

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 17, 2002
Quality Inn, Albany, New York

President, Wayne Tomassi, called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. Officers present were: Wayne Tomassi, President; Paul Tomeo, Vice-President; Sal Pennini, Treasurer; and, Rose Maher, Secretary. Committee Chairpersons present were: Ken Anderson, PVA; Pam Bliss, Tournaments; Ken Charbonneau, Marketing; Mickey Fortunato, Youth; Bob Green, Publicity; Sharon Green, Scholarships; Mike Kreloff, Promotions; and Frank Tenny, Guide Association.

Pledge of Allegiance was started by John Romanski from Team Bass.

Roll Call of Clubs: Albany Area, Berkshire County (new club), Black Rock Bass, Capital District, Eastern New York, Finger Lakes, Greylock, Hudson Valley, Orange County, Predators, Salt City, Southern Tier, Team Bass, Watershed.

Wayne welcomed representatives from Berkshire County Bassin to their first meeting and to the Federation. They will be participating in the CTE and the tournament trail.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Wayne touched on the following areas:

-Correspondence from Adirondack Bass requesting a donation of two tournament entries was explained. Last year we did donate these entries as we thought this was a charity tournament. It was recently learned that this tournament also helped raise funds for the CTE team. We cannot do this, as it would require doing this for all clubs. So the Executive Committee had decided to deny this request.

-Proxy letters are not allowed as stated in our Bylaws. All letters and requests we do receive are answered.

-Lifetime Membership Award was delivered to Susan Johnson. Susan thanked the Federation members for this.

-Brain Doyle and Burnie Haney are on active duty. Burnie would love to get e-mails from members. Burnie is presently in Afghanistan. Take a few minutes and e-mail both these fine anglers to show them we haven't forgotten them and are behind them 100%.

-Clubs that presently meet in a mall should check into insurance coverage. Some malls (Galleria Malls) are not allowing clubs to meet there any longer due to not covering them under their blanket policy. This also includes having Casting Kids at malls. Chevy dealerships are looking for clubs to have casting kids there. They are even providing prizes and more newspaper coverage.

-ESPN news is Al Smith was taken out of management. The Professional BASS Association Advisory Committee walked out as a boycott of BASS due to the 2003 tournament trail; the payout schedule and other proposed changes. Helen Seviere and Don Corchran always had to balance between the trail and the pros wishes and ESPN only interested in the money end. There is a website that posts the entire goings on when they happen - bassfan.com. Mike Cusano stated he put a post on there about BassTimes but it was never published. Wayne explained that it takes some time to get information on there. They do edit information. Apparently their payouts are not as they appear. Tim Dolan placed 3rd and won a Skeeter Bass Boat without an engine but he received tax receipts for the full amount that he had to pay on.

-Nate Laskiewicz will be taking our guaranteed slot on the Invitational Trail. He will have to pay for it but it is a guaranteed slot.

-California Bass sent another \$200 for our disaster relief fund. Tennessee Bass sent \$3200.00. A \$5,000.00 check was given to Eric Tegmeier, Junior Federation member whose father was a firefighter who died on September 11th. We did not give them a Savings Bond, as Eric did not have a social security number. We are also trying to get BASS to donate a Lifetime Membership for Eric. There is still \$900.00 in the fund, which will be donated to the Widow's Fund.

Motion Made by Melody Tenny to accept the Minutes of the January 19, 2002 Executive Board Meeting as presented. **Seconded** by Mike Kreloff. **Motion Passed.**

YEARLY AUDIT - It is the policy to pick one Committee per year and have the books of this Committee audited by uninterested parties. This year it was the Promotions Committee. Promotion's books were audited by Ken Charbonneau and Sal Pennini. All reconciled as only Sal (find every penny) Pennini can do.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Sal Pennini gave the extensive report of the yearly activities. Copy of the short financial statement is enclosed. Assets total \$23,962.20; General Fund holds \$18,652.04 - this money will be kept in the Savings Account until the CD interest rates rise. Separate accounts have been set up for: Scholarship with \$3,990.16; Junior Federation with \$900.00; and, Old Assets \$420.00 (checks waiting to be cashed). We have moved our account from Fleet to HSBC because of easier access for Pam since the Fleet branch closed in her area. Inventory on hand from the clothing line amounts to \$3,653.60. There is still an open balance of \$1850.53 from

auction pledges that still has to be collected. All the above amounts bring total assets to \$29,466.33. Liabilities amount to \$8,192.86. This leaves \$21,273.47.

