



Santa Monica **LITTLE LEAGUE**



Board of Directors Candidates

June 6, 2017 Election

1. Michael Balsley

Hello. I have been involved with SMLL since 2008 as a coach, manager, parent, fan, and for the past two years a Board of Directors member as Communications Director. The past two years I have been the constructor of the new SMLL.com web platform, and I would love the opportunity to continue developing it! I think the website can be an instrumental part of what makes parents and volunteers enjoy our league – outside of our amazing coaches, umps and volunteers, the website is one of our most vital assets. And it doesn't cost us a dime, just a little time!

My hope is that all league wide communication can be streamlined and made more efficient, so parents can expect schedules, updates, and rosters in their hands in plenty of time to make life happen for busy schedules, and our volunteers can spend less time on logistics and more time playing and teaching the game to our kids. I love baseball, and hope to give back to the league that has served my three sons so well for almost a decade.

2. Tom Bevan

I have been involved with SMLL for five years along with my son who is currently finishing up his second year as a Major. For the first two years, I was merely an enthusiastic supporter in the stands; but for the past three I have been actively involved as an assistant coach. I did the same this year for my daughter's SM Girls' Fastpitch softball team. The experience of being active has been far superior – for me and for my son. And now I would like to give more to the League through serving on the Board for a second year.

I have had the pleasure of working with multiple warm, thoughtful, and balanced coaches who also succeeded in taking their teams to the Championship game. I see the baseball field at the Little League level as an extension of the classroom, and I know firsthand that playing competitively doesn't have to come at the expense of helping our children develop character. Through continued service on the Board I hope to promote this same positive experience for others.

From the time I was in High School 30+ years ago, I have enjoyed the rewards of volunteer work, including most significantly serving on the Board for five years of a local ABC (A Better Chance) organization outside Philadelphia helping academically talented minority high school students achieve more from their educational opportunities. I would welcome the opportunity to help ensure our children get the most from their Santa Monica Little League experience.

3. Beth Devakul Clark

I have volunteered as a Manager or an Assistant Coach for all of my son's teams for the last 3 1/2 years. It is so rewarding to witness the athletic and social growth of each player and to be a part of such a vibrant, welcoming community. The life lessons of teamwork and sportsmanship, as well as making a network of new friends, are at the core of Santa Monica Little League. We are so grateful to be a part of such a vital organization for youth on the west side.

In addition to coaching, I have worked as a Teacher for over 12 years. I have taught grades TK through 8th grade. I recently acquired my M.Ed. in with a specialization in Educational Technology.

I understand the importance of supporting our youth as well as the inclusion of families. This league is run on a strong volunteer network.

With a position on the board, I would use the skills I have acquired, through these experiences, to help support and further develop Santa Monica Little League. I look forward to working with the board and community to help Santa Monica Little League continue to grow.

Thank you for reading.

4. Grant DeVaul

I have been a volunteer for Santa Monica Little League for the past 6 years. I have been the assistant coach for 8 teams over the last 5 years and served on the Board for the past year. I believe that youth sport is an imperative in the healthy development of a child's body and mind. I am dedicated to helping create an environment for children to develop a passion for baseball through the safe and fun competition. Baseball offers a child the opportunity to develop speed, co-ordination, and rapid decision-making skills. Witnessing the satisfaction that development in one or all of these areas gives young people has motivated me to continually improve my leadership skills. I believe that we must combine fundamental instruction with positive role modeling in order to provide a good example for playing baseball and fully integrating into our community. SMLL has long been an outstanding asset to the city, offering fellowship, instruction, and the love of one of the worlds most wonderful games. I would like to contribute to the continuation of this tradition.

5. Matt Edelman

I have been involved in SMLL for the past 8 years. I am in my 3rd year as SMLL Board Secretary and have been the Manager of 14 teams, one of which has been a Division Champion and two of which have qualified for the District 25 Tournament of Champions. I am passionate about our league and committed to doing whatever I can to ensure that any child in our community who is interested in baseball can have a positive experience playing a wonderful game while developing important life skills and creating new relationships they will never forget. I have one son in the league who has just finished his first year in Majors. I have seen SMLL help him grow, expand his horizons, become a better person and improve as a player in ways I never could have predicted. My goal in remaining on the Board is to build upon our strong foundation so that hundreds of families can say the same thing about their own children year after year, well into the future.

6. Kirk Goldstein

I have volunteered for numerous Santa Monica Little League positions during the last ten years including a coach and/or assistant at every level from T-ball through Majors. I have coached or managed 26 SMLL teams including Fall, Spring, Summer and All-Star sessions. I managed two teams simultaneously for five consecutive years (2011-2015). I managed back-to-back Majors Championship teams in 2014-2015. I have coached four all-star teams. All-Star coaching experiences include being manager of 10/11 and 11/12 teams.

