

2020 VBBA Board and Trustee Ballot

Each full member team has two votes for each position. Please put an "X" next to the name, indicating 1 vote for each person you wish to vote for. In the instance that you wish to cast 2 votes for the same person, please place "XX" next to that name. If you place only one "X", the President will mark that you have cast only 1 ballot for the individual.

Team Voting _____

Person Voting _____

PRESIDENT

Aaron Staab _____

Write-in _____

VICE PRESIDENT

Gary Schiappacasse _____

Write-in _____

TREASURER

Paul (Scooter)Zeledon _____

Write-in _____

SECRETARY

Bill Helm _____

Write-in _____

HISTORIAN

Bob Sampson _____

Write-in _____

TRUSTEES, BY REGION

East (Two Year Term)

Evette Griffore Jacobson _____

David Maxwell _____

South (Two Year Term)

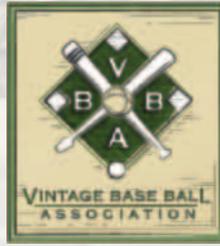
Ted Kopsaftis _____

Rick Brewer _____

Ballot Submission

Ballots may be submitted to the President by email. While mail in balloting may be done, please do not send any ballots by US mail less than 5 days prior to May 1. It is the goal of the VBBA that all full member clubs be allowed to participate in elections. Gary Schiappacasse, 304 Alice Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 G56reader@aol.com

2020 BALLOT AND QUESTIONNAIRE



AARON "RUSTY PYRAT" STAAB

POSITION: PRESIDENT

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

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

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

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

The most rewarding experiences in vintage ball are the relationships formed. In three years since founding the Westerns BBC, we have built relationships throughout the Midwest and have played all over Kansas and in four other states.

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

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

5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have? I have been a VBBA Trustee for two years and VBBA Vice-President for one year.

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

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

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



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

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

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

As the president, I'd like to work with the non-member teams to bring them into the Association and help them with a more accurate presentation than what is being displayed currently.

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

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

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

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

BILL HELM

POSITION: SECRETARY

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

Played my first Vintage Base Ball game in April 2013 for the Fort Verde Excelsiors. Have played regularly for the Excelsiors and for the Prescott Champions since 2016.

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

Saw my first Vintage Base Ball game in Detroit at the Ford Automotive Museum on Aug. 5, 2006. Played my first Vintage Base Ball game in April 2013 for the Fort Verde Excelsiors. Have played regularly for the Excelsiors and for the Prescott Champions since 2016.

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

Being a part of the history of my favorite sport is my favorite experience, as well as still being able to play ball at 53 years of age.

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

Knowledge of baseball, experience as a newspaper reporter and newspaper photographer.

5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have? Member since 2017.

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

To me, the purpose of the VBBA is to accurately communicate and demonstrate the history of our great game.

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

One thing I would recommend is that holding the annual conference in different cities/towns across the country, not just in the mid-west and in the east. Expand the presence, expand the awareness, expand the outreach. The VBBA will become much stronger, and Vintage Base Ball will become more important when it is seen as a national interest.



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

See previous answer, as I believe it applies.

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

Eventually play a role in the newsletter of the VBBA.

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

Outreach committee/public relations

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

Make strong efforts to see Vintage Base Ball be of national interest.

2020 BALLOT AND QUESTIONNAIRE



EVETTE JACOBSON

POSITION: EAST MIDWEST TRUSTEE

1. How long have you been involved in vintage base ball? Wow, hard to believe I'm going on my 11th season of being involved with Vintage Base Ball.

2. What was your first experience with vintage base ball? How long have you participated? My first experience was attending practices with my now husband Keith "Hatchet". I was hooked from day one. Our first season I was elected as president of the Crank Club for the Early Riser BBC and after four years of providing PR, marketing, feeding, sewing, first aid and all around general support I began playing the sport myself, while still fulfilling my Crank Club role.

3. What is your favorite vintage base ball experience? What do you like best about vintage base ball? My favorite experience was playing center field at Navin Field (the site of the previous Tiger Stadium in Detroit). Up until that point, it never hit me that I was involved in something so much bigger than myself. That was my "Come to Base Ball" moment. I was horrible at it, but as Captain of my club, I played every position that needed to be filled. The best thing about vintage base ball is the family aspect of it. Meeting other clubs, sharing history, learning from each other, building friendships and building our community. I've worked very hard over my years of involvement to bring clubs together, to work with each other to promote the history and fun of our sport. It's amazing the community we have and the amazing people we share the field with.

4. What talents or experiences that would make you an asset to the VBBA board? As an ambassador of the sport, I have built alliances with clubs across the nation, and even to France and have worked to promote and market new clubs. I act as Mary Poppins, helping people take a vision of what they want to accomplish with their own clubs and inspiring them to create something to be proud of. I am honest and willing to listen and help when any club needs assistance weather it's with event planning, crafting or simply subbing.

5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have? I have successfully completed two years as a Trustee for the VBBA.

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be? Yes, I do know the mission of the VBBA. It is a very well thought out and easy to understand guide to promoting support of vintage base ball. It presents in a way that makes it easy enough to execute.



What do you think the VBBA needs to do to expand its public presence? The VBBA needs to work on building trust with new clubs new members and continue building and strengthening the relationship it has with current clubs. We need to continue to progress as social media does and provide the presence of supportive big brother to our members and clubs and associations we interact with.

8. What direction would you like to see the VBBA move? I would like to see the VBBA move into a more personable direction. I would love to see active representatives out on the fields. I have been a member for about four or five years and I have been halfway around the country playing matches with many different clubs and I have no idea if I had ever even been playing with VBBA board members or not. So many people have no idea who is a board member and who isn't. Just "dropping the curtain" would be a huge start in seeing a shift towards living our mission statement."

9. What role would you like to have in the future of the VBBA? Being a Trustee allows me to use my skills to their best abilities. My strengths lie in my active participation with people and I prefer to maintain this role.

10. What committees does the board need to fulfill the mission of the VBBA? A sideline interpretation committee. It's a long standing vision and a needed committee to help execute the mission of the VBBA. As ballists, it's easy to just show up and play and forget that we are interpreting history to the public. Sideline interpretation is a way the VBBA can help a club get sideline interpreters to work with the crowd and further the vintage Base Ball experience.

11. What needs to happen to make the VBBA a vibrant and growing organization? The VBBA must always be willing to hear new information and understand new information with an open mind. A good council is not one that is run by their own wishes and desires. It is run by the knowing and understanding of what is good for the people that it loves. Keeping the wellbeing of all clubs and members as a priority should always be the number one job. People are paying you to help them and guide them and provide information for them. Do that. First and foremost.

DAVID MAXWELL

POSITION: EAST MIDWEST TRUSTEE

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

This will be seventeen years in 2020.

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

I started playing in 2003 for Greenfield Village for both the La De Dahs and the Nationals.

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

Playing at the World Tournament at the Village, getting to meet through that both author Peter Morris and Ernie Harwell. I enjoy living/recreating 19th Century Base Ball.

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

I have played for seventeen years, including this being my second year of running my own club. I am well read in the history of the game and always strive to be more historically accurate.

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

I have been an individual member and captain of a member club.

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be? (The mission statement for VBBA can be found on the website under "About".)

Yes, I see the mission to play, promote, and research the game as it was truly played in the 19th Century. I see it as educating clubs so they can play and present the game to the public in the proper way.

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

I think that the VBBA should have a presence – most likely in the form of a booth at all tournaments. This will put a human face to the organization for the clubs. Encourage club membership more. Host local events outside of the yearly conference.



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

I would like there to be more involvement from more clubs. I would like there to be more of a push towards historical accuracy.

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

My role would be to help educate clubs in being more historically accurate in how they play the game. Help expand clubs presentation. Make it more immersive.

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

I believe all these committees are necessary. The Rules and Customs Committee is the one I'd be most interested in being involved in.

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

I think the most important thing is to have more clubs as members. In Michigan there are around 40 clubs and only 14 are members. In order to get the message out there there needs to be more buy in.



BOB SAMPSON

POSITION: HISTORIAN

1. How long have you been involved in vintage base ball? Since 1992.

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

First experience was in July 1992 when I traveled to Columbus, Ohio along with other volunteers in a living history program associated with the Rock Springs Conservation Area, Decatur, IL. We were introduced to the game by the Ohio Muffins and came back to Decatur determined to start our own club. So, I have been active as a player, umpire and promoter of the game for 28 years.

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

In three decades of vintage base ball, it is difficult to pick one from a plethora of great experiences. The friendships made across occupational, social and state lines are what I treasure most. I enjoy the "community" of the game, a brotherhood (and sisterhood) of those in the game filling whatever role.