Mike Cusano asked why we paid the Junior Team uniforms. Sal explained that this was for 2001 when their money was co-mingled with ours. We have since separated their money, as they are a Junior Federation and will be responsible for their own books.

Sal stressed that the Scholarship fund needs to get a boost from club donations.

Another area to consider is the expense for lunch at Federation meetings. Wayne asked if everyone wanted to keep this going. All wanted to keep lunch. Rose stressed that people had to let her know if they were coming. If lunch had been ordered for only the people that had stated they were coming to this meeting, only 12 people could be eating. Lunch had been ordered for 40 but only 27 people are present. This area can be streamlined by getting a count and since all the meetings will be in Syracuse now if a package deal could be worked out. Mike Kreloff suggested charging clubs that did not respond. All these options will be looked into.

Tournaments - State Team money comes out of this account. This year they did not get separate gas money. An arrangement was made with a local gas station which all team members used and then a final bill was presented. This saved money. Clothing this year will be less as the Alliance Package provides the outfit for the last day of the tournament. There are some items from General Fund that will be moved to tournament. One is the Chuck Wagon (would not make this money if not for the tournaments). There might be a few others. This has to be looked into. Sal complimented Pam on her reports and accountability. Also the cancellation of the one tournament hurt this area. Fishlines - This is the biggest expense that the Federation has. All were asked if they liked the way it was and if there was anything they wanted to change. All liked it. Ken Charbonneau stressed that it made it easier to sell advertising due to its present appearance. There are people that approach him after seeing it or hearing about it. If there were any complaints it was the need for more articles and this will be worked on this year. Paul Tomeo mentioned that he would be looking into ways to lower this expense; i.e., paper stock - this would also help postage because it would reduce the weight; ad rates. Federation members like the eight issues. Other proposals were making it into a newspaper type publication. This would not have the same appearance. All were asked if they thought of any other options to let us know.

CONSERVATION - Wayne stressed that we still need a Conservation Director. Mike Cusano is doing this now but may not be able to continue due to work commitments. Melody Tenny asked why BASS dropped Conservation if they are so concerned about it. Wayne explained that when ESPN took over BASS in March it was right before the Classic and their main focus was on making sure that was done. Wayne proposed that if we do not have a Conservation Director this year, since they will be invited to the Classic this year, that we send someone either Paul Tomeo or someone from Marketing as our representative. Wayne is going to be very selective when appointing someone this time as we have some important issues that have to be addressed and more to come. The State could also be divided, that way one person would not be responsible for the whole area.

PROMOTIONS - Mike Kreloff reported that sales in 2001 were \$12,000.00. Of this amount \$3,000 was used for the State Team and there is roughly \$3,653 in inventory. There were some receipts that were not put in 2001. Paul Tomeo explained that we should find a supplier that will be able to get us merchandise ordered in 7-10 days. This way we would not have to keep inventory on hand. We would only have to get one shirt, one jacket, one sweatshirt and so on to have for display with the colors that each would come in and then when someone orders one, that particular item would be shipped to him directly in the appropriate size and color.

MEMBERSHIP - Looking for someone to head this Committee to get new members and clubs into the Federation.

PVA - Wayne introduced this new Committee and its Chairperson, Ken Anderson from Orange County. Ken has contacted the Paralyzed Veterans Association to get an event going to get some of these guys out to have a day of fishing and it would be good publicity for the Federation. Ken will put something in Fishlines and on the Web once the particulars of the event are finalized. Ken is trying to get the Air National Guard to come in and help load the anglers in and out of the boats. Angler will be from Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association and could come from anywhere from Maine to Pennsylvania. No special equipment is needed for the boats. It will be a one-day event, on Sunday, August 18th at Cayuga Lake State Park. It will be a partners' tournament (not part of our trail) with a cost of \$30.00 per person. There will be a ten-fish limit with 100% payback. John Romanski suggested a five-fish limit so that the angler will not feel like he is competing with the boater. Ken stated he put it at ten fish to attract more fishermen so that they will pre-fish for the tournament. Other suggestions were six or eight fish. Ken Charbonneau suggested six fish might be better because then you would only need one bag since the boater would have to carry all the fish. Ken Anderson will consider this. Draw will be two weeks before the event and partners will be notified to give them a chance to get together and pre-fish if they want to before hand or the Saturday before the tournament. It will be on a first come, first serve basis with one boater and one PVA angler. Mike Cusano stated that any member from Salt City that fishes the tournament, the club will pay one-half their entry fee. Wayne stated the

Federation might donate some money for the payback. Ken Anderson is also trying to get monies from PVA but nothing concrete so far. Mike Kreloff suggested the Federation pay for the boaters' gas. This will be looked into. When asked, Ken stated he hoped to have at least 25 entries. Insurance question was raised since anglers would not be members of the Federation. Ken stated that it would be handled like any other tournament. Only need one Federation member in the boat and then both are covered by our balloon policy. Boater would have to be a Federation member. Anyone interested in this event, contact Ken. If we can get 40-50 boats, he will try to fill them. We will have our Fishcare there. Ken mentioned that a number of these veterans have fished the PVA trail on the Potomac. There is a group in Boston that is trying to set up a Northeastern PVA Trail. We will be setting up our clothing line there for possible sales.

SCHOLARSHIP - Sharon Green reported that funds were given to two scholarship winners at the January banquet. The Committee (Sharon, Sal Pennini, Melody Tenny and Mickey Fortunato) is still trying to finalize the guidelines. Once they are completed, the guidelines and application forms will be sent to all club presidents along with a letter from the Committee requesting donations and asking club members to check with their respective places of employment to ask about matching fund partnerships. We would then work with the company to set up the guidelines they would want followed. The applicant would then have to meet our guidelines plus theirs. In 2001 we had \$1350.00 in the fund. According to the basis guidelines first set up, we could not use more than 50% of this money in the first 1-5 years of the fund. In the first year, we used less than 50% (used \$500.00). Sharon thanked Hudson Valley, Albany Area, Orange County, Southern Tier, Rip VanWinkle and even the Junior Clubs for donating to this Fund.

GUIDE ASSOCIATION - Frank Tenny has posted notice on Message Board but has not had any questions. Frank has put Application in Fishlines and is working on a page for the Website. Paul Tomeo suggested that club reps go back and tell members of their club to check this on Web to get information on whom to contact when they are fishing different bodies of water. Five of our guides listed contributed to the auction so we got our money back. If there are no guides listed in their area, a guide can join the Federation for \$35.00 and can get their name put on this. YOUTH - Mickey Fortunato reported that the Casting Kids' finals were held on 3/16. Joshua Collens qualifying through Rip VanWinkle won in the 7-10 year old with a score of 110; and Aaron Franes qualifying through Black Rock won in the 11-14 year old with a score of 130. They will be going to Louisiana in April. There were 46 finalists. Sixteen clubs held competitions - Salt City (2), Millennium (2), Rip VanWinkle (1), Crown City (2), Predator (1), Adirondack (1), Southern Tier (2), Capital District (1), Rochester (1), South Western (1), Hudson Valley (1), Orange County (2), Black Rock (1), Ulster County (2), Bullseye (1), Westchester (1). All the finalists showed up and it was apparent that they had all been practicing. Some contestants drove 500 miles to get to the finals. Mickey reminded everyone that Chevy dealerships were looking for clubs to host Casting Kids at their locations. The dealerships are even giving \$500.00 merchandise gift certificates.

June 30th is the Mr/Miss competition and he is expecting 15-20 competitors. Boats are needed. This will be on Lake George out of Hague from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Presently he has two boats guaranteed. Pre-fishing on the 29th. Housing is a problem and will check into getting a campsite.

Mickey thanked all those who helped during the Casting Kids' finals.

July 14th they will be going to Delaware. Youth wanted to know if Mickey and Wayne would be shaving their heads again this year. Pam suggested dyeing their hair purple since Mickey was not too keen on baldness again.

Pam suggested having the Team event in New York as she already has a sponsor lined up if this comes back here. This is presently sponsored by the Brian Kerchiel Memorial but it is getting too expensive because so many kids are coming from all over the country. The Juniors could help raise money for it.

