

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
December 2, 2001
Quality Inn - Albany, New York

Meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:05 a.m. Officers present: Wayne Tomassi, President; Joanne Davis, Vice-President; Sal Pennini, Treasurer; and, Rose Maher, Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by John Rusack and a prayer and Joanne Davis conducted moment of silence for the victims of the September 11th attack.

Roll Call of Clubs was taken. Those present were: Albany Area, Black Rock, Capital District, Chautauqua, Finger Lakes, Greylock, Hudson Valley Junior, Indian Lakes, Niagara Frontier, Orange County, Predators, Rip VanWinkle, Southern Tier and South Western.

Election Committee - Larry Dupere reported that Paul Tomeo had resigned from the Election Committee and was now running for Vice-President. Joanne Davis withdrew from the nominations. No other candidates had come forward. Larry asked if there was anyone present that wished to make a nomination or run for any office. None came forward. MOTION Made by Larry Dupere to close the nominations as they now stand - President, Wayne Tomassi; Vice-President, Paul Tomeo; Treasurer, Sal Pennini; Secretary - Rose Maher. SECONDED by Joanne Davis. MOTION PASSED. Rose Maher as directed in the Bylaws cast one vote for each of the officers running. Wayne thanked Larry for his work on the Election Committee.

Wayne thanked all the officers and committee chairpersons for their excellent work and support during 2001. Wayne then asked the club reps to take back to their clubs his appreciation for their support. He expressed his feeling that being the president of the federation is a very humbling experience. He noted that to him, this election this election was more significant than the last one. He feels that the last election was based on many wanting change, and this one was a quiet acknowledgement that things are going the way the membership desires. He stressed that many, especially the other officers and chairpersons, as well as those that "just do a little" are what is making out federation as great as it is. He acknowledges that when mistakes are made, he appreciates those who are patient. The team is always trying their best. For 2002, based on the events of 9/11, he would like to see the Federation remember its "grassroots" and build on the "grassroots theme". B.A.S.S. is still the only organization that supports youth and conservation, and we have to continue to build on our programs in those areas as we strengthen our federation. We are raising money for the Disaster Relief Fund. We know that a lot of our members have given at work (where their contributions are matched by the company) but Club Reps were asked to go back to their clubs and urge members to contribute to this fund. We received \$800.00 from a California BASS Federation to do with what we want. We will not be giving this money to the Red Cross. We have information that there is a Junior Bassmaster who has lost a parent in the attack. We will look into this individual and possibly do something special for him and the balancenof the monies will go to the WTC Disaster Relief Fund" per the recommendation of Ray Scully from Long Island..

Wayne will be working on submitting applications for the National BASS Awards for our Website and Fishlines. This is not a reflection of the officers but of the membership. If we can win an award, it will mean more exposure for the Federation and might bring in more members.

Maryland organization is trying to split and form a DC Division. Al Smith will be meeting with this group to discuss the possibility. Pennsylvania is interested in this because they have been trying to split into an Eastern and Western Division.

Committee Chairpersons - Wayne announced the following appointments made at the Executive Committee Meeting:

- Tournament Director - Pam Bliss
- Assistant Tournament Director - Stephanie Miura
- Marketing - Ken Charbonneau
- Webmaster - Ted Barth
- Youth - Mickey Fortunato (Mickey would have been here but his mother took ill - we wish her a speedy recovery.)
- Promotion - Mike Kreloff

- Guide Association - Frank Tennity
- Publicity - Bob Green
- Fishlines - Melody Sansone
- Scholarship - Sharon Green

We still need a Membership and Conservation Chairperson. Wayne asked that any Committees having assets are to make a list and give it to Rose Maher before the January meeting.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of March 23, 2001 and Executive Board Meeting of March 24, 2001 were presented and asked to be approved. MOTION MADE by Joanne Davis and SECONDED by Ken Charbonneau to approve the Executive Board Meeting Minutes. Larry Dupere asked if his inquiry regarding a maximum cap to remain not-for-profit. Sal Pennini stated it is in the millions. Only concerns are the correct forms to be used for reporting income to the IRS. Carry over is not a problem. MOTION PASSED. MOTION MADE by Larry Dupere and SECONDED by Ken Charbonneau to accept the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. No Discussion. MOTION PASSED.

Calendar of Events - Rose reported that the Banquet will be held January 19th at the Ramada Inn in Syracuse. The meeting will be held before the Banquet. Rooms are available at \$59.00 and include breakfast.

Casting Kids will be March 16th in Albany. We will hold the March meeting that same weekend in Albany.

Larry Dupere asked if it was possible to change this to a more central location. Geographically Syracuse is the central part of the State. But if we go by membership, it would then shift to the eastern part of the State. Pam asked if we wanted an analysis done of members for the January meeting. Discussion followed. Wayne decided to table this until March because Casting Kids had already been set. When Pam has the information, she will pass it on to Paul Tomeo who will work on the location.

Announcements -

- Matt Martin won the BFL.
- Joanne Davis will be getting married on February 2nd.
- Larry and Pat Dupere celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary December 1st.
- National Competition will begin April 15th. Anthony Savino has been notified of the date and that the Federation will be giving him \$1,000.00.
- BASS has a new insurance company through Disney.
- Classic Shootout is cancelled. Pros elected ten reps and eliminated shootout.
- ESPN has taken over BASS. WCF is dead. Helen Sevier is gone. Do not know where Don Cochran is presently.
- National rep is meeting with a rep from each Division to discuss Federation membership.
- Al Smith given goal to increase membership to 75,000. Wayne offered to hold the meeting with all Eastern Divisional reps. Roger Fisaht elected as Eastern Divisional rep since all felt he was open minded and had been around for awhile.
- ESPN wants to elevate tournament fishing to the level of golf and NASCAR.
- PVA fishing in Nationals. State reps asked if they were BASS members last year. They are being challenged to be BASS members and Federation members.
- Clubs asked to submit for pertinent awards to National. Any club that has done anything of significance should apply.

Treasurer Report - Sal gave brief overview of the year. Funds were allocated as Conservation, General Fund, Fishlines, Tournaments, Youth, NONE (this money goes directly to BASS) and two new categories of Scholarship and Disaster Relief. This year there was a separate apparel category to outfit the 12-man team. We started 2001 with \$19,383.76 and we presently have \$16,405.76. The cost of this meeting has already been factored in and all outstanding bills have been paid. Between now and the end of the year, there will be some minor expenses. We will have additional income but the expenses for 2001 are done. There is a \$3,000.00 loss to date. There are certain funds that we cannot spend - Disaster Relief roughly \$2400.00 and Scholarship roughly \$1350.00. These are reflected in the \$16,405.76 balance. We had \$6900.00 more in spending this year. But Sal was sure that when we get to 12/31/01 we will be at the \$16,000.00 mark. We try to do things not so much to generate profit but to have a cushion to work with.

Our main goal is to develop more programs and ways to improve the Federation. As long as we are able to do more and more things and still keep a reasonable balance, we should be happy. Balance as of 1/1/01 was \$19,383.76; Income in 2001 was \$104,754.38; Expenses for 2001 were \$111,484.88; leaving a balance of \$12,653.26. A line by

