**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

**BATON ROUGE, LA.**

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

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCTG

1. **MINUTES:**

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

B.E. moves to pay bills, payroll, H.W. seconds, passed, all ayes.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Demetrius Hill

Chris Paul

Tim Credeur

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Demetrius Hill -applying for promoter’s license in LA; past licensee from TX. Looking at late May dates at a health fair in Shreveport Civic Center. Promoter PLR #35 from TX. All amateur. His corporation is set up for amateurs; he trains just amateurs in Tyler, TX. A.T. reviews the MMA.com website process. He is familiar with them. A.T. also advises review of LA rules, finding doctor in Shreveport for his event; fighters will be from Shreveport & TX; TX fighters already fight in LA. OPEN DISCUSSION ON VENUE, TAXES OWED, ETC. Has applied for bond under corporate name Songahm Martial Arts, Inc. A.T. reviews financial, insurance requirements. Hands in his personal bank statements; B.D. moves to approve license pending receipt of bond & receipt of funds. H.W. seconds; passed all ayes. Contact A.T. for further information about the show. He will need to pay the $250 sanctioning event fee upfront to secure the May 28th show date. Turns in his application.

Tim Credeur - longtime member of the MMA community; applying for a promoter’s license MMA; will apply through Gladiator Academy of Lafayette; has financials; Evangeline Downs has contacted them about a high quality show there; has insurance; has his bond. Show date 4/16; has the casino directed how many fights? No. Hoping to have at least 8 to 10 fights left by fight night. Bond applied for; turns in application and pays license fee; also show date reservation request. B.D. moves to approve license pending receipt of bond. B.E. seconds, passed all ayes.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**:

B.E. received membership fee for ABC, $200.00. B.D. moves to approve, H. W. seconds, all ayes.

BE would like to set up a press release to come to the ABC (certification?) seminar in July @ the Royal Sonesta; if you’re a LA resident, the seminar, training is free. Add dependent on space availability. The new association is the next week. B.E. will verify with Mike Mazulli that trainees will be certified. Sponsorship to cover LA residents is $5,000.00. B.E. moves to sponsor training; B.D. seconds; passed all ayes. Addie will cut check.

An attorney named John Smith for the Toby Wiley complaint is deposing A.T.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

Chris Paul - on issue of the unsanctioned MMA show (see Jan. 2016 Minutes). Heard through the grapevine that he may be in trouble about the show so he thought he’d come in to clear up any questions. Been a pro wrestler in the past, not this year; fought for Mike Beadle; wanted to generate interest in Oakdale & hopefully set up a training facility. He set up a ring & showed kids how to do certain moves. They simulated a fight at the end of the night; no prize money or such changed hands; he considers what happened in Oakdale as a “training event.” Apologizes if he did anything against the rules. B.E.: you are wrong on several points: you are not an accredited school, so you cannot “train” anyone. You cannot do that. If someone had been hurt, the commission would have been on the hook for it. Says he had a doctor and ambulance there. Biggest problem is he ought to have known better. Some of the fellows on your show have been in trouble before, esp. Rhett Thibodeaux, and the other fellows, knew what they were doing was wrong. They were not on an Indian reservation. A.T. reviews felony “tough man” statute; do not let these fellows advise you on proper procedures. A.T. reviews with him the powers of the commission and reporting of felonies to the State Police who will determine wrongdoing, they will decide if, and whom they want to charge. We have nothing to do with that; we do not have investigating or arresting authority; Atty Gen and State Police have those powers and we must report when laws are broken. B.D. asks if he charged people for the event; B.E. says it does not matter; he still put on an unsanctioned show. Commission will consider giving him credit with the police should the commission be questioned.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

One boxing show, all went well; good card; well attended. Boxing @ Charenton last month.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

2/19 at Harrah’s by Impastato; 2/20 Kyle Miers, Lake Charles; Addison 2/20, Shreveport; Justin Verdin 2/27, Houma. Midgets on 2/18; March 25th, Legacy at the Golden Nugget; April 15th @ Belle, boxing, Matt McGovern; 4/22 New Orleans @ Mel Ott Center by Les Bonnano.

B.E. moves to accept all these shows T.F. seconds, passed all ayes.

Relay for Life in Chackbay; hasn’t set date yet. B.E. moves to approve; H.W. seconds; passed, all ayes.

Someone called a bout a charity show but never heard from them again.

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

Date for next meeting March 16, Wednesday. B.E. moves to adjourn; T.F. seconds; meeting adjourned.