



The Base Ball Player's Chronicle

March 2016



*VBBA 2016 Conference
April 15 through April 17*



**Celebrating
20 Years
1996-2016**



**Historic Methodist Campground
of Des Plaines, Illinois**



**Celebrating
20 Years
1996-2016**

Board of Directors

President

Dennis "Pops" Wiegmann

Vice President

Gary "The Professor" Schiappacasse

Secretary

Doug "Freight Train" Ernst

Treasurer

Dave "Big Dog" Brooks

Historian

Eric "Spalding" Miklich

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Matt "Black Bart" Bartnicki

Helen "The Wild Sicilian" DeGeatano

Bruce Leith

Brian Travers

Charles "Lefty" Trudeau

Erik Sjogren

Have something you want to see in a future newsletter?

Contact:

Andy "Beefy" Phillips at
beefythemule@gmail.com

In This Issue

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- 2016 Convention Information
- Renew Your Memberships
- VBBA on Social Media
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2016 VBBA Conference Schedule of Events

Friday – Crown Plaza Northbrook & Tap House Grill Des Plaines

4:00 - 6:00 PM Registration and Check In
6:00 - 10:00 PM Meet and Greet Tap House Grill, Des Plaines

Saturday – Historic Methodist Campground of Des Plaines

7:00 - 8:15 AM Continental Breakfast (Provided by Sweet Symphonie Custom Catering)
8:00 AM Silent Auction Begins
50 Major League Baseball Stadiums Exhibit
by: Bill Rose, Somonauk Blue Stockings
8:15 - 8:45 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks
(Include New Website & VBBA Players Liability Insurance)
9:00 - 10:00 AM
Session 1 “Cup Check, Please” Ellie Boss & Lady Carlson
Session 2 “1800’s Chicago Base Ball” John “Stinky” Freyer
Session 3 “Midwest Veteran Vintage Base Ball Panel”
10:00 - 11:00 AM
Session 1 “Cup Check, Please” Ellie Boss & Lady Carlson
Session 2 “19th Century Illinois Base Ball Stories” Dr. Bob Sampson
Session 3 “Christy Matthewson Re-enactor” Craig Pierce
11:00 - 12:00 AM
Session 1 “19th Century Midwest Clothing Re-enactors”
John & Elaine Masciale
Session 2 “1800’s Chicago Base Ball” John “Stinky” Freyer
Session 3 “Base Ball & Food in 19th Century Chicago”
Dr. Bruce Kraig
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (Optional) 19th Century Picnic Lunch
(Provided by Sweet Symphonie Custom Catering)
1:30 – 2:30 WW2 Girls Baseball Living History League
Demonstration with Rebecca Tulloch
2:30 - 4:30 PM All Vintage Pick Up Matches

Saturday (Evening) – Crown Plaza Hotel Northbrook

5:30 - 7:00 PM Social Hour: including Virginia Reel Dance
6:30 PM End of Silent Auction
7:00 - 9:00 PM Dinner and Keynote Speaker – Michael Osacky, Baseball In the Attic
9:00 - 9:30 PM Silent Auction Payment

Sunday – Historic Methodist Campground of Des Plaines


7:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast (Provided by Sweet Symphonie Custom Catering)
8:00 - 9:00 AM VBBA Executive Meeting
9:00 - 11:00 AM VBBA Annual Business Meeting
2016 Elections/ Roundtable
11:00 - 11:30 AM Closing Remarks

For more information & to sign up, please visit

<http://www.chicagosalmon.org/vbba-2016-conference-april-15-17/>

Meet the 2016 Board of Directors Candidates

2016 VBBA Ballot

The logo of the Vintage Base Ball Association (VBBA) is centered in the background. It features a diamond shape with a baseball bat and a baseball. The letters 'V', 'B', 'B', and 'A' are arranged in a diamond pattern within the logo. At the bottom of the logo, the words 'VINTAGE BASE BALL ASSOCIATION' are written in a stylized font.

President
Gary Schiappacasse (IL) _____
Brad Shaw (NJ) _____

Vice-President
Matthew Bartnicki (DE) _____
Write-in _____

Treasurer
David Brooks (OH) _____
Write-in _____

Secretary
Doug Ernst (MN) _____
Write-in _____

Historian
Eric Miklich (NY) _____
Write-in _____

Trustee #1
Helen DeGeatano (MI) _____
Evette Griffore (MI) _____
Andrew Phillips (OH) _____

Trustee #2
John Shanahan (MA) _____
Jacob Newcomb (ME) _____

Trustee #3
Corky Gaskell (MN) _____
Buddy Balogh (IN) _____
Todd Daniels (IL) _____

VINTAGE BASE BALL
ASSOCIATION

The following questionnaires from the candidates are copied and re-printed in the very manner in which they were received. The candidates are listed by position, and in no particular order. Good luck to each nominee.

2016 Nominees for VBBA President

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 fifteen years. I have been managing the Chicago Salmon since at least 2009.

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 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. Our club has played for several schools over the years. My favorite one was Elm Middle School in Elmwood Park. For many years we would play the students. I enjoyed their enthusiasm and love for the game.

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

In addition to playing the game, I enjoy traveling around the Midwest and getting to know the many different vintage base ball teams.

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 am currently the vice-president of the VBBA especially serving the needs of the president.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

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 now?

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: 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 in order to fulfill the mission of the VBBA?

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.

Name: Brad "Brooklyn" Shaw
Position: Pitcher and Spokesmodel

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

I started the Flemington Neshanock in 2001 after playing the last half of 2000 with the Elizabeth Resolutes. I promoted myself from Captain to President a few years ago when being field captain was getting in the way of my off field shtick. I still pitch, but I am definitely a better spokesmodel than I am a base ball player.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

In 2000, I read the 9/30/1998 Smithsonian Magazine article ("The Old Ball Game" by Doug Stewart - highly recommended) on vintage base ball at Old Bethpage Village. It was an epiphany. My two favorite pastimes were baseball and history and this was the perfect marriage. I dragged my wife and two young children to Old Bethpage Village THAT weekend. It was the weekend of their Old Tyme Festival and the first people I spoke to were members of the Ohio Village Muffins - whose love of the game is most splendiferous; a great first impression. I joined the Elizabeth Resolutes that day and started the Flemington Neshanock the following year.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

I've been doing this for so long, it's hard to pick just one. Being part of Newtown's (Pennsylvania) Memorial Day celebration every year is definitely up there. We play a period dressed town team and the entire field is lined with people rooting against us. I never play. Instead, I circle the field and talk to a very appreciative audience, explaining the rules and teaching the history of the game. We've been doing it for about 8 years and it's still a great day. Unfortunately, the Newtown townies have become proficient at the vintage game and beat us occasionally.

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

It's always great being out there with your team every week and it's equally great teaching people the history of the greatest sport in the world. "You can catch it on a bounce for an out?" "The umpire has to give a warning before he calls balls or strikes?" "Abner Doubleday DIDN'T invent baseball?" One question leads to another. They can't get enough when you give them the facts.

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

I was a trustee many years ago, but it was before they had any real responsibilities.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Simply, to educate and promote; not just to our members, but to EVERYONE we come in contact with. We are "Living History" and it's our job to give people as much correct information as we can. By educating our members correctly, we ensure they will educate others correctly. This promotes the history of the game and makes our events not only fun, but a valuable learning experience.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

After a few years in exile, we rejoined the VBBA last year because I felt it was moving in the right direction. Unfortunately, many other clubs, especially in the East, have also let their membership lapse. We need to prove to these clubs, newly forming clubs and other non member clubs this is a worthwhile organization who will facilitate discussion, will support their concerns and is the first place to go to answer their questions. We do this with even more communication to our members. We need them to spread the word and get the others on board.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

Our membership does need to improve their historical accuracy. Preferably on the field, but I realize some clubs and groups do not have the personnel or money (as in uniforms) to change some things. These clubs should do the best they can, but at least try not to perpetuate incorrect information to suit their needs. If you don't have historical precedence, it ain't correct. If you want to take some poetic license, let your crowd know.

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

I want to help the VBBA increase membership by improving its profile. I think a start would be increasing cooperation between the VBBA and SABR. We both are based on baseball history and we can use their help in improving our knowledge. If all our clubs had a SABR connection, it would encourage accuracy.

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

Rules and Customs to educate, Communications to get the word out, Membership to keep who we have and get who we don't, Marketing to raise our profile and promote, & Survey and Feedback to continually improve and keep our membership happy.

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

We must all get on the same page when it comes to accuracy and education. It raises our profile as an organization and gives us more credibility with SABR, MLB and the general public. More acceptance means more exposure. More exposure means more clubs and greater membership.

2016 Nominees for VBBA Treasurer

Name: Dave Brooks
Position: Treasurer

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

I began playing in 2000 when the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings formed.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

I first saw vintage base ball late in 1999 when the Clodbuster BBC of Dayton were doing an exhibition at Tall Stacks in Cincinnati, Ohio.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

The day Ted Williams died, my club was in Hartford, CT playing in a tournament. It was one of my personal best performances and someone jokingly said I was Ted reincarnate. It was nowhere near that good. The road trip with my club to Hartford was grand and exposed me to how many teams played a different style than I was used to in Ohio.

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

Besides being able to play base ball, the best thing about vintage ball is the tremendous camaraderie between ball players and the great friendships I have made over the years.

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

I have been a trustee several times. Most recently, I have been serving as treasurer. I also have enjoyed going to different events and talking to teams about the VBBA. I have also been editor of the vintage base ball newsletter.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Yes, I do. I will not quote what it says in the VBBA bylaws. The important part of the mission to me is to represent the game as a historical event and share with the public how the game was played in the 1860's.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

A very important role for the VBBA is to educate about the history of the game: to explain to spectators how the game was played and to educate all teams playing the vintage game and help them represent the game accurately. The VBBA has great tools for communicating the historical facts of vintage base ball and the VBBA needs to work with willing partners to improve the accuracy of how the game is played. Vintage base ball is played coast to coast, in about 30 states and provinces in North America. There are at least 200 active teams today – maybe as many as 300. Working together, this group of people can present an entertaining display of historically accurate base ball.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I would like to see several representatives of the VBBA at every major gathering of vintage base ball teams to ask teams to focus on the historical accuracy of their game and to invite them to help spread the word about the history of the game. This would be one aspect of fulfilling the mission to educate. The VBBA should use all the tools it has to share information and encourage historical accuracy.

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

I would like to continue as treasurer. I would like to promote the VBBA at large base ball events

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

The VBBA needs a nominating committee that will select the best candidates for each position, considering what talents and enthusiasm the nominees will bring to the job.

The VBBA needs a rules and customs committee to provide historical information to all persons interested in vintage base ball. There are very good people on this committee and I hope they continue in this role. They have published some excellent reference documents and will soon be publishing more. This committee can provide a great deal of information that can be used in promoting the historical game.

The VBBA needs a marketing committee to take the information from rules and customs to engage with vintage clubs around the country, promoting historical accuracy in how the game is played.

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

This is a hard question to answer. There are many teams playing the game – but the teams all seem to be playing in different ways. How can the VBBA be a vibrant organization? One way is to get all the teams to focus on working together toward the common goal of historical accuracy. There are many talented people in our vintage world, but many of us have divergent views and will not work with others following a different path. We need to join together and work together while vintage base ball evolves into an organization that can provide the education and historical information so that all teams can play historically accurate base ball.

2016 Nominees for VBBA Secretary

Name: Doug Ernst

Position: Secretary

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

12 Years

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

I was a walk-on in Richfield, MN. I had 2 doubles and played Center Field

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

There are many. Playing at the Ohio Cup. Playing at the Civil War Event in Pipestone, MN between battles. Playing in the Metrodome and Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins.

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

Finding a way to be involved in both sports and history.

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

Member. National Convention attendee. Current Secretary.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Yes.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

The VBBA needs to continue advancing the idea that authenticity is necessary, and as long as we continue working towards that goal, the mistakes of the past need not be continued. The many positive initiatives; New Member Program, development of a media guide, continued publicity will continue to grow the VBBA and make us a model of interpretation of this sport.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

In the present direction. Bringing new member clubs, regaining past member clubs, continue presenting the most authentically materials possible, and perhaps even begin to develop some educational materials that we can put in the hands of teachers for use in the classroom, either history or phys ed classes.

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

Content with my level of involvement at this point.

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

I would like to see an "Education" committee that could develop curriculum materials to share with local schools. The Baseball Hall of Fame has some curriculum materials that I have adapted and used. These could expand knowledge of our game, in the right way, to new groups and develop a new source of player recruitment.

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

Expand the New Member Program.

Vintage Base Ball Association on Social Media



[Facebook.com/VintageBaseBallAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/VintageBaseBallAssociation)



[@vbba_19c](https://www.instagram.com/vbba_19c)



[@VBBA19c](https://twitter.com/VBBA19c)

[#VintageBaseBall](https://twitter.com/VBBA19c)

2016 Nominees for VBBA Historian

Name: Eric Miklich
Position: Historian

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

Since 1998

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

Seeing an advertisement for "Olde Tyme Base Ball" in "Newsday," played at Old Bethpage Restoration

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

Too many to choose from in 18 years of experiences.

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

Meeting and making new relationships with members of other teams and historic villages.

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

Trustee 2006-07; Historian 2010-13 & 2015; Treasurer 2014

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Yes.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

A stronger, visible presence at major 19th Century base ball events.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

Same as previous answer.

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

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

All are in place.

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

Co-sponsoring major 19th Century base ball events, coupled with educational workshops.

VBBA 2016 Conference, April 15-17



Historic Methodist Campground of Des Plaines, Illinois

2016 Nominees for VBBA Trustee

Name: Andy Phillips

Position: Trustee

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

This will be my 18th season of Vintage Base Ball.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

About 2 years before I began playing, I was on a family trip to Columbus. One of our stops was the Ohio Village. I remember watching a club match with the Muffins. A few years later, while at a community event, I was introduced to a few members of the Summit Count Merinos (Akron, OH), I was invited to a practice, and, well, the rest is history.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

All the great people, players, supporters, and on lookers that I have met throughout the years at the many tournaments, festivals, and community events that my teams have had the pleasure of attending.

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

The ability to educate while just merely playing a game.

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

As a non-board member, I have been an administrator of the social media accounts, and editor of the newsletter for the past 2 years.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

To educate, preserve and promote the game of base ball, the rules, equipment, uniforms, customs, and practices of the 19th Century.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

To continue with initiatives such as the New Member Program, and to continue moving forward with the social media networking to continue to grow this great game.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

Continue moving forward, expanding resources and education into areas that it has not existed. I would like to see more of a presence at large tournaments and festivals, not as a governing body, but as a way for teams to learn and educate themselves, and to give them the resources needed to grow the game and educate spectators in their respective areas.

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

I would like to continue in the social media and newsletter outlets while obtaining a position as a Trustee, as well as growing into other positions on the Board.

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

The VBBA needs to continue with its efforts in interpretations and education. That is the ultimate goal afterall.

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

Again, I will point to the New Member Program and presence at major festivals and tournaments. These things can only grow and encourage membership once teams and players realize what we have going.

Name: Helen DeGeatano

Position: Trustee

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

I have been involved with Vintage Base Ball since 2003. I founded the Douglas Dutchers Base Ball Club in 2003, and am excited to be in our upcoming 14th season. We are privileged to have hosted a VBBA Conference in 2007, as well as other meetings over 14 years to promote Vintage Base Ball.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

Watching a match at The Henry Ford/Greenfield Village, I felt that this wonderful game would be an excellent fit at the 150 year old base ball field in Douglas, MI.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

The joy of bringing Vintage Base Ball to youth. Kids are always so amazed as to what is happening on the field, and are always "so real" with feedback which is always helpful to my club.

