

**Montana District 2 Little League  
President's Meeting**

**December 13, 2020  
Microsoft Teams/on-line**

**PRESENT**

Officers

Keith Miller, DA  
Duane Meiers, Missoula UIC

Daurine Spritzer, Secretary  
Will McCarthy, ADA Missoula

Greg McGillen, Information Officer  
Max Cannon, UIC – Mount Sentinel

Presidents

Josh Bush (Northwest)  
Sammy Brant (Frenchtown)  
Kevin Miltko (Garden City)  
Jennifer Hartum (GF Westside)

Mike Duffy (Mile High)  
Cory Hafliger (Mount Sentinel)  
Tim Chamberlain (Mount Jumbo)  
Will Garten (Americans)

Amy Babb (Copper City)  
Nick Davis (Missoula Westside)  
Alyssa Creighton (Beaverhead)  
Zack Griffin (Riverside)

Additional

Andy Bartlome (Beaverhead)  
Robert Geiser (Frenchtown)

Jodi Rodoni (Frenchtown)

Joy Mogenson (Msla Westside)

**ABSENT**

Angella Galle (Anaconda)  
Mary Bousman (Malmstrom)  
Joan O'Neill (ADA)  
Shane Meyers (UIC/Great Falls)

Sean Herrick (Deer Lodge)  
Chip Parker (Lolo Peak)  
Maureen Price (ADA)  
Wayne Wade (UIC/District 2)

Rachel Baumgam (Pioneer)  
Ned Ellingwood (Treasurer)  
Stephanie Galle (ADA)  
Skyler Criscuolo (UIC/Butte)

Keith Miller called the meeting to order (via Microsoft Teams) at 3:10 p.m. with roll call of attendees. He asked each league if they were able to offer a season and, if so, give information on the enrollment and number of teams that they were able to field. (Please refer to the Minutes of the October 28, 2020 District Meeting for this information.)

**MOTION:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes of the 2019 District 2 Meeting as written; all voted in favor, motion carried.

Keith talked about the information that can be found on the LittleLeague.org site that can help a president throughout the pre-season, regular season, and tournament season. He suggested that presidents look at the site to check about the possibility of their leagues being awarded money from T-Mobile through its promotion of Little League participation – “Call Up Grant” – that can cover registration costs for those youngsters who need financial assistance. There is also a site – Sports Connect – that has information for on-line registration, along with quite a few opportunities to submit grants for funding of programs.

He said that Little League has employed an assistant director who will be charged with assisting leagues located in Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. His name is Jake Galloway and he will be available to provide information that will be helpful to all of the leagues.

The Little League Congress was scheduled to be held in Anaheim in 2021, but it will now take place in Williamsport in June of 2022. Anyone interested in going should let Keith know because it is one of the best events to attend.

Finance Report

The Finance Report was included in the packet. Each league was billed for \$450 which covered every District 2 bill for 2020. The only travel reimbursement was for Mount Jumbo and Mount Sentinel who had teams go to Billings for the State Major Baseball Tournament. The balance in the account is approximately \$2,400 which is pretty much right were we should be this year. Duane Meiers plans to offer a “Super Bowl” fundraiser which will provide additional funding for the umpire clinics and Western Regional umpire appreciation funds.

Tournaments

The only teams to advance to the state level were in the Major Baseball division. Mount Jumbo and Mount Sentinel traveled to Billings for the four-team State Championship. Both Tim Chamberlain and Corey Hafliger reported that the teams had a great time. There was no Western Regional in San Bernadino this year.

## ASAP

The cool thing that happened this year was that the District achieved 100% acceptance with the safety plans. This entitled the District to a \$300 credit with Little League which paid for the District Banner that Mount Jumbo won.

## 2020 Recap

This past season, several leagues had to adapt to enrollment numbers as well as health safety rules. Some worked really well, while some didn't succeed. Keith visited with Jake Galloway last week and talked about what works in communities. Keith found that Mr. Galloway is not one to rule with the iron fist but is more interested in what works best for the kids within the area.

Merging of Leagues Missoula Westside and Mount Jumbo have requested the possibility of merging into one league. Every league in District 2 can contact Keith with their questions or comments to weigh in on this possibility. The reason for this merging is because Mount Jumbo has lots of players and limited fields, while Missoula Westside has few players and several fields. Keith is interested in seeing how the process of the request moves through Little League now that it appears they are open to diverse ideas. The two boards are in support of the merger. Keith will have a meeting in Missoula to discuss the request.

## Tournament Season

Keith said that the rotation for both Softball and Baseball within the District are not set in stone. The only dates that are set are for the Western Regional Senior Softball in Missoula. Other designated 2021 tournament hosts will be the same ones that were designated for 2020:

Western Regional Senior Softball – Garden City Softball  
District Softball – Copper City Softball  
District Baseball – Mile High  
Pool Play – Mount Jumbo and Riverside

For 2021 – State Baseball Tournaments will take place in District 2 while Softball will take place in District 1. Leagues should be talking about where they are as to selecting All-Star teams early on so the process can be posted prior to registration. Keith suggested that once a player's residence documentation is accepted, the president should retain the file for subsequent tournament participation.

## Deadlines

There is a March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the league to submit its ASAP plan. This year, Keith reminded the presidents to add their COVID protocol into it. The Little League's Data Center is easy to upload ASAP information as well as player registration information. He also talked about the requirement of conducting the background checks for all volunteers who have continued contact with players.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The 2022 Umpire Outreach Clinic will take place on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. Duane Meiers will send out an email to all presidents and UICs for time and location. Leagues will continue to split the cost of umpire trainings and schools.

The Western Region is offering webinars. A link will be sent to the presidents that they can share with volunteers.

Lolo Peak has been working with the people in Florence to get them involved with the Little League program. In 2020, a major baseball team from that area was invited to play regular season with Lolo Peak and Mount Sentinel that showed what Little League is about. The Florence group really had a great time.

Keith suggested that leagues open registration as soon as they can after the first of the year so parents realize that we are going to do whatever we can to have a season for their children. Early registration will also provide a look at the number of players you may end up with for the program to help determine early on if a league has to combine for regular season play. As a District, all leagues should be focused on doing what they can to help each other to be successful. Keith invited all leagues to be a part of the Western Regional Tournament as well. Leagues may create two plans for 2021: 1) a regular season and 2) one that continues to address COVID.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### League Dues Assessment

*In 2017, the assessment for player fees was raised from \$6 to \$8 per player. This money is set aside to help provide reimbursement to leagues for the travel costs for tournament teams as well as for other district expenses. Every year we continue to do more as a district by providing clinics, trainings, and other events for all of the leagues. District 2 is the only one in the region that provides any financial support to the leagues who travel to participate in tournament play as well as try to help support those umpires who also travel to provide their services throughout the district.*

**MOTION:** A motion was made and seconded to retain in 2021:

1. Base dues of \$8 per participant based on last year's enrollment.
2. Umpires Fund: \$100 per league for tournament fund.
3. Umpire School:
  - a. District pays tuition and b. area leagues reimburse district for travel expenses.
4. District-Sponsored Training Opportunities
  - a. Split costs billed as needed and b. open to entire district

All voted in favor; motion carried.

### League Tournament Travel Reimbursement

**MOTION:** A motion was made and seconded to retain the Tournament Travel Reimbursement Structure in 2021:

- I. \$125 per day for out of area travel beginning the day of the first game. Last day not reimbursed if team starts last game before noon or game after noon is last scheduled day of the tournament.
- II. \$750 block sum for teams traveling out of Montana except Little League Baseball and Softball Divisions which fly to San Bernadino through Little League.
- III. Maximum \$12,000 per year. If reimbursements surpass, daily rate will be adjusted – out of state travel tournament paid first.
- IV. State tournament reimbursement – one reimbursement payment goes to the team that traveled the farthest.

All voted in favor; motion carried.

### Softball Tournaments

Keith reiterated that 2021 tournaments are still tentative at this point. Kevin Miltko talked about how softball tournaments held during the week are more successful than hosting them on weekends due to the travel ball teams having their games on weekends. Parents seem to be appreciative that their daughters can participate in both Little League and their travel ball teams. Amy Babb believes that hosting the softball tournaments in Butte on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> would work. Alyssa Creighton talked about having Beaverhead Senior softball girls playing some weekend games this upcoming season as she believes they will have both a Junior and a Senior season. Amy isn't quite sure what the status for her league will be this spring. Keith said that there have been a lot of changes to requirements of games played for eligibility, but did know that "sandlot" games can be counted for this.

### Good of the Order

Tim Chamberlain talked about how many of our areas have different restrictions for COVID. Some of the leagues' fields are covered by County rules while some are covered by City rules which have caused some confusion about playing games. He asked how to best respect regulations moving forward? Keith will try to gather information and publish it for the leagues to know what to expect from all of our city areas as to playing rules they must adhere to while at those particular fields.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting a 4:25 p.m.