

# **MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017**

On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:06 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Sean Malone; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Norman; Victoria Wilkins, Commissioner of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing / Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Counsel; and Dreama Anderson, Administrative Specialist. Absent: Commissioner Ben Alperstein.

### **JAMES “JIM” HARDWICK RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report. James “Jim” Hardwick recently applied to renew his promoter license with the Commission as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. Mr. Hardwick typically promotes his wrestling events under the advertising name of Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA). Mr. Hardwick has held a longstanding series of EWA wrestling events at Tall Cedars Hall in Parkville, Maryland, but has also held wrestling events elsewhere in the State of Maryland. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Hardwick as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Hardwick, and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission’s licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Malone, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the renewal of the license of James “Jim” Hardwick as a promoter.

### **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL/PRO-AM BOXING EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the professional boxing events and pro-am boxing events currently scheduled to be held

in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Malone, seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional boxing event:

Pro-Am Boxing Event  
Friday, May 12, 2017 - 8:15 p.m. Starting Time  
Michael's Eighth Avenue  
7220 Grayburn Drive - Glen Burnie, Maryland  
Promoter: Baltimore Boxing and Fitness, LLC, advertising as  
Baltimore Boxing and Fitness.  
Featured Boxing Contest:  
Donald Wallace versus Gregory Clark.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Chairman Dansicker, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional boxing event:

Professional Boxing Event  
Televised Live on the Showtime Network  
Saturday, May 20, 2017 - 5:30 Starting Time  
MGM National Harbor  
101 MGM National Avenue - Oxon Hill, Maryland  
Promoter: TGB Promotions, LLC, advertising as  
TGB Promotions.  
Featured Boxing Contests:  
Oscar Escandon versus Gary Russell, Jr. for the  
World Boxing Council (WBC) Featherweight title; and  
versus for the  
World Boxing Council (WBC) "Super Welterweight" title.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Malone, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional boxing event:

Professional Boxing Event  
Saturday, June 3, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Michael's Eighth Avenue  
6336 Rosecroft Drive - Ft. Washington, Maryland  
Promoter: King's Promotions, LLC, advertising as  
King's Promotions.  
Featured Boxing Contest:  
Mychal Fox versus Daniel Sostre.

## **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the professional wrestling events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, seconded by Commissioner Malone, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events being promoted by James "Jim" Hardwick, advertising as Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA):

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, May 13, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hill Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: James "Jim" Hardwick,  
advertising as Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA);

Professional Wrestling Event  
Friday, July 7, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hill Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: James "Jim" Hardwick,  
advertising as Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA) and  
Half Pint Brawlers;

Professional Wrestling Event

Saturday, July 8, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Gentlemen's Gold Club  
5901 Pulaski Highway - Baltimore, Maryland  
Promoter: James "Jim" Hardwick,  
advertising as Half Pint Brawlers;

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, September 23, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hill Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: James "Jim" Hardwick,  
advertising as Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA); and

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, October 28, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Tall Cedars Hall  
2501 Putty Hill Avenue - Parkville, Maryland  
Promoter: James "Jim" Hardwick,  
advertising as Eastern Wrestling Alliance (EWA).

Upon a motion by Commissioner Malone, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as CRAB Wrestling:

Professional Wrestling Event  
Friday, June 9, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Marketplace  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as CRAB Wrestling.

## **CURRENT SCHEDULE OF WRESTLING EVENTS**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the schedule of wrestling events currently sanctioned by the Commission through December of

2017.

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Dansicker reported that the two nationally-televised boxing events which were held at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland during the month of April, 2017 were very successful from both a promoter and regulatory standpoint. He stated that the Commission looks forward to regulating more major boxing events at this new, attractive venue in the future.

Chairman Dansicker also recognized the importance of club level boxing events being held in the State of Maryland, which he described as the “bread and butter of boxing in Maryland” in terms of staging competitive boxing contests and developing local prospects for the sport.

Chairman Dansicker noted that, in addition to the referenced professional boxing event, a professional MMA event at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore was also held on the evening of April 8, 2017.

Chairman Dansicker applauded the work of Executive Director Pannella in coordinating Commission efforts to successfully regulate two major combative sports events, a professional boxing event and a professional MMA event, in one evening.

## **REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER VICTORIA WILKINS**

Commissioner Victoria Wilkins of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing / Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation applauded Commission staff members for their many contributions to making the April 8, 2017 professional boxing event so successful. She noted that Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, who was in attendance at this historic boxing event – the first boxing event ever held at MGM National Harbor and the first time a televised HBO boxing event has ever been held in the State of Maryland – enjoyed attending and was pleased to support the Commission’s efforts.

## **COUNSEL’S REPORT**

The Commission Counsel had no report.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Commission Executive Director had no report.

