

Stamford American Little League (SALL)  
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – 02/02/16 @ 7pm

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 02/02/16.

**In attendance:**

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Judy Vivona, Jen Hanley, Nick Montagnese, Karen Montagnese, Brett Szczesny, Mike Deenihan, Jenn Salvatore, Pete Karukas, Joe Fauci, Bob Katchko and Jeff Goodman

League Members: Sheldon Mui, Irene Van Auken and Jessica Fauci (SALL parents)

Regrets received: Rosaria Bria, Mike Fenske, Jason Benner, and John Tromba

1. Approval of Minutes

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Vice President – Nick Vivona called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. – Approval of minutes of 1/19/16 (Nick Vivona - motion / Jenn Salvatore - 2<sup>nd</sup>)

2. Safety Report

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Nick Vivona notified the Board that in all the winter clinics to date there has been zero safety issues or reports. Winter Clinics are following the safety agenda, participants and families are adhering.

3. Vice President Report

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- Nick Vivona stated there will be committee sign-up sheets that the Winter Clinics this week (Wednesday, 2/3 and Friday, 2/5). He asks that everyone think about their specific areas of responsibility and consider if a committee is needed. A few that are already in need are:
  - o Audit Committee
  - o Opening Day Committee
- Nick Vivona also made a recommendation to the Board to have someone volunteer and shadow Brian Martin regarding his responsibilities with the Challenger division. This is his last year with SALL and it will be a good time to work on the transition.
  - o Jenn Salvatore volunteered to reach out to Brian Martin and work with him.
  - o Jeff Goodman also referred Roz Burtin Robinson (SALL parent) – she had made a request to be involved in the Challenger division. Jenn Salvatore will also contact her as well.
- Nick Vivona noted the Board needs to vote on requesting a waiver to override the Manager/Coach Board ratio.
  - o Pete Karukas made a motion to request a waiver overriding the Manager/Coach ratio
    - Joe Fauci 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
      - All in favor – Board approved.
- Nick Vivona noted the Board needs to vote on having a Manager preselect (1) one rostered Coach (of his choice) for the Spring season. The Manager draft the third coach.

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- Jenn Salvatore made a motion that it be mandatory for a Manager to include a preselected, rostered Coach (of his choice) in the tryouts to assist with evaluations.
  - Pete Karukas 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - Karen Montagnese 3<sup>rd</sup> the motion
    - All in favor – Board approved.
- Nick Vivona stated going forward any expense of up \$350.00 will not require President/Vice President approval. Anything over \$350.00 will need approval from the President/Vice President. Notation to the Board, please remember to immediately submit all receipts for reimbursement to the Treasurer (Brett Szczesny).

BOARD ROLE UPDATES

Brett Szczesny – Treasurer:

- Winter Clinic registration payments have all been deposited.
- There is \$18,742.02 in the checking account and \$20,984.90 in the CD

Jason Benner – Equipment Manager:

- We will need to submit the sizes and jersey numbers of the Majors and AAA to Instant Replay by 3/14. This would mean since try outs are 3/6, Managers will need to gather all the info within 6 days.

Mike Fenske – Coaching Coordinator:

- All is going well. Big turn out and can still use more help with the stations.

Jenn Salvatore – Team Parent Coordinator:

- Met with California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) to book a SALL event for 2/22/16. There will be a pizza tossing contest for anyone who wishes to participate. A flyer will be distributed to the league with details about the event – all are encouraged to come. SALL will receive 20% of the proceeds of those who present the flyer when they come in. We can also plan to do additional events with CPK during the season. CPK will also consider donating food for Opening Day in exchange for a type of sponsorship.

Jen Hanley – Info Officer:

- Registration opened on January 24<sup>th</sup> and as of the meeting there have been 14 Majors, 10 AAA and 1 T-Ball player registered.

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Karen Montagnese – Player Agent:

- Requested to receive copies of the past registered birth certificates to have for tryouts.

Nick Montagnese – Recruiting:

- All spring registration lawn signs have been printed and are being distributed around town.
- The spring registration flyers are being sent via email to school PFO's for email distribution as a way to cut printing costs. Currently both Newfield and Scofield schools have been taken care of (Judy Vivona to distribute to Stark).

Joe Fauci – A Commissioner:

- Actively looking for a venue to schedule Saturday morning practices/clinics to begin a few weeks before the season starts. Once all is confirmed a notice will be emailed to the league and information will be added to the website.

