

**NEW YORK STATE BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2001  
HOLIDAY INN - TURF, WOLF ROAD, ALBANY, NEW YORK**

Meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:00 AM

Pledge of allegiance led by Mike Schmidt Jr.

**NYSBCF Officers Present:** Wayne Tomassi, President; Joanne Davis, Vice President; Charlie Jedlica, Membership; Rose Maher, Secretary; Mike Zasuly, Immediate Past President.

**Committee Chairpersons Present:** Ken Charbonneau-marketing, Melody Sanson-Fishlines, Melody Tenny - Publicity, Pam Bliss - Tournament, Burnie Haney - Conservation. Mickey Fortunato - Youth, and Ted Barth - Webmaster had both called stating that they would not be able to attend.

President Tomassi welcomed everyone and reviewed the information mailed to all clubs after the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Largest issue for this meeting would be revision of the by-laws.

**Roll Call of Clubs Taken:** Albany Area, Benevolent, Black Rock, Capital District, Chatauqua Lake, Crown City, Finger Lakes, Greylock, Hudson Valley, Hudson Valley Junior, Indian Lakes, Lake Champlain, Orange County, Peekskill, Predators, Renegade, Salt City, Southern Tier, Statewide

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes of the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board meeting were presented for acceptance as mailed to all club reps and was made available to those present prior to the meeting. **Motion** made by Dave Hadley and **seconded** by Larry Dupere. **Motion** passed. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting were presented for acceptance as mailed to all club reps and were also available prior to the meeting. **Motion** made to accept by Melody Tenny and **seconded** by Bob Green. **Motion** passed. President Tomassi again reminded all present that anyone may attend an Executive Committee meeting. Though they cannot vote and will be asked to leave any portion of the meeting should there be anything confidential to discuss.

- **President's Message:** Wayne stressed to all club reps attending the meeting that all ideas are encouraged to be shared without risk of criticism or argument. All issues of importance need to be voted on to be accepted. If you are not there to vote you (or your club) will not have a voice.
- **National Bass:** They are dropping the National from their name, as they are a worldwide federation. They are looking for a name other than BASS Chapter Federation. Those present were asked for suggestions as to a suitable name. Ideas presented were "World," "International", "Universal", "Global", and "WorldWide". It was felt that using the word "world" could cause confusion between the federation and the new World Championship fishing. It was felt that International was the best choice. Wayne will pass this on to BASS. Frank Tenny asked if there would be a change in format. Only the name will change.
- **OMC:** OMC has filed for bankruptcy. Mike Zasuly reported that they had filed in US District Court with the idea of preserving the equity in the company. An auction will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Merchandise can still be purchased. OMC warranties are no longer valid, however extended plan warranties are still valid. No buyer has come forward yet.
- **National Championship:** The National Championship tournament will be held on Mobile Bay in Alabama. Ranger Boats are still a sponsor until 6-30-01 when their contract expires. Mickey Fortunato has been invited to attend as they are doing something special with youth.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Wayne stated that Sal couldn't make the meeting due to having to return his daughter to college. The Audit Committee recommended bonding all persons authorized to sign checks. Sal had checked into the bonding of three people for \$25,000, the highest amount in our checkbook at any one time, this would cost \$200 per person per year. It was felt this was too expensive. Jinwright Turner will charge more because we are located in a different state. If we could get all federations to bond their officers who sign checks they could come back with a lower price, around \$100 per Federation. Also if New York wanted to bond it's Federation and all the clubs then something could be worked out. No one is taking this action as an insult. The officers have never been bonded before. Our procedure is to have two officers approve a presented voucher and one signs the check. Dave Hadley suggested we make it necessary to have two people sign a check over a certain amount. This amount will be determined after Pam Bliss reviews the check amounts from last season's tournaments. Ken Charbonneau will check with other bonding companies to see if a cheaper policy can be acquired. 1099's will be going out on Monday. December Raffle: Checks will be going out to winners this week.  
Matt Draxler has contacted Wayne and federation records are ready for pick up.

