

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
THE NATIONAL
VINTAGE BASE
BALL
ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Gary Schiappacasse
VP Ed Shuman
Secretary Doug Ernst
Treasurer Paul Zeledon
Historian Eric Miklich

Trustees:

Helen DeGeatano
John Shanahan
Corky Gaskell
Aaron Staab
Jim Kimmach
Dennis Wiegmann

Newsletter Ed. Doug Ernst

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THE BASE BALL PLAYER'S CHRONICLE

2017 Edition, Volume 4

Editor: Doug Ernst

President's Corner

As the Winter Solstice, December 21st, draws near, I find myself recalling: "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,"

by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep.
And miles to go before I sleep.

For many vintage base ball clubs planning for the 2018 season has already begun. The Branson Boomers are putting together their first full season, while the Chicago Salmon are organizing their twenty-third season.

For the vintage base ball clubs to the west and far south their 2017-2018 seasons are just beginning: the Prescott Champions of Arizona, and the Vintage Base Ball Club of Central Florida.

Your VBBA Board had a busy year and looks forward to our 2018 VBBA Conference.

Since last March the VBBA Board has increased promoting the VBBA through our Facebook, and Twitter accounts using vintage base ball trivia quizzes, purchased VBBA table banners, and distributed rack cards promoting the VBBA at the Ohio Cup, and Gettysburg Festival. Each 2018 member club will receive a VBBA pennant.

We continue to support new vintage base ball clubs through our New Member Program. We traveled to Branson, Missouri to help their community create two historically accurate 1860 base ball clubs and support their first Legacy Vintage Base Ball Festival Veteran's Day Weekend.

We have updated the VBBA website to include a link to our Facebook page, added biographies and photos of our Rule and Customs Committee and more.

The VBBA Rules and Customs Committee is working on a vintage uniform resource page.

We have offered advice to clubs looking to become 501c3 nonprofit ball clubs, as well as advice on developing sideline reenactors.

The VBBA is putting together the ballot for their upcoming 2018 Board elections.

Positions up for a vote include: VBBA Officers, serving one year terms: president, vice president, secretary, historian, and treasurer, serving two year terms: three trustees, and serving the second year of a two year term for a resigning trustee.

Each VBBA full member club gets two votes.

We will be looking for new Board members to represent the East Coast ball clubs, the Judiciary Committee, Marketing Committee, and Organizational Structure Committee.

The description of the VBBA Board jobs is listed on the www.vbba.org website under the “About” tab under the VBBA Bylaws link.

The Menomonie Blue Caps are promoting their upcoming 2018 VBBA Conference, March 23, 24, and 25.

Registration costs a mere \$55 that includes 3 meals, multiple workshops, a “pickup game” of base ball and more.

As you plan and look forward to your ball club’s coming season may you enjoy your winter respite.

For the love of the game.

Gary The Professor Schiappacasse,
President of the the VBBA



Whatever Your Personal Beliefs, We All Believe Life is Better With Base Ball!!!

Elections Coming Up. We Need Candidates.

Currently the Board has Five Executive Officers and Six Trustees. The Officers can serve 3 consecutive 1 year terms. The Trustees serve 2 year terms and may run for election as many times as they wish. The current officers and trustees are as follows:

Officers:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Schiappacasse | Term ends March 2018 Can run for another term |
| Shuman | Term ends March 2018 Can run for another term |
| Ernst | Term ends March 2018 Can't run for another term |
| Zeledon | Term ends March 2018 Can run for another term |
| Miklich | Term ends March 2018 |

Trustees Standing for Election:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| DeGeatano | Term ends March 2018 |
| Open Seat | Term Runs March 2018-2020 |
| Open Seat | Term Runs March 2018-2020 |

Resigning Mid-Term:

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Kimnach | Term ends March 2018 |
|---------|----------------------|

Not Standing For Election

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| Gaskell | Term ends in 2019 |
| Staab | Term ends in 2019 |
| Wiegmann | Term ends in 2019 |

The January Newsletter will be specific to the Election, containing bios of each candidate for election.

Please read this carefully so that we can continue to have excellent leadership to our organization.

Ballots will be distributed in a future email or newsletter and copies will be available at the National Conference in Menomonie.