line review of budget was done. We have 767 members this year compared to 683 last year. Raffles were not done this year due to the problem with the printed tickets. Some tickets carried the same numbers and some numbers were skipped altogether. We can increase our income by reinstating the raffles; increasing the advertising fees. Mike Kreloff given the goal of funding the State team with the apparel line was realized. No discussion on the report. Boat Raffle Proposal - Wayne proposed an idea presented by John Brady. The Federation to hold a boat raffle. 500 tickets are sold at \$100.00 each. If you buy a ticket, your banquet dinner is free. If clubs are assigned a certain number of tickets to sell this could be a problem as some anglers have been laid off. It was suggested that tickets be sold and money gotten in a number of ways. You can get the whole amount up front. You can have an interested buyer pay \$10.00 per month until the ticket is paid for and then he gets the ticket. This could eliminate the hardship problem. Do not have to sell only to Federation members. Issue of obtaining a permit was raised. The New York State Gaming Commission only requires a permit if more than \$30,000.00 profit will be made. Paul Tomeo asked if the ticket sales go well and we sell all the tickets before June, do we have the raffle then or can we sell more tickets putting the money we have already made into a CD. MOTION MADE by Melody Tennity to do the boat raffle. SECONDED by Paul Tomeo. Discussion followed. Frank Maher asked how many tickets had to be sold to break even. It would be 477 at the worst case scenario meaning that all ticket holders would have to attend the banquet. Rose Maher brought up the problem of having all these people attend the banquet, where would we find a place big enough to hold it and how would we know how many would actually be attending. There will be a disclaimer put on the tickets to let us know if they will be attending the banquet. You do not have to attend to win. Also that winner will be responsible for all taxes. Pam Bliss asked that a minimum number be set for tickets sold and if that number is not reached, raffle will not be held and money will be returned. It was decided to set the number at 400. MOTION PASSED with the added changes.

Audit Committee - this has to be set up for January to review the books of the Federation.

Bonding issue reviewed. Only two checks were written in 2001 for over \$3000.00 - one for the banquet and one for the Divisional Team's travel expenses.

IRS - Sal reported on the correspondence received from the IRS of the thirty 1099's sent, five had a problem with respect to the social security number or name did not match. We were asked to review our records in case there was a keying error. If we find there was an error, then we just fix it and that is the end. If we find that there was not a keying error, then those five anglers will be contacted to make sure that the number they gave us was the correct number and that numbers were not transposed when they were recorded. If the number they give us is the same number as we previously had on file, then for those five anglers we will not be able to pay future winnings to them until we withhold 30.5% and pay it directly to the IRS. Anglers need to make sure that they are giving us the correct social security number. It will require more record keeping but we are required by law to do it. People have not been contacted as yet. Pam will check the numbers and then check her paper copy and then contact the person regarding correct number and then we will let them know that we have to withhold next season. Clubs need to advise their anglers that they need to check the information on the 1099 and that winnings of \$600.00 or more need to be reported.

Scholarship - Sharon Green reported that there is presently \$1350.00 in the fund. Sharon would like to have another committee person to help her. Goals will be set for the Committee. The Committee will consist of Chairperson, Federation member, Youth Director and Treasurer. All expenses for this committee will come out of the General Fund. Discussion from Larry Dupere and Ken Charbonneau to make sure that the money will be earmarked for Education purposes only. Applicants will be considered in two groups. Primary consideration will go to a NYS Federation member going into the field of conservation or environmental studies or a child or grandchild of a Federation member going into another field of study. Secondary consideration will be to any NYS resident who is a member of BASS. We can contact outside organizations to match funds. We have two applicants this year. Reps were asked to go back to their clubs for donating more money. Scott Bliss suggested that if the boat raffle does as well as we hope it does that we allocate a certain percentage to go into this fund. Paul Tomeo asked that we open it up to the masses to get more money. Committee will be contacting each club personally for additional donations. Money will be given to the selected applicants upon verification of completion of first semester.

MOTION MADE by Joanne Davis and SECONDED by Ken Charbonneau to break for lunch for 30 minutes.

Meeting will resume at 2:00 p.m.

Tournament - Pam reported we presently have 767 members in 2001. We had 683 in 2000. We normally get more in December. Club Rosters were passed out to Clubs present. They were asked to check it for accuracy. We had four new clubs in 2001 compared to two new clubs in 2000. We had 167 new members in 2001 compared to 109 new members in 2000. There are two clubs that currently have less than six members. These have to be contacted to make sure we have all members listed. There are 51 active clubs not including Juniors. Enforcing the CTE rule has made anglers pay dues early. Pam distributed the Tournament Profit/Loss Statement. The final Statement will be distributed at the January meeting.

Tournament Advisory Board - The resignation of Paul Tomeo has left an opening. The Board has been in place for two years and has done some good things. If any new members are interested on being on the Board they should let Pam know. The makeup of the Board will be revisited this season. Members of the Board will be required to be at all the tournaments and will be required to have e-mail capabilities. They will be meeting in January after the Banquet. There are certain issues that the Board needs to deal with and if there is anything else that is of concern to anglers that they want addressed this information should be sent to Pam. Issues to be covered:

- CTE practice days - who is allowed on the water during practice - only six fishing or the six plus the two alternates or anyone who wants to come as long as they are not passing on information to the anglers fishing.
- "Local Expert Rule" - if you are a local expert you cannot be out on the water. BASS' definition of local expert is "anyone who has ever in their lifetime been on the water". We need to define what NYS feels this is.
- Off-limit rule. Discussion of Friday practice day will be again reviewed.
- Discussion of marketing information for the tournaments. Look at information that goes out to sponsors and change were appropriate.

John Rusack asked how tentative our schedule was. Pam stressed that the dates and places are set as presented. Are we running the \$25,000.00 prize package again? This will not be run again. The price has risen from \$2860.00 to \$3000.00. Although there are many interested in running the package again, and we believe that it helped with membership growth, with the status of the treasury this year, we don't feel it appropriate to purchase this package. It could be looked into again in 2003.

-Boat-to-Boat Draw not being in last flight seemed to go over well with anglers. It was stressed that boaters be good to all non-boaters so that they will come back. Pam stressed that if you are boat-to-boat you need to pay attention in case Pam needs to have you use your boat. Scott Bliss mentioned that he liked Lake George checking of boats before the launch started. Scott asked this be made a permanent procedure. Frank Tennity suggested that an announcement be made at partner draw that boats will be checked at a certain time and then you can come through with your trolling motor and then told where your flight will be.

-Wayne discussed scheduling around Red Man. We have never done it and we are not going to start. We have had discussions with Red Man to try to work out a schedule but they will not work with us. If you are not at registration and you get drawn boat-to-boat, you are the non-boater. Tournament rules are posted on the website and all changes will be posted as well.

-Federation Contact List - Listing is of all active Federation members who checked the box that you wanted your information put on this list. If there is anyone who does not appear on the list and would like to be on it, let Pam know and she will update the list.

Youth - Casting Kids will be March 16th in the Albany area. Any club that holds a casting kid event will have their name put in a hat (one entry for each event) and if drawn will get free entry to the CTE. When holding your casting kid event, National recommends that a carpet be placed under the targets. This is how it is done at the National level. This gets the contestants used to not sliding or skipping of the lure.

-Mr/Miss will be June 23rd at Lake George.

-State Team Event will be July 15th in Delaware. There will be two 16-18 year old anglers and four 15 or younger.

-Leadership Camp was October 7th. Two clubs sent representatives. Jim Morgan, Dan O'Dell and Mike Schmidt, Jr. handled the whole Camp. Per the by-laws approved last March, the Youth committee is forming their own Junior Federation and was submitted to the Federation by these three young anglers stating their Mission Statement; Requirements for Membership (some stricter than ours); Officer Structure; Tournament Trail (they will organize the Mr/Miss Bass; assist at the Casting Kids State Finals); Instruct at Leadership Camp; organize Fundraisers for Junior Federation; participate in the CTE (they would not get any money just be allowed to fish). Their team would consist of two 16-18 year old anglers and four 11-15 year old anglers. Paul Tomeo expressed his concern that anglers are there to compete and not to worry about watching over young angler to make sure they are okay. It would be a big responsibility. Scott Bliss pointed out that if there are clubs in the running for first and second and they draw a junior angler, they may have an advantage by intimidating the young angler since he is not there to win anything but the older angler is and therefore why should the younger angler be given his share of the time at the front of the boat. Wayne took a show of hands in favor of having them participate in the CTE. Most would not mind. This has to be taken back to the Clubs. Pam was asked to take this back to the Tournament Advisory Board. Pam asked that it be put on the Discussion Board for feed back. One of the Juniors will handle this.

Marketing - Ken Charbonneau stated that sales this past year amounted to \$13,535.30. He is already starting to get commitments for 2002. Ken thanked Pam for coming out with a schedule earlier this year so that sponsors could be contacted earlier. Asked if anyone knows of any potential sponsors or advertisers to let Ken know and he will then contact them. We will be raising our advertising rates and people do not seem to be having a problem with this.

Brochure will be done again this year. Thanked Paul Tomeo for again getting this done for us for nothing. James Fiorelli is also getting us a major sponsor.

Alliance Package - Wayne explained this package to those present and that we will be going with it. If we had signed the agreement before September, we would have made \$500.00 since Mike Labriola made the Divisional Team and he has a Skeeter boat. Boats in the package are Skeeter and Triton. Yamaha and Mercury are also in. We will get free shirts for the State Team to be worn on the last day. Alliance will allow anglers to display other patches on their shirt. Reynolds, Hannaford Marine, Jamison, Al Anderson, Capital District are our major sponsors. Ken working on getting mechanic there for all tournaments.

Conservation - Clubs were asked to go back to their membership and see if there is anyone interested in taking on this position.

Auction - Paul Tomeo stated that we would be doing this again at the Banquet. Last time we made \$1,800.00 and we were only expecting to make \$500.00. This time we can make a lot more. Would like to have at least twenty items for the auction. If we get more items, we can hold a silent auction on the side.

Paper Clubs - Scott Bliss brought up issue of paper clubs. Scott had brought this up at the March meeting and it was tabled at that time. Scott would like to have a one-year exemption on new clubs prohibiting them from fishing the CTE. He feels that some clubs have been formed because anglers did not make their original club's team and then formed their own club so they could fish the CTE. Only exception would be if a brand new club joined, one not made up of anglers that already belonged to another Federation club. Discussion followed that the only paper club we have is the NONE club. Scott changed wording to "spin off" club of existing Federation members would have to wait one year before they could fish the CTE. The definition of a Club in NYS Bylaws is six members whose club is registered with National BASS and have paid their dues. To make this happen we would have to change the Bylaws or Tournament Rules. History has proven that "spin off" clubs have become assets to our Federation and have stayed around for longer than one year. Frank Tennity pointed out some clubs are spun off due to other issues not just for fishing the CTE. There was lots of discussion on this issue. Wayne then sent it to the Tournament Advisory Board to review and come back to us with a recommendation. Pam stated that the CTE falls under the Tournament policy and there is no policy right now and no defined rule. Mike Kreloff stated that we want to grow as a Federation and the clubs that have spun off only to fish the CTE is small. Bob Green mentioned that we do not want to discourage new members only to eliminate the one-shot anglers.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Tomeo stated that his club ran a Bass Fishing Seminar last year for kids and they will run one along with their Casting Kids this year. There are other organizations out there that will help you and partner up with your club so that you are not doing it alone. For a Casting Kids only have to have 25 participants to have an "event". Wayne suggested that clubs hold an all day Casting Kids. Once you have 25 or 30 kids you close it off and hold your awards. That group gets their medals and are sent on their way. You open it up again and when you do another 25 or 30 kids you close it off and again award medals. This way in one day your organization could do 3 or 4 events depending on the amount of kids that you have coming through. When you set it up with National just tell them that you will be hosting four events so that you will get the correct number of medals.

Wayne reminded everyone to go back to the clubs for donations to the Scholarship Fund and for any applicants that might be out there.

Also that the Mr/ Miss BASS will be June 23rd.

Disaster Relief will be worked out. Any club knowing of any member, who might of lost family in the September 11th attach, should contact Wayne with the information.

50/50 was won by Joanne Davis for \$51.00.

Raffle held for two goodie bags - Pat Dupere and Stephanie Miura won.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by MOTION MADE by Joanne Davis and SECONDED by Melody Tennity at 4:05 p.m. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Maher, Secretary