

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JULY 28 – AUGUST 1, 2009  
ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2009**

**Welcome by Louisiana Boxing and Wrestling Commission** – State Rep Jeff Arnold

**President's Welcome** – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

Introduction of representatives of Member Commissions and Guests  
Voter Authority Forms

**Presidents Report**

President Lueckenhoff reported on the activities of the ABC for the last year and recapped the agenda for the meeting.

**Approval of minutes for 2008 Conference**

Motion to accept minutes from 2008 ABC Conference made by Wally Jernigan (NE) and seconded by Andy Foster (GA). Motion by Keith Kizer (NV) to accept with spelling correction. Motions passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** – Buddy Embanato (LA)

Treasurer's report submitted by Treasurer Buddy Embanato for 2009 Fiscal Year (See attached report). Question from Keith Kizer (NV) as to why the official's training seminars lose money? Buddy explained that the cost of the seminars was sometimes more than the money taken in due to the number of people who attended. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by Dick Cole (TX) and seconded by William DeLuca (RI). Motion passed unanimously.

**Verification of Registered Commissions:**

See Attached Voter Authority Forms (38)

L. M. Duncan – Arkansas Athletic Commission  
Jack Barrett – Citizen Potawatomi Athletic Commission  
Jill Peters – Comanche Nation Sports Council  
Michael Kostrzewa – CT Dept. of Public Safety/Boxing Regulation  
Andy Foster – Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission  
Dr. Mel Jurado – Florida Athletic Commission  
Joel Campuzano – Illinois Athletic Commission  
John S. McCane – Indiana Athletic Commission  
Peter W. Howes – Kansas Athletic Commission  
A. L. Embanato – Louisiana Boxing Commission  
Patrick Pannella – Maryland Athletic Commission  
Kenneth Reels – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation  
Gary Litchfield – Massachusetts State Boxing Commission  
Don Hazelton – Miccosukee Boxing Commission  
Jim Erickson – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Jon Lewis – Mississippi Athletic Commission  
Tim Lueckenhoff – Missouri Office of Athletics  
Michael Mazzulli – Mohegan Tribe Athletic Unit  
Wally Jernigan – Nebraska Athletic Commission

Aaron Davis – New Jersey Athletic Commission  
Keith Kizer – Nevada State Athletic Commission  
Melvina Lathan – New York State Athletic Commission  
Mary Feist – North Dakota Athletic Commission  
Bernie Profato – Ohio Athletic Commission  
Joe Miller – Oklahoma State Athletic Commission  
Brad Darcy – Oregon State Athletic Commission  
Ernie Gallardo – Pascua Yaqui Tribe Athletic Commission  
Greg Sirb – Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission  
Bill Colbert – Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission  
William DeLuca – Rhode Island Boxing Commission  
Martin Seneca – Seneca Nation Athletic Commission  
Gerald Smith – Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission  
Michael Tyler – South Carolina Athletic Commission  
Phillip Martinez – Southern Ute Boxing Commission  
Jeff Mullen – Tennessee Athletic Commission  
Dick Cole – Texas Department of Licensing  
Alfred Grant – Washington DC Boxing Commission  
Kim Prine – Wisconsin Boxing Commission

### **Mixed Martial Arts, LLC - Record Keeper Report – Kirik Jenness (MMA, LLC)**

Bruce Spizler (MD), who has assisted in the drafting of an agreement between the ABC and MMA, LLC, asked for some points of clarification in regard to:

- (1) how the database is going to work and the origin of the data
- (2) clarification between Federal identification cards required under the Federal Law for all professional boxers and national identification cards for mixed martial arts contestants.
- (3) payment of the fees attendant to the services provided by MMA, LLC

Kirik Jenness (MMA, LLC) answered Bruce's concerns as follows: Initially, the data was submitted by a number of record sources, If the bout result was not submitted by a state or tribal commission, the result is recorded as a "Non-Sanctioned-Fight" ("NSF"). Currently, while bout results may be accepted from promoters, such results are listed as "NSF". Thus, there is a clear distinction between "NSF" results and official results turned in by State and Tribal Commissions. A clear distinction is made between a Federal ID for boxers and a National MMA ID for mixed martial arts contestants. The payment of the fee to MMA, LLC ultimately is the responsibility of the promoter of the event; although some Commissions choose to pay the fee or collect the fee from the promoter and then pay MMA, LLC.

Keith Kizer (NV) had an issue with MMA, LLC not responding to emails and phone calls. Chris, with MMA, LLC, assured Kizer that all calls would be returned in the future.

Gary Litchfield (MA) inquired as to how many states were reporting to the system. Kirik Jenness advised that most Commissions were reporting results.

Wally Jernigan (NE) commented that there is a number of Commissions that don't perform a "due diligence" when entering information in regard to the issuance of a National MMA ID card. Wally stated that the information being put into the system by some Commissions was incomplete; and until every Commission started entering the information correctly, the system would be inaccurate. He suggested that the ABC should take the period of 1 August 2009 through 31 December 2009 and track to see who is, and who isn't, doing what they should.

Bernie Profato (OH) emphasized it is imperative that the cards are issued correctly.

Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) suggested that MMA, LLC set up a computer outside the ABC Conference meeting room to give a tutorial for anyone who was having problems working in the database.

### **Comanche Nation Sports Commission - Jill Peter**

Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe) presented a report on the two professional boxing events he had observed being regulated by the Comanche Nation Sports Commission. Bruce Spizler (MD) noted that the ABC By-Laws require the observation of three successful events by an ABC representative as a prerequisite to a boxing commission becoming a full member of the ABC. Kenneth Reels (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation) made a motion that the Comanche Nation Sports Commission be extended full ABC membership upon successful completion of one more supervised boxing event. Second by Gary Litchfield (MA). Motion passed unanimously.

### **ABC Constitution Amendments – Bruce Spizler MD**

[See attached draft Constitution/By-Laws of The Association of Boxing Commissions] Two areas in the ABC Constitution / By-Laws were presented for discussion and vote: (1) the incorporation of Mixed Martial Arts, in addition to boxing, into the ABC Constitution / By-Laws; and (2) term limits for ABC officers. Kenneth Reels (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation) made the motion to add Mixed Martial Arts to the ABC Constitution / By-Laws. Second by Melvina Lathan. All of the voting members in attendance voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Dickie Cole (TX) voted no. Accordingly, the motion passed.

Keith Kizer (NV) made a motion to place term limits on the ABC President position, noting publically that the current President, Tim Lueckenhoff, should step aside. Keith also made a motion that the vote regarding term limits being placed on the officer of President be by ballot. Keith's motions were seconded by Bernie Profato (OH); and, accordingly, votes regarding this proposed Constitution / By-Law amendment was conducted via secret ballot. A tally of the ballots cast revealed 23 against; 12, for. Accordingly, the motion to place term limits on the office of President failed.

Wally Jernigan (NE) withdrew a proposal for term limits regarding the offices of 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

### **Open Discussion (Greg Sirb PA)**

With the ABC members seated in a semi-circle, gathered around Greg Sirb, Greg opened his presentation by noting that boxing is the only sport that has a federal law written for its regulation. This past year was the worst year ever for fighters fighting while on suspension. Greg reminded the members that reporting results to Fight Fax within 48 hours is mandated by the federal law. We are seeing far too many Commissions lagging in this area. Also problematic are Commissions allowing fighters to compete with expired federal identification cards. A fighter is allowed to fight one time on an expired card and then is to be placed on suspension until the card is renewed. When reporting results, Commissions must be more specific and clear with the suspensions they impose. Commissions must help each other out with questions and problems. If a member Commission calls, answer the phone or call back and get them what they need. Pat Pannella (MD) commented that we must make certain that actual Fight Fax documents are requested for each fighter who participates and not rely on other sources.

### **Code of Conduct (Aaron Davis [NJ]; Mike Kostrezewa)**

Mike Kostrzewa, (CT) delivered the presentation that covered;

- Professionalism
- Guidelines – Not hard fast rules
- Avoiding impropriety
- Consistency and impartiality

Aaron Davis (NJ) warned against the perception of impropriety by staying away from any "after parties".

### **Disciplinary Committee Report; Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Tribe)**

Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Tribe) briefed the membership on the number of fighters who fought while on suspension and the action taken by the Disciplinary Committee. Bernie Profato stated rules without

enforcement are useless. Keith Kizer (NV) suggested the committee change its name to Compliance Committee. President Lueckenhoff, (MO) noted suggested change and implemented the suggestion.

### **Legal Committee Report; Bruce Spizler (MD)**

See attached monthly Legal Committee minutes from July, 2008 through June, 2009

### **Evaluation Committee for States and Tribes Seeking Membership, Mazzulli (Mohegan), Erickson (Mille Lacs), Herman (Miccosukee), Gallardo (Pascua Yaqui), Davis (NJ)**

See attached Tribal Advisory Committee Report

Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe, Billy Cypress, addressed the membership about tribal regulation and the importance of the state and tribes working together.

### **Election of New Officers – Spizler (MD)**

Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) nominated Joe Miller (OK) for secretary. Dick Cole (TX) seconded the nomination. Buddy Embanato (LA) moved that the nominations be closed. Seconded by Dick Cole (TX). Joe Miller elected Secretary by acclamation.

Dick Cole (TX) nominated Buddy Embanato (LA) for Treasurer. Andy Foster (GA) seconded the nomination. Bernie Profato (OH) moved that the nominations be closed. Second by Dick Cole (TX). Buddy Embanato (LA) elected Treasurer by acclamation.

Aaron Davis (NJ) nominated Greg Sirb (PA) for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Bernie Profato (OH) seconded the nomination. Buddy Embanato (LA) moved that the nominations be closed. Seconded by Dick Cole (TX). Greg Sirb elected 2nd Vice President by acclamation.

Paul Herman ( Miccosukee Athletic Commission ) nominated Jim Erickson (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe) for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Joel Campuzano (IL) seconded the nomination. Buddy Embanato (LA) moved that the nominations be closed. Seconded by Bernie Profato (OH). Jim Erickson elected 1st Vice President by acclamation.

Don Hazleton (Miccosukee Athletic Commission) nominated Tim Lueckenhoff for ABC President. Pat Pannella (MD) seconded the nomination.

Keith Kizer (NV) nominated Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) for ABC President. Ernie Gallardo (Pascua Yaqui) seconded the nomination.

Buddy Embanato (LA) moved that the nominations be closed. Joel Campuzano, (IL) seconded the motion.

Bruce Spizler (MD), as Chairman of the Legal Committee, together with Nick Lembo (NJ), a member of the Legal Committee, oversaw the election. Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) gave a presentation followed by a presentation by Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)

Bruce Spizler (MD) conducted a roll call of the voting members with 38 voting members being present. Voting ballots were received and tallied by Bruce Spizler (MD) and Nick Lembo (NJ). Prior to announcing the winner, both candidates agreed that the votes per candidate not be revealed, and there only be an announcement as to the winner. After the votes were tallied, Bruce Spizler (MD) announced that Tim Lueckenhoff had been re-elected as ABC President.

### **Discussion of the 2010 Convention Site and Meeting Dates**

Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) briefed a proposal from the Royal Sonesta Hotel stating they would give us the same contract as this year minus \$3000 in banquet guarantees.

Kenneth Reels (Mashantucket Pequot) made a motion to have the 2010 Association of Boxing Commissions Annual Conference at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, LA. Second by Buddy

Embanato (LA) Motion passed unanimously. Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) announced the 2010 ABC Conference will be 19-22 July at the Royal Sonesta, New Orleans, LA.

**Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Muay Thai Unified Rules, Lembo, (NJ) and Mazzulli, (Mohegan)**

See attached Guidelines for Muay Thai. Motion by Bernie Profato (OH) to accept the guidelines for Muay Thai and to form a committee to present unified Muay Thai rules to the membership at next year's convention. Second by Aaron Davis. Motion passed unanimously. Committee is as follows;

Nick Lembo – Chair  
Joe Miller  
Bernie Profato  
Dr. Walker  
Chad Kurle

**MMA Unified Rules Committee Report Lembo (NJ), Profato (OH), Kliparchuk (River Cree), Mazzulli (Mohegan), Kizer (NV), Foster (GA), Erickson (Mille Lacs)**

Nick Lembo (NJ) reported on issues the Committee had discussed. (See attached Unified Rules for Mixed Martial Arts)

1. The Committee agreed to leave the weight classes as they are currently.
2. Tape can be used over the knuckles of a clinched fist (two wraps)
3. A petroleum jelly is the only substance that can be applied to the face and should be done under the supervision of an official at cage-side. No substance of any kind should be applied to any part of the body.
4. Standing foot stomps are permissible
5. Heel kicks constitute a foul
6. Downward elbow strikes (12 – 6 position) constitute a foul
7. Cannot grab the shorts of an opponent
8. A low blow is the only foul from which a fouled fighter is to be given 5 minutes to recover.

Bill Colbert (Utah) made motion to adopt the Unified Rules for Mixed Martial Arts with the understanding that they can be made more stringent by any regulatory body. Second by Joel Campuzano (IL). Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion of Committee to Approve Officials Training Courses- Lembo (NJ)**

Bernie Profato (OH) suggested a "Certificate of Attendance" be given to officials who successfully complete officials training courses rather than a "certification". The decision was made to form two committees, one for boxing officials and one for MMA officials training, to come up with a solution. The committees are as follows;

Training and Education Committee Chairman - Wally Jernigan

**Boxing**

Keith Kizer (NV) Chair  
Melvina Lathan (NY)  
Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan)  
Peter Timothy (Mashantucket Pequot)  
Dr. Jon Stiller (MD)  
Al Grant (Washington DC)  
Aaron Davis (NJ)  
Greg Sirb (PA)

**MMA**

Nick Lembo (NJ) Chair  
Chad Kurle (ND)  
Andy Foster (GA)  
Dr. Joseph Estwanick (NC)  
Bernie Profato (OH)  
Dr. Sheryl Walkan (NJ)  
Jeff Mullen (TN)

**Approving Fights- Greg Sirb (PA), Aaron Davis (NJ), Melvina Lathan (NY)**

A number of recommendations were made in regard to approving fights. Each jurisdiction has to look at this task differently dependant upon the particular statutes or rules applicable to each regulatory body. It was noted that the Federal Law mandates that each boxing commission establish "procedures to evaluate the professional records and physician's certification of each boxer participating in a professional boxing match in the State (or tribal land), and to deny authorization for a boxer to fight where appropriate." 15 USC §6306(a)(1). A major part of a regulator's function is to insure the safe and competitive nature of the bout. That means each competitor has a competitive chance; and the paying public gets its money's worth. Discussed was the need to have more communication with other Commissions who have seen a particular fighter and know what their capabilities are. Aaron Davis (NJ) recommended a common sense approach and to look into why each of the fighters are fighting. For pro debut fighters, the regulator might ask for a letter from a manager or trainer stating a fighter is ready to turn pro. Other factors mentioned were: (1) a fighter's inactivity for several years; (2) a check with the gym where the fighter trains; number of consecutive stops or defeats. Greg Sirb (PA) - Simply age, experience, and record. Keith Kizer (NV) - Every bout must be looked at on an individual basis.

### **Equipment Committee Report- Kurle (ND), Miramontes (FightFax), Topham (LA), Lembo (NJ), Kizer (NV), Sirb (PA)**

Discussion revolved primarily around MMA gloves. Recommendation was not to allow MMA fighters to use their own gloves; and that the promoter should provide gloves as in boxing. Must insure enough sizes are available. Leather grain surface with seams/stitching on the side being the best.

### **Medlic, LLC – Medical Data-Base – Jan Hubbard and Rebecca Johnson**

Jan Hubbard and Rebecca Johnson gave an overview of what their medical data base could do. Basically a data-base with fighter's medical histories that can be accessed and viewed by each Commission. The data-base also would include a doctor's directory and ABC contact information. The cost of the database would be entirely the responsibility of the contestant. No fees would be charged to the commissions.

### **Guidelines for Mixed Martial Arts Matchmaking Committee Report – Lembo (NJ), Profato (OH), Latham (NY), Foster (GA), Kizer (NV), Erickson (Mille Lacs), Mazzulli (Mohegan).**

See attached Mixed Martial Arts Match-Making Guidelines.

### **Guidelines for Boxing Match-Making Committee Report – Fitzgerald (MA), Pannella (MD), Kostrzewa (CT), Grant (DC), Sirb (PA)**

See attached Guidelines for Objective and Consistent Criteria for the Matchmaking of Professional Boxing Bouts.

### **Video Replay – Sirb (PA)**

The main issue discussed was if video replay is allowed, when the regulators would consider using it. It was concluded that a video replay can be used during the one minute rest period, or when a fight ends on a foul. Otherwise, it would cause an unwarranted break in the action which could result in an unfair advantage to one of the fighters.

### **Dr. Michael Schwartz – AAPRP/South Jersey Hospital Medical Data Bank**

Dr. Schwartz gave an overview and demonstration of ringsidemedical.com – a medical data bank operated through the South Jersey Hospital – maintaining a record of a fighter's medical history, including medical examinations, which would be accessible and reviewable by each Commission without any costs to the fighters or to the commissions.

### **Appointing the Appropriate Officials for a World Championship Fight – Latham (NY), Kizer (NV), Davis (NJ), Mazzulli (Mohegan) – World Judge's Report**

See attached 10<sup>th</sup> Annual World Judges Report

Discussion focused on working with commissions and sanctioning bodies to ensure the officials available are used.

### **Dave Price, Cov Glove –**

Dave Price of Cov Glove gave a presentation of his product the Cov Glove. The Cov Glove is an alternative of taping around the laces of a boxing glove.

### **Discussion of Amending Female Championship rules to allow three minute rounds – Kizer (NV)**

Keith Kizer (NV) made motion to amend the "ABC Regulatory Guidelines" to allow female boxers to fight up to three minute rounds. Second by Peter Timothy. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> 2009**

#### **Dr. Robert Smick, Discussion of Viral Loads**

See attached copy of presentation.

#### **MRI vs. CT Scan – Which is Better? - Staph Infection (Dr. Coletta & Dr. Schwartz)**

Consensus was that, as a screening tool, a CT Scan was acceptable; however, an MRI was better. An MRI for fighters who are 40 years of age and older is recommended. Both a CT Scan and an MRI are acceptable for trauma evaluation; however, an MRI is approximately three times more expensive than a CT Scan. In addition, a CT Scan is more available. Dr. Barry Jordan agreed that MRI's picked up bruises and subdural injuries better than a CT Scan and are better for fighters over 40; while a CT Scan may be better to pick up trauma.

MERSA, or Staff Infection, is in an epidemic stage. 5%-10% of the population is infected. It may show up as a bug bite or small boil. If infected, treatment by a physician must be administered, or the staph infection will become devastating. Staph infections occur in gyms because of the moist warm environment. It may be spread by the rubbing of skin. Pre-bout exams should have the competitors stripped to the waist with shorts on. Fighters with open wounds should not be allowed to fight. Frequent hand washing and showers with soap and water will deter the infection. Also, fighters should avoid sharing personal items such as towels, t-shirts, etc. Boxers are less likely to transmit staph infection to one another than are MMA fighters, because of the difference in how much the skin from one fighter to another gets rubbed together.

#### **Guide to Handling the Press – Davis (NJ), Lewis (MS), Colon (NY), Katsilometes (ID)**

The handling of the media, television, radio, internet, and print after a ring death or serious injury is very stressful. The regulator must be precise, be truthful, and accentuate the positive in these situations. Mark Ratner (UFC) noted that the regulator should notify the State Governor and Attorney General in the event of a ring death or serious injury; so they do not hear it from another source. The best advice is to be prepared and ready.

#### **Dr. John Stiller, "Neurological Considerations in Matchmaking from a Ringside Physician's Perspective"**

Dr. Stiller presented some of the factors to consider when matchmaking in regards to Neurological considerations. How many consecutive KO's has a fighter received? When was the last time he was KO'd? Dr. Stiller also recommended that the ABC consider increasing the length of a suspension when a fighter receives numerous head blows.

#### **Sanctioning Organizations – John Dugan (WBO)**

See attached WBO ringside Officials handbook. John Dugan (WBO) gave an overview of the WBO and their world and regional rankings.

### **Update of Federal Legislation – Bruce Spizler (MD)**

Reviewed current Federal Law. 2004 first attempt to make amendments to the Federal Law introduced by Senator McCain. This attempt passed the Senate but failed in the House, as did other successive efforts. Bills providing, among other things, for a US Boxing Commission currently are pending in Congress. (See attached Synopsis of S. 38 and H.R. 523)

### **Status of Mixed Martial Arts in New York**

An overview of the effort to legalize mixed martial arts in New York showed that it passed out of committee by a vote of 14-6. It is anticipated that such a measure will pass next year.

### **Hand wrapping Demonstration – Jimbo Stevenson**

**Meeting was Adjourned 12:15 PM**