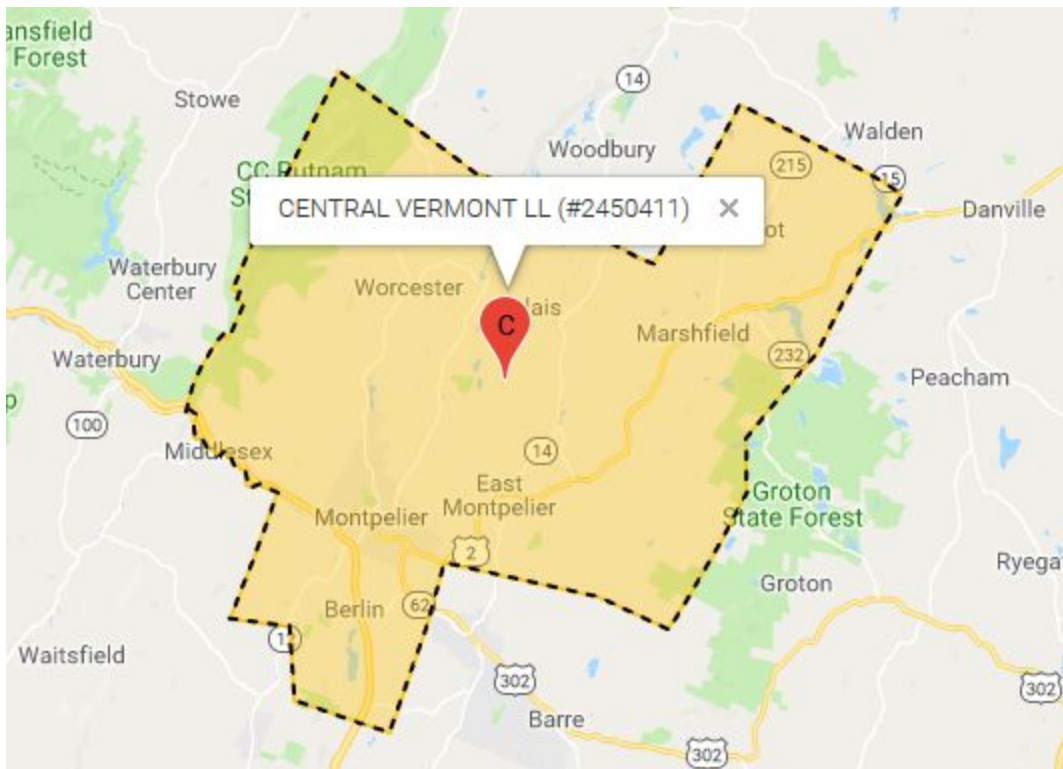




## Central Vermont Little League Annual Report 2018 - 10/22/18

In December 2015, a group of volunteers got together with the idea of keeping Little League a high quality and positive experience for youth in the Central Valley and Montpelier communities. The product of that effort was the Central Vermont Little League, a merger of two leagues from nine towns: Berlin, Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Plainfield, and Worcester. The merger had several goals:

- A larger pool of players, ages 5-12, to balance year-to-year variations in traditionally town-based baseball and softball rosters. **2016:** 378 players | **2017:** 373 players | **2018:** 375 players
- A larger pool of teams to make scheduling regular-season games easier. **2016:** 31 teams | **2017:** 34 teams | **2018:** 32 teams
- More fields available, and improved field utilization. **2016:** 9 fields | **2017:** 9 fields | **2018:** 9 fields
- A deeper pool of volunteers. **2016:** 75+ volunteers | **2017:** 85+ volunteers | **2018:** 125+
- Support for the post-season ("All-Star") Little League tournament. **2016:** two teams, 9/10 and 11/12 | **2017:** two teams, 8/9/10 and 10/11/12 | **2018:** two teams, 8/9/10 and 10/11/12, plus two participants in 11/12 softball



Map courtesy of the Little League Data Center

## 2018 goals | progress:

- Improve coordination between town representatives, uniform, and sponsorship committees. | Registration process included shirt size;
- Continue to leverage capabilities of League website for communication and coordination, including player and volunteer registration, and social media. | Website is linked to Little League data center, so no additional player or volunteer information upload was needed. No activity on social media.
- Create league logo. | Done by Beavins
- Continue to identify, train, and retain umpire volunteers. | # of umpires and returning umpires?
- Help older players transition to 90' diamond through coordination with Babe Ruth Summer and Fall Ball programs. | One (large) Summer team and two Fall teams
- Strengthen communication with other area baseball and softball programs. | This continues to be an opportunity.
- Other? | Strengthened ties with Mountaineers program: 50/50 raffle, Blake Nation "All Star" clinic, CVTLL / Mountaineers banner, and camp scholarships.

## 2019 Goals for Future Discussion

- Develop a plan for indoor "Spring Training" for player-pitch participants between the end of February School Break (3/11/19) and the start of April School Break (4/12/19);
- Require head coaches at the Coach-Pitch and higher divisions to complete ASEP/PCA training, as required for Babe Ruth.
- Order replacement equipment during the winter;
- Incorporate Little League and CVTLL logos on uniforms;
- Develop social media policy, toward the goal of incorporating social media into the League in the future;
- Continue to strengthen the relationship with the Vermont Mountaineers;
- Develop three-year succession plan;
- Field a tournament softball team from the League player pool;
- Improve facilities in coordination with towns;
- Improved utilization of League website tools, such as "GameChanger/Team Manager"
- Equipment / gear swap open to volunteers;
- Other?

## Committee Reports

### **Executive / Bylaws (Campbell)**

Thanks to our outgoing Board and Committee members for their years of service, as well as advocating for people to step up as replacements. We have a great program going but we realize it takes a huge commitment from many parent volunteers to keep it going strong.

### **Fields and Facilities / Safety (Curtin)**

Safety Plan was updated for 2018 with the help of a volunteer legal professional, and distributed to every team. The league received a \$115.20 credit for submitting the safety plan to Little League before the April deadline. Concussion awareness training was provided online through the National Federation of State High School Associations. The press box and scoreboard at the Montpelier Little League field was repaired by the City of Montpelier. Facility improvements for 2019 are being planned.

### **Team Sponsorships / Fundraising (LaRosa)**

CVTLL had a successful fundraising effort in 2018, not only in the amount of money raised but also in the organization and formalization of the process. Funding efforts included: team sponsorships, field banner sponsorships, league donations, Lake Monster ticket sales, opening day and tournament cookouts and a bottle drive.

In the 2019 season we look forward to continued support from our long-time sponsors as well as reaching out to new sponsors. One of the main goals of the upcoming season is to streamline the solicitation process as well as to continue to improve internal organization and communications.

### **Manager / Coach Selection; Development (Wichrowski)**

For the past three years the U-32 head baseball coach, Dan Trottier, conducted a player development training session for league coaches. This is an opportunity for coaches to learn about training drills as well as pointers on how to develop individual skills on throwing, fielding, and hitting. A coaches meeting was also held in the spring to distribute equipment, safety manuals, and answer questions about the upcoming season. Finally, for the first time all coaches were asked to complete an online concussion and first aid training to ensure all coaches have some basic education on how to recognize concussions and deal with minor injuries throughout the season.

### **Equipment (LaRosa)**

The highest priority CVTLL has is to keep our players safe. One of the keys to this is to be sure they have the proper equipment. To this end, each year we inventory each team's equipment bag and replace old and worn out items. We have established an inventory checklist which ensures that at the beginning of the year each coach is supplied with all the equipment that is needed for a successful season. We also, when financial need requires, can provide players with cleats and gloves. One of the items we are quite proud of this year is that we purchased all our equipment from a local merchant a trend we hope to continue. In 2018, CVTLL outfitted all majors and minors teams with two "USA Baseball" approved bats.

### **Uniforms (Duggan)**

Uniforms were provided for all League teams this year. "Shirt Size" was requested during online player registration, and uniform details (sponsor, color, etc.) were coordinated via shared Google sheet. The following uniforms were provided:

- Tee Ball: unique shirt color incorporating League logo; generic League hat

- Coach Pitch (Farm): unique shirt color within Division; unique MLB hat by League
- Player Pitch Baseball (Minors/Majors): unique shirt color within Minors and Majors; unique MLB hat by Division
- Player Pitch Softball (Minors/Majors): unique shirt color and generic League visor

MLB team hat availability and late registration was a challenge, but Beavins and Sons was a great local partner. Two All-Star teams were provided with hats and jerseys. More coordination with Sponsors and suppliers will be a priority for next year.

### **Schedule (Tatro)**

CVTLL had a very successful 2018 season. We were able to schedule our five CVTLL Majors teams 14 games playing out of league towns, Barre, Hardwick, Mad River and Waterbury. Our eight CVTLL Minors teams were scheduled to play 13 games with out of league games vs. Mad River and Waterbury. Both our Minors and Majors teams concluded the schedule with a fun and successful league tournament. Our season started May 5th and concluded with the tournament finals on June 23rd.

Our younger groups played a busy six-week schedule, Saturday mornings from May 5th to June 16th. A large number of teams were fielded in both Farm and Tee Ball.

### **Communication / Information (Tringe)**

Spring and Fall baseball and softball programs were administered through the Dick's Sports Team HQ / Blue Sombrero website: [www.CVTLL.org](http://www.CVTLL.org). This included player and volunteer sign-up, payment, team assignment, schedule, and communication. Participant information was integrated with the Little League Data Center.

Volunteer background checks were completed using online registration and JD Palatine, per League recommendation.

Additional volunteer training in website tools such as GameChanger/Team Manager is planned for next year.

### **Finance / Budget (Adams)**

Central Vermont Little League began the 2018 season with an opening balance of \$3,392.66. From January through October of this year the league had a Total Revenue of \$29,545.94 and incurred a total of \$26,499.41 in expenses. The Net Profit for the 2018 season was \$3,046.43. The Net Profit combined with our opening season balance gives us our end of season balance of \$6,439.19, which is sufficient to charter for the 2019 season before the end of the year.

### **Softball (Sweet)**

In 2018 there was one "Majors" team (ages 11-12) and two "Minors" teams (ages 9-10). Both Minors teams were undefeated going into their final regular season game. A goal for 2019 is to field a tournament softball team from the League player pool.