Bob Katchko – Field Commissioner:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Jeff Goodman – Scheduling Coordinator, Umpire in Chief and Sponsorship:

- Sponsorship:
  - o Sponsor letters were sent out to past sponsors to inquire about their interest in continuing. The sponsor letter is available on the website for anyone on the Board to wishes to pursue any potential sponsor. Please confirm with Jeff Goodman prior to soliciting a potential sponsor to ensure they have not already been approached.
  - o Majors' sponsor's options were not included on the sponsor letter as these are existing long term recurring commitments. The Majors sponsors are:
    - Exchange
    - PAL
    - Rubino
    - Instant Replay
    - Futura (for the 2015 season)

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- Umpires:
  - o As of the meeting 28 kids have expressed an interest in being junior umpires.
  - o First Junior Umpire meeting will be 2/10/16 at the Italian Center @ 6pm – the meeting will be an educational session which will run approximately 1-1/2 hours. There will probably be a 2<sup>nd</sup> educational session at the end of the month and then a field training session with a date to be determined.
  - o Currently there are only 20 little league green books available – a request was made to order 20 more.
  
- Scheduling:
  - o Stamford Athletic Club and Stamford High School have scheduled times booked for indoor practices. Jeff Goodman will work with team managers after the draft to allocate times.

Mike Deenihan - Assistant Treasurer & AA Co –Commissioner:

- Reiterated the clinics are going well.
- Recognized there is only one mailbox key for the Treasurers and suggested having a 2<sup>nd</sup> key made for backup purposes.

Judy Vivona – Secretary / Fundraising:

- Contacted Modell's and confirmed SALL will be participating in Team Week for the 2016 season. Modell's offered the following information:
  - o Team Week would be extended to 7 weeks (normally four)
  - o Offered to sponsor a minor division team in exchange for \$500 in gift cards to be used in any way to benefit the league.
  - o Will supply league with 3 of their own 5x3 banners to be displayed at each of the fields.

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#### 4. President's Report

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Ric Anderson:

1. President's Report:

- a. Ric Anderson reminder all that little league rules are governed by the Green Book and all should be sure to educate themselves via the book.
- b. There will be a Big Al clinic on March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Ric Anderson is encouraging all Coaches and Managers to attend (more details to follow).
- c. Discussion about the Little League boundary map – Stamford North and Stamford National discussed taking over parts of Greenwich. SALL was not included in this discussion and concern expressed by Ric Anderson.

#### Open Discussion:

Nick Vivona opened the discussion on the draft process – Snake vs. Ladder method:

- Bob Katchko motions for the 'Snake' method / Joe Fauci 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
  - o Board voted – all in favor of 'Snake' method for the 2016 draft

Nick Vivona opened the discussion on the process for selecting players in Majors and AAA – Keeping same players year to year or full draft year to year:

- Jeff Goodman motions for full draft as was done last year / Brett Szczesny 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
  - o Board voted – all in favor of full draft for Majors and AAA divisions

Pete Karukas motions a slate of the 6 recommended AAA Managers. Ric Anderson makes a recommendation to the 6 Managers:

- o Mike Deenihan
- o Dan Noto
- o Ric Anderson
- o Mark Lechtner
- o John Gonzalez
- o Phil Oliveri

Brett Szczesny motions for all six (above) to be AAA Managers / Nick Vivona 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

- o Joe Fauci expresses concern and recommends the Vice President (Nick Vivona) and President (Ric Anderson) be excluded from managing any team as he feels it is a conflict of interest as well as concern regarding their time/energy to fulfill the commitment.
- o Nick Vivona notes that a conscious decision/agreement was made between both Ric Anderson and himself with regard to any issues in the league and who would address them. To NOT have a conflict of interest, they decided Nick Vivona would address any

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AAA division issues and Ric Anderson would address any Major division issues as both respectively don't have kids in the divisions they are in charge of.

Brett Szczesny motions a slate of the 6 recommended Managers for the Majors division:  
Ric Anderson makes a recommendation to the 6 Managers:

There were 8 interested parties for consideration of Major Managers:

- o Chris Beldotti
- o Ed Prieto
- o Nick Montagnese
- o Harry Mascolo
- o Nick Vivona
- o Jeff Bernfield
- o Bob Katchko
- o Charlie Gawlak

Brett Szczesny recommends 5 definite managers with a possibility of a sixth is needed. The 5 chosen Managers are:

- o Chris Beldotti
- o Ed Prieto
- o Nick Montagnese
- o Harry Mascolo
- o Jeff Bernfield

Brett Szczesny offers feedback on the factors taken into consideration regarding the decision and suggests if a 6<sup>th</sup> Manager is necessary, the recommendation is Nick Vivona.

Ric Anderson approves and suggests to the Board the Majors Managers slate as presented by Brett Szczesny

Judy Vivona makes a motion to accept the President's recommendations of Majors Managers

- Joe Fauci and Jeff Goodman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - o All in favor – Board approved slate of recommended managers for Majors division

Brett Szczesny made a motion to request for allowing an extra hitter (EH) in the Majors.

- Nick Vivona 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
  - o Board approved – all in favor of allowing an EH in the Majors.

All managers that were not picked can be considered for coaching pool. A process for selecting coaches has not been determined at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm