

THE BASE BALL PLAYER'S CHRONICLE

2016 Edition, Volume 3

December 2, 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brad Shaw
VP Matt Bartnicki
Secretary Doug Ernst
Treasurer Dave Brooks
Historian Eric Miklich

Trustees:

Helen DeGeatano
Bruce Leith
Brian Travers
John Shanahan
Corky Gaskell
Jake Newcomb

Substitute Newsletter Ed. Doug Ernst

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Board & Trustee Election Information Newsletter Looking forward to 2017

This newsletter will focus on the candidates for the election to the Board and Trustees. The timeline will be:

December—Announce slate of candidates for Board and Trustees.

December—Publish candidate Questionnaires.

January—Re-announce slate of candidates.

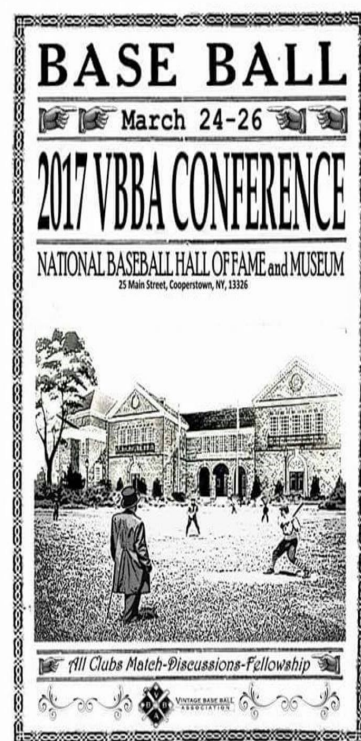
End of January or Early February, send out ballot with instructions for marking ballots.

Early February and March—Collect Ballots.

During the Conference—collect ballots, tabulate ballots.

Conference—Announce the new Board and Trustees for 2017.

New Board and Trustees hold their first board meeting Sunday morning at the end of the Conference.



Announcement of Candidates for Board and Trustees

Board Candidates:

President—Gary Schiappacasse
Vice President—Ed Shuman
Treasurer—Dennis Weigmann
Secretary—Doug Ernst
Historian—Eric Miklich

Trustees:

Evette Griffore
Aaron Staab
Jacob Newcomb
Daniel Torpey
Jim Kinnach

Each full member team will have 2 votes for each position. Teams may allocate their votes in as they choose. The manager can use both votes or the manager and the Captain might each have a vote. The essential point is that each member team will have two votes for each position. Be sure to indicate the team name on the ballot.

Candidate Questionnaires and Answers

Name **Gary Schiappacasse**
Position **President**

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

I been playing vintage base ball for about the last sixteen years. I have been managing the Chicago Salmon over the last ten years.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

I was asked to fill in for a Chicago Salmon player that sprained his ankle on one of the oak tree roots at the Historic Methodist Campground in Des Plaines.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? I enjoyed participating in the Pierce Cup in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Ohio Cup, in Columbus, Ohio, and at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. As a retired grade school teacher I especially enjoy students enthusiasm and love for the game. Our club has played for and with students from several schools over the years. My favorite one was Elm Middle School in Elmwood Park.

What do you like best about vintage base ball?

I have had many great vintage base ball experiences over the years. For me it is not only about the game itself, but about the special events, friends I have made, and the good food that has been served after the games. In addition to playing the game, I enjoy traveling around the Midwest and getting to know the many different vintage base ball teams.

What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board?

I have managed the Chicago Salmon website, Facebook page, been the team's field manager, recruited players, helped to improve and maintain the authenticity of the team uniform, developed the team schedule yearly, and most recently organized the 2016 Chicago Salmon VBBA Conference at the Historic Methodist Campground in DesPlaines, IL. For more than twenty years I have maintained leadership roles in my church, in Boy Scouts, in organized sports programs with my son, and as a teacher union trustee and president for over 12 years, part my 34 years as a middle grades classroom teacher and reading specialist. I also work at staying in good physical condition, working out one hour weekly with a trainer, jogging, and running in several 5K events every year.

Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?

I have served as both a VBBA trustee and last year served as the vice-president of the VBBA especially serving the needs of the president. While working with Dennis Pops Wiegman I assisted with the job descriptions of the VBBA Board, the development of the new VBBA website, liability insurance, and more.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?

The VBBA's mission is to provide the research on the history of base ball, concerning the rules, customs, and traditions of the game, and promote and preserve the game as it was performed in the nineteenth century and other historical eras.

What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence?

The VBBA needs to continue to grow its membership by continuing to reach out to the vintage base ball clubs and offering the support they need.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I believe that the VBBA needs to continue to offer additional documentation on the rules and customs of the game of base ball in the different historical eras. It needs to increase the reach of its network by being present at major vintage base ball events, and using the many different media formats: Facebook, podcasts, YouTube, and “town hall” simulcasts when practical.

What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?

I look forward to being a key part of the collaboration between the vintage base ball trustees, member clubs, and the vintage base ball community.

.What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? (Current committees are listed on the website under “Officers, Trustees and Committees”.)

I believe that the current committees: Rules and Customs, Nominating, Judiciary, Communications, and Sideline Interpreter fulfill most of the needs of the VBBA that are not met by the VBBA Board of Directors. Ideally there should be an Internet committee that includes digital age representatives to assist with the website and other digital media. In addition there needs to be a Marketing Committee to focus on strategies to grow the VBBA brand amongst the general public and the vintage base ball community.

What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? The VBBA needs to continue in the direction set by the VBBA Board of Directors in the past. Namely continue to take the lead in providing accurate, documented historical information about the rules and customs of vintage base ball, continue to use all the available communications networks to connect with the vintage base ball community, and expand its contact with the vintage base ball community by being represented at vintage base ball events such as the Ohio Cup, and with regional “town hall meetings,” podcasts, and YouTube presentations, and continue to be active on the social media such as Facebook. Ideally the VBBA should make itself available to the media to clarify misconceptions about the historical accuracy of local vintage base ball clubs as they are presented in the media. All done in a positive, supportive manner.

By-law Section 3 Defining Elections and Terms

In order to provide continuity in the operation of the Association and to create the opportunity for participation in the leadership of the Association, the composition of the Executive Board shall be determined as follows:

- a. Elections will be conducted annually at the membership meeting, with each full member club casting two votes for each elected position. Each club shall determine how its votes will be cast.
- b. All officers are to be elected by a plurality of all votes cast by full member clubs. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted at the annual meeting between the two candidates receiving the most votes.
- c. All officer terms shall be one (1) year (or until the next election), except for the trustees, who shall serve two (2)-year terms. Three (3) trustees will be elected each year in alternating years.
- d. All officers are eligible for re-election and may succeed themselves in their present roles for no more than three (3) consecutive terms, except for the Treasurer. The term of the Treasurer may be extended at the discretion of the Board.
- e. If any member of the Executive Board or any trustee is unable to serve a full term, the Executive Board is authorized to name a new member to the Board to complete the unexpired term.
- f. In order to encourage full participation of all member clubs in the affairs of the Association, no more than two (2) members of the same club shall serve on the Executive Board at the same time.

Section 4. Eligibility to Serve.

In order to serve on the Executive Board, an individual must be designated as the representative of the member club. The member club shall have satisfied the dues and membership status requirements set forth in these Code of Regulations

This editor has not heard from two candidates; Ed Shumann, candidate for Vice President, and Dennis Weigmann, candidate for Treasurer.

Each has agreed to stand for a one year term at the respective positions mentioned.

Each is well known among the Vintage Base Ball world and each has held various positions on the VBBA Board. Most notably, Weigmann is the immediate past President, having served 3 terms in that position.

Shumann has experience as a Treasurer, having served in that position in several other organizations.

Both of these individuals have accepted the Nomination's committee's request to help fill respective positions on the VBBA board for the 2017 term, only.

Thus, the entire slate is as follows:

President— Gary Schiappacasse

Vice President— Ed Shumann

Treasurer—Dennis Weigmann

Secretary—Doug Ernst

Historian—Eric Miklich

Trustees: You will choose 3 of the 5 listed

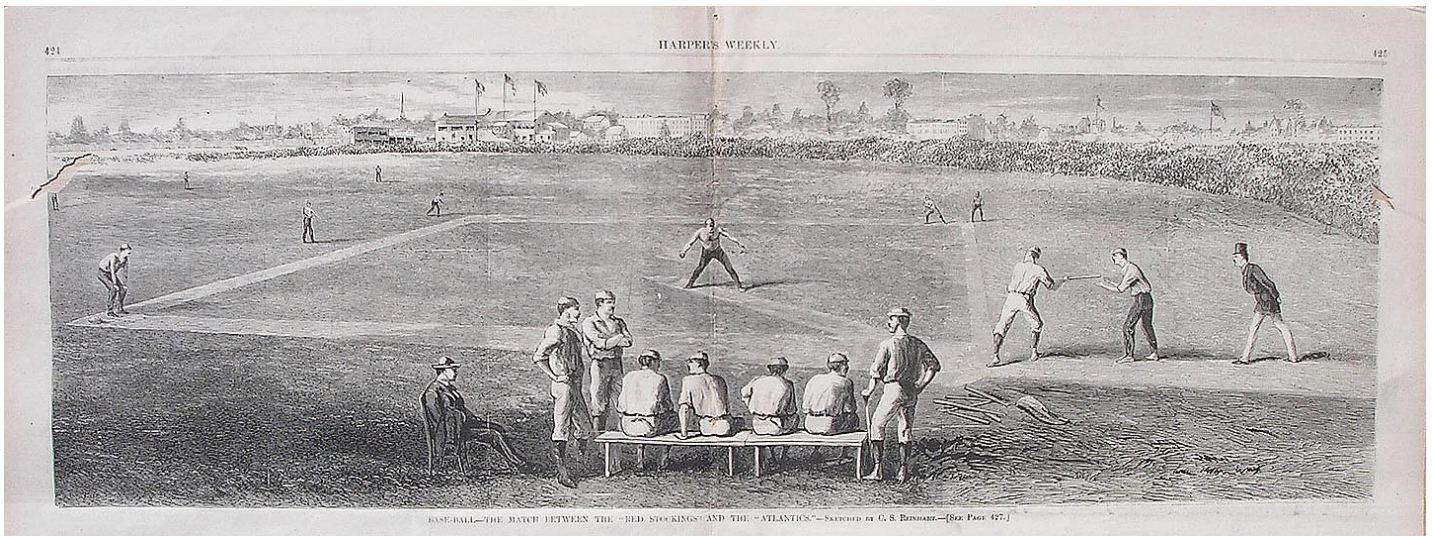
Evette "Scrappy" Griffore

Aaron "Rusty Pyrat" Staab

Dan "Torpedo" Torpey

Jim Kinnach

Jacob Newcomb



A stock image which might also be of some interest to readers.

Name Doug Ernst

Position Secretary

1. How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

I started in 2004. So 2016 was my 12th year of participation.

2. What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

I was a walk on for the Quicksteps. They were short a player and a friend who plays for the Quicksteps suggested I ask to play. I did and got 2 doubles. I was hooked.

3. What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

I have many. Not sure I can really prioritize. Among a number of things I will cherish are playing my first match in the Metrodome, then home of the Minnesota Twins. I got a hit and ended up on 1st base, where Kent Hrbek played, before him Harmon Killebrew played first. I also got a chance to play in the new Target Field stadium. Looking out across the field is something I will long remember. I also played on a field that, supposedly, Babe Ruth played a barnstorming match. Really, both as a history nut, and a base ball fan, it couldn't be any better.

4. What is it about vintage base ball that you like the best?

The intersection of "doing" history and playing a game I love.

5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?

I have served as National Secretary for 2 terms. If re-elected, this will be my third term. I am presently helping plan and execute the 2016 National Conference to be held in Cooperstown, NY.

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? Yes. I try to uphold that mission as a board member, player and Manager.

7. What do you think the VBBA needs now?

I believe that the VBBA needs to move forward in three areas: 1) Increased name identification and profile in the general public; be a source of correct information that teams can use when dealing with media; 3) make more linkages between history centers to get these to form teams.

8. What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

See above.

9. What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?

I would be open to becoming Vice President. I would be willing to serve as a Trustee or on a committee.

10. What committees does the board need in order to fulfill the mission of the VBBA?

I don't know that it is so much a matter of adding committees as it is to simply make the committees presently in existence more vital and productive.

11. What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?

Focus our energies on defining specific tasks and making sure that those tasks are fully developed. Producing more in house information that can be shared with member teams.

Name: **Eric Miklich**

Position: **Historian**

1. **How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?** Since 1998, 19 years.

2. **What was your first experience with vintage base ball? How long have you participated?**

Playing in an 1887 match at Old Bethpage Village Restoration (OBVR) in June of 1998, Westburys (my club) vs Glen Head Zig Zags. It was also the day the photos were taken for the Smithsonian magazine's historic article on 19th century base ball at OBVR.

2017 will be my 20th season playing, speaking, researching and writing about 19th century base ball.

3. **What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? What do you like best about vintage base ball?**

Too many to specifically point out; however, here are some highlights.

I have been fortunate to have played in 5 minor league stadiums on the east coast.

I was part of the fabulous skit produced by the Conan O'Brien Show on 19th century base ball.

I was the pitcher for the educational film that continuously runs in the Hall of Fame's 19th Century Room and has since 2004.

I enjoy meeting players from other clubs throughout North America.

4. **What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board?**

I am confident that my knowledge of 19th century base ball, regarding the styles of play and the rules are beneficial to the membership of the VBBA. Writing for various 19th century publications including MLB's Historian, John Thorn's bi-annual, *Base Ball*, various SABR projects, publishing two books and writing with and for my friend, noted 19th century base ball historian, David Nemec, allows me to share information to larger audiences. Being a member of the SABR 19th Century Committee and attending two meeting per year exposes me to educational presentations on a wide variety of aspects of 19th century base ball. This increases my knowledge and as a result gives me a broader knowledge base.

5. **Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?**

Trustee 2006

Historian 2009-2013

Secretary 2014

Historian 2016 to Present

6. **Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?** I do.

To ensure, promote and perpetuate historically accurate 19th century base ball to the VBBA membership and the public in the form of physical and verbal education.

7. **What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence?**

The VBBA should be represented at all major 19th century base ball events each summer. A major event would include all festivals and tournaments that have eight or more clubs participating.

8. **What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?**

I would like the VBBA to become the authority of accuracy regarding 19th century base ball.

9. **What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?**

I enjoy the Historian's position and believe I can serve the membership best in this position.

10. **What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? (Current committees are listed on the website under "Officers, Trustees and Committees".)**

The Membership Committee along with Rules and Customs Committee potentially have the greatest impact on the VBBA Mission Statement.

11. **What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?**

The North American membership needs to increase. The participation of multiple members on all clubs, in terms of research and correctly presenting 19th century base ball information to the public, must increase.

Name: **Evette “Scrappy” Griffore**

Position: **Going for trustee**

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball? Seven seasons, starting eight in 2017

What was your first experience with vintage base ball? How long have you participated?

My boyfriend, “Hatchet” began with the Early Riser BBC of Detroit which got me interested. During our first year with the club I was the president of the “Crank Club”-the women’s club for the group which provided meals for after the matches and PR/marketing work.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? What do you like best about vintage base ball?

Playing center field at Navin Field in Detroit was one of the best. Also, playing at Ned Skeldon stadium where my great uncle had played baseball. Vintage base ball has brought out skills and qualities in myself I didn’t know I had. It’s a very accommodating sport and the people we know within it have become like a family. We teach and grow with each other.

What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board?

I have been actively researching the history of women in base ball for the last five years. I play on both my own ladies vintage base ball club-the first in Michigan and I also play on several men’s clubs. I am an excellent ambassador for both men and women and promote vintage base ball from both sides. I am a neutral participant in the sport and respect the influence of both men and women on the sport back then as well as today.

Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?

My club, “The Detroit River Belles”, have been members of the VBBA for several years. I ran for position of trustee last year.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?

I do know the mission and I make sure that my club knows it as well. It is a very good mission statement. I have seen it over the years as an excellent guideline to teach and coach my new players with.

What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence?

I feel that reaching out to more public venues, marketing to areas where vintage base ball has a large demographic area such as festivals where there are already tournaments going on would highly benefit getting the VBBA some acknowledgement. The vintage base ball community knows it exists, but the public outside of vintage base ball does not. Market to base ball museums or towns with deep ties to the vintage years of base ball. Small towns love to be proud and loud and knowing that there is a VBBA to help them understand their history and culture would be huge.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

There needs to be more attention on newly forming and recently formed clubs. It seems to me that the focus is mostly for current clubs that have been established for years. We cannot deny the growing popularity of vintage base ball and we can’t let it go by unnoticed. It’s always easier to focus on what you know, than what you don’t know. I feel the VBBA needs to step into new territory and work for progress of the mission for the future of vintage base ball.

What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?

I would love to help with the education process to clubs about the role of women in the sport of base ball and I would also love to help work with new clubs and teach them how to get the most out of the VBBA. I would be interested to help guide new women’s clubs in the right direction. It’s very easy for women’s clubs to fill in the blanks with what they want, rather than what is known, historically. They definitely need a good source to go to for coaching in those matters.

What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? There needs to be more documentation and information available from the VBBA as to the role of women in the sport of base ball.

What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?

I have offered suggestions to board members over the years, as far as how to promote the VBBA to new clubs. The VBBA has gotten a reputation as being so hell-bent on historical accuracy, that new clubs who are dealing with modern situations and problems shy away and even bad mouth the VBBA. A shift needs to take place, and I know it will be possible to change the vintage base ball community’s view on the VBBA. I feel younger more progressive thinkers on the board will help facilitate the needs of the new clubs in 2017.

Name: Aaron "Rusty Pyrat" Staab

Position: Trustee

1. **How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?** I have been involved in vintage ball since 2013.

2. **What was your first experience with vintage base ball? How long have you participated?**

My first experience with Vintage Ball was joining the team from Old Cow Town Museum which I had volunteered within a re-enacting capacity. I joined the team at the start of the 2013 season and started the Westerns the next year, and the Shawnees in 2016.

3. **What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? What do you like best about vintage base ball?**

The most rewarding experiences in vintage ball are the relationships formed. In three years since founding the Westerns BBC, we have built relationships throughout the Midwest and have played all over Kansas and in four other states. We will be adding two more states next year with the relationships we have formed.

4. **What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board?**

I am good at communications and bringing people together. I maintain a positive attitude and am willing to go out of the way to help others.

5. **Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?**

None

6. **Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?** The Mission is to preserve and perpetuate the game of base ball as it was played in its early years.

7. **What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence?**

To expand its presence, the VBBA should have more personal interactions with the member clubs rather than a group email for announcements. I'd recommend a regional volunteer communicate with teams once a year to get an idea of what is going on in their area and work with them to deal with issues they may be facing.

8. **What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?**

West. Seriously, once you get west of St. Louis the teams are few and far between. VBBA member teams are even more rare. We need some help out here so we do not have to travel so far to play. I'd like to see 501c3 for all teams, and naturally associated insurance for the clubs.

9. **What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?**

As a representative, I'd like to work with the teams in my area that are not members to bring them into the Association and help them with a more accurate presentation than what is being displayed currently.

10. **What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? (Current committees are listed on the website under "Officers, Trustees and Committees".)**

Financial committee to help clubs with fundraising and matters related to issues to keep a team operating. Insurance and tax exempt status could be included.

11. **What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?**

To grow any organization, you must have the personal relationships and it must have something to offer to it's members. There are many things that the VBBA offers, but it must be willing to look at the needs of its members to see what else they need and adapt to being a resource that maintains its relevance.

Name: Dan "Torpedo" Torpey

Position: Trustee

1. How long have you been involved in vintage base ball:

I have been involved for two years. In 2015, I was scheduled to play, but injured my rotator cuff in another sport and had to adjust my plans to be an Umpire. I studied the rules, went to practice to check out the game, and obtained some old time clothes for the role, but all our games were rained out! After my rehab, I joined the team as a player in 2016.

2. What was your first experience with vintage base ball? How long have you participated?

I played my first game Father's Day, June 2016 and still play now. I have played infield, outfield, pitched and have umpired. I play for the Farmer's Branch Mustangs in Dallas, Texas.

3. What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? What do you like best about vintage base ball?

My favorite vintage base ball experience was when I changed bats a few weeks ago and I hit a line drive just past the infield and it takes multiple hops! I love the professionalism and friendliness of all the people I have encountered playing VBB including the authenticity of the Umpires. We cheer the opposing team if they have a great play. We don't boo the other side, and if a team is short a player we provide one of ours or see if a fan wants to play. Teammates and opposing teams share their tips to pitch underhand and hit with the Vintage bats and balls. For our travel games the hosting teams have been great to us by coordinating group meals after the games. There is a great sense of camaraderie not only with our team but also with all the players. We recently played a tournament of games in Wichita, Kansas in their "Old Town" where there was a reenactment of an 1800's gun fight in the "Old Town" that added to historic sense of the game. I also enjoy playing away games on different fields and playing with rules adjusted slightly to adapt to the field or local tradition. Finally, I love that our team is competitive yet demonstrates true sportsmanship, gentlemanly behavior, courtesy, and respect for others

4. What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board?

I bring 52 years of life experience which includes serving on other not for profit boards and developing and promoting different business over my career. I am a baseball enthusiast and I have several practical ideas that I believe can help the VBBA mission to continue to help support and expand Vintage base ball. Having worked throughout the country during my career I have a national network of a variety of professionals including several baseball enthusiast that I hope to tap into as needed to help support or leverage their talents and connections for VBBA initiatives. I know and love the game of baseball. I played sandlot baseball in Queens, NYC until my mid-teenage years, I also was an umpire for a few seasons for the local Little League when I was in High School I organized and was Captain of a softball team, the New York Knights, during my college years and I played on a softball team in Central park when I lived in Manhattan. I have played hardball, softball, stickball and whiffle ball. When my kids were born (I have 4) I stopped playing so I could spend time with my family and now that they are older I have more time to play and help promote the sport of Vintage base ball. My professional bio is at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dantorpey>

5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?

No, this would be my first role in the VBBA.

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?

I understand the mission is to preserve and promote the game of baseball as it was played during its formative years. The mission is accomplished by playing the game as it was intended with historical accuracy, supporting the formation of teams and sharing best practices and connecting the teams to help promote matches and increase awareness through educating the public to this great game by demonstrating its character, sportsmanship, and historical context.

7. **What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence?**

I believe a combination of three key areas of social media, public relations and connection to the needs of the teams will further enhance the public presence of the VBBA. We could use social media to expand what the VBBA is doing as an organization to promote the game in general through different venues. Public relations could range from connecting with professional baseball teams as an enabler to promote Vintage base ball, to connecting with city and town historical societies. In addition, we could consider a targeted outreach to certain professional societies or companies, not as sponsors, that have large enough populations and would be interested in forming teams. Finally, we could use technology to survey feedback from players, teams, to confirm and maintain an understanding with current and future needs to find out what is working, and to use the survey to share results to team members to help them enhance their Vintage base ball experience.

8. **What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?**

Continue to strengthen the brand of the VBBA to be a valued part of participating teams activities. This could include but not limited to: sharing best practices on team formation and league success, organizing regional matches or playoffs, providing promotional material (stories, videos, artwork, t-shirts, for local teams to use as needed.)

9. **What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?**

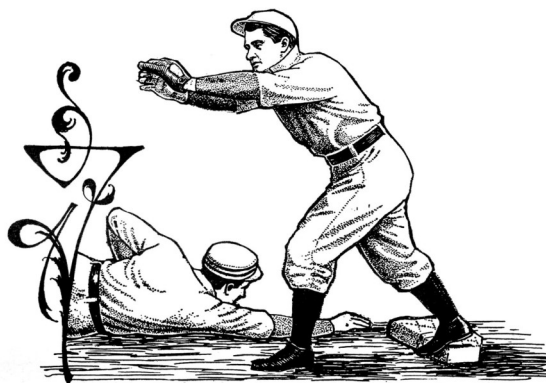
I would like to help as needed. I am open to serve as a general trustee or on a committee based on your needs. My interest to assist would be primarily in the promotion of the sport in some capacity whether through social media or public relations.

10. **What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? (Current committees are listed on the website under "Officers, Trustees and Committees".)**

I would be interested in the Communications Committee or to assist the Historian as needed or be on the Rules Committees.

11. **What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?**

An important need for the VBBA is staying close to the teams and players and understanding what the key drivers are to a successful team and league will continue to help VBBA be a vibrant and growing organization. I believe that vintage base ball is growing in popularity and that the VBBA has an opportunity in the next few years to be a key part of that growth by continuing to enhance the VBBA brand and ensure that it is a critical part of a team or leagues success. I believe it is important to have board and trustee representation that is widespread and inclusive among the active teams across the country. Finally, if needed, seek contributions by former ballplayers, professional teams, fans or historical grants to help with certain initiatives, and promotions.



Stock photos which might be of interest, serving as a page filler.

Name: **Jim Kimmach**

Position : **Trustee**

1. How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

I just completed my 16th year with the Muffins.

2. What was your first experience with vintage base ball? How long have you participated?

I kept score at a game in 2001. I have participated for 16 years.

3. What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? What do you like best about vintage base ball?

My favorite experience was a trip that the Muffins took to Minnesota, the Field of Dreams, Rockford (to play with the Rockford Peaches), and Deep River (Grinders).

I most like the travelling that is involved to the various venues to play ball.

4. What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board?

Since I have been the President of the Muffin Advisory Board for 10 years, and am in charge of organizing the largest vintage base ball festival in the U.S. (the Ohio Cup – 30 teams), my main talent is organizing a group and/or event, and doing the scheduling for the Muffins and Diamonds.

I also have attended almost all of the VBBA national conferences since being involved with the Muffins, and was on the organizing committee for the VBBA Conference that we hosted in 2006.

5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?

See #4 above.

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?

Yes, the mission is on the VBBA “about” page. If you are asking me to say what part of that mission statement should be emphasized over the rest, I would say that the first bullet covers it the best – presenting the game to the public so that they see what base ball was like in the period that we are presenting it in.

7. What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence?

Put a VBBA logo and a paragraph about the VBBA in programs that you hand out to the public at games.

8. What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

Continue to give support to teams when they ask for it. Otherwise, we are doing fine.

9. What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?

I would like to run for the office of trustee so I can help make decisions that involve the organization.

10. What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? (Current committees are listed on the website under “Officers, Trustees and Committees”.)

Committees that I see are needed the most: all of the ones listed.

* Note that my name is listed as the chairperson for “sideline interpreters committee”. I resigned from this position in 2015.

11. What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?

Keep trying to recruit good dedicated people in leadership roles.

Name: **Jacob Newcomb**
Position: **VBBA Trustee, Captain - Dirigo BBC of Maine**

1. How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

I have played since 2006 and I have been the captain for Dirigo since 2013.

2. What was your first experience with vintage base ball? How long have you participated?

My first experience was a very informal practice that was held by the founding captain of Dirigo, Mark Rohman. We were in this parking lot at a local community center, and we were shagging fly balls using tennis balls and I thought it was really cool that we could catch the ball on the bound. Even this short exposure to a rule difference had me hooked.

3. What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? What do you like best about vintage base ball?

We've had a lot of great experiences over the last ten years. We've met some great people and played in some really intense games. I think my favorite experience was going to the Gettysburg Festival in 2015. It was a coming out party of sorts for Dirigo, as it was the first time we played outside of New England. Our team really bonded on this trip, and we won a few games as well. It was a lot of fun.

4. What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board?

As the leader of my own team I understand the challenges that many teams face, especially teams that are located in rural populations that have a difficulty attracting new team members.

In addition, I have learned the hard way about historical accuracy and am always willing to help other captains and teams out when it comes to achieving the highest level of historical accuracy as seamlessly as possible.

5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?

I have served this past year on the VBBA Board of Trustees.

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?

Yes. I really think the most important aspect of the mission of the VBBA is to create some semblance of consistency in the way that teams from all over the country play base ball when it comes to their specific eras. If the goal of playing 19th century base ball is to try to play it the way it was played in the 19th century, then teams should really make an effort to do that. I think the VBBA has a great opportunity to be the catalyst for this movement.

7. What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence?

I think some of the current movements within the VBBA are sending the organization in the right direction. Our club/festival registry could really revolutionize the start-up of a club. The Dirigo BBC of Maine existed for years and years before we truly realized what kind of opportunities were available to us as a club. This new directory would have been an asset in our early years, and it will be an asset for new teams in the future.

8. What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I think the VBBA should truly try to assert some authority in the area of historical accuracy. It's one thing for a club to be unknowingly playing and operating in way that does not reflect historical norms and what we know to be true, but it's another story when teams know that what they are doing is not accurate, yet still carry on knowing that what they are doing is potentially misleading the public. I could see the VBBA working to help correct these errors.

9. What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA?

I am content to be a trustee for the board.

10. What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? (Current committees are listed on the website under “Officers, Trustees and Committees”.)

All current committees are adequate and necessary.

What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization?

I think the organization needs to improve its visibility outside of the arena of the internet and among “the old guard.” Our presence should be felt at all major tournaments. We should do whatever we can to promote our brand.



Gary Schippacasse—
Candidate for President



Ed Schuman— Candidate for
Vice President



Dennis Weigmann—Candidate
for Treasurer



Doug Ernst—Candidate for Secretary



Eric Miklich—Candidate
for Historian



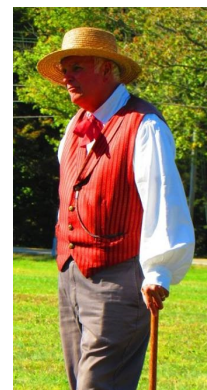
Evette Griffore—
Trustee Candidate



Aaron Staab—
Trustee Candidate



Jake Newcomb—
Trustee Candidate



Jim Kimnach—Trustee
Candidate



David Torpey—
Trustee Candidate

All member clubs will have two votes to use as they wish. You will be asked to vote for each of the candidates for the Executive Committee. All Executive Board members will fill a one (1) year term.

Further, you will be asked to vote for three (3) of the five (5) Trustee Candidates. The top three (3) vote getters will be elected as trustees for a two year term.



COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK MARCH 24-26, 2017
VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AGENDA

Other Information

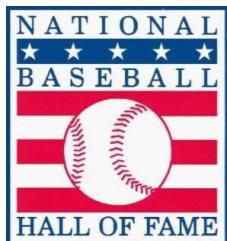
Locations not included will be in booklets included in Registration Pouch along with the Conference Schedule.

Members who are flying into Conference should fly into Albany, NY

Transportation from Airport, and around Cooperstown NY will be on your own.

For Members wanting to stay any extra nights, Otesaga Resort lodging will not be available.

Lodging will be available based upon openings throughout Cooperstown, including The Cooper Inn (an extension of the Otesaga Resort) in Cooperstown, NY - a 15 room inn with the price of \$122 plus tax - which includes a Continental Breakfast. These reservations need to be made along with the Resort reservations



Friday March 24th **At: Otesaga Resort, 60 Lake, Cooperstown, NY** 800-348-6222
sales@otesaga.com, request VBBA Block

*Reserve by 2nd week of March. Price includes Breakfast Buffet, Sat & Sun.
 \$175.00 plus taxes single or double bed – max. 4 per room*

Time:

3:00 to 6:00 PM

Event:

Registration and Check In

6:00 to 10:00 PM

Meet and Greet-Spend Time Socializing with other teams and players
 Mel's 22 Chestnut Cooperstown, NY 607-435-7062
 Order off menu, No charge for parking in downtown Cooperstown about 2 blocks from the Resort
 Maps and Cooperstown locations in registration pouches.

Saturday March 25th

At: Otesaga Resort

Time:

Event:

7:30 - 8:45 AM

Breakfast Buffet (for guests staying at the Otesaga only)

8:45 – 9:00 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks: Brad Shaw, President VBBA

9:00 – 9:30 AM

VBBA Rules and Custom Committee Presentation

9:30 - 12:30 PM

Touring on own National Baseball Hall of Fame
 25 Main St., Cooperstown, NY

12:30 - 2:30 PM

Lunch on own - Downtown Cooperstown book of locations included
in Registration bag

2:30 PM- 5:30 PM

All Star Base Ball Match, Clark Sports Center Field,
 124 County Highway 52, Cooperstown, NY 607-547-2800

5:30 pm - 6:30 PM

Private Time

6:30 pm - 8:00 PM

Evening Reception including Surprise and Exciting Entertainment

8:00 pm - 9:30 PM

VBBA Dinner Buffet and Keynote Speaker
 Tim Wiles, Former Director of Research of the National Baseball
 Hall of Fame, Director of the Guilderland Public Library, Albany, NY

Sunday March 26th

At: Otesaga Resort

Time:

Event:

7:00 am - 9:00 AM

Breakfast Buffet (for guests staying at the Otesaga only)

8:00 am - 9:00 AM

VBBA Executive Meeting

9:00 am - 11:00 AM

VBBA Annual Business Meeting
 2017 Elections/Roundtable

11:00 am - 11:30 AM

Closing Remarks

Conference Participant Registration Form



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Club: _____ State: _____

VBBA Member: YES _____ NO _____ Hall of Fame Member: YES _____ NO _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you have items to donate to the silent auction fundraiser? (Check One)

Yes _____ No _____

Description: _____

Conference Registration Fee includes: Banquet (tax and tip), HOF, and miscellaneous costs:

If you are not a HOF member and wish to purchase a membership, you can show your group ticket and for an additional \$16.50 to buy a year's membership. You will save \$16 off the regular membership price.

Conference Registration - due by 2/15/17

Conference Registration: Banquet and Hall of Fame # _____ X \$85.00 _____

Banquet ONLY ticket(s), tax and tip included: # _____ X \$55.00 _____

Total Conference Registration Cost: Participants: # _____ total amt: \$ _____

Checks payable to: "VBBA 2017 Conference"

Hall of Fame ticket will be in your Registration bag when you check in. These are a group block of tickets and must be purchased at the time of registration.

Two "Ultimate Breakfast Buffets" (Saturday and Sunday) are included in your room price. The price indicated on the room registration includes taxes and tips. Hotel reservations can be made by phone, or internet.

