

**TRUMBULL LITTLE LEAGUE
GENERAL MEMBER MEETING
August 27th, 2019
Unity 3 / 4**

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm.

The following TLL board members were in attendance...

Daryl Schuelke, Bill Natlo, Steve Finger, Greg McDonald, Trish McDonald, Eric Story, Kevin Chamberlain

The following General Members were in attendance...

Al Terry

The following Regular Member Candidates were in attendance...

Matthew Wood, Kyle Commodore, Steve Burke, Dawn Wood, Candice Lombardo, Tara Natlo

REMARKS/DISCUSSION

League President Greg McDonald reviewed last month's July general member meeting. Minutes are posted on the website. Greg introduced himself and others did the same.

Greg reviewed the league's four seasons – Fall Ball is the final of what we call the 4 seasons. Off season is busy with annual meeting and spring preparation, evaluations, teams, drafts and season planning. Summer season is all-star and tournament teams.

Fall Ball

- 4 days remaining in Fall Ball registration. Pushing for final numbers to solidify registration, coordinate out of town matchups, and finalize clinic details.
- Greg reviewed clinics with Sacred Heart (softball) and Brett Connors (baseball).
- Registration totals are at 240 currently compared to 300 last year.
- Greg reviewed nearby program Fall offerings. FNLL offers only clinics. FALL has a similar offering to us. Monroe and Stratford and North End offer a clinic + standard season offerings.
- Bill issued a FAQ for Fall Ball today. Greg reviewed questions around age requirements, schedules (weekdays vs weekends – Fall activity all takes place on weekends). Coaches are encouraged to host practice once/week.

Board Positions

After Fall Ball, nominating committee fills board positions with returning and new interested board members. This process involves meeting interested candidates and making

recommendations to the Executive Board. The Executive Board is voted upon at the Annual Meeting by the general membership

Annual Meeting

October 26th – annual board meeting. 30 days in advance to be published. Meeting will review the State of the League and league finances are made public to any attendees. Executive Board voting also takes place.

Financial Overview

- Greg gave a brief overview of the capital improvement process and how the league looks at capital improvements for fields, safety, spring clinic upgrades, etc.
 - Considerations have included Unity 1 field, stones, netting, AED for Unity 2, batting cages, bullpen/pitching areas, pavilion area (lighting area, batting cages).
- In the Fall, we gain a nice profit to carry over to next season, spring, equipment, etc.
- We typically carry over \$20k for early next year expenses.
- Current bank account sits at \$56,000 – expenses still to be paid include Fall clinics, equipment, field usage, etc.

Consolidation

Greg reviewed the topic of consolidation, which was asked about in the July meeting and provided further clarification and information.

- Interestingly, our Constitution, By-Laws and tax return are all TLL not National, not American
- We pay twice the charter fees, etc. Financially, it doesn't make sense.
- Greg reviewed enrollment numbers from 2012 to 2019. We have seen a steady decline year over year since 2012 with baseball enrollment down 29% (735 players in 2012 to 524 players in 2019).
- Greg reviewed the size of District 2 towns and comparison between Fairfield, Trumbull, Monroe, Westport. When splitting into two charters, we make ourselves the smallest charters in the District.
- Bill reviewed 2019 District All Star performance compared to peers which included a 7-23 pool play record by Trumbull teams, the worst in all of District 2.
- Steve referenced other leagues in CT that have merged due to lack of enrollment
- District 2 administrator for the first time recommended consolidation for Trumbull.
- Greg reviewed decline in teams in District 2 across other towns including Bridgeport, Stratford, Easton, etc. District 2 has gone from 16 teams down to the current 6.
- Greg and Trish are looking into actual school enrollment from board of Ed and Vicky conversation.

Consolidation Next Steps:

Topic will be brought up to the board and a general membership meeting will be scheduled for a vote to take place.

Q&A:

Matthew Wood asked to have the \$40 fields charge clarified. Greg confirmed that we pay the town \$40 per unique player which covers the cost of Spring and Fall Ball for players. We are higher than other programs (AYSO, TYL, Pop Warner, etc) due to unique field grooming needs for baseball and softball.

Matthew Wood asked about revenue generation from hosting the District 2 tournament. Greg explained that we do not generate any profit, nor it is not a break-even - but it's convenient to host and makes it easier for families. Greg explained the per game charges from the town for the summer and how that differed from the core season. Greg and Steve were able to negotiate a better rate for D2 and Tournament teams.

Matthew Wood asked for clarification on two charters being paid. Greg reviewed process to why we pay what we do. Registering teams, players, insurance, chartering fee, etc. We need to do this each season for each charter. We also pay twice into LLI's international tournament fee.

Matthew Wood asked about Babe Ruth field being turned over TLL for 50/70. Rumors have been around about that and about Babe Ruth folding. Nothing is confirmed.

Matthew Wood asked about the permanent Unity 2 bronze plaque and timing of when it would be installed. Kevin Chamberlain explained that he was stalling due to late sponsors covering things like carpeting, etc.. Kevin confirmed it was being taken care of ASAP.

Steve Burke asked whether a vote to consolidate would need to be approved by Williamsport and LL International. Greg explained the process, which includes - Bristol needs to approve, then Williamsport. We need to present a justification. There was then a follow-up question about what deadline might be. Greg explained that if moving forward with consolidation, we would want to be approved well before opening registration for the Spring Season. That would mean a vote in October and submission to Bristol/Williamsport by November. Will likely take 2-3 weeks for feedback/approval from Williamsport.

Dawn Wood asked about when we moved to two charters. Greg responded that TLL was established in '53 and we've been two since at least 1980's. Bill looked into the data center and according to their records, it shows Trumbull American chartered in 1953 and Trumbull National chartered in 1961.

Al Terry asked about AED's and whether we train folks. Greg indicated we haven't provided training and reviewed pad replacement process and his experience with the system. Greg indicated that it walks you step by step. Training to be considered moving forward.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm.