

Stamford American Little League (SALL)  
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – 01/07/16 @ 7pm

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 12/17/15.

**In attendance:**

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Judy Vivona, Rosaria Bria, Karen Montagnese, Nick Montagnese, John Tromba, Mike Fenske, Jason Benner, Brett Szczesny, Mike Deenihan, Jen Hanley, Jenn Salvatore, Pete Karukas, Joe Fauci and Jeff Goodman

League Members: Irene Van Auken

**Regrets received:** Bob Katchko

1. Approval of Minutes

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Vice President – Nick Vivona called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. – Approval of minutes of 12/17/15 (Nick Vivona - motion / Jenn Salvatore - 2<sup>nd</sup>)

2. President's Report

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Ric Anderson:

- a) Review of the Administrative Phase of the Board – asked the Board for suggestions for improvements of the first phase process (if any):
  1. Mike Fenske – suggested making sure including all Board meetings in the email threads when necessary.
  2. Karen Montagnese – suggested tracking a schedule of when the Board needs to get things completed for going forward (apply for permits, scheduling practice gyms etc).
  3. Nick Vivona – suggests adding some time lines and more specific, detailed role descriptions to the Constitution in August and would like the Board to do more shadowing of roles.
  4. Irene Van Auken (parent) – wanted to be sure any league announcements are easily available to the public (winter clinics, events etc). The Board reiterated that there are e-blasts (emails) for events and announcements/schedules etc. are noted on the SALL website ([www.stamfordamerican.com](http://www.stamfordamerican.com)). It was reiterated that the website is the portal of information for the league.
- b) There will be a 'Town Hall Meeting' scheduled on the calendar before the try outs / draft.
- c) Reminded the Board at the end of the meeting there will be a discussion regarding the draft. He is requesting the entire process in place by end of January.

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Nick Vivona:

- Briefly reviewed calendar
  - o Jeff Goodman requested adding 2/10 and 2/24 for Junior Umpire clinic (at Italian Center).
  - o Jeff Goodman made a motion to approve the rough draft of the calendar – Mike Fenske 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Calendar approved.
- Nick Vivona suggested voting for Majors Division Commissioner as one is needed ASAP.
  - o Nick Montagnese nominated Brett Szczesny as Major Commissioner
    - Mike Fenske 2<sup>nd</sup> – all Board in favor. Brett Szczesny accepts role as Major Commissioner.
- 2016 Registration Pricing – Discussion on whether or not to raise pricing for 2016 season:
  - o Nick Montagnese suggested raising the price for Majors for their new jerseys but the other divisions should have price remain the same.
  - o Brett Szczesny expressed concern on raising prices without knowing the costs involved for newer uniforms/jerseys.
  - o Brett Szczesny made a motion to keep registration prices the same as 2015
    - Nick Montagnese 2<sup>nd</sup> – all Board in favor. Motion approved

2016 registration prices are as follows (unchanged from previous year):

\$ 75.00 T-Ball

\$ 110.00 A

\$ 120.00 AA

\$ 170.00 AAA & Majors

(\$10 early bird discount if registered prior to 2/13/16)

### BOARD ROLE UPDATES

Jenn Salvatore – Team Parent Coordinator:

- Reached out to Bowlmor regarding a community event. Considering bowling or possible movie night options. A tentative date for next event is January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Requested to have a summary of all anticipated fundraisers and the snack bar functions by the last clinic. She would like to share this information with parents to help them better understand the volunteer opportunities.

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Jeff Goodman – Sponsorship/Fundraising Manager – Umpire in Chief/Scheduling Coordinator:

Sponsors:

- Keller Williams wants to give back to a local little league and would like to sponsor a banner with an image of a bullseye with the intent if someone hits it with a homerun ball, he will sponsor a pizza party for that team.
  - o Nick Vivona will check with Perry Pierce to see if this type of challenge is acceptable.
- Reddi Roster – will be offered a free banner at Northrop & Kane if they agree to sponsor a banner at Vine (due to discrepancy over last year’s banner).
- CT Braces (in Glenbrook) – has shown interest in sponsoring a team and banner. They offered to sponsor a movie night for the league (logistics will be discussed further) as well as requested a table at Opening Day to hand out free mouth guards.
  - o Nick Vivona will check with Perry Pierce to see if this is acceptable.

Umpires/Scheduling:

- Jeff Goodman met with Rich Gillespie to discuss Umpiring:
  - o They are suggesting the league start spread the word in the community regarding the need for Junior Umpires
  - o Age of Junior umps (to be verified by Little League)
    - 16 for Majors
    - 14 and up by start of season (AAA)
    - 13 by start of season (AA shadowing)
  - o Rich Gillespie agreed to Staff AA games with umpires in addition to Majors/AAA
  - o They agreed to have a Junior Ump with a patched senior umpire at AAA games
  - o They suggested there be on field training in March for all Junior Umps
  - o The Umpires would like to be invited/included at all division coaches meetings
  - o Reminder to the BOD, it is imperative to have a team count by end of February to ensure proper staffing/scheduling of umpires.
- Jeff Goodman made a proposal that the league ‘dress all Junior and Senior umpires’ and supply them with a brush / indicator / jerseys and hats so they can show they are affiliated with SALL.

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- Rich Gillespie is requesting a fee of \$500 to manage all umpire staffing/scheduling for Spring, Friendship (summer) and Fall Ball seasons.
  - Jeff Goodman makes a motion for the league to pay Rich Gillespie a \$500 fee (which includes the \$200 for year-end appreciation of umpires gathering) – Joe Fauci - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.
  - Jeff Goodman makes a motion for both Junior and Senior umps to be outfitted as noted above (total cost well under \$1000) – Joe Fauci 2<sup>nd</sup> motion and added/made a motion to donate ½ the cost. Brett Szczesny 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. SALL Board in favor – motion approved. The equipment manager (Jason Benner) will investigate pricing and bring to BOD – SALL and Joe Fauci agree to split the cost.

Joe Fauci – Division A Commissioner:

- Working on researching the possibility of doing group practice/clinics for the 5 and 6 year old players. Once arrangements are confirmed, notification will be sent as well as posted on the website.

Nick Montagnese – Recruiting Coordinator:

- Reaching out to Vin Murace (SALL family) regarding registration signage.

John Tromba – Division AA Co-Commissioner & Majors Player Agent:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Jason Benner – Equipment Manager:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Brett Szczesny – Treasurer:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Mike Fenske – Coaching Coordinator:

- First winter clinics have been very successful so far and thanks everyone for their support. Request for more volunteers whenever possible to maintain a good instructor/player ratio.

Karen Montagnese – Divisions AAA, AA, A & T-Ball Player Agent:

- Tryouts will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> – more information will follow.

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Mike Deenihan – Division AA Co-Commissioner & Assistant Treasurer:

- Working with Mike Fenske at the winter clinics - also commented on how everyone is enjoying the clinics.

Rosario Bria – Snack Bar Coordinator:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Pete Karukas – Division AAA Commissioner:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Jen Hanley – Information Officer:

- Winter clinic registration is going well – to date there are approximately 60 players registered.
- Will be posting the newly approved spring registration fees on the website soon.
- She would like to add an alumni section to the website and is reaching out to past players to be included (to date there are currently 9 alumni that have been contacted).

Judy Vivona – Secretary / Fundraising:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Irene Van Auken (league parent):

- Did not comment at opens session.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm – open discussion of tryouts/drafts followed.