- **Vice President's Report:** Joanne Davis stated that only a few clubs sent in documentation to be considered for the "club of the year award". Joanne suggested to the clubs present that they should keep information during the year so there won't be so much to get together for the end of season's awards. A Conservation Award will be given tonight as well as a Sponsor Award. We will be honoring Chris Loftus for his accomplishments last season as top angler on the divisional team and angler of the year. There will be more awards and prizes than ever before.
- **Youth:** Mickey Fortunato could not be at the meeting. Mike Schmidt Jr., of the Hudson Valley Jr. Bassmasters reported on the casting kids finals. Which will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> in Mattydale, NY at the Kmart from 10-12. Local clubs are asked to send volunteers to help out. Officers were also asked to help. The Jr. Mister/ Miss Bass Tournament will be on 6-24 on Conesus Lake. Participants or a parent must be a federation member. Camping facilities are available and boaters are needed. Junior State Team Invitational will be held on 7-5 on Lake Okeekoochie, Ontario, Canada.
- **Conservation:** Burnie Haney reported the biggest conservation issue facing the Federation is the dredging of the upper Hudson River. There are now 60 organizations opposed to the dredging including the New York State Farm Bureau. Burnie would like the local clubs to get information to him as it becomes available. There will be a meeting in Feb. for public comments. Gov. Pataki has asked for the public to voice their opinions. Apparently there will be petitions that can be signed. Ken Charbonneau stated that there were already public information meetings held in December and the EPA has already decided to dredge. Discussion followed as to what position the federation should take if any. Mike Zasuly stated that some other PCB dredgings have not been successful. Mike feels that if the EPA insists on dredging then we should ask they do a monitored demonstration project showing how they will do the dredging, prove that conditions present will not be disrupted and show where all the contaminated soil will be dumped. Apparently the EPA does not have authorization to dump contaminated soil anywhere in NYS. The GE website shows nine different areas as examples of failures with a couple of success stories with respect to dredging. People are concerned about the failures. John Agro stated there has been a successful dredging on Lake Champlain. It was suggested we ask GE to put money into stocking the dredged areas or we could ask the govt. If dredging is approved it will begin in May (since revised). The proposed method is a vacuum system and the question is where will the contaminated soil and water go? EPA should set up monitoring points and should stop if the levels get too high downstream. It was stated that statistics show that PCBs that are locked in silt are better off being left there. PCB levels in the early 80's were the highest ever seen and now they are down to "dangerous" levels. It was stated that the Federation position should be that we are for the dredging if it can be done without damaging the ecosystem. **Motion** was made to prepare a statement based on Mike Zasuly's proposal. The EPA should perform a model dredging demonstration project while monitoring the PCB levels downstream and have the results available to the Federation to prove it will not damage downstream (tidal) portions of the river. If the EPA will not do this then we must oppose the dredging. Melody Tennity **Seconded. Motion** passed on a voice vote. Burnie Haney will prepare this statement and present it to Mike Zasuly and the Executive Committee prior to forwarding to the EPA.  
There will be a National Conservation conference in Mobile, Alabama during the National Championship tournament.  
March on Albany information will be available at the March meeting.  
Selling of Black Bass: Wayne reported that this has been an ongoing investigation since November. We were tipped off regarding the illegal sale of 5K to 10K pounds per week of black bass by NYC markets with final destination being Canada and the Orient. Through our contacts with DEC, and our urging, DEC is investigating this issue. Unfortunately, when DEC agents show up at the market place, the bass disappear. DEC is trying to find out where the fish are coming from. It is suspected that they are coming from hatcheries. Black bass sell for \$10 to \$12 per pound. In the past violators have been fined but this doesn't seem to stop this selling as there is too much money to be made.
- **Junior Bassmasters:** Mike Schmidt Jr. asked to address the board on some issues. The Jr. Bassmasters want to ask the legislature to declare either the largemouth bass or the smallmouth bass the New York State fish. Those present were asked their opinion. Seems that Ohio's Jr. Bassmasters just had the LMB declared their state fish. Question was raised if NYS already had a state fish. If the LMB were declared the state fish would it then be protected? It was suggested that Mike contact the DEC and inquire which species of black bass, LMB or SMB was most prevalent. Mike also stated that Virginia was able to have hunting, fishing and trapping declared the constitutional right of every individual. Jr. B/M would like to get this done in NYS. All present encouraged him to move forward with these projects.

