

**Executive Committee Meeting
March 18, 2000
Public Operations Center, Latham, New York**

President Wayne Tomassi called meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Those present were: Wayne Tomassi, Joanne Davis, Mike Zasuly, Pam Bliss, Burnie Haney, Ken Charbonneau, Melody Sanson, Mickey Fortunato, Mike Kreloff and Rose Maher. It was decided to go through the Agenda and review it as presented. Doug Stang will be speaking for DEC instead of Jerry Bernhardt.

Treasury - Matt Draxler e-mailed Wayne and tendered his resignation. No financial report or audit report will be available. Matt will prepare the 1999 tax returns. With respect to the 1099's, some have received them, although later than promised and anglers still have not. Wayne recommended Sal Pennini to replace Matt. Mike Zasuly suggested we wait to see if anyone comes forward at the Board Meeting before accepting Sal. Mike Zasuly asked if Ralph Somers would be willing to take on the job. Ralph would on a short-term basis but not permanently. Only President, Vice President, Treasurer and Tournament Director will be allowed to sign checks.

Raffle Tickets - They were not done yet. Printer promised them for 3/18 or they would be free. Pam will make a list of ticket numbers so that anyone attending the Board Meeting can sign up for specific numbers and then we will get the tickets to them.

Communications - Joanne reported only nine people have expressed an interest in bus trip to Classic. For a full-size bus (57 passenger), the cost will be \$6,900.00. Suggestions were made regarding getting a smaller bus, having set pick up points along the State and the possibility of using a motor home, which someone has donated for our use. Cut off date was set for May 1 st . Web page is a great communication tool.

Fishlines - Melody Sanson was introduced. Advanced issues were distributed. Deadline for submission of articles for future issues was discussed. The next issue - Tournaments - will have a deadline of May 1 st . Deadlines will be enforced. Dave Hadley and Burnie will be writing articles for the Tournament issue. Each tournament will have a page listing the sponsor, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc., so anglers can patronize these establishments. Must be careful that these sponsors are members of the Chamber of Commerce for those tournaments sponsored by a Chamber. New Fishlines will be handed out to Club Reps to bring back to their clubs to save on postage. Those not in attendance will have them mailed. Articles and other information to be inserted in the Fishlines can be submitted on Word Document 6.0. Melody will take black and white pictures at the tournaments and Rose will take the color ones. Mike Kreloff will be able to get black and white film very cheaply for us. Pictures of winning anglers will be taken in front of sponsor banners and trailer so these pictures can be sent to the various sponsors and given to the anglers. Goal for Fishlines space is for the issue to contain 50% advertising and 50% angler fishing information. Fishlines presently cost \$1,000.00 for 20 pages. In 1998, four issues with roughly ten pages each cost \$6,565.00. Target for sponsor money is \$11,000.00. Fishlines will also go to sponsors.

Membership - Charlie Jedica will be referred to as 2 nd Vice President but this has to be a bylaw change.

Secretary/Bylaws - Committee will be set up once we receive all the past records on 3/19 from Susan to review the old minutes for any additions or changes to the bylaws that were never done. The committee will come back with their proposal for new bylaws. Ralph Somers stated he would be willing to work on this committee. Policy and procedure manual from New Jersey reviewed. One will be prepared for New York so any members - new and old - will know what is expected of them.

Calendar - One error listed will be corrected. This will be kept up.

Awards - We will try to set a date on 3/19 for this year's banquet in the Albany area. One of the local clubs will be asked to help Rose arrange this. It was suggested we wait until BASS releases their schedule before we set a definite date.

Awards Committee - This will consist of two or three people to set criteria for awards. List of awards will be given to Ken to see if he can get sponsors for some of the special awards.

Pro Staff - Mike Zasuly will work on criteria, purpose and definition of this group of anglers. It is felt it should be anglers who are committed to New York State fishing but may also be fishing some other trail on a higher level. Outline what we will do for them and what we will expect them to do for the Federation, i.e., give seminars, write articles, give interviews for Fishlines. Melody suggested the name be changed as it might cause a problem with any personal sponsors the angler may have.

Tournaments - Pam reported no tournament information or trailer have been delivered to date. Hopefully it will all be delivered on 3/19 as promised.

Advisory Committee - A few anglers have expressed an interest. None have been decided on until all returns are in.

Tournament Crew - Three people have signed on. One more is needed. Rose will assist if no one else comes forward. Several anglers have also come forward to work on this but cannot do it if they are fishing the tournaments. Charlie Curcurito expressed an interest in being the weighmaster. Problem would arise if he were in the second or third flight. He cannot always be assigned first flight because then it would not be a blind draw and it could be viewed as favoritism. Charlie will be asked to be the announcer. This can be done whenever he comes in. He will be allowed to weigh in his fish ahead of the other anglers in his flight and then he could take up the microphone.

Rule Change - Information regarding changes were sent out and everyone was asked to be prepared to discuss them and vote, if necessary, on 3/19. BASS may not change their rule on off limits, so this is not an issue. Gas pumps regulation may be a NY law. This will be looked into.

Communications Devices - It was decided to allow communication with some individuals. Emergency numbers will be published to reach Tournament Director in case of an emergency as well as one other person. The regulation will read "Communication devices are strictly forbidden except in case of any emergency or to contact a Tournament official or to contact a lock operator". An angler upon receiving a call may answer his phone. If it is not an emergency, the angler is to advise the caller he is in a tournament and will contact him/her later. Discussion followed whether the use of these devices could be viewed as an advantage especially with regard to the lock operators. It was decided they would not be banned totally.

