

THE BASE BALL PLAYER'S CHRONICLE

2017 Edition, Volume I

January 28, 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Matt Bartnicki
VP Gary Schiappacasse
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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Election Information Changes to the Board and to the Ballot.

President Shaw Steps Down

The President of the VBBA, Brad Shaw has resigned his position effective the January 2017 Board meeting. The VBBA Executive Board and Trustees voted to accept, with regrets, President Shaws immediate resignation. The next order of business was to vote to approve Matt Bartnicki, the current VBBA President, to be the interim VBBA President to the conclusion of the voting at the VBBA National Conference to be held in Cooperstown, NY. Given the opening created

by Matt Bartnicki's move to interim President, the VBBA Board voted to ask Gary Schiappacasse to fill the remaining term of the VBBA Vice President.

The rationale for asking Gary to assume the VBBA Vice Presidency was 1) he served in that capacity for one year previous to the current year, and the year before that as a VBBA trustee. By elevating Gary, it will allow him to become familiar with the issues of this board so that there will be a seamless transition in March.

The VBBA Board, as a whole, and individually, wish to thank Mr. Shaw for his service to the VBBA Board, VBBA national organization, and Vintage Base Ball, as a whole. He spoke vigorously in the VBBA newsletter and in Facebook posts in defense of playing the authentic game without modern adaptation.

We wish Brad Shaw continued success as a player and continued success for his team."

Information Regarding Board and Trustee Candidates

In the Elections Issue of the Newsletter, information regarding eligibility to serve was included with candidate statements. I include the statement here, again. It should be noted that one of the requirements has been payment of team dues, the other requirement involves being a full member team

which means playing a schedule of at least 6 matches a year. To that end, the final slate is going to look a bit different than originally presented. Also, there are some candidates which need to pay dues.

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."

New Information Regarding the National Conference in Cooperstown



First A Reminder: Go to www.otesaga.com for more details. Ask for "VBBA Block". Conference held on March 24-26, 2017. Reservations and payment now being taken by phone at 1-800-348-6222.

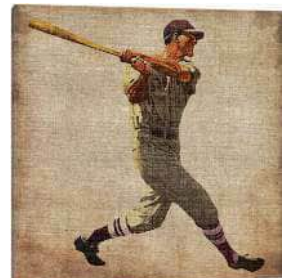
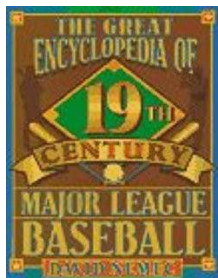
Next, A Couple Changes in Slate of Candidates: With the departure of Mr. Shaw; and Mr. Bartnicki being interim President, Mr. Schiappacasse has been asked to be Vice President. Mr. Newcomb will not be on the ballot as a Trustee. Mr. Weigmann has agreed to move from being a candidate for Treasurer, to running for a position as a Trustee. An alternate candidate for Treasure has been agreed upon. Mr. Paul "Scooter" Zeledon has agreed to run for Treasurer. Below, please find a brief statement from Mr. Zeledon: "I have been an active member of the Chicago Salmon since the 2008 campaign. I first heard about vintage baseball in an online article by ESPN.com. After reading the article and doing a little research, I contacted Gary "The Professor" Schiapacasse and subsequently joined the Chicago Salmon starting in 2008. I initially played primarily 2B but after a couple of years I started doing a significant amount of hurling. My favorite experiences include traveling to various locations in the upper midwest and great lakes region and taking on a variety of teams with a differing types of players. I have also enjoyed attending a number of vintage base ball conferences and meeting different players from across the country. But by and large, I just love being out there and playing and competing. Even though we are not supposed to care if we win, I actually do. However, if the Salmon can play .500 ball for a given year (which we have done for the most part since I have joined the team), I will conclude that the season (from a competitive POV) has been a successful one.

I am an accountant by trade, etc, and served as treasurer for the 2016 VBBA Conference hosted by the Chicago Salmon. My duties for the conference included handling registrations, collecting and recording pre and in-conference financial transactions, recording deposits post conference, and conducting post audit reconciliations.

In a nutshell, I love the history and the playing of vintage baseball and hope to continue to do so for as long as I am able to. I will gladly serve the league by serving as the VBBA Treasurer as long as I am able to do so."

Finally, Your Team's Help is Needed to Make Sure the Annual Silent Auction is a Success!!

Please bring an item, or several items, to share on the Silent Auction. In the past, autographs, bats, posters, paintings, games, tee shirts, books, movies, home made blanket, and a range of other items have been put up for bids. This event is going to be a bit different in that an individual club is not hosting, so no one club is able to take the lead on gathering items. So far, I have managed to secure about six or seven "baskets" from Minnesota teams. If each team coming to the Conference would bring two items representing their area, or a professional team from their area, we will have a splendid auction. If you are a vender, you can get a table for your product in exchange for an item, or items, for the Silent Auction.





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

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:

7:30 - 8:45 AM

Event:

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:

7:00 am - 9:00 AM

Event:

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

2017 VBBA CONFERENCE, MARCH 24 - 26 HISTORIC OTESAGA HOTEL, COOPERSTOWN, NY



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

“In the Middle of the New Member Club Tenure”

By Guy “Lemon Drop” Kerby, Huntsville Vintage Base Ball Club

A New Member Club Team History

My name to all my fans...which may equal 2 or 3...here in Huntsville, Alabama is “Lemon Drop.” I’m the founder and self-titled Captain Emeritus of the Huntsville Vintage Base Ball Club and it’s first team, the Redcaps. Planning for the HVBBC began back in March of 2014. It was a long 2 years of recruiting, organizing, paperwork, and community liaison to get going. In fact I was at a point where I’d said “to heck with it” when the VBBA contacted me in 2015 to see if we were still going to field a team.

In November of 2015 we traveled up to Spring Hill, Tennessee to play another new team in a couple of exhibition games. They were better uniformed than we were but we all had an awesome time and it solidified the desire of my team members to play vintage base ball. My point here is, practice is great, and the stories are encouraging, but until a ballist actually steps on the field and participates in a game they don’t realize how fun it actually is.



Our man “Rabbit” heading home

We kicked off our inaugural season with a four team tourney at our home field of Lowe Mill here in Huntsville. We actually ended up winning it, which made us all very happy as the painted commemorative trophy ball would remain in Huntsville. A point to be made at this point is to get the word out...newspaper, TV, Facebook. It is estimated that for that opening tournament we had between 750 and 1000 spectators throughout the day. We decided to prepare lunch for the visiting teams, but unfortunately the food trucks that were supposed to show up for the spectators didn’t show. At any rate, another recommendation is to always show as much hospitality to the visitors as possible. Admittedly the lunch we put on was a little too much and we won’t repeat that. But refreshments, information on local area to visiting ballists and their families, and just good ole politeness goes a really long way.



Hand painted Trophy Ball

We headed to Nashville to play in the Sam Davis Cup tournament hosted by the Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball. And low and behold we ended up winning that one...which was nice because it meant we already had one game scheduled for 2017. In fact, it is scheduled right now for March 19, 2017 at the Sam Davis House outside Nashville, TN. So if you’re in the area, come by and watch us defend our title and meet some of the teams. “Uncle Jessie” of the Scouts of Stewart’s Creek returned our hospitality and we almost lost due to the fried chicken they provided us right before the championship game.



Winners of the 2016 Sam Davis Cup

Now many will complain of the above picture, well the sunglasses, and I concur. But here's the explanation – "Catfish" slid in just as the picture was snapped and those are medical prescription glasses he has to wear while playing due to a previous ball injury.

We ended up with a winning season, but more importantly a fun season. We were even invited by a small town in Northeast Alabama to play in their annual Mule Day Celebration on Labor Day. Throughout the season we had a good number of loyal fans. I only wish I could have had t-shirts ready to sell prior to our final home game.

Now it wasn't all roses. My biggest effort was ensuring we'd have enough players for each game, and for an inaugural season I think I tried to schedule too much. Equipment wasn't a problem other than an argument over which balls were better for game use so I'd know which to order. By the end of the season we had 5 personally purchased bats.

