

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JULY 24-28, 2007  
MICCOSUKEE RESORT AND GAMING  
MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**Wednesday, July 25, 2007**

**Welcome by Miccosukee Athletic Commission** – Chairman Billy Cypress

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

- Introduction of representatives of Member Commissions
- Voter Authority Forms
- Goals for the 2007 ABC Conference
- Number of shows – 99 fewer than last year; decrease attributed to increase in number of MMA events.

**Approval of minutes for 2006 Conference**

Motion to Approve Minutes made by Bernie Profato (OH) and seconded by Tom Katsilometes (ID). Motion passed unanimously

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

Treasurer's report submitted by Treasurer Buddy Embanato for 2007 Fiscal Year (See attached report).

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report made by Ron Puccillo (IL) and seconded by George Cox (SC). Motion passed unanimously

**Approval of New Commissions:**

A. Minnesota Athletic Commission

Scott LeDoux [MN] spoke regarding his history in Minnesota.

Jim Erickson (ND) gave report regarding the Minnesota Athletic Commission supervised events he observed on behalf of the ABC (January 12, 2007, March 17, 2007 and June 8, 2007). (See attached report).

Motion to accept the Minnesota Athletic Commission as a Member of the ABC was made by Don Hazelton (Miccosukee Tribe), and seconded by Joe Miller (OK). Motion passed unanimously.

B. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibue Boxing Commission

A representative of the ABC oversaw the supervision of one boxing event by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibue Boxing Commission, but

not the normally required three events as a prerequisite to acceptance as a member of the ABC, due strictly to ABC staff shortages and time-constraints.

Anibal Miramontes, formally of Fight Fax, is now working with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibue and, in regard to two events sanctioned by the Tribe, supervised the two boxing shows. Mr. Miramontes stated that ABC Regulatory Guidelines were strictly adhered at both shows including weigh-in procedures, drug testing and blood work. He then requested that the Mille Lac Band of Ojibue Athletic Commission be voted as a *probationary* member of the ABC, pending an ABC representative overseeing two additional boxing shows sanctioned by the Tribe.

Three Mille Lac Band of Ojibue Athletic Commission Members were present and introduced themselves to the ABC members.

Motion to Accept the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibue Boxing Commission as a probationary Member of the ABC, with two additional satisfactory visits by an ABC representative of boxing events sanctioned by the Tribe justifying full membership in the ABC, was made by Don Hazelton (Miccousukee Tribe) and seconded by Buddy Embanato (LA. Motion passed unanimously

### **Verification of Registered Commissions**

Voter Authority Forms (34):

Steve Allred – West Virginia State Athletic Commission  
Mable Boatwright – Washington DC Boxing & Wrestling  
Karen Ben – Choctaw Boxing Commission  
Aaron Davis – Kansas Athletic Commission  
Danny Dring – Arkansas Athletic Commission  
A.L. “Buddy” Embanato, Jr. – Louisiana Boxing and Wrestling Commission  
Jim Erickson – North Dakota Athletic Commission  
Kelly Farr – Georgia Athletic Commission  
Ernie Gallardo – Pascua Yaqui Tribe Boxing Commission  
Armando Garcia – California State Athletic Commission  
Don Hazelton – Miccosukee Athletic Commission  
Roger Hutchings – North Carolina Boxing Authority  
Lee Jenkins – Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission  
Tom Katsilometes – Idaho State Athletic Commission  
Keith Kizer – Nevada State Athletic Commission  
Michael Kostrzewa – CT Department of Public Safety/Boxing Commission  
Scott LeDoux – Minnesota Boxing Commission  
Tim Lueckenhoff – Missouri Office of Athletics  
Phillip Martinez – Southern Ute Indian Boxing Commission  
Josef Mason – Colorado State Boxing Commission  
Michael Mazzulli – Mohegan Tribe Department of Athletic Regulation

John S. McCane – Indiana Boxing Commission  
Joe Miller – Oklahoma Professional Boxing Commission  
Anibal Miramontes – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Patrick Pannella – Maryland State Athletic Commission  
Christa Patterson – Florida State Commission  
Bernie – Profato – Ohio Athletic Commission  
Ron Puccillo – Illinois Boxing Commission  
Angela Roberston - Kentucky Boxing & Wrestling Authority  
Greg Sirb – Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission  
Ron Scott Stevens – New York State Athletic Commission  
Bruce Tanaka – Washington State Athletic Commission  
Peter Timothy – Mashantucket Pequot Athletic Commission  
Michael Tyler – South Carolina Boxing Commission

## **BY-LAW CHANGES**

Proposed changes to the ABC Constitution and By-laws, submitted by Don Hazelton (Miccosukkee) (attached) were read to the assembled member representatives by President Lueckenhoff; seconded; discussed by the membership; and voted upon as follows:

A. Art. III, § 3.5 – Ballots (new)

Voting for officers to be conducted by secret ballot or in closed session; all other voting in open session

FAILED

B. Article IV, §4.1(b) – Term Limits (new)

There shall be a four (4) year term limit for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Said officers may fill out the unexpired term of his/her predecessor and then serve a full two (2) year term. However, in no event shall there be more than two (2), two year terms of service. (The term limitation shall become effective after the 2007 elections.)

FAILED

C. Article IV, §4.7 – Duties of Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of all records and written materials related to the ABC. The Secretary shall, within three months following the annual meeting, publish the minutes of the meeting and make these minutes available to each member. All ABC records, audio/video recordings, transcripts and other written materials related to the ABC are subject to disclosure to any ABC member, in

good standing, upon request. A nominal fee, to cover copy charges, may be assessed by the ABC to any non-member individual or group requesting such records.

PASSED

D. Article VII, §7.4 – Meeting Records and Minutes (new)

All meetings held by the ABC membership at its annual conference, Board of Directors' meetings, and ABC Committee meetings, whether conducted in person or via telephone conferencing, shall be audio and/or video recorded, or transcribed by a stenographer. Any and all audio and/or video recordings and/or transcripts shall be made available to any ABC member in good standing, upon request.

FAILED

E. Article X- Financial Accountability and Disclosure (new), §10.1 – Budget (new)

The Treasurer, subject to review by the Financial Committee, shall prepare an annual budget to be presented to ABC membership for approval.

PASSED

F. Article X, Financial Accountability and Disclosure (new), §10.2 – Audits (new)

An external annual financial audit shall be conducted by an independent accounting firm, selected by a majority of the ABC membership, following a bid process. The annual audit shall be conducted with generally accepted auditing standards, and shall include such examination of the accounting records and such auditing procedures as may be deemed necessary. The auditors shall prepare and present a report to the ABC membership at its annual conference. ABC financial records and audit reports shall be made available for inspection and/or copying to any ABC member in good standing, upon request.

FAILED

Motion by Greg Sirb (Pennsylvania), seconded by Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Sun), as follows: An ABC member in good standing may request an audit of the ABC's finances; provided that the requesting member bear all expenses attendant to such an audit.

PASSED

G. Article X – Financial Accountability and Disclosure, §10.3 –  
Financial Committee

All financial matters, including but not limited to, expenditures, bookkeeping, and audits shall be reviewed and approved by a financial committee. Said Committee shall be chaired by the ABC Treasurer and comprised of ABC members appointed by the President. The Financial Committee shall submit an annual report to the ABC membership at its annual conference.

PASSED

[Note: Jake Hall (Indiana), Paul Herman (Miccosukee), and Johnny Mattingly (Arkansas) were appointed to serve on the Financial Committee.]

In consideration of the passage of new Article X, §10.3 (which references “a Financial Committee”, a motion to amend the ABC Constitution and By-laws, as follows, was made by Pat Pannella (Maryland), seconded by Keith Kizer (Nevada):

Article VI, §6.1 – Committees

There shall be the following permanent standing committees: Medical, Legal, Rule Making, Training and Education, Disciplinary, [and] Boxers Pension and Trust Fund, and Financial

**Common Sense Approach to Federal ID Cards – Patrick Pannella (MD)**  
(written criteria attached)

- Use forms provided by the ABC (samples distributed)
- Issued by state in which boxer resides
- At time of issuance, boxer must present a state-issued identification (*e.g.*, driver’s license and his/her social security card)
- Keep boxer’s current photograph on file
- When e-mailing information to Fightfax, Inc., be sure to not the expiration date, as such information is important as to when card needs to be renewed
- Place boxer’s federal ID number of all promoter-boxer contracts and otherwise identify the boxer with this number when communicating with a promoter or matchmaker.
- Boxer must have Federal ID card with him/her at weigh-in

Boxer may be allowed a one time “grace period” regarding an expired Federal ID; thereafter, confiscate expired Federal ID card and notify Fight Fax “boxer must renew Federal ID card

- Encourage a boxer to comply with the Federal Law requirement that the Federal ID card be renewed every four (4) years.
- A Federal ID Card may be issued to a boxer even if he/she is not licensed.
- Boxers from a foreign country may get a Federal ID Card from any state

### **HIV AND Hepatitis Tests**

President Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) lead a discussion of how to deal with boxers who test positive for HIV, Hep B or Hep C.

**Judges Annual Report** – Gregory Sirb (PA) (attached)

**ABC’s Role in Conflict of Interest and other violations of the Federal Law** - ABC Legal Committee - Bruce Spizler (MD), Chair

### **Election of Officers**

President – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO) - nomination by Don Hazelton (Miccosukee); second by Ron Puccillo (IL). In the absence of any other nominations, nominations closed, and Tim Lueckenhoff elected.

Vice Presidents –

- Jim Erickson (ND) - nominated by Pat Pannella (MD); second by Joe Mason (CO)

- Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Tribe) - nominated by Anibal Miramontes (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe); second by Ron Scott Stevens (NY)

In the absence of any other nominations, Buddy Embanto (LA) made a motion for Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Tribe) to be First Vice President, and Jim Erickson (ND) to be Second Vice President. Motion seconded, and Motion passed

Secretary – Joanna Aquilar (Pueblo of Santa Ana Tribe) – nominated by Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Tribe); second by Pat Pannella (MD). In the absence of any other nominations, nominations closed, and Joanna Aquilar elected

Treasurer – Buddy Embanato (LA) – nominated by Ron Phillips (IL); second by Pat Pannella (MD). In the absence of any other nominations, nominations closed, and Buddy Embanato elected

### **Selection of 2009 Convention Site**

Sites for consideration:

Louisville, Kentucky - Brown Hotel  
Indiana - Caesars Palace  
New Orleans, Louisiana

New Orleans received the majority of votes, and, as a result, the 2009 Conference of the ABC will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The 2008 Conference will be held in Montreal, Canada from July 1 through 6, 2008

### **TNA Wrestling (Total Nonstop Action)**

Craig Jenkins advised that TNA Wrestling is shown every Thursday on Spike TV from 9 p.m. – 10 p.m. He also noted that TNA Wrestling would be launching a “Household Tour” on pay-per-view with approximately 10-12 pay-per-view shows.

Meeting adjourned

### **Thursday, July 26, 2007**

#### **Fight Fax, Inc. Report - Anibal Miramontes**

- Boxing commission should not issue Federal ID card to boxer who resides in another state
- When reviewing boxer’s Federal ID card, e-mail the new expiration date to Fight Fax
- All commissions are to correspond to Fight Fax by e-mail for faster processing.
- Suspension of boxer may be removed only upon request of boxing commission imposing the suspension

**Pat English, Esquire** – discussion of Stephen Johnson lawsuit

**Matchmaking** – discussion by Greg Sirb (PA) and Anibal Miramontes (Fight Fax)

### **Committee Reports**

#### **(A) Open Scoring Committee – Chairman Jim Erickson (ND)**

Committee Members: Joe Mason (CO), Pat Pannella (MD), Bernie Profato (OH)

- Jim Erickson provided the membership with a power point presentation on the history of open scoring (attached)
- Members made comments all in opposition to the adoption of open scoring
- ABC Members reject the adoption of open scoring

**(B) Weigh-In Committee - Dr. Joseph Estwanik, Chairman**

Committee members: Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Tribe), Jim Erickson (ND), Don Hazelton (Miccosukee Tribe)

- informational hand-out to be provided to all boxers at the weigh-in
- Gatorade in the corners and in the dressing rooms

**(C) Disciplinary Committee - Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan), Chairman**

Mike Mazzulli presented an overview of the Disciplinary Committee's activities over the last year (attached)

**(D) Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Committee - Josef Mason, Chairman**

Committee Members: Joe Miller (OK), Bernie Profato (OH), Joe Mason (CO), Aaron Davis (KS), Kelly Farr (GA)

- MMA has become a "mainstream" sport (11 MMA events in 2006; 39 MMA events in 2007)
- Need for MMA database
  - Committee to develop RFP for MMA database: (Kelly Farr (GA); Joe Miller (OK); Aaron Davis (KS); Bernie Profato (OH); Dale Kliparchuck (Edmonton); Dan Huff (ID)
- Nature of medical injuries
- "legalization" in new states and tribes
- Distinction and separation of "amateur" from pro

