**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**JUNE 22, 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.)
HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.)
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.)

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

1. **MINUTES:**

T.F. moves to approve May minutes, B.D. seconds; passed, all ayes. B.D. moves to accept financials as read, J.S. seconded, passed, all ayes.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Leslie Watson, contestant, and other Mr. Watson?

Terry Dominick, applicant for official license, with Mr. William Montgomery

Nicole Cunningham, promoter license applicant

John & Amber Bishop, promoter license applicant

B. Jeansonne, Owner of Bogie’s, with attorney Aaron Saulnier

Brian Stand is here to object to fight

**4) LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Terry Dominick & William Montgomery to apply for referee and judge licenses. Process is we need resume on your experience, what you’ve done; send to Jimbo; he will set up practice for you to test your skills; then attend a seminar that is sponsored by regulating committee and then you can get license. See Russell & he will get you started.

Nicole Cunningham, Jackson, MS. To apply for promoter boxing license. We should have app already; she has her bond. She sent check in with the application. Her bond is not in proper form. J.G. illustrates corrections at table. Know Mr. Morton, who the commission is familiar. B.E. reviews promoting process; she receives Jimbo’s 12-point promoter requirements rule sheet. She’s new at this so is advised to get familiar with rules, statutes and get to know a boxing promoter to show you the ropes. She turns in her financials. B.E. explains why. J.G. advises to get commercial sponsors to help shows, good matchmakers, in order to succeed. She' will get the bond filled out correctly & email it to J.G. T.F. moves to accept application pending receipt of corrected bond; seconded by H.W; passed, all ayes.

John & Amber Bishop applying for MMA promoter’s license: from Bossier City; Ricky has their folder; J.G. received it at last meeting; need August date; paperwork done. B.E. reviews their experience. Father was a trainer; they’re involved with local gym and matchmaker. American Combat Alliance, LLC is name the license will be issued in. J.G. reviews history; no felonies, either one. B.E. reiterates same as with Ms. Cunningham. T.F. moves to accept license; H.W. seconds; app approved, all ayes.

J.S. turns paperwork for Warrior show. B.D. moves to accept pending receipt of proper paperwork. Seems to be an experienced producer/promoter. Golden Fight LLC for MMA promoter license. J.G. moves to accept pending paperwork, B.D. seconds, passed, all ayes.

Ricky has a promoter from Colorado applying for a license; gave J.G. the bond; this guy’s contacting TV stations, etc. and sat down with B.E. on his plans. Tyler Lawrence helped his weight classes.

**5) NEW BUSINESS**:

Leslie Watson: Per J.S.: Boxing show by Chad Broussard at the Hilton in Lafayette (JS) both green fighters; rough first round; lot of wrestling, Mr. Watson lost his mouthpiece then knelt down, spit it out and quit. Put up a ruckus when he found out no purse. Russell: whole issue started at weigh-in, which was 4 – 6pm and L.W. didn’t show until 8:30pm; fight took place; he and Chad had words; Russell was told, “don’t come back to BR if I don’t get paid”.

First incident was he was pushed down by his hair. Second time his head hit corner of ring; he told referee that he quit when “was asked if you’re done” and you said yes. Says ref wouldn’t/couldn't protect him. Ran late for weigh in due to accident on road in his neighborhood. Promoter was aggressive with him & Russell was standing right there. Russell said you are late so you’re not being paid. L.W. says why would I say that to you because you don’t pay me; promoter pays me. Says R.N. intervened in his conversation with Chad. J.S. explains pecking order. Commission is boss over promoter. Says promoter threatened him and even texted to meet him in the parking lot. L.W. called the cops himself.

J.B. questions him about police call & texts; J.S. will take all info under advisement & will get back to him at a later date. B.E. explains, per rules, officials calls are not reversed by Commission; L.W. would like the purse.

Mr. Watson became upset about not receiving the purse and disagreed with the official fight results. The Capital meeting room monitor apprised the situation and called security, who advised Mr. Watson several times to watch his language and not approach the bench of commissioners.

L.W. wants to be reinstated; B.D. asks how many fights has he had; that was his third. His manager is Tran Livous , BR, LA. Watson requested a hearing for his issues. It will be set for the next meeting. Advised to present his afore stated evidence.

Jimbo had a boxing match in NO & lady fighter showed up with no blood work. He wouldn’t let her fight. We found out that B.E. got a call that a week ago from Missouri, she was trying to fight in LV and had forged an MRI, and she was caught. B.E. commends Jimbo for taking care of that. We have to follow the rules. Promoter was very nice but her business plan is not best; Jimbo helped her get through it but doesn’t know if she’ll make it.

