

McLean Little League Community,

What an incredible 3 months it has been. When we made the decision to play our modified season this year we were optimistic, but nervous at the same time. What would socially distant softball and baseball look like? What would the MLL experience be without our snack bar? Would we have enough available players to have a legitimate season? What would happen if someone got sick? I'm thrilled to report that because of the willingness of our community to follow our COVID guidelines, and the incredible dedication of our managers and coaches, we were able to give our players a fantastic "summer season" and more importantly provide everyone involved with an opportunity to do something organized and fun, even in the midst of our COVID situation. Not only that, but in the process we defined a benchmark for how to operate safely, a process that we will continue to follow as we move into the Fall season, and a process that many other leagues are attempting to follow.

The purpose of this message is to commemorate our season with a "virtual" Closing Day message, addressing many of the items that are usually handled during our Closing Day ceremonies, as well as a few things that I didn't get a chance to do during our canceled Opening Day Parade and Ceremony. Our yearbook team of Dana Yoo, Geoff Inget, James and Andy Mraz have put together an amazing slideshow recap of our season which can be found here: <https://youtu.be/bwhMCuMkHlq>. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I did.

Before I recap the season I need to thank and acknowledge the folks who worked so hard to make it happen. First, I'd like to thank our Board of Directors including the non-voting coordinators. Suffice it to say that the decision to move forward with a season was an incredibly difficult decision to make, especially during April, May and early June, when it seemed that every activity out there was being shut down. This Board however, never wavered in their conviction that we could play a meaningful season in a safe manner. While it took an incredible amount of coordination, the Board rose to the challenge and worked together to create the COVID safety plan, acquire our COVID materials, and follow through on the execution. It was a wonderful display of teamwork and personal sacrifice and I'm proud to be associated with such a great group of people. That group includes our new facility manager, Patrick Rose. Patrick came to us this season after our long time facility manager Denis Griffin retired. Patrick inherited a crazy situation but was a rock for us all Spring & Summer long. Patrick worked every single day during the season to keep our fields in great shape and made sure that our supplies of sanitizer were properly administered. Hopefully the seasons to come are a little bit easier! Next I'd like to thank our sponsors who stuck with us through this crazy season, especially those who weren't able to actually sponsor a team this year as we weren't able to play the lower levels. Also, special thanks to Kevin Deely of SuperSource. Kevin's company manufactures and distributes cleaning supplies and disinfectants. When we announced that we would be attempting to play this season Kevin contacted us immediately and asked how he could help. His company ended up donating to MLL all of the hand sanitizer that you saw out on every field, as well as masks and spray disinfectant. This was at a time when these materials were incredibly hard to come by. Huge thanks to Kevin and SuperSource. It goes without saying, but

obviously this season would not have been possible without our incredibly dedicated managers and coaches. These folks selflessly give their time and energy to help our kids learn the game and to teach them teamwork, positivity and sportsmanship. This year we also had the added burden of new rules put in place to keep us all as safe as possible. In that regard each team had a COVID coach, whose job was to make sure that their team was following the rules and that every precaution possible was being taken to sanitize our equipment, ensure the kids were distancing in the dugouts and bullpens, masks were being worn, etc. A special thank you to JaLyn Tiffany who personally made sure that each COVID coach received a bucket of supplies and an identification lanyard to effectively do their job. Lastly, I'd like to thank all of the parents and supporters who consistently followed our rules and enabled the kids to play, even when it was difficult and not a lot of fun. I truly enjoyed the innovation of our parents in how they came to watch the games in a safe and meaningful way. It made me so happy on summer nights to see the cars pulled up to the fence with folks tailgating in the back!

Now to the season itself. Amazingly each Majors Baseball team was able to play at least 14 regular season games. Congrats to our pennant winners, Chain Bridge Bank in the American League and McLean Animal Hospital in the National League. The City Series was an apt ending to the season as our longest tenured coach, Paul Shiffman, took his Fitzgerald Properties team to their 2nd consecutive championship over McLean Animal Hospital. On the Majors Softball side coach Jamie Loving's Smilies also won their 2nd straight Championship after also winning the Regular Season. AAA Baseball ended with Co-Champions, with Policy-Viz and Fass Results splitting the honors. Policy-Viz won the regular season crown. In AA Baseball it was New World Title winning a thrilling Championship game after sharing the regular season Pennant with Rock Hard Excavating. Paul Bartkowski's team The Deevy Group dominated the regular season and City Series at the AAA softball level while Webb Dryfoss' Annandale Ob/Gyn won the AA City Series. Congratulations to all. The full standings can be found on our website, www.mcleanll.com.