THE STORY OF THE ALLEGHENY IRONSIDES—JOHN SHANAHAN



The names Musial and Griffey reign supreme in Donora, PA, hometown to Stan the Man and a couple of guys named Ken. Back in the thirties when Musial roamed local baseball fields, about 15,000 people called Donora home. Eventually the mills closed and people left, and now only 5000 people remain. Yet, with the arrival of a vintage base ball team, the game can once again breathe life into this now struggling community.



That's thanks to Theodore "Bucket" Pavlack, Captain of the Allegheny Ironsides. Theo started his team in 2016 under the VBBA's new member program. And he did it the old fashioned way; by appealing to friends his vision of bringing his vision of bringing South West Pennsylvania. One of the obstacles finding a home field. when the City of team dedicated us-morial Field after ple borough council "When I started the virtually unknown "Hopefully, we will continue spreading some game exists. In been doing a very "We typically play this is the most ac-what is known of However, we are justments based on teams, due to physi-have you.



and others who shared ing the vintage game to vania. that Theo faced was in That issue was resolved Donora allowed the age of Stan Musial Me-appeals made at multi-meetings. Ironsides, the sport was in this area," said Theo. be fortunate enough to the word that this awe-my opinion, we have good job thus far. the 1863 rules. We feel curate representation of the rules in that era. definitely open to ad-preferences of visiting cal concerns or what

"We average about 10 games a season. This year we will be hosting the Red Stockings, The Mules, The Crossing Rails and The Frosty Sons of Thunder. We will be traveling to the 2018 Gettysburg Tournament as well as competing at our newly coined "Battle of the Turnpike" with the Gettysburg Generals in Bedford, PA."

"The VBBA and Corky Gaskell were and are very helpful in allowing us to stay accurate with the rules. It is such a pleasure to see this team and sport grow in our area. My goal is to help at least one new team get started in 2018. I also have aspirations of having Pittsburgh be the host city for a VBBA conference"



Utilizing the VBBA Website

Several years ago the Board, under the leadership of President Dennis Weismann set up an area of the VBBA Website that would be devoted to individual member teams. In essence, this would allow each team to have a fully functioning “web presence” if they did not feel able to have an individual website. Some teams took advantage, others did not.

The current Board, under the leadership of President Schiappacasse, decided that the tutorial sent out in October of 2017 should be re-distributed for the following reasons. One, there have been new teams added since that time who might be looking to have a web presence, but might not have the expertise to put together a state of the art site. Two, some teams may have started to set up a web presence on the VBBA website, but not finished and how have forgotten how to activate the site. Third, some teams may have set something up, and forgotten they had a presence in place, thanks to the VBBA Website. Finally, some teams, either through changing leadership or simply passage of time, might have forgotten they could have a web presence. The full tutorial is seven pages long. It is also a bit cumbersome for this editor to import into this newsletter document. Thus, I will include it as an attachment to the email used to send out this newsletter.

Ah, baseball!

The Grand Old Game, hardball, our National Pastime!

The game stands as a unique edifice on the landscape of human-contrived recreation.

It is the only sport in which the defense controls the ball. Tie games can theoretically last forever and an unfenced outfield can stretch into infinity.

Baseball has a timelessness unlike any other. It forges endearing, unshakable bonds along the centuries, each generation giving way to the ascendancy of the progeny they shepherded into the game.

My love affair with baseball began before I can remember, but I know its impetus: the soul-tie the game developed between my Dad and me.

Every day the weather permitted, a weary father would come home from a long, hard day at his service station and be greeted by an eager boy waiting on the front porch with a baseball, a bat, and two gloves. God bless Dad. I don't remember a time he ever said, “No.”

He's 91 now, and our mutual enjoyment of the game is confined to watching it on his living room television and discussing the niceties and nuances of tactics and strategy.

About 15 years ago, I succumbed to the siren call of again participating in the game when I was plucked from a crowd to complete the roster of a homespun team playing an exhibition match of vintage base ball. Ever since, I have been hooked playing the pristine version of the sport, back when it was spelled with two words.

Stepping onto the field – the unadorned, unmanicured venue reminiscent of the most honest days of the game – wipes a full half-century off this aging and weary 61-year-old frame, and I'm a kid again, in spirit if not in ability.

Those years come crashing back the next morning, with usurious interest, but I reckon it an acceptable price to pay. The journey is worth the admission.

After all, base ball is 150 years away from the office.

Raymond "Buddy" Balogh

Captain, Elkhart County Railroaders VBBC, Indiana



THE OLD BALL GAME

2018 Vintage Base Ball Association Conference



Menomonee, WI, March 23-25

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Best Western Plus <i>Sponsored hotel of conference</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dunn County Historical Society Registration, Check In, Meet and Greet *Silent Auction Begins*</p> <p>Food, Beer vendors, Wine vendors, live music, games</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday Evening</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Historical Mabel Tainter Theater for the Arts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paid bar, free museum tours, social hour <i>Shuttle from Best Western Plus to Theater provided</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dinner & Keynote Speaker Duke and Dagger British Pub Clyde Doepner, Minnesota Twins Curator</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*Silent Auction Concludes*</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dunn County Historical Society Breakout Sessions, 9am – Noon 1860 themed lunch</p> <p>Playing Through African American Baseball in Dunn County exhibit</p> <p>Vintage Base Ball Match @Phelan Park (snow or shine) <i>Shuttle from Best Western Plus to Field provided</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dunn County Historical Society Breakfast</p> <p>VBBA Executive Meeting Annual Business Meeting Elections/Roundtable</p> <p>Possible Vintage Match as morning concludes</p> |



Saturday Presenters – Dunn County Historical Society

- Joe Niese** – author of “Burleigh Grimes: Baseballs Last Legal Spitballer” & “Handy Andy: The Andy Pafko Story”
- Jerry Poling** – author of “A Summer up North: Henry Aaron and the Legend of Eau Claire Baseball”
- Frank White** – author of “They Played for the Love of the Game, Minnesota Black Baseball”
- Dustyn Dubuque** – author of “Newell Burch: Surviving Andersonville”
- Samantha Phillips** – Grant writing and fundraising
- Darrek Orwig** – Period Clothing authenticity
- Wade Lambrigsten** – Vintage signs/logos
- Rich Arpi** – Stillwater, MN prison baseball team

2018 National VBBA Conference Schedule Friday, March 23, 2018

Check-In

3 – 6 p.m. at Best Western Plus (official hotel of VBBA Conference)
320 Oak Ave., Menomonie, WI 54751

Registration

3 – 6 p.m. at Rassbach Heritage Museum, Dunn County Historical Society,
1820 Wakanda St., Menomonie, WI 54751

Mixer

6 – 9 p.m. at the Rassbach Heritage Museum, Dunn County Historical Society
1820 Wakanda St., Menomonie, WI 54751

Join your hosts for food, beer and musical entertainment provided by The Cutaways (country, rock & roll, Americana/bluegrass, pop and originals) beginning at 7 p.m.

After Hours

9 p.m. at the Stout Ale House
1501 Broadway St. N., Menomonie, WI 54751

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Breakfast

Breakfast at Best Western Plus. Refreshments will be provided at the conference.

Welcome » 8:15 – 8:30 a.m.

Welcoming remarks from your host club, Menomonie Blue Caps

Opening Remarks » 8:30 – 8:50 a.m.

Opening Remarks from VBBA leadership.

Breakout Sessions » 9 a.m.— noon

A Summer Up North: Henry Aaron

and the Legend of Eau Claire Baseball *Jerry Poling*

The Sisle Socks, Stillwater, Minn. Prison Baseball Team *Rich Arpi*

Grant Writing for Your Vintage Base Ball Club *Samantha Phillips*

Burleigh Grimes: Baseball's Last Legal Spitballer

Handy Andy: The Andy Pafko Story *Joe Niese*

How Newell Burch Survived Andersonville Prison:

Among the First to Arrive and Last to Leave *Dustyn Dubuque*

Achieving That Vintage Look *Wade Lambrigsten and Derek Orwig*

They Played for the Love of the Game:

Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota *Frank White*

Lunch » Noon

Gather back together for 1860-themed lunch.

Continued on next page.

Base Ball! » 2 – 4:30 p.m.

All Vintage Pick up Match at Phelan Park. *

The shuttle bus will leave at 1:40 p.m. from Best Western Plus to take players to the field. * *Location of match is subject to change based on cooperation of the weather in Wisconsin.*

Evening Program » 6 – 7:30 p.m.

