**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JUNE 11, 2014**

**BATON ROUGE, LA**

1. **ATTENDEES:**
ALVIN TOPHAM (A.T.)
BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)
PATRICK MCGINITY (P.M.)
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)
HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.) – ABSENT - MEDICAL
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER (R.N.)

 ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCT

1. **MINUTES:**

B.E. moves to accept minutes as written; T.F. seconds; passed, all ayes. B.E. moves to pay bills as stated; B.D. seconds; passed, all ayes.

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Leslie Bertucci with 7/26 show date reservation and fees (here least month) boxing only ...approved last month pending receipt of paperwork...OPEN DISCUSSION ON VENUE, ETC. IN ELMWOOD; SECURITY; B.E. reviews rules and paperwork due at weigh-in and I.D. cards at the weigh-in...makes sure they are advised to get all done ahead of time, not day of fight...have not turned in bond yet...has questions about bond...J.G. clarifies bond requirements; has license application and show date reservation application for 7/26. B.E. moves to approve date reservation pending receipt of bond by J.G. T.F. seconds; passed, all ayes. B.E. reminds them that he needs to approve the main event(s) before they advertise...agreed...B.E. also reminds them of physician requirements, payments thereto, EMT & ambulance, etc. Weigh in will be at the venue in Elmwood.

J.G. did get 2 bonds: TNA Entertainment LLC - renewal 6/2014 to 6/2015 (?) also IXFA LLC by Scott Dawson dated 2/2014 (perpetual bond).

E. Clayton - possible promoter's license; just observing...

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

Boxing @ Evangeline Downs went really well. 5/17 in Monroe by A. Gray; 14 fights; with a new promoter.

May 24th - Hixon problem; G. Guillory had a good show in Laf...MMA: last Friday with Impastato at Harrah’s; went fine; typical crowd...one really good fight; several small wrestling shows here and there.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Next week, 20th of June Legacy Fighting of TX @ Horseshoe Casino in Shreveport...Pro-Am...their first show here. Next night 6/21- MMA show in B.R.R; Justin Verdin MMA on the 12th of July in Cutoff; 7/26 boxing @ Elmwood. Kim Addison show on 8/2; 8/16 in Lake Charles; Boxing in B.R. @ Belle B.R. also on 8/16.

AT says a promoter from MS is trying to get a contract with L'Auberge in B.R. on doing a show there; also at Golden Nugget in Lake Charles

Wrestling: WWE show in September in B.R.

Boxing: Matt McGovern 10/17 @ Belle in B.R.; 11/22 for IBF; Shannon Folse 11/15 @ Evergreen in Homer, LA.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

Rule Changes: on B.E.'s suggestions/policies on fighter changes at last meeting & fighters with excess TKO's...a problem sometimes; OPEN DISCUSSION: methods of concussion detection is different now...T.F. reviews new technology on detection methods; just need to make sure that a young man does not become disabled due to letting him fight concussed; we don't want to squash someone's rights but need to protect the fighters. J.G. asks if all promoters have their own matchmakers. B.E: we have to have a matchmaker other than the promoter. Promoter usually does his own main event and the m/maker does the rest of the card. If it's a low budget show and a fighter's trying to build his record, a manager will find and pay someone to come fight his guy to build his records up (not to be confused with the purse, that’s separate).

On Rule Changes Meeting: J.G. would like to have a meeting in July; AT suggests August might be better; agreed.

On rules, P.M. would like the commission to consider forming sub committees to research certain matters and make recommendations to the commission...even if we need to travel to other states' commissions to find out their best practices...B.E. advises that ABC has the ability to send out surveys just to that end.

James Johnson update: J.G. sent him a revised letter with a corrected note. He responded with vulgar language, which J.G. immediately replied to him that it will be filed; he advised him to come before us if he wants to discuss his suspension.

In reference to NABU, B.E. wants to deny any future championship fights until they appear before the commission. 3 days later, Blake Franklin & Coby Richard for 14/15. J.G. will send another letter.

In ref to New Business of last minutes: J.G. was at the fight where the corner man behaved very badly (B.E. will get info to J.G.). J.G. will prepare a letter and demand his presence before the commission.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**:

B.E: at our last fight we did a 10 ct for Johnny Raymond.

A.T: over last 6 -7 months I had the opportunity to deal with Mr. Culver w/AG's office and he made some very good comments on how to handle certain matters; due to changes in telecommunications, etc., to try and keep a record of all our emails & voice communications with the public.

Suspension list and problems: B.E: supposed to have a show in Monroe by Hixon and he got hooked up with Blake Franklin, matchmaker, who contracted with Star Johnson to bring 7 fighters. At weigh-in receiving contracts, of those fighters, only one fighter showed up, the next day...B.E. finds out Johnson was at the racetrack with a couple of fighters. Mr. Hixon has written a letter requesting that fighters be suspended. Mr. Hixon expended funds on a show that had to be cancelled. B.E. requests that Secretary of commission write a letter to FightFax to suspend Star Johnson in the state of LA as promoter, manager, etc. and other fighters for failure to appear at show. Then they can come before the commission to fight suspension if they so desire. OPEN DISCUSSION ON STATUTES/RULES PERTAINING TO SUSPENSIONS OF LICENSED PROMOTERS, MANAGERS, MATCHMAKERS, ETC., CONSEQUENCES OF ISSUING SUSPENSIONS, ETC. J.G. suggests sending out a blanket request to all no-shows to request their presence at the next meeting...B.D. wants to know if we need anyone else come before us besides Mr. Hixon and the matchmaker. J.G. wants to know if Mr. Hixon was taken advantage of by more experienced fellows...B.E. had same thought....perhaps we should bring the "ring leaders" in first to start to investigate. B.E. explains how suspensions & remedies thereto are resolved between wronged parties and suspended parties.

A.T. sees a problem: first time promoter of a boxing event who went on a lot of oral agreements and got burned and lost some money on this event...can we prove that this show was deliberately sabotaged? and what can we do about it? Especially if they are not licensed by us to begin with. B.E. has been frustrated with Star Johnson for many years about issues with his tardiness to weigh-ins. Not just a couple of hours. T.F.: does the promoter believe he had contracts with these people? Yes. J.G. reviews statute pertaining to ability to suspend licensed individuals. He could get a list of licensees involved from B.E. BE moves to send a letter about Star Johnson to ABC and J.G. seconds; passed, all ayes. B.E. will review who has licenses and who does not.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

P.M. moves to Executive Session per LRS 42.6.1A(2) to discuss pending litigation and internal personnel matters; B.D. seconds; passed, all ayes. Adjourn to Executive Session.

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

We have an event at Evangeline Downs in Opelousas on Friday, July 11. It would be convenient for several commissioners to have the meeting Friday or Saturday morning there. OPEN DISCUSSION. Meeting will be held at Evangeline on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. P.M. moves to adjourn meeting, B.D. seconds; meeting adjourned.