When we started the season in early June we didn't know how many games we would be able to play or whether we would have to shut down. As a result we weren't sure if we were going to have our typical award categories. Happily enough we got the entire season in, and it was clear that we needed to recognize those kids whose efforts were superlative in our usual fashion. Those award winners for baseball and softball are below. Full descriptions of our awards, which are given in honor of MLL Alumni, can be found in our past and future yearbooks.

Baseball:

American League

David Sells MVP: **Jacob Romhilt**

Fred Kerlin Pitcher: **Logan Baldrate**

Chris Fay Catcher: **Jack Smith**

Bob Hampton Most Improved: **Cardin Clarke**

Newcomer of the Year: **Lucas Jones and Devrim Prell**

National League

David Sells MVP: **William LePre and Liam Johnson**

Fred Kerlin Pitcher: **Jack Gaskins**

Chris Fay Catcher: **Colin Millar**

Bob Hampton Most Improved: **Bensten Shone**

Newcomer of the Year: **Alex Inget**

Softball:

Mary Kathleen Kelly MVP: **Nora May**

Sabrina Moore Pitcher of the Year: **Elise Walker**

Chris Fay Catcher of the Year: **Lucy Griepentrog and Maddie Iams**

Hopkins Family Most Improved: **Lilah Hoffman, Madeleine Spaner and Sienna Williams**

Newcomer of the Year: **Riley Staats**

One of the highlights of any MLL season is the District IV All Star tournament. Historically, MLL has been very successful in this tournament in both baseball and softball. In 2019, at the Majors Level, McLean American won the District IV tournament to advance to the State Tournament and our Softball team won the State tournament to advance to Regionals where they were very narrowly defeated. In addition, our Softball 11s all-stars also won the State tournament in 2019 and finished in second place at the Southeast Region Tournament of State Champions. As we were one of only 2 leagues in District IV to hold a season this year, there was no District IV All Star tournament and very likely no All Stars at all. Led by the Softball and Baseball VPs, we were able to put together All Star teams at every tournament age level and pitted our teams against each other. This turned out to be a ton of fun, and truly encompassed the All Star experience for those involved. Baseball completed their slate of games this past weekend. At the Majors Level the American League edged the National League 2 games to 1 after squeaking out a 14-12 game 3 victory in 7 innings, in one of the most exciting games of recent memory featuring 7 home runs. At the 11 year old level the National League swept their 3 game series against the American League and at the 10U level the National League beat the American League in a really fun single game. Thank you to all of the coaches, parents and players involved in those games. The Softball All Star games will be played August 24-29.

The last piece of business is to do something that I didn't have a chance to do during the Spring. For those of you who don't know McLean Little League has a Hall of Fame to honor the people who have contributed the most to the success of our league. This is an honor reserved for a very small number of people – a full list can be found in the yearbook – and is a very prestigious commendation. It is my privilege as MLL President to induct 3 people into the Hall of Fame as the Class of 2020. Those recipients are Chris Shue and Jen and Scott Nance.

Chris Shue has been a part of McLean Little League since 2005. During his time he has managed at all levels of Baseball including multiple All Star Teams. Chris served on the MLL Board from 2010-2015 including 2 years as the League President. He is the Co-Founder of our Challenger Program and was named the District IV Volunteer of the Year in 2014. Chris continues to stay active in the league as an umpire which he has done since 2014. Thank you Chris for your great dedication and congratulations.

Jen and Scott Nance came to MLL in 2010 and did everything that you could possibly do for our league during their 9 year run. Scott managed or coached over 25 different teams across the years with multiple seasons simultaneously managing one of his sons' teams and coaching the other. He spent multiple seasons as an All Star coach and was a coach of the AL 10s in 2016 who won the District IV Tournament. Additionally Scott consistently volunteered behind the scenes doing everything that needed to be done whenever called upon. During his time as a coach Scott helped hundreds of boys learn to be better baseball players and better kids. Jen started out as team mom when her kids were younger and took on the role of bat-a-thon coordinator and other volunteer positions before officially joining the Board in 2014. Jen was immediately a stabilizing influence on the Board and played a huge role in our program's success during the last 6 years. She spent the last 2 years as our League President. During Jen's 2 years as President our Softball Program won multiple State titles and our Majors All Star teams won the District IV Tournament both years. Jen was named the Volunteer of the Year in 2017. Jen's inclusive nature and consideration for all of our stakeholders allowed her to have the success that she did. She made it look easy and I can honestly say after taking over for her this season that it certainly is not. Thank you so much Jen and Scott for making MLL a better place and congratulations to you both.

I look forward to seeing you all this Fall and even more so to the time when we can be fully together again as a community to celebrate everything that is so special about McLean Little League. Stay safe and healthy.

All the best,

Matt Tallent
President, Mclean Little League