The shuttle bus to the Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts will leave Best Western Plus at 5:45 p.m.

Social Hour with open bar. Free tours of this late 1880s gem, listed as one of CNN's "World's Most Spectacular Theaters."

VBBA Rules & Customs Committee Presentation » 7:30 – 8 p.m.

Dinner and Keynote Speaker » 8 – 9:30 p.m.

Showcasing Minnesota Twins History

Clyde Doepner, Curator of the Minnesota Twins



Clyde Doepner attended his first Minnesota Twins game on April 21, 1961 and has been an addicted collector ever since. A longtime history teacher at Tartan High School, he became the first-ever curator in Twins history in 2009 as the team prepared to move into Target Field. As curator he collects, displays, archives, gives on-site presentations and off-site talks. Doepner has extensive knowledge of the Twins organization and is also the owner of one of the largest Twins memorabilia collections in the world.

Doepner has logged memorabilia from all generations of Twins baseball — Harmon Killebrew to Kirby Puckett to Joe Mauer and now the new generation with Miguel Sano and company. Among his favorite pieces are those from Killebrew, a player he considers his hero. Preserving that history for future generations is his passion and joy.

Banquet dinner menu TBD

Closing of Silent Auction and Payments » 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Breakfast at Best Western Plus. Refreshments will be provided at the conference.

Bottom of the Ninth

9 – 11 a.m. VBBA Board Meeting, Business Meeting and Closing Remarks

F.A.R.B.!! {Far Be It For Me to Tell You What You Should Do}

What does THAT mean? It is an acronym used in the historic interpretative community to indicate that an individual has picked up on a colleague who is doing, using language that is not period correct, dressing or acting in a manner correct to what is being interpreted. This term covers a multitude of sins and can be misused to try to show up someone who is not as adept an interpreter as another. What does this have to do with 19th century ballists? Just this, there are some who work meticulously to perfect what they do, they do research and update what they find has been incorrect. There are some who try to do the best they can and they understand that there are going to be things they just don't handle as well as someone else might. There are some who learned some facts, perhaps years ago, maybe even before the computer age, and simply figure what they know is good enough. Some don't know any better because they were never given any information. There are also some individuals who research meticulously and as a point of pride decide their knowledge base is superior to everyone else's. Fortunately, in the 19th century base ball world there are very few of the last variety. But, FARB can be used either as a teachable moment, or a putdown. We should embrace the teachable moment and avoid the put down.

An example from my own site. A young man started volunteering, he learned fast and seemed eager to do things the right way. People were impressed with his commitment. One day, in full 19th century dress, he went past me watching a video on his iPhone. I could have pulled him aside right there and called "FARB". Instead, I contacted a supervisor and explained the situation, asked what I should have done. One supervisor was going to call him out and rake him over the proverbial coals. The second asked, "did he know it wasn't appropriate?" I indicated that I didn't know but volunteered to check in with the young man.

He was receptive to my questions about what he had been doing. Turned out that he was on a break and since he was off the clock, thought it was ok to be using technology. Here's the important part: he hadn't thought past the fact that he was on break. Once I told him it was ok to use technology, but that it had to be in private, out of sight of all visitors, he apologized profusely, he immediately changed his behavior, and everything was fine. He hadn't thought through that what we do was different from any other job. A break meant something different than in the rest of the work world. He didn't make the same mistake twice. The takeaway: What we do isn't about us, and our interests, it's about preserving history and doing it well, in a way that the audience, the public, leaves having learned a piece of history. Not having learned what makes us feel good.

Regarding The Rules and Customs Committee

The VBBA Rules and Customs Committee is reviewing the rules or customs of 1858. Members of the committee have been contacting teams requesting information about how various teams interpret the rules. There have been many conflicting interpretations being used, the primary task, it would seem, is to figure out fact from fiction.

One concern is that past information posts on various bulletin boards is now both accepted as truth, and being disavowed by some of the very people who initially posted that information.

So now the question is "how to get teams to accept the more recent information when they feel they already have the experts blessing for how they currently play.

One way to tackle this issue is to take every opportunity to explain to people that "thousands of hours, by many determined researchers, have been invested in trying to document (with the intent to prove, not disprove) the popular colorful terms that many vintage clubs are so attached to (cranks, hurler, arbiter, behind, rover, scouts, etc.)". We have made progress. These terms are being used less than they were a few years ago. We need to keep on plugging with the attitude that people need the facts.

