



NEW YORK B.A.S.S. CHAPTER FEDERATION  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2014**  
Bass Pro Shops, 1579 Clark Street Road, Auburn, NY 13021

**TIME:** Meeting called to order at 10:24 am (inclement weather taken into consideration)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Fred Blom – President  
John Stoughtenger – Vice President  
Tom Presnell – Secretary  
Ken Christie – Treasurer  
Chuck Rowlee – Outgoing President  
Kathy Bonnano – Outgoing Treasurer

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS IN ATTENDANCE:** Tournament Data Management – Pam Bliss  
Membership Director – Paul Hudson  
Public Relations – Duane Poole  
Fishlines Editor – Bud Cipoletti  
Conservation – Barb Elliott  
Marketing – Fred Blom (tbd)  
Webmaster – Ted Barth  
Youth Director – James Moore  
Scholarship Director – Dominic DiGirolamo  
Sergeant At Arms – Brian Eisch

**CLUB ROLL CALL:**

- 1) After Breakfast Bass Anglers – Ron Williamson
- 2) Albany Area Bassmasters – Paul Pflieger
- 3) Barge Canal Bassmasters – Rob Jensen
- 4) Chemung Valley Bassmasters – Scott Bliss
- 5) Costantia Cove Bassmasters – Mickey Fortunato
- 6) Good Ole Boy Bassmasters – Paul Hudson
- 7) Niagara Frontier Bassmasters – Ken Christie
- 8) Northern NY Bassmasters II – James Moore
- 9) Port City Bassmasters – John Shay
- 10) Rochester Bassmasters – Mike Wall
- 11) Salt City Bassmasters – Brian Eisch
- 12) Southern Tier Bassmasters – Ted Barth
- 13) Syracuse Area Bassmasters – Pat Grady
- 14) Watershed Bassmasters – Gary Menchen

A sign in sheet was distributed and 25 members were in attendance (not including officers) representing 14 clubs.

An announcement was made indicating that the last meeting's minutes were available on the NYBCF website for review. A motion was made by Paul Hudson to accept the December 7, 2013 minutes, seconded by Ron Williamson.

- a. All in favor, carried.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- 1) Fred Blom introduced the new officers for 2014. All were in attendance.
- 2) Fred read off the approved list of 2014 committee chairperson/directors and introduced those in attendance.
- 3) Pam Bliss was indicated as the 2013 tax preparer and handed out 1099 forms to recipients present.
- 4) Fred introduced Dennis Wright from Nationwide Insurance.
  - a. Nationwide will be partnering with the B.A.S.S. Nation in 2014.
  - b. Discounts on Nationwide insurance will be available to members in good standing.
  - c. There will be a noticeable presence by Nationwide at this year's tournaments and they were looking for volunteers.
- 5) Fred announced changes in the meeting times for March 8 and December 13, 2014.
  - a. Executive Committee meetings will be held from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
  - b. Executive Board meetings will be held from 2:30 to 4:30.
  - c. The result will be less travel for officers and a later meeting for the board to increase attendance.
- 6) Fred indicated that he intends to hold president forums throughout the year.
  - a. He would like to attend club meetings throughout the state(s) and convey the value of the NYBCF.
- 7) Fred confirmed 2014 tournament sponsorship contracts were signed for the following:
  - a. City of Plattsburgh (Lake Champlain event)
  - b. Bass Pro Shops (Cayuga Lake event)
  - c. Town of Henderson (Lake Ontario event)
- 8) Additional 2014 sponsorships and discount programs are in place for the following:
  - d. Livingston Lures
  - e. STORMR
  - f. Evan Williams
  - g. Triton / Mercury / MotorGuide (non-exclusive)
  - h. Humminbird / Minn Kota
  - i. Finger Lakes Mall
  - j. Lowrance
  - k. Nationwide
  - l. Rapsody Rods
  - m. Cashion Rods
- 9) Hot dog sales to benefit Take a Soldier Fishing will be held February 28<sup>th</sup>/March 1<sup>st</sup> at Bass Pro Shops during the Fishing Madness Sales Event.
- 10) Additional Hot Dog sales in April and May to benefit High School Fishing.
- 11) The 2014 Take A Soldier Fishing Day will be chaired by Patrick Grady and Brian Eisch.
  - a. New leadership would like to build on the success of the previous years.
  - b. Volunteers are needed for boaters and shore duty.
  - c. Bass Pro Shops is to donate rods and reels to the soldiers.
  - d. The BBQ teams are going to handle the entire food preparation.
  - e. Donations of money and products are being accepted (Corning & Nice 'N Easy has donated).

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- 1) Kathy Bonnano presented the Treasurer's report and Ken Christie assisted.
- 2) A printout of the income and expense statement was made available to members in attendance.
  - a. There was a current balance of \$49,037.57
  - b. The scholarship balance was \$9,205.54
  - c. The tournament record weight balance was \$1,906.58
  - d. The largest loss reported was the expense for the state divisional team.
  - e. Losses were also reported for the general tournament expenses.
  - f. Fishlines Magazine expenses were reduced as a result of two printed and two digital issues in 2013.