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

The fact that Vintage Base Ball is such a huge contribution to its community or wherever it is played. Probably why it is the best ever. I enjoy bringing the educational, historical, and fun element of the game to the public.

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

I have always tried to be very active in the VBBA. It is always a privilege to serve on its board, and to go out and find out how folks feel about the association, or even let them know what the VBBA does for all. The Dutchers hosted a VBBA Conference which brought in members of the community. Sitting on the board a couple of times has been quite an experience.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

To the best of my knowledge, the mission of the VBBA is to help preserve, perpetuate, and promote the history and the integrity of the game of base ball as it was played during its formative years and other historic eras, in order that these may contribute to the present and future of base ball to inspire future generations.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

The VBBA needs to continue to communicate on a regular basis with its members, so that all members are up to date with any items or information needed to continue to run their clubs historically and educationally.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I would help increase the membership by contacting clubs, and non-members so that they would be able to improve or further their club members as communication with membership and increasing membership is ultra important for movement forward for all.

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

I would do what was already stated on the previous question, plus being available for board meetings, and to promote the VBBA to others who are not informed as an educational element needed.

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

I believe that the committees that are currently in place do an excellent job for the mission. The Rules & Customs Committee, the Nominations Committee, the Judiciary, and Communications Committee are very important to the mission of the VBBA.

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

What needs to happen is just what I have been doing all along, and that is to increase the number of member clubs. We also need to explore any other avenues needed to provide any and all information to the clubs and its members.

Name: Evette Griffore

Position: Trustee

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

Seven years total as head of the Women's Club of the Early Risers Base Ball Club of Detroit, and five years as the coach/manager/founder of The Detroit River Belles Ladies Base Ball Club.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

My first experience was as a spectator when my boyfriend joined the Early Risers. That same year, I was appointed as head of the Women's Club and approached by the executive committee of the Early Risers to think about starting a ladies club.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

I was asked to sub for a stadium game at Ned Skeldon Stadium for the Early Risers. I was playing in a stadium my great uncle had played in for the minor leagues before World War II.

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

The sport seems to bring out the spirit and confidence in people who had none prior to playing this or from playing other sports. Watching people grow and be eager to learn history at the same time is awesome to witness.

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

None as an official board member, but I have had extensive interaction with the VBBA and officials and members in my time in the sport.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Historic representation, supporting and guiding other clubs in the mission, researching and encouraging research to find historical accuracy as well as educating the public.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

I think the VBBA is suffering from a lack of respect from current ballists and clubs. I feel the VBBA needs to actively reach out to regain respect of their peers and reach out to the public more efficiently.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I would like to see the VBBA go from a perceived group of "know it alls" to more of an advisory group to new clubs and the next generation. I'd like to see a more hands on approach to practicing what is preached in regards to our mission.

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

I would love to have a hand in helping get this hands on approach and advising out to the public. Also, I feel there needs to be acknowledgement of Women's history in the sport, and I would love to be involved in that as well.

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

I feel the board needs more narrowed down committees to be able to personally oversee the advisement of clubs.

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

The VBBA needs to appeal to the next generation of ballists. As I have experienced in talking with my peers, the VBBA is regarded as a high and mighty group of know it alls that would rather argue with each other than focus on the people that need and want help and advisement. A common complaint I hear as well as a question as to why do we even pay dues if we, as clubs, never see any monetary support. Are we funding wars of historical accuracy among VBBA members? I have spent a lot of time questioning my peers on their opinions of the VBBA (keeping my opinions to myself for objectivity). The VBBA needs to be marketed as a group that works with ballists and clubs, and not as it looks to the common people now: that the common ballist is working for the VBBA.

Name: John Shannahan
Position: Trustee

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

Since 2003. It was then that I was asked to put together a team for a local one day celebration. The event was such a great success, and was so much fun, that we immediately started to plan future in town games. Within two years, we were ready to search outside our town for games, which has led to a decade long cross country adventure.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

Prior to our first game in 2003, I would have seen periodic newspaper articles and television news pieces about the sport.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

Just last September, our team travelled to Iowa to play at the Field of Dreams against a great bunch of guys from the Mid-West. We have gone on a number of terrific trips over the years and played in any number of great locations. But being in Iowa, playing on that field, being intimately familiar with the movie with which it was associated, I can only say that the magic was very real.

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

I don't think I'm that dissimilar from many VBBA members in that I dreamed of playing major league baseball when I was a boy. While that dream may have ended at a young age, vintage base ball has to some extent allowed me to enjoy the kind of experience I imagined. I have travelled the country (and to Canada) with my family and best friends, playing the greatest game in some spectacular locations. I have made dozens of friends from other teams who share my love for what we do. I have been approached by people who are curious about and appreciative of what we do for our sport. Vintage base ball breathed life into that forgotten dream, and has truly enhanced my life.

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

No experience.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Yes, I'm guessing that the Mudville BBC has been a member of the VBBA for about ten years and I regularly use the website, where the mission of the organization is clearly indicated.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

A year ago I probably would have said that what the VBBA needs is a compelling reason for a vintage team to belong to the organization. The liability coverage alone, now provides that reason. As a member of a team that travels, I would like a return of the map showing the geographical location of member teams.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I'm not sure what you would call it; a tournament, jamboree, or whatever, but I think it would be great for the VBBA to organize a big end of season national event where teams from all over the country gather and play. Every year it would be in a different great location, and if at some point this was to develop into a Vintage World Series of sorts, then so be it. I know the players would love it and it would provide the VBBA with a strong national identity, while allowing players, wherever they might be located, to gain an understanding that they are part of something that goes well beyond their local circle of teams.

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

I believe I would like to be involved in membership, particularly in regard to teams in the Northeast.

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

While there is no question that there were plenty of one sided games during the 19th century, there is little doubt that the most enjoyable games to play in and watch are competitive games between two equally talented teams. While teams generally have a good idea of the relative ability of an upcoming opponent, that is not always the case. Perhaps the establishment of a Competition Committee whose purpose is to establish a means of providing such information, might be of value.

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

Based on the most recent membership numbers, it would appear that the VBBA is already a vibrant and growing organization. I think the organization should stress that it is open to all base ball teams and individuals interested in the vintage game, and that despite those team's current shortcomings in terms of rule interpretation, equipment etc, the organization exists to help assist them in becoming more era appropriate. I think it would also be beneficial to have regional contacts for potential new teams; someone familiar with existing local teams, tournaments, etc, who can point people interested in starting a new team in the right direction.

Name: Corky Gaskell

Position: Current: VBBA New Member Program Running for: Trustee.

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

Have been playing 5 years. 2016 will be year 6.

Been involved with VBBA the past 3 years with New Member program.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

I played my first game in September of 2010. I didn't find out about VBBA until 2012, when Minnesota hosted the National conference and I was asked to be part of the conference planning committee.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

Traveling to others towns and states to play clubs and meet new people.

Educating the players and spectators about how our game started.

Getting people involved with our club, players and volunteers.

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

Being able to play this game, and make so many friends, and being able to educate people who have no idea how the game of base ball got its start. I also like making my own base balls for game use, and teaching people the craft. It really adds to the experience of the game.

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

For the past 3 years I have been chairman of the New Member Program, helping bring new clubs into VBBA and educating them on the historical and authenticity aspects of the game.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Not memorized, or off the top of my head, but I know we are about education, and portraying the game as it was actually played, and participating in research to meet those goals. I also know if pressed, I know where to find the answer. VBBA.ORG

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

I see division still setting in. Progress has been made, but there is still a dividing line. People need to understand better that VBBA wants to EDUCATE people on how this game was played. There are New York rules, Massachusetts rules, Town Ball rules, and various other bat and ball game rules that exist, and we need to understand the differences, and which rules apply to the game we are trying to portray. As new and more up to date research becomes available, VBBA will bring that information to the clubs for their use. Sometimes that means rules and customs we once followed are now different, given the new info. It doesn't mean people were wrong, it is just that there is so much more information available now that wasn't available before and we have people who have found it and are willing to share it. The VBBA research team has worked very hard to compile this information over MANY years. They do it because they love this game, and they want us to educate our spectators properly. I would love to see the dissention between those that "just want to have fun" and those that "just want to educate" come to an end. It is very possible to educate properly, and have fun, at the same time. Playing "just for fun" and not educating defeats the purpose of our mission.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I like the direction VBBA has taken over the past few years that I have known about it. I think we need to find a better and improved way to get information to the teams. Sometimes emails to captains stay in the captains In Box.. and don't always make it to the players. I think the social media aspects added to VBBA this past year will help tremendously with that, as many players now have access to data that they might not otherwise have seen. I would like to see that continue, and find ways to improve on it.

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

For now, I think being on the board as a Trustee will help educate me on the process, and after that, I can decide if I want to pursue roles further up the chain. My role as New Member Program Chair has given me some insight in the dealings and goings on within VBBA, but I think being part of the board will help enhance that.

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

A way to bring everyone together. Talking in cliques behind each others backs isnt going to solve anything. I also think those that want to "educate" need to present their material in a way that isnt offensive or derisive to the people they are trying to educate, and at the same time, the people who they are educating, need to understand that the material is being presented, or questioned, in a way to help... not hinder.. and don't always assume someone is attacking you, just because you might not like the way it was presented. People are different. One persons attempt to help can be mistaken as a slam.. and I cant imagine anyone involved with VBBA wanting to slam anyone on purpose. This can be one of the downsides of social media, as when clubs post information, and the information happens to be out dated or not historically accurate, people will attempt to point it out and help them understand it, and that lack of face to face time to make sure it is understood, isn't there. Then it leads to online battles.. and those never end well. We need to remind EVERYONE that we want to educate. When we see something that doesn't look right, we need to educate. And we need everyone to understand that.. it is education. Nothing more. The more we can all get on the same page, the better we will be. I don't know if it involves forming a new committee, but someone who can help get the word out.. to help tear down the fences.. and get everyone on the same page would go a long way in helping this.