Drawing for the free CTE entry was drawn - PREDATOR won.

MARKETING - Ken Charbonneau announced new advertisers this season - West Cove Marine; Hopenhaus Nitro Dealer; Foxwood Trail is back and Northern Bass Supply. Ken has a meeting with Hal and Paul from Brook Cove Marine and a representative of Dick's Sporting Goods. Also working with Quick Cull out of New Hampshire and Strike On is on board. To date, there is \$12,370.00 in pledged amount and \$6,040 in merchandise. Ken reminded everyone to use sponsors and advertisers if they are going to buy boats or merchandise. Bass Pro Shop is still giving us a rebate for orders placed with them through the Website. Mike Cusano asked since we have Bass Pro Shop do they have a problem with Northern Bass Supply and Dick's coming on board. Ken stated no one had a problem with this. Northern Bass will sell Connecticut River maps to State Team for one-half off. Ken praised the look of Fishlines and how easy it was to sell ads in this publication now.

The Chautauqua Lake tournament is sponsored by Jamison Marine; Oneida Lake is sponsored by North Jersey Marine; CTE sponsored by Skeeter and Capital District Marine; Cayuga Lake sponsored by Hannaford Marine; Lake Champlain sponsored by Anderson Marine. All will try to have a mechanic for their tournament. CTE might be able to have a pontoon boat to use in launch.

This point a one-half hour break was taken for lunch at 1:15 p.m

Meeting resumed at 1:50 p.m. Daryl Davis, the new President of Hudson Valley, was welcomed.

50/50 ticket was drawn and won by Sal Pennini.

BASS AWARD SUBMISSION - This packet was given to everyone and reviewed. (This will be sent to all clubs not present with the CTE packet.) This has been submitted to BASS and we have applied for Conservation, Community Service, Youth, and Federation of the Year. We should know by summer. The entire packet was 4 1/2 inches thick with our Fishlines submitted. Wayne suggested that all clubs get them and apply for awards. Clubs should work all year on them so that it is not such a big job at the end of the year. If we win any awards, those Committee Chairpersons will be asked to go to the Classic to receive the Award.

CONSERVATION - Mike Cusano is the Acting Conservation Director. Mike was congratulated for his letter regarding the cormorant issue.

PUBLICITY - Bob Green reported that BassTimes has changed and he has made contact with the editor and our information is getting in there. Bob asked that when one of his releases makes it into an angler's local newspaper that Bob is sent a copy. This way he knows which newspapers can be trusted to put in articles and which need to be "persuaded" a little more. When Bob sends in an article he e-mails a copy of his article to the person who is the subject of the article.

Bob stated that when Ted Barth won the Rosemary Murphy Award, he wanted to do an article on this Award and on Rosemary Murphy herself. Bob learned that a lot of Federation members did not know what this Award was for or who Rosemary Murphy was. Bob also tried to get pictures of her. Pam feels that there are pictures of her in the old photo albums that Wayne has. Bob even contacted Maureen Murphy, Rosemary's daughter, but could not get a picture. Rosemary was the wife of Tom who started the Federation. Rosemary ran everything while Tom handled the trail. Later Maureen became the first woman Federation President. Scott Bliss suggested we get Bob's articles on the Web.

BOAT RAFFLE - Four Hundred tickets have been sent out. Wayne asked all when they sold a ticket to ask if that person would be coming to the banquet and if they will be bringing a guest. Wayne also asked Clubs that might be holding tickets for members that might be making payments on them, if the Club could send in the full amount from their treasury and then have their member make the payments directly to the Club treasury.

BANQUET - Rose Maher reported on the difficulty the raffle is having on finding a location. The facility would have to be big enough to hold at 800-1000 people. The only places available in Syracuse that could accommodate us did not have the date open or presented a problem with not having overnight accommodations on the premises. Shuttle buses were discussed but liability presented a problem. The one place that could hold us and had the date available was turned down due to the current atmosphere surrounding owners of the location. It was decided to increase the area to include Binghamton and further if necessary.

TOURNAMENT - Pam Bliss reported that we have 505 members with 44 new members; and, 42 clubs with two new clubs. This time last year we had 498 members with 70 new members.

-Partners' Tournament - wanted to schedule this for the last weekend in September. If this works then the State Team could not fish it. Discussion that members of the State Team usually do not fish this so it could be scheduled for that weekend. They are looking into new body of water - Black Lake or Keuka.

-Tournament Advisory Board had their meeting and each area was explained. Copy of their decisions is enclosed. Deadline to change alternates was set. Boat check off done before send off was a practice that will be used more often this season. Anglers seemed to like that. The purpose and what this Board is and does will again be defined and posted on the Web. There still seems to be some confusion on this. Pam's decision on matters is still final with respect to tournaments. This Board is an "advisory" panel. John Romanski asked why CTE partners do not fish as partners. There are clubs in the Federation that do not have boats and they cannot fish the CTE. Pam stated that this is how the rules were made up and everyone must follow them. The basic reason is to have anglers fish with people they might never have had a chance to fish with.

-Club Contact List was distributed. This will be sent to all clubs. It will also be on the Web.

-CTE Youth Participation was voted against.

-Youth Participation in Points Trail was voted against. The strongest opposition to this came from anglers including those that have juniors who would be able to participate.

-Alternate Junior proposals were presented and Mickey was asked to take these back to the Junior Clubs.

-CTE qualification by Club was specified. Frank Tennity suggests that a club be required to be formed prior to the tournament schedule coming out. Pam then stated that a specific date would have to be set for the release of the tournament schedule and this is not always a cut and dry time frame. Also what about a club that transfers from another Federation. The Tournament Advisory Board will look this into.

Wayne announced that Pam would resign as Tournament Director after this tournament season. We had asked her to improve the trail, improve the registration process, set up a Tournament Advisory Board, make registration faster and she has done all these things plus more. We will be appointing Stephanie Miura as Tournament Director and Pam has explained to her about the work involved. Stephanie will be given more and more over this tournament season to oversee to prepare for the changeover. In reality Pam excels at all she does and when she feels that she is not doing this, it is hard on her to accept this. This does not mean she will not do it again in the future. Time with her daughter and family is where her focus should be now. In 2003, Pam wants to set up "left on shore" activities so that wives and children will have things to do during tournament hours. (Pam was given a standing ovation, which she richly deserves.)

Pam responded that work would be requiring more traveling due to her new job. Stephanie is ready to take over and she will still be around to help.

Wayne stated he was not nervous about this change. We have been involved long enough to know that there is always someone to step up when something needs to be done or someone leaves.

Wayne also reminded everyone an election year was coming up. Present officers and committee chairpersons should start thinking now whether they want to continue or not.

OLD BUSINESS

John Romanski asked about the state split comment in the January Minutes. Wayne explained that Al Smith asked Wayne what would he (Wayne) have done if he could have done anything you wanted to do? Wayne explained that he would have wanted to regionalize the State but would have formed a committee to look into it. When this was brought up, people in the Board came forward and said they liked things as they were. If we ever grow to 1000 members, we might consider this.

Wayne reminded everyone that the next meeting and all meetings thereafter would be in Syracuse. This was the last meeting in Albany. This vote was taken at the January meeting. Frank Tennity stated he got out the Atlas after the last meeting and checked mileage from Jamestown, New York City and Plattsburg and they are all within 20 miles using Syracuse as the central location. Paul Tomeo stated that he thought this should have been brought back to the clubs so that they could all decide. Paul does not have a problem with going to Syracuse. It just would have been good to have everyone know that this was going to be put to a vote. Wayne stated that people need to realize that things will not be held over like they were in previous meetings before Wayne became President. If issues come up during the course of any meeting, they will be voted on if possible. Clubs need to send representatives to the meetings to make sure their voices are heard. Sharon Green asked if we ever considered posting the Agenda on the Message Board to spark interest. This will be done.

Mike Kreloff asked if we were going to have representation at the Boat Shows. Mike Cusano said we were represented at the Syracuse Show. Others will be looked into. It is hard to get a booth at the Rockland Show. Bass Fishing University was not held this year in New York.

Wayne mentioned that we would be asked to help at the Lake Placid ESPN telecast from July 7-11th. More information will be forthcoming on this.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. by **MOTION MADE** by Melody Tennity and **Seconded** by Ken Charbonneau. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Maher, Secretary