

**Massachusetts State Athletic Commission  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

**1000 Washington Street, Boston**

**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Date:** August 20, 2018

**Location:** Rm. 1D

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Rod Walkey

Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel

Commissioner Charles Borstel

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Commissioner Bryan Lambert

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Commissioner Patrick Bradley

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Daniel K. Kelly, applicant

Joseph Leonard, writer

Danny K. Kelly

Donnie Palmer, Boxer

Dean Fay, USA Boxing

Stan Zanowski, USA Boxing

**Meeting called to order by Chair Rod Walkey at 11:03 AM.**

**1. Roll call**

Rod Walkey, Chair

Charles Borstel, Commissioner Division of Professional Licensure

Bryan Lambert, Commissioner

Wilfrid St-Hilaire, Compliance Officer III

Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III

Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing

Joseph Leonard, Applicant

Danny Sheehan, Boxer

Danny K. Kelly, Applicant

Donnie Palmer, Boxer

Dean Fay, USA Boxing

Stan Zanowski, USA Boxing

**2. Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2018**

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to approve the minutes from July 16, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **3. Application for Promoter and Matchmaker –Daniel K. Kelly**

Applicant Daniel K. Kelly detailed his experience in the boxing industry as a gym owner, promoter, and matchmaker. He stated that this business is a labor of love and that he started promoting because there was a lack of activity within the Boston area. In addition, for him these applications have lapsed just outside of the renewal period and wishes to continue promoting and matchmaking.

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to approve the application for promoter, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to approve the application for matchmaker, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **4. Application for Promoter –Frank J. Smith**

Via telephone, applicant Frank J. Smith addressed the board detailing his experience in the industry and about his company. He applied via telephone as he is located out of State and is currently traveling. His company Match Room Boxing would like to promote televised boxing shows in Massachusetts.

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to approve the application for promoter, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **5. Application for Matchmaker –Eric V. Bottjer**

Via telephone, applicant Eric V. Bottjer detailed his experience as a matchmaker and applied via telephone as he is located in Florida. Mr. Bottjer is currently working with Match Room Boxing and plans to bring televised shows here to Massachusetts. He has matched over 200 hundred shows and is currently licensed in New York, New Jersey, and other states.

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to approve the application for matchmaker, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **6. Application for Mixed Martial Arts and Kickboxing Time Keeper – Alexius S. Phoenix**

Applicant Alexius S. Phoenix addressed the board via telephone as his transportation was delayed earlier this morning heading into Boston. Alexius holds multiple licenses with Massachusetts and New York as a referee and judge in boxing, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing. With additional licenses he would be able to serve as a back-up at events as he would hold multiple positions.

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to approve the applications for time keeper in mixed martial arts and kickboxing, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

## **7. Deputy Commissioner Training Update**

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing addressed the board regarding the recent deputy training that took place at the Milford Department of Corrections facility on July 21, 2018. He stated that the training received a good showing of participants and overall it was a well-run program by all involved. The MSAC program plans to run another training for those who could not attend.

In addition, Director Keigan stated that there was positive feedback on the hand wrapping demonstration by Scott Rehm with some negative feedback regarding the fee schedule for the deputies of \$75.00 per show. Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel, stated that this schedule is set by statute. In order to try and change this fee, a bill would have to be brought forth.

The board discussed delegating the authority for approving an applicant as a deputy commissioner to the MSAC staff. This discussion will be added to the next agenda.

## **8. Application for Appointment as Deputy Commissioner – Scott Gierlich**

Tabled

## **9. Application for Appointment as Deputy Commissioner – Joseph Leonard**

Mr. Leonard expressed his passion for the industry to the board and stated he has attended the ABC conferences and been in the industry for numerous years. He has witnessed the need for additional deputies and believed that he would be a fine addition to the MSAC program.

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to appoint Joseph Leonard as a deputy commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

## **10. Update of Medical requirements within New England States**

Matthew Keigan, Executive Director of Licensing addressed the board on the medical requirements amongst the New England states; both tribal and state commissions in hopes for a universal application within New England to acquire some kind of reciprocity. Director Keigan detailed how there would be challenges in the quest for joining the commissions together. He asked the board for direction to logically streamline the process if at all possible.

The board asked the MSAC staff to provide information on what New York and Nevada currently require.

## **11. Review of MSAC Applications**

MSAC staff presented the remaining newly revised program applications to the board for review and approval from the previous board meeting on July 16, 2018.

The board went through each draft application and compared them to the previous application with the MSAC staff. The new applications asked for more detailing in the applicants experience and the preferred language disclosure was removed. In addition, to the referee and judge requirement, language was added that the applicant could not have competed as an unarmed combat within the year of applying for said position.

#### Seconds Application

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### Referee Application

Commissioner Lambert made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Borstel. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### Judge Application

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### Time Keeper Application

Commissioner Borstel made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Lambert. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **12. Upcoming MSAC Event Schedule/2018 MSAC Board Meetings**

The board reviewed the upcoming schedules.

#### **13. Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting**

Commissioner Bradley addressed the board regarding the shortage of Deputy Commissioners and expressed his concerns as he had heard that applications were not being reviewed. Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel, explained that the MSAC staff held a recent training and the shortage is being addressed and that applications have been received for consideration.

Commissioner Bradley raised the same of the MSAC program being unable to staff more than one show per date by Commissioner Bradley. Guy Licciardi, Compliance Officer III, explained the reasoning behind approving only one show per night is the lack of deputies. Natasha Belizaire, Deputy General Counsel, explained that our regulations allow the MSAC program to hold multiple events presumably if it can be staffed. That board agreed that through continuous recruitment, the MSAC program will work toward multiple scheduling of events on one night.

#### **14. Closed Session pursuant to G.L. c. 112 §65C**

Commissioner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner. Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

**Board Exhibits:**

-Board packet contents

Draft minutes –July 16, 2018

Promoter and Matchmaker applications –Daniel K. Kelly

Promoter application –Frank J. Smith

Matchmaker application –Eric V. Bottjer

Time Keeper applications –Alexius S. Phoenix

Appointment application – Scott Gierlich

Appointment application –Joseph Leonard

Draft MSAC applications

Upcoming MSAC events and meetings schedule