her before us first before she spends her money on medical testing.

B.E. says since she fought in FL recently she probably has passed all the testing but question is this: Who is she going to fight?

J.G. suggests we shouldn’t make blanket statements on what age is too old. Our rules do not state an outside age. J.G. moves that we request her present before the commission for questions, discussion, evaluations before she spends money on medical tests; H.W. seconds. Passed, all ayes.

Brian Avara will set up a dropbox for the commission. JG. moves to obtain Brian’s services for this dropbox and H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes.

J.S. moves to get B.E. a new iPad, H.W. seconds. Passed, all ayes.

J.G. reviews Mr. Shea’s work with the commission on the Ancona investigation and suggests we should retain Mr. Shea for future and/or pending investigations. H.W. moves we pay Mr. Shea for his investigation report on Ancona and retain him for other work. J.B. seconds, passed all ayes.

**7) PAST SHOWS:**

J.S: 9/22 show by R. Naquin was without hitches.

Show cancelled in Gretna for lack of rounds (18 only); J.S. cancelled show at 8:30; total calamity; Promoter has business plan that will not work in LA. Shows that are bought, usually poor fighters. She repeatedly kept going to J.S. for approval to let these guys fight who had over abundant amounts of losses, which J.S. would not approve. He did approve one against his better judgment and intuition. J.S. investigated after the show and found no contracts with one fighter and a second fighter told her his opponent would not be showing up. J.S. believes she defrauded the commission and public, as she knew ahead of time she did not have enough fighters for required rounds before weigh-in but she thought we would not cancel once the crowd was there. She also advertised a high profile fighter that J.S. never saw. Bloodwork on one fighter was expired. J.G: didn’t she have problems on a previous show that you also had to make concessions?

J.S: yes. Starting time was behind so we started. Then Dr came and said after 2nd fight that bloodwork was expired (fighters showed up late to weigh-in so there wasn’t a chance to review before fights starts)... (See JS’s memo for complete details).

B.E. says J.S. has discovered she is going to be a supervisor for a sanctioning body, which would preclude her being a promoter in LA.

We also had officials there that she did not pay for. We paid them mileage. She owes them the official’s fees for the people who showed up for the fight then show was cancelled. In addition, a fighter won a championship belt by default, and seems there was a little collusion, as she knew she did not have a replacement fighter and had more than enough time to find another contestant. She was selling tickets. However, some people wanted their money back. She also offered armbands for next fight.

J.G. believes that any monies she collected needs to be submitted to the commission. J.G. would like to send her a letter explaining what the commission expects of her. H.W. so moves for J.G. to write to Wendy Dumas, promoter, outlining what she owes the commission and risks suspension if she does not comply. Official’s fees, their travel, license fees and a full accounting of gate and that money turned over also. Give her 15 days; J.B. so seconds; passed, all ayes.

J.G. suggests if she does not respond, we suspend her license immediately. He would feel more comfortable if Mr. Shea wrote this letter for us.

J.G. believes, in the meantime, we should pay the officials what Ms. Dumas owes them. Then get her money to pay commission back. J.S: we should get officials’ fees right after the weigh-ins in case this happens again, and if show is cancelled, we have the official’s fees to pay these men.

H.W. believes since there’s a question of collusion and a sham show, we should do what we have to do to the fullest extent of the law.

J.G. moves to pay the official’s fees for this show, but demand she reimburse & turn over all monies she collected from her show; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes.

 We will write checks and give info to Mr. Shea.

**8) UPCOMING SHOWS:**

 J.S. needs approval 11/2 show for Chad Broussard; Terry Daigle in 12/29 in Alexandria;

 Wrestling in Plaquemines on 10/28 and midgets on the same date.

J.G. says we received the bond for Hernitzy who applied during Sept meeting. J.G. sent out letters that we received the bond so he is good to go for 11/11 and 11/12 shows.

 J.S. moves to approve all foregoing dates, H.W. seconds. Passed, all ayes.

**9) NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:**

11/16 seems to be a good date for all; will confirm Dr. Ferguson will be available on that date and send out confirmation notice.

 J.S. moves to adjourn; J.B. seconds; Passed, all ayes, meeting adjourned.