When it comes to playing practices, we must be realistic. We will never get every club playing the same. Researchers don't even agree on every aspect of how the game was played, or umpired.

One comparison might be golf. Very few golfers play by the rules of golf. including club pros and one touring pro, and maybe a handful claim to play 100% by the rules - except in tournaments - and very few play in tournaments. Even club pros play by modified rules when playing with members (improving lies, "gimmie putts", etc.). Some tournaments even have "local rules" that are contrary to the rules of golf. The difference is that they know it and will acknowledge it. Nearly all are not playing for championships, only for fun. They have their own regular group, and in their mind, there is no harm that within their group they have made adjustments to the rules to make the game "friendlier", or "less punishing", or "more fun". Within their group they are all playing by the same rules, so they feel they have a fair competition. They don't want to play for championships, they just want to have a social experience, get some exercise, and have some fun. That is the logic that most vintage base ball clubs use.

The point of all this is that clubs are willing to be educated to the point that they know the rules (regardless of how they play), and can educate spectators, media, or any other interested parties we have done our job. Instead of focusing on how they play, we should continue to feed them accurate information, and hope they pass it along.

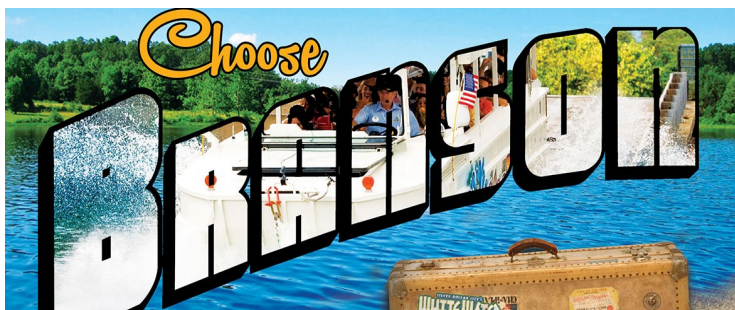
Corky Gaskell has been using the VBBA Facebook page in this education process. He has been consulting the Rules and Customs Committee as he has put together umpire scenarios for the Facebook page. He has gotten a tremendous amount of support from them as he tries to conjure up different scenarios to help people understand the game better through umpire situations. -

Notes and jottings from individuals

First Branson Festival In The Books! Three Points of View on The Event

The Ozark Mountain Legacy organization and its many sponsors put on their inaugural vintage baseball festival that other teams can learn from and will sure to be a destination event for teams in the Midwest and possibly around the country. The sponsors offered a variety of lodging options to meet any family or team budget. The Westerns BBC of Topeka needed to utilize the most budget friendly option after playing road games in Iowa, Texas, and Wichita, KS in the five weeks leading up to playing in Branson. That choice was the Ballparks of America complex. The team found it suited their needs quite well even with family members in the mix. The suite allowed for excellent team bonding where a hotel would have the teammates spread in separate rooms as opposed to altogether for the last road trip of the year. The space was large enough that those staying up late would not be too distracting to those wishing to sleep. The team was able to warm up on the fields in the complex prior to heading to the RecPlex for the festival which was beneficial for the November festival as it was quite cool that weekend. Our club will book this facility any time we get the opportunity. Other lodging choices included campground cabins and a variety of hotels from the event sponsors at discounted rates.

As for the games, Friday night was the inaugural game for the Bombers of Branson and the Ozark Legacy Club. The new clubs had been instructed on the rules in the days leading up to the event and squared off to start the weekend festival. The teams were also learning as they went with mentors Corky Gaskell on hand to guide and Doug Ernst as the umpire. With the first game under the teams' belt, they were ready to square off with their guests from Minnesota, St. Louis and Kansas on Saturday evening. Despite the cool damp air, the games went on and comradery and sportsmanship was front and center. By the end of the evening many teams had picked up players from other teams to fill in as need arose. Bonds between the new clubs and existing clubs quickly formed. At the Sunday luncheon served between games, the players mixed with other teams and had the feel of a family reunion. The meal itself was as well organized as could be. It was a true community effort put into making this a first-rate event. After the final two simultaneous matches ended all base ballists not needing to immediately get on the road met for one last mixed game where once again players from all teams lined up by age and every other person stepped up making two equally aged teams. A tightly contested five inning match was played and the group said their farewells until we shall meet again hopefully at the Branson Festival in September of 2018. - Aaron Staab



Branson, when one thinks of the location, one may be tempted to think of entertainment venues, the Ozark Mountains and wonderful Southern dining. You would be correct. But, you would also have to add sense of tradition, hard working people who seek to do things correctly and a willingness to learn. I found all of those things when I took on the task of bringing 1860 base ball to Branson.

This was the perfect place to attempt the creation of teams willing to play by the actual rules of 1860. The Organizers, Tess and Jory Rolf, along with Manager Charlie Huston and Captain Bobby Sutcliff were meticulous in making sure that each player they recruited would be willing to play authentically and that they understood the rules as laid out in Beadles Guide. They essentially were able to field two teams. The players worked hard, asked questions, were willing to take advice and were eager to play the game correctly.

No detail was too small, we explored multiple playing sites. The constant benchmark was, "Will this be authentic?" We met with Park and Rec people, Chamber of Commerce persons, local historians and a host of community leaders. The goal was to bring the best product they could to Branson, showcase it well and create teams the whole community could be proud of.

The eventual goal of the organizers is to have a thriving festival each year, organize at least one or two more teams, and make 19th Century base ball a part of the Branson Brand for years to come.

- Doug Ernst

VBBA Association Financial Activity—2017

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Balance, January 1, 2017 | \$13,633.26 | |
| Income | | <u>MEMBERS FOR 2017</u> Paid in 2016 or 2015, |
| Dues 2017 | Individuals 13 | \$130.00 |
| | Associates 5 | \$175.00 |
| | Full Clubs 34 | \$1,750.00 |
| | <u>52</u> | |
| Dues 2018 | Individuals 1 | \$10.00 |
| | Associates 1 | \$35.00 |
| | Full Clubs 17 | \$850.00 |
| | Branson Non member | \$50.00 |
| | <u>19</u> | |
| | <u>Total Dues</u> | <u>\$3,000.00</u> |
| 2017 Conference— | Registrations and Banquets | \$5,630.00 |
| 2017 Conference - | Silent Auction Proceeds | \$1,634.00 |
| Sale of Goods | | \$ 85.00 |
| Donation | | 0.00 |
| Interest on Checking acct | | \$ 0.07 |
| Total Income | | <u>\$10,349.07</u> |
| Expenses: | | |
| Office Supplies | | \$.00 |
| PayPal Transaction Fees | | \$ 36.51 |
| Communications | | \$.00 |
| Promotional Items | 2018 convention pennants | \$1,525.00 |
| Postage and Shipping | | \$.00 |
| 2017 Conference Expense - Facilities | | \$4,070.00 |
| 2017 Conference Expense - Speaker | | \$ 150.00 |
| 2017 Conference Expense -HOF visit | | \$ 780.00 |
| 2017 Conference Expense -Bags and Balls | | \$1,017.64 |
| Marketing Expenses | (Stockbridge 7/20/17) | \$700.00 |
| Educational Materials | | — |
| New Member Program | Reimbursement | \$669.46 |
| Insurance | | \$1,529.00 |
| Legal Fees, Fees –Sec. of State | | — |
| Design Fees, Web site | | — |
| Schiapacasse expenses (July 2017) | | \$79.42 |
| Total Expenses | | \$11,104.07 |
| Income over/(under) Expenses | | \$755.00 |
| BALANCE AS OF | 12/08/17 | \$12,878.26 |

| | |
|------------|----|
| Individual | 23 |
| Associates | 6 |
| Full Clubs | 66 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| <u>MEMBER CLUBS</u> | |
| 2018 | 18 |
| 2017 | 72 |
| 2016 | 111 |
| 2015 | 91 |
| 2014 | 65 |
| 2013 | 70 |

New since last report
Line 30 \$9.35 increase

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ASSOCIATION

Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/vintagebaseballassociation#>

Twitter at:
twitter.com/VBBA19c

Instagram at:
www.instagram.com/vbba_19c/

Find Us on the Web at:
www.vbba.org

Will you be travelling to the 2018 VBBA Conference in Menomonie, Wisconsin?

We would hope you plan to attend. Planning is already in full swing and there are a variety of unique and interesting activities which will hold your interest for that weekend.

