

**Board of Directors Meeting  
November 2015  
Minutes**

President Chris Wilson brought the meeting to order at 8:00 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was performed. Roll Call was taken and there were 28 out of 37 clubs present. The proposed agenda for the meeting was accepted.

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
Chris Wilson**

Chris began with an update about the successful Northeast Outdoor Show we participated in last year. The Outdoor show this year will be February 6<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> and we have a spot provided to us once again. We need volunteers – open to close for booth support – if you do come your entry is free and there are limited parking passes. PA Bass and the NRA are speaking about becoming partners so please come out and support the event the best you can. As a reminder, communication with the members is key to participation in all our events to please communicate with all your club members when Chris sends out e-mails to the District Chariman who in turn send them to the club presidents/district representatives; they in turn send them to you the member. If you are not getting information, go to your club president and find out why. This information flow is very important. Please keep your email updated.

This is the last year for the TBF Divisional Team consisting of 12 anglers fishing in a team format. Under this formula, the road to the TBF National Championship is a currently a 2 year process. Under the new format, you will fish – National Championship Semi Final which will lead to the National Championship. The new format was handed out to the membership will explain the process and it will be posted after it is refined. Currently, an Angler and CoAngler from each club can be sent to the NCSF along with the top 10% from each of the 5 State Tournaments. This will provide a lot of opportunities to the membership like never before.

The TBF National Championship Semi Final is a regionalized 2 day tournament to be held on Saturday and Sunday. There will be an off limits and official practice dates announced later. PA is paired with New York and Canada. The date for our NCSF Oct 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> at Lake Champlain out of Ticonderoga and will be hosted by NY. In 2017 PA Bass will run this event and with concurrence of our partners, move the event into September. The entry fee is \$150.00 per person and is paid back 75% to 20% of the field. Anglers compete against Angler and CoAnglers compete against CoAnglers. You are fishing against the entire group for the cash prizes but you are only fishing against the other anglers from PA to move on to the National Championship. For every 50 boats entered into the tournament 1 boat will qualify so 51 boats will qualify 2 anglers and 2 coanglers. With every club able to send an angler and coangler, we should easily meet or surpass the 51 boats needed to send 2 boats to the Championship.

The Federation National Championship will now be a 2 stage event. For states that send more than one boat, there will be a 2 day fish off to determine the Top Angler/CoAngler from each state. They will then move on and compete for against the other State Champions for the National Championship and the Living the Dream package as the overall National Champion or free entry into the BFL All-American as the Divisional Champion.

This was put together by the TBF Presidents and Board of Directors as a way of providing a greater opportunity for members to get to the the National Championship on a yearly basis rather than the current 2 year process. Chris will hand out the structure to the membership and post on the web site as soon as all the details are published. It is important to note that all of these changes do not affect the 2016 Divisional Team who will still compete to make it to the National Championship. These changes will cause changes to our tournament structure for 2017. Chris will attempt to get that information out to the clubs prior to the March BOD but will have it available by that meeting so you should really plan on attending.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Chris Wilson**

Chris kicked off New Business with the election of officers for 2016. The current staff will all remain the same for 2016 but open positions will be filled as soon as they can be. The membership was asked if there were any objections and there was no contest.

Chris provided an update on the Canopies with Mike. The new ones were purchased and the TBF logo is on one of them. The Susquehanna logo is on the other. The Yamaha canopy is beyond repair so a new one will be bought to replace it so we will have 3 new canopies for 2016.

Dues must be paid on time and are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. You are not covered under our insurance in a tournament or any other event if your dues have not been paid. District Chairmen please spread the word about this as its very important. Last year, the BOD passed a \$5 late fee for dues not paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We did not asses that so that everyone had fair warning that this was going to happen in the future. Dues are actually due starting in October, so any new members joining the Federation are paying dues for the following year but are considered members immediately.

There was a **motion** by Ray Bradshaw and seconded by Charles Orsargos that if dues are not paid by end of December the Fee is raised \$10 per person and does not apply to NEW members. The vote was 27 For, 1 Opposed, 0 Abstention; Motion passed. David Ciarletta will make the changes to the membership program to reflect the \$10.00.

Chris spoke about Canada Tournaments and the need to have a passport - if you have something as simple as DUI, you can't enter the country so be sure to have your paperwork in order for the Canada event if they have it across the border. This will be for 2018.

The Our Wish program will continue next year and will be held April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> on Raystown Lake at the Aitch ramp. Please call Bob Stiver and volunteer as a boat captain for this event.

The Lottery tickets this year will be weekly on Wednesdays starting March 30<sup>th</sup> and concluding December 28<sup>th</sup> with \$250 payouts. Tickets will remain \$20.00 and every member is required to sell at least one ticket per person. Districts will be sent the tickets and will return one check from the District for the total amount with the ticket stubs to Bruce Bramer.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Mike Sabbi**

Mike began with sponsorship updates. The divisional team rewards continue to grow every year. Our sponsors Plano and Frabill are offering us two orders now. One in the fall and one in the spring so if you want to take advantage of the great offers they have touch base with Mike as we need to put in a minimum order of \$500. Solar bat is continuing to offer a great discount of 25% off and are giving us an upgrade renewal for Sponsorship - \$800 – We need to sell 35 pair of glasses so be sure to check out and support them at [www.solarbat.com](http://www.solarbat.com). In an effort to get a few more sponsors Mike needs leads for tackle shops and a Chevy dealer for 2016. Please contact Mike and he can take care of the rest. A new addition to the list ia Addya; a hook sponsorship which gave us gift certificates to use for our events. As you know our sponsors do a lot for us and we need to help them when we can.

Susquehanna Tackle is having their annual Cabin Fever Sale in January on the 14th 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Mark Zona and Dave Mercer will be there so come out and support them. We are also looking for volunteers to help with parking and security at the event so reach out if you can help. On a final note our sponsors Flip Clips and Gamma continue their great support so when you purchase from them or any of our sponsors let them know how much you appreciate their support - post good reviews on facebook and let them know you are a PA Bass Federation member. Thank you's go a long way every year!

Mike gave the membership updates on tournaments for the kids this year. The Quad State High School Tournament had a great turn out with 37 teams. The Quad State will be in Elk Neck State park with a very tentative date of July 16<sup>th</sup>. Mike needs help for the event so please make plans and contact him about this fun day that supports Youth anglers. There are plans in the works for a Youth Open Tournament on Lake Erie held on Presque Island; more information to come. The Divisional Team did well this year and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> so great job!

Mike handed out the FLW Fantasy Fishing Awards for 2105 41 members in the fantasy league Bill Barlow – won a reel 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Livers – Ardent Reel Dave Doorman Ardent Rod. 4<sup>th</sup> place Tom Brown won a worm rod. 5<sup>th</sup> and Larry Moore – a C-force reel.

### **TREASURER REPORT**

**Robert Miller**

The Treasurer reported the balances as of November 1, 2015. Again, PLEASE do not publish the PA Bass Federation money amounts anywhere or share with anyone outside the Federation. In this meeting we did not indicate totals in the open forum because they keep ending up with members outside the Federation. You are more than welcome to come up and see everything with the Treasurer. Tim McNichols made a motion and Norm Post seconded the report.

### **SECRETARY REPORT**

**Scott Carlisle**

Reminder for volunteers for Wounded Warriors event in September (second week typically) We had a good turn out this year but the more boats the more time the vets get on the water. Contact me with any questions.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Sue Blake**

There are 600 adult PA Bass members as of June total 37 clubs and 2 new clubs. We had 29 new members this year along with 30 Junior and 8 new junior members. Chris announced that Sue Blake will be stepping down and thanked her for her. He then appointed Josh Hoshour as the new Membership Director.

### **YOUTH REPORT**

**Greg Smith**

Mark Ginert, TBF National Youth Director, was on hand to speak about Youth Programs and answer all questions. We would like to thank TBF for paying for Mark's air travel to this event while PA paid for his hotel, ground travel and made sure he was fed well.

Mark Ginert and Greg Smith started the program of by introducing the Junior members and High School members who placed 6<sup>th</sup> place and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the championship this year. Mark then went on to present the story behind how the youth movement in the TBF got started and the success of the program. We need to continue the growth of our youth memberships to ensure the stability and long term success of the entire Federation. Mark laid out some important facts to the membership in attendance to educate us all on who, what, when and where we can go to for help in setting up and growing a strong youth organization. Here are some of the points:

- Insurance coverage is most important we have \$1,000,000 in child coverage & Amber alert
- Web sites: Highschoolfishing.org and Facultyfishing.com are great resources!
- Insurance / Cost / Mud hole / sponsorships etc. / education promotions scholarships. Laptops dorm supplies... angler testing - Boater Safety – evasive species – conservation.

