

New York State Bass Chapter Federation
Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
December 2, 2000
Quality Inn, Syracuse, New York

Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 2:10 PM. Besides Wayne, Executive Officers present were VP Joanne Davis, Treasurer Sal Pennini, Membership Secretary Charlie Jedlica (arriving a few minutes late) and Secretary Rose Maher. Committee Chairpersons (or reps) present were Ken Charbonneau, Marketing and Stephanie Miura, Tournaments. Federation Members Randy Crist, Larry Dupere, Pat Dupere, Pat Miura, and Frank Maher were also in attendance. After introductions, Wayne explained that Randy, Larry, and Pat were there as the Audit Committee and would be reviewing the accounts after the meeting in preparation for their report to the full board on December 3. Stephanie was there representing Pam Bliss who is on vacation in Florida. Wayne also reminded all that only the Executive Officers had a vote at this meeting, but welcomed comments and suggestions from all.

Wayne then explained that the meeting will be run informally and that we would follow the agenda for the next day, for more input and discussion. After the pledge of allegiance there will be a moment of silence for Mike Ciccolella, of Saratoga Springs who passed away. Mike was a friend to many fishermen and to the federation.

Wayne nominated Stephanie Miura as the Assistant Tournament Director. Wayne explained how important it was to have a back up in this position in case Pam could not attend a tournament or a meeting. The executive committee approved Stephanie.

Treasurer's Report: Sal reviewed his report, copies of which will be available tomorrow. There will be a three-page report given out to all, but the extensive and complete 17-page report will be made available for any wishing to review. The costs to copy would be too great to make a copy for everyone. Sal verbally went over his report item by item. He is responsible for all cash transactions from 3-21-00 to this date. Currently there is \$9,197.48 in the federation's checking account and another \$10,000.00 in a 6 month CD earmarked for the 2001 team. He hopes to be able to buy another CD and earmark it for the 2002 divisional team. Some of the problems that Sal has run into include difficulty reconciling the old federation account as the previous treasurer has refused to cooperate and forward all records to him. Susan Johnson has turned over all financial records in her possession. Of issue is an amount of \$4,987.60 that can be shown as being spent but we do not have the cancelled checks to back up the money that was spent. Wayne stressed that there is no evidence of wrongdoing or miss-use of the federation's treasury except an unwillingness to turn it over to the new Federation's Treasurer. Wayne also received a phone call and was tipped that there was a letter from the IRS addressed to the federation which had come to Matt but which he felt should have come to Wayne or Sal. The letter was notification of penalty of \$580.00 assessed at \$20 per day to the federation due to the 29-day late filing of our 1999 tax return. An attorney was contacted on the federation's behalf and certified, return receipt requested letters were sent to Susan Johnson, Matt Draxler and Scott Keller requesting that all records and information pertaining to the treasury be turned over. Matt Draxler refused acceptance of the letter while the others received them. Our attorney has informed us that the IRS penalty and late fee can be forgiven by appealing to the IRS and explaining the circumstances that caused the late filing. It was decided to prepare a letter from the Executive Committee to close out the other bank account and attempt to get all of the records possible. The previous treasurer's delay in closing the account has also resulted in about \$21 per month bank fee charge on the account. On the present account, the one that Sal has overseen since March 22nd, 2000, three people are authorized to sign checks Wayne, Sal and Pam. All vouchers have to be approved by two people Sal and either Wayne or Joanne. Overall we are doing well, and the December raffle money is coming in.

Vice President's Report: Joanne will mention the possibility of arranging a bus trip to the Bass Masters Classic, if there is enough interest. This year it is rumored that it will be in New Orleans. If there is little or no interest then it will not be pursued.

Communications: Wayne read a note from Margaret Johnson thanking the Federation for the flowers following the surgery she had this past fall.

Membership: Charlie Jedlica reported two new clubs have joined the federation - Northern New Jersey Bassmasters and the Atlantic Bassmasters. Broome County Bassmasters will also be joining the federation now that National Bass has sanctioned it. East Greenbush has requested that Wayne come to speak to their club.

Awards Banquet: Rose gave specifics - January 13, 2001 at the Holiday Inn / Turf Inn on Wolf Road in Albany. Cocktail hour will be at 6 PM with dinner at 7 PM. Award presentation to follow. We have a DJ with karaoke and that will begin at around 9 PM. There will also be a silent auction which Paul Tomeo and Frank Maher are working on. Wayne distributed nomination sheets (for awards to be presented) to the Executive Committee. Joanne will compile these.

Tournaments: Rose asked that the contract for the Divisional Team be reviewed and amended due to a problem that arose during the 2000 Divisional. The contract was reviewed and will be amended to include "By my signature I also agree to wear the team uniform components provided and to display patches, logos, or signage, provided by B.A.S.S. or the New York State Bass Chapter Federation." Wayne stated that National Bass would provide vests for all participants in the 2001 tournament with national sponsors logos already displayed.

Stephanie reported on the results of the Tournament Advisory Board Meeting in November. There were a number of items that Pam and the advisory board wanted approval on from the Executive Committee and the Board.

1. This year there was \$1775 collected from late registration penalties and since this money was not budgeted it was felt it a portion of it could go to the National Contender to cover his expenses. A dollar amount was approved by the Executive Committee and will be given to Chris Loftus at the banquet. Last year \$400 was given to the National Contender. Of course other clubs also donated money to the National Contender. This will be encouraged again this year. No specific amount will be budgeted to go to the National Contender. The amount given will be determined based on the location of the tournament and the amount of \$ on hand. Wayne mentioned that after speaking with other State presidents it seems that the state teams that do consistently well are the ones that are fully funded. We will have to work to increase our financial support of the divisional teams.
2. Pre-Tournament Practice: Change wording from Sundown to Midnight the weekend prior. This was approved. Friday for an official practice day was proposed. A list of pros and cons was prepared and will be presented to the board for a vote at the January meeting. The vote on "Practice Friday" will be presented two ways - keep it the same, or try it on a trial basis for one year. The subject of proxy votes was raised. They are not allowed.
3. Add accu-vu or similar devices may not be used to "a competitor may not skin dive or scuba dive."
4. Registration: Change penalty to .3125 - was approved. Add arriving at registration after the partner draw has begun may be reason for disqualification. Registering prior to 3PM will be allowed if the tournament crew is ready.
5. Safety: Announcement will be made prior to the partner draw with respect to the wearing of life vest while the motor is running and watching of speed during for or adverse weather conditions. These offenses could be reason for disqualification should there be a protest and Pam finds the protest has merit.
6. Sportsmanship: A statement should be made defining sportsmanship and include that statement.
7. Tackle and Equipment: Having two or more lines in the water is illegal. This will be brought up at the tournament briefings.
8. Boat and Motor: Boat length will not be changed. During the briefing it will be mentioned that the boat being used must be in good working order and also state that the boat owner owes the non-boater a

fully operational bass boat. The subject of turning off of headlights during the morning launch will become part of the briefing.

9. Horsepower: This will remain the same but be presented at the board meeting for discussion.
10. Insurance: Pam has had some problems with this and it is a very big issue. Some companies will not issue a certificate of insurance for a variety of reasons. Other state federations require proof of insurance but not a certificate. Pam wants to add a clause on the application to have the angler sign stating he/she has insurance. Pam will prepare the statement and Wayne will check with our legal advisor.
11. Regarding the rule that "Competitors must return and stay together during the entire tournament" This will be changed. It was decided to accept the Advisory Board's recommendation and allow competitors to come back separately if they choose provided they return in another competitor's boat. New wording will give options: In case of breakdown: a. boater can stay with the boat and the non-boater can return with another competitor and partner; b. non-boater can stay with the boat and the boater can return with another competitor and partner; c. both can return with another competitor; d. boater and non-boater can return in separate competitors' boats provided both leave at the same time; e. boater and non-boater can return in a non-competitor boat together; f. if breakdown occurs they can notify tournament officials and get the non boaters boat (if one is available) for use in the tournament.
12. Don't Kill Your Catch: agreed to change penalty for a dead fish to .25 lbs.
13. Tie Breaker for end of year standings: Agreed to this change. Tiebreaker would be if tied with weight - points would be the tiebreaker and if tied with points - weight would be the tiebreaker.
14. Pairing of Competitors: Agreed to change the process to having the computer perform the random pairing first and then the assigning of boat numbers. The concept of flagging an angler whom was put into a boat to boat situation and left his boat on shore so that he/she would not have to do that again that season would be brought back to the Executive Board with a recommendation to not make this change at this time.

The possibility of paying by credit card was brought forward. We cannot do this because of the percentage charged and we cannot legally pass that charge on to the angler.

Other areas for discussion included: Designation of specific areas as alcohol and tobacco free, pre-registration on the web will be made by Pam if additional information is needed from an angler, accepting as proof of BASS membership the labels off the magazine, CTE - in order for an angler to be eligible to fish the 2001 CTE his membership for 2000 must be paid by 12-31, proposal will be prepared by Pam with respect to the tournament staff pay which will be reviewed, 2002 tournament possibilities were reviewed, proposals made for site requirements, no locking through at the Seneca Lake tournament.

Ramp at Ticonderoga - there will be a shuttle from the parking area to the ramp.

Thank you letters should be sent to the tournament sponsors listing the number of anglers present and the number of days we were at the site.

Raise tournament entry fee to \$65 including luncheon. Offer a discount of \$10 if paying for all 4 points tournaments at one time. Will not affect the payback.

Wayne brought up that the Tournament Director has requested that a laptop computer be purchased for tournament usage – instead of having Pam use her personal equipment – this was approved.

The state casting kids finals will be held in Syracuse in March and we will set up our March meeting to coincide with this event.

Conservation: Wayne will ask the Board if the Federation should get involved with the Upper Hudson River dredging issue.

Website: This has proven to be a great tool. Even though the message board can get heated at times, it is still a good communication device.

Marketing: Ken reported that \$9,651 was collected with \$3,935.50 in receivables. This past due amount has to do with billing of advertisers and their quarterly paying of ads. Cayuga Outdoor World will not sponsor the Seneca Lake tournament but another marina might. Brook Cove and Champion Boats will again sponsor the CTE exclusively. There is no sponsor for Erie yet.

Ken will again plan to put out a brochure. The fish on the cover will be changed. The brochure has space for 14 advertisers and 7 have been found to date. Deadline for sponsors is January 15, 2001. Paul Tomeo has again arranged for Pete Stevenson of Stevenson and Smith Inc. to publish 2000 copies at no charge. Ken will be looking for volunteers to hand out the brochures at sport shows in Rockland, Albany, Rochester, and Syracuse. We will also hand out at Bassmaster University in Rochester and the Albany Quality Inn.

Mike Kreloff will again be handling the Fishcare trailer, but is interested in helping further. It was suggested that Mike assist Ken in contacting sponsors and advertisers.

Ken mentioned that some sponsors were upset by the fact that the Brook Cove banner was displayed at the weigh in table during the whole tournament, and their banners were only up for the awards. It was suggested that a listing be placed on the trailer stating that Brook Cove provided the mechanic for all of our tournaments. We could also add this to their advertisement in Fishlines. We will put the tournament sponsor's banner on the weigh in table for the whole tournament.

Ken mentioned that Fishlines would no longer list motels and restaurants in the area of the tournaments. Ken wants to approach these places for ads rather than giving them free advertising.

Booths will again be set up at tournament registration by various vendors to have their items for display or sale. Sponsors will again bring their boats for display.

SCA Promotions: Wayne explained this promotional tool. An angler breaking the federations' single day weight record of 20 lbs. 7 oz. could win a fully rigged bass boat or \$25,000 in cash. The record can only be broken once and must be beaten by 2 oz.

Warrior Rods would like to become an advertiser. They will provide a free rod to each of the members of the divisional team but require that the team members wear a Warrior Rod hat on the 2nd and 3rd day of the tournament. They also would like their logo embroidered on the official team shirt (they will provide the screen for this). They will also allow the federation to buy rods at bare minimum cost. They will provide the Federation Youth team with 3 shirts and 2 rods per member. They will advertise in Fishlines and have a vendor display at the banquet. No one felt any of this was a problem.

Lucky Craft would like three individuals from the Federation who have used their products to provide feedback on it for their advertising dollars.

Improving Fishlines: Wayne indicated that now that we have a quality newsletter, we have to get more articles written for it. Ed Noonan has contacted Ken and told him that he would like to discuss his providing articles for Fishlines. This is a good idea, and he and others will be contacted.

Bylaws: Wayne has made some recommendations of some revisions of the by-laws. A committee will be appointed to review the proposed changes, see if any others need to be made and report back at the January meeting. One important change would be the elimination of the 2nd vice president position. Our meetings are run under parliamentary rules and these rules state that the President should never have to vote except to break ties. Under our present system of vice-president, 2nd vice president, secretary, past president, and treasurer, there is always the possibility of a tie. Charlie has agreed to step down and become Membership Chairman.

Election Committee: By changing the bylaws, Wayne would like to see the election process changed, with the defining of a transition process to allow the smooth transfer of assets of the Federation to newly elected officers in the future. He recommends that the election process shall start earlier and therefore end earlier. In his recommendation, election ballots would be sent out after the earlier than normal winter meeting, (in November) and then counted during a special late December meeting of the candidates and election committee. After the ballots are counted the election committee would become a transition committee and oversee the transition. This would give the new Executive Committee a month to prepare for the January meeting. With the election in January before a meeting, nothing can be done at that meeting since nobody knows who will be elected. This meeting becomes a waste of time for all in attendance.

Areas to be eliminated: "Any club not affiliated with the federation prior to the May 1, 1980 deadline will be required to join the federation at 100% membership. Any new club joining the federation after the May 1, 1980 deadline will have 100% membership." This rule was never enforced and therefore should be eliminated. Also "A requirement that Chapter membership send a representative to a minimum of one (1) State Federation meeting in a calendar year." This rule was also never enforced and should be eliminated. Other areas to be changed are ones that have the same information listed in more than one place. These will be consolidated and listed in the appropriate spot.

Having covered all of the items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Maher, Secretary
New York State Bass Chapter Federation