

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
NEW YORK STATE BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION
DECEMBER 7, 2003
Lemoyne Manor, Syracuse, New York**

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:10 AM. Officers present: President, Wayne Tomassi; Vice-President Elect, Burnie Haney; Treasurer, Sal Pennini, and Secretary Elect, Meg Corbett-Bates. 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; Wayne welcomed all that were present, and thanked everyone for attending. He speculated that meeting attendance was low due to inclement weather in the lower NY area.

A moment of silence was observed for Ray Barber, a Finger Lakes Bass member who passed away this year. Roll Call of Clubs was taken and those represented are: After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Black Rock Bass Busters, Finger Lakes Bass Masters, 1st Bass Masters of Sullivan County, Port City Bassmasters, Rochester Bassmasters, Salt City Bassmasters, Southern Tier Bassmasters, and State Wide Bassmasters. Junior clubs represented are Southern Tier, and Salt City.

Committee business was referred until after elections, as this was an election year. Nominations that were accepted at the last meeting included Wayne Tomassi for President, Paul Tomeo for Vice-President, Pam Bliss for Treasurer, and Meg Corbett-Bates for Secretary. Paul has since withdrawn his nomination acceptance, and Burnie Haney accepted the nomination for Vice President. MOTION MADE by Mike Cusano to close the nominations, and Melody Tenny seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED. Larry Good cast one vote for all the nominations.

Committee Chairpersons- Wayne introduced the coming season's Committee Chairpersons. Sharon Rice, Tournament Director; Mickey Fortunato, Youth; Frank Tenny; Guide Association, Bob Green, Publicity; Ted Barth, Webmaster; Mike Schmitt, Conservation Director; Mike Cusano, Conservation Lobbyist; Dom Maio, Marketing. In light of Sharon Green's need to step down as Tournament Director due to family needs, Wayne mentioned he intends to ask Sharon Riceto accept this position at the January meeting. Wayne thanked Sharon Green for all of her assistance and dedication during the 2003 tournament season. The Membership Chair position is currently open. This position involves assisting clubs with membership issues, recruiting potential new members, and ensuring that all clubs are properly sanctioned. The Scholarship Chair position is open due to Dominic Giorlamo's recent promotion, which has significantly decreased his available free time. Ideally, this candidate would be a teacher. Mickey mentioned that his wife would be interested in the position, as she is retiring next year.

Several new positions were discussed, including;

Technical Committee- Looking to form a committee, with a software programmer as the chair. Mike Cusano volunteered to be a member of the committee, though he is not available to chair it. Any interested party should contact Wayne.

Tournament Operations Manager- This person would assist with non-direct tournament issues, a list of which is being prepared. Paul Tomeo is the leading candidate for this position.

Tournaments/TAB- A TAB meeting was held in November, and one more will be held on an as needed basis. Sharon Green presented the following information. The meetings were moved to the Fall in order to allot more time for contract preparation with sponsors as well as to address schedule issues. All rules causing a problem or issue were reviewed, as well as every concern brought to TAB members from individual anglers. Off limit areas will be posted as early as possible, but the TD has the flexibility to issue new off limits as conditions mandate. The late penalty will remain unchanged. Ending off limits at noon on Friday until 4PM Saturday was trialed for one year, feedback was analyzed, and due to overwhelming support, this will be made a permanent change, with the caveat that it will not become earlier. Flow at re-registration was improved with the new format. The draw, with respect to boater/boater will continue to be monitored. There were only several boater/boater draws this year, and it was felt that due to the low number of occurrences, the TAB did not want to pollute the draw system to completely eliminate boater/boater draws, thus when this occurs, it will be left to the individuals to reconcile. **All anglers are responsible for knowing their send individual send-off/return times. If an angler registers for the tournament at re-registration, that angler must register as a non-boater.** With regards to the state team, the Rookie Of The Year may have fished **TWO** tournaments with the Federation the previous year, and still be considered eligible as a Rookie for the following year. Due to several safety issues this year, the rules will be reviewed in depth at registration. To provide consistency, the TAB looked at adding one Weighmaster as a new crew position if the tournament budget allows. The Non-Boater and Senior pools were well received this year and will continue. For the Non-Boater Of The Year, the angler had to fish all tournaments as a non-boater. As the TAB likes to be open minded, without individual agendas, they do not want to be a voting group-they will as an advisory group. All

decisions this year were unanimous group consensus. The group liked having the meeting in the Fall, and will continue this practice. A main goal of the meeting was to find a scientific pattern to choose lakes and rotation, which would be fair to all parties involved. The schedule announced at the CTC by Sharon Green was a TENTATIVE work in progress. The dates will remain the same, but some of the contracts were not firm at that point.

Chris Loftus made a presentation which will begin the process of ensuring a fair rotation of areas across the state. In brief, he looked at population distribution, safety and fishery diversity. The state was divided into six regions, which Chris then evened the distribution of lakes, and came up with four areas: West, Central, North, and Albany Metro. Fisheries had to meet one of the following criteria: 10,000 acres or 30 linear shoreline miles. Chris then looked at the rotation, balancing east-West, North-South. For the Club Team Championship (formerly known as the Club Team Event), there would be an even rotation through each of the four areas, as there has been for the past four years. For the Points tournaments, due to population distribution, there would be a different rotation through the four areas. He next looked at the following factors- fishery quality, location to population density, and safety- and applied a numeric rating system to each lake based upon these factors. Chris's work was commended, as it was clear he spent a lot of time, energy and research into this presentation. Pam Bliss proposed that the presentation by Chris be put on the website. Wayne thanked Chris for all of his help. . He reminded everyone that communication with TAB representatives is of paramount importance, and that the Executive Board will back the TAB/TD even if they are not in full agreement with decisions. A sixth member, Dennis Smith, was added, as there are six areas of the state. Not all clubs in the same region have the same TAB rep. Chris reminded all present that any information, suggestions, etc should be communicated to the TAB rep, not just posted on the web as it has not been properly communicated.

Sharon Green asked members to take the club packets. The final schedule will be:

- Cayuga Lake, June 20th, Points
- Hudson River, July 11th, Points
- Oneida Lake, July 25th, Partners
- Mohawk River, Aug 8th, Points
- Oneida Lake, Aug 21, 22, Club Team Championship
- Canandaigua Lake Sept 12th, Points

Discussion surrounding increasing non-boater participation ensued. There was discussion on whether reps should take the following information back to their clubs for input; in order to increase non-boater turnout, should one slot of the ten state team slots go to the top non-boater? The non-boater must fish all tournaments as a non-boater, and if he is not in the top ten, he would be put in the top ten, and the person bumped would be made first alternate.

MOTION MADE by Scott Bliss not to take this proposal back to the clubs for input as it was not well received, **SECONDED** by Mike Kreloff, **MOTION AMENDED** to say "How should we increase participation by non-boaters?"

George Van Wert, President of North Coast Software, Inc. made a brief presentation. His company is offering free website hosting to Federation Clubs. In return, they will have advertising- one banner on the top, and buttons at the bottom of the webpages. North Coast will offer five initial templates, and clubs can put their sponsors on the pages as well. George stressed that the ads are in good taste and family oriented. If clubs currently have a website, they can link over. Each club would be responsible for content management, and there would be five POP e-mail accounts for each club.

Bob Pop, from Angler's Choice, organizes partners tournaments, and is the Tournament Director for the Upstate New York District. He states that Angler's Choice will schedule tournaments around the federation to increase participation by Federation members. Al Smith is Vice President.

A **MOTION** was made by Mike Cusano to accept the March Meeting Minutes, **SECONDED** by Dom Maio, **MOTION PASSED**.

Youth- Mickey has moved to Syracuse, and joined Salt City.

- 2004 State Casting Kids Finals will be Saturday, March 6th, at Breese Chevrolet, and volunteers are needed. Please let Mickey know if you are available to help. He has paperwork from eight clubs who have had Casting Kids events. Paperwork from any club who hosted a Casting Kids event is needed by the end of Feb.
- Nationals will be held April 23-25 in Tulsa, OK
- The Six Man Team from the Junior Division will compete against thirteen other states in Mallet's Bay, Lake Champlain July 9-13.
- Due to the addition of Salt City's Junior Club, there are now five Junior Clubs in New York.

- For clarification purposes, a Junior can stay in a Junior Club at age sixteen and still be considered an amateur. However, if that angler chooses to join a regular club (not Junior club), he is not eligible to fish any amateur events, including the State Championship.
- 2004 Junior Bassmaster World Championship (formerly Nationals) will be held July 30-August 1 at Lake Norman in Charlotte, NC in conjunction with the Classic, and there will be thirty-three teams competing. The age divisions will be 11-14 Junior (represented by Southern Tier Junior Matt Blue), and 15-not yet 19 Junior Pro (represented by Southern Tier Junior Benjamin Garfield). The age divisions are defined as the age of the angler as of August 31st.
- 2005 Northeast Divisional Championship will be hosted by New York, and there will be thirteen states competing. They are looking for a centrally located lake, and need volunteers for 42 boats. This will be held Friday, July 8th. Please take this information back to your club and let Mickey know if you have any volunteers.
- Vinny Cordell has volunteered to be on the Tournament Crew, and would like to organize a Fantasy Fishing League as a fund raiser for the Juniors, if there is interest.

Scholarship- Salt City Bassmasters pledged \$50 from the Divisional Team, Mike Cusano pledged \$30, and the club pledged \$244. Rochester Bassmasters pledged \$200, and Lou Rizzotti pledged \$30. First Bassmasters of Sullivan County pledged \$500 from the club. Wayne Tomassi pledged \$207. Sharon Green will run the Scholarship through this year.

Treasury- Overall, Sal says the Federation is in decent shape, but he stressed the need to be fiscally conservative. Of note, there are 100 fewer tickets sold this year from the boat raffle than last year. In order to continue publishing Fishlines, we need to increase the advertising money generated through the publication. .

Conservation- Mike Cusano stated that a Boater Safety Course will be mandatory in the next two years. It is offered free of charge through the NYSBCF. The Coast Guard Auxiliary also offers a NYS Boater Safety Course. There is a letter on the website regarding the Early Season Catch and Release with feedback from DEC rep Doug Stang. Please fill out and return this form to the DEC. Mike is looking into having a club mailing for this as well.

Membership- NYSBCF currently has 888 members, and four new clubs. The discounted new member/returning member promotion has ended, and will not be offered in 2004. PLEASE update your club contact person. This is a vital communication tool, and will ensure that changes and new information will be distributed in a timely fashion.

NONE Club- NONE has increased their membership fee to \$40, which will include a new \$5 administrative fee. NONE Club is a non-voting body which does not participate in the CTC. . Lifetime members, as well as the tournament crew are placed in NONE Club. If there is any remaining money from the administrative fee, it will be used to pay for tournament crew BASS and Nat'l memberships.

Insurance Info- Please be sure money is sent into Nationals. After the Sept. 11, 2001 incident, many insurance companies require more insurance or clubs can't meet at rooms (usually in a mall), as coverage will not be provided. Wayne will be collecting insurance-related information, ie, if clubs are not able to meet at their usual place. Mike Kreloff recommended obtaining insurance for the NYSBCF Trailer and its' contents. Pam Bliss will follow up on who is responsible for this coverage-homeowners or BASS insurance. There was one incident at Oneida Lake this year during which an angler, with a previous injury, incurred a purported exacerbation of his previous injury. Wayne is looking into the necessity of having a medical disclaimer for all tournament participants.

Wayne encouraged people to call Paul Tomeo and let him know that the Tournament Operations Manager position is really needed. Paul has great ideas and is backed by the TD/TAB. His continued support of the Federation is vital and universally needed for the continued growth of the NYSBCF. Please send Paul any auction items you have available. Each club should be able to find at least one item to donate for the auction.

PLEASE continue vigorous efforts to sell Boat Raffle Tickets! There have been less than 100 tickets sold so far.

Old Business- The CTE name was changed to the New York State Club Team Championship in an effort to increase sponsorship.

Wayne encouraged all clubs with a membership cap to either raise or eliminate their clubs membership cap. Mike Cusano provided information on the BASS membership brochures which give money back to individual clubs when new members join. The website is federation@bassmasters.com,

A **MOTION** was made by Lou Rizzotti to adjourn the meeting, **SECONDED** by all, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM. The next meeting will be held January 17, 2004 at 11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Corbett-Bates

Secretary