

## Western NY Bassmasters

### 2017 General Meeting

Gander Mountain – Tonawanda, NY

> Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

> Attendance: Ken Johnson, Patrick Schlosser, Scott Callen, Todd Ceisner, Joe Kugel, Lisa Zuppelli, Doug Catalano, John Mason, Chris Benninger, Ryan Samland, Mike Giulino, Cory Krawczyk, Scott Gauld, Justin Warriner, John Killion, Dave Killion, Jim Lamb, John Evans, Ed Kuberacki, Andrew Full, Mike Uzarowski. Guests: Jason Sauer (prospective member), Ray Shaffer (prospective member), Austin Ocwieja (UB), Danny Peltier (UB), Justin Dworzanski (UB).

#### OLD BUSINESS

> Jan. 2017 minutes: Motion to approve by Andrew Full. Seconded. Carried.

#### CURRENT BUSINESS

> Ladies Night (Kenn Kolo): 6 pm March 4 at Orazio's on Main Street in Clarence. Have 22 people committed/paid. Goal is 30. Contact Kenn for add'l info.

> Awards (John Evans): Everything on track to be completed by Ladies Night dinner; should come in cheaper than in the past.

> Treasurer's Report: 2017 dues still being deposited; club acct roughly \$3K currently.

> Guest presentation (UB Fishing team members UB Fishing Team members (Austin Ocwieja, Danny Peltier, Justin Dworzanski) had approached the club at the NF show in January to discuss partnering/participation opportunities. The club is fairly new (started this year) and is building its membership. They have 10-15 tournament members and some have participated in TBF/FLW events. They're trying to grow their club and be more competitive. Idea was raised about having UB members compete in WNYBM events as non-boaters and have their own sub-event during our tournaments. Will add the three guests to the WNYBM Facebook page.

> Tournament Committee: No report. Scott Callen mentioned launching at Safe Harbor Marina in early spring might be an issue as construction continues on new ramps and surrounding areas.

> Membership Report: Club dues are \$60 in Feb. and jumps to \$75 in March. After March, if a member is not paid up, they will be listed as "not in good standing." Raffle tickets are also available for \$20. Pay Ken J. Scott Callen says if a member wins the raffle, he will allow them to choose a different rod model as he has extra Denalis.

#### NEW BUSINESS

> Military Event: Dan Sank has volunteered to take over coordination/operation of event. Possible dates are May 20/21 or June 3/4/10/11. Scott Callen has secured \$500 from his work union and NF Air Base will cover fuel costs and pavilion so the event has funding to cover all expenses.

> Border War in conjunction with St. Catharines Bassmasters is ready to go. Need to publicize on all web outlets. Have to monitor launch site and formulate backup plan in case Safe Harbors is not ready by May.

> Tournament weigh-in bags: Discussion had about what brand club should invest in. Josh Snyder brought a BPS bag. Scott Gauld could get a price break on Venom's new bag. Chris Benninger would be able to explore a discount on Ardent's version. Todd Ceisner contacted Bass Mafia about its Body Bag. Price would be \$17.50 per bag. Club looking for 12-20 bags. Additional info to be presented/voted on at March meeting.

> NYB Bass Federation update (Kenn Kolo): Federation team tournament is 8/19-8/20 at St. Lawrence River. Club members interested in joining state fed should contact Kenn

> Pat Schlosser is attending meeting on Feb. 23 to discuss US-Canada border issues with other stakeholders. Meeting is at Bison City Rod/Gun Club.

> Rule Change Proposals

> Members voted on Proposals 1 (live draw/eliminating Wed. night draw at Gander/PayPal): Proposal approved 21-2

> Members voted on Proposal 2 (introducing Last Chance option for those who missed the draw): Proposal approved 18-5

> Revised Proposal 3 circulated to members regarding Classic qualification structure and payout format for 2017. Discussion had about value of back-loading payback to Classic vs. paying back top 3 or 4 places at each tournament. Callen/Schlosser explained that purpose behind changing the structure is to encourage participation and create incentive to qualify for the Classic, where more money will be up for grabs. Josh Snyder suggested that how payout structure will be determined should be added to proposal. Pat Schlosser agreed and announced that 9 places will be paid at Classic (see scenario #3 on Prop. 3 handout). Any amount less than \$20 will go back to club. Members are asked to review Prop. 3 and offer add'l suggestions prior to March meeting. Prop. 3 will be discussed/presented for vote at March meeting.

> Guests Jason Sauer and Ray Shaffer introduced themselves and said they're interested in joining the club/getting back into bass fishing.

> There will be a Fishing Flea Market at Bison City Rod/Gun Club on April 22 from 8 am to 1:30 pm. Tables are free (first come/first served) and admission is free.

> Family fishing day is scheduled for June 24-25 at Broderick Park from 7 am to 7 pm.

> Harbor speed limit discussion: Scott Callen attended Erie County Fish Advisory Council meeting this week and proposal to raise speed limit to 20 or 25 mph will be taken to Buffalo Common Council.

> Ryan Benninger has requested to take a leave of absence for 2017. He was not in attendance. A written request from Ryan will be required for leave to take effect.

> Motion to adjourn meeting: 8:07 pm. Mike Giulio motion/Mike Uzarowski second. Motion carried.

> March meeting: 7 pm March 22 at Gander Mountain.