Send Conference Registration form and payment to:

Corky Gaskell
 1005 Plymouth LN NW
 Rochester, MN 55901

The Otesaga Resort Hotel

<http://www.otesaga.com/> 1-800-348-6222
 Ask for "VBBA Block"
 Hotel Registration due by 2/25/2017

Hotel reservation: ask for "VBBA Block". Conference held on March 24-26, 2017. Reservations and payment now being taken by phone at 1-800-348-6222.

2017 VBBA Conference, March 24 – 26



Historic Otesaga Hotel, Cooperstown, NY

2017 VBBA Conference Vendor Application Form

Vendor Company Name _____

Name of Vendor Representative _____

Email Address and Phone Number _____

Choice of Vendor Options:

_____ VBBA Member Vendor \$85 Conference Registration plus \$75

Vendor Fee or Donate Merchandise of Similar Value to the Silent
Auction

_____ Non-VBBA Vendor \$100 Conference Registration plus \$100 Vendor

Fee or Donate Merchandise of Similar Value to the Silent
Auction

The _____

Vendor Company Name

has registered for the 2017 VBBA Conference and agrees to

_____ Pay the Vendor Fee

_____ Donate merchandise of similar value to the Silent Auction

Signature of Vendor
Representative

The article, below, was sent to this editor by former VBBA President, Dennis Wiegmann, along with some other information, included on page 17 and 18. The SABR group Dennis belongs to is attempting to solicit funds for a memorial to commemorate the site of home play. Please consider donating to the cause, if you find it worthy and want to help.

Local baseball group wants monument on historical game site

Researching the site has been tricky

By Blake Sebring, bsebring@news-sentinel.com
Monday, November 28, 2016 6:00 PM

When local Society of American Baseball Research chapter founder Bob Gregory passed away in September, he told his friend Bill Griggs that he'd love for his legacy to be a monument marking the spot of the first professional baseball league game. It was played in Fort Wayne on May 4, 1871 between the Fort Wayne Kekiongas and the Cleveland Forest Citys.



News-Sentinel photo by Blake Sebring Local baseball historian Bill Griggs is spearheading a campaign to commemorate a spot in Camp Allen Park as the first major league baseball game in North America.

There was a game scheduled for earlier in the day featuring Washington at Cincinnati but it was rained out, which meant the game in Fort Wayne was the league's first official contest. The Kekiongas won 2-0.

The problem is the location where the game was played has been in dispute, with five potential sites. Griggs, a local baseball historian and current chairman of the Kekionga SABR chapter, believes he has found the definitive spot, Camp Allen Park two blocks south of Main Street just west of St. Joseph's Hospital and near St. Mary's River.

Griggs based his research partly on newspapers reports of the time, including descriptions of later games which include balls being hit into the river. The other favorite site of historians is Hamilton Field which was allegedly located somewhere near Lewis and Calhoun streets downtown, but that would have made it impossible for any balls to be hit into the river. Griggs also credits late Fort Wayne sports historian Bob Parker for nailing the spot around 1971, which was the game's 100th anniversary.

"I saw stuff that contradicted each. Half of them say Hamilton Park and half say Kekionga Ball Field," Griggs said. "I went down to the library and went through the microfilm, and there's no doubt it was at Kekionga Ball grounds. There is absolutely, positively no doubt. I would put everything I own or ever will own because I have the legal description, I have maps, I have stories of balls being hit in the river. Everything fits."

Based on where he believes the grandstands were located, Griggs, 70, thinks the 1871 version of "home plate" was located toward the park's current northwest corner and the field faced west on a block that currently is bordered by Fair, Center, Huron and Mechanic streets.

But why should this be so important?

In 1871, teams from Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, Rockford, Troy, Washington and Fort Wayne formed the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players, which was the first professional baseball league. The Kekiongas only lasted until August, and the league until 1875. Six of the teams helped form the National League in 1876, which became the foundation for Major League Baseball.

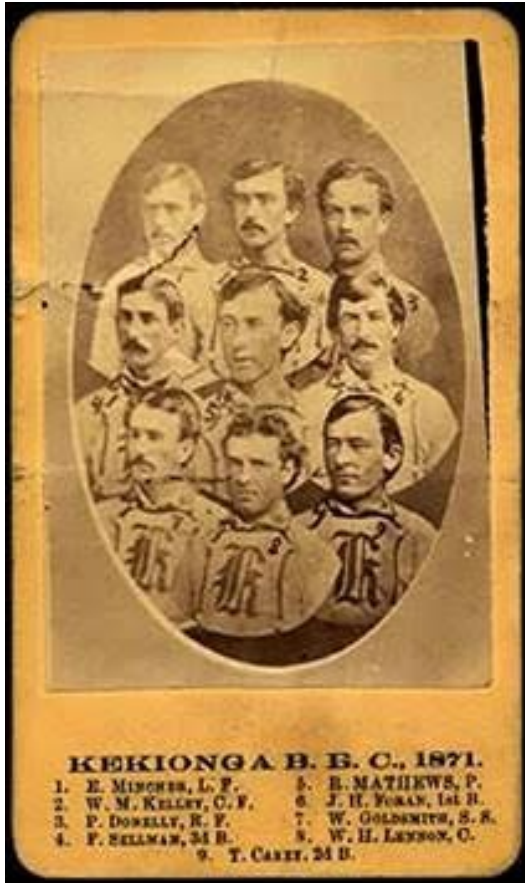
"You can make the case that professional sports leagues started in 1871 in Fort Wayne, Indiana," Griggs said. "Basketball had not been invented, football was rugby and hockey was shinny. It's not just the site of the first Major League Baseball game, or if you prefer the first game of a professional baseball league, but also the beginning of all professional league sports."

So Griggs and the Kekionga SABR chapter are trying to raise funds for a monument to be placed inside Camp Allen Park to memorialize the spot and Gregory. Griggs met recently with Fort Wayne City Councilman Geoff Paddock to discuss the possibility. Paddock is excited about the project and wants to meet with city and Parks and Recreation Department officials.

In the meantime, the Kekionga SABR chapter is collecting funds through treasurer Tim Tassler, and donations can be mailed to 5138 Pinebrook Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46804. Any questions can be emailed to Tassler at timt46804@gmail.com.

{Information continued on page 17-18}

Kekionga played its first game at Camp Allen on July 4, 1867. We cannot be certain of the exact location, but was likely the same as later games. The team moved there in 1869 from its previous grounds between present day Wallace and Williams Streets. Other than temporary seating for the Red Stockings game there was no permanent seating. In 1870 after nearly leasing the grounds north of Main St and west of Osage it leased the Camp Allen Grounds and built three grandstands, the middle one being a copy of the Grand Duchess in Cincinnati. From this point the grounds are usually referred to as the Kekionga ball grounds.



Kekionga played its final game on August 29, 1871 and disbanded on September 5, after Mathews and Carey left the team. The grandstands burned down on November 5, which ended any hope of fielding a team for the 1872 season. There are a few references to the Kekionga ball grounds in the next decade including this one in 1873.

Here are two different possible inscriptions for the memorial:

KEKIONGA BALL GROUNDS 1869- 1871

The first major league baseball game, later redefined as the first game in a professional league, was played here on May 4, 1871. The Kekionga Base ball Club of Fort Wayne defeated the Forest City Club of Cleveland 2-0 in what was then described as the greatest game ever played. It remained the lowest scoring game in the five year history of the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players

The Kekionga ball grounds were located between Elm, Mechanics, Fair and Bluff Streets. Bluff Street, now Camp Allen Drive, was later vacated south of present day Huron Street. In May 1870 the team greatly improved the grounds and built three grandstands, the central of which was patterned and named after the Grand Duchess grandstand in Cincinnati. The grandstands burned to the ground on November 5, 1871 and were never rebuilt.

Among the Hall of Famers who played here were Harry and George Wright, Al Spalding, Cap Anson and Deacon White, who was the first batter of the aforesaid first game.

THE KEKIONGA BASE BALL CLUB OF FORT WAYNE

The team was founded as a social club on June 28, 1866 and played its first game on July 4, 1866 on the Railroad grounds between present day Wallace and Williams Streets, east of Calhoun. After playing several games here in the interim it moved to Camp Allen permanently in 1869. After winning the mythical state championship from Indianapolis In 1870 it was overwhelmingly defeated by three professional teams, which led to the recruitment of several Baltimore Marylands players who played here on August 8 and 9. These players formed the core of the professional team in 1871.

The 1871 team compiled a 22-15 record in all games including a 6-13 record in championship games., which was later amended to 7-12 due to a forfeit in the May 23 Rockford game. The team played its final game on August 29, 1871 in which its own captain, Harry Dean, served as umpire.

{From page 17}

At this point the SABR group is attempting to decide exactly which of three options to choose.

There are three quotes the group is working with. All three will include an etched ball on top of the stone and a base to set the monument on, if it is going in a grassy area. The monument may be attached to a cemented area in the park, if available, without the base. Taxes included in price.

Text on one side with no engravings \$1,295.

Text on one side with an etching \$1,695.

Text on both sides with an etching \$1,995.

Archie Monuments would handle the construction. There would be a line included: "Donated in 2017 by". Either individual names would be included, or if there are too many to list then it may be simplified by using something like "The Fans of Kekiongas Baseball" may go on the back or front.

As far as shipping goes we never know an exact price for that until the time comes, but several years ago it was under \$200. This is something that could even be picked up in a pickup truck if desired. It is about 300 pounds and can be moved easily with a dolly.

The monument would be easy to install and usually the place receiving the donation installs it, or a local monument company may want to contribute their service.

If you have an interest in contributing to this effort, please contact Dennis “Pops” Wiegmann at: dennispopswiegmann@yahoo.com



Stock Image to serve as a filler for the remaining space, but also an image that might be of interest to readers.

**THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
THE NATIONAL
VINTAGE BASE BALL
ASSOCIATION**

Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/
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Twitter at:
twitter.com/VBBA19c

Instagram at:
www.instagram.com/vbba_19c/

**Find Us on the Web at:
[Wwww.vbba.org](http://www.vbba.org)**

Plan to attend the 2017 National VBBA Conference to be held in Cooperstown, NY. If you have never been to the Baseball Hall of Fame, this is your chance. If you have been there, plan on coming back to visit. We are planning some extraordinary things for the conference and we would like to have you attend.

If you want to contribute an article to the next newsletter please send it to Doug Ernst at: quickstepsmanager@gmail.com



Summary of Secretary Reports

Secretary Report Summary

There was no December meeting of the VBBA Board. The next Executive-Board meeting will be in January.



Almost every tradition has some form of winter celebration complete with activities that bring family and friends together. This editor believes that the VBBA members are part of his extended family and friends. So, to all of the members of the VBBA, regardless of how you choose to celebrate the season the substitute editor of this publication wishes to offer a message of Peace, Love, Warmth, Family, Tradition and Kindness that will sustain each of us until Spring Training for the 2017 base ball season.

I hope to see all of you in Cooperstown on March 24-26, 2017 for a great VBBA Annual Conference!! Thus, May this season bring each of you the things that you most wish for. Then, in the Spring, Play Ball!!!!

New Member Program

Corky Gaskell has been heading the new Member Team Program and has identified a number of new groups which would be interested in forming teams. The new member program is specifically designed to help these new teams thrive and grow.

If you know of individuals or groups who would be interested in starting a team, please let Corky know. He can be

reached at:
cc.gaskell@gmail.com. The program has funds to help you purchase essential equipment and provide tutorials and education on how to develop your team and do it correctly. Authenticity is important and we want you to succeed.

