



PLL March 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2026

Start Time: 8:02 p.m.

Meeting Type: Remote

Meeting Attendees: Sean Rodgers, Eric Smith, Joe Tufo, Derek Cassista, Justin Grammer, Tracy Crocker, Jim Grocki, Jackie Molina, Diana Ricardo

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Joe reviewed the January meeting minutes.
- Minor corrections noted regarding league address and storage unit listing.

Approved unanimously.

Financial Report – Presented by Diana Ricardo

January Income

- \$91.86 from Venmo
- \$Nearly \$2,000 – Fundraisers
- \$7,000+ – Player registrations

Total Income: Approximately \$10,700

January Expenses

- Software / Website renewal
- Equipment purchases (uniform totes and moisture absorbers)

- Storage rental

Total Expenses: Approximately \$2,400

Previous balance: ~\$141,000

Current balance: ~\$143,000

The board reviewed options for improving interest on league savings.

- Salem Five Bank increased the league's money market rate to 1.9%, projected to generate roughly \$200 per month in interest.

Approved unanimously.

Constitution Update

The 2026 constitution submission was rejected due to the inclusion of virtual voting language. The document has been updated and resubmitted without that section.

Winter Clinics

Winter clinic sessions are nearing completion.

Remaining schedule:

- Final Double A clinic session (upcoming Sunday)
- Coaches clinic
- Junior Umpire Clinic – March 29

Mark Niesco has been retained as **Umpire Assigner** with a **\$50 retainer fee**.

Coaching & Volunteers

- **Majors:** Fully staffed
- **AAA:** Awaiting draft completion but assistant coaches expected to fill remaining roles
- **AA:**

- Cubs – returning staff
- Phillies – returning staff
- Nationals – Greg Stone managing
- Royals & Guardians currently lack confirmed managers
- **Single A:** Only two confirmed managers; others listed as assistants
- **T-Ball:** 5 of approximately 8–10 teams have confirmed managers

Board will continue outreach to recruit additional coaches.

Background checks and volunteer certifications are in progress. Remaining requirements include:

- Abuse Awareness training
- Volunteer application submission

Equipment & Uniforms

Uniform update provided.

- Uniforms for **AA through Majors** have been received and sorted.
- Seven jerseys were returned for minor quality issues and will be replaced.
- T-Ball and Single-A uniforms will be ordered after final registration numbers are confirmed.

Player Hats

Inventory review indicated approximately:

- 46 coach hats
- 46 player hats remaining

Board agreed to supplement inventory for this season and explore a potential new vendor next year which could reduce costs by \$4–\$5 per hat using flat embroidery.

Opening Day & Parade Planning

Opening Day logistics were presented.

Key changes for 2026

Coaches will be required to **distribute uniforms prior to the parade** to prevent confusion with team identification.

Proposed Parade Flow

1. Teams arrive early at Higgins School
2. Teams assemble by division
3. Team photos taken in front of the school brick wall
4. Banners distributed during photo stage
5. Teams proceed to lineup area
6. Parade begins toward the field

Volunteers Needed

Estimated **12–15 volunteers** including:

- Higgins School staging volunteers
- Photo coordination
- Banner distribution
- Field entrance coordination
- Audio setup
- Concessions and merchandise tables

Sean has begun outreach to local schools for volunteer support.

Opening Day Materials

The league will reuse most team parade banners from last season.

- Only **two replacement banners** required
- One **new banner** required for an additional Single-A team

Board also discussed adding **two branded tent banners** for use at league events.

Estimated cost: **~\$120**

All in favor. Approved.

Team Flags

Currently, only lower divisions have parade banners. The board discussed providing league-owned flags for AAA and Majors teams.

Estimated cost: \$300–\$360

Flags will remain league property and be returned at season end.

Motion to approve flag purchase:

All in favor. Approved.

Calendar Raffle Fundraiser

The annual May Calendar Raffle is finalized.

- Over \$5,000 in prizes secured (nearly double the previous year)
- Drawings will extend into early June due to the number of prizes
- Goal is to raise \$10,000+

Tickets will also be promoted at Opening Day and through team distributions.

Calendar Raffle Incentives

New incentive structure approved:

Individual Sellers

- 1st place – \$150 gift card
- 2nd place – \$100 gift card
- 3rd place – \$50 gift card

Team Prize

Top selling team will receive an Ice Cream Truck celebration after a game.

All in favor. Approved.

Baseball Equipment Order

The annual baseball order has been placed.

Total order value: ~\$9,400

Includes game balls for:

- Majors
- AAA
- AA
- Fall Ball

Additional 20 dozen practice balls proposed.

Estimated cost: \$820

Motion to approve practice ball purchase:

All in favor. Approved.

Game Scheduling

League schedules are being finalized.

Plans include:

- Majors schedule completed
- Cross-league games with West Peabody begin after April vacation
- First week will be intra-league games only

AAA and AA schedules prepared for both 5-team and 6-team scenarios depending on final registrations.

Schedules expected to be released April 1.

Registration Update

Current player registrations: 282

Division totals:

- 48 - Majors
- 60 - AAA (5 on a wait list)
- 55 - AA (3 waitlist)
- 46 - A
- 73 - Teeball

T-Ball registration is lower than last season (126 players).

Roster sizes planned:

- T-Ball teams: ~8 players
- Single-A teams: ~8 players

AAA may require an additional manager to create a **6th team** and remove players from the waitlist. Potential coaching candidates were discussed.

Sponsorship Update

Current sponsorship totals:

- **\$20,525 collected**
- **\$6,900 pending**

Estimated total sponsorship revenue: **~\$27,000**

Sponsors include:

- 12 Grand Slam / Perfect Game level sponsors
- 4 Home Run sponsors (featured on Single-A shirts)

Many sponsors are returning from previous seasons.

Opening Day Charity Fundraiser

Board discussed replacing the previous **T-Ball Showcase** with a **charity tennis ball toss fundraiser**.

Concept:

Participants purchase numbered tennis balls and attempt to throw closest to a target (hula hoop) in the outfield.

Proposed divisions:

- Ages 7 and under
- Ages 8–12
- Ages 13+ / Adults

Further logistics (ball purchase cost, prizes, etc.) to be finalized.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Adjournment Time: 9:10 PM

Executive Portion

Start Time: 9:10 p.m

Opening Day Charity Fundraiser

The board revisited discussion from the previous meeting regarding replacing the **Opening Day T-Ball exhibition** with a **charity fundraiser activity**.

The previously proposed **tennis ball toss fundraiser** was reviewed, including logistics such as:

- Cost of tennis balls
- Number of balls required
- Prize structure
- Participant divisions by age
- Operational flow and volunteer requirements

During discussion, an alternative concept was introduced: a **dunk-style water bucket challenge** where participants throw soft balls at a target to release a bucket of water onto a seated volunteer.

Key points discussed:

- Potential participation from volunteer coaches
- Use of soft playground-style balls for safety
- Placement near the first base line to allow proper drainage and spectator viewing
- Use of protective screening for the seated participant
- Water access from the concession stand hose connection

The board agreed the dunk-style fundraiser would be **simpler to operate, require fewer materials, and generate strong engagement from players and families**.

Motion

A motion was made to **approve the dunk-style water bucket fundraiser for Opening Day**, replacing the previously proposed tennis ball toss.

Vote: All in favor

Motion approved

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the **Peabody Challenger Division**.

Volunteer Participation

Board members discussed inviting **league coaches to volunteer** to participate in the dunk-style fundraiser.

Participation would be voluntary, and multiple coaches may rotate through the activity to maintain engagement throughout the event.

Player Involvement Opportunity

Eric raised the possibility of creating a volunteer role within the league for **Jackson Santoro**, who expressed interest in staying involved with Peabody Little League.

The board discussed several potential options including:

- Assisting with Opening Day activities
- Helping distribute equipment or materials
- Assisting with field preparation
- Serving as a team helper or manager

Sean will reach out to Jackson's family to discuss **available options and determine what role would best suit his interests and abilities**.

AAA Waitlist Discussion

The board reviewed the **AAA division waitlist**, which currently includes **six players**.

Options discussed included:

- Adding a **sixth AAA team** if a manager can be secured
- Maintaining the waitlist and adding players if roster openings occur during the season

Sean will continue recruiting for an additional AAA manager. If a sixth team cannot be formed, the board may reconvene to determine how to proceed with the waitlist.

Winter Practice Scheduling (Future Planning)

Diana raised a suggestion regarding **winter practice scheduling for future seasons**.

Discussion included:

- Lower attendance at fall practices due to participation in other sports
- Potential benefit of scheduling more indoor practices **later in the winter and early spring**
- Shifting some practice dates closer to the start of the season to increase participation and value

The board agreed to revisit the scheduling structure when planning the **next winter practice calendar**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment Time: 9:51 PM