

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
NEW YORK STATE BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION
MARCH 2, 2003
Quality Inn - Syracuse, New York**

Meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:07 a.m. Officers present: President, Wayne Tomassi; Vice-President, Paul Tomeo; Treasurer, Sal Pennini and Secretary, Rose Maher. Committee Chairpersons present: Tournaments, Sharon Green; Youth, Mickey Fortunato; Guide Association, Frank Tenny; Conservation, Mike Cusano; Publicity, Bob Green; Web, Ted Barth; Membership, Meg Corbett-Bates. Larry Good started pledge of Allegiance.

Wayne welcomed all that were present. Wayne speculated that meeting attendance was down because of all the information on the Website and members can discuss issues on the Discussion Board and get answers there. He noted the meetings are where the business of the federation is performed, where votes are taken, and not attending puts those decisions in the hands of the few that do. Those in attendance are the future of the Federation.

Roll Call of Clubs was taken and those represented are: After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Albany Area, Black Rock Bass Busters, Chautauqua, Finger Lakes, 1st B/M of Sullivan County, Hudson Valley, Orange County, Port City, Predators, Rochester, Salt City, South Western and Southern Tier. Junior Clubs represented: Southern Tier, Hudson Valley, Orange County and Chautauqua.

Committee Chairpersons - Wayne introduced the coming season's Committee Chairpersons. Sharon Green, Tournament Director; Mickey Fortunato, Youth; Mike Cusano, Conservation; Frank Tenny, Guide Association; Bob Green, Publicity; Ted Barth, Web and Meg Corbett-Bates, Membership. There is a lot of new blood on the committees, who in turn bring a lot of new ideas. Wayne announced that the Executive Committee approved the suggestion that all Chairperson will receive one paid entry this coming season.

Conservation - Michael J. Schmitt, Jr.'s resume for Conservation Director was distributed to all. (Copy is enclosed.) Wayne pointed that Mike will be the youngest Conservation Director ever appointed. Mike Schmitt and Mike Cusano will be sharing this Chair for the coming season. Mike Schmitt stated he was looking forward to working for the Federation.

Minutes of January Meeting were presented for approval. **MOTION MADE** by Larry Dupere and **Seconded** by Melody Tenny. **MOTION PASSED.**

National BASS - A new Youth Director of BASS has been named and it is Stacy Twigg from Texas. He will be really developing the BASS Youth Programs.

-Insurance - Wayne wanted to clear up this issue in case it was confusing from the last meeting. Apparently if clubs have their Bylaws on file with BASS and it states in them that any angler on their waiting list is only allowed to fish a certain number of tournament while on the waiting list than those tournaments are the only ones that the club will be covered under BASS insurance until he/she becomes a member of the club. A new member registering to fish one of our tournaments who is has not paid his dues to National is covered by insurance.

Treasurer's Report - Sal Pennini reported that the Federation maintains four accounts presently. We have as of 2/28/03 in the General Fund/Checking \$2,581.90; General Fund/Savings has \$20,000.00 (Boat Raffle winnings to be disbursed); Youth /Savings has 3,716.49 and Scholarship has \$8,630.74. This does not include any dues from 2004. From last year's Scholarship Account, seven \$250.00 scholarships were awarded at the January banquet and a \$250.00 Ken Charbonneau Scholarship was awarded.

-Federation Membership Dues will be reallocated as follows: \$8.00 to Fishlines; \$6.00 to General Fund; \$2.00 each to Youth, Conservation and Membership. All monies collected during the year are put into the General Fund and then at the end of the year are put into the separate accounts, provided the respective Committees have not used their budgeted amount.

Banquet - Larry Dupere asked how much we made on the auction at the Banquet how it was allocated. Sal reported that we took in \$5,178.00 and Scholarship received \$2,359.00; Youth received \$1,784.00 and State Team received \$915.00. Melody Tenny stated that Paul Tomeo should have more help getting the merchandise together. Paul stated that he would accept donations from anywhere and for every thing. Paul encouraged all Federation members to start now thinking of where they could get items donated. Items could be large or small. We have a number of handmade items this year that went very well. Craft items are always welcomed, as they are always popular. Melody felt that there should be more female items to auction off. Melody will help Paul this coming year with this. Paul encouraged all reps to get back to their clubs about this. This is not just a fishing auction. ALL items are welcomed. If each club donates one thing it will be more than we have ever gotten from the clubs. In 2002 we only spent \$110.00 out of pocket compared to 2001 when \$330.00 was spent. Paul stated if an angler is sponsored by a large sporting company that they should let Paul know and he would be happy to contact the company for donations.

Boat Raffle - It happened - The second place prize of \$2500.00 was paid at the banquet and there was not withholding or reporting of this to the IRS because the amount was under \$5000.00. Sal stated that the regulations for withholding and the regulations for reporting are different. Withholding of monies won over \$5,000.00, if you have the social security number, is 27%; without a social security number, it is 31%. Reporting of raffle winnings is required only if the winnings are 300 times the amount of the wager. If it does not meet these requirements, we do not have to report it on a W2G. With respect to the boat, it would be to Frank and Melody's benefit to go the 27% route and then claim the amount and have to opportunity of getting some of the tax back when they file their returns. We again do not have to report anything because of the regs. Frank Tenny reported that they were going for a trade but Melody will be picking out the color. Wayne asked all present if they wanted to hold another boat raffle this season. Mike Cusano suggested changing the prizes to draw the first 25 tickets and they get the \$100.00 and get to put their ticket back in for the boat. Ted Barth expressed his surprise that with all the clubs in the Federation that we did not sell all the 500 tickets. Sharon Green reported that all the names and addresses of those that bought tickets were in a database. It was suggested that a postcard be sent to these people advising them of the upcoming raffle and giving them an opportunity to buy a ticket. Lou Rizzotti suggested that if someone pays early (date to be determined), they would be put in an early-bird prize drawing. This prize will be picked at the last tournament. Lou also suggested that the new tickets hold the names of last year's winners. So many raffles of this type are held and then you never find out who won what. **MOTION MADE** by Larry Dupere to have a boat raffle this year which would also have an early-bird prize drawing to be done at close of registration at last tournament. Discussion followed regarding the division of the monies. It was decided to have the top prize be \$20,000.00; 2nd place prize to be \$2,500.00; and 25 \$100.00 prizes. The early-bird prize will be \$500.00 cash. Larry Dupere suggested that if we were going to do a mailing that it is sent to all members of the Federation. Questions raised concerning prizes for the Club selling the most tickets and the individual selling the most tickets. Noel Good expressed his club's ability to sell the same amount of tickets that they sold last year. Wayne stated he would check with Pam Bliss to see if she will coordinate this again. There being no other discussion, Mike Cusano **Seconded** the Motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Fishlines/Web - Wayne told Ted Barth about the Executive Committee's approval of paying all his entries for the coming season in appreciation of his fine work on the Website. Mike Schmitt's appointment as Conservation Director will be put into the Fishlines.

Conservation - Mike Cusano reported that he received information from Doug Stang that we can hold tournaments on DEC sites in summer months on Chautauqua Lake. Mike asked that if any clubs plan a tournament on Long Point they let Mike know what happens if they are charged for holding a tournament or for putting up banners.

-Air Stones in Fish Care Tanks - Mike Schmitt is checking into this as a device to help fish caught.

-Catch-and-Release - We have to actively start working on this now. Mike C. asked if anyone has any studies that were done on this issue by any agencies, to get them to him. Mike C. is preparing a letter that will be sent to all the clubs for their use in forwarding it to their appropriate City, Town and State officials with respect to this issue. It seems all the older members of DEC are against this and the younger members are for it. Lou Rizzotti mentioned a study done by Cornell University.

-Power Loading - Mike C. is not sure what the stand on this issue will be. Right now the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation and DEC both have a position on this. DEC is against "abusive" power loading. Neither group is ticketing at this time. Abusive power loading does have an effect on ramps; and, even though regular power loading also has an effect on ramps, it is not as bad as the abusive power loading. We have to police ourselves on this. There will be an article in the upcoming Fishlines on the proper way to power load. Wayne suggested we follow Mike C.'s recommendation. Mike C. stated that if you are hassled on this you should find out the person's name, what office they are with and be respectful when speaking with the individual. After the encounter, get the information to Mike C. or Wayne.

-Lou Rizzotti brought up an issue that apparently is being kept quiet and that is various towns, villages and Lake Associations are getting permits from DEC and hiring their own sonar people to take care of weed problems. Lou knows this has been done on Canisus and Wonitita???. Meetings held for this purpose are being kept quiet because they do not want a lot of people to know about it. Even though the sonar is better than chemical use it is still devastating to the fish population. Paul Tomeo mentions that weed harvesters were also approved for certain lakes.

- Discussion followed about the few number of Conservation Projects submitted justified the best getting a free CTE entry. **MOTION MADE** by Mike Cusano not to eliminate this Award. **Seconded** by Noel Good. **MOTION PASSED.**

Membership -Meg Corbett-Bates reminded everyone that BASS reduced membership fee program ends March 30th. First time or returning members (those that have not been members for three years) will be charged \$15.00 to join the Federation. If anyone falls into this category and has paid the full fee, they will be given a refund once

everything is verified. National roosters will be up dated in May and they will be compared to our information and discrepancies will be checked into.

-Meg would like each club to designate a Contact Personal, someone who have e-mail, that can be contacted for clarification of information received or to obtain information that might be needed and be notified of any important changes.

-New clubs that are forming and anglers, who will be joining, must be members of the Federation by September 1st to qualify to fish next year's CTE. The change of date is a tournament rule.. Paul Tomeo stated that his club is listed under New Jersey. This has to be looked into. John Agro brought up the scenario that if someone qualified to fish the CTE gets sick and the next person eligible to fish on the team joined after 9/1 deadline what would be the resolution. Each case will be reviewed as it arises. We have to set this earlier date so that National has time to process all memberships and then when we go to check the information it will be in their database. Wayne pointed out that a new member should be encouraged to join the Federation before he knows if he made the CTE team. Some States require that all their members be members of the Federation. We do not want to do this. We want people to join because they want to. Meg announced a free entry to the CTE will be given to the club that has the most "new" (anyone eligible for the \$15.00 dues) Federation members as of 7/12/03. Meg will check the number of Federation members a club has listed as of 7/12/03 and then checks what that club's number was on 12/31/02 and notes the difference. Second prize will be a free Website and one year free posting (this does not include web design). We have a deal with Vision IS, our host. The money for both the free entry and the website will come out of the Membership Budget. Wayne mentioned that if any club is interested in starting there own website to let him know as the cost will be dropped for all new website by Vision from \$155.00 to \$100.00. Lou Rizzotti asked if new members are only charged \$15.00, which fund will lose out. The General Fund will only get \$1.00 from new memberships. Lou wanted to know what the purpose was behind increasing membership. Wayne responded that with more members, we would have, of course, more funds but also more people to get involved and fresher ideas. Increased numbers also helps our position on matters with DEC. Also when contacting potential sponsors, higher numbers means higher advertising prices can be charged because they will be reaching more people. Also since ESPN bought BASS, national membership has declined 42%. Wayne believes we are the only State that has not declined in the Eastern Division.

Break for Lunch from 1:02 p.m. to 1:37 p.m.

Youth -Mickey Fortunato reported that State Casting Kids Finals were over. Mickey thanked all the clubs that held Casting Kids Competitions and the ones that were there to help on March 1st.

Winners were Kevin Ritz (7-10) with a score of 110 and Ken Nape (11-14) with a score of 130. Fifteen Federation clubs held Casting Kids, they are Black Rock, Salt City, Rip Van Winkle, Orange County, Adirondack, Hudson Valley, Southern Tier, Millennium, Barge Canal, Crown City, Helderberg, Rochester, Chatauqua Lake and the Junior Clubs. The drawing has then held for the club winning the free CTE entry - Hudson Valley won. Mickey also reported that Predators hosted a Casting Kids but their winner had to go to the State Finals in New Jersey. The winner was Frankie Appaluccio.

-May 11th Mr/Miss BASS will be held at Honoye Lake (paper tournament)

-New Junior Club formed - Chautauqua Lake and Salt City might have one soon

-July 11th Junior Invitational in Virginia - 6 man team

-July 19th Two kids to Missouri for National Championship

-August 31st Mr/Miss BASS (new) to qualify for 2004 - Lake to be announced

-Leadership Camp - Location has not been determined as yet. Dates set are March 28, 29 and 30th. All Junior Clubs are urged to send their officers.

TAB Meeting - Sharon Green reported that the TAB has their own page on the Web. Important information will be placed here and it is also a direct link to TAB representatives. TAB meeting next season will be moved to the fall rather than having it in February. This will help get information to the membership through their reps at the Board Meetings.

-Boater/boater issue was discussed. The goal is to try to alleviate the imbalance. Any angler registering on Registration Day will not be permitted to register as a boater if the field is full.

-Boater Bringing Non-Boater Issue - This will not be allowed. This could cause a riff in individual clubs if a boater, to be guaranteed use of his boat, brings a non-boater from his club and then another boater from that club asks the same non-boater to go with him/her.

-Non-boater Tour -= This will be run as the Senior Tour. 90% of the proceeds will go to the non-boater with the most weight and the other 10% will with withheld for the end of year prize.

-Computer Draw - This is being looked into with respect to the boater/boater draw. This season the boater/boater draw will be monitored and the coin toss will be recorded as to the outcome and then the program will be run with

the computer doing the drawing and seeing if the results would have been the same. Also issue raised as to whether an angler drawn as boater/boater should be flagged in the program so that that angler will not be picked again for boater/boater. Discussion ran that this would then jeopardize the random draw that our tournaments are based on. Also discussion regarding doing the draw early and posting it on the Web ahead of time. Then any person registering on Registration Day would be added to the bottom of the list.

-Off-Limits - For one year, off-limits will be lifted at Noon on Friday until Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Days that are holidays on Monday (Labor Day and July 4th) then the off-limits will not start until Midnight on Monday. Dave Kern asked why 12:00 Noon was picked. TAB felt that people that get to a tournament site early would then be able to go out on the water. This might also take care of the desire of a number of anglers that keep raising the Friday Practice Day issue.

-Registration - Even though you do not have to be off the water until 4:00 p.m., this will not cut down on registration time. The procedure has been that at registration when an angler comes in, his card was taken out and any questions were asked and then the information was put into the computer. The procedure this season will be to already have the information in the computer. This will cut down on time.

-Penalties - Penalty for late registration will be 1 pound.

-SCA Promotion - TAB reviewed the program and thought of a great alternative promotion. Rather than paying the dollars out of pocket for this promotion again, if any angler breaks the record (20.56 lbs.) by 2 ounces, they will receive \$1,000.00. If the record is not broken after the first tournament, then \$100.00 will be added to the \$1,000.00. This will happen after every tournament and it will rollover from one year to the next until the record is broken. This does not include the CTE. If the record is broken, then the next tournament the prize will start at \$1,000.00 again with the new weight limit as the record to beat. This counts for points tournaments only.

-Send Off - Issue of disparity of fishing time between first flight and last flight was monitored last year. The person raising this issue thought the elapse time was two hours. But after monitoring it was really only 45 minutes at the most. It will be calculated again this season.

-CTE - Entry per team is \$330.00. Any angler fishing CTE must have been a member of the Federation by September 1st. In CTE packet that were passed out to those Club reps present and will be mailed to all other clubs, new members will get their Federation patch and the new NYState Patch.

-Youth Fishing - Someone 16 years and older can join the senior organization if they care to fish points tournaments.

-Partners' Tournament - It was suggested that this be brought back to summer months and date and place will be announced along with the regular tournament trail. The CTE waters and Partners' Tournament waters will be the same. This will apply in 2004. This will also give anglers that join the Federation and only fish the CTE another tournament to fish if they choose to. We hope to have it this year on Columbus Day Weekend. Members were encouraged to bring a Junior member.

-Schedule for 2004 - This is being worked on now. Locations will be rotated across the whole State. The first two tournaments will be the farthest East or West and then the last two will be centrally located. Will try to have the schedule set by August 1st for next year. Sharon has tried to find out the dates that other trails are holding tournaments, but most do not have their schedules set by August 1st. Lou Rizzotti stated that Clayton would not allow BFL or Redman to fish there ever again due to all the fish that were killed during their tournaments. Sharon reported that our release percentage last year was 98.4.