- **Tournament:** Pam Bliss stated there would be four points tournaments. All are final as well as the Club Team Event. All tournaments are sponsored by the locality they will be held in. There will be information on the website regarding licenses needed, but for Champlain a Vt. License is needed and for the Niagara River a Canadian license is needed. For the Candlewood partners event, a CT. license is required. These licenses will be mandatory. Bob Green warned that if you are going to Canadian waters to practice do not tie up anywhere on Canadian property without asking for permission first. If you do not ask for permission first, they will detain you, and search your boat piece by piece.

Friday practice day proposal - Poll of clubs present 10 no - 8 yes. Discussion showed that many did not feel this would help an angler in any way. Some felt it was unfair to those that could not get the time off from work. Others felt it would be more economical and would eliminate the need to pre-fish the weekend before. Wayne suggested that Pam look at all the ideas and based on last year's numbers and participation and make her decision.

Ricky Doyle brought up the comments on the Message Board regarding the disappointing finish of the state team in recent years. Ricky feels the federation is not supporting the state team when it sets up the tournament schedule. Due to the no off limits for this season's Divisional, the Federation has a tournament set for Sunday on Lake Erie and then the Divisional team could not leave until Monday or Tuesday to go to Virginia. So prior to the tournament there are only 7 days to practice, at best, while other state's teams will already be on the water. Ricky felt that the Federation did not take this into account. Pam stated that she did take this into account. It was initially set to have the tournament a week earlier but it wasn't possible. September was chosen for the Erie tournament because boat traffic is lighter then, making the area more fishable. The Tournament Advisory Board was asked to take the divisional teams' practice time into account when developing next season's schedule.

Wayne then asked that if Federation presidents were ever asked to vote on the off limits policy for the divisional tournament, how did the board wish for him to vote. Most wanted the 2-week off limits period reinstated.

Wayne also mentioned our Federation should consider giving our divisional team members money to practice. The Federation will have additional money available this season because all of the tournaments are sponsored. Some of this money could be budgeted for team expenses. Ricky Doyle then stated that he did not raise a money issue but was concerned about the scheduling of tournaments.

Dave Hadley asked if reservations had been made for this year's team for September. Rose Maher reported that reservations had been made at the Best Western in South Hill, tournament headquarters.

Must be off the water by 3 PM rule: Dave Kern had proposed this change at the Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Pam mentioned a big drawback to this was that a large group of anglers would show up at registration at 4:30, making it probable that the draw may not be done by 6 PM or earlier as was accomplished this season. Mike Kreloff suggested another penalty other than DQ if someone is on the water after 3 PM on Saturday.

Frank Tennity suggested one pound per minute. Mike Zasuly stated that it is a hard rule to enforce. Last season an angler was DQ'd for taking his boat across the lake to visit a friend after 3 PM on Saturday. Paul Tomeo stated that some anglers put their boats on the

water on Fri. at Lake George and that technically this is a violation. Pam stated that when she is informed in advance and knows the circumstances that it is allowable. Tournament rules are being changed to make "soft ones" more enforceable.

Club Team Event Late Penalty: There is no penalty for late registration for the CTE as the rules are written today. Frank Tennity proposed that a date be established for cut off and that any entries received after that date should be penalized. CTE registrations will be due 3 weeks prior to the tournament and then a late fee will go into effect. Mike Zasuly suggested that a late fee of \$50 be assessed a team that registers late, but no registrations are to be accepted within 7 days of the event. Only team substitutions will be accepted. Many felt that this late fee was too low. Higher amounts were proposed.

