

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 16, 2002
Quality Inn, Albany, New York

President, Wayne Tomassi, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Officers present were: Wayne Tomassi, President; Paul Tomeo, Vice-President, Sal Pennini, Treasurer and Rose Maher, Secretary. Committee Chairs present were: Ken Charbonneau, Marketing; Mike Kreloff, Promotions; Pam Bliss, Tournaments; Frank Tennity, Guide Association; Mickey Fortunato, Youth; Ken Anderson, PVA; Bob Green, Publicity; Sharon Green, Scholarship.

Others present were: Noel Good, Melody Tennity and Scott Bliss.

Wayne welcomed Paul to his first meeting as Vice-President and Ken Anderson as the head of the PVA Committee. Pam asked that when the roll call of clubs was taken at the Board Meeting that the Club Rep for those clubs present be checked and corrected on the Club Contact List.

Minutes of the January 19 meeting will be presented for approval after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wayne will then give the President's Message. Topics that will be covered will be:

National BASS - Professional BASS Advisory Committee walked out of the meeting with Executives and started boycott of BASS. Issues in question were proposed changes and the 2003 tournament trail. ESPN and Federation Presidents' Meeting came out positive for federations. This has been posed on the Web. Pros have an issue with the payouts - tournaments are listed with having a \$125,000 payout but \$45,000 Grand Prize is usually for a boat which turns out to be not a \$45,000 boat but the taxes that the pro has to pay is based on the \$45,000 figure. Pros also would like a year-round trail.

Adirondack Bass - They will again be hosting a Pike Tournament. Last year we were approached for two tournament entries to use as prizes. We did give them this but we were not aware that some of the proceeds from this tournament are used to fund their six-man team. Issue raised if we do this for them, we would have to donate the same thing if approached by other clubs. It was decided not to donate the tournament entries.

Make-A-Wish - A boat raffle ticket was donated to this cause.

Liability Insurance for Club Meetings - Mickey explained that the Galleria Mall where they hold their monthly club meetings would not cover them under their umbrella policy. Since 9/11/01, their insurance has been increased and they are not covering all events held at their Malls as in prior years. Apparently this differs from Mall to Mall depending on the Managers. Some Galleria Malls still do cover events held there and no separate insurance has to be purchased. All clubs will be notified to look into their respective locations. As of the present time, BASS will not pay for any insurance covering meeting locations.

Top 150 Slot - We will do this again. We broke even last year.

National BASS Achievement Awards Submission - The packet that Wayne has put together and submitted to National was passed out for review. This will be passed out at the Executive Board Meeting and sent to Clubs not present. We have submissions for Youth, Publicity (Fishlines), Conservation, Community Service and Federation of the Year. We should know the winners in the summer.

Boat Raffle - Tickets (400) have been distributed. Pam has a database listing ticket purchasers and sellers. It is important that this information be filled out.

License Plates - BASS license plate holders can be purchased for a little over \$1.00 each and will be sold for \$5.00. This will be tried as a fundraiser.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Sal reported that the new account has been open. We will not be taking out any CD's at the present time because of the interest rate. If this should rise, then we will. The money is being kept in a regular savings account. As of 3/15/02, the General Fund had

\$18,652.04; Scholarship, Jr Federation and Old Account had \$5,310.16; Auction money still due amounts to \$1,850.53; Inventory on Hand amounts to \$3,653.60 and Liabilities for 2001 were \$8,192.86; leaving a total presently on hand in cash and merchandise of \$21,273.47.

The Disaster Relief money was given to a 7 year-old Junior member whose father was a firefighter and we are also giving him a lifetime membership (which we are trying to get National BASS to donate).

Fish and Wildlife Coalition Fund which was held by Wayne has been closed and the money was used to fund the Junior Federation Teams' jackets.

The first Scholarship monies were distributed at the January banquet. There were two recipients.

The single most expensive item is Fishlines. Eight Dollars of the dues goes to Fishlines. This does not cover the expense. Ken has done a great job getting advertisers for this to help with the costs. Ways will be investigated to get the cost down. Suggestions made were to only use the glossy pages for the cover. Paul suggested we look into other paper stock available to lessen the cost. Ken pointed out that it was very easy to sell ads in Fishlines because of the

way it looks and this should not be changed too much. There is another company that could do the Fishlines cheaper, as a newspaper-size issue. It was the general opinion that Fishlines should stay the way it is and the use of cheaper paper would be looked at.

Clothing Sales - This committee will be audited this year.

Vouchers - Sal reminded everyone that for reimbursement to be made, receipts need to be produced for reimbursement.

Check Submission - Sal also asked that when sending checks for payment, that the checks be listed and an explanation of what was purchased or what they are to be deposited to accompany each submission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation - Mike Cusano is the Acting Conservation Director. We are still looking for a permanent one. It was also suggested that this could be broken up into East and West so that one person would not have to handle the whole State.

Promotions - This will be reviewed after the audit is done by Sal, Ken Charbonneau and Mike Kreloff.

Marketing - Ken Charbonneau reported some new advertisers has come aboard. Last year he had \$8,579.35 in pledged monies at this time; and, presently he has \$12,370.00 in pledges and \$6,040 in merchandise. Northern Bass Supply is a new advertiser and will sell Connecticut River maps to the State Team for half price. West Cove Marine is also a new advertiser. Foxwood has donated money. Ken asked that we watch the language on the Message Board with respect to the Indian issue in the central part of the State, as Lee Bailey is part Indian and his wife is a full Indian. Brook Cove and Dick's Sporting Goods are considering being sponsors.