Name: Raymond "Buddy" Balogh, Jr.
Position: Captain, Elkhart County Railroaders BBC

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

Since 2004 or 2005.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

I was attending a local fall festival in Middlebury, Indiana, and came upon a vintage baseball match between the former Bonneyville Millers and a team of Amish youths. I sat in the grass to await the start of the game and was approached by a work colleague, who played for the Millers. He said the Amish boys were one player short and asked me whether I would step in to help. I did and was irretrievably hooked on the game. As that match was the Millers' last of the year, they took my contact information and called me to play the following season. I've been with the club, now the Elkhart County Railroaders, ever since.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

I have many, and they all share one characteristic: fellowship and camaraderie with teammates and adversaries during the match and afterward at the post-match potluck. The experience makes for a glorious weekend day away from the obligations of work.

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

Probably the fact that vintage base ball is 150 years away from the office.

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

I have not held any official role, but did attend the national conference in Huntington in 2014.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

The mission, as I read it, is essentially to promote the best and most accurate historical, recreational, and educational aspects of the sport, by providing support for member clubs and offering a clearinghouse of information for members to learn the rules that governed the game, shop for and purchase authentic equipment and uniforms, and communicate with each other.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

I'm not aware of any glaring needs in the organization right now.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I think the VBBA is doing well in providing information to its members, and has taken the correct balanced stance of informing clubs of the rules of the game without dictating which rules should be followed by any particular club.

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

I would like to serve on the board. Perhaps I can provide some useful input or contribute to brainstorming ideas to make the organization better.

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

Committees that come to mind are: Promotion, membership, educational, research, financial, executive, web page.

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

Much of that depends upon the responses from the member clubs. Perhaps a concerted effort to get the clubs involved through an advertising blitz or other promotional campaign. Also, the VBBA may want to focus on recruiting youngsters into the realm of vintage base ball to perpetuate the interest in our national pastime in its purest form.

Name: Todd Daniels

Position: Trustee

How long have you been involved in vintage base ball?

Playing for 13 years, on the board for the Springfield Long Nine since 2007.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

I played with the Chicago Salmon back in 2003 in Morris, IL.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

Playing in Hobart, IN against the Deep River Grinders with the club I founded the Springfield Long Nine. This was a goal I had for my club to experience a game at Deep River, and I was proud of how my guys conducted themselves and became involved with the experience and crowd.

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

The love and respect of the game and its history as well as the comradery between players that really sets the game apart.

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

No

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

To promote, preserve, and perpetuate the game of base ball in its formative years.

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

I believe the VBBA should work on unifying as many clubs as possible in several ways. This would include making sure any new clubs that join know the rules and customs that are to be adhered to in whatever era they are playing. This would also include creating a "template" site that the member clubs can use in order to create a more cohesive design across the different vintage clubs to help show they are members of the VBBA.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I believe the VBBA should work more closely with the member clubs to help expand its "brand". I've found that many people I've talked to are unsure as to the role that the VBBA plays with the member clubs and are confused as to what it means to be a member club.

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

Since I have never had a role with the VBBA in the past I feel that I would want to be a trustee in the organization and learn more about what the different roles entail.

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

Based on your current committees it looks like most bases have been covered. I think it is important now to fully realize each one and make sure each one is fully defined with set goals for each year to see if there would be a need for any more.

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

I believe 3 major things would be important going forward:

1. Try to unify the member clubs as much as possible to increase the community among them. Attempting to extend the brand to all member clubs I feel is necessary for the organization to grow. This would not only encourage teams to join but would help give any individual interested a centralized location to find clubs, matches, information, etc.
2. Create a unified website and encourage clubs to have a template similar to that site if possible (go beyond linking the sites). This would help associate the clubs with the organization.
3. Look into possibly separating Vintage Base Ball (sometimes called "muffin ball") from Historic Base Ball to some degree and make sure everyone is educated as to the difference and how it came to be this way.

Name: Jacob Newcomb
Position: Captain - Dirigo BBC of Maine

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.

What was your first experience with vintage base ball?

Actually 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.

What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

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 last summer. 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.

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

Since day one I have enjoyed connecting my love for history to my love for sports. I am a history teacher and avid sports fan so being able to combine the two into a truly accessible hobby has been really rewarding.

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

I have no experience with the VBBA, but I have had a great time talking to people both online and offline about the history of the organization. It's such a great resource for fans and clubs alike.

Do you know the mission of the VBBA?

Yes

What do you think the VBBA needs now?

It seems that in some ways vintage base ball is growing in America, and I think that the VBBA needs to really assert itself as the go to entity when starting a club. Perhaps it's getting all of the captains around the country on board in one way shape or form, because it's the captains that have the direct link to the masses.

What direction would you like to see the VBBA move?

I know that there are folks that disagree with me, but I would like to see the VBBA take a careful approach to respectfully ask that all clubs follow a few very clear rules when playing base ball. I think the attitude that "The information is there, it's their choice whether to follow it or not" is not an effective way to ensure that the correct practices are being utilized. Dirigo was doing a few things wrong for 10 years, and quite frankly we had no idea that what we were doing was wrong.

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

I like to think of myself as a communicator. I would like to help bridge the gap between the VBBA (that is sometimes seen as intimidating) to the average captain of a new team that may need a few pointers, or an established team that may be missing something they don't even realize they are missing.

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

I don't think I'm familiar enough with the structure of the VBBA to answer this question sufficiently.

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

Get everyone on board and enthusiastic about doing the right thing.

"Enthusiasm is the mother of all effort, and without it nothing great was ever achieved."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Vintage Base Ball Association Board Meeting

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10PM EST (6:10PM CST)

Present: Dennis Wiegmann, Gary Schiappacasse, Dave Brooks, Doug Ernst, Helen DeGeatano, Brian Travers, Charlie Trudeau (Late), Bruce Leith (Late)

Absent: Eric Miklich (Excused), Erik Sjogren, Matt Bartnicki

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was submitted after the last meeting, then resent this past week with the request that it be accepted as the official Secretary's report.

Moved: DeGeatano

Second: Travers

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report and Items

Financial Report Full Year 2015

Moved: Ernst

Second: DeGeatano

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion Approved

Financial Report Year-To-Date 2016

Moved: Ernst

Second: Schiappacasse

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion Approved

Pending New Member Program Checks (2) Moved to membership business

2016 Dues Notifications It was suggested send a copy of the newsletter with a reminder to renew.

Send Invite to Non-Members to Join VBBA It was suggested that an invite be sent to teams that are no longer members. Also, that board members send the same out to local teams who should be renewing members.

2016 Proposed Budget

Moved: DeGeatano

Second: Travers

For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion Approved

Membership Card Request (1) For general information the Treasurer has gotten one request for a physical membership card. It was mentioned that to send out a physical card was another expense, and that an email is being sent to each club/individual who renews that includes a receipt which can be used to show membership.

General Membership Discussion: Corky is doing a great job, there are 8 new member clubs. There is a total of 91 member clubs as of the meeting date. Dennis W. will join the Newsletter team after he steps down as President.

Old Business

Update from Rules and Customs Committee (Wiegmann)

There was a lag in the process because there were numerous documents (1864) in process for the conference time.

There are some changes that need to be done on the 1860 document.

The document regarding Uniforms and Equipment is in progress, also to be done by conference time.

Update on 2016 VBBA Conference (Wiegmann)

Social media promotion will increase.

Donations from a sports memorabilia shop are being requested for the silent auction.

2017 VBBA Conference Interest (Wiegmann)

No firm contact for the conference have been made. Some tentative ideas, but no firm movement toward a host.

Newsletter Update (Wiegmann)

The finalize version of the first 2016 newsletter has been sent to Dennis Wiegmann. He will send that copy to the board and to Ernst for distribution. Note: (The newsletter has been sent to membership as of 1/27/16)

Website Update (Wiegmann)

The President is hoping to get past issues of the newsletters up on the website in the near future.

Update 2016 Board Candidates (Wiegmann)

It is the intention of the President to have a target group by the next board meeting.

The President position will have 2 candidates.

There are 7 trustee candidates for 3 slots.

Candidate bios will be requested for the next newsletter

The President will send out an email requesting bio information for each candidate.

Media Kit for Membership Update (Wiegmann)

This kit may be developed by a committee other than the Rules and Customs committee.

The most recent new member club has requested a Media Kit.

New Business

Memory Card to save VBBA files on Computer (Brooks)

Brooks has suggested that a memory stick be purchased in order to keep VBBA information in an archived form so that it can be easily passed from board member to board member over time.

The Cloud, or a Google Doc might be used as an alternative.

The idea of using both was also discussed.

Membership Book for 2016: Haney's (Wiegmann)

In 2014 an Umpire Guide was distributed,

In 2015 the 1860 Beadles was distributed.

For 2016 distributing Haney's was suggested, a question of where Haney's might be obtained was brought up, and a member was suggested who might be able to find the book.

It was suggested that each club have a historian.

Rating Sheet for Focus on Historical Authenticity to Encourage Improvements (Brooks)

The discussion began with the Accuracy Facebook page.

Travers indicated that the Facebook page has moved from its original mission.

Brooks discussed the fact that networking allows interest to be created around important issues.

The rules and customs committee will be asked to come up with a form that can be used to assess historical accuracy with an emphasis on self-assessment

Wiegmann discussed sending out a Survey Monkey or some other survey form that can be used to gather useful information that can be used for further teaching efforts.

The committee will consist of Wiegmann, Travers, Brooks and Ernst with the intent of inviting non-members to participate.

Presidential Appointments (Wiegmann)

A question regarding the procedure of appointing a new trustee to fill the term of a board member who has assumed a position on the Executive Board.

Should the current President fill the position, or wait until the newly elected President assumes that position?

One suggestion is to offer a 1year position to the 4th highest vote getter, as long as the newly elected President who takes the action.

Advertising VBBA at 2016 Events (Wiegmann)

The Ohio Cup was successful in terms of gaining new members.

There was a request that others get advertising out to more events to advertise VBBA.

In terms of a membership discussion, there are 6 new member clubs from Corky. There was a suggestion that perhaps the board allow a percentage of the total budget to allow up to 10 new teams taking advantage of the new team program.

Brooks indicated that the budget could cover all new teams requesting rebates under the new team program.

Motion: Brooks

Second: Travers & DeGeatano

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Approved.

Next meeting

February 21, 2016 @ 7:00PM EST (6:00PM CST)

Adjournment

Motion: DeGeatano

Second: Brooks

Motion Approved.