**Motion** made by Mike Zasuly that Club Team Event late registration fees be set at \$150 for any registrations received after the deadline but within the 3<sup>rd</sup> week prior to the CTE. There will be a \$250 late fee for any registrations received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week before the CTE and no registrations accepted during the week before the event Only team substitutions will be allowed during the week prior to the tournament. **Seconded** by Ken Charbonneau. **Motion** passed with one dissenting vote. It was further suggested that when the minutes are sent to club reps that this passage be sent separately as well as within the minutes on colored paper to draw attention to it.

Data Sheets: These should be filled out and any changes should be reported. Social Security number will be required. (Note: We have learned that if we do not have a social security number on file, we would have to withhold 31% of individual winnings and we do not want to do that.)

Membership Deadline to Qualify to fish the 2001 CTE: Present cut off is 12-31. A number of anglers do not join the federation until September or later, after they know they made their club team. It was proposed the date be moved up to have anglers join the federation earlier. Some club reps stated that their members were required to join the federation prior to the first club tournament to be eligible to fish the federations CTE. This proposal was tabled.

Paybacks: Pam distributed proposed payback schedule for tournaments this season. Paybacks are based on paying one place for every 8 anglers. Top 20 receive a percentage of money and the remainder of the field will receive the same amount from the money left. Mike Zasuly proposed paying one out of every 6 entries to spread the paybacks out a little more. He felt that this would raise participation and bring our paybacks into line with how BASS does it. He also stated that the Federation used to payback one for 6 but it got changed somewhere along the line. Pam stated that she had gone back in the records and had not found 1 for 6 payback for quite some time.

### **Lunch Break 1:00 PM**

It was recommended that the payback schedule be returned to 1 for every 6. With the top 20 anglers getting a percentage and the remaining places divided with the lowest amount paid being at least the anglers entry fee. Pam will redo the payback schedule and bring it back in March. **Motion** made by Mike Zasuly that the federation pay one out of every 6

entries and at least 25 places with the last angler cashing to get their entry fee back. **Seconded** by Larry Dupere. Pam felt that the top 5 should be done on a percentage. **Motion Passed.**

Membership Cards: Pam showed the new federation membership cards which have emergency telephone numbers on the back.

Partners Tournaments: Stephanie Miura could not attend the meeting but the proposed rules for the tournament were passed out. Suggestion that proposed rule that "both anglers be federation members" be changed back to "one angler must be a federation member and one member must be at least 18 years of age". Pam suggested not publishing flight times as we want all contestants there at take off so you do not have anglers launching boats and interfering with take off. Paul Tomeo asked if it was possible to have boat checks done before take off. Scott Bliss stated that some tournament organizations do boat checks ahead of time but they have larger crews. Wayne asked Paul Tomeo to take this suggestion back to the Advisory Board.

Jonathan Bush asked how many hooks are legal on a fishing line.

NYS law is 15 hook points.

- **Membership**

Charlie Jedlica reported as of 1-13-01 the federation has 309 members, 32 new and 31 clubs. Membership was down 144 members March of last year. We do have one new club Northern New Jersey. We have 10 new members more than in March of 2000.

- **Marketing**

Ken Charbonneau introduced Mike Kreloff as Director of Promotions and he will be assisting Ken in marketing. Power Troll and Dual Pro Charger are again sponsors thanks to Dave Hadley. Two new advertisers for Fishlines: one is Northeast Outdoors (Odyssey 2001) out of Canada. Ken again stressed supporting of sponsors. Ken also stated that the website message board is not for advertising. Ads that are placed there will be removed. Dave Hadley asked if those placing ads on the message board are contacted. Ken states that he does contact these people but it is generally a negative experience. Ken stressed that the message board is not for attacking other members or clubs. We need to remember that our advertisers, sponsors, and other organizations read this board and they could get a negative impression of our federation. We need to be professional.

