

# **MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017**

On Wednesday, December 20, 2017, the Maryland State Athletic Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Arnold “Arnie” Dansicker at 2:07 p.m.. Present were the following: Chairman Dansicker; Commissioner Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Norman; Commissioner David Shull; Dr. John W. Stiller, M.D., Commission Chief Physician; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; and Dreama Anderson, Administrative Specialist.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **PASSING OF DAVID “DAVE” ARBOGAST**

The Commission held a moment of silence in honor of Dave Arbogast, who served as the Chief Inspector of the Maryland State Athletic Commission and who passed away on November 21, 2017 at the age of 53.

Chairman Dansicker stated that, in addition to his employment with the Commission during the past four years, Mr. Arbogast “gave back to his community” and maintained an extensive record of service as a volunteer firefighter.

Executive Director Pannella stated that Mr. Arbogast was a familiar face to Commission licensees at combative sports weigh-ins and events and at wrestling events, adding that Mr. Arbogast was well-known and well-respected for his calm demeanor and straightforward personality.

Administrative Specialist Anderson stated that Mr. Arbogast thoroughly enjoyed his inspector duties with the Commission at various boxing, MMA and wrestling events sanctioned and regulated by the Commission, adding that he “had his work down to a science”.

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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**  
**PASSING OF PATRICIA HAZZARD**

The Commission held a moment of silence in honor of Patricia Hazzard, who was the wife of Commissioner Larry Hazzard of the New Jersey Athletic Control Board.

Executive Director Pannella stated that Commissioner Hazzard and his wife were married for over 53 years, noting also how Mr. Hazzard maintains close and valuable ties to the Commission in fostering boxer safety.

The Commission expressed its deepest condolences to Mr. Hazzard and the entire family of Mrs. Hazzard.

**COMMISSIONER LARRY HAZZARD**  
**NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CONTROL BOARD**

The Commission expressed its deep appreciation to Commissioner Larry Hazzard of the New Jersey Athletic Control Board, who strongly supported the Commission's regulatory mission in several productive ways during the past year.

Executive Director Pannella noted that, in addition to providing his professional opinion on various boxing-related matters, Commissioner Hazzard travelled to the State of Maryland to serve as an expert witness at the hearing regarding the formal protest of professional boxer Jose Uzcategui.

**APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL/PRO-AM BOXING EVENT**

Executive Director Pannella led a Commission discussion in regard to the professional or pro-am boxing events currently scheduled to be held in the State of Maryland.

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

Pro-Am Boxing Event  
Friday, June 19, 2018 - TBA Starting Time  
Martin's West  
6817 Dogwood Road - Woodlawn, Maryland  
Promoter: Shabazz Brotherz, LLC,  
advertising as Shabazz Brotherz.

## **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 Norman, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the following professional wrestling events being promoted by Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.:

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, January 20, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as Maryland Championship Wrestling  
(MCW);

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, February 17, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as Maryland Championship Wrestling  
(MCW);

Professional Wrestling Event  
Sunday, February 18, 2018 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place

1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as Evolve Wrestling;

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, February 24, 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);

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, March 24, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as Maryland Championship Wrestling  
(MCW);

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, April 14, 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);

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, April 21, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as Maryland Championship Wrestling  
(MCW);

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

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, July 13, 2018 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as Maryland Championship Wrestling  
(MCW); and

Professional Wrestling Event  
Sunday, July 14, 2018 - 7:30 p.m. Starting Time  
Joppa Market Place  
1000 Joppa Farm Road - Joppa, Maryland  
Promoter: Dennis W. Wipprecht, Jr.,  
advertising as Maryland Championship Wrestling  
(MCW).

Upon a motion by Chairman Dansicker, seconded by Commissioner Shull, 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.:

Professional Wrestling Event  
Friday, February 16, 2017 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time  
Michael's Eighth Avenue  
7220 Grayburn Drive - Glen Burnie, Maryland  
Promoter: James "Jimmy" Morris, III,  
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling  
(ACW); and

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, March 31, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. Starting Time  
South Hagerstown High School  
1101 South Potomac Street - Hagerstown, Maryland  
Promoter: James “Jimmy” Morris, III,  
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling  
(ACW).

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 Event Services, Inc., A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.:

Professional Wrestling Event  
Sunday, January 27, 2017 - 7:30 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.

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Dansicker provided the Commission with the following report as a review of Commission activity for the year 2017.

The Commission welcomed a new Commission member in David Shull and lamented the passing of Commissioner Ben Alperstein.

The Commission saw wrestling and MMA “flourish” in the past year, while it gained national interest and attention by effectively regulating several major televised boxing events at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Commission members maintained consistent communication with Executive Director Pannella and Assistant Attorney General London, frequently reviewing

and discussing various matters in an effort to maintain high regulatory standards in overseeing the sports for which it is responsible.

Most of all, the Commission never steered away from its strong obligation to protecting combatants – from not approving the mismatching of opponents to taking regulatory action to ensure that a contestant is paid for having competed in a contest.

## **COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel London reported that all four current Commission members made their obligation to attend two-thirds of Commission meetings held during the previous year.

Counsel London recognized Commissioner Norman for his noteworthy assistance with the Commission’s legal analysis in the formal protest of professional boxer Jose Uzcategui.

## **REMARKS BY CHIEF COMMISSION PHYSICIAN DR. JOHN W. STILLER, M.D.**

Chief Commission Physician and Neurologist Dr. John W. Stiller, M.D. provided the Commission with the following report as a review of Commission activity for the year 2017.

The Commission continued to build upon its national reputation for being “strict” by “putting safety and health first” with regard to its regulatory treatment of contestants.

Commission staff made significant contributions toward supporting fighter safety. This was reflected by the strong communication which existed between the Commission’s referees and ringside physicians during contests. Other examples include the Commission physician who was extremely knowledgeable about the boxing history of amateur boxers and who provided such information to the Commission when the Commission considered approving a contest involving a pro debut contestant, and the timekeeper who consistently documented the length of

time a contestant was unconscious after being knocked out so that the Commission physician could utilize such information to medically evaluate the injured contestant.

Researching a contestant's fight history and taking significant measures to obtain credible information in order to make informed regulatory decisions remained a very high priority for the Commission.

**REVIEW OF OCTOBER 7, 2017**  
**“SHOGUN FIGHTS 17” MMA EVENT**

Commissioner Shull and Executive Director Pannella led a Commission review of the professional MMA event which was promoted by John J. Rallo, III, advertising as “Shogun Fights 17”, and held on October 7, 2017 at The Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore, Maryland. The professional MMA event included ten professional MMA contests and 30 scheduled rounds of professional MMA competition.

Commissioner Shull applauded Commission staff members for the highly professional manner in which they handled both the medical evaluation and medical evacuation of an injured contestant who required hospital transport.

Executive Director opined that this was another quality MMA event in the ongoing “Shogun Fights” series.

**REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 2, 2017**  
**“AN EVENING TO BENEFIT THE**  
**JONATHAN OGDEN FOUNDATION” CHARITY MMA EVENT**

Commissioner Moore and Executive Director Pannella led a Commission review of the professional MMA event which was promoted by John J. Rallo, III, advertising as “An Evening To Benefit The Jonathan Ogden Foundation”, and held on November 2, 2017 at Martin's Valley Mansion in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The professional MMA event included five professional MMA contests and 15 scheduled rounds of professional MMA competition.

Executive Director opined that several of the MMA contests featured were very



competitive.

## **REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017 PROFESSIONAL BOXING EVENT**

Commissioner Norman and Commissioner Shull led a Commission review of the professional boxing event which was promoted by Golden Boy Promotions, LLC, televised on the ESPN network, and held on November 30, 2017 at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland. The professional boxing event included six professional boxing contests and 40 scheduled rounds of professional boxing competition.

Commissioner Norman, Commissioner Shull and Chief Commission Physician Dr. John W. Stiller, M.D. all commented as to how highly competitive virtually all of the boxing contests were.

Dr. Stiller noted, further, that the Commission worked diligently behind-the scenes to support the efforts of the promoter in staging such a successful boxing event.

## **SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Commission held a discussion regarding Commission meetings scheduled to be held in the first part of Calendar Year 2018. The Commission agreed to hold the following three meetings on the following dates and times in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street, in Baltimore, Maryland:

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.;  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.; and  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 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 3:12 p.m..

**Patrick Pannella**

**Executive Director**