

Washington County Senior Softball League

MINUTES

February 18, 2019, Monthly Meeting
Washington County Sheriff's Office, Hagerstown, Maryland

Officers in attendance: Theresa Emery, President; Craig Metz, Vice President; Tim Doyle, Secretary; Cheryl Gouker, Treasurer. League members in attendance: Webmaster Jeff Bean, Tom Hyme, Randy Wilkinson, Bob Thomas, Ron Bennett, Dan Elgin, Ron Miller, Larry Hastings, John Rowe, Jim Flick, Donnie Helman, Randy Moffett, Rodney (Pork) Knable, Brian McKenzie, Marvin Oliver, Bill Peterson, Paul Brown, Frank Emery, and Danny Betts.

CONDOLENCES

President Theresa Emery opened the 6:30 p.m. Feb. 18 meeting by expressing the league's condolences to WCSSL member John Rowe for the recent death of his wife. John thanked league members for their many expressions of support.

BONANZA SUCCESS

Following Theresa's review of the Jan. 14 meeting minutes, Treasurer Cheryl Gouker reported that the league's Jan. 26 fundraising Bonanza netted a \$2,584 profit for league operations. Theresa said close to 300 people turned out for the Bonanza evening of dinner, dancing, and games of chance at the Fairplay, MD, fire company banquet center. The league president thanked Cheryl, Vice President Craig Metz, and league members Tom Hyme, Marvin Oliver, Randy Moffett, Paul Brown, Larry Hastings, John Rowe, Jim Flick, Frank Emery, and everyone else who helped make the Bonanza a "great success."

Bonanza events were organized by WCSSL members Jim and Brent Taylor to raise funds for a storage shed that could house the league's field maintenance tractor and other equipment at the two softball fields in Hagerstown City Park. League members Pork Knable and Terry McLeod have since begun exploring the possibility of obtaining a large metal cargo storage pod unit for \$10 per month. Pending City Park approval, the slow pitch softball league's new storage shed and/or pod would be located in the fenced-in park maintenance area.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheryl reported that the league's current unreconciled checking account balance is \$6,231 and its savings account balance is \$5,534. The all-volunteer league currently has 33 paid player registrations and three paid sponsors for the 2019 season, the treasurer said.

In addition to field maintenance, game balls, and other equipment and supplies, the league's \$50 player registration fee helps provide team hats and shirts, a July picnic and a September banquet. City Park infield drainage improvements and smoother infield surfaces are among the league's possible future projects.

MANAGERS, SPONSORS

Six WCSSL members will be team managers during this year's May through August season: Marvin Oliver, Frank Emery, Tom Hyme, Brian McKenzie, Jim Taylor, and Rodney Knable.

Cheryl reported that three organizations have paid the \$400 fee to become team sponsors in 2019: The Centers for Advanced Orthopaedics, Fraternal Order of Police, and Atlantic Foot and Ankle Specialists. Additional \$400 paid team sponsorships are anticipated from Miracle-Ear Hearing Aid Center and Visiting Angels Senior Care. Paid team sponsorships also are awaiting approval from Funkstown Tavern and Family Heritage Trust Company. Younger Toyota has decided not to be team sponsor this year.

It was recommended that Antietam Tractor & Equipment Inc. be allowed to become a team sponsor because of the company's long tradition of lending the league a new mid-size Kubota tractor each season at no charge.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Theresa led an extensive review and discussion of the coed league's rules and regulations for 2019. She said all regular season games will be eight-inning games with 6 p.m. start times. Makeup games will be six-inning games, and makeup game batters will take the plate with one ball and one strike against them.

All registered players must play at least three innings per game, she said. And all pitches must have a 6-foot to 12-foot arch. In addition, a third strike will be called on any batter who hits a foul ball with two strikes against him.

It was recommended that all bats used by league players be certified or re-certified this year by bat committee chairman Jim Nelson. Vice President Craig Metz suggested compressing this year's April open practices and holding the team draft on April 17. This would allow for practice games between the new teams. Subject to further discussion and decisions at the next monthly meeting on March 11, other rule discussion topics focused on how to:

- Allow some batters to have substitute courtesy runners from home plate.
- Field only well qualified umpires.
- Regulate outfield "shifts" and infielders playing in the outfield.
- Review guidelines for the use of pickup players by shorthanded teams.
- Discipline players who smoke cigarettes or use profanity.
- Stop teams from walking strong hitters in order to pitch to weaker ones.

NEXT MEETING

The next monthly off-season WCSSL meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 11 at the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Hagerstown.