Late Registration - this will be enforced but not with respect to new members.

Lake Champlain/Redman - Our official off limits will start at 3:00 p.m. The Redman will not be finished until after that time. This will be discussed further on 3/19.

Gas Prices - Current prices might deter some anglers from bringing their boats. Note will be put into Fishlines advising non-boater to be prepared to pay a little more due to the gas prices.

Club Team Event - Packets will be distributed to those at the meeting and the others will be mailed. Packets will include entry forms, lake and ramp information, insurance form has to be certificate of insurance not the face sheet of the policy.

Youth - Mickey gave a report on the State Casting Kid finals. Orange County starting up a youth chapter. First meeting will be the third week in April at the Middletown Mall and hope to have 50 members.

June 25th Mr/Miss Tournament.

July 29 Junior State Tournament. Question regarding room registration. Trailer may be needed or possibly just certain equipment contained therein. This will be determined and provided.

Leadership Camp - Southern Tier will host Camp.

Fund Raising - Plan to raffle television at Lake George. Will try to have a Junior BASS member there to sell the tickets. Hudson Valley Junior Bassmasters have put together 600-800 worm packets to be given to anglers on tournament day. Anglers will give them to any youngsters they might come across while they are fishing. Lunker Don Lures donated worms. A thank you letter will be sent to Lunker Don and Hudson Valley Junior Bassmasters. Suggestion made regarding Junior members selling food at the Lake George partner draw. Ken can get a food cart donated if local regulations will permit this. They will have to be checked and also if the Juniors want to do this. Wayne as a fund raiser for the Fish and Wildlife Coalition for Youth plans to swim across the Hudson River at a point around Poughkeepsie some time in July. Sponsors will be gotten for this event.

Conservation - Burnie distributed information on the March on Albany and Conservation Council Meeting. The Federation was accepted back into the Conservation Council without a vote.

Open Season - This was discussed.

Chautauqua Lake - This issue not set as yet. Two Senators from the area will review the situation and report back to Burnie. The Senators were not aware of the situation.

200 Foot No Wake Zone - If not for Burnie's intercession, this would have been instituted.

Esopus - Mike Zasuly will report on this issue as well as the Orange County and Hudson River Estuary issue. The most important thing the Federation has to do is get more information from DEC, as well as further and consistent involvement on these issues.

Saratoga Lake - This will be addressed. The Federation's feelings with respect to weed eradication methods needs to be aired. Statements in local newspapers are one way to go. Contact with Ray Scott on this matter could be helpful. A date has been set for weed chemical application for some time in April.

Lures - Joanne heard that there might be a law in the works with respect to allowing only one hook on a floating lure. This is not an issue the Federation needs to concern itself with, as the lure manufacturers will handle it.

Closing in Jefferson County - Joanne also stated there would be a closing of bass season in Jefferson County one week earlier in 2001 due to the cormorant problem. This will cause a hardship in the area, as a lot of businesses will suffer. This will be brought up to the DEC.

Marketing - Ken reported that three of the points tournaments have been sponsored, as has the six-man team. Berkley will be sending merchandise for Club Team Event to be raffled off. Drawing will be at the last tournament and the money will go to the Club Team. Banner was displayed. It was used at the State Casting Kids Finals. Pictures of winners were taken in front of it. It will be transported in the Fishcare trailer to all the tournaments. Paul Tomeo, Ken and Peter Stevenson are trying to round up sponsors for the other tournaments and for the Federation's special awards. Dick Sporting goods might join and allow all members a 10% discount upon showing membership card. Lake Lonely tackle Shop at Saratoga Lake is being approached. Only boats on display at Club team Event will be Champion Boats. Picasso and Lunker Don as well as Power Troll and Charging Systems International have donated items. The Federation's main concern with respect to sponsors is to uphold our end of the contract. In past years, sponsors were promised certain things and they were never fulfilled. This will not be allowed to happen. Ranger Boats is a main sponsor of all points tournaments. Ken mentioned that all the postage, telephone calls and photocopies for all the sponsor mailings have been done by his company and his employees at no expense to the Federation. Matt Martin may not be going to Divisional. This will make Frank Maher Captain. This will be checked into.

NEW BUSINESS

Non-iodized Salt - Reports from five different sources have stated the beneficial effect of the use of the salt in the livewells. This practice will be continued. Pam believes there is still quite a bit of salt left.

Voucher Expenses - There is only one check left from the extra ones sent to Mickey for Casting Kids; therefore, only one person's expenses can be reimbursed at this time. All others must be put on hold until the Federation's financial position is ironed out.

Scales - Paul Tomeo has donated two digital scales for use but no information is known about them. It was recommended these be given to a club to use for a few tournaments and then have them report back on the success or failure.

Partners' Tournament - there is not one scheduled but it should be brought back.

Opening Address - A statement should be made regarding the election, subsequent resignations and new appointments since a number of people voted and the people that were voted in will not be there.

National Dues - Individual clubs are responsible to send their dues to BASS. Only money the Federation is presently holding for these dues belong to the NONE Club.

NONE - Susan Johnson has stated she will be President of this group. This group has never had the right to vote or send a team to the Club Team Event. If Susan wants to make this a club with all the rights and privileges, then it can join the Federation under a new name. The NONE Club is a club set up by the Federation as a transitional club for use by anglers until they can find a permanent club to join. The Bylaws sent by Susan were made up by the Federation for use by NONE. Susan will be contacted and advised of this decision.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.