



# BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

Home of Babe Ruth Baseball,  
Softball, and Cal Ripken Leagues



## Babe Ruth Leagues of Virginia, Inc.

### MINUTES

March 11, 2012

Warrenton-Fauquier Visitors Center

33 N. Calhoun Street

Warrenton, Virginia

#### In Attendance

Don Rose, Sr., State Commissioner  
Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer  
Tommy Clary, District 2 Commissioner  
Glenn Spangler, District 4 SB Comm.  
Todd Stebbing, District 3 BB Comm.  
Roy Brewer, District 5 Commissioner  
Paul Link, District 13 Commissioner  
Chris Crane, District 8 BB Commissioner  
John Kemper, Fauquier Baseball  
Shannon Coffey, Springfield Baseball  
Joel Troxell, Warren County Softball

John DeYoung, Asst. State Comm., Baseball Opns.  
Rick Bill, District 8 SB Commissioner  
Gayle Clary, District 2 Asst. Comm.  
Ken Bosserman, Dist. 4 BB Comm.  
Curtis Moore, District 3 SB Comm.  
Paul Espinosa, Umpire Consultant, SB North  
Phil Larcomb, District 9 Commissioner  
Dave Cogar, Greater Manassas Baseball  
Andy Martin, Warren County Softball  
John Morris, Greater Manassas Baseball

Don Rose, State Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Tommy Clary offered the invocation, dedicating the day's business to the benefits of Virginia's baseball-and-softball-playing kids.

By unanimous vote, the reading of the minutes was waived.

Dave Gushee reported that the State treasury contained, as of 3/1/12, \$7,764.62 in the checking account, a \$5,000.00 bridge loan to Greater Fairfax Babe Ruth League to help them over an internal financial restructuring, 1,518.015 shares of Lord Abbett Balanced Strategy Fund valued at \$15,062.13, 272.089 shares of Hartford Balanced Income Fund valued at \$3,104.54, 54.105 shares of Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund valued at \$2,000.00, 1,265.388 shares of Oppenheimer Rising Dividend Fund valued at \$20,986.84, and 154.074 shares of Goldman Sachs Growth and Income Strategy Fund valued at \$1,670.07. The Goldman Sachs Growth and Income Strategy Fund is being held in escrow for Warren County Babe Ruth League, which has suspended operations due to a lack of sufficient volunteers to run the league. Total assets as of 3/1/12 = \$57,315.70. Last year at this time, total assets were \$52,634.49, of which \$3,474.14

were being held in escrow for Warren County Babe Ruth League and Spotsylvania Babe Ruth Softball. The Spotsylvania league was reactivated; its funds were taken from escrow and returned to the league. The growth in assets is primarily the result of a major contribution from an anonymous donor.

So far this year, 12 baseball and 5 softball leagues have paid their 2012 State dues. This is about the same pace as last year.

### **Old Business**

**General Discussion.** There were no outstanding issues left over from previous meetings.

**Change in Umpire Setup.** George Burke is now the Baseball Consultant for the entire state.

**T-Ball in Manassas.** It was agreed that the best start date is July 5. District Commissioner were unsure about how many teams might participate; only about 8 teams seemed assured, but it is likely that as many more will end up participating. It was agreed that the District Commissioners and league officials should deal directly with Mary Clarke and Dave Cogar of Greater Manassas as teams moved toward the decisions to be there.

**10-year-old State Tournament in Richmond.** The start date was at issue. A brief discussion led to the conclusion to keep it at July 12.

**Hosts for 11-60 and 12-60 State Tournaments.** Halifax in District 2 has agreed to host both. The 11-60 will probably have a small number of teams ó 3 or 4 perhaps.

**16-18 State Tournament.** The scheduled early date required by the World Series date in July means that the Babe Ruth tournament trail State Tournament would have to be held in late June (and the District tournaments even earlier!). Given that most 16-18 players playing high school ball are not available for Babe Ruth play until late May at the earliest and mid-June in many cases, there is no opportunity for leagues to play a meaningful number of games before the putative State Tournament would be held. It was felt that there was no real likelihood that leagues would be able to complete their schedules after the State Tournament. It was agreed that the State would set up its own independent, non-tournament-trail tournament to start on July 19 and be hosted by the Greater Richmond Babe Ruth League, with District Tournaments, if any, to start July 12. State Tournament trophies would go to the winner of this tournament.

What about the possibility that a league or a District would like the opportunity to place a team in the Babe Ruth tournament trail? It was agreed that this should not be foreclosed, so an alternative process was set up. To be called the Tournament Trail State Tournament, it would be held starting June 28 and be hosted by a league in District 13, with one team from each interested District. How that team would be selected would be determined by each District ó a lottery perhaps, or a brief District Tournament despite the

impact on the league's season schedule. The standard State Champion patches would go with this tournament.