**Miscellaneous Presentations / Discussions**

**(A) Female Championship Bouts – Keith Kizer (NV)**

- 10 rounds vs. 12 rounds
- Two minutes rounds vs. three minute rounds

**(B) Instant Replay – Tim Lueckenhoff (MO)**

**(C) Uniform Championship Rules – Ron Scott Stevens (NY)**

**(D) WBA and IBF presentation re: medical requirements – Noah Reandeu**

**(E) Inspectors training – Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan) and Don Hazelton (Miccosukee)**

**F) KICK – Amateur MMA Sanctioning Body -**

Only group that provides AIG Insurance for sports including MMA

- (\$10,000 - \$100,000) Medical Coverage
- 1 Million – 2 Million General Liability Coverage
- Travel Insurance to and from international events
- In the process of implementing a Code of Conduct and Anti-Doping Policy
- Provide equipment for athletes (gloves, shoes, etc.)
- Equipment is built with athletes safety in mind
- Primetime gloves are proven to eliminate injuries

**(G) ISCF - Mixed Martial Arts Promoter and Sanctioning Organization– Steve Fossum**

Suggests that states that do not have authorizing legislation for MMA or states and states or tribes which do not have athletic commissions to regulate MMA should “hire” ISCF which, for a fee, will regulate the MMA event on behalf of the state or tribe.

Bruce Spizler (MD) inquired whether Fossum perceive a “conflict of interest” where a promoter of MMA events also served as the sanctioning organization and the regulator. Fossum’s response: “Well that’s a loaded question” (with no response to a request for a “loaded answer”)

**(H) Battlebase Network – MMA Registry (Florida) – Marlon Hightower (President)**

### **ABC Code of Conduct**

Patrick Pannella (MD) – Motion for the ABC to implement Code of Conduct. Second by Joe Miller (OK). Motion passes. The follow members were designated to serve on the committee Code of Conduct committee:

Aaron Davis, Chairman  
Pat Pannella (MD)  
Keith Kizer (NV)  
Mike Kostrzewa – (CT)

The Committee will develop a code of conduct and present it at next year’s meeting.

### **July 27, 2007**

#### **Legal Committee – Bruce Spizler (MD), Chairman**

Committee Members: Tim Lueckenhoff (MO), Greg Sirb (PA), Joanna Aguilar (Pueblo of Santa Ana), Keith Kizer (NV), Hugo Spindola (NY), Linda Acampora (Mohegan), Tim Dunlap (Canada)

- Overview of the activities of the Legal Committee during the past year (overview attached – also, see Legal Committee meeting minutes which are emailed to the members following each Legal Committee meeting. (report attached)
- Update on Federal Legislation

#### **AAPRP – Dr. Domenic Coletta**

Dr. Coletta presented a medical update of matters addressed by the AAPRP (an associate member of the ABC)

## **Meeting with Sanctioning Organization**

Privately, and individually, representatives of the IBF, WBO, WBA and WBC met with ABC representatives [Sirb (PA), Lueckenhoff (MO), Spizler (MD) and Miramontes, (Mille Lacs) to discuss the ABC Guidelines for Objective and Consistent Ratings of Professional Boxers (enacted as directed by Federal Law); the “sense of Congress” that the sanctioning organizations adopt these ratings criteria.

## **Open Scoring – Jose Sulaiman, President WBC**

Mr. Sulaiman presented a historical background on open scoring and the reasons open scoring has been adopted by the WBC.

Motion made by Jim Erickson (ND), Chairman of the ABC Open Scoring Committee, that the ABC oppose open scoring for boxing events and not recommend the use of open scoring to its members. Buddy Embanato (LA)

Motion Passed.

## **The Shield - Fred Zepeda**

Mr. Zepeda provided information to the membership on “The Shield” - a mat which is placed under the boxers in between rounds to catch water, and other substances placed on a boxer between rounds.

## **MMA Training Seminar for Commissioners and Officials**

A training seminar regarding Mixed Martial Arts for Commissioners and Officials was presented by Dale Kliparchuk (Edmonton) and Herb Dean (referee).

## **ABC Officials Training**

A training seminar for boxing judges and a Judge’s Certification Course was conducted by Duane Ford

## **Mixed Martial Arts**

- Standardized regulation of MMA - Joe Miller (OK)
- Selection of Officials – Mike Mazzulli (Mohegan Tribe)

## **July 28, 2007**

## **ABC Officials Training**

A training seminar for boxing referees and an ABC Referee’s Certification course for referees was conducted by Armando Garcia (CA)

*Respectfully Submitted (by committee),*

*Kim Baker  
Mohegan Athletic Unit*

*Tim Lueckenhoff  
Missouri*

*Joanna Aguilar  
Pueblo of Santa Ana Athletic Commission*

*Bruce Spizler  
Maryland*

*Please note: Where it reads 'See attached report/handout' etc., please contact Tim Lueckenhoff for that information.*