## **COMMISSION VOTE / POSITION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO ASSOCIATION OF BOXING COMMISSIONS "UNIFORM RULES FOR PROFESSIONAL MMA COMPETITION"**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to changes proposed by the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission concerning the Associated Boxing Commissions recommended "Uniform Rules for Professional MMA Competition".

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission recommended the following changes to the ABC uniform rules: (1) defining a "grounded fighter" as having the palm of his or her hand, or any other body part, touching the cage floor; and (2) not permitting any direct strikes to the kidney, but leaving it to the discretion of the referee similar to how a referee considers the "rabbit punch" or hitting the back of the head of an opponent.

Executive Director Pannella opined that the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission's recommended changes to the ABC uniform rules would be very beneficial to fighter safety.

Executive Director Pannella noted that several other athletic commissions, including the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board, supported the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission's recommended changes to the ABC uniform rules.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Malone, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to support the following recommended changes put forth by the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission in reference to the Association of Boxing Commissions "Uniform Rules for Professional MMA Competition": (1) defining a "grounded fighter" as having the palm of his or her

hand, or any other body part, touching the cage floor; and (2) not permitting any direct strikes to the kidney, but leaving it to the discretion of the referee similar to how a referee considers the “rabbit punch” or hitting the back of the head of an opponent.

## **REVIEW OF APRIL 8, 2017** **PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Chairman Dansicker and Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by Top Rank, Inc., televised as part of the “HBO World Championships Boxing” series on the HBO network, and held on April 8, 2017 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included seven professional boxing contests and 70 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition.

The Commission worked diligently to effectively plan for the boxing event

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan assisted in the presentation of the championship belts to several of the winning boxers in the ring, following the conclusion of their respective boxing contests.

There were four featured championship boxing contests.

Vasyl Lomachenko and Jason Sosa competed in a scheduled twelve-round boxing contest for the World Boxing Organization (WBO) “Super Featherweight” title, with Mr. Lomachenko winning by technical knockout at 3:00 of the ninth round.

Oleksandr Gvozdyk and Yunieski Gonzalez competed in a scheduled ten-round boxing contest for the North American Boxing Federation (NABF) / North American Boxing Organization (WBO) “Light Heavyweight” title, with Mr. Gvozdyk winning by technical knockout at 2:55 of the third round.

Oleksandr Usyk and Michael Hunter competed in a scheduled twelve-round boxing contest for the World Boxing Organization (WBO) “Cruiserweight” title, with Mr.

Usyk winning by a unanimous decision.

Alan Campa and Jesse Hart competed in a scheduled ten-round boxing contest for the North American Boxing Organization (NABO) / United States Boxing Association (USBA) “Super Middleweight” title, with Mr. Hart winning by technical knockout at 0:44 of the fifth round.

## **REVIEW OF APRIL 8, 2017** **PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional MMA event promoted by John J. Rallo, III and held on April 8, 2017 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland.

Deputy Commissioner John Papavasiliou of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing / Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation served as the Commission administrator for this MMA event. Executive Director Pannella was unable to attend due to his regulating a professional boxing event on the same evening.

The Commission staff members who were assigned to work this MMA event performed their respective duties in an outstanding manner.

The professional MMA event included 12 professional MMA contests and 36 scheduled rounds of professional MMA competition.

There were three featured MMA contests.

James “Binky” Jones and Francisco Isata competed in a scheduled three-round MMA contest, with Mr. Isata winning by unanimous decision.

Ryan McGowan and Aubray Collier competed in a scheduled three-round MMA contest, with Mr. McGowan winning by technical knockout at 2:20 of the first round.

Micah Terrill and Chauncey Foxworth competed in a scheduled three-round MMA

contest, with Mr. Terrill winning by technical knockout at 2:55 of the first round.

## **REVIEW OF APRIL 14, 2017** **PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Chairman Dansicker and Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event promoted by Banner Promotions, LLC, televised as part of the “ShoBox: The Next Generation” series on the Showtime network, and held on April 14, 2017 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The professional boxing event included eight professional boxing contests and 60 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition.

There were three featured boxing contests.

Dmitry Bivol and Samuel Clarkson competed in a scheduled twelve-round boxing contest for the World Boxing Association (WBA) “Interim Light Heavyweight” title, with Mr. Bivol winning by technical knockout at 1:40 of the fourth round.

Malik Hawkins and Carlos Soto competed in a scheduled eight-round boxing contest, with Mr. Hawkins winning by technical knockout at 3:00 of the second round.

Glenn Dezur and Leroy Davila competed in a scheduled eight-round boxing contest, with Mr. Dezur winning by a unanimous decision.

## **SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Commission held a discussion regarding the dates and times of upcoming Commission meetings. The Commission agreed to hold the following two meetings on the following dates and times in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street, in Baltimore, Maryland:

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.; and  
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m..

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 p.m..

**Patrick Pannella**  
**Executive Director**