

## **Blaine Area Traveling Baseball Annual Meeting**

November 14, 2012

Blaine Baseball Complex

7:30pm

### **Board Members Present:**

Ernie Johnson – President

Rick Fanning – Vice President

Carl Nyberg – Treasurer

Sarah Anderson – Secretary

Pete Riola – Traveling Director

### **Board Members Absent:**

Carrie Folstrom – Tournament Director

Open Position – Equipment Director

**Others Present:** Chad Spencer, Jason Vogel, Al Gottschalk

**Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by President Ernie Johnson at 7:30pm.

**2012 Summary Report** – Ernie Johnson, President

Tonight we will be voting on two (3) year Board Member Terms and one (1) year Term

Most successful year we have had since President has been involved. Teams performed strongest overall this year. Following are some highlights and overview of the last year for BATBA:

Uniforms were changed last year. There was doubt at first because some members did not like to see the vests go away. We had a lot of positive feedback by end. The players appreciated cooler uniforms and they still looked sharp. We also saved enough money to buy other needed equipment such as the pitching machine and generators.

Winter workouts gave head start to our teams. We feel there is value and will continue them.

Pizza Feast Fundraiser was successful. We raised about \$7,000 and designated this money to pay for our winter workout facility rental fees.

The Blaine Classic Tournament was successful, even with weather challenges. We had lots of rain this year. We ended up cancelling Sunday Play, due to wet fields and forecast. Looking back on decision, it was disappointing as weather took a turn for the better. It probably was still best based on field conditions, etc. We typically profit \$8,000-\$12,000 on that tournament.

The regular season was considered a success. Many teams came out strong at the beginning. We ended the season with a 2/3 winning percentage top to bottom.

We had many appearances at State Tournaments this season. We had no state wins this year but are making a goal to get State wins in future. We also had multiple teams make it to the League Championships in their divisions and Tiers.

Fall Tryouts had strong numbers – About 180 registered so some cuts but feel good about talent for 2013 Season.

Ernie thanked Board for time this last season and feels we are making progress on using our volunteers and working towards more growth and use of volunteers in future.

In 2013 we will continue to work with coaches and look to future development of coaches, players and overall program.

### **Financial Overview for the Year – Carl Nyberg, Treasurer**

Statement balances to bank and after expenses there will be approx. \$23,000 balance. Carl distributed P & L Statement and Tax Summary for explanation and review by Board.

Board discussed some of changes that will occur with expenses when merged with SAA. Goal is also to create pipeline for talented kids and goal would be to have all of Blaine Baseball under one umbrella so we are taking steps to move forward by working with SAA first.

**Open Forum** - Discussed storage unit. We have moved out of storage rental unit and temporarily storing at volunteer's location. We are looking for storage area as SAA solution fell through

Many teams will have quite a bit new equipment this year. All will get new bags and some coaches will have majority of new equipment – much was thrown out after this season during inventory.

Jason Vogel asked about possibility of getting 10U teams a tourney early here since they don't currently participate in our Blaine Classic. Ernie explained that fields are tough to get here as fields fill up. No solution was presented but all agree it would be great to have a solution.

The following italicized notes were amended by the Board in February 2013, in an effort to clarify the Board's intent:

*The question was brought up from the floor - What is biggest issue between Little League (LL) and rest of us? Carl and Ernie gave overview of discussions with Little League and explained how ages are grouped and explained some of the differences between BALL, Traveling and Soderville. The group also discussed the process that leads to the LL World Series.*

*Group discussed that there is confusion for parents with current situation of having multiple options in the community. The understanding is that LL works with players past the 12U (Majors) level in an in-house program. We have reached out to LL but still have not found significant common ground in terms of working together. Long term, BATBA would like to see a single unified baseball system in this area. Ernie will continue to work on this effort.*

Al Gottschalk asked if we would we encourage 9U Traveling Team. He suggests we should consider starting one to give the more serious 9U players a more competitive option as it would also help to increase level at 10U and older. SAA has Tournament team that should help bridge. Board agreed to take a look at option.

Al also suggested we look at Cooperstown NY Program. They offer team opportunities all summer (98 teams a week and play all summer) – Look into opportunity – Great incentive for teams to take a trip to Cooperstown for this program. It could offer extra incentive to our teams if they had a trip in future. There is currently a 2 year wait list. Board agreed to look into this program.

Al asked about future training facilities. He had heard we were looking into the fire house near BBC. Ernie explained that we had recently been told an offer was being made on the building so not an option at this time.

### **Board Position Voting**

- 1st Position – 1 year remaining
- 2nd Position – 3 Year
- 3rd Position – 3 Year

Nominations made for the following and all were voted into positions: Sarah Anderson – 3 year term  
Pete Riola – 1 year term Jason Vogel – 3 year term.

### **New Board Called Meeting to Order**

#### **Board Position Assignments**

All members agreed to keep current Board Positions. Jason Vogel will take Position of Equipment Director.

#### **Review of BATBA Bylaws & Policies & Procedures – Ernie**

Current information was distributed to Board Members. Ernie outlined that fundraiser, tournament and tryouts are our three big projects each year. We are looking to divide up tasks more by forming Committees for work as we move forward.

- Tournament – Blaine Classic is scheduled for May 3-5, 2013.
- Fundraiser – We are working on setting date with Broadway for Pizza Feast. Confirming other dates to make sure we do not double book members. Dates to note:
- Blaine H.S. Baseball - Friends of Blaine Baseball Fundraiser – April 6th
- Twins Coaching Clinic for our coaches – Sarah will research date but usually early April Saturday.
- High School Youth Clinic – February 17-March 3
- High School Tryouts – Begin March 18th
- Uniforms – March 1st.
- Winter Workouts – March 23-April 14

## **Traveling Director Updates – Pete**

BATBA Teams Winter Workouts – March 23-April 14

- Each team will get approximately 6 hours per team for total of 71 hours at cost of \$8400.
- Ernie made motion to approve \$8500 for Winter Workout rental fees. Carl seconded the motion. Board voted and passed motion to approve \$8500 for Winter Workout rental fees.

Pete asked Board for approval to purchase gift card as “thank you” for tryout help for professional evaluator. Motion made to approve \$100. Ernie seconded and Board voted and approved.

Pete will schedule two coaches’ meetings. One will be run by our staff and one w/HS coach.

## **Twins Clinic – Board Discussion**

Board discussed and agreed to make it mandatory for 1 coach per team to attend this year as we see it worthwhile and want to promote continual learning by our coaches. Ernie clarified that MYAS pays for the head coach and Board agreed that we will pay for two assistants per team to also go this year.

## **Fundraiser– Ernie & Sarah**

Pizza Feast date will be set as soon as Twins clinic date is set. Sarah will research and send info to Board to select date. Sarah will coordinate for late March or early April.

Board discussed SAA card fundraiser and need to clarify expectations of BATBA members and assorted membership fees that will be paid to SAA. Ernie and Carl will clarify and report to Board for action.

Tournament Director Update – Rick and Ernie All ages have been approved as MBT Qualifiers for the Blaine Classic. This is great for our tournament and will attract teams.

Rick will work on getting promotional information and flyer put together for Blaine Classic.

## **Equipment Director Update – Ernie**

Ernie updated Board on recent inventory and gave overview of new equipment. Sarah will put together recap of approved purchases and will include in meeting notes.

Ernie mentioned that Eric Pardo offered to help with equipment as needed. He, Rick and Eric recently inventoried equipment and threw out a lot of “junk” equipment. Board previously agreed to purchase new equipment and balls prior to end of 2012 Fiscal Year. We spent \$3,134 on baseballs and just over \$2,000 on other equipment. Board also voted and agreed to \$250 purchase for training balls for younger age levels. Positive feedback was given from last year’s coaches and all felt valuable asset for teams.

New Business Board reviewed new document on timeline that was created and distributed by Ernie. Sarah and Rick offered to help transfer information into a working document.

Sarah requested that we make note for tryouts next year. We must include handout to be given to parents when player checks-in. It should explain next steps and procedures for selecting teams and on communication process following tryouts. Many new parents were especially confused this year.

Motion made by Ernie to adjourn. Motion seconded by Pete. Meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.