-Canadian Waters - Three of this seasons tournaments involve Canadian waters and a Canadian license needs to be obtain in order to fish the tournaments. Sharon stressed not to get a Conservation License since this is only for catch and release. A seasonal license is the one that is required. Sharon also stressed that anglers cannot touch Canadian land. There are special guidelines for emergencies, which will be posted at all the tournaments. Sharon will notify the Canadian authorities prior to each tournament that we will be fishing in their waters and who the contact people are in case of a problem with one of our anglers. Sharon will also have to visit the Custom House on Saturday morning to learn of any new requirements, as these change daily due to the world situation, and all anglers will be notified at registration what the procedures are. If an angler launches in US and only fishes US waters, they are bound by US boating regulations. The number to obtain a Canadian License is 1-800-667-1940.

-Opening Points Tournament - Taking this off Opening Day of BASS season. Under discussion is going to a lake that opens earlier.

-Net Rule - We will not be changing this.

-Tournament Rules and Tournament Policies - Sharon advised all that after the Executive Committee Meeting the revised rules and policies will be revised further to include most of the policies into the rules portion as many anglers only read the rules. We will keep Tournament Policies, as this is the area where changes made during a fishing season are put until they can be examined and decided if they should be made into permanent Tournament Rules. Once these are updated, they will be posted on the Web and mailed to all.

-Observers - Zack Seals will be the designated observer. He is a personable young man who enjoys fishing and helped a great deal last year with fish-care.

-Tournament Entry Form - This form is basically the same, some information has been changed and the form has been set up differently. Anglers are asked to write legibly.

Sharon opened the floor for questions. Lou Rizzotti asked about the no communication

Devices Rule specifically if there is a problem at home or work and you are called during tournament day and are seen talking on the phone and you are reported what should an angler do. Sharon stated that after the angler gets off the phone, that they place a call to the Tournament Director or an Officer or a TAB member and tell them what happened and make sure word gets to the Tournament Director. If none of these people can be reached at that time, then once the angler gets off the water they should report the incident before someone else can report. If it is reported, the TAB will discuss it and investigate the situation and then make a ruling.

Wayne asked if there was any Old Business that needed to be discussed. There being none, the Meeting proceeded.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections - Wayne reminded every one that this was an election year. The rule that no family member of a candidate for election or any candidate running for election could not serve on the Election Committee according to our Bylaws. Wayne then appointed an Election Committee. Larry Dupere, John Agro, Larry Good and Melody Tennity were asked to serve on this Committee. All accepted.

The election process was then turned over to them. Larry Dupere nominated Wayne Tomassi for President. Wayne, regrettably, refused. Family obligations and work situation will not allow him to run again. Wayne did state that the situation might be different a few years from now. Larry then nominated Paul Tomeo for Vice-President. Paul accepted the nominations. Larry nominated Sal Pennini for Treasurer. Sal declined the nomination. Larry nominated Rose Maher for Secretary. Rose declined.

The floor was then open for nominations. Since none were forthcoming, Wayne stressed that he would still be on the Executive Committee as Past President and that the bylaw changes approved in 2001 would assist in a smooth transition Mike Kreloff nominated Paul Tomeo for President. Paul refused this nomination stated that he has more to learn and things in his life right now will not allow him to take this position on at the present time. Larry Dupere suggested that someone accept the nominations so that a team would be in place. Wayne asked if there was anyone present that wanted any of the positions open for nomination. Rose Maher nominated Meg Corbett-Bates for Secretary. After Meg asked what work was required, Meg accepted the nomination. Mike Cusano nominated Noel Good for President. Noel declined. Larry Dupere nominated Bob Green for President. Bob declined. Wayne suggested that Sharon has a lot of work and Bob is a big help in this area and if he were to accept the President's job it would be one household having half to three-quarters of the Federation business. Wayne has always tried to spread things around so that one household was not overburdened with work. Pam Bliss was mentioned for President. Wayne stated that she resigned as Tournament Director due to time, family and work obligations were keeping her from doing the best job that she could do. The President job would take even more time. Pam might be interested in the Treasurer position. Larry Dupere (or Wayne) will contact Pam about both nominations. Mike Cusano was nominated for President. Mike has to discuss this with his family and get back to us but it was very unlikely. Wayne stated that elections were open until November. Larry Dupere will put a post on the Message Board.

50/50 Raffle - \$42.50 won by Lou Rizzotti.

Free Wheel Alignment from Anderson Boat - Won by Pat Dupere. Pat donated it to the Federation for use on the fish care.

There being no further business before the Board Meeting, meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. by **MOTON MADE** by Mike Kreloff and **Seconded** by John Agro. **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Maher, Secretary