Flowmaster has again signed on.

At this point Ken Charbonneau, Mike Kreloff and Sal Pennini left to audit the Promotion's books.

Scholarship - Sharon Green reported that two scholarships were awarded at the January 2002 banquet. The guidelines have still not been finalized but are very close. Once these are done they will be sent to all Club Reps with a personal note from the Committee about contributing to this worthwhile fund. Applications will also be sent to all Clubs. Sharon and her committee are also pursuing private contributors. Federation members can also check this out through their own place of business.

Youth - Mickey thanked the Casting Kids volunteers. At tomorrow's meeting the Club that won the free CTE entry will be drawn. Sixteen clubs held casting kid events; with seven of them holding two. June 30th will be the Mr/Miss on Lake George and he will be looking for boaters for this event. He will need 6 or 7 boats, as there will be 15 competitors. May 31st is deadline to sign up to fish this event so he will have a better idea then as to amount of boats needed. He would need proof of insurance. He has gotten \$500.00 from Hague Chamber of Commerce. Problem is housing that time of year. It was suggested having the tournament earlier. Melody Tennity suggested having it on the Finger Lakes as a catch and release tournament and then it can be held as early as May 1st.

PVA - Ken Anderson from Orange County has taken this on. Ken is putting together a Sunday tournament to be run as a team tournament, one boater and one angler. Entry fee is \$30.00 per person. Plans to hold the draw two weeks before the event so that partners can be notified and they will have a chance to get together and fish if they chose to do so. Ken was asked if they were requiring boater to be a member of the Federation. Issue was raised about insurance coverage. One competitors need to be a Federation member to be covered by balloon policy, It was suggested that Ken check with Disney to see if they have a one day insurance policy. Anglers fishing this event may not be members of the PVA Association and may never have fished before. Trying to get the Air National Guard to help with the loading of PVA anglers into the boats. This will not be part of our tournament trail. It was suggested that Ken put this in Fishlines and on the Web as soon as possible to get boaters.

Guide Association - Frank Tennity has put information in Fishlines and on the Web. Frank checks all the credentials of guides before listing them. All guides are listed not just for fishing.

Publicity - Bob Green reported having gotten a number of contacts to insure information being published when submitted. BassTimes will run an article about our Scholarship Program next month. Information regarding Casting Kids will also be sent to local papers and BassTimes. Bob wanted to do an article on Rosemary Murphy. He has learned that quite a number of Federation members do not know what the Rosemary Murphy Award is for nor do they know who she was and what she did for the Federation. Bob wants to put a page on the Web explaining this award and about Rosemary Murphy. He is also looking for a picture of her.

Tournaments - Pam Bliss stated that the Tournament Advisory Board met on 2/24/02. The full explanation of subjects covered will be included with the minutes when mailed. Highlights were:

-CTE Practice/Participation explained participants and who could fish and who could not. This information will be included in the CTE packets

-State Team qualification change to top 2 angles from the CTE rather than the top man from the top two clubs. The Board voted No.

- Defined "Local Expert"
- Defined Fog Procedures
- Boat-check pre send off - will be notified at practice day
- Each TAB member has been assigned specific Clubs that should contact them with questions, concerns, etc.
- Youth Participation in CTE - TAB voted No. They supplied alternates to the Junior Proposal.
- Youth Participation in Points - TAB voted No.
- CTE Qualification by Club - The club must be a member of the Federation in the qualifying year as well as the tournament year. 2002 excluded from this change as it was just implemented.

Pam also distributed her formal letter of resignation. Pam will finish out this tournament season. Stephanie Miura will be taking over more and more duties so that there will be a smooth transition. There will be a Partners' Tournament but date and place not yet set. A photographer is needed with a digital camera to make the pictures in Fishlines better quality.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections - Wayne reminded everyone that elections would be coming up next year. All were asked to decide what they planned to do; and, if they were not going to run again, to try to find a replacement to nominate.

Banquet - Rose Maher reported that due to the boat raffle and the uncertainty of the number of people attending the banquet, a place had to be large enough to hold a possible 800-1000 people. There were several places in Syracuse that could hold this number. Hotel Syracuse and Convention Center (date was already taken and we would have to change the date to hold it there); Omni Center had the date open but the closest hotel is 800 yards away. Two other hotels had the date open but we would have to eat in separate rooms and then all meet in the ballroom and sit theatre fashion with no tables for the rest of the evening. The Turning Stone Casino had the date open and had the hotel there. There was also an Inn across the street for those that did not want to pay the higher price for the overnight accommodations. Paul suggests that having it here would hurt our auction, as people would want to save some of their money for gambling later. Scott Bliss mentioned that he has sold some of the boat raffle tickets because he mentioned that the banquet could be at the Casino. Then Paul raised the Indian land issues that would affect some of our members. After some discussion it was decided to check sites in Binghamton.

Paul also suggested that the focus of the banquet be brought back to spotlight our Divisional Team but especially our Angler of the Year. More time needs to be spent on these anglers. It was suggested that different Committee Chairpersons give out their respective awards; i.e., Youth Awards would be done by Mickey; Tournament Awards by Pam, etc.

At this point Ken Charbonneau, Sal Pennini and Mike Kreloff returned.

Promotions - The audit of the clothing line was conducted and all records were checked and reconciled. It was suggested rather than having merchandise on hand (presently there is roughly \$3653.60 in inventory) that only one of each item be ordered with the colors available and then that specific item could be ordered when someone wanted them. This would eliminate our having merchandise on hand that might not sell.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Maher, Secretary