NEW YORK STATE B.A.S.S. CHAPTER FEDERATION Executive Board Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2000 Quality Inn, Syracuse, New York

Meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:05 a.m.

Larry Dupere led all with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ken Charbonneau then followed with a few words prior to a Moment of Silence for Mike Ciccolella, a respected and well-liked angler and a friend to the Federation, who passed away recently.

NYSBCF Officers Present: Those present were: Wayne Tomassi, President; Joanne Davis, Vice-President; Charlie Jedica, 2nd Vice-President; Sal Pennini, Treasurer; and, Rose Maher, Secretary.

Roll Call of Clubs taken. Those represented were: Albany Area, Barge Canal, Capital District, Chautauqua Lake, Crown City, Finger Lakes, Greylock, Hudson Valley, Hudson Valley Junior, Indian Lakes, Lake Champlain, Orange County, Port City, Predators, Renegade, Southern Tier, Watershed and Westchester. Note: After the meeting, Dave Hadley from Statewide called and indicated that due to last minute personal issues they could not find a member to attend.

Acceptance of the Minutes - Minutes of the March 18, 2000 Executive Committee Meeting and Minutes of the March 19, 2000 Executive Board Meeting, both of which had been passed out prior to this meeting, were presented for approval. MOTION MADE by Larry Dupere and SECONDED by Randy Crist to accept both minutes as presented. No Discussion. MOTION PASSED.

President's Message - Wayne welcomed all those present. Watershed was welcomed, as this is the first meeting in quite some time in which they were represented. Westchester was recognized, as they have attended the last few meetings after many years of non-attendance. He also noted that:

- Tournament Advisory Board, consisting of Ted Barth, Joe Matt, Ed Stiefel, Paul Tomeo and Mark Ventra, has been established and has had its first meeting.
- Pam Bliss and the Tournament Crew were praised for the excellent work this past season.
- Fishlines has become a worthwhile publication but more articles are needed to offset the advertisements. Melody Sanson was thanked for her excellent work.
- Conservation Federation stopped the proposed 10-mile per hour no wake zone and the
 proposed dredging of a portion of the Esopus Creek on the Hudson River, a black bass
 spawning area. Both these were accomplished through the fine work of Burnie Haney.
 We again plan to attend the March on Albany. Present dredging issue on the Upper
 Hudson will be discussed.
- Divisional State Team did not do as well as we had hoped but they did share their winnings 50/50 with the Federation. Wayne learned a number of helpful things through his attendance. This will never be like a CTE but we still need to help the Team and the angler who is the National contender. State Teams that do well consistently are the ones that are financed well.
- CD totaling \$10,000.00 has been put away for the 2001 Team and we are very close to purchasing another for the 2002 Team.

- Bylaws are in the process of being reviewed and changes recommended.
- Stephanie Miura has been appointed Assistant Tournament Director and will be the tournament director for all team tournaments in 2001.
- Mike Kreloff has been appointed Promotional Director and will work with Ken Charbonneau, Marketing.

In closing his remarks, Wayne thanked all that have volunteered and urged more to come forward. He encouraged others to volunteer and they will be used in the areas of interest to them. All Clubs present were asked to bring this back to their membership.

Treasurer's Report - Sal Pennini reported on the Cash Reconciliation Statement and the Profit/Loss Report (both of which were made available to all prior to this meeting).

- The Statement and Report cover the period 3/21/00 (when Sal became Treasurer) to 12/2/00. There is a more detailed 17-page report available for review that lists every single transaction.
- There was some information to the Executive Board from Wayne pertaining to the poor transition of the treasury from the previous treasurer to Sal. This process has to be better defined in our bylaws for future transitions to new officials of the Federation.
- On 3/21/00, \$17,716.15 was transferred from the old account into a new account.
- Income received was \$101,766.32 and Expenses were \$100,284.99.
- A 6-month, 5.34% CD was purchased with \$10,000.00. Leaving a balance in the account of \$9,197.48.
- On the Profit/Loss report, the \$17,716.15 was not included in these calculations as there was not a line item in which to put it.
- Even though Fishlines shows it operated at a loss, not all bills have been paid due to billing cycles.
- Any member dues paid prior to 3/21/00 were not included, as we do not have the specific information.
- Frank Tennity asked what the total membership was to date -- 52 clubs, 3 junior clubs and 695 paid members as of 12/2.
- Frank also asked if the same angler had bounced more than one check. No angler had. Sal pointed out that every time he re-deposited a bounced check, it cleared. The advertiser's check that had bounced was due to a transitional period not because there were no funds.
- Brian Sanson asked what the NONE Club was. This was explained. Brian mentioned that
 when he joined the Federation, the Bylaws stated that he had to be a member of a
 sanctioned club in order to make the Divisional. This could not be done from NONE.
 This will be checked into. NONE members do not have a vote in the Federation.
- Larry Dupere asked why some anglers have been members of NONE for a number of
 years and have not joined another sanctioned club. Reasons given were no local club or
 angler cannot meet attendance requirements of a club due to work or other requirements.

Brian mentioned that NONE would make it easy for a "wringer" to come into the Federation, pay his dues and tournament fees, win a tournament and walk away with \$1500 or more. Though this is true, NONE is needed for the transitional anglers because of the insurance issue. Brian stated you could be a member of the Association of Professional B.A.S.S. without becoming a member of National B.A.S.S. This will be looked into and reported back at the January meeting.

• MOTION MADE by Joe Matt to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. No Discussion. SECONDED by Frank Maher. MOTION PASSED.

Audit Committee - Chairman, Randy Crist, President of Chautauqua Lake Bassmasters; Larry and Pat Dupere, members of Southern Tier Bassmasters were presented. Randy stated their findings:

- Balance in the account as of 12/31/99 was \$22,613.75; \$12,036.
- 19 bank statement balances; \$1,194.74 in outstanding checks; and, \$11,772.30 outstanding deposit.
- All accounts balancing at \$22,613.75.
- The following recommendations made by this Committee:
 - Executive Board should close out old account of 1999
 - Money be spent to request copies of all checks from the old account in question.
 - Bank reconciliation and bank statements be printed out each month on all
 - Mileage reimbursement should be increased from \$.19 to the Federal approved rate of \$.325 per mile.
 - Bylaws should be changed to reflect an annual audit to be conducted by the Audit Committee every December
 - All persons authorized to sign checks should be bonded. This is recommended because of the way we operate, should anything happen with respect to the people authorized to sign checks then the bonding company would cover the Federation.
 - The Audit Committee commended Sal on the complete and professional handling of the Federation accounts from 3/21/00 to 12/2/00. There was a voucher for all money spent.
- The Audit Committee will provide a written report for the January meeting regarding their findings and their recommendations.

After their report, Wayne informed the Exec Board that their proposed bylaw changes would be given to the Bylaw Committee. The bonding issue will be looked into for costs and be brought back to the January Meeting. And a copy analysis will be provided within the club report to be sent out. Wayne expressed the Federation's appreciation for the Randy, Larry and Pat volunteering their weekend to participate and perform the audit. He noted that to insure objectivity that the next Audit Committee would be made up of different individuals.

Vice-President's Report - Joanne Davis discussed the Classic. It is rumored to be in New Orleans, which would be quite a bus trip. Unless there is a lot of interest, this will not be pursued. New ideas are being worked on to improve the Web Page and Fishlines.

Membership - Charlie Jedica reported 52 clubs; 3 junior clubs and 695 members as of 12/1/00. Two new clubs have transferred from NJBCF - Northern New Jersey Bass, Atlantic Bassmasters and new one, Broome County Bass Chapter has been formed. East Greenbush has asked Wayne to come speak to their club. Largest Club - Salt City - 39 members; Hudson Valley is 2nd with 35 and Adirondack is 3rd with 32. Since 1999 187 dropped out, with 105 new members joining or rejoining. 36 members have joined since August month end, indicating those that want to fish the CTE. Charlie encouraged all clubs to have the members affiliate with National B.A.S.S. and the Federation and recommend all boaters carry \$100,000.00 liability insurance.

Awards - Rose Maher reported banquet would be January 13th at Holiday Inn /Turf Inn on Wolf Road in Albany.

- Room rate \$89.00 rather than \$129.00
- DJ with Karaoke starting at 9:00 p.m.
- Door Prizes Lures, rods, hats, etc.
- Silent Auction Hockey tickets, rods, paintings, perfume, etc. Paul Tomeo and Frank Maher are working on this.
- Checks should be sent to Rose by January 3rd. If there is anyone the membership feels should be invited to the banquet, let Wayne know.
- Clubs having nominations for any awards given at the banquet should get their recommendations in to Joanne Davis. Any Clubs wanting to be considered for an award should prepare a letter to Joanne listing their accomplishments of the past year in the areas of Youth, Conservation, etc. Nominations should be received as soon as possible.
- Any nominees for any Gag Awards should be sent to Wayne.

Tournaments - Stephanie Miura was appointed Assistant Tournament Director to assist Pam Bliss. She gave a report prepared by Pam and the Tournament Advisory Committee.

- 781 anglers fished the trail for a record turnout for 2000, resulting in over \$13,000 in returns to the Federation. This was an 18% increase over the previous record of 664 anglers. It was noted that the Tournament Advisory Board has met their challenge to make the trail generate bigger and better payouts and to cover the expenses of the NYSBCF 12 Man Divisional Team. \$10,000 has already been placed in a CD for the 2001 State Team.
- With \$1775 collected for late fees, the Exec Committee has voted to sponsor our Federation's National Contender, Chris Loftus, for the National Championship tournament in Mobile, Al. Also, the 2001 state team will again split 50/50 any winnings that they receive at the Divisional in Sept at Buggs Island with the federation. Come to the Federation Award's night to learn more.
- For the first time in a few years, all tournaments in 2001 will be sponsored by the localities of the waters that we will fish. With conservative estimates, the Committee estimates that the trail in 2001 will generate over \$17,000 for the federation. It is hoped that by the 1st Quarter 2001, that a second CD will be initiated for the 2002 State Team as well as a CD for the 2002 National Contender and possibly a Classic Contender.
- Stephanie then made the following announcements.

- Partners' Tournament Candlewood June 3rd is set. Stephanie will be the tournament director for this tournament. There will be a limit of 75 boats. Proceeds will benefit the State Youth Team going to Canada. This will be a recognized Federation Team Tournament and we will need the fish care trailer and supplies there.
- Second Partner's Tournament: Another possible Partners' Tournament could be at one of the Finger Lakes in August, if there is interest. Clubs should contact Stephanie by phone or email at steph@nybassfed.com if there is interest.
- Rule Changes: Stephanie then reviewed the following information and rule changes for 2001.
- Ticonderoga tournament will have a free shuttle from the parking area to the ramps, as will the Erie tournament. Niagara River as an alternate site has been found in case of adverse weather at that event.
- 200 angler limit per tournament to be eliminated from the tournament announcement
- Off-limit of the Sunday prior to a tournament changed from Sundown to Midnight
- At sites where the registration site is at the ramp, the tournament crew will try to be available from 1:30 p.m. to begin registration. Actually they are available for reregistration when they are still setting up for any anglers that stop by.
- They are evaluating forming of two lines at registration one for anglers with problems and one for other anglers.
- To alleviate the boater-to-boater draw problems, instead of all the boat-to-boat partners being at the end of the draw, the program will be changed. First, the program will complete random pairing of all anglers, and then boat numbers will be assigned. This will result in boat-to-boat pairings being randomly placed throughout all flights. This modification was welcomed favorably by the Executive Board.
- Executive Board was asked if they wanted the computer to have an "boater flag" where a boater that is drawn boat-to-boat could be flagged and then that angler would be guaranteed the use of his/her boat for the rest of the year. After some discussion, it was decided to just proceed with the first program change for this year and evaluate how the anglers feel at the end of the 2001 season.
- 12 Man Team Position TieBreakers The advisory board noted that there were no written tiebreakers. It was decided that if tie occurs in points then highest weight would determine the winner; if tie occurs in weight then points would determine the winner.
- Accu-vu or similar underwater camera devices will be added to the tournament and
 practice day unusable devices. Melody Tennity stated there was another item just put on
 the market and that this will be added.
- Alcohol/tobacco will not be allowed in specific designated areas at registration and weigh in.
- NYSBCF will not change minimum boat and motor sizes: It was felt that due to the larger bodies of water, boat size should be raised to 17 ft and motor size to 65 HP. Discussion followed. Brian Sanson pointed out that the larger boat size would eliminate a number of anglers from Long Island who have smaller boats. Plus the Federation would then be

dictating what anglers had to have. Ken Charbonneau stated that 50 HP was a safe size. Paul Tomeo pointed out that in boat-to-boat flipping, the bigger boat could lose to the smaller boat and that safety would be an issue. Dan Morgan suggested that anglers who feel they are being put in an unsafe situation should advise the Tournament Director and it could be handled that way. Joe Matt stressed that the Tournament Advisory Board was not trying to dictate what anglers have to do but only making recommendations in areas of concern.

- Friday practice day list of pros and cons were given to all. Representatives should bring this back to their clubs for discussion and bring results to the January meeting for a vote.
- With regards to the "competitors must stay in sight of and return with their partner" rule. The committee noted that the rescue boat could be unsafe by being loaded with four anglers in the boat as well as the boat's live wells possibly containing four limits. Therefore, the following change will be put into place for 2001.
 - A competitor will be immediately become disqualified when he/she leaves the sight of any other competitor of the tournament. This means that:
 - 1. After securing the boat, both anglers can return in another competitor's boat. This is just as it is in today's rules.
 - 2. When a boater stays with his boat and non-boater returns in another competitor's boat, as soon as the rescue boat leaves, the boater is disqualified. The rescue boat cannot leave the boater with him and his boat in an unsafe condition.
 - 3. When a non-boater stays with the boat and the boater returns in another competitor's boat as soon as the rescue boat leaves, the non-boater is disqualified. The rescue boat cannot leave the nonboater with him and the boat in an unsafe condition.
 - 4. Both anglers in a broken down boat can flag down two tournament boats and with each joining one of them while in full view of all, both will remain qualified to compete in the tournament.
 - 5. After securing the boat, both anglers can flag down a non-competitor's boat, i.e. a water skiing boat, a cruise boat, etc and return together with their catch.
 - 6. For anglers that were paired boater-to-boater, if boat is disabled during the day, the anglers can contact a member of the tournament crew and use the other angler's boat after it has been checked out by a tournament official.
 - 7. It is important to remember that no angler should ever be left in an unsafe position. If you come across a disabled boat, it is a Federal law that you must stop and assist in some way, even if it is just making a phone call.
- \$65 Entry Fee: The tournament advisory committee recommends raising the entry fee to \$65.00 only to make the lunker fee not an option. They noted that there were only ten anglers in 2000 that did not enter the lunker pool. MOTION MADE by Stephanie Miura and SECONDED by Melody Tennity to set the entry fee to \$65.00. No Discussion. MOTION PASSED.

- Early discount for pre-payment of all four tournaments: For those prepaying for all 4 points tournament they will pay \$250 receiving a \$10 discount. Discussion followed. If angler cannot make any of the tournaments already paid for, upon the angler's request, the money would be refunded but in the discounted amount. The tournament payback would not be affected. It is not expected that there will be a lot of anglers pre-paying for all four tournaments, so the money to make up the difference of the discount would come from the general fund. MOTION MADE by Stephanie Miura and SECONDED by Medody Tennity to have a \$10.00 discount for pre-payment of all four tournaments. No Discussion. MOTION PASSED.
- CTE anglers' 2000 membership in the Federation must be paid by 12/31/00 in order to qualify for 2001 CTE. This refers to the 2000 membership, which some anglers would not pay until after they decide if they are fishing the CTE. Discussion followed. Dennis Smith stated that some clubs would not have another meeting until after 12/31 and their anglers would not know about this thus eliminating them from the CTE. Even though this has been posted in the Fishlines, these anglers would not see it if they were not Federation members because they would not receive Fishlines. Frank Tennity mentioned this would also affect the clubs that has anglers back out of going to the CTE in March who would then have to find replacements. Dan Morgan tells his club members that their dues are not paid, they will be passed over for CTE. Club presidents have to take responsibility for this. **MOTION MADE** by Frank Tennity to set a firm cut off date for payment of membership and then set a late penalty of \$25.00. SECONDED by Melody Tennity. Discussion followed that this would be penalizing clubs and not anglers. Dan Morgan asked why the Executive Board rather than the Tournament Advisory Board or Tournament Director was deciding these issues. Wayne pointed out that he felt that all issues involving money should be dealt with by the Executive Board and recorded within the minutes. After some discussion, Frank Tennity withdraw his motion on the condition that the Tournament Advisory Board return to the January meeting with a recommendation concerning late fees.
- Due to the success of the barbecue in 2000, the cost of the CTE will be \$270.00 to include the barbecue. Dave Kern did not feel this was fair as some anglers do not eat due to dietary restrictions. If the CTE Organizing Committee is told of any dietary restrictions, arrangements can be made to accommodate these anglers. Last year's barbecue was highly praised.
- Stephanie then turned over the Tournament Announcements to Wayne for a Special Announcement.

Wayne informed the board that it has been determined that the NYSBCF Points Tournament 5 Fish Limit Record was set on the St Lawrence Seaway in Clayton in September of 1981. The record is 20 lbs 7 ounces. Pending the signing of a contract with SCA Promotions, the NYSBCF Executive Committee is challenging all Federation anglers to break this record by 2 ounces. For the NYSBCF 2001 Points Tournament Season, any NYSBCF angler that breaks this record by the most weight over the minimal 20.57 pounds by the end of the 2001 he/she will, besides their tournament payout winnings, receive a bonus of \$25,000 in this challenge. The only requirements are that the winner must be a Federation member; his 5 fish limit must beat the record by a minimal 2 ounces and the angler must pass a polygraph test. Weight from the CTE will not count toward this challenge. Contract T&Cs are still in final stages but there should be no problem. Brian Sanson raised a safety issue; that anglers might take unnecessary risks with \$25,000.00 on the line. Dave Kern asked if B.A.S.S. had any objections. It was not felt they would due to home rule, and in fact use SCA Promotions on their own.

1:00 p.m. - 30 minute break taken for lunch. Meeting was resumed at 1:35 p.m.

Tournaments continued:

• Dave Kern asked how we enforce the rule of being off the water by 3:00 p.m. This is handled by protest. According to our rules, if someone sees another breaking a rule and they do not report it, they are also guilty and subject to disqualification. He would rather see the must be off-the water time rule eliminated and instead have anglers "must be at the registration site before 4:30 to qualify to compete in the tournament." After registration, the waters would be off limits. The Tournament Advisory Board was asked to discuss this issue and come back at the January meeting with a proposal.

Youth - Mickey Fortunato reported:

- Casting Kids finals in March cannot be held at the Syracuse Sports Show since their Sport Show
 will be in January. Joanne Davis mentioned that Utica has a show in March. Joanne will look into
 this and let Mickey know. Only four clubs have sent in their winners from their casting kids
 events
- Junior Invitational will be in Canada the first week in July, 2001.
- Mr./Miss tournament is scheduled for last week in June. This will have to be changed due to the
 Invitational. It would either have to be held earlier, held in another State, or make it a paper
 tournament. Wayne suggested that Mickey take it back to the youth leaders and make a decision
 and let everyone know.
- Youth Committee decided not to have any wild card slots for non-Federation members. A child must be a member of the Youth Federation or their Mother or Father must be a Federation member. Bylaw recommendations that Junior Chapters be separate and operated separately from the parent club will be implemented.

Conservation - Burnie Haney's report was distributed prior to the meeting. Rose Maher mentioned that Burnie could not attend the meeting due to work obligations.

- Burnie wanted to call everyone's attention to Page 3 "Awards program". Those interested should present packets at the January meeting.
- Hudson River dredging issue. Membership was asked it the Federation should take a stand on this issue. Frank Maher reported he was told that this is surfacing now because of siltation becoming a navigation issue and a desire to get General Electric to pay for this. Apparently parts of the upper river are becoming impassable for commercial boats due to silting. They want this opened up. Ken Charbonneau stated that the River has never been cleaner and dredging would cause PCB's to go downstream and disturb all the good things happening. Wayne stated that we have to choose the battles that we can win.

It was recommended that if anyone is against this issue, they should contact their various representatives personally.

Web/Message Board - It was stressed that full names be used when posting messages. All should remember to be polite and to remember that everyone's opinion matters. Mike Kreloff asked if there was any way to keep others from reading our message board. Apparently there is but we don't want to go that route.

Marketing - Ken Charbonneau reported that \$9,651.00 was collected in ad and sponsor revenue. There is still \$3,935.50 to be collected. Stevenson and Smith will again publish the Federation Brochure this season. Seven of the 14 ad spots have already been sold. The brochure will be handed out at the various sport

shows and at the Bassmaster University in Rochester, Monroe College and the Quality Inn in Albany. We need more sponsors and advertisers. Fishlines is doing well but more articles are needed to make it more marketable. Any club having news that would be of interest to members such as open tournament schedules, should get the information to Melody Tennity or Melody Sanson. Melody Sanson was thanked for the wonderful work she has done to make Fishlines what it has become. All promises made to sponsors were kept. All five tournaments were sponsored. New sponsors include: Mann Baits and Warrior Rods. Remember to support our sponsors and advertisers. It was suggested that Wayne mention sponsors and advertisers names prior to the tournament briefings. Sponsors were also encouraged to let Ken know if they would like one or two anglers from the Federation to speak during a boat show. This could be a marketable tool. Anglers would talk fishing not selling boats. Sports Aids is a new advertiser. Ken read a letter from Mike Bailey of Lucky Craft looking for anglers that use their products to take part in a survey. They can be reached at bigdaddye@sn.net.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws - A bylaw committee is needed to review changes and make recommendations by the January meeting. Double entries, confusion areas and Articles that have never been enforced should be removed. The Election process needs to be changed to start earlier and end earlier so that an easier transition can be made from one Executive Committee to the new Executive Committee. Bylaws distributed in March of 1999 were not complete. Items were found in past Minutes that were never incorporated into the present Bylaws. Also need to include the Audit Committee as a mandatory yearly appointment. Provision for clubs to be 100% affiliated and needing to send a representative to one (1) meeting or the club will no longer be allowed to affiliate with the Federation needs to be removed. Position of Membership on the Executive Committee should be removed and made a committee position. Presently the Executive Committee presently has six people - President, Vice President, Membership, Secretary, Past President and Treasurer. All have one vote. Our Bylaws state that we run our meetings under the Parliamentary rules which state that a President never vote unless there is a tie. Elimination of the Membership from the Executive Committee would help this. There were no volunteers to be on the committee, so therefore Wayne will in the next couple weeks appoint one.

NEW BUSINESS

Non-Boaters - ways have to be found to encourage more non-boater participation.

State Team Contract - this has been revised. Two 2001 State Team members present were introduced - John Badman and Ed Steifel.

Laptop for Tournament Director -we have been using Pam Bliss' personal laptop this past season. We will purchase one for use by Tournament Crew.

Trolling Motor - will be raffled off at the Awards Banquet. We only made \$261.00 on this raffle to date. Wayne proposed that any Club that sells additional raffle tickets for \$1.00 will be allowed to keep \$.50 for their club or they can just sell the tickets for \$.50. Just put name, address and telephone number of purchaser on a white piece of paper and bring to the banquet with the money. Mike Kreloff will post the specifics on the motor on the Message Board.

March Meeting - will be held wherever the Casting Kids will be held.

December Raffle Tickets - seem to have done well. No specifics available.

Ranger Boats - Issue of whether they are no longer of sponsor because of the WCF is not confirmed. Wayne noted that Ranger's contract does not expire until 6/30/01.

Sports Shows - Mike Kreloff asked if the Federation was planning on buying a table at any of the Shows. It is too expensive. We will again share tables with some sponsors. In Albany we will be sharing with Lake Lonely. Brian Sanson stated sharing might appear as favoritism. Discussion of difference between sponsor and advertiser arose. Issue raised of Brook Cove banner on weigh in table during the whole tournament and

the tournament sponsor's banner only being displayed during awards and picture taking. We will have to be careful about this. We want to treat everyone fairly. Mike and Ken will take responsibility for putting up and taking down sponsor/advertiser banners at the tournaments. We want our sponsor/advertisers to stay with us for a long time.

50/50 Raffle: Wayne had Rose Maher pull the meeting's 50/50 raffle ticket out of the hat. She pulled her own number.

There being no further business, **MOTION MADE** to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. by Randy Crist. **SECONDED** by Larry Dupere. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted: *Rose T. Maher*, Secretary