



MINUTES OF February 14, 2023, LTJBSA GENERAL MEETING

In Attendance: Meeting was cancelled

Review of Minutes: We will review minutes at March's meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Dave S. sent written report:

Registration Details - \$56,894 in gross registrations for the '24 Season (not trued up for CC fees)

- Little League - \$50,902 collected, \$492 still outstanding.
- Babe Ruth - \$5,315 collected, \$185 outstanding.

Sponsorships - \$17,960.25 already for the '24 Season (\$11,210.25 received, \$6,750 outstanding)

- Thank you to everyone who pitched in to close out our team naming sponsors! We have ELEVEN new sponsors for the '24 season, including a dugout and WALL BALL sponsor!
 - The team is still working to bring in some additional sponsors, with a focus on outfield banners and special events.

Babe Ruth

Carly V. gave the Babe Ruth Report

The Lawrence / Ewing-Hopewell merger was approved by Babe Ruth Head Quarters and Registration opened on Jan 21, 2024

After 3 1/2 weeks of registration being open, we have 30 kids signed so far up to play this spring. After to speaking to AJ Arcamone and Carly we are looking at another 15-20 sign ups before the March 3rd Registration deadline.

Little League

Baseball:

- To start, a HUGE THANK YOU you to this team and our extended group of volunteers, who have stepped up and pitched in on sponsorships, coordinator roles, and lots of support over the past

few weeks. We sounded an alarm bell in the fall about needing help, and all of you answered. This is one of the largest youth sports organizations in Mercer County, and it takes a village to run it! We are steadily building that village, and your willingness to volunteer is most appreciated!

- League registration closed on February 4th. Our registration numbers exceeded expectations and are up 25% -- a 20-year high:
 - 74 softball
 - 140 Tee Ball
 - 237 baseball
 - Of note, the growth is coming from Lawrence Twp. We have overall about 38 families from Ewing/Hopewell/Pennington registered (all but 2 are baseball/tee ball), but even without our new territory our enrollment would have grown about 8% this year.
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- Due to our larger enrollment, Assessment Day is moved to the LHS turf on March 10 as we need a bigger space than we anticipated. We are working with coaches on a revised schedule and timeline.
- We are pleased to be able to offer an Intermediate 50/70 baseball division this year, thanks to our partners at Ewing Rec Department. This division will be on a tryout basis for boys League age 11 or 12. We anticipate being able to form two teams and will play a full 12-game schedule that includes in-house games as well as across District 12. As we are a development league, offering 50/70 is an important step in teaching our players the rules of the "big field" but on a diamond where they can still have success. Our coaches will be attending the District scheduling meeting in mid-March.
- The [League Calendar](#) is released. Please see dates for Swap Day, Photo Night, Opening Day Parade, and Trenton Thunder Ballpark Day.
- [Spirit Store](#) is open through February 25th. Orders will be delivered by opening day.
- We are offering "Spring Training @ Centercourt" and have about 40 participants registered. The Director of Baseball at Centercourt is also the Lawrence High School varsity baseball coach, and we have offered this in the spirit of partnership with LTPS. I've asked Coach to make sure he is clear about his roles with our parents, as many families have expressed confusion over whether this is a private, commercial venture or something produced by LHS/LTPS. The LHS Athletic Director sent out an email promoting this event implying it was an LHS-produced event, further confusing things. Our role at this League is to connect our families with good training opportunities. We have not tried to endorse one program over another, but instead make connections. While the LHS/Centercourt connection is fuzzy, we will stay out of it by simply passing along links.
- District 12 provided some extra clarity on the new league boundary rules at our President's meeting: Players age 4-7 will be able to "try" one league other than their home league. Should they decide to leave the league they tried, they can only return to their home league. For example, a Lawrence resident could try Princeton LL, but if they wanted to leave Princeton, they could only return to Lawrence to play..
- We continue to make improvements at the Indoor Cages. The conference room now has some new heritage memorabilia hanging on the walls - celebrating great teams of the past (90s softball, 60s/70s baseball, even a picture of John Schneider playing in LL). There is another batch of items on-order and we will hang those prior to the start of the season
- I've been trying to set up our tax-exempt account with Home Depot. However they won't accept our existing NJ ST-5 as it's "too old" (seriously). New Jersey changed the format of the form sometime in the 90s but we never got a new one because we it wasn't required. We can apply for the new version online. But .. the name on our existing form says "Lawrence Junior Baseball Association" because that's what we were called when our form was issued. So, we should change our name with the State of NJ "LTJBSA" instead of just requesting a duplicate, but to do that, we need to provide NJ with a resolution of our name change. Here's the reference if anyone is interested: <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/exemption.shtml>

* A motion was made to accept the Little League Report – unanimously approved.

Softball:

- Record enrollment: 74 girls total (up ~30% from 2023)
 - Two teams in each division
 - Each division has a returning manager/coach

Division	Managers <i>Sponsors to be added later</i>
Rookies/Coach-Pitch (6-7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team 1: Sullivan• Team 2: TBD
Minors (8-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team 1: DeMuth• Team 2: TBD
Majors (10-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team 1: Bogad• Team 2: TBD

- Intraleague scheduling meeting will be early March.
 - With two teams in each division, we will be playing more in-house games this year.
 - Will make it easier to bring other leagues in to play us rather than having to travel to their fields.
- Clinics in the works
 - Catching
 - Partner with GTP to organize pitching clinics.
 - Hitting clinics per age group (batting cages)
- Summer camp
 - Awaiting confirmation from Lawrence Township Rec Dept/Public Works Dept
 - Looking at week of Aug 12 or Aug 19
 - GTP coaches work with LLL to instruct players.

Cadet Umpires: George Lutz

1. Sent a welcome email to the cadets to introduce myself and my role.
2. Scheduled a Friday 2/23 call with Stack Sports to train how to schedule umpires to games and how to set umpire scheduling preferences ahead of time.
3. My hope is to schedule umpires for all the games once we have the game schedule in March so that they can plan for the season ahead of time.
4. Technically not much to do until March here.

Snack Shack Update: Andrea Alfieri

I have reached out to all our vendors for the upcoming season to confirm pricing, ordering procedures, etc.

The new Coke fridge has been delivered! And the old one was taken away. Thanks, Carly, for waiting for the delivery!

We are getting the new ice machine and equipment on Sunday, and the old equipment will be hauled away. Once the new equipment is up and running, we will start getting deliveries to stock up for the season.

Dave and I are reaching out to Rita and Joe now that we know the season dates and game schedules.

Paul V is working with the vendors for cleaning, fire inspection, and health inspection. Snack Shack will be open for the Easter Egg Hunt hosted by LTPD and the Rec Department.

Buy your Snack Shack fan shirts in the [LTJBSA Spirit Wear store](#) by February 25th!

Closing:

The next meeting will be held March 13, 2024, at Slackwood Firehouse.