**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**MARCH 16, 2016**

**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 – FAMILY
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCTG

1. **MINUTES:**

B.E. moves to approve minutes from January, T.F. seconds, passed, all ayes.

B.E. moves to pay bills, payroll, T.F. seconds, passed, all ayes.

J.G. moves to purchase QuickBooks 2016 software & authorize Addie to go over $299 if need be; B.D. seconds, passed, all ayes. No license applications

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

ABC Group (Avondale Boxing & Fitness Gym): Shelby Ables, Sr., Damian & Yourba Duquestrada, and Henry McGoey

Travis Harris w/HBCU

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

None

1. **NEW BUSINESS**:

Damian Duquestrada - ABC Fundraiser - Avondale Boxing and Fitness Gym; got a phone call about illegal show. Came to clear things up. B.E. says they did not have approval from ABC Boxing for sanctioning of amateur fight. No doctor, no ambulance, no insurance, had over age fighters, etc.

J.G. reviews problem of illegal shows; good intentions do not excuse not getting a charity show sanctioned. Had ex pro boxers trying to fight amateur; amateur boxing assoc said they couldn’t do that; the fundraiser was $10 donation to get in plus concessions went to the gym. Amateur boxers can go to 42 to 48 – 52 years of age? With headgear and 1 minute rounds. B.D.: did you call it an exhibition? That would still be governed by this commission and be covered by our rules.

1) We must determine if this is a true charity and 2) officials...B.E. says they can get whoever they want since no records are sent to Fight Fax, etc., judges & referees. Reminds them that no matter what kind of show we determine it to be, you still need insurance, doctor, and ambulance. Refers them to Charity Rule 127 on website. A.T. reiterates that this is not something new. This commission approves all charity shows.

B.E. is concerned about over 40 year old contestants even for a 1 minute round without a doctor’s approval. T.F.: my concern is a 43 or 45 year old who is over-matched by a fighter of the same age. Incidence of injuries in that age population of fighters is quite high. OPEN DISCUSSION ON CONCERNS OF OLDER FIGHTERS.

They insist it's a "clown show" with the older fighters (with headgear, etc).

Commission discusses importance of blood tests, insurance. J.G. stresses that they read all of the General Rules and Charity Show rules, put a package together in advance to present to the commission for approval. They need to get charity status first then we'll talk about the contestants and older fighters.

Travis Harris - recent SUNO grad; started an LLC to showcase amateur events; wants to apply for a promoter's license; needs financials; do you have any experience; Kevin Alan has been helping him; his son is Henry Alan (names not familiar to commissioners); he needs a matchmaker, for sure; he has two Texas fighters - wants to put a card together. B.E. reviews the timeline, funds he will need to get started.

Midget Shows (again!): Mar 18th show being advertised is a tough man contest and we should call the police to let the midget show promoter know and Barely Legal know this is an illegal fight; maybe call the state Alcohol Beverage Control commission and they will take care of Barely Legal. Should we call them first? John says yes, because when the venue finds out the show is illegal, they usually try to correct it and find a promoter to make the show legal.

J.G. calls Barely Legal about their show during the meeting. He spoke to Miss Chrystal. She gave the number of the manager of Kessler, left message; called police; no response; A.T. knows someone on NOPD who we can talk to.

Show Date problem: A.T. has a promoter who sent 2 date requests, one on 3/1; he wants to do a MMA show on the 6/17 and 8/26...Amy Schouest came before the commission in Feb. and applied for a 6/24 date; received her date on 2/17 pending bond, etc., Ricco Impastato wants a show the week before hers. Her show will be at NOLA Watersports, his will be at Harrah's. A.T. thinks it's a problem because they'll most probably will sharing fighters, etc. She had first dibs...but he's going to think he gets first dibs because it's at a casino...he's just renting the venue; it's not a casino show. B.E. moves that Ricco must choose another show date at least 2 weeks after her show and to approve his 8/26 date; J.G. seconds, passed, all ayes.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

OPEN DISCUSSION ON OAKDALE ILLEGAL SHOW & PROCESS TO PUNISH WORSE OFFENDERS.

Should we make criminal complaint about the Oakdale illegal show (see Jan/Feb minutes)? We've discharged our duty and then it's up to the law officials whether to prosecute. For licensees, subpoena them, hold a hearing and suspend their license & fine them or both; for non-licensees, what to do?

File a formal report with the police or issue subpoenas? Are we obligated to report it? T.F. moves to file a criminal complaint against the four individuals involved in the Oakdale illegal show. J.G. seconds, approved all ayes. A.T. and J.G. will go to the State Police, explain the situation to them, and explain what the commission knows.

J.G. moves to subpoena all four and do what we can do to them; B.E. seconds; all ayes, passed.

Rule Promulgation: let's set up a meeting as we did in March for the rules meeting. Addie will get her part together and get copies to all. She will also visit Catherine Brindley, show her what we’re doing, and get her direction on how to proceed.

Training session has tentative agenda; will do boxing and MMA referee, etc. July 9-10, 2016; BE would like to make it free and mandatory that current licensed LA officials to attend; other LA residents must pay $50; current LA officials have first dibs on training class spots.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

No Discussion.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Wrestling Sat. in Mansfield next Friday 3/25; Golden Nugget MMA by Legacy, 4/7; it’s a midget wrestling Fred's in BR 4/1; Boxing, Les Bonnano 4/21; Rawlins in New Orleans, Belle of BR 4/15, Tim Credeur Evangeline Downs 4/16. J. G. moves to accept new dates; T.F. seconds, approved, all ayes. Also need approval for 4//2 ULM Coliseum, in Monroe by Chad Broussard. May 28 Shreveport Civic Center by Demetrius Hill; J.G. moves to approve both; B.E. seconded, passed, all ayes.

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

4/15 rule meeting Belle of BR at 8 am; 4/20 at 1:30, venue to be determined; B.E. moves to adjourn, T.F. seconds, passed, all ayes.