- 1000 people with TV coverage in November NBC sports
- 2016 we will have more HS students than the Adults
- AR, TN, IL, KY, 15000 members. In Texas they have 4 trails with 350 boats at every event
- SAF membership is all inclusive and Boat US college program is for the HS kids!
- On stage angler marketing – tell me a story this transfers to job interviewers.
- Reel kids / Casting kids programs give the kids a chance to participate and grow club membership so reach out to your Youth team and they can get you and your club started.

Lynn Post is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher who started a kids program via Blue Mt Bassmasters. They put on family events and hold 2 qualifying Tournaments. Ten school districts are participating and we limit the number to 28 kids because we need boaters for each set of kids. 23 kids showed up this year and fished Lake Wallenpaupack event that Greg helped with and it was a great success. Oneida, Cayuga and Wallenpaupack will be on deck for the tour next year. Greg, Mike and Lynn are doing a great job with the youth so please support them and the kids they are recruiting to be the future of our sport. Chris also asked the entire Federation to help out when possible to get these kids to the Jr World Championship.

### **CONSERVATION REPORT** **Robert Blake**

The search for a release Boat continues and Chris has a good lead for a new boat directly from the manufacture but we are still open for any additional deals to be found by members. The LOWEs boat company may be able to help us with a 3 tank configuration on a 24 foot pontoon. A 90hp minimum motor was recommended. We are looking at about 30K for this kind of set up.

PA – there is a bill in the process to raise the fishing license fee to almost double so that will hurt the youth anglers. Robert is stepping down as the Conservation Director and Chris thanked him for his service. A new director will be announced shortly.

### **TOURNAMENT REPORT** **Bruce Bramer**

Please complete all the information on the applications. Your cell phone numbers are EXTREMELY important. This information supplied to the Membership Director is downloaded into the tournament program. We also use e-mail blasts to communicate to you so it is important to have an up to date email address as well.

For tournament checks mailed to Bruce, you need to know that the checks are not deposited until two weeks (the cutoff period) before the tournament to avoid complications with withdrawals and cancelations. This new tournament format will make clubs very competitive in 2016 and beyond. Everyone in the TBF thinks this will be a good thing to drive membership. Bruce wanted to say Great job to all of those anglers that came out to Raystown for the Tournament. It was a tough tournament with weather conditions but we had a great turn out with 120 anglers. 428 fish for 888 pounds were brought to the scales!

2016 is looking great and we would love to get some more volunteers to help the tournaments so reach out to Bruce and we will find something for you to do. Dates for the tournaments will all be confirmed as soon as they are locked in.

### **TBF UPDATE** **Chris Wilson**

Chris attended the National President's meeting. The bulk of that meeting was already reported above with the re-vamping of the tournament series. Chris did add that this was necessary as we have

not made any significant changes for way longer than we should have. These changes should bolster membership and participation numbers throughout the state as well as the country.

**OLD BUSINESS**  
**Chris Wilson**

Mid Atlantic – great tournament on Lake Erie – in PA we did well because of good team work. The weather was great and the tournament was run well on Lake Erie. We finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> with Joe Pacholec Jr qualifying as the boater and Darin Eck as the coangler. Congratulations to them both. Joe Jr also won all District 7 to make it to this past State Championship and again qualified for the Divisional team.

**The officers handed out the annual awards for 2015:**

MR Bass: Kick off – Angler Don Bridy / CoAngler Richard Jordon Jr.  
Team Region 1 Champions - Capital City  
Team Region 2 Champions - Leggetts Creek

2016 Divisional Team from the State Championship on Lake Raystown:

Anglers:

1. Mitch Heaton
2. Rich Nichodemus
3. Dan Gray
4. Berry Burford
5. Tom Prowant
6. Richad Witushynsky
- 7 (Alt) Keith Houseknecht

Co Anglers:

1. Jack “Z-Bone” Szentmiklosi
2. Michael Coccia
3. Jay Newsome
4. Joe Pacholec Jr
5. Derrick Voricci
6. Bill Lidwell

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chris welcomed everyone to enjoy the banquet and started the membership raffle with \$400 cash!

**Meeting adjourn Hog Hunters and BuxMont @ 12:00**  
**Recording STE-030**