



BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.

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



Babe Ruth Leagues of Virginia, Inc.

MINUTES

March 24, 2013

Warrenton-Fauquier Visitors Center
33 N. Calhoun Street
Warrenton, Virginia

In Attendance

Paul Link, State Commissioner
Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer
Tommy Clary, District 2 Commissioner
Phil Larcomb, District 9 Commissioner
John Kemper, Fauquier Baseball
Shannon Coffey, Springfield Baseball
Brandon Currence, District 1 Commissioner

John DeYoung, Asst. State Comm., Baseball Opns.
Don Gowen, Asst. State Comm., Softball Opns.
Glenn Spangler, District 4 SB Comm.
Dave Cogar, District 8 BB Comm.
Lisa Kemper, Fauquier Baseball
Dennis Cobb, Asst. District 4 BB Comm.
Nancy Currence, New Kent Baseball

Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer, called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. to announce for the record that State Commissioner Don Rose had died on January 24, 2013. After several weeks of mourning had passed, Dave, in his role as Corporate Secretary, called for nominations for election to replace Don. Paul Link and Don Gowen were nominated. A vote was conducted by email; Paul Link was elected 10-2, with two Board members not voting.

Paul Link assumed the Chair.

Tommy Clary, after honoring Don's devotion to the joy of seeing youngsters play ball, recalled several of Don's most telling actions in pursuit of that devotion, and asked for a minute of silence in his memory. He then offered the invocation, asking that the Board dedicate its actions to continuing Don's legacy.

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

Dave Gushee reported that the State treasury contained, as of 3/23/13, \$13,999.03 in the checking account, a \$5,000.00 bridge loan to Greater Fairfax Babe Ruth League to help them over an internal financial restructuring, 1,576.134 shares of Lord Abbett Balanced Strategy Fund valued at \$17,999.45, 282.645 shares of Hartford Balanced Income Fund valued at \$3,524.58, 54.324 shares of Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund valued at \$1,939.91, 1,284.700 shares of Oppenheimer Rising Dividend Fund valued at

\$23,766.95, and 157.886 shares of Goldman Sachs Growth and Income Strategy Fund valued at \$1,776.22. 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 3/24/13 = \$68,006.15. The Funds values are as of February 22, 2013. Last year at this time, total assets were \$57,315.70, of which \$1,670.07 were being held in escrow for Warren County Babe Ruth League. The growth in assets is primarily the result of an improvement in stock prices and a major contribution from an anonymous donor, plus an additional boost from a more rapid influx of State dues payments this year than in the past.

So far this year, 20 baseball leagues and 8 softball leagues have paid their 2013 State dues. Last year, 12 baseball leagues and 5 softball leagues had paid State dues.

Old Business

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

2012 State Champion Plaques. Due to an internal communications lapse, the State Champion plaques for several 2012 State and District Tournament winners were not available in time to pass them out at tournament time last summer. They are now available and are being passed on to the winning leagues.

New Business

New State Commissioner Policy Thoughts. Paul Link pointed out that Don Rose as State Commissioner is a hard act to follow. He would not try to fit in Don's shoes, as that was not possible. Instead, he would bring to the office several principles of leadership he has found to be helpful over the years. First are his four "F's": firm, fair, friendly, and flexible. He believes in local autonomy and will not involve himself in league affairs unless asked in response to a policy problem. He respects everyone and appreciates spirited debate. Differences of opinion will not affect personal relationships. He does not appreciate threats. He will strive to visit every District either during the season or at tournament time or perhaps even both. He will try to capitalize on the benefits of technology, as for example, asking leagues to transmit their rosters to him in a zip file if they have the capability. He will work with Babe Ruth headquarters to identify limitations or potential improvements in their data system as he hears about them from the leagues and District Commissioners. He believes in operating through channels and in keeping everyone who might be involved informed via copies of correspondence and emails.

Permanent Memorials to Don Rose. There is a strong desire throughout the State to create activities and symbols that will carry Don's values and commitment into the future. Several were identified and acted on:

Buddy Ball Mementos. Don had a special place in his heart for the kids involved in

Buddy Ball. He created emblems and other mementos and passed them out to all the participants in Buddy Ball events. The Board VOTED to make this activity into a State program with a budget. This year there will be a Buddy Ball event in Richmond. Don Gowen has agreed to design an emblem with Don's name on it and to authorize a budget item of up to \$700 per event.

Don Rose Sportsmanship Awards at State Tournaments. Don initiated this activity and often paid for it himself. The Board VOTED to make this award a line item with a budget to be determined by experience. It would be called the Don Rose Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

T-Ball Medallions. Don also initiated this activity and designed and bought medallions to give to each participant. The Board VOTED to make this a line item in the budget, to put Don's name on it, and to authorize a maximum of \$1,000 for it.

Don Rose Memorial Fund. This was a far-ranging discussion. Several ideas were put forth, such as to segregate some of the State's reserves into a fund with Don's name on it to be used for specific major initiatives, such as underwriting new leagues in underprivileged areas -- center cities, ethnic neighborhoods, or rural communities, for example. It was pointed out that Major League Baseball has such a program, as does Babe Ruth itself at the national level. Not much is known about those activities or whether a State could join in them (alternatively whether they could join a State in such an effort) to start new leagues here and there.

It was agreed that the State officers would work to develop this concept in conjunction with other entities such as Babe Ruth headquarters, the Babe Ruth Alumni Association, or MLB.

Status of League Charters. As of 3/24/13, 65 leagues have had their charters accepted and have been billed for State dues, 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 some new leagues are joining us.

The Waiver Process. John DeYoung was the key person operating this process last year and found it to be (a) not in accordance with Babe Ruth rules and (b) one heck of a hassle. John has worked over the winter with John Armentrout to modify the State Web site instructions to say that a league must initiate its waiver request and send it to the District Commissioner, from where it goes to the State, the Region, and HQ. The Region has agreed to accept any waiver that State officials approve and send forward. Headquarters has delegated decision authority to the Virginia State level for two types of waiver -- fewer than four teams in a league, fewer than 12 players on a team. Approved waivers are to be included in tournament books.

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

State Softball Tournament Sites. Stafford will host all the State softball tournaments.

Status of State Tournament Contracts and Payment of State Host Fees. Four host leagues have signed baseball contracts and paid the host fees. Over the past several years, there have been several *ad hoc* decisions on the fees to charge leagues hosting more than one State Tournament in a given year. The Board voted to standardize these fees. The new schedule is added as attachment 2 to these minutes.

For the past several years, the process of identifying host leagues has been started in December of the preceding year. Experience has shown that lots of leagues are in no position at that time to be deciding on whether or not to host a State tournament. For 2014, it was agreed to start the process closer to the Spring meeting.

Playing in Extreme Heat. Several among those in attendance commented on their experiences in running tournaments during periods of extreme heat. This has been the case often in recent years. Under what conditions should play be stopped? Is there some professional guidance available? Subsequent to the meeting, Paul Link and John DeYoung sought information on how lacrosse leagues handle this. Lacrosse's approach is consistent with Virginia high school guidelines. If the heat index is below 86, it is recommended that hydration breaks occur every 30 minutes. From 90 to 94, it is recommended that the catcher remove his helmet as often as possible and that coaches and officials monitor all athletes for signs of heat problems. With a heat index of 95 to 104, extra hydration breaks should be given to all participants (breaks called by officials) and that shade should be made available for players if possible (may require flexibility on the dugout rule). It is further recommended that no outside activities be allowed when the heat index is 105 or above. There is a web site www.osaa.org/heatindex where you type in the zip code for your field location and it gives you the heat index.

Assignment of State Representatives to State Tournaments.

Baseball

	To Be Determined	
T-Ball		
Rookies	Madison County	Roy Brewer
9s	Sandston	Curtis Moore
10s	Williamsburg	Brandon Currence
11s/60	Staunton	Ken Bosserman/Glenn Spangler
11s/70	Stafford	Dave Cogar
12s/60	Staunton	Ken Bosserman/Glenn Spangler
12s/70	Arlington Optimists	Paul Link/John DeYoung
13s	Greater Manassas	Dave Cogar
14s	Northern Fairfax County	Paul Link/John DeYoung
13-15s	Summit Point	Phil Larcomb
16-18s	Brunswick	Tommy Clary

Softball

6U	Not Scheduled	
8U	Stafford	Don Gowen
10U	Stafford	Don Gowen
12U	Stafford	Don Gowen
14U	Stafford	Don Gowen
16U	Stafford	Don Gowen
18U	Not Scheduled	

2013 Southeast Regional Tournaments in Virginia

Baseball: The Southeast Regional 7-8s Tournament will be held at Varina. The 16-18s will be held in Chantilly.

Softball: The softball Southeast Regionals will be held in Glen Allen.

2013 World Series in Virginia

The 13-15 World Series will be held in Purcellville.

Trophies, Plaques, and Patches. Glenn Spangler reported that the prices this year will mostly be held even, except for the MVP plaques, up a bit, perhaps a dollar or two each.

Virginia Umpires Association. Fees will remain the same. Based on these amounts, John DeYoung has drafted the Parents Team Gate Pass Calculation table for 2013 State Baseball Tournaments, which is added as attachment 1 to these minutes.

George Burke and Bruce Frye have reported that umpire training has been extensive:

February 23 at Fishersville	District 4	Baseball	26 umps
March 3 at Staunton	District 4	Mostly Softball	8 umps
March 9 at Gainesville	District 8	Baseball	49 umps
March 10 at Falls Church	District 13	Baseball	16 umps
March 17 at Summit Point	District 9	Baseball	18 umps
March 22 at Gainesville	District 8	Baseball	54 umps
March 23 at Lakeside	District 3	Baseball	12 umps
March 23 at Glen Allen	District 3	Baseball	49 umps
March 23 at Mechanicsville	District 3	Softball	26 umps
Upcoming			
March 30 at Fauquier	District 9	Baseball	? umps
April 6 at Stafford	District 8	Baseball	? umps
April 7 at Herndon	District 3	Baseball	? umps

George estimates that up to 300 umpires will be trained when the sessions have been completed.

In conjunction with these clinics, the Junior Umpires Division has started up. 17 teenagers have applied so far, some for baseball, some for softball, and some for both.

Babe Ruth Data Center. The chartering process seems to be proceeding relatively 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) and entering and amending rosters,

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

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.

Babe Ruth League Alumni Association's Request for Donations for New Headquarters Building. James Wagoner, Chairman of the Board of Babe Ruth League, Inc., has written under the letterhead of the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association to the State Commissioners to inform them that Babe Ruth League's headquarters is desperately in need of space, not only for its current operations but for planned expansion and such circumstances and based on the direction of the Board of Directors, it is time to relocate the main Headquarters. The Board is looking to purchase a 12,000 to 15,000 square foot building with an estimated price of \$2 million. Mr. Wagoner asks for contributions from the various State organizations, the leagues, and individual volunteers. He starts by suggesting \$1,000 each year for two years to 2013 and 2014 but adds that any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Response to this request was mixed, with a general reaction that Mr. Wagoner did not provide enough information for us to reach an informed judgment as to whether the proposal was well justified and whether the size and cost of the proposed building were appropriate to the needs and economic realities of the organization. The discussion led to a shared conclusion that the State should not respond favorably until we received more information on the proposal, such as the justification presented to the Board of Directors, a summary of the Board's discussion, and the proposed manner of paying for the building. There was a general concern that the most probable result of such a move would be a significant increase in future charter fees. The Board asked the State Commissioner to respond to Mr. Wagoner with a request for more information, such as that identified in our discussions. The issue will be revisited when the desired information has been provided.

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

Prepared by: Dave Gushee, Secretary/Treasurer