Brochures: They are ready and going out. Dennis Smith will have them at the Suffolk shows. The Federation will share a booth with Salt City at the Syracuse Show. Melody Tennity will have them in Hamburg. Frank Tennity, Joanne Davis and Ken will have them at the Rochester show and at Monroe Community College. Ken will have them at the Albany show and at the Bassmaster University. Pat Miura will be bringing them to the shows that he attends.

Mike Kreloff will be the liason with the National advertisers and will work on additional visibility for the federation.

Mike and Ken will put up and take down banners at the tournaments and replace worn or damaged ones.

Mike is in the process of developing a Federation line of clothing through Pro Image Apparel which will also be used by our divisional team. Money made on the sale of apparel will be set aside for the divisional team.

Worldwaters.com's Dawn Perry told Wayne that they receive more "hits" from the link on the Federation website than any other in the nation. Members need to remember that when purchasing from Worldwaters to access the site from the Federation's website in order for the Federation to get credit for the purchase. Do not bookmark it. Worldwaters.com offers free shipping on all orders.

Scott Bliss reported that Jamison Marine is staying on as a sponsor and will continue sponsoring the Non Boater of the Year Award.

- **Website**

Wayne reported that Ted Barth could not be here today but all is going well. Ted is doing an excellent job.

- **Old Business**

Bylaws: Wayne stated that in 1994 Scott Keller went through the bylaws and amendments were made, but some amendments were never incorporated. Joanne Davis went through all the bylaws that we had available to make sure all of the amendments, changes and revisions were made. Some committees were entered twice in different areas and some were never incorporated. Proposed changes, with Wayne's letter of explanation, were distributed to all club reps prior to the meeting with the mailing. It was decided to review each section and take an oral vote. Wayne reviewed section by section.

Discussion concerning the elimination of the membership secretary from the Executive Committee took place. Ken Charbonneau stated that when the present team ran for office their platform included changing the Membership Secretary to Second Vice President. Now we were asking that this position be removed. Wayne stressed Roberts Rules of Order, under which we hold our meetings. They state that the president should never have a vote. By eliminating this position it would take care of this issue.

**Motion** was made by Mike Zasuly to accept each section by oral vote without making separate motions for each section. **Seconded** by Frank Maher. **Motion** passed.

Bylaws reviewed section by section with appropriate changes made and each voted on and approved.

None Bylaws: Wayne explained proposed changes with respect to dues. Upon payment of dues new NONE members get a patch. Pam feels dues should not be raised. There could be a valid reason that a member joins NONE and stays with it.

Discussion followed that some clubs have an associate members roster for people who could not meet normal club requirements. **Motion** made by Pam Bliss to leave NONE bylaws as they are now. **Seconded** by John Agro. **Motion** passed.

SCA Promotions: Packets were presented and reviewed. This was voted on at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee meeting and presented on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to the full Board. The cost to the federation is \$2,608.00 to underwrite the policy.

It was suggested that any angler to be eligible for the prize should be required to fish at least 2 of our four points tournaments. **Motion** made by Ken Charbonneau that an angler, in order to be eligible for the grand prize must fish in at least 2 of our 4 points tournaments. **Seconded** by Mike Kreloff. **Motion** Passed.

Paul Tomeo asked what issues does the Executive Committee have the right to vote on and what issues does the Executive Board have the right to vote on. Wayne stated that there were no clear cut lines. This issue will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

- **New Business**

Wayne informed the board that he had contacted Marist College's computer science division and asked for their help in preparing a secured web based membership and tournament registration program. He will report back on this.

- **50-50 raffle**: Danny Bush \$83
- **Next Meeting**

Will be held on 3-25-01 in Syracuse

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting by Frank Maher - **seconded** by Charlie Jedlica at 4 PM

Respectfully,  
*Rose Maher*  
Secretary