In addition to coaching, I have previous experience on the SMLL Board, including having served in the past year as Vice President. I was SMLL Fall Ball Commissioner for three consecutive years. I managed my son Zachary's AAA team and served as the Spring T-ball & 5-Pitch Commissioner during the 2016 Spring Session.

I treasure the time I have spent watching my two sons (Aaron/13 & Zachary/12) grow-up on the baseball fields in Santa Monica. The experiences including new friends and life lessons learned have been invaluable. I hope to share my Little League experience and knowledge by continuing to serve on the board to help improve SMLL.

7. Mark Kapczynski

I have been involved in SMLL for the past 4 years. This past year was my second year on the SMLL Board as head of Sponsorships. I had a blast in meetings and working with so many great businesses and members of our community. I have also been the Manager of 9 teams. I have a son in the league just finishing his first year in AAA. It has been so much fun to support him in his development as a baseball player and as a teammate to many of his friends. I love seeing how the kids work together to support each other on the field and in the dugout learning and practicing new skills.

I am proud of the work that we did this past season in developing our community outreach, drawing awareness and support of how much fun baseball is in Santa Monica. Many times throughout the season, my friends and I reflected on how there was a growing spirit of "sandlot" baseball around the fields.

I hope to continue to use my network of connections and resources to grow and expand the league – enabling more and more kids to enjoy the game of baseball. I believe strongly that SMLL can play a prominent role in our Santa Monica community through events, practices, games, and outreach that benefits everyone.

8. John Matise

I have been active with SMLL for the past eight years as a manager, volunteer, assistant coach and the past two years I served on the SMLL Board as Treasurer. I am proud of what I accomplished this year as Treasurer by professionalizing the budgeting and financial management of the league. I have one boy in SMLL that played AA this year and want to help the organization continue to thrive in the years to come, including providing scholarships to ensure that all who want to play little league baseball can play baseball.

During the day I am one of the owners of and the CEO of a natural products company that sells under the brands Éclair Naturals and Hugo Naturals. In this position I am responsible for the strategic direction and financial management of the company.

In my free time I am active in the community, and am currently the Cub Master for the Santa Monica Pack 12 Cub Scouts.

9. Peter McCormick

My name is Peter McCormick. I have been involved with SMLL for 10 years. My oldest son (James McCormick) is a member of the SMLL Seniors team with his younger brother (Brendan) recently finished his season in Majors. I have really enjoyed working with the kids and the families throughout my years with the league. My first experience was with my oldest son in T-ball where I served as an assistant. Throughout his time in SMLL I assisted former Board members Des Bunting and Jay Smith when they were managers. With my youngest son Brendan, I was asked to be a manager when he was in the Rookies league. Initially I was apprehensive being as I never played baseball in my youth, although I figured this would be a good (and possibly the last) opportunity to give managing a try. In managing I have come to appreciate baseball more than ever. Baseball is a true team sport. This applies not only to the

players, but also the coaches/volunteers and the parents of the players. For whatever role I play in SMLL, my objective is to foster the 'team' environment. Within the constraints of my work, home life and family commitments, I willingly will do whatever is asked of me to benefit the league. Thanks for your consideration.

10. Eric Mirich

A father of three boys (Mathew: 9, Nicholas: 6 and Ryan: 18 months), I've been a volunteer in the SMLL for the past 5 seasons. I've managed both coach pitch and machine pitch and assisted in all divisions up to and including AAA. Currently, I'm an assistant coach for the U10 West All-Star Team.

My love for the game stems back to my youth growing up in Northwest Indiana. I have many fond memories of spending entire summers at the ball field watching game after game while gorging on pizza and candy from the concession stand. My career took me from Little League, to Babe Ruth, to Legion and High School Baseball and, along the way, I encountered numerous coaches and players that taught me so many valuable lessons. I learned to appreciate the game of baseball, to respect my teammates and opponents alike and to play the game with humility and pride. Baseball, without a doubt, is the one sport that has had the greatest impact on my adult life.

With the opportunity to join the SMLL board, I want to share my knowledge and passion for the game with the current generation of baseball players. I want to be part of a community that teaches good sportsmanship and rewards fair play. I want Memorial Park to be a home away from home. And I want my boys to share the same fond memories that I cherish so much from my youth.

11. Ric Munoz

Thank you for considering me for the board position with SMLL. I hope to be part of a collaborative team of board members that can continue the vision of *creating a welcoming and inclusive experience for all players, parents, and league volunteers.*

My son Bobby recently completed the 5th-grade student at Grant Elementary and recently completed his 12th season in SMLL this past Spring in the Majors division.

7 years of League experiences as a Manager from Machine Pitch to Majors division, as well as Machine Pitch Commissioner and Majors Commissioner, have provided the knowledge to promote and execute the league's ongoing vision for on and off field organization and communication

My Board experience as Vice President of League Operations and League Registrar has provided the opportunity to personally contact most of the 500+ players and their families. Through this, I have been made well aware of the challenges the league has, as well as the success stories we can build upon including being part of a team that was able to reduce our league to a single charter with Little League International.