Time: 8:16PM EST (7:16PM CST)

Vintage Base Ball Association Board Meeting

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Meeting Called to Order at 7:06PM EST (6:06PM CST)

Present: Dennis Wiegmann, Gary Schiappacasse, Dave Brooks, Doug Ernst, Helen DeGeatano, Erik Sjogren, Brian Travers, Matt Bartnicki (Left Early)

Absent: Bruce Leith, **Eric Miklich (Excused)**, Charlie Trudeau (Excused)

Secretary's Report

The Secretary sent out the minutes after the last meeting. The Minutes are again sent out, with the request that it be considered the official minutes for purposes of being voted upon. (Two amended items, noted below)

Moved: DeGeatano

Second: Travers

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion Approved

Treasurer's Financial Report and Items

The Treasurer send out the financial report and other items the week prior to the February Meeting.

Moved: Sjogren

Second: Ernst

For: 7 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion Approved

Old Business

Update from Rules and Customs Committee (Wiegmann)

Drinkwater is proofing the 1864 Rules for the Conference

The Document for Uniform and Equipment is in Process

The Press/Spectator guide is not started yet, and there is no timeline.

Update on 2016 VBBA Conference (Schiappacasse)

Registrations stand at 17 at this point. Those who had held conferences in the past assured the organizers that registrations will pick up.

Decision on tee shirts design is being completed.

Additional items are requested for the silent auction at this point.

Wiegmann is working on donations.

Bartnicki had some suggestions for donations.

There was a question regarding wifi at the campground brought up by Brooks. It was established that there is no wifi at the campground area.

Sjogren said he would get something working for us at the conference.

(Dave Brooks offered this amended language.)

2017 VBBA Conference Interest (Bartnicki)

Delaware Valley might be a possible option for 2017

There will have to be an agreement between various clubs in the area to split responsibilities.

Hopefully there will be a concrete answer by the March meeting.

Brooks has a possible host interested for 2018 or later.

Newsletter Update (Candidate Questionnaire) (Wiegmann)

The deadline for candidates to submit answers to the questionnaire is early March. The questionnaire will be used for a "who's on the ballot" newsletter.

Podcasts/Seminars/Roundtables (Wiegmann)

Wiegmann offered a review of how the topic came up

The question of whether to table the idea until the next board meeting was entertained.

Sjogren indicated that there were three considerations that had to be dealt with including marketing considerations and tech set up issues.

Brooks indicated that he was in favor of going ahead and exploring the idea when doing meet and greets, ask for feedback on what to include.

Questions of how to facilitate such a project.

Helen indicated that this breaks new ground and may help bring in new individuals and teams.

Wiegmann mentioned that strict controls would have to be put in place.

Brooks indicated that this project would expand out sphere of influence at events such as at Ohio Cup.

Umpire Instruction (Wiegmann)

A short discussion regarding how this could improve the knowledge and quality of umpiring for matches.

This could be one, or more, topics for podcasts.

Update on Historical Accuracy Questionnaire (Wiegmann)

Rules and customs Committee has asked about using the questionnaire as a way of developing Rules and Customs materials.

DeGeatano asked about the feasibility of using the newsletter as an organ to disseminate information gathered.

Sjogren brought up the question of how to keep the questionnaire updated.

Could a blog format be incorporated?

Brooks wanted to be sure that it appears to respond to a wider audience, not only to VBBA. Can it be brought out of Rules and Customs so that the workload is more evenly distributed.

Wiegmann will send Brian's questions to all board members and attempt to analyze information.

New Business:

Timing for Distribution of Ballots (Wiegmann)

Sent to the Secretary 60 days in advance

Secretary will distribute the ballots to membership by March 15.

Corky wants to put the ballot and information on the Facebook page. This can be used as an example.

Members will be told the ballot can be emailed, mailed or turned into the Secretary during the Conference.

The version created by Brian will be sent out.

(Secretary's note: the ballots have been distributed as of this writing.)

Eligibility of Nominees for Office (Wiegmann)

All individuals running for an office are paid members, thus eligible to be on the ballot.

Possibility of Additional Clubs for New Member Program (Brooks)

There are 6 clubs participating, as decided at the last meeting.

There was a question about 5 clubs banded together with an existing club, can all these teams be considered for the New Member Program? (There were 5 new teams that joined as a group and some of them want to be in the new member's program. We had approved 6 teams before and the question was can we add more. the board approved adding more teams to the 6 already approved. so now we will have more than six - maybe as many as 10 or 11. Dave Brooks offered this amended language.)

The board members all agreed that this would be acceptable.

Since we are working on a percentage of the total membership there would be room to accept a 6th club.

Moved: Traverse/Wiegmann

Second: DeGeatano

For: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion Approved.

Historical Accuracy and Why Clubs Choose Modified Rules

See the discussion above regarding the Historical Accuracy Questionnaire.

Conference Vendor List

General discussion of who might be showing up as vendors.

VBBA Promotional Items (Stickers, Pins, T-Shirts????)

Topic was basically tabled to the next meeting.

PayPal Discussion for Membership Payment

Topic was tabled to the next meeting.

Next meeting

March 20, 2016 at 7:00PM EST (6:00PM CST)

Adjournment at 8:44PM EST (7:44PM CST)

Moved: Brooks

Second: Sjogren

Motion Approved