**6) OLD BUSINESS**:

On Midget wrestling: email from a bar owner in Lafayette, LA asking about wrestling by midgets in his bar. We think they’re using someone else’s license. We need to get the promoter & them, if possible, to relate the state statute and rules to them. Teddy Nall is the promoter that they wrestle under. Skylar Ward is the guy who owns the midget shows & is trying to work the barrooms for shows. However, he uses Teddy Nall’s promoter’s license.

J.G. states we need to get all players in, especially the wrestlers themselves. Let’s get them in for the next meeting? J.S. agrees and so moves; J.B. seconds; passed all ayes. We believe proper name is Extreme Midget Wrestling.

On Bogie’s tough-man event: J.G: we subpoenaed three, only two appeared; third is not employed anymore; this is boxing matches between fraternities. Saulnier organized the fights at Mr. Jeansonne’s bar. Did you have an amateur body overseeing? No. We had a UFC boxing gym refereeing it all. Tried to email Amateur boxing but got no response. Gabe Miller runs the UFC boxing gym in BR. Tried to find a sanctioning body but could not find anyone. J.G: didn’t I talk to you last year about this? Yes. Thought since nobody responded it was ok to go ahead.

R.N. asks who was regional contact? Answer: Shelton LeBlanc.

Atty. Saulnier was present at the event. J.G.; what was the format? 2 day event, Thurs & Sat; we were shut down Thurs night so did not continue. Four wt. classes in tournament format, double elimination. Signed up 22, but only 19 showed, then 8 participated; no trips to hospital. Had two nurses, EMS/ambulance, all donated, but no doctor. No blood tests, HIV, no physicals pre fight. Wt. classes: HW: 200# +, FTWT , LTWT & MidWt., doesn’t know what wt. gloves were used. Bogie’s bought the gloves, UFC approved; headgears were used. T.F. asked about nurse’s giving IVs; only if they asked for it; T.F. advises that this is banned. J.G. reiterates statutes & is highly disappointed that they did not abide by rules that they knew about last year.

Atty. Saulnier said UFC was there because they sent a judge & three refs; had UFC shirts on but doesn’t remember their names. Jeansonne spoke to Gabe Miller. Gloves were put on next to ring in front of judge. Have about 10 sets of gloves and more headgears.

J.G: do you have list of fighters? What other docs do you have (Jeansonne); list of boxing contacts, etc. Has last year’s fighter’s list; he needs to get this year from Mr. Lawrence. Weds night was weigh in; doesn’t know if UFC oversaw that or not. Thinks it was one of his employees who performed the weigh in.

Red Rock & Blue is the name of the charity. T.F. suggests nurses may be in trouble. Had 1-minute rounds.

J.G. to Atty. Saulnier: In 2016, I warned you about the “tough man” statute and how serious this issue is to us. J.G. relates history. J.G. is stunned that after all you have been told, you ran an unsanctioned show. We may have to have a formal investigation & turn you into the Atty. General’s office. J.G. will have to review UFC’s oversight. J.G. moves for a formal investigation/hearing & referral to AG’s office. T.F. seconds; B.D. opposes; 5 yays, 1 nays. B.D. would like us to do our own investigation before getting AG involved. Perhaps we’ll move to executive session to discuss legal issues.

**7) PAST SHOWS:**

One boxing in NO with new promoter: little lackluster; one fight cancelled for no show and second fight for no blood work. Bad venue to start with. Old Mardi Gras World warehouse.

Lots of wrestling: midgets @ horseshoe; WWE Alex, Laf & N.O. Ricky’s show in Shreveport didn't go too well; another coming up this weekend.

**8) UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Midget in LC, 2 wrestling in next 2 weeks.

J.G. moves for 10 ct for the passing for Phil Daly. J.S. seconds; all ayes. Need to recognize him at boxing events in Lafayette.

**9) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to LRS 42:16 and 42:17, J. G. moves to Executive Session in order to discuss pending/possible litigation and investigations. J.B. seconds; passed all ayes; adjourned to Executive Session.

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

Jimbo has fight on 7/7; have meeting on Friday morning/noon and stay for the fight at L’Auberge. Have meeting at capital at noon. Will call for arrangements & advise. T.F. moves to adjourn; H.W. seconds; meeting adjourned.