

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018

On Wednesday, April 25, 2018, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:00 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Charles “Chuck” Gast; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Norman; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; and Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel.

MOMENT OF SILENCE PASSING OF FRANK GILBERT – MARCH 12, 2018

The Commission held a moment of silence in honor of Frank Gilbert, a longtime boxing trainer and boxing manager in the Baltimore area who passed away on March 12, 2018 at the age of 83.

Chairman Dansicker noted that Mr. Gilbert was widely respected by Maryland’s boxing community for his dedication to, and active involvement in, both amateur boxing and professional boxing in the State.

Executive Director Pannella reported that Mr. Gilbert was also a local boxing historian and, in recent years, a voting member of the Induction Committee of the International Boxing Hall of Fame based in Canastota, New York.

The Commission expressed its deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Gilbert.

MOMENT OF SILENCE PASSING OF GENE HUGHES – MARCH 12, 2018

The Commission held a moment of silence in honor of Gene Hughes, a longtime boxing trainer and boxing manager in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area who passed away on March 12, 2018 at the age of 80.

Executive Director Pannella noted that Mr. Hughes was a key figure in both amateur boxing and professional boxing in Washington, D.C. since the early 1970's, operating the Midtown Youth Academy boxing gym and making a positive impact on the lives of many young boxers from the Greater Washington Metropolitan area who crossed his path as a boxing trainer and mentor.

The Commission expressed its deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Hughes.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018 COMMISSION MINUTES

The February 21, 2018 Commission minutes, which were previously distributed to all Commission members for review, were discussed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted (4-0) to approve the February 21, 2018 minutes of the Maryland State Athletic Commission.

MICHAEL VALENTYNE **RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report.

Michael Valentyne recently applied to the Commission to renew his promoter license as a promoter of professional wrestling events in the State of Maryland. This promoter typically promotes his wrestling events under the advertising name of Fury Pro Wrestling (FPW), and has held FPW wrestling events in both Montgomery County and Washington County. Commissioner Moore and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Valentyne as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Mr. Valentyne, and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Moore, and seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the renewal of the license of Michael Valentyne as a promoter.

BROWN'S ENTERPRISES, INC.
ORIGINAL PROMOTER LICENSE

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report.

Timothy R. Brown, the promoter's representative for Brown's Enterprises, Inc., recently applied to the Commission for the promoter license for Brown's Enterprises, Inc. as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Brown as a condition of licensure. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Brown's Enterprises, Inc., and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the licensure of Brown's Enterprises, Inc. as a promoter.

SHABAZZ BROTHERZ, LLC
RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report.

Dwayne "Shabazz" Bryant, the promoter's representative for Shabazz Brotherz, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to renew the promoter license for Shabazz Brotherz, LLC as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. This promoter typically promotes its boxing events under the advertising name of Shabazz Brotherz, and has held boxing events in the Baltimore area. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Bryant as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Shabazz Brotherz, LLC, and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the renewal of the license of Shabazz Brotherz, LLC as a promoter.

JETER PROMOTIONS, LLC
RENEWAL OF PROMOTER LICENSE

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report.

Tony Jeter, the promoter's representative for Jeter Promotions, LLC, recently applied to the Commission to renew the promoter license for Jeter Promotions, LLC as a promoter of professional boxing events in the State of Maryland. This promoter typically promotes its boxing events under the advertising name of Jeter Promotions, and has held boxing events in the Anne Arundel County area. Chairman Dansicker and Mr. Pannella interviewed Mr. Jeter as a condition of license renewal. They reviewed the license application and corresponding documentation submitted by Jeter Promotions, LLC, and were satisfied that this applicant complies with the Commission's licensing requirements.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the renewal of the license of Jeter Promotions, LLC as a promoter.

COMMISSION TOUR OF NEW VENUE
MARYLAND LIVE CASINO

The Commission held a discussion in regard to its recent tour of the new venue at the Maryland Live Casino located in Hanover, Maryland which was held on March 7, 2017. The Commission delegation participating in the tour included Chairman Dansicker, Commissioner Gast, Commissioner Norman, Commissioner Shull and Executive Director Pannella. The Commission expressed its support of combative sports events and professional wrestling events being held at this new venue as well as its intention to apprise licensed promoters and potential promoters of the venue.

COMMISSION TOUR OF NEW VENUE
UMBC EVENTS CENTER

The Commission held a discussion in regard to its recent tour of the new venue at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) located in Catonsville, Maryland which was held on March 7, 2017. The Commission delegation

participating in the tour included Commissioner Gast, Commissioner Shull, Executive Director Pannella, Administrative Specialist Dreama Anderson, and UMBC alumnus Jose Anderson. The Commission expressed its support of combative sports events and professional wrestling events being held at this new venue as well as its intention to apprise licensed promoters and potential promoters of the venue.

APG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION AT HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Executive Director Pannella made note of the APG Federal Credit Union at Harford Community College, which has held Commission-sanctioned professional wrestling events. The Commission expressed its support of combative sports events and professional wrestling events being held at this venue as well as its intention to apprise licensed promoters and potential promoters of the venue.

“MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: POINTS FOR A PROMOTER TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A VENUE”

Executive Director Pannella distributed to Commission members a Commission document in draft form entitled “Maryland State Athletic Commission Recommendations: Points For A Promoter To Consider When Choosing A Venue”. Mr. Pannella stated that, at the Commission’s direction, he prepared a document listing relevant questions and points for discussion purposes when a venue located in the State of Maryland is being evaluated by a promoter and/or the Commission with regard to holding successful boxing, MMA and professional wrestling events. Mr. Pannella invited Commission members for their respective comments pertaining to the draft document, which were provided. The Commission recommended certain minor stylistic changes, which Mr. Pannella stated will be added to the final document.

CURRENT SCHEDULE OF BOXING AND MMA EVENTS

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the current schedule of Commission-sanctioned professional boxing events and professional MMA events.

GARY RUSSELL, JR. VS. JOSEPH DIAZ, JR,
“WBC FEATHERWIGHT TITLE” – MAY 19, 2017

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the professional boxing event being promoted by TGB Promotions, LLC and scheduled to be held on May 19, 2017 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Gary Russell, Jr. of Capital Heights, Maryland and Joseph Diaz, Jr. of West Covina, California are scheduled to compete in a twelve-round boxing contest for the World Boxing Council (WBC) Featherweight title. This championship boxing contest is scheduled to be televised live as a part of the “ShowTime Championship Boxing” series on the ShowTime television network.

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 Commissioner Gast, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by James “Jimmy” Morris, advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling (ACW):

Saturday, April 28, 2018 - 6:00 p.m. Starting Time
Mexico Lindo Restaurant / MXL Night Club
5653 Annapolis Road - Bladensburg, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jimmy” Morris,
advertising as FTW Lucha Professional Wrestling; and

Friday, June 1, 2018 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time
Michael’s Eighth Avenue
7220 Grayburn Drive - Glen Burnie, Maryland
Promoter: James “Jimmy” Morris,
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Shull, seconded by Commissioner Norman, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling event being promoted by Event Services, Inc. a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., advertising as WWE:

Professional Wrestling Event
“Smackdown” Series Televised Wrestling Event
Tuesday, May 8, 2018 - 7:45 p.m. Starting Time
The Royal Farms Arena
201 West Baltimore Street - Baltimore, Maryland
Promoter: Event Services, Inc. a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of
World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., advertising as
WWE.

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

Saturday, May 19, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
North Carroll High School
1400 Panther Drive - Hampstead, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as
Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW);

Saturday, August 11, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as
Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW);

Saturday, September 29, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as
Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW);

Saturday, October 6, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Galena Volunteer Fire Company
90 East Cross Street - Galena, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as
Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW);

Saturday, November 9, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as
Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW);

Saturday, November 10, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
24801 Three Notch Road - Hollywood, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as
Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW); and

Saturday, December 1, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time
Joppa Marketplace
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr., advertising as
Maryland Championship Wrestling (MCW).

“EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL INJURIES TO PROFESSIONAL WRESTLERS”

Executive Director Pannella distributed a Commission document entitled “Examples of Potential Injuries to Professional Wrestlers”, which was prepared many years ago by Commission Physician Dr. Ian M. Weiner, M.D. based on Dr. Weiner’s assessment of wrestler injuries. Mr. Pannella opined that, for informational purposes, it would be appropriate to bring the document to the attention of newly-appointed Commission members.

“LUCHE LIBRE” PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT

MARCH 10, 2018

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the “Lucha Libre” professional wrestling event held on March 10, 2018 at the Mexico Lindo Restaurant/MXL Night Club in Bladensburg, Maryland. Mr. Pannella noted that licensed promoter James “Jimmy” Morris served as the promoter for this wrestling event and that wrestlers participating in the “Lucha Libre” wrestling circuit typically travel to various venues located throughout the United States to wrestle.

REVIEW OF APRIL 14, 2018 **PROFESSIONAL MMA EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report in regard to the “Shogun Fights 18” professional MMA event promoted by John J. Rallo, III and held on April 14, 2018 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland.

Commissioner Gast and Commission Shull both were in attendance.

The professional MMA event included ten professional MMA contests and 30 scheduled rounds of professional MMA competition.

The main event featured Tucker Lutz versus Francisco Isata in a scheduled three-round MMA contest, with Mr. Isata winning by an unanimous decision.

Commissioner Gast opined that the Commission, through the professional efforts of its staff, carried out its regulatory responsibilities very efficiently.

Commissioner Gast recommended that the Commission advise the promoter that the cameramen who are positioned above the cage fence during MMA contests are to be cautioned to avoid lowering their cameras to a point where the camera apparatus may come in contact with the MMA contestants. Executive Director stated that he would contact Mr. Rallo to ensure that the cameramen positioned above the cage fence during “Shogun Fights” MMA contests are made aware of the Commission’s concerns and take proper cautions in the manner so recommended.

Commissioner Gast recommended that, prior to licensed seconds and other individuals entering the cage following the conclusion of every MMA contest, the Commission prohibit anyone from entering the cage until such time that the Commission determines there is no medical emergency necessitating the requirement to restrict others from entering. Executive Director Pannella stated that the Commission would implement this recommendation for all future MMA contests.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Dansicker reported that the Commission is very busy regulating combative sports events and wrestling events while at the same time maintaining the Commission’s high safety standards. Chairman Dansicker observed that the Commission is “definitely on course for what we were set out to do”.

COUNSEL’S REPORT

Counsel London had nothing additional to report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Pannella had nothing additional to report.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with *The Press* website article entitled “Homeless boxer never stops fighting” by David Weinberg. Mr. Pannella reported that the article describes the life and boxing experiences of professional boxer Willis Lockett, a native of Takoma Park, Maryland who has competed several times in the State of Maryland since his pro debut boxing contest held in Glen Burnie, Maryland in 2001.

SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commission held a discussion regarding future Commission meeting dates. The Commission agreed to hold the following meetings on the following dates and

times in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street in Baltimore, Maryland:

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.; and
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m..

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Commissioner Gast, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:16 p.m..

Patrick Pannella
Executive Director