**LOUISIANA STATE**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2019**

**BATON ROUGE, LA**

1. **ATTENDEES:**
BUDDY EMBANATO (B.E.)
JAMES (JIMBO) STEVENSON (J.S.)

JOHN GREEN, JR. (J.G.)
DR. THOMAS FERGUSON (T.F.)

HAROLD WILLIAMS (H.W.) – ABSENT MEDICAL
BOBBY DUPRE (B.D.) – ABSENT MEDICAL

JAMES BRENNAN (J.B.)

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

RICKY NORRIS – DEP. COMMISSIONER

ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) - ACCTG

**2) MINUTES & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

October minutes are reviewed; T.F. moves to accept minutes as written, J.S. seconds; minutes accepted. Addie reviews financial statement; J.G. adds his expenses, $1,198.44 and R.G. office support of $$245.00. J.G. moves to accept financial report and to pay bills and payroll; T.F. seconds; motion passed, all ayes. J.G. will review budget and advise on whether to amend.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

 Mott Fleming

 Brittani Haughtler

 Benjamin Wood

 Kevin Allen

 Katina Richard

 Hunter Richard

 Joe Ancona & Myron Gaudet

 Daniel Redmann

**4) LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Joe Ancona & Myron Gaudet inquiring about kickboxing events and licensing thereto, i.e., do we need ISKA? Myron Gaudet will work with him. Myron old hand on commission. 37 years as a ref. MMA has set a standard for safety and kickboxing is a part of combative sports. Kickboxing is already a part of MMA. They would like to have kickboxing in a cage so we can have events at the same time. Would be good for all. Kickboxing is very popular. Only difference is enclosure. Cage is actually safer. Kickboxing is part of MMA already, no reason not to have just kickboxing events. MMA refs are already familiar with all the rules. R. Norris says they’re doing a “no take down MMA”, which is, essentially, just kickboxing.

J.G. interjects that our statute says we cannot regulate kickboxing. Statute would have to be changed. He believes there may be an AG opinion on it. He will inquire. J.G. asks if they have a set of rules. We need to have a set of rules for Pro Kickboxing first before rule changes; could possibly add to MMA Chapter 7 of our rules. They cannot use our refs without a set of rules.

B.E. asks is there a way we can work around it. J.G. asks about equipment & gloves. Joe said they use MMA regulated gloves.

Would give a lot of opportunity to young fighters in LA. Good for all. B.E. advises they find some rules, give them to Ricky...let Ricky give them to J.G. for legal review and go from there. Nothing we can do right now. Open discussion on which name the license for 2020 should be in.

Also, B.E. stresses that this commission does not regulate any amateur events for any ring sport in the state.

Hunter and Katina Richard Wrestling Class A promoter license applicant for 2020; J.G. reviews process, inquires about his history. Taking over from Allan Fonseca. License will be in Hunter’s name. J.G. moves to grant license to Mr. Richard upon providing bond. J.B. seconds, passed, all ayes.

Mott Fleming, Benjamin Wood & Brittani Haughtlen: They have purchased Elev8tion from Allen Fonseca. Need license in new name, Brittani Nikole Events, LLC d/b/a Elev8ion. Bought his ring & name. Russell says Mott and Ben always ran his shows so they have experience. J.G. reviews the requirements & process. They have bond, but bond name needs to be changed. Brittani gives J.G. copy of bill of sale. Don’t think previous owner will get another license. Ms. Houghtlen submits application & $250. T.F. moves to approve pending bond change; J.S. seconds, passed all ayes.

Kevin Allen: Referee license applicant. Ex-boxer and 1980 Silver Olympic trial winner; closed his gym and would like to referee; J.G. reviews license history. He’s refereed for USA Boxing events and semi-pro prison bouts. B.E. reviews process of testing referee experience with J.S. J.G. moves that Mr. Allen be worked into schedule to be observed by Russell, who will call him and let him know when and where. He will be refereeing at Angola 12/5 if anyone wants to go see. T.F. seconds. Passed, all ayes.

B.E. addresses all about rules on advertisement, etc.

**5) OLD BUSINESS:**

Proposed NOI: Addie reviews timeline of promulgation. Notice of Intent and Fiscal Impact Statement must be completed before submission to Fiscal Office. Addie re-submitted the Emergency Rule on 11/15 and it will expire March 19. If we can get NOI language agreed upon and the FO clerk doesn’t take too long, we can possibly have it published as a rule in February after 30 day public hearing rule. Must be into LA Register by the 10th of a month for 20th publication. If we don’t meet this timeline, we will submit ER #4 to extend the 3/19 deadline.

New License Database System: J.G. cites new form by B.E. to list licenses sold by number, name & amount paid was immaculate and would like all to use it starting in 2020. J.G. moves that we accept this system going forward and not investigate prior years of licenses sold; T.F. seconds; passed, all ayes.

J.G. asks if everyone has the scanning equipment & programs needed for individual record keeping. Ricky is going to get a laptop in lieu of iPad with needed software.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**:

B.E. and J.S. want to talk about qualifications for Boxing promoters. J.S. thinks we need to get tougher on applicants that have never been in the business. Had a show with wrong gloves; what do we do? Poor matchmaking is a problem Matchmaker is essential. B.E. says we have to make sure Matchmakers are approved & licensed by us. Matchmaker has more responsibilities than promoter as far as gloves, etc. J.S. thinks Allen Smith and Alex Mackle need to come in person in Jan. 2020 to come get their licenses. J.G. moves so.; J.S. seconds. J.B. suggests we should put all boxing promoters on notice to appear in Jan. & so moves for promoters to be contacted; T.F. seconds. Passed, all ayes. B.E. suggests we should have it notated on show reservation applications who the matchmaker is for the event.

Daniel Redmann is attending as an interested party from New Orleans. He is the grandson of Patrick McGinity, a former commissioner. Would like to attend meetings and be available for work/investigations in the New Orleans area. B.E. believes we can use someone in the area at times. He will be an unpaid Sergeant at Arms unless given specific work at the state rate. J.G. directs him to contact Regina for a contract to be signed to be on hand in case he’s needed. He’ll volunteer his attendance at meetings but will be paid mileage.

**7)** **PAST SHOWS:**

Wrestling: only issue was a Leesville show. 8PM out in the woods; no lights; midgets, of course.

 MMA: all good.

 Boxing: no discussion

**8) UPCOMING SHOWS:**

12/1/2019, Charity show in Bayou Vista by Mike Beadle. 12/6 MMA only.

WWE on 1/17 in Lafayette; Wrestling in Shreveport on 1/24; Bad Chad tentative 1/25. Mike Beadle 1/6 show, needs license renewal.

J.G. moves Russell issue M. Beadle his 2020 license and other 2020 renewals attending the BV show 12/1. J.S. seconds.

T.F. moves to accept all other dates; J.B. seconds, passed, all ayes.

**9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Per LA R.S. 42.16 & 42.17, J.G. moves to Executive Session to discuss personnel and investigative issues; J.S. seconds; passed; Executive Session commences.

**10) ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING:**

January 8 looks good for all pending room availability. B.E. will issue notice when concrete. J.S. moves to adjourn; T.F. seconds, meeting adjourned.