- 3) Fred followed up the treasurer's report with plans to reduce costs and increase income in 2014.
  - a. An increase in fund raising was suggested – possible raffles were brought up.
  - b. Approaching communities well in advance of scheduled tournaments will take place.
  - c. A dues increase was brought up (Pat Grady) and will be carried to the March meeting.
  - d. Stipends and expenses were questioned and clarified.
  - e. Tournament crew productivity will be increased and costs reduced with automated weigh-in software.
  - f. Reimbursements were suggested to become transparent and publically available for review.
  - g. State team mileage reimbursement will be under review for the coming year.
  - h. Fred intends to come to the March meeting with a suitable plan to reduce expenses and increase income.

A motion was made by Mickey Fortunato to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Ron Williamson.

- a. All in favor, carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No actionable items were indicated from the December 7, 2013 minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) A proposal was made by Fred on behalf of Tournament Director Bill Kays to increase the Tournament Advisory Board (TAB) from 6 members to 8 members in 2014.
  - a. The 2 additional members would be the reigning Anglers of the Year in each division.
  - b. TAB members will be appointed from around the region and must actively participate in the events.
  - c. It was determined that no vote was needed on this matter and is a Tournament Director decision.
- 2) Divisional Team business was brought to the floor by Fred Blom.
  - a. As the NYBCF's greatest expense, it is necessary to raise funds for the state team.
  - b. A "3 Number" raffle was suggested where 1,000 tickets at \$10 each will be attempted to be sold.
  - c. Each state team member is responsible for the sale of 50 tickets each.
  - d. The balance of the tickets will be distributed at the Executive Committee's discretion.
  - e. A motion was made by Fred to assign the responsibility of 50 tickets each to state team members.
    - i. Paul Hudson seconded, all in favor, carried.
  - f. The legal aspects of the raffle will need to be checked into.
  - g. Ideas and alterations were discussed and bounced around the by the attendees.
  - h. Three payouts were discussed – 50-10-10 with two \$100 payouts.
  - i. Tickets and money are to be directed to the Treasurer.
  - j. A motion was made by from the floor to undertake the raffle as a fund raiser.
    - i. Paul Hudson seconded, all in favor, with one opposed.
- 3) Advertising ideas for Fishlines Magazine were brought up by Fred Blom.
  - a. It was proposed that clubs be asked to sell ads to help counteract publishing expenses.
  - b. It was proposed (and mentioned at previous meetings) that a 10% commission be given for any ads sold.
  - c. New, lower advertising prices will be presented at the March meeting.
- 4) A new concern was brought up by Mike Wall (Rochester BM) regarding a tournament scheduling conflict.
  - a. A club member who made the Divisional Team is unhappy with the Eastern Divisional being so close to one of the NYBCF points tournaments and asked if the NYBCF could be flexible with the schedule. They expressed their concern for lack of practice time between events.
  - b. It was pointed out, that B.A.S.S. was supplied the NYBCF schedule 5 months in advance of their decision of when to schedule the Divisional.
  - c. Contracts have already been signed with municipalities, making it virtually impossible to switch dates.
  - d. Clubs/members have already scheduled their local tournaments around the NYBCF schedule, making it difficult to justify a change.
  - e. After a heated, but professional discussion, it was determined no changes could be made at this point in time.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON REPORTS:**

- 1) Fishlines Magazine – Bud Cipoletti absent.
- 2) Marketing – Fred Blom acting, Facebook and email blasts were discussed as avenues for future marketing.
- 3) Conservation – Barb Elliott absent. Fred Blom mentioned the following item of concern:
  - a. The New York DEC has instituted some changes for their ramp use.
  - b. All boats must follow the “Clean, Drain and Dry” protocol, removing all weeds and water from boats.
  - c. The NYBCF would most likely require an exception permit for any big tournaments where a DEC ramp must be used.
  - d. Temporary use permits were also discussed.
  - e. Pam Bliss suggested that the NYBCF should potentially be opposed to this new DEC regulation with concerns about fish in livewells at weighins.
- 4) Website – Ted Barth arrived late due to weather. Nothing to report.
- 5) Sponsored Products – Fred Blom acting.
  - a. Beneficial sales programs for certified NYBCF members were announced.
  - b. 6 Humminbird units, 6 Minn Kota motors and 2 Talons are available in 2014.
  - c. Members can submit their names for a drawing and profits will be designated to the state team.
  - d. Lowrance product discounts are available for state team members only in 2014.
- 6) Tournaments – Bill Kays absent.
  - a. Fred mentioned that there are a couple of action items regarding specific tournament policies.
  - b. These will be gone over at the March meeting.
- 7) Public Relations – Duane Poole, nothing to report.
- 8) Youth – James Moore reporting.
  - a. James introduced special guest, Hank Weldon from B.A.S.S., who spoke for a few minutes.
  - b. Hank is in charge of all under 24 programs for B.A.S.S., which includes college, high school and juniors.
  - c. He announced they are close to bringing back the “Casting Kids” program, with the help of a major sponsor.
  - d. Although in its infancy, the high school series is beginning to take off.
  - e. He mentioned one of his goals is to bring down the mean age (46 years old) of B.A.S.S. Nation members in the ensuing years.
  - f. James Moore mentioned that the Junior World Championship (JWC) is proposing to include high school teams.
  - g. James also stated that the insurance liability issues need to be worked out for that purpose.
  - h. JWC and high school championship is supposed to run simultaneously on August 9 & 10, 2014.
  - i. The winners will represent the state team at the Eastern Divisional.

No further business was brought to the floor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron Williamson, with Mike Wall seconding. All were in favor, carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Tom Presnell – Secretary.