Teams would be eligible to play in both trails if they so chose.

### **New Business**

**Status of League Charters.** As of 3/11, 51 leagues have had their charters accepted, out of a total of around 70 in the State. 70 is an estimate, as one or more leagues chartered last year may not renew, and 3 new leagues are joining us..

**Review of Change in District 3 Boundaries.** Todd Stebbing reported that, in response to pressure from a local elected official responsible for funding playing field upgrades and his intent to make it possible for all players in his district to have access to the upgraded fields, Henrico County has become the boundary for all leagues within District 3. The leagues in the District have agreed to advertise to schools only within the previous league boundaries but will have to accept players outside those boundaries if they register.

**State Baseball Tournament Sites.** With the decisions taken earlier, these have all now been finalized. The list will be put on the State Web site.

**State Softball Tournament Sites.** Glen Allen will host all the State softball tournaments.

**Status of State Tournament Contracts and Payment of State Host Fees.** Softball tournament contracts and fee payments are complete. Three hosts have signed baseball contracts and paid the host fees.

### **Assignment of State Representatives to State Tournaments.**

#### **Baseball**

T-Ball	Manassas	Chris Crane
Rookies	Arlington	Paul Link
9s	Northeast Augusta	Bosserman/Spangler
10s	Glen Lea	Todd Stebbing
11s/60	Halifax	Tommy Clary
11s/70	Winchester	Brad Mills
12s/60	Halifax	Tommy Clary
12s/70	Stafford	Chris Crane
13s	Summit Point	Jeff Bayliss
14s	Manassas	Dave Cogar
13-15s	Greene County	Roy Brewer
16-18s	Greater Richmond	Todd Stebbing
16-18s TT	District 13	Paul Link/John DeYoung

Softball

6U	Not Scheduled	
8U	Glen Allen	Don Gowen/Curtis Moore
10U	Glen Allen	Don Gowen/Curtis Moore
12U	Glen Allen	Don Gowen/Curtis Moore
14U	Glen Allen	Don Gowen/Curtis Moore
16U	Glen Allen	Don Gowen/Curtis Moore
18U	Not Scheduled	

**2012 Southeast Regional Tournaments in Virginia**

Baseball: The Regional 12-70s Tournament will be held at Glen Allen. The 14s will be held in Purcellville.

**Trophies, Plaques, and Patches.** Ken Bosserman reported that the prices this year will be up a bit, perhaps 2.5%.

**Virginia Umpires Association.** Fees will remain the same.

George Burke reported that umpire training has been extensive:

January 28 at Peachtree	District 5	Baseball
February 25 at Fishersville	District 4	Baseball
February 26 at Arlington	District 13	Baseball
March 3 at Staunton	District 4	Mostly Softball
March 10 at Gainesville	District 8	Baseball
March 11 at Falls Church	District 13	Baseball
March 17 at Rappahannock	District 9	Baseball
March 18 at Stafford	District 8	Baseball
March 24 at Richmond	District 3	Softball
March 25 at Glen Allen	District 3	Baseball

George estimates that up to 240 umpires will be trained when the sessions have been completed.

**Babe Ruth Data Center.** The chartering process seems to be proceeding much more smoothly this year. Grace Paglione, our contact person at headquarters, is most helpful. There are still some design glitches, such as the process for amending the numbers of teams chartered (along with the associated billing), but with Grace's help, things eventually work out.

**The New Babe Ruth Xtreme Fastpitch Softball Division.** This has been announced. Its impact on us is not yet clear.

**Stamped Tournament Balls.** These will be available. John DeYoung will forward the headquarters announcement to the District Commissioners to inform the State

Tournament host leagues. [This was done at 5:07 p.m. on March 11.] After our problem-plagued experience a couple of years ago when the State officers gathered the orders and sent in a combined one, any orders are to be placed directly from the tournament organizers with national Babe Ruth.

**Estimate of Teams from Each District in State Tournaments.** It's too early to know. John DeYoung will follow up with the District Commissioners on this as tournament time draws near.

**Memorial Day Wood Bat Tournament to Benefit Children's Hospital Foundation Pediatric Cancer Care.** This is an aggressive activity hoping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars. Several baseball organizations, including Little League and Babe Ruth, are participating. 137 teams have already registered; the goal is 200. For more information, go to [www.kyleskamp.com](http://www.kyleskamp.com).

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Prepared by Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer