

Dear New Club Manager,

Congratulations on deciding to partner with your local historical society to help bring history to life! My name is Evette "Scrappy" Jacobson, and as a Trustee for the Vintage Base Ball Association, it is my honor to help you on this adventure.

Attached is a proposal guideline to help you present your ideas to your local historical society. Throughout it you will see areas where you will need to fill in the blanks with your own information. Before setting up a meeting with the board of the historical society, take some time and read through this guideline for your proposal. There are elements you are going to need to have ready before you finalize it, such as what year you will represent, any specific challenges you may need help with, a basic uniform design, etc... Below is a quick synopsis of each section of the proposal.

Proposal Cover Sheet: Working with the historical society will help to inspire your ideas for your club in many ways, such as picking the name of the club. The society may want you to use their name or you may agree upon a historical reference of the area, etc....so, during the proposal stage, the cover page does not need the name of your club. However, you will need to add the year you will be representing. The pictures can be changed as well. Perhaps you have a photo of an original club in your area that you will be recreating. The pictures on the cover are crucial to grab the board's attention right off the bat (pun intended☺)

Proposal: This page is where you state your clubs mission and your mission to the historical society and community.

Specific Aims: This page helps to give the historical society an idea of why you want their help, and what it actually is they are getting into. It's listed in four parts. You can adjust the bullet points to meet the needs of your own proposed club (those listed are just an example). But the four parts listed are imperative to get the point across, regardless of what you list under them.

The Uniform: This section is where you will give them an idea of what the uniform will look like. Tying in the look of your club to the history of the area has been the selling point for some historical societies. If you are representing an original historic club and you have photos, then this section will be easy to explain. However, most areas starting clubs do not have an original one to recreate. In this situation, basing the uniform off of a basic 1860's style but choosing accessories that reflect the history of the area will basically be you're "in" with any local history buff. If possible, add a color rendering of the finished uniform look. If you need assistance with tying a look together and adding a finished drawing, please let me know.

Assistance: The final section is the part where you let them know what you are going to need from them. This will require some finesse during the presentation, but all the sections before this have been gearing everyone up for it. The historical society knows they are going to have to do something, so this is where you can lay it out. Most historical societies rely on donations and volunteer work, so asking them to pay for all equipment and uniforms may be unrealistic

for them. However, most clubs have their players buy their own uniforms anyways, so perhaps the historical society can just help you pay balls or pay for bases to be made, etc....Also, through the VBBA you will have access to vendors who do these projects, so already knowing who you can go to will take the leg work off of the society as well. The "Assistance" section of this proposal guideline has some examples of basic club assistance listed. Feel free to use them or streamline them based on your own situations.

So, there it is. This proposal packet is intended to be used as a guideline to address the specifics of what is expected in the partnership of a historical society and a base ball club. Please remember throughout this process, as you work with the historical society, that it is a partnership and sometimes they may need to be reminded of that as well. This guideline has proven successful but does have room for improvement, so please, let me know if you find something that didn't work for you, or if you have ideas on how this guideline can be approved.

On behalf of the Vintage Base Ball Association, it is an honor to help you bring your history to life, and if you need any assistance on the further creation of your club, working with the society, or need any coaching on this process along the way, please feel free to contact me.

Best of luck to you and your club!

Sincerely,

Evette "Scrappy" Jacobson

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