Another issue was how to handle all the requests of people who wanted to play. The requests numbers showed we'd have enough for a second team, and we tried that. That added some thorny times to the season and I can only blame myself for trying to go too far in order to keep people interested and grow the club. My recommendation is concentrate on the one team that first year. Ask those interested to keep coming out to watch games and make a contact roster for the following year. Then in your second season, if you still have enough interest try starting a second team. Our second team, the Spinners, ended up with 4-5 really committed players.



"Lancelot" of the Spinners

Also don't go too far over the minimum number of games. The reason being, no matter how motivated you are, until your players, and more importantly their families, see how much fun ya'll have they will be trying to decide between games and other events.

Order hats early...plan on at least 6 weeks for a full team order. We are blessed because the wife of one of our umpires is a seamstress and makes our uniform shirts. Encourage the wives to participate also; some of our wives and even more fans have dressed out as "Belles" and interact with the crowd. Encourage your umpires to make a persona too. One of our umpires, Harold, also works with the volunteer fire station and has created his own period correct umpire uniform.



Harold and Alisha

Throughout the season the VBBA was of immense help to us in answering our questions, supporting our efforts with other teams, etc. A VBBA staff member, Paul Hunkele, was even able to play some ball with us one week. So I encourage all new teams to pay the two year fee and get the full support of the VBBA behind you.

VBBA Association Financial Activity—2016

Balance, January 1, 2017	\$12,645.58	
		<u>MEMBERS FOR 2016</u>
		Paid in 2016 or 2015,
Income		
Dues 2016	\$250.00	
Individuals 18		Individual 31
Associates 8	\$300.00	Associates 10
Full Clubs 55	\$2,826.00	Full Clubs 96
	<u>81</u>	
Dues 2017	\$455.00	
Full Clubs 9		
	<u>9</u>	
	<u>Total Dues \$4,071.00</u>	<u>MEMBER CLUBS</u>
Sale of Goods	\$330.00	2017 9
Donations		2016 106
Interest on Checking Acct	\$09	2015 91
		2014 65
		2013 70
Total Income	<u>\$4,121.09</u>	
Expenses:		New since last report
Office Supplies	\$17.99	
PayPal Transaction Fees	\$41.56	Pay Pal \$1.04
Communications		
Promotional Items	\$608.73	
Printing and Shipping	\$44.20	
2016 Conference Expenses	\$456.50	
Educational Materials	\$1,023.99	
New Member Program Reimbursement	\$657.91	Essex, hunts \$364.00
Insurance	\$1,529.00	Rider \$35.00
Legal Fees, Fees –Sec. of State	0	
Design Fees, Web site	0	
Total Expenses	<u>\$4,379.88</u>	
Income over/(under) Expenses	\$(258.79)	
BALANCE AS OF	<u>\$12,386.79</u>	

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

Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/
vintagebaseballassociation#](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**

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

The Board Meeting was called to order by Secretary Ernst, in the absence of the President. The Agenda was presented by Secretary Ernst. Seven of ten members being in attendance, a quorum was established. The Secretary called for a motion to accept the resignation of President Shaw. The Motion was made by DeGeatano and Seconded by Brooks. All in attendance voted to accept the resignation. Discussion commenced about approving an interim President. Brooks moved Vice President Bartnicki to assume the duties of President until the Election of new officers and Trustees at the National Conference in March. DeGeatano seconded the motion. A vote was taken to confirm Bartnicki, the vote was unanimous.

At that time, Interim President Bartnicki took charge of the meeting and the Board took up the business of appointing an interim Vice President. DeGeatano moved Gary Schiappacasse to fill the position of Vice President for the remainder of the term. The vote was unanimous.

President Bartnicki then called the business meeting to order. The Minutes of the November meeting were discussed and accepted without change. Brooks moved the motion to accept, Bartnicki seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted.

President Bartnicki called for the Treasurer's report. Brooks offered the report. DeGeatano moved approval, Ernst seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

DeGeatano discussed an update regarding the National Conference. Brooks asked for assurances, in writing, that the hotel would accept oral discussions regarding room registration agreement between DeGeatano and the hotel management. Other points regarding planning were discussed.

Gaskell requested the Board discuss two more clubs for the New Member Program. The South Haven Bark Peelers and the Mohican Rivermen Baseball clubs were accepted into the program with the agreement that the clubs be mentored by existing members. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is Feb. 19.

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.

