**LOUISIANA STA.T.E**

**WRESTLING & BOXING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMB.E.R 19, 2014**

**BA.T.ON ROUGE, LA**

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

RUSSELL NAQUIN – DEP. COMMISSIONER

 ADDIE FIELDS (A.F.) ACCT

1. **MINUTES:**

Motion to approve October minutes and pay bills by T.F.; B.E. seconds; passed, all ayes.

1. **LICENSE RENEWALS/APPLICATIONS:**

Mike Zingel from Baton Rouge wants to be an MMA official; A.T. has already gone over expectations, etc. He wants to know where to get more training. A.T. reviews the ABC training yearly during the summer in order to get certified...there are private seminars from people like Herb Dean or Mr. McCarthy that you would have to pay for private (one in LV); can get expensive. A.T. would like for refs to be certified as judges also...A.T. reviews the present state of # of shows, present # of qualified refs already; can't promise steady work; he'd have to go through training anyway. B.E. suggests quickest way to get training is to visit ABC website & contact Tim L. about when next training is. Next conference training is in July in San Diego. Doesn't presently have any experience judging or refereeing...J.G. suggests he start helping out at a local gym to submerge himself in the ins and outs of contests...you can learn a lot from that...then go for the certification; suggested he contact Gladiators here in BR or Slidell; Tim Crater in Lafayette, also called Gladiator's...UFC Gym here in BR also.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**:

Brian Miller, Herman Matherne: both w/Old Skool from the Westbank; wants to apolgize to A.T. in refereence to other promotions out of NO; some threats were made that law enforement will handle...wants to clarify the show scheduling (no more than 2 shows booked at a time; miles between shows, etc.) Guidelines are case by case basis determined by area population, etc...Has question about the "power driver" move. Is it not banned in LA? A.T. says rules do not specifically ban it but we had a tragedy years ago that got the commission involved in a lawsuit; we don't want inexperienced fighters trying complicated and dangerous moves in the ring. Mr. Miller states he makes sure his fighters are well trained for those maneuvers. What about the action that happens outside of the ring? should have a barrier says A.T.; what kind of barrier...A.T. says the rule is a barrier 8' from the ring...B.E.'s personal feeling is if you're going to work outside the ring, you need to have bicycle barriers...ambulance & doctors: all shows are supposed to have at each show...there is someone putting on exhibitions matches without an ambulance & doctor in his personal building...he's selling birthday parties for children with wrestling matches but no doctors/ambulance on board. Wildkats out of NO is the one putting on these "parties".

T.F. addresses the boundary concerns as far as the audience is concerned. Also addresses the liablitliy spot the promoter is putting himself in when allowing a power drive in his show. J.G. would like to introduce a rule outlawing power drives. 2 moves were suggested to be banned: the power bomb and power driver...these are the 2 most dangerous.

Another question: if I agree to promote a show for someone else do I personally have to show up at the fight or can I send a rep? If it's someone with experience and trusted: o.k.

What about liability insurance? That’s between you and the venue. Last question: WWE if running what they call a farm league here? We don't know anything about it and would like to be informed if any info is available.

As far as backyard wrestling "parties", J.G. believes that comes under the Tough man contest, which is a criminal matter; you hear about one, call the police or call one of the commissioners and we'll call the polices.

J.G. will get in touch with Wildkats when he gets back to the office & put them on notice...J.G. makes a motion to summon Oren Hawxhurst to come to the Jan meeting to review the "wrestling parties". B.E. seconds; passed, all ayes. J.G. will call Oren.

Justin Verdin, Martin Verdin & Shannon Folse: Justin: Pro Boxing fight planned ...B.E. says when you request a show date, you are supposed to submit your main event; B.E. says they submitted one name but no contract until after the deadline. B.E. has warned promoters that all paperwork had to be submitted before the shows as per rules; this group constantly makes changes right before the shows; B.E. says he told them no more boxing shows until they learn how to do it right. Justin says this happens to all promoters. B.E. says no, it doesn't. A majority of main event promotions the paperwork is turned in on time. All of their main event promotions are changed at the last minute...they are fighting under Shannon Folse's promoter's license. B.E. says he'll abide by whatever commission decides but he doesn't want them promoting boxing again; they can keep their MMA promoter's license. J.G.: it's concerning that you don't have your contracts signed before you start advertising your shows. Shannon's license is suspended at this time since the last fight. Not being able to get the contracts back from the main event fighters is no excuse...you can't advertise a fight without first having your contract.

B.E. is adamant against lifting the suspension. Justin defends his previous promotions as evidence that he can do better. R.N. states he's always had problems with getting their paperwork from them...what about a fine and probation? need to make a decision; 2 year or 1 year suspension is draconian...J.G. suggests a fine between $500 to $1000 (taxes for the show were $300 @ 5% so double that would be $600); J.G. would suggest a $500 fine and probation for a year; B.E. agrees on fine but probation until the commission deems them ready. Ms. Folse says she'd rather give up her license than pay a fine & go on probation.

J.G. moves to fine Ms. Folse $500 and probation for a year; no seconds; P.M. would like to amend the motion to probation only. J.G.: amends & re-moves that fine is $600 probation period will be for 2015 requiring her to obey all rules or she will be suspended for 2 years for her boxing license only. B.E. seconds. T.F. would like a little more leniency on the fine and lower the fine to meet taxes....prior motion is remanded. J.G. amends the motion to a $300.00 fine and probationary period for 1 year on the boxing license only; this is an offer of consent and she should decide today whether she takes this punishment or requests the hearing. B.E. seconds...passed, all ayes.

She has accepted the proposal to pay the fine and not request a hearing; she will decide if she wants a boxing promoters license at a later time; she relays her address to J.G. who will draw up an order for her to pay her fine within 30 days.

On show date reservation fees: B.E. would like to use $100 out of the show date reservation fees to pay for runners (inspectors) at shows. This would allow B.E. to stay put and tend to his duties while also relieving ref temporarily. J.G. moves that presiding commissioners can use the show date reservation fee, up to $250.00, in order to pay such "inspectors"...B.E. Seconds, passed, all ayes.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**:

On computers: each member will get a new touch screen with Adobe for all except Addie, who just got a new 8.1 last year; also, website will be updated. T.F. moves to purchase 9 new computers for commission members plus 2 deputy commissioner computers. B.E. seconds; passed, all ayes.

J.G. suggests that we delay NOI on rule changes until we have more discussion & suggests perhaps we should plan a 2 day meeting in Jan to discuss.

1. **PAST SHOWS:**

Hawxhurst show went fine. R.N. says his quality of talent a little better than others; pretty consistent; none of the promoters use barriers for wrestling like they should.

Boxing @ the Belle; all was fine; one at Evangeline Downs & one in Houma; Houma show was 29 rounds of boxing; MMA show @ Harrah’s was good but attendance was down. MMA show in BR was a good show; Gill Guillory in Laf @ Hilton Hotel; only 6 fights but really good show.

1. **UPCOMING SHOWS:**

Show on 13th Kim Addison in Shreveport - MMA; also Mark Vaughn on 7th in Patterson; Pitre on 12/27 in Houma. WWE in Jan. Boxing at the Belle on 1/17 may be canceled or moved.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

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

Jan. 14th is good for all at 1 P.M. Place will be determined at a later date.

B. E. moves to adjourn; T.F. seconds; passed, all ayes; meeting adjourned.