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

A teach, research and write history, developed a college-level class in baseball history, and am currently working on a book manuscript examining the rise and explosive growth of the game in Illinois between 1865 and 1870.

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

I have been a member of the VBBA since the mid-1990s and though never serving in office have followed the organization and helped in small ways when opportunities arose.

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

(The mission statement for VBBA can be found on the website under "About".) I fully agree with and support the VBBA mission statement. I believe the organization's mission is to support, grow and perpetuate the game and its standards as outlined in the mission statement. It is important, I believe, to recognize that vintage base ball is NOT slow pitch softball played with a smaller ball while wearing funny clothes. It has a unique spirit, traditions, customs and role to fulfill. In vintage base ball, winning is not the primary goal. Rather the goal of all teams and players should be to celebrate the original motivations for the game—exercise and fellowship—while educating spectators about the game.



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

Support exiting and emerging teams by serving as a resource for information and advice. A new generation of players has or is gradually replacing the early generation of which I am a part. The organization plays an important role in passing along the game's history and traditions.

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

Under the current leadership, I believe the organization is moving in the directions outlined by my comments above and should continue to do so.

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

As a long-time supporter, I would like to continue in that role. If the membership believes my experience and familiarity with the history of base ball in the 1860s could be helpful, I will be happy to serve as historian.

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

Simply put, keep doing what it is doing with the same level of skill and commitment.

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

Continued dedication on the part of its members, especially in sharing with new clubs and players the principles of vintage base ball.

GARY SCHIAPPACASSE

POSITION: VICE-PRESIDENT

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

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

2. 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.

3. What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

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

What do you like best about vintage base ball?

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

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

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

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

I have served as both a VBBA trustee as the vice-president of the VBBA from 2015-2016, especially serving the needs of the president. While working with Dennis Pops Wiegman I assisted with the job descriptions of the VBBA Board, the development of the new VBBA website, liability insurance, and more. Vice-president, January to March 2017. Over 2017-2020 I have served as the VBBA President, growing the VBBA to Branson, MO, and Davis, CA, updating the VBBA website, bringing back the Arizona clubs and assisting with the 2020 Conference.

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be?
(The mission statement for VBBA can be found on the website under "About".)

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.



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

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

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

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

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

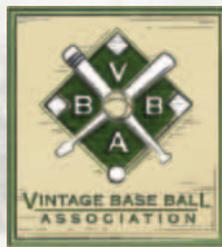
I look forward to being a key part of the collaboration between the vintage base ball trustees, member clubs, and the vintage base ball community.

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

I 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.

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

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



THEODORE “JUST ED” KOPSAFTIS

POSITION: SOUTH TRUSTEE

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

So, long story short – Baseball has always been a part of our family. Growing up a military brat my pops was always involving us in baseball. AA, AAA, MLB, wherever we live baseball was on the agenda. Mets, Padres, AF, Tucson Toro’s, Vintage came later to me, introduced by a coworker. I was hooked after our first practice on a Frisbee golf course.

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

I personally have been involved in Vintage Base Ball for the last 2 ½ years. It all started with a simple conversation between a manager and his employee. “Why you taking off work?” “Silver Ball” “What’s that?” the rest has been a long but fun journey.

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

So, favorite Vintage Experience? I could tell you all about a few least favorite, but here’s my favorite: Ohio – July 2017 Akron Cup
Team is losing all games- we drove up from FL and had to drive back after the matches. Marching across the field with our drummer and ‘fans’ clapping at our arrival at our 3rd (almost impossible game to play). So cool to experience the love of the game.

Really love the connections we have made through the team. Despite any differences we all have Base Ball as a connection. Left or Right the game is what matters to Vintage Players

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

So, weird question, but...
Florida based player and team manager. (Wont claim captain as I always pass that position off. I’ve read Beadles. I’m a perfect Right Fielder.)
I am a Food and Beverage Director at a local FL hotel. Would love to see the VBBA convention move to winter locations like AZ or FL (Hey guys we got spring training)

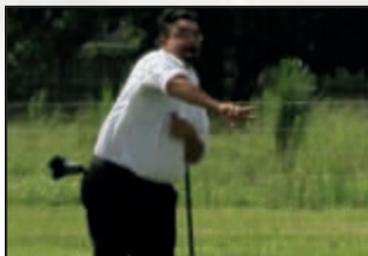
5. Do you have any experience in the VBBA? If so what role(s) did you have?

I have just been a member over the past few years. I was a trustee for one year as well.

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

(The mission statement for VBBA can be found on the website under “About”).
Read the mission statement of the VBBA. Honestly who wouldn’t want to support an honest game played in the rules of the year you propose to play in? After my many hours of research just feel playing as accurately as you can only furthers the goal of the VBBA.

As a founder of our team in Florida have always said the history supports our rules. If we discover something new we update as it comes, History is key to our game. This season our team has updated our year to 1864 and the uniforms to be more fitting to the research we have found.



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

Internet – the website is difficult to use, logging in is a pain and just seems to need more information. We play a Vintage game in modern times, the VBBA needs to be ready to step up to the modern age.

- Website needs to be fresher and more inclusive.
- Teams posting practices.
- Inviting all who are nearby to attend.
- Matches with multiple teams participating,
- So many way to expand.

Expansion of the VBBA is key to its longevity.

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

Although we play a Vintage game we need to be aware of where the future lies. Blogs, Facebook, ..Twitter are the connection Vintage Base Ball needs to have in these times to expand.
Also inclusion and recruitment of younger players. On our Florida Team we have a 50% team membership under 18. Recruiting younger players an inspiring interest in the game will only continue the game we love.

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

As a member would just love to see a continuing growth for a game I love..

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

I’ve looked at the current committees and see no IT or internet selected, we need to have a person specifically addressing information and how to get it out there. Starting a team in Florida through Facebook and having 200+ likes on the page and 20+ players is crazy. Information is where the VBBA need to go next.

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

Internet exposure – Posting info regarding practices, teams, tournaments, games. We need team captains willing to devote time to keeping information fresh and vibrant of their Facebook and websites. The VBBA website needs to be a tool to getting the word out and easier to use and post the information.

Here in Florida would love to have a platform where any player from up north could come to one of practices. If posted on a website by captain.

RICK “UNCLE JESSE” BREWER

POSITION: SOUTH TRUSTEE

1. How long have you been involved in vintage base ball? This is my seventh year.

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

I was working at the farm coop on a Saturday morning when I took an order for a bag of field marker compound. I asked if it was for a Little League game.; It turns out it was for a Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball game. I decided to come out and watch the games. I loved it watching every game that year. The next year I joined the Stones River Scouts. I became the Captain of the Scouts in 2016. We were runners up for the Championship in 2016., and Champions in 2017 and 2018.

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

I enjoy traveling to places like Rickwood Field, opened in 1910 in Birmingham, Alabama, where you feel the ghosts of baseball’s past, the Field of Dreams, the Ohio Cup, and St. Louis Cup. I especially like Heritage Park in Springfield, Ohio. Heritage Park is the farm I grew up on. It is now a park where the cows used to walk, home of the Championship Reapers, who play 1860’s base ball. The games at Heritage Park were special after growing up there.

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

I will bring my love of base ball. I love its history. I enjoy talking to people about the game.

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

I was a committee member of the Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball for the VBBA’s Nashville Conference in 2017.

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

(The mission statement for VBBA can be found on the website under “About”).
I know that they focus on the education, customs, and spirit of the



game of base ball. Focusing on how it originated. It is an exercise in fellowship. It is not softball. It focused on the common man’s love of base ball.

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

The VBBA needs to expand its presence and be more welcoming to new ideas. If there are places in the country that do not use stealing, make it known that it existed, and that your club chooses not to do stealing.

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

I would like to see more teams involved, more involvement from the Board, make it more involved and welcoming.

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

I will do whatever I can to help, to help the family of vintage base ball, wherever the Board feels I need to be used. I have been playing base-ball since I was four to six years old, when I played catch with my dad in the barn during the winter.

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

I want to do what it takes to get the jobs of the VBBA done.

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

The VBBA needs to make contact with its members and be a greater part of their organizations.



Make sure to follow the VBBA on Instagram

[instagram.com/Vintage_Base_Ball_Assoc](https://www.instagram.com/Vintage_Base_Ball_Assoc)

PAUL “SCOOTERR” ZELEDON

POSITION: TREASURER

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

I have been playing vintage base ball since 2008. I first learned about vintage base ball in September 2007 when I read an article about it online at www.espn.com. The article lead me to the league website, www.vbba.org. I then found a link listing clubs by state, and upon checking out clubs in my home state of Illinois, I found that the club most geographically proximate to me was that of the Chicago Salmon. Upon contacting the manager, Gary Schiapacasse, and having him extend me an invitation to the Salmon's last event of 2007 to observe the game in person, I quickly became enamored with the game that involved no gloves, no overrunning of first base, very specific defensive positioning, and the opportunity to retire batters by catching any batted ball on a bounce!



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

How long have you participated? I began playing vintage base ball in the spring of 2008, as referenced above. As such, I have been a member of the Chicago Salmon for 12 years now. I initially started out playing second base but starting in 2010-2011 I began doing much of the pitching for the Salmon. I still play some second base and as well as some shortstop (when the team is desperately short-handed) and a little outfield (when the margin is at least 20 runs, either up or down).

3. What is your favorite vintage base ball experience?

What do you like best about vintage base ball? My favorite ex-periences include traveling to new locations, playing new teams (as well as old established rivals such as the Deep River Grinders (IN), the Springfield Long Nine (IL), and the Douglas Dutchers (MI), to name my top 3. I enjoy playing, on occasion, by rules of the 1860s (the Salmon play by 1858 rules), as 1860s rules, in my humble opinion, benefit the thinking ball player a little more than 1850s rules (although, I must confess here, I HATE the rule that basically allows the same batter to bat consecutively between two innings when the first at bat results in a force out the ends an inning – Why can't we all just take our turns J!). And, of course, I love the annual conference where clubs from all over the country come together to celebrate our great game!

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

I believe that my attention to detail, my knowledge of how the VBBA works, and my desire to provide good customer service to both the VBBA board as well as to its member clubs and individuals makes me an asset to the VBBA board. While a relative newcomer to the VBBA leadership, I have learned a good deal about the operations of the organization. And, while I concede that I have more to learn, my goal is not simply to learn more about the VBBA and its operations, it is to take what I learn and put it into practice!

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

I have been the VBBA Treasurer for the 2017-2018 season. I also oversaw the 2016 VBBA conference in Chicago from a financial perspective, handling all registrations, and making sure that all financial transactions pre-conference, during the conference, and post-conference were handled expeditiously and accurately (please keep in mind that although I play for the Chicago Salmon, I was born and raised outside of Chicago, and my current residence is also outside of Chicago.)

6. Do you know the mission of the VBBA? What do you see the mission to be? (The mission statement for VBBA can be found on the website under "About".)

Yes, the mission of the VBBA is the 3 p's – to preserve, perpetuate, and promote our great game of vintage base ball. While I am completely on board with these goals, I would like to add the following items. One, I would like to see the sheparding of newer/struggling clubs. Unless there are very extraordinary circumstances, there should not be any reason to have these clubs grow, rather than disband. Perhaps some kind of program could be set up where a well-established club can assist a struggling club in its geographical proximity. Two, I would like to see the game grow within set regional/geographical boundaries. By that, I mean to suggest that if there are, say 4 clubs in a northern market and 4 in markets, say 200 miles south of the northern market, efforts could be made to form a club or two in the middle of these boundaries. Just a thought.

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

I think that one of the best things the VBBA can do to increase its public presence is to have its member clubs make themselves more marketable to their local markets via newspaper stories, social media sites, and local radio and internet. I think that one key point to this is to identify what clubs are based out of rural, small-town, suburban, or large markets.

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

The VBBA is moving in a good direction, from what I have seen as simply a player on a member team as well as a member of the VBBA board. One thing I would like to see is providing assistance and guidance to all clubs in regards to finances. This assistance can take the form of providing off the field fundraising ideas, generating playing revenue, and any and all ideas to help teams have a strong bottom line. This can also include tournaments that are pay-to-play.

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

I am currently content in continuing on in my role as Treasurer, as the current board members and the Board as a whole are all doing a fine job.

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

The committees listed are sufficient to help the VBBA fulfill its mission. Two thoughts, though: one, I think it would be beneficial if, like the "Rules and Customs" Committee, the 10 committees listed below it provide a brief explanation of what the committee does, as well as an e-mail address in order to facilitate contact on a matter relevant to a member club or member individual. Two, I think it would be beneficial to have some sort of committee that would assist clubs with scheduling issues.

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

The VBBA, as previously stated, is in good shape. What I would like to see to assist in this growth is simply what I like to call "a stronger base of common knowledge". Quite simply, this means that I think it would be a good idea for the VBBA to have some sort of database that allows any member club to learn the basic knowledge of any other member club. For instance, I would think that ALL member clubs would have some sort of website to convey information about their team. It would be beneficial for all parties to have all of this information in one central and easily-accessible location.