See the second attachment to the email with this newsletter for more information regarding the 2018 Conference!!

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

November Secretaries Summary of Report:

October Newsletter sent out. Question, is the newsletter only for Member teams and Individuals who have an individual membership. Once posted on the Facebook page, if an individual asks to be put on the distribution list, do we do so regardless of being able to confirm membership?

Past Precedent was to send the newsletter to Member Managers and then redistribute it to team members.

If we put it up on the Facebook page perhaps we should use it as a teaser, the first couple pages or only part of individual articles. It could be used as a way of getting members.

Request that Manager or other team contact send out the whole to team members.

Treasurer's Report: Monthly Financial Report, Update On Online & Mailed In Membership.

In the Treasurer's absence, DeGeatano reported the total from the Treasurer's report.

Absent any further details, DeGeatano Moved approval, Kinnach Seconded the motion and the email report was accepted.

Old Business Regional Directors: Update (Shanahan / Staab)

Shanahan – East Coast, events are done for the year, he has been getting material from team Facebook pages.

October is the conclusion of the season. No new teams mentioned, Talked briefly on the Doc Adams Festival.

Staab – Western teams – He has been in contact with teams in Texas, Branson, and St. Louis. The planning meeting was to be held the week before the VBBA Board Meeting.

There was a discussion on authenticity at the St. Louis meeting.

Rules & Customs Committee Uniform Documentation Progress and More (Wiegmann)

There has been no word from the committee in several months.

Wiegmann will contact one of the members to see where they are at with research.

Kinnach indicated that the Committee has been of great help to the Muffins.

Website Updates: New Home page, Facebook link reviewed (Schiappacasse)

As of the last meeting the webmaster was working on changes to the website.

Some of the software had expired or was in the process of expiring and extensive updates were being done.

Request was made that instructions for the team pages be put in the next newsletter as a reminder to teams that they have access to that portion of the website.

Facebook needs to direct readers to the website

Menomonie Blue Caps 2018 Conference Web Page (Schiappacasse)

Kudos to Dustyn for the Conference webpage.

Corky questioned the \$55.00 Conference cost.

It was mentioned that the organizers were counting on donations to keep the cost down, but apparently not all donations have been collected.

Wiegmann asked that a budget breakdown be sent to the board.

Gaskell will follow up with the organizers.

Jim Kinnach's March 2018 resignation. (Kinnach)

Kinnach will be stepping down from the board as of the Conference in March because of multiple other obligations he needs to deal with.

Question about succession was brought up, Gaskell offered to fill the second year of Kinnach's term and the Trustee position Gaskell currently fills would be opened up as a 2 year term.

2018 Nominating Committee (Schiappacasse)

Tony Wicker will serve as the 3rd member of the Committee.

December newsletter may contain bios of individuals running for positions.

Doug Ernst's Branson Results (Ernst / Gaskell / Staab)

Ernst went down to be there on Tuesday before the festival. Held practices.

He did promotional duties at Ball Parks of America meeting and discussing the Friday demonstration with Veterans who were at Ball Parks of America for an encampment.

He did two Television interviews, news stories resulted from each.

Did a Friday evening demonstration between the two Branson teams in the Ball Parks of America.

A post demonstration event was held at Ball Parks of America included the effort to get Doc Adams into the Hall of Fame. Corky did a tutorial on base ball making.

Saturday, teams and individuals from teams marched in the Veterans Day Parade. We showed balls and bats, all were in kit or uniform. We held team signs or the "We Love Our Veterans" Banner which got our group into the Springfield newspaper. We passed out flyers promoting the festival. Although the weather was cold, a number of people who has seen us in the parade came out to watch the teams in action.

Each of the 6 teams involved played at least 3 two hour matches between Saturday Evening and Sunday afternoon.

The event was concluded with an all comers match.

I came home on Monday. I will be submitting bills to be reimbursed.

Gaskell was appreciative of all the help the organizers offered.

Staab indicated that the hosts were exceptional and that everything was great.

Cowtown Base Ball club will rotate every other year. St. Louis will send a fusion team, 1864 Davis, California Vintage Base Ball

An overview of their plans was offered and they hope to develop multiple teams.

VBBA Pennants Order (Wiegmann / Schiappacasse)