

# **MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

On Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 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 Lenny Moore; Commissioner David Norman; Commissioner David Shull; Patrick Pannella, Executive Director; Eric London, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel; and Dreama Anderson, Administrative Specialist.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE PASSING OF COMMISSIONER BENJAMIN “BENNY” ALPERSTEIN**

The Commission held a moment of silence in honor of Commissioner Benjamin “Benny” Alperstein, who served as a member of the Maryland State Athletic Commission for over 42 years and who passed away on September 19, 2017 at the age of 102.

Chairman Dansicker stated that Commissioner Alperstein “lived a life that was unparalleled” in terms of his contributions to Maryland’s boxing community and his legacy as a collegiate boxer at the University of Maryland.

Chairman Dansicker noted that all four Commission members, as well as several other former and current Commission staff members, were in attendance at the funeral service for Commissioner Alperstein. Chairman Dansicker also noted that Executive Director Pannella spoke during the service at the request of the Alperstein family and gave a fitting tribute to Commissioner Alperstein.

Executive Director Pannella provided the Commission with the following report on the life and accomplishments of Commissioner Alperstein.

Commissioner Alperstein, representing the University of Maryland, won the national collegiate boxing championship as a lightweight boxer in 1937. In 1938, he duplicated the feat and was named “Outstanding Boxer of the Year” for the nation. Commissioner Alperstein accomplished these achievements during an era

when boxing, the second most popular sport in America next to baseball, was a prominent sport for college and universities in this country.

What makes these achievements even more impressive is that Commissioner Alperstein was the first national champion, either as an individual or as a team, in any sport in the entire history of the University of Maryland.

Throughout his distinguished tenure as a Commission member, Commissioner Alperstein was a staunch advocate for fighter safety and for ensuring fairness in all sports overseen by the Commission.

Mr. Pannella ended his report.

Commissioner Norman remarked that the Commission will also miss seeing and spending time with Commissioner Alperstein's wife, Betty, who transported her husband to Commission meetings.

The Commission expressed its deepest condolences to the family of Commissioner Alperstein.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST DREAMA ANDERSON**

Executive Director Pannella reported that Dreama Anderson, who has been working for the Commission as an administrative specialist, has accepted a position with the Office of Cemetery Oversight as an investigator. Mr. Pannella noted that arrangements have been made for Ms. Anderson to continue her duties with the Commission, but on a reduced basis and in conjunction with Ms. Anderson's assigned duties in her new position.

Executive Director Pannella and Assistant Attorney General London both praised Ms. Anderson for her ongoing outstanding administrative contributions to the Commission.

### **COMMISSION FINAL DETERMINATION OF FORMAL PROTEST OF PROFESSIONAL BOXER JOSE UZACATEGUI – CASE NO. MSAC-17-01**

On August 30, 2017, the formal protest of Jose Uzcategui was heard by the Commission relating to his professional boxing contest versus Andre Dirrell on May 20, 2017. Witnesses testifying at the hearing included Mr. Uzcatequi and his expert witness Steve Smoger. On behalf of the Commission, witnesses testifying were referee William Clancy, expert witness Larry Hazzard and Patrick Pannella, Executive Director of the Maryland State Athletic Commission.

At his formal protest, Mr. Uzcatequi claimed that Mr. Clancy, the referee, erred in: (1) never advising Mr. Uzcategui in Spanish about hitting after the bell; (2) by failing to determine if the second foul was intentional or accidental; and (3) by unilaterally deciding that Mr. Dirrell was unable to continue the contest. The Commission denied the formal protest and found that Mr. Clancy had not committed error.

After considering the findings of fact, the Commission made the following conclusions in affirming Mr. Clancy's decision to disqualify Mr. Uzcategui : (1) Mr. Clancy appropriately gave a warning to Mr. Uzcategui and to Mr. Uzcategui's corner after Mr. Uzcategui committed an intentional foul after the end of the second round, and Mr. Uzcategui was aware that the rules governing a boxing contest do not permit a boxer to continue to strike his opponent after the round ends; (2) Mr. Clancy's conduct in warning Mr. Uzcategui and Mr. Uzcategui's corner, who Mr. Uzcategui testified did speak English, is in compliance with the standards governing the performance of a referee supervising a boxing contest; (3) Mr. Clancy did not commit error or violate professional standards by disqualifying Mr. Uzcategui and ruling Mr. Dirrell the winner of the contest; Commission regulations (COMAR 09.14.06.07) allow for a referee to disqualify a boxer who flagrantly or repeatedly commits a foul, including hitting after the bell has sounded ending the round; (4) Commission regulations are compatible with Rule 12A(1) of the "Unified Boxing Rules" of the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC), which states that, as to injuries sustained by intentional fouls, "[i]f the referee feels that a boxer has conducted himself in an unsportsmanlike manner, he may stop the bout and disqualify the boxer"; (5) Under both the Maryland Regulations and the ABC "Unified Boxing Rules", and in a referee ruling supported in a finding of fact by the attending ringside physician later diagnosing Mr. Dirrell as having sustained a concussion, Mr. Clancy is clearly vested with the unilateral discretion to determine whether or not a fighter is physically able to continue a contest.

## **ABC “UNIFIED RULES OF BOXING”**

The Commission held a discussion in reference to the “Unified Rules of Boxing” as approved and amended by the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) and its correlation to Commission regulations. The Commission determined that, as authorized in COMAR 09.14.01.02 B, it may adopt any or all of the rules of an affiliate organization such as the ABC.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Commissioner Shull, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adopt the ABC “Unified Rules” for championship boxing contests other than state championship contests except when a determination is made by the Commission to implement a Commission regulation providing for a different outcome.

## **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING EVENT**

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

Professional Wrestling Event  
Saturday, March 31, 2017 - 8:00 p.m. Starting Time  
YMCA of Hagerstown, Maryland  
1100 Eastern Boulevard North - Hagerstown, Maryland  
Promoter: James “Jimmy” Morris, III,  
advertising as Adrenaline Championship Wrestling  
(ACW).

## **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman had no report.

### **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

The Commission Counsel had no report.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Commission Executive Director had no report.

### **NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS**

The Commission held a discussion regarding upcoming Commission meetings. The Commission agreed to hold the following four meetings on the following dates and times in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 North Calvert Street, in Baltimore, Maryland:

Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.;;  
Wednesday, January 17, 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 Commissioner Norman, and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m..

**Patrick Pannella**  
**Executive Director**