I am also active in the community serving as a Manager and Coach in Santa Monica Girls Fastpitch with my 11-year-old daughter Daniela, a 7th grader at JAMS; receiving an Honorary Service Award from the Grant PTA for my 7 years of dedicated commitment to supporting our amazing school, one of many in SMMUSD; and dedicating countless hours to the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research fighting to find a cure for this deadly disease.

After taking a year off from the Board, I am excited and energized to rejoin and be part of the ongoing success our league has experienced the past several years.

12. Jose Nuno

I have been involved with Santa Monica Little League as a player since 2008, and as an umpire since the spring of 2012. I have also served SMLL as a coach for 2 seasons. I have also ran several pitching clinics throughout the years. Since becoming an umpire, it has evolved into not just a job, but a passion and new classroom of opportunity. In 2015 I joined the District 25 umpire staff and started working games in mutiple leagues. In 2016 I umpired all-star tournaments at the district, section, sub-division, and state level. Beginning in 2017 I also joined the National Federation of High School Umpires for the City Section of Los Angeles. I have spent years studying the rules, interpretations of rules, in game handling techniques, and propper officiating mechanics. A position on the board represents an opportunity for me to raise the level of officiating for all the participants in SMLL. Stronger levels of officiating would lead to smoother games as well as a better trust and communication between all parties on the field and off the field.

13. Bernard Rahill

I have always loved the game of baseball from a very young age, whether it was playing with my friends in our neighborhood in NY, on my school team or going to Mets games with my father. Baseball has always been a positive, fun part off my life. I believe it should be for all children. This is my second year as a parent in the SMLL. My son is 11 years old and played in the Majors division. For the previous two years I have been an assistant coach in the PPBA league in Pacific Palisades and before that I spent 2 years as assistant coach in the Pacific Palisades Recreation center league. I served on the SMLL Board this past year.

Although I was not officially an assistant coach this year I helped out as much as I could. At practices helping the coaches run drills, at games running the scoreboard and, my children's favorite part, running the Snack Shack! After two years with the SMLL community I have felt myself drawn to wanting to volunteer in any and every way that I can. I would like to remain heavily involved with what I believe is a wonderful organization that provides a positive, supportive experience for all children involved. I am excited that we found SMLL as the past two years have been fantastic for my family. I look forward to having a second child in the league next year as well and being a helpful involved part of the organization in any way possible.

14. David Schmillen

The Little League Pledge says, "I will play fair and strive to win but win or lose I will always do my best." Those simple words and the ideals they represent are what I remember most from my own Little League experience. In retrospect, this simple pledge and my overall League experience instilled in me a positive foundation for my life, as well as provided for me a set of goals that I hope to help instill in each player – both as a coach and a SMLL Board Member.

I'm a self-employed architect and father of two boys, ages 7 and 10. Throughout my youth I played LL baseball at all levels. I continued to play baseball through college before a shoulder injury ended my potential pitching career.

I have been coaching my older son's SMLL team for the last two years and coaching my youngest son's team this past year. This is all in addition to serving as a SMLL Board Member the past two years. Despite the significant workload of coaching two teams simultaneously and carrying out my board duties, I have found the experience quite rewarding. I look forward to continuing

to contribute to SMLL this coming year.

To me, Little League is a valuable asset to our community not only because it gives our children an enjoyable experience but it also provides them with an opportunity to learn how to cooperate with their teammates and their families. Little League, in essence, is its own community experience – all the more important for our children when living in big cities as we all do. As a SMLL board member I will continue to do my best to make sure that the League remains a valuable asset to our community and is continually striving to provide our players, their families, coaches and all the volunteers with a positive, enjoyable and memorable experience.

15. Jasan Sherman

I have been involved in SMLL for six seasons, since my son was in T-Ball. I have coached and managed several teams, including last year's Spring, Fall Ball and Summer programs and last year's 10U All-Star team. My son is now eight and just finished his second season in AAA. I am in my third year on the Board, now serving as President after having served as the Uniforms & Equipment Director. It has been a pleasure to be part of the SMLL community. I have a passion for teaching the kids to develop their skills as well as a true love for the game. I believe that Little League offers so many valuable life lessons beyond just the game. Little League is a great place for kids to learn how to have fun, work hard, be part of a team and develop confidence. It's an honor to work with the other parents on the Board. I look forward to continuing to serve and working together to build and even stronger community for everyone.

16. Matt Steinhaus

My first role in SMLL was in 1992, when I served as an umpire. I returned five years later to begin my long coaching and Board Member tenure, serving as both a Manager and Board Member every year through 2011. I served as SMLL President in 2011-12 and have been Player Agent for two terms since 2012. I was a Manager or Assistant Coach for multiple All-Star teams from 1997-2011, including managing the 2006 East 11-12 squad to a District 25 championship and Section 3 runner-up. I also managed or assistant coached a Majors team from 1998-2011.

Outside of SMLL